

KARLE HOUSE  
Leonardo Drive  
Stone Ridge

We will be visiting a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone house in a beautiful setting outside of Stone Ridge. It has been altered and later “restored” in what appears to be the usual pattern: early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the plan to create a center hall, late-19<sup>th</sup>-century refinements including a front piazza, and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century antiquarian restoration recovering the house from dereliction, and late-20-century improvements to the kitchen. The current owner, Theresa Karle, has provided us with information used in the following historical background.



The earliest documented owner was John Cushnahan, who is listed in the 1798 tax list and the 1800 census. His 1805 will conveyed his real estate to his four children, with his wife receiving life tenancy. The children were directed to supply her annually with firewood, certain amounts of grain, a tub of butter and a year-old hog. No other information about him is known; his name is Irish in derivation.

The dwelling originated with a two-room plan typical of middling stone houses in the period, and it probably had separate entries. The 1798 dimensions were 42 x 27 ft. John Cushnahan's son, Charles—also known as Charles Cushney—lived next in the house and was enumerated in the 1830 and 1840 Marletown censuses. He married Sarah Vandermark, whose family lived in the immediate neighborhood.

In 1828 Charles and Sarah Cushney sold the farm to Isaac B. Bloom (1771-1843). He was born in Amenia, Dutchess County where he married Ruth Smith in 1787. Their reason for moving to Stone Ridge

is a mystery. The Blooms probably are responsible for the alterations made to the house that create a center hall and five-bay front façade; a wood frame kitchen ell may have been added at this time, too.

After nearly a century and three generations of occupancy, Ross Bloom sold the property to Christian and Anna Margaret Urlacher in 1921 and the Urlachers sold it to May Teetsel of Montclair, New Jersey in 1929. She was the wife of William M. Teetsel, an oil company executive, who had been born in Saugerties. The Teetsels restored the aging farmhouse in the manner of many weekenders with antiquarian interests adopting old stone houses.

May Teetsel died in 1934 and her husband two years later. Title to the property was transferred by will to their niece Elizabeth Mathers Marlier. In 1947 weekenders Frederick and Doris Wright purchased the farm. They built an airstrip and hanger in the field east of the house. Doris Wright subdivide the 200-acre parcel and sold the house and 70 acres in 2001 to Susan and Jeremy Ramaty who eliminated a barn and renovate the house in the manner that it now exists. The current owners, Theresa and Stuart Karle, have owned the house and 44 acres since 2013.

