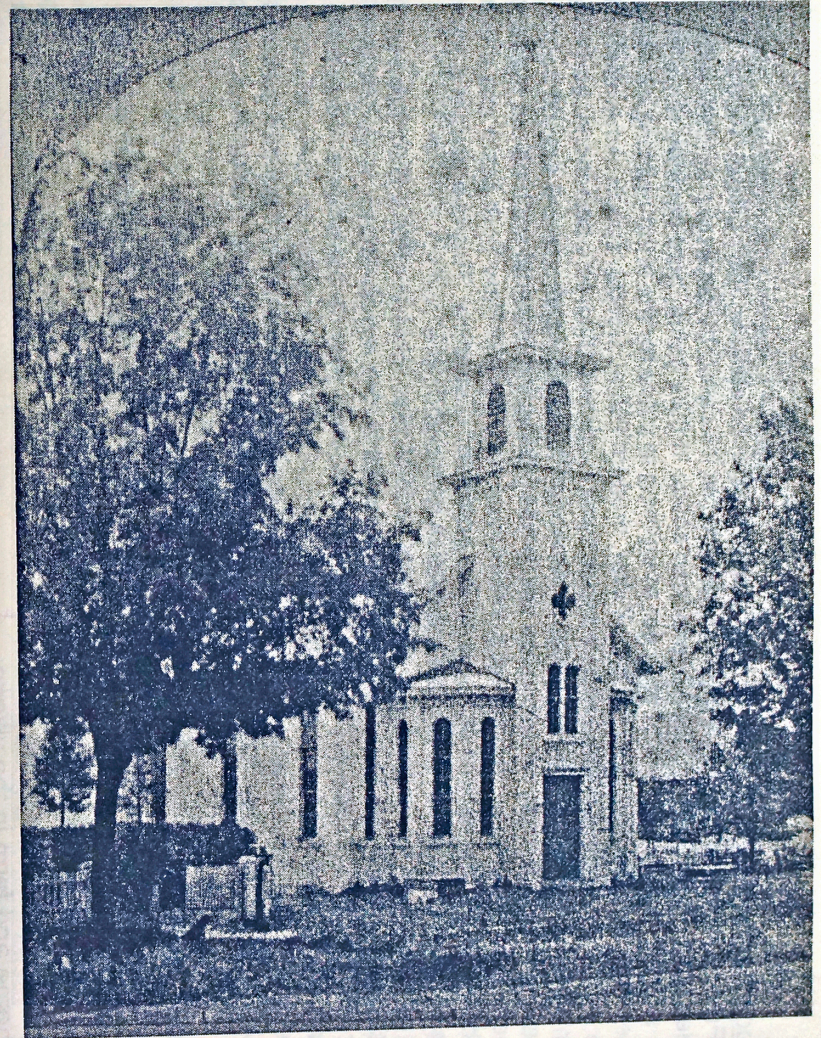


# **FABIUS** Historical Society Newsletter

No.3 Fall, 2002

Fabius, NY



**The Fabius Free-Will Baptist Church  
Now a Part of the Fabius Community Center**

## **New Members**

### **Lifetime**

Eleanor Preston  
Ed & Doris Luchsingier

### **Individual or Family**

Ed Barnard  
Elaine Pelchy  
Bob & Anne Demore  
Jeff Kenyon  
Rene Kather  
Fran Green  
Sue Kline  
Don Ransom

### **Student**

John Rudy

**Fabius Historical Society  
PO Box 36  
Apulia Station, NY  
13020**



## News from the Fabius Historical Society (FHS)

### A Message the President:

Bill Casey, PO Box 36, Apulia Station, NY  
13020 [bill5308@aol.com](mailto:bill5308@aol.com) 683-5674  
Dan Driscoll, Vice President  
Shari Schlicht, Treasurer  
Ruth Bryan, Secretary



**Grand Opening of the Fabius Area Community Center (FACC).** The Center will be open to the public at 6:30pm on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002. After the many hundreds of hours of volunteer effort by the FACC Committee, the Center will be open to the public for tours and refreshments. The FACC and Town have completed the "Rules of Use" for the building and will have materials to hand out at the grand opening.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival History Weekend**, Saturday Sept 28<sup>th</sup> (10am to 4pm) and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> (12noon to 4pm) is quickly approaching. Displays are being set up at over thirty area historical societies and museums stretching the full length of the Skaneateles-Hamilton Turnpike. For those of you with access to the Internet, go to <http://www.OurOldeTowne.com> for more details. Fabius Historical Society will be coordinating the Fabius effort.

Some of the featured exhibits include:

Judy Conway: Various scrapbooks of the area, along with her own great personal photo scrapbooks.

Harvey Skeele: (Sunday Only) Toy tractor collection.

Julius Gigon: Photos and memorabilia of the area.

Bill & Joanne Casey: Various collected items and a special display of area schools before centralization.

Virginia Cameron (Fabius Village Historian): The Village Landmark Exhibit and period clothing from local families.

Fabius-Pompey Central School:

Peter Schlicht (Fabius Town Historian):

Onondaga County Parks Highland Forest: photos and memorabilia of the Park area.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Judy Conway @ 683-5275 or Bill Casey @ 683-5764.

**Apulia Station Tour:** On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002, over 50 people enjoyed a hayride tour, dinner and a slide show on Apulia Station. Edna Bush organized a hayride, with Judge Dick Garrett supplying and driving the wagon. Edna compiled a map and background information on the many buildings that exist and also information on those that are no longer there. A dish-to-pass dinner followed the hayride and a slide show compilation of old photos of buildings that no longer exist. Thanks goes out to all those who helped.

**Fabius Area News:** We will utilize this new section of the newsletter in an attempt to keep you updated on local news at the time of this publication.

**Fabius Electronic News:** For email users, we operate an electronic news list service that anyone can post information to. You don't even have to own a computer to post information; just give it to someone who is on the list. A message can be posted and delivered to all members within minutes. There is no charge to join. To become a member, just send an email message to: [fabiusnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:fabiusnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Election of FHS Officers:** Under the powers granted to me by the Fabius Historical Society bylaws (Article VI Section 2(b), I have appointed Judy and Jim Conway as nomination coordinators for the election of officers for the year 2003. The nomination committee shall consist of 5 members. If you have interest in holding an office for 2003, or helping Judy and Jim, please contact Jim or Judy at 683-5275 or by email at [judyconway@msn.com](mailto:judyconway@msn.com).



### Upcoming Meetings

**Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at the Community Center 7:30pm:** William Farrell will present the origin of the names of many of the towns, cities and village of our state. He has recently published a book entitled: *Classical Place Names in New York State: Origins, Histories and Meanings*.

**Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at the Community Center 7:30pm:** Gary Jones of the Local History/ Genealogy Department at Onondaga County Public Library will present information on conducting oral histories.

**Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Community Center 7:30pm:** Annual Christmas Party.

## **The History of Fabius Community Center Building**

Compiled by Joanne & Bill Casey

As with many of our older structures in town, moving and remodeling was commonplace. The current Community Center has had such a long and rich history. It has been our best effort to glean the correct information and we welcome all input to insure that history has been recorded correctly.

**Free-Will Baptist Church** as seen on the cover of the newsletter.

From the Mormon Church Film 0017661 Onondaga, Fabius Church Record, the first Free-Will Baptist activity came about with an unordained preacher conducting services in August of 1826 in the Town of Fabius. Following this initial activity, the formation of the Fabius church commenced. From the information below, this movement was only 40 years old.

(Information taken from the website: <http://www.nafwb.org/>)

"The Free Will Baptist denomination is a fellowship of evangelical believers united in extending the witness of Christ and the building of His Church throughout the world. The rise of Free Will Baptists can be traced to the influence of Baptists of Armenian persuasion who settled in the colonies from England. The denomination sprang up on two fronts at almost the same time. The southern line, or Palmer movement, traces its beginnings to the year 1727 when one Paul Palmer organized a church at Chowan, NC. Palmer had previously ministered in NJ and MD, having been baptized in a congregation, which had moved from Wales to a trace on the Delaware River in northern Pa. The northern line, or Randall movement, had its beginnings with a congregation organized by Benjamin Randall June 30, 1780, in New Durham, NH. Both lines of Free Will Baptists taught the doctrines of free grace, free salvation and free will, although from the first there was no organizational connection between them. The northern line expanded more rapidly in the beginning and extended its outreach into the West and Southwest. In 1910-1911 this body of Free Will Baptists merged with the Northern Baptist denomination, taking along more than half of its 1,100 churches and all denominational property, including several major colleges. On December 28, 1916, at Pattonsburg, MO, representatives of remnant churches in the Randall movement reorganized into the Cooperative General Association of Free Will Baptists".

According to Dwight H. Bruce's *Onondaga's Centennial* (1896 volume 1 page 875) "the Free-Will Baptist began to hold meetings in October, 1826, in a school house near the home of Stephen Tripp." (According to Village Historian Virginia Cameron, this school was in District #5, located on the corner of Rt.80 & present day Herlihy Road). In the next few years (on Nov. 4, 1833 to be exact), a society of that faith was formed by David & Polly Coats, David & Celestia Conable, Charles & Hannah Moore, Roland & Experience Sears, Joshua & Sally Sanders, John & Polly Smith, and others. This information was recorded in Onon. Co. on Nov. 26, 1833. The *Onon. Centennial* further states that "A church was erected in 1830, which in 1855 was removed to the present site in Fabius village, where it was rebuilt in 1869". According to W.W. Clayton's *History of Onondaga County, NY* written in 1878, "the Free-Will Baptist Church was built in 1830, moved to its present location in 1845, removed and a new structure placed in its stead in 1868." Rev Beauchamp's *Past and Present of Onon. Co.* has the building removed to Fabius village in 1855 and rebuilt in 1869.

Located in the Onondaga County Courthouse Library is a NYS Book entitled Laws of 1853. Chapter 540, page 1013 reads as follows:

Passed July 18, 1853

The Freewill Baptist Church & Society of the town of Fabius in the county of Onondaga, are hereby authorized to remove the house now owned by them, and occupied as a place of worship, to some other location in said town, to



be selected by them, there to be used for the same purpose, or to sell said house at public or private sale, and to apply the avails thereof towards the purchase or erection of another house to be used as a meeting house. This act shall take effect immediately.

The NYS Census of 1865 lists the Free-Will Baptist Church with a seating capacity of 175 persons. So most likely a church had been built on the site and then remodeled by Matthias Berry in 1868 or 1869.



Matthias Berry 1815-1899  
Master Carpenter  
Builder of the Fabius Free-Will Church



Rev. Ansel Griffeth, Free-Will Baptist Church Minister  
Preached in Fabius Sept. 8, 1844  
Graduate of Hamilton College

The last tidbit of information is a fact sheet for the Town of Fabius Churches, District #1: Free-Will Baptist Church for the year 1875. Supplied by J. Roy Dodge, it states:

Value of Church & Lot: \$5,000.	Value of other Real Estate: \$300.
Capable of being seated: 350	Usual number in attendance: 75
Number of communicants or regular members: 100	
Salary of Clergy besides use of real estate: \$600 per year.	

The actual date that services at the Free Will Baptist Church ended is not known to us at this time, but the next use of the building was as Fabius Grange No. 1404.

### **Formation & History of the Fabius Grange**

On Oct. 25, 1916, forty-five Brothers and Sisters interested in promoting agriculture met in the Free Will Baptist



Church with Deputy Master Josiah Betts and organized the Fabius Grange No. 1404. The members used the Free-Will Baptist Church building for their meetings and reimbursed the Church by paying the taxes and making the necessary repairs. Efforts to purchase the Church property for a Grange Home began as early as 1917, but could not be accomplished until 1924, when the Baptist Corp. in Maine was contacted. With proper authority for a contract and property transfer, the purchase was completed in 1924 for \$700. Part of the principal was raised by subscription and the remainder was borrowed from a local Bank. Another loan was necessary to re-roof the building. The Church Bell was sold to the Vesper Church for \$100, with the money applied toward the note.

A Countywide banquet was held in 1931 and the proceeds went to paint the Grange Home. The Grange sponsored a dance on Aug. 14, 1935 with great success. These proceeds were used to remodel the Hall and further reduce the note. In 1945, all 25-Year Members were honored and the Grange gave \$100 toward the purchase of the Doctor's House in town. As a Community Service organization, aid was given to the annual blood bank in cooperation with the Fabius Central School.

Some of the Past Masters of the Fabius Grange include: Walter Knapp, Frank Haskins, Fred Abbott, Oscar Wilds, Carl Swift, Duane Skeelee, Clifford Abbott, Dennis Purcell, Grant Goodrich, Harry Locke, Basil Conway, Harry Dennison, Herbert Way, Helen Conway, Frank Porter, David Terrill, Glen Bays and Peter Schlicht.

In a newspaper clipping in Candace Syendsen's files, a caption under an old photo of the Fabius Grange Hall reads, "Former Free Will Baptist Church, built 99 years ago and moved in 1855. A sign on it reads: Fabius Grange Hall. High class photoplays show here every Friday evening." And in one of James Underwood's articles, undated from the *Tully Times*, he tells of his first memories of the Grange Hall and seeing movies there. One that he recalled was the silent classic starring Lon Chaney in "Hunchback of Notre Dame." He was about nine at the time and had to walk about a mile all the way home in the dark with his hair standing on end. He decided at that point to never attend another "hair raiser" unless he had a ride home.

It would be nice to have more information on the events and accomplishments of the 80+ years the Fabius Grange was active.

In the 1990's, the future of the Fabius Grange building was given great attention. Many options were reviewed, including making the Grange the home for the Fabius Historical Society. Because of the greater availability of governmental funds to the Village of Fabius, it was decided that the Village should become the owner. It is with great pleasure and pride that the old Free-Will Baptist Church has returned to its original beauty and the building, with its new addition, will again give service to the Fabius Area Community.

### **The National Grange Movement**

In discussing the Fabius Grange, it is not clear to many folks just what the Grange was created for and the many impacts the organization had on the country and our communities.

Perhaps you have noticed the varied buildings scattered in rural towns and villages that carry the name, The Grange. The Grange, more correctly known as Patrons of Husbandry, is America's oldest farm organization and the only rural fraternity in the world.

As our country began preparation for the Civil War, it became clear to the United States Congress and President Lincoln that our country's agriculture production would be greatly impaired. With this insight, the Department of Agriculture was formed. Previously, the only agricultural involvement by the federal government was in the issuing of patents from the Patent Office. Even Ezra Cornell's dream of building an institution for agricultural education was still seven years away.

At the close of the War, it was obvious that the country had suffered great losses in its agricultural production. Especially hard hit was the South, since it was now attempting to farm without slaves. In addition, much of the southern railroads, highways and agricultural equipment had been destroyed. Many Civil War battles had taken place in the South, devastating farmland and leaving many of the roads and railroads unusable. In the North, many railroads, highways and factories had been developed for the war effort. These were now ready to convert to peacetime activities. The South had much work to do just to produce the necessary food to sustain its population.

It was at this point that the Department of Agriculture requested Oliver Hudson Kelley, a previous employee of the Department, to travel throughout the South and assess the conditions of agricultural industry. It became clear to Kelley during his six-month investigation that the South was not in any condition to rebuild its agricultural production. No common system to encourage farmers to share ideas or socialize among themselves existed (Cooperative Extension would not be invented for fifty years). He felt that this common weakness would hold back the development of agriculture during our Country's healing process. Because Kelley was familiar with the Fraternal Order of Masonry, he felt that creating such an organization for farmers would provide the means to encourage cooperation. The newly created Department of Agriculture



clearly did not have the ability or interest in developing such an organization. With his vision and inspiration, Kelley was able to solicit persons of common interest and establish the National Grange organization, although this effort required almost two years until the first Grange was established. One unique aspect of the Grange philosophy was that women were treated as equals to men, an "unheard of" idea at this time. Kelley's niece C.A. Hall has always been given credit for this concept of equality.

Many books have been written on the development of the Grange and it is important to note that, because of the efforts of the Grange and its members, many modern programs that we enjoy today came about because of this organization. A few examples of these are: Rural Mail Delivery, Parcel Post, Farm Credit, Rural Electrification, the regulation of public utilities and freight rates, Dairyman's League and Grange League Federation (GLF, now known as Agway), just to name a few.

## Acquisitions Report

A summary of the donations to the Fabius Historical Society are listed below:

1. From Eleanor Preston: Fabius photos from the Walter Grunfeld Estate.
2. From Mrs. Ken French: Apulia School Class Reunion Book (1920's) and framed photo of Apulia school and students.
3. From John Downing: Downing Family Genealogy, of which some lived in the Fabius and Apulia area.
4. From Sylvia Shoebridge: 1845 Census of Town of Fabius.
5. From Ed Barnard: A copy and identification of Family Picnic Photo.
6. From Mike Gleason: Burgess sign from Mowry barn in Apulia Station & 1950 aerial photo of Labrador area and Jones Hill.
7. From J. Roy Dodge: So much motivation, encouragement, invaluable resources & information are always coming to us from Roy. Thanks to his generous assistance, our collection of area postcard & photo reproductions is continually growing.
8. From Edna Bush: Documented "Reminiscences of Apulia Station" from the Sept. 3 Tour, along with copies of her postcards & photos.
9. From Marian Clymer: Personal scrapbook of the Fabius area from the 1930's and 40's.

## A BOOM FOR FABIUS

Another Route for Lehigh Valley Company

Fabius, April 14 --(Special)-- Routes for the consideration of the Lehigh Valley company railroad are springing up like mushrooms. First one section is heard from, and then another. Otisco wants the road; Rose Hill is working hard to swing it that way, and the people in the western part of this town are determined that it shall be constructed parallel with the D., L. and W. from Apulia to East Syracuse.

The various articles on proposed routes, printed in the papers from time to time, have served to keep the people along those lines excited. Meanwhile, Fabius people have said little and sawn wood. Last week a committee was appointed composed of influential citizens of this place. These gentlemen have quietly gone to work, estimated the freight traffic in the vicinity, and put themselves in correspondence with the officials of the Lehigh Valley Railroad company. They mean business and intend to bring the road this way. Some of them are personally acquainted with interested parties.

A few years ago, engineers traveled all through this portion of the county, and made surveys for a proposed line of railroad into Syracuse. One of these surveys struck the eastern end of Fabius village, and another ran through the eastern part of town, about one and one-half miles east of the village. The route which the people of this place ask the company to consider is up the valley from Cuyler, striking the eastern end of Fabius village; thence a northeasterly direction to Pompey Center; thence northwesterly to Watervale, Manlius, Fayetteville and East Syracuse. This is by all odds the most feasible route, and one where the best grade could be obtained. From Cuyler to Fabius the grade is slight, nearly a dead level. From Fabius to Pompey Center the grade is as favorable. There would be a river grade most of the way from the latter place to Watervale; while thence to Manlius there would be no greater grade than on the Syracuse & Binghamton branch of the D., L. & W.

The territory thus opened up would furnish an enormous amount of freight. It has been estimated that the traffic in Fabius is upwards of 10,000 tons annually, to which could be added, if the road went through, one-third, or possibly one half more. It might be doubled. This section has always been famed for its output of dairy and farm products. At one time Fabius butter and cheese were known from one end of the State to the other. These



products are now shipped in large quantities to the large cities. Hay, potatoes and cabbages are all raised and shipped in big lots. In the eastern part of the town and the adjoining territory in Madison county, immense quantities of hops are raised and shipped every year. The business in fancy poultry and eggs is fast becoming important. Many parties are engaged in the industry exclusively; one firm doing an annual business in eggs of over \$25,000. Fancy poultry is shipped from here to all parts of the world. The Fabius Creamery company ships hundreds of tons of butter annually, and the output of the concern is increasing. This is the largest creamery in Central New York. The amount of freight carted into town is enormous. The merchants all do a thriving business. Clark & Powers, custom millers, estimate the amount of feed shipped in by them at 1,300 tons. Coal, salt, hardware and other merchandise runs the number of tons of freight well into the thousands. We doubt whether there is another point in the southern part of Onondaga county, which handles the shipments that Fabius does.

With a railroad through this section, a large increase in the amount of traffic could reasonably be expected. Several concerns and enterprises have already expressed a desire to locate here, but have not done so on account of poor railroad accommodations. Among them may be mentioned a wagon factory, bicycle factory, canning factory, foundry and machine shop and others. It is safe to say that probably the freight business would double within one year. A larger amount of farm stuff would be marketed. Farmers would raise a greater diversity of crops if nearer a station. Fabius can offer unexcelled facilities for manufacturing enterprises. Water is abundant. Fuel is plenty. Sites are cheap.

Another reason why this route should be considered is because the entrance into Syracuse could be made with the least difficulty on the south side of the canal. The best location for coal trestles for loading boats is found in the eastern part of the city.

There is no reason to doubt that a right of way could be obtained through the towns of both Fabius and Pompey. A majority of farmers and businessmen have for years been hauling freight from five to ten miles to a station. From this point they have been compelled to brave all kinds of weather and roads in order to cart it. The Fabius Union school and academy is established at this point. Teachers' training class is connected with the institution. Large numbers of foreign pupils are thus drawn to the town. With a railroad, the influx would be considerably greater.

Taken from the Syracuse Daily Journal, dated April 15, 1896, pg.8

## FABIUS AREA NEWS

1st edition

September, 2002

Please submit any information you wish to contribute to Bill Casey.

Fabius Area Community Center (FACC) will celebrate its Grand Opening on Sept. 27th @ 6:30PM. Located in the old Free Will Baptist Church / Grange on Main Street, this building has undergone extensive renovation, along with an addition to the original structure. There will be tours of the new facility, followed by refreshments. (Source - Town of Fabius Supervisor Bob DeMore)

Fall Festival History Weekend is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 28th (10AM - 4PM) & Sun., 29th (12N - 4PM) at the FACC. There will be displays of period clothing, photos & memorabilia of the Fabius area. If you are interested in displaying items that you have, please contact Judy Conway. (Source - Bill Casey)

Judge Dick Garrett is the new Town of Fabius Justice. He is finishing out Barb Garrett's term and will run in November against Oliver Brown, a Democrat. (Source - Peg Riker Town Clerk)

Sue Snavlin, of Tully, is the new DogCatcher. She can be reached at 677-3582. (Source - Peg Riker Town Clerk)

Trash District Vote is on Nov. 5th. Of the Fabius residents who returned their cards selecting their level of trash service, 80% chose the level higher than "stickers". A second chance for those who did not return their cards may be offered after the vote on Nov. 5th, when a definite cost of service will have been determined. (Source - Town of Fabius Supervisor Bob DeMore)

Status of the DeRuyter Beach Rec. Area: Title to the property has been received and Grants are being pursued in order to finish the bathhouse and shore up the shoreline. . (Source - Town of Fabius Supervisor Bob DeMore)



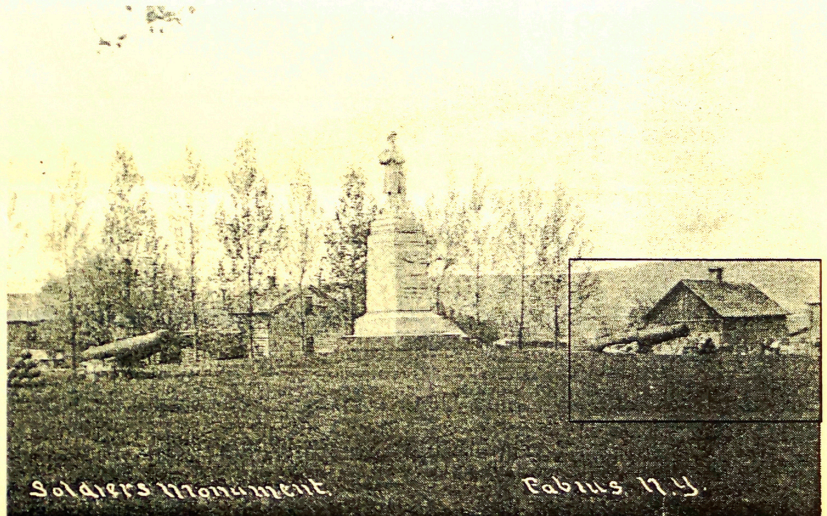
The Bookhounds is the latest addition to Fabius Village, celebrating their official "Grand Opening" on May 25, 2002. Prior to having a "brick & mortar" bookstore (as it's called by booksellers), they sold books on the Internet for three years. Accumulating more books than space in their home, they decided to rent the building next to Anna's store. It took almost a month to get everything in place for the shop opening on Memorial Day weekend. Book selections include the following: Civil War, modern fiction, poetry, sports, American History & American Culture, biography, some old automotive repair books, current children's selections, early mystery writers & early children's series and stories, Black & Native American history & fiction, rare & signed books. They have just purchased a large inventory of ephemera which has interesting material such as old maps, brochures on machinery, advertisements, old photos & information on places in New York State and much more. In addition to selling books, they offer search services to find books for customers. This is a unique & interesting aspect of their business & generates lots of enjoyable interaction with customers.

For the present, store hours are Wed.-Fri. 10AM to 5PM. Sat. 9AM to 4PM & Sun. noon to 4PM. Currently, they are closed on Mon. & Tues. For those who can't make it during regular hours, a quick call to the following numbers (683-5494 in Fabius & 683-5625 in old Apulia) may provide assistance. Visits from neighbors & friends are always welcome & it is their hope that people feel comfortable enough to come in just to look around and pass the time of day. And, finally, if you're curious how two "little old ladies" got into the book selling business - that's a story for another day! Stop in and ask. They'll be happy to tell you. (Source - The Book Hounds)

## Fabius Mysteries

In our last newsletter, a barn was marked with a black box and we asked what was it used for.

Charles Shea called in to tell us that this barn was a portion of the Mike Shea home and farm in the village. He tells that it was much larger than it appears (perhaps a 30X40 foot 3-bay English threshing style barn - comments by the editor). The barn was used for hay storage above and had a full basement which was used for root storage. I didn't think to ask what happened to the barn.



**New Mystery** This query was submitted by Martin Swenson, Superintendent of Fabius-Pompey School. The Fabius-Pompey Elementary School has engravings "Enter To Learn" & "Leave to Serve". This motto was a result of a community contest during the construction of the school (1930's). The creators of the motto were sisters Mary Agnes and Margarita Patrick. We would like to know the origin and meaning of emblem. Any information on the history of the emblem should be forwarded to the Fabius Historical Society @ 683-5674 and/or Martin Swenson @ 683-5301.

