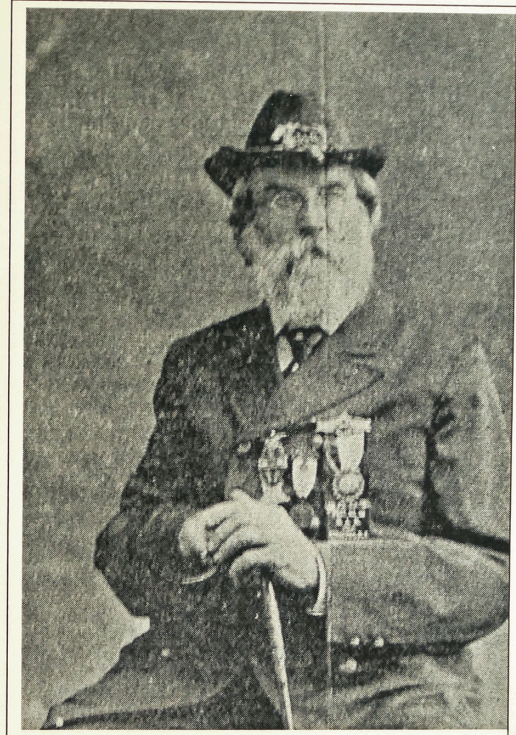


FABIUS Historical Society
Newsletter

No.6 Spring, 2004

Fabius, NY



**Dr. C.E. Hill, Fabius Physician 1859-1869
Civil War Veteran**

**Members Paid for
2004**

Ed & Doris Luchsinger
Kate Cameron
Eleanor Preston
Mark & Melanie Vilardi
Dorothy DeAngelo
Cathie Catranis
Mabel Virgil Pullen
Lisa Moffa

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

A Newsletter from the Fabius Historical Society

Officers:

Cheri Gigon, President

6828 Route 80

Tully, NY 13159

cagigon@americu.com -683-9498

Judy Conway, Vice President -683-5275

Shari Schlicht, Treasurer- 683-5629

Ruth Bryan, Secretary-683-5806

A Letter from our President:

I would like to thank everyone who prodded and supported me for this office. I have some pretty big shoes to fill; in fact I believe it might be many pairs of shoes.

Bill and Joanne Casey, the executive committee, and all the FHS members have done a superb job bringing the FHS to where it is today. It clearly shows that one or two people cannot run a good organization, but like any other winning organization, it takes a strong team that works together. Goals are set for the best of the organization, and this is where the executive committee plays a very important role. It takes good communication and teamwork with everyone pitching in. It would be great to have everyone participate on the executive committee, but that would not be feasible. However, all members might want to start thinking about what they would like to see achieved for the FHS, and share those ideas with the committee members.

Before closing, I would like to see all members bring others into our group. I'm sure there are many individuals who might be interested in sharing their experiences or resources that have not yet been tapped. We have enclosed an extra membership application, please pass it on to someone who might be interested. FHS members, let's get our thinking caps on for this year's FHS success. We should have an excellent year with everyone's input and support. Will it be challenging? Probably! The wisest of man, is one that listens, shares and cares.

See all of you soon,

Cheri Gigon

Reminder:

FHS Membership dues are due by April of each year.

Please complete the enclosed membership information and mail it along with your check.

Membership contributions are the only source of income for the Fabius Historical Society. Make checks payable to Fabius Historical Society and forward to Sheri Gigon, President, 6828 Route 80 Tully, NY 13159. Unless you become a member, you will not receive the Summer 2004 newsletter.

The Fabius Historical Society web page is up and running at: <http://www.fabiusny.org>.

Interested in all the latest news of Fabius, consider joining the Fabius electronic new groups. To enroll, send an email to: **subscribe-fabiusnews@yahooogroups.com** You do not have to write a message or enter anything in the subject line.

Executive Committee: We are pleased that so many members stepped forward to become involved with the activities of the Society. Executive Committee members are listed below along with their various committee appointments:

Robert DeMore 683-5673
Ruth Bryan (Secretary) 683-5806
Virginia Cameron (Old House Reports) 683-9446
Joanne Casey (Civil War, Archivist, Newsletter) 683-5674
Judy Conway (Scrapbook, Treasury Audit & Vice President) 683-5275
Bill Casey (Barns, Scrapbook, Newsletter) 683-5674
Charles Shea (Senior Adviser & By-Laws) 683-5371
Al LaFrance (Archaeology) 662-7022
Kate Cameron (Treasury Audit, Photos, By-Laws) 683-9485
Sheri Schlicht (Treasurer, Mbrship. Chr., Program & Refreshments) 683-5629
Cheri Gigon (President, By-Laws, Programs) 683-9498
Peter Schlicht 683-5506
Julius Gigon (Building) 683-5629
Linda Meyers (Scrapbooks, F-P School) 677-5280
Chuck Kutscher (Oral History) 683-9480
Carol Gossner (By-laws) 683-5293

Please feel free to call any of these Executive Committee members and share your thoughts

Upcoming meetings:

April 5th – **The Photo Doctor** / Dr. Louise Lutz
7:30pm

It's spring-cleaning season and perhaps you have just rediscovered that old box of Grandma's photos, some torn and faded. Want to learn what can be done with them? Join us at the next meeting of the Fabius Historical Society on Monday April 5th at 7:30 PM at the Fabius Area Community Center. Dr. Louise Lutz will discuss the art of photo restoration. Dr. Lutz performs digital surgery on photos and will share some things that she has accomplished over her many years in practice. Visit **The Photo Doctor's** website www.cnyphotodoc.com or call (315) 696-8418 for more information.

May 3rd - **Project Recap** An updating session on the many committee activities Oral History, Scrapbooks, F-P Photos, Early Cars of Our Town, Apulia Photo Show, Old Barns, Civil War Information, Archaeology Club and the Memorial Day Display – Starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

May 31st **The Fabius Historical Society Display** at the Fabius Community Center, open from 9 am till 2pm. Displays to include photos of those who have served their country from Fabius, scrapbook collections and much more. This is an open and free event.

June 7th Cheri Gigon tells that she has a surprise.

June 29th **The LaFayette Concert Band**. This 45-member band will perform their annual concert for the Fabius Community starting at 7:30pm at the Fabius Fire House.

July-Open

Aug 2nd-Chris Buck-Cemetery Epitaphs 7:30 PM at the Community Center

Sept.-Open

Oct -Open

Nov.- Open

Dec – Election of Officers

Committee Reports:

Scrapbooks The Fabius Historical Society was awarded a \$1500 grant by Senator DeFrancisco to copy scrapbooks in the possession of the Town of Fabius Historian, the Fabius Historical Society and scrapbooks and clippings that people might loan to the FHS for preservation. It is our intention to preserve these clippings onto acid-free paper and only display copies of the originals to the general public.

To date, 10 scrapbooks have been copied and bound and will be available for viewing at various FHS functions. If you have, or know of someone who has materials that should be preserved by copying to acid-free paper, please give Judy Conway a call at 683-5275.

Early Cars of our Town Ron Glasgow gave a great presentation on June 2nd, 2003 with a record attendance. Ron has offered to present PART 2 at some time in the future, as he was not able to incorporate all the photos that have been loaned to him. If you have early automobile photos and a related interesting story, contact Ron at 683-5232 or email at: Ron.Glasgow@Wausau.com

Old Barns of the Area Fabius has long been involved in agriculture and many of our surviving barns have evolved from the older picturesque barns to those of modern agriculture. Others have succumbed to fire or neglect and are no longer in use or needed. It is the purpose of this project to collect photos of barns that still exist and photos of barns that have not survived and document the style, construction, builders, and location of many of these early barns. With the help of Randy Nash (NYS Barn Historian and Repair Specialist), we have taken an inventory of about 50% of our older Fabius barns at this time. We have learned that we still have a few barns left that may have been built in the late 1700's. We are always looking for older photos of Fabius barns. Please

contact Bill Casey if you have a barn photo that you would like to share. More about our project will soon be available at: <http://www.nysbarns.com>. We hope this site will be up and running by the time the cows are out to pasture.

Civil War Information The FHS is attempting to compile information on each of our Civil War Veterans by utilizing the 1865 Fabius Town Clerk Records of Civil War Veterans, subsequent Town Census Records, Cemetery Records, obits, etc. If you have any information about this topic, please feel free to contact Joanne Casey. We are especially interested in collecting some copies of veteran photographs to include with the individual write-ups on each soldier.

War Veteran Memorial Photo Display We have been deeply moved by the Veteran display that the Tully Area Historical Society sets up in honor of their Veterans. With the assistance of our Fabius community, we would like to collect copies of photos of our Fabius Veterans for the 2004 Memorial Day Parade and Celebration. Please let us know that you have photos to share by contacting Bill Casey 683-5674 and leave message or call after 9PM. Deadline for accepting photos for copying is May 1st. Unless 100 photos are donated/loaned by the May 1st deadline, we will be forced to postpone the display until another year. Copies of photos can be mailed to Bill Casey, PO Box 36, Apulia Station, NY 13020.

All photos will be returned within one week.

Fabius Archaeology Club

With the leadership of Al LaFrance, it is our hope to locate some of our old building foundations and forgotten homesteads, cemetery stones and many other buried relics in Highland Park. Al has many years of professional experience and will be sharing these skills with us. Interested? Contact Al by phone at 662-7022.

A note from Al LaFrance / Archaeologist

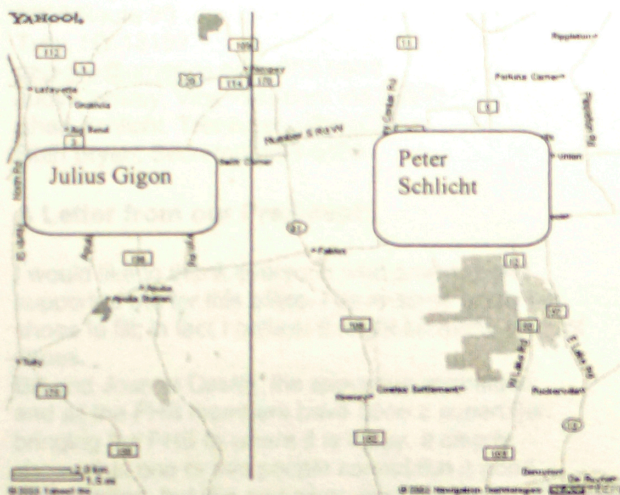
Archaeology Club News: We had a good start last year, with excavation on the Abbott site. We hope to do more this year. Starting May 1st, I plan to have the site open every second weekend throughout the summer and fall to accommodate more people. Let's show the County what can be done ...after all, it's our heritage we are researching. Remember, it's now time to renew your membership for 2004.

Any questions, contact me at 662-7022 / email: sambo2222@aol.com

Apulia Photo Show

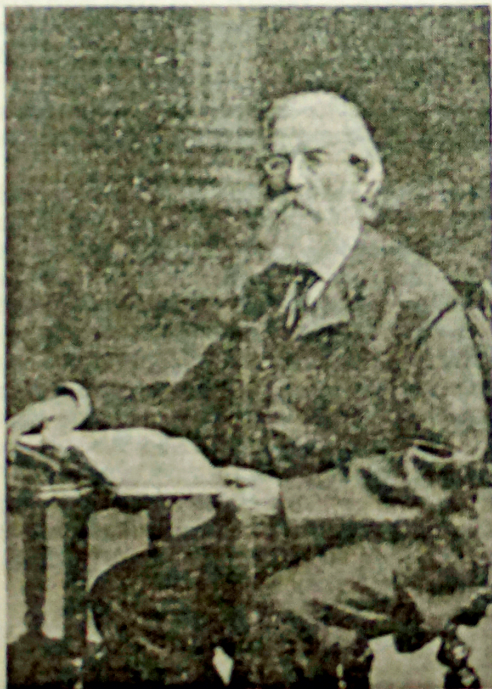
Last year, Peter Schlicht presented a slide show for the Town of Fabius, eastern region. Julius Gigon was requested to prepare a Powerpoint show for the western portion of the town, including "Old Apulia" and Apulia Station. As Julius is busy collecting photos, the FHS would like to offer everyone the opportunity to loan or donate photos that pertain to the

western side of Fabius. Julius may be reached at 683-5629 should you have such photos he could copy for the show.



A Typical Family Physician

By O.W. Webster



Charles Edward Hill, M.D. was born at Onondaga Valley, NY August 15, 1825, and the same year that the Erie Canal was dedicated. The child of Amos P. and Catharine Taylor Hill, he became an orphan at the age of nine and faced a cold world. He remembers walking the streets of Syracuse at that early age, weeping.

He went to live at Split Rock with a man by the name of Webster. He remained with him two or three years, and then went to live with John R. & Mrs. Call Esq. of Truxton, NY. They took a deep interest in his education, and sent

him to school. He formed the resolution of teaching the school which he was then attending, and in a few years he was the teacher. He had a "thirst for knowledge" as he expressed it, and at the age of eighteen he was attending the Homer Academy. After leaving the academy, he began the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. Purrington, of Truxton; Thompson, of Geddes; and Perry of Syracuse – teaching, as he had the opportunity (for support), while preparing for his life work. He then attended the Eclectic Medical College, of Syracuse, during which time he was a student practicing with Dr. Thompson, and treated several cases of cholera. In 1850 he removed from Syracuse to Cuyler, N.Y. and began practicing his profession there. He soon won fame by saving the life of a patient in an adjoining county. The patient was the wife of a prominent man in that locality. She was taken violently ill, and eminent physicians of Central New York were called. But they could not relieve her, all agreeing that her case was hopeless, as they claimed she had cancer of the stomach. Friends were summoned to the supposed deathbed to look for the last time upon the face of one whom they all loved, and bid her a last goodbye. The patient told her husband that she would like to see Dr. Hill. Desiring to please her in everything possible, he complied with her request, and sent for the doctor.

He arrived in the evening, and proceeded at once to the bedside of the suffering woman. He studied her case but was baffled. His horse was taken care of and he remained overnight. After administering a soothing potion he retired to his room, telling the farmer that he would give his opinion of the case in the morning. He deeply reflected upon the symptoms, and sent up a prayer to the Giver of all Good, for light and help, for the young doctor was a Christian. While on his knees, the doctor averse, he received an impression in the nature of a revelation, as to the kind of disease which so sorely afflicted his patient, and he says, "He was then and there divinely commissioned to cure her". In the morning he again administered medicine, and told the farmer what was the matter with his wife, and that he was going to cure her. The doctor assumed that her trouble was acute rheumatism of the stomach, although he had never treated a case like it, nor had he ever read of a similar one in the books. He reasoned thus: "There is such a thing as muscular rheumatism; the stomach is a muscular organ, therefore it is susceptible to the same disease". In about three weeks she was convalescent. The last time he had called to leave medicine "he was startled to see her seated at the table partaking of a farmer's boiled dinner". But it did not harm her, and she lived more than a quarter of a century after this date. Mr. Andrews was delighted, as were the whole family, for she was the wife and mother of the household, and all loved her. Mr. A. told the doctor to stop and dine with them whenever he should drive that way. He often followed him to the barn, and before the doctor drove off, would place a five or ten dollar bill in his hand, telling him to say nothing about it to anyone. The doctor speaks very highly of "Uncle Jim" as he was always called. He says: "When he was a boy, Uncle Jim often stroked his head, telling him to cheer up, to be brave, and be a Christian". He says he owes his Christian belief and character to Uncle Jim more than to any other person, except his mother. Fame of this case rapidly spread through all the countryside, and people to this day discuss it as a legend of no small importance.

In the fall of 1859, the doctor removed to Fabius, N.Y. and in 1861 he enlisted as a private when there was a call for three-month volunteers. He claims to have been the first recruit from Fabius. After arriving at Elmira, he was appointed assistant surgeon by Col. E.L. Walworth and later was a commissioned surgeon, in which capacity he

served during the war. He served, by transfer in the field, in the 12th, 13th, 185th Regiments, New York Volunteers. Of his Civil War souvenirs was a ball, which he claimed killed the first man on the Northern side, and also the one that ended the life of General Mansfield at Antietam. He also professed to have performed the first surgical operation of the war and to have organized the first field hospital. According to the Fabius Clerks Records, Dr. Hill was discharged on May 14, 1863 and re-enlisted Sept. 19, 1864 in Fabius. His discharge from the war was on July 11, 1865, with the mailing address of "P O Fabius". The war having closed, our surgeon hastened home to greet his family and see, if he might, the old friends and neighbors whom he had left behind when he went to war. Unbeknown to him, there was one that he would not see again. Dr. Adams died the same day that the surgeon reached home. Hearing of his illness, Dr. Hill was hastening to his bedside when he was told by a messenger that his old friend had just passed away. The relations between Drs. Hill and Adams had always been pleasant and harmonious. They were true and cordial friends. "The Doctor drove faster than I did", Dr. Hill said, "but I always got there just the same."

In 1869, Dr. Hill removed to McGrawville, N.Y. His ride there extended over a wide tract of country, and he was on the road day and night. He was very successful in his practice, and many marveled at the great cures which he wrought. There are numerous legends of the success which he achieved in treating many diseases, especially pneumonia. It is claimed that his success, in some cases, bordered upon miraculous. He enjoyed an enviable reputation throughout the rural districts of Onondaga and Cortland Counties, and in the larger towns where his fame had preceded him.

In 1879 Dr. Hill removed to Syracuse, where he was ward physician, and remained uniformly successful in his practice. He had been a Grand Army man from the first, and surgeon of Root Post No. 51 of Syracuse. Dr. Pease eulogized him, and reported to have said, "He had a record of which any man might well be proud." It had always been claimed by those who knew him best that the Doctor had a "gift," a natural talent for the work in which he had so long and so successfully been engaged. Therefore, if the "talent is the call," as Emerson said, then Dr. Hill was called to practice the healing art.

Going off to War

Written by Mary Shea Martin in 2004 in good handwriting at the age of 93. Mary can be reached through her daughter Mary Kay Martin at 504

Cambridge Drive, Benicia, CA 94510 (her email address is: Mkmhse@aol.com).

Mary recently sent in a number of photos of Thomas J. Martin from his tour of duty during World War II. Along with the photos, she shared the following remembrances



Mary Shea Martin & Clp. Thomas J. Martin

"I'll never forget the day in my life when husband Tom Martin was drafted for war! When the day came he was to leave, my mother and I took him to the bus terminal. Lots of tears were shed that day! Maybe I'd never see him again after being married around 10 years or more. The bus was waiting and loading other servicemen. When we got home, first thing we saw was his hat where he had taken it off. More tears. Those days, soldiers didn't get paid like now and teachers didn't either, so I asked for a raise and got one! I lived with my parents almost 4 years until Tom got back.

That morning he was at the terminal, he called me to come for him. I left at 4am; it was a bad day, wind and rain. As I was going up Pompey Road for Syracuse, a big tree fell in front of me so I had to stop and go into the city by Delphi Road, which took hours. I got to the terminal and he was fast asleep on a bench and wondering where I was. In the meantime, his brother had called Syracuse Hotel and reserved a room for us. What a Godsend that was because we were both exhausted. I'm not sure where he had come in from but it was far away from Syracuse.

Tom was Master Sargent in Quarter Master Corp. He was honorably discharged and all he had to live with was shrapnel from a bullet he had been hit with.

Sometimes I wonder if we appreciate our Veterans enough. They are the ones who keep America a free country. They always have been and I hope always will be the best in the world.

Before Tom headed for Europe he was at Fort Dix in New Jersey for a few days, so called me to come to Providence, Rhode Island to see him. So I prepared and my brother-in-law, Hugh Martin took me to the train and instructed me to call him when I arrived. There was supposed to be a room for me when I got there at the big hotel. When I got there, there was no room reserved for me. I finally got a room at another hotel. When Tom finally got there, he found me with help of the police. He stayed all night but had to leave the next morning. He didn't know if he would be back again or not, so I stayed a week and then decided to come home. As I was leaving I got a phone call from my brother-in-law Hugh asking me where on earth I was. He called my mother and she came in to his house because (at that time) he called the police and was sure I was lost. Also, I was scared when he met me at the depot...I was sure he'd wring my neck. I had some time living that down.

On the train going home, I sat with a soldier and I told him my story. Everything was very secret so he said, "If you whisper his number to me, I can tell you if he's gone." They were gone on their way to California to Europe. Once I knew the name of the ship, I don't now, but I do remember when I later heard the ship was being dismantled.

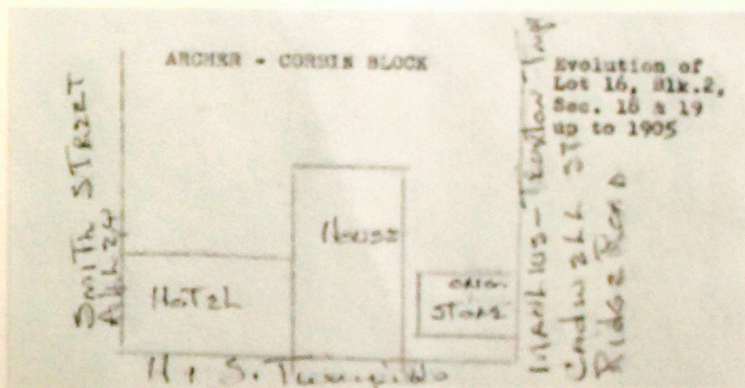
Everyone asks why I didn't call home but I was so excited wondering if I'd ever see him again, I didn't think of calling.

On his way home, the ship they boarded was filled with a lot of apples. It was so long since they had fresh fruit, they feasted to the point that some became ill from too many apples, combined with the roll of the ship."

the corner of Smith Street and the H&S Turnpike, which was run by Enoch Ely.



1852 Fagan Map Fabius Village



Close-up of Archer - Corbin Block

Archer- Corbin Block

(Evolution of Lot 16, Block 2, Section 18&19 up to 1905)
Information compiled by Virginia Cameron
Fabius Village Historian (315 683-9446)

The Village of Fabius had its first commercial establishment at the intersection of the Manlius-Truxton Turnpike & Hamilton-Skaneateles Turnpike (c. 1811) with a small store owned by David McClue of Homer on the NW corner and Shubel Cadwells tavern on the SE corner. Later, Thaddeus Archer of Suffield, Conn. had a hotel on

Thaddeus may have been one of the land speculators who acquired acres of land in the NY Military Tract, during the wild land speculation in the early years of the 19th century. The usual plan was to choose land on the cross-country road, preferably by a stream as a site for a gristmill and store, which were built for the benefit of the prospective buyers of land in the village and surrounding town. The land agents advertised widely in the eastern newspapers, targeting particularly those in Mass. and Conn., whose land had been ravaged by the Revolutionary War. With large families who could not be sustained on limited land and lured by cheap land prices, they braved the terrible journey West. They found traveling in winter, usually by ox-drawn cart on

Often the male head of the family made the journey first, building some kind of shelter and then returning to the East to collect their families.

The hotel of Thaddeus Archer (b. 5/9/1782) may have provided shelter for those more affluent prospects, including Sherman Harlow Corbin (b. 1802 in Laurens, NY to Quaker parents). He married Caroline Mary Archer (daughter of Thaddeus) in 1833, the year he came to the village. Where and when is not known.

Who built the house at 7861 Main Street has not been firmly established as yet. A Federal/Greek Revival (c.1830-1840) of post and beam construction, it is typical of others in the village with the first floor supported by half-logs and walls of hemlock with horsehair and plaster finish. The main block retains the original form. The east addition and oriel window were added later when an elaborate oak staircase replaced the interior staircase with an acorn finial on the newel post. An open space at the staircase end gave visual access to the back room. The staircase turns and entry to the back room is gained through an original opening. A fireplace with an oak surround, mirror and glazed tile flooring was installed in the chimney corner. The east addition has oak wainscoting. The large carriage house has a notice inside, "Archer C. Bush, 1896".

Sherman Corbin, a widower, was living with his daughter Louisa (1842-1911) and her husband William Reed Bush (1835-1901), a butcher and builder.



Louisa Corbin Bush (1842-1911) daughter of Sherman H. Corbin of Fabius married Dec. 7, 1869 to William Reed Bush of LaFayette. He was born August 6th 1835 and died in Fabius August 24th

1842-1911) daughter of Sherman H. Corbin of Fabius married Dec. 7, 1869 to William Reed Bush of LaFayette.

William was running the Corbin Store directly across the street from this house. Sherman Corbin had progressed from proprietor of a small grocery store and fruit yard to a prosperous merchant who expanded to what became the "Bush Block". Both properties may have passed to Archer Corbin Bush and Claude Conrad Bush, then out of the family.



Sherman H. Corbin/William Bush Home Ca. 1897/98



In the living room of Archer Corbin Bush's childhood home. L-R Sherman H. Corbin (ACB's maternal grandfather), Louisa Corbin Bush (mother), Archer playing game & William Reed Bush (father). Photographs gift of Bush Family to the Fabius Historical Society.

