

FABIUS Historical Society Newsletter

No.7 Summer, 2004

Fabius, NY



**Come learn about Early Transportation in
the Fabius Area, Part 2
October 4th, 7:30 pm
@ the Fabius Area Community Center
Ron Glasgow, presenter**

**Draft Horse Corn Harvest Sunday Sept 29th
11-4 @ Ed & Doris Luchsinger Farm**

Upcoming Meetings

October 4th-7:30p. m.
Ron Glasgow - Part 2
Early Transportation

Nov. 1st 7:00 p.m. @
Apulia Church
Covered dish dinner
(Show & Tell) evening

Dec 6th 7:30pm
Christmas Celebration
and Annual Election
of Officers

**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:

July 26, 2004

Here we are half way through our FHS season and it is hard to believe that we have had so much fun and camaraderie, but the close of our FHS year is near. However, let's do a little recap to bring everyone up to date on our accomplishments so far. Some of you were fortunate enough to leave our little community for the winter months, but the rest of us (including myself) had time to ponder the thought of what is needed and required to continue the growth and retention of our Fabius Historical Society. Still not sure if I have the answers, but with everyone's input and the group coming together as one, I feel we have striven and accomplished a great society for all. We do still need to have some of our attendees become members, though.

We had a great takeoff in April with the Photo Doctor as our guest. The attendance was great and the "Doctor" answered the audience's questions with suggestions for our photos and the preservation of some photos which most would say were beyond any repair.

May was a fantastic month with the concentration for Memorial Day Veterans Display. A lot of hard work (not only by our members, but many of our citizens past and present) helped make this production a very Special Day. The Veteran's photos were well displayed with the information pertaining to the branch and years of service attached. The featured displays were also well received by the 300+ attendees. Again, the public asked many questions regarding the displays and were answered very knowledgeably by those with the displays. FHS is proud to have members that are so caring and willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the public. That is why Memorial Day was a very special day. Should the Historical Society have a display each year? Let me know your thoughts.

June has always been known as Dairy Month and what better way to express the multiple changes throughout the years, than to have Harvey & Linda present such an outstanding program demonstrating the many facets of time, and yes underneath that costume it was Linda. (Not sure if Linda's costume would qualify for a facet of time or faucet).

In lieu of the July meeting, as the date would have been on a holiday, we chose to have the **Lafayette Community Band** perform, and again, the entertainment was well appreciated. Unfortunately the weather decided to do it's own thing, and the attendance was down compared to the past years.

For our August meeting, **Christine Buck** who spoke last year on the various types of monuments and other interesting cemetery information spoke on **Cemetery Epitaphs**. This proved to be another interesting presentation.

September meeting again fell on a holiday. Therefore, I asked **Tim Conroy** who is a well-known appraiser, to appraise items of interest at the Community Center. Judy Conway was Chairperson for this event and a steady flow of treasures appeared for appraisal by Mr. Knapp.

Our October 4th meeting will be **Transportation in the Fabius Area, Part 2**, by Fabius resident Ron Glasgow. As you recall, Part 1 of Ron's presentation was given last year with much enthusiasm, and many non-members made up our audience participation. If you have photos that could be included, please consider giving Ron a call at 683-5232 or email him at Ron.Glasgow@Wausau.com.

Our November 1st meeting will be held ½ hour earlier (7:00 p.m.) at the Apulia Methodist Church. The meeting will be a **covered dish dinner** followed by a **"Show & Tell"** program. All FHS members are requested to participate and bring an article or object, photo, books, etc., with an accompanying story to share. Perhaps you have a photo and you are not sure, or maybe you know, the people, place or thing, and want to have the audience test their knowledge to identify. Now that sounds like a fun idea.

Our December 6th meeting will be our year-end wind down. Any ideas as to what you would like to do in addition to our annual election of officers? There might be some additional subjects to discuss with the above agenda. I will advise you of any updates or changes. Meanwhile, I hope to see you all at the next meeting. Enjoy yourselves and stay healthy and **HAPPY. Cheri Gigon**

Trivia from the Pres:

What Sandwich was manufactured in 1925?

Hint: One Sandwich was the Big 8 and another was the Big 10.

**Find the answer by unscrambling the following:
hdnaiwsc amtes ctarrot**

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 mail to Sheri Gigon, President, 6828 Route 80 Tully, NY 13159. Unless you become a member, you will not receive the future newsletters.

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

Fabius Archaeology Club

With the leadership of Al LaFrance, it is our hope to locate some of our old building foundations and forgotten home-steads, 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

Fabius Memorial Day Veteran Project

We were very pleased with the number of Fabius Veteran photos that were shared by the community for our Memorial Day Celebration. This display is an attempt to honor those from our town who made great sacrifices for all of us. An ongoing project, we are attempting to include as many veteran photos and pertinent information as possible for future displays. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any additions or corrections to this display.

Bill Casey at 683-5674 or Bill5308@aol.com

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Fabius Historical Society

One purpose of a historical society is to preserve and appreciate the events, the people and the artifacts of the past. Another is to preserve historically important materials of the present time in a form so that these materials endure and are readily accessible to both current and future generations. These concerns have guided my thinking on the oral history project. Our seniors, many of whom have lived in this area for many years, are a valuable untapped resource. Recording their stories in a stable form is a major challenge. Ideally these records should preserve not just the words of our seniors, but their voices, their faces, their opinions and their mannerisms. These records should be reproducible so that families can have their own copies and these records should be in a form that most families can view them with equipment they may already have in their homes. In June, I attended a conference where a New York State archivist spoke of problems of digitally preserving records for the future, including video records. He said the best bet at this time is the DVD disk, which can be played on DVD players, which many of us already have. As technology advances new possibilities may come along, but the DVD disks can at that time be re-recorded onto the newer medium. These disks store a huge amount of information and don't take up much space, although

each disk probably has a limited life span and must be re-recorded at some point in the future. The Historical Society can archive one disk so that families and other interested people can have copies as family memorabilia.

Here's where we stand so far. Because I have a great deal of family photos and movies to archive, I have acquired most of the equipment and programs needed to do this work. I am spending time now setting up the new computer and mastering the programs to do this job. This phase of the work is almost done. I am willing to do Historical Society work on this equipment without charge to the program. There is much trial and error remaining, but this is how I hope the process will work. We can interview each person in their own home and ask questions relating to demographic information, educational experiences, memories of earlier times in Fabius, questions of the biggest changes over the years and an assessment of what Fabius has given to them and what they have given to Fabius. This interview will be recorded on a digital voice recorder and also on videotape with a camcorder if the person being interviewed agrees. These records will then be put into a computer, edited and stored on DVDs. Edited versions of this information might provide future presentations for the Fabius Historical Society. Some people have kindly volunteered to help with the project. Others have volunteered to help us make appointments. With a few more technical problems to solve, we should soon be on our way. I will appreciate receiving names of people I should interview. The first interview occurred on July 19th.

My phone number is 683-9480 and my email address is kutscher@syr.edu

Chuck Kutscher July 19, 2004

What We Can Learn From Old Letters, Dairies and Photos

Photographs

Little documented history has been left to those of us who have an interest in unraveling the mysteries of the lives of our early settlers. But to the most observant researchers, many clues are available and can be utilized to compile this early history. One such aid is the photograph. Our first photos were known as "Daguerreotypes", invented by Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre in 1837. However, there remain very few local photos prior to 1900. Many of these photos can be used for investigations of our histories such as the photo below. Although the postcard is of the Hamilton Store, note the things that can be learned:



The above photo postcard was taken after the erection of the Civil War Monument and reveals outbuildings & barns behind the Thompson house (now owned by Steve Powers). Note how few trees are on the hill behind Chuck McDevitt's farm. If only we had photos available to us from the early 1800's. But we do have the next best thing, letters and diaries.

Letters

Written into letters and diaries are many bits of information. Should you have in your possession old letters from local people, many interesting historical items can be learned. When I was writing "The Mystery of the Young Warrior Mower" in our FHS newsletter (Feb. of 2002), I needed more facts on why Bramer & Pierce Agricultural Works moved out of Fabius, NY. Locating the letters between Humphrey Fosmer and his sister Catherine Pierce (which had been posted on the internet), I was able to learn about the fire in early January, 1866 which consumed the facility. I am not suggesting that everyone post all old letters and diaries to the internet, but local historical societies should be considered for safe permanent storage or at least be given an opportunity to photograph or copy the information.

Diaries

An 1866 diary from Elizabeth "Libbie" D. Cross (a 16-year-old girl from Clark Hollow, Town of Fabius) was posted for sale on Ebay in the spring of 2004. I had assumed that very few others would even know or care of the happenings of Clark Hollow, so I thought that I might have a good opportunity to purchase it. Also, not knowing exactly what information this diary might or might not contain kept my bidding on the conservative side. To my surprise, the bidding went well beyond my personal budget, sold for \$58, and was purchased by a Marveen Coggins of Steamboat Springs, Co. I was interested in why someone from Steamboat Springs had shown a strong interest in Clark Hollow. I emailed Marveen and asked her of her interest in Clark Hollow. To my surprise, Marveen enjoyed Civil War era diaries had no connection to Fabius. However, she offered to photocopy the diary and mail the copy to us if we would help her understand some of the entries.

What we learned from the diary. Much to our luck, J. Roy Dodge had been investigating the Clark Hollow area and we were able to tap into his vast knowledge and records to make sense out of a majority of the entries made by Libbie in her 1866 Diary. We have listed a few of them below:

February 16 Cold. Got up at half past seven. I had to build my own fire...like to froze. Went to school.

The Clark Hollow School was located in the "fishing" parking area on the W side of Clark Hollow Rd. Just across from the old Smirco homestead.

May 4 Charlie Skeel's mill burned up tonight
Skeel's mill, along present Daley Rd. by the Butternut Creek (1860 Map)

May 12 Got up and milked (5 cows) & went over to Orange's - came back & churned then got ready & Lett & I went up to Mr. French's & up to Harvey's avisiting; went over to the cheese factory.

William Hughes had a cheese factory on the Tully side of Sky High Rd. at the end of Blaney's farm.

June 3 Rained. Milked. I rode up to Apulia with our folks. Went to the ME Church to Sabbath school then went over to the other meetinghouse. Staid to Sabbath school there. Started and walked home.

The Old Apulia Baptist Church, formed in 1804 as Presbyterian, changed to Congregational in 1830, to Baptist in 1876, torn down in the early 1940's. The ME Chuch also had a meetinghouse in Old Apulia, which was removed to Summit Station in 1870. (note: the building was not moved)

June 12 Just one year ago today Fonse was killed.
Alphonso Scammell, son of Lyndon & Sylvia McEvers Scammell was killed in a sawmill accident at Summit Station aged 17, June 12, 1865.

July 15 Pleasant & very warm. Milked, helped do chores then went to sleep. Went to graveyard.
Graveyard was on the west side of Clark Hollow Rd, a little south of Ansel Clark's. Sometime just before WW I, Elton Downing & sons were hired to dig up the graves & move the bones & stones to Berwyn Cemetery. (See 1860 map).

Further digging through census material, etc. allowed us additional biographical information. Elizabeth "Libbie" D. Cross was born in the Town of Fabius on Nov. 13, 1848. She was the daughter of Luther F. Cross and Saphronia Bronson Cross. On March 22, 1836, Luther purchased a small lot in the village of "Franklinville", which later became the

village of Fabius. (The change was necessary because there was already a Franklinville in Delaware Co., NY and the name duplication caused major confusion to the later postal system.) I have no maps that identify exactly where in the village this property was located, but Luther died sometime prior to 1855.

The 1865 Census lists Libbie as a 16-year old step-child of Isaiah Clark, a 73-year old farmer born in RI or Mass. and living in a frame house on Military Lot #2 in Clark Hollow, Town of Fabius. Isaiah Clark's second wife and Libbie's mother, Saphronia, 53 and born in Madison Co., NY, is listed as being a parent of 7 children and married for the third time. Isaiah Clark married the Widow Saphronia Bronson Cross sometime between 1860 and 1865. He died on July 26, 1875 at the age of 83 and was buried in the LaFayette cemetery.

The 1860 Agricultural Census describes the Clark Farm as follows: 71A of improved land & 14A unimproved land; farm value \$2550 & equipment \$97; livestock includes 2 horses, 4 milch cows & 7 other cattle (probably youngstock) & 1 pig, all totaling \$280 in value. Crops include 16 bu. wheat, 30 bu. Indian corn, 400 bu. oats, 20 bu. peas, 1000# butter (Libbie's churning!) and 200# cheese. The farm also produced 25T hay, 200# maple sugar, 11.6 gallons maple syrup and \$275 value of slaughtered animals.

Libbie married LeRoy A. Morgan of LaFayette, the son of Willard and Celia Scammell Morgan. They bought a farm very close to the Tully line on Route 11 in LaFayette, raised a family of six children and lived there until their deaths. LeRoy Morgan died on Jan. 11, 1924 at 80 and Elizabeth "Libbie" died on July 4, 1919 at 70.

We learned a great deal from the entries in Libbie's diary, historical information for both the towns of Fabius and LaFayette. If you have in your possession a diary, photos or family letters that you would be willing to be copied and shared with our community, please let us know. Contact Bill or Joanne Casey 683-5674 or Bill5308@aol.com.

Fabius-Pompey Teachers Learn Local History

On September 2, 2004 the Fabius-Pompey teaching staff was given a presentation on formation and creation of our towns. During the spring of 2004, Chuck Kutscher, Nancy Edwards, Sylvia Shoebridge, Joanne & Bill Casey teamed up to develop a program designed to educate the 3rd graders about the history of our towns. This program was well received and it was recommended that the teaching staff could gain valuable insight into the local community.

Our team once again gathered and developed the advanced version of the town's history and provided a Power Point presentation in the new High School Auditorium. For those who might be interested, a copy of this presentation is in the High School library and available to the general public.

Curious old Election Returns From the Town of Fabius, 1799

Taken from the Syracuse Journal

"The return of the first election in the Town of Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY on May 2d, 1799. The poll of election was opened on Tuesday, the 30th of April, agreeable to leagal notice, and continued by adjournments until Thursday the second day of May, and then closed. And upon opening the Boxes, Canvassing and Estimating the Ballots, it appears that, the seven persons hereinafter named, had the number of Votes for Members of Assembly annexed to their Respective names: ---

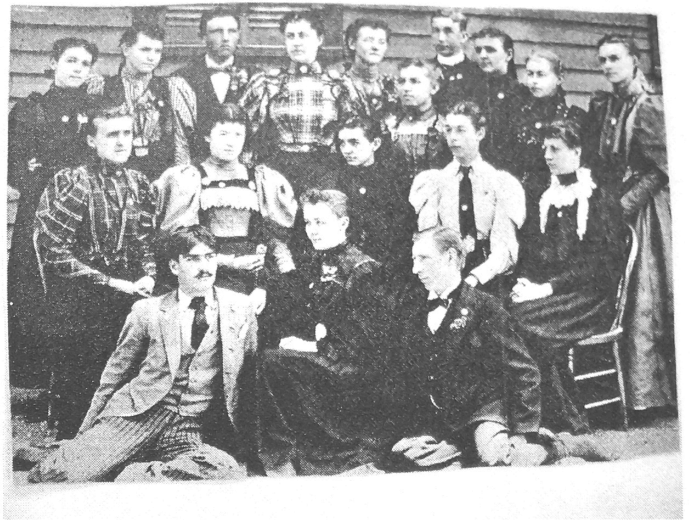
Dan Bradley, sixty votes.
Moses Carpenter, twelve votes.
Ebenezer Butler, six votes.
Ebenezer Butler, esquire, four votes.
Ebenezer Butler, junior, one vote.

We do hereby certify that the above is a true statement of the votes taken at the Election. May 3d, 1799.

PHINEAS HOWELL,
ELIJAH ST. JOHN,
EBENEZER BEEBEE,
STEPHEN COUCH,
BENJAMIN BROWN,
JOSEPH KEELER,
TIMOTHY JEROME.
Inspectors of Election.

To the Clerk of the Town of Fabius.
Filed: BENJAMIN BROWN,
Town Clerk.

The original town of Fabius embraced a large part of Southern Onondaga and Northern Cortland. The voting population in 1799 was only 72. There was then but one Member of Assembly from Onondaga county, and that year the man elected was Ebenezer Butler, jr., who was a resident of Pompey. The seven inspectors were all men of note, and some of the most prominent families in the county trace their lineage from them. The original territory of Fabius that existed when the town was organized March 9, 1798, has gone into the present town, into Tully, 1803; Otisco, 1806; Preble and Truxton, 1808; Spafford, 1811; Scott, 1815, and Cuyler, 1858."



Fabius Union School Teachers' Training Class 1896
1st row L to R: Fred Madden, Hattie Sharp and Robert Hills. Center: Alice Rowley, May Clark, Alice Powers, Maud Webster, Ella Fosmer and Nellie Waters. Rear row: Maude Waters, Jessie Dunn, Frank Fellows, Miss Furman (teacher), Myrtle Brooks, Ernest Waters, Jennie Rowley, Jessie Knapp and Myrtle Eaton.

1872 TEACHERS' RULES DEVELOPED BY NY CITY PRINCIPAL

- Teachers will fill lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks each day.
- Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and scuttle of coal for the day's session.
- Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual tastes of each pupil.
- Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- After ten hours in school, the teachers should spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
- Women teachers who marry or engage in other unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
Every teacher should set aside from each pay day a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
- Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason thereby, to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty.
- The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.