

Fabius Historical Society  
PO Box 36  
Apulia Station, NY 13020

Newsletter  
of the  
Fabius Historical Society

No.15

Summer, Fall 2007

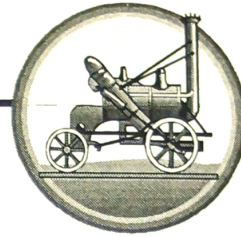


APULIA STATION  
BIRTHPLACE OF  
CULTIVATED GINSENG



# The Highland Park Museum Report from the Fabius Historical Society

PO Box 27 FABIUS, NY 13063



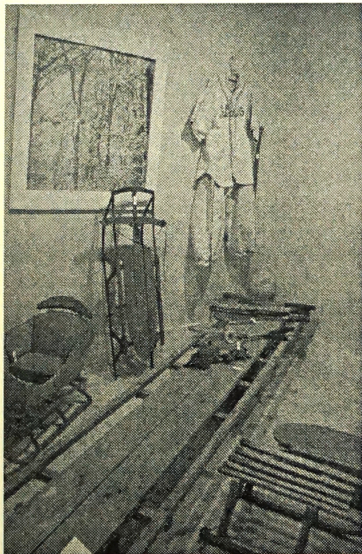
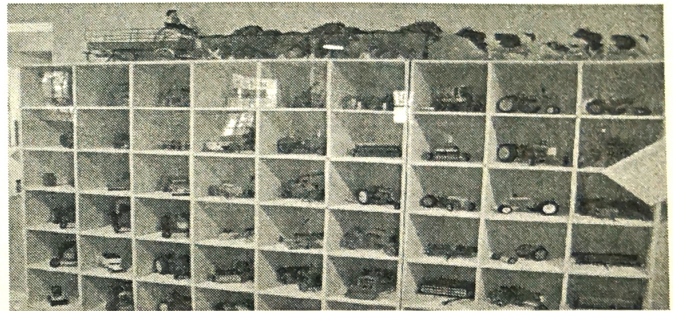
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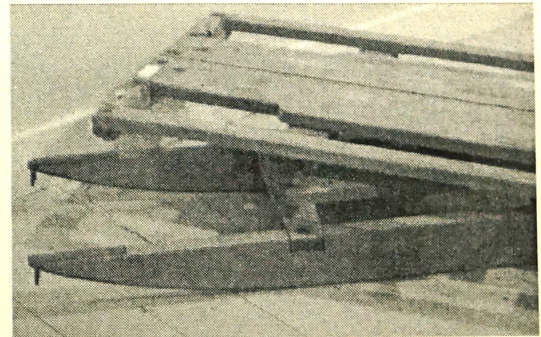
## EXHIBIT NEWS FROM THE PIONEER MUSEUM

This summer the Pioneer Museum featured a loan exhibition of 54 farm equipment toys from Harvey Skeele's extensive private collection, including four beautiful handmade wooden scale models by Ed Butler. We hope to highlight more of Harvey's collection next year.



### Fun in Fabius

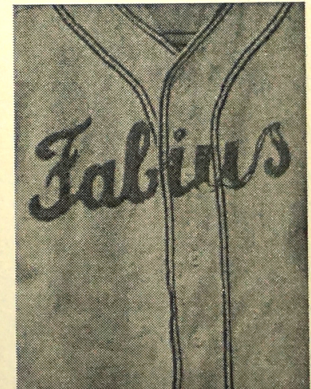
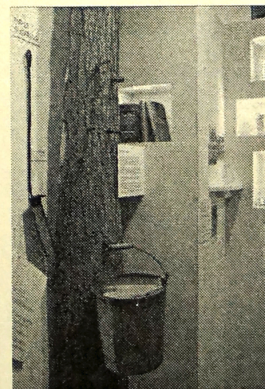
A recent donation of three sleds from Ed Glasgow of Tully prompted us to install a new exhibit. Under the title *Fun in Fabius*, we feature artifacts related to all kinds of recreation activities. The centerpiece is the spectacular 11-foot bobsled that Randall Glasgow made on the Duane Skeele farm in the 1930's. It was used on the hill behind the farm.



Al LaFrance installed a new unit on maple sugaring, supplemented by early 1900's glass plate photographs from the Dewitt Historical Society in Ithaca. If anyone has sugaring photos from Fabius to share, we would love to copy and include them.

The exhibit also permits us to display the Fabius baseball team uniform used by Carleton Newman in the 1920's that was donated years ago. What are we lacking? Photographs and reminiscences all of types of recreation from all periods. The idea is to compile a binder of recreation photos. If we find enough, perhaps we can do a program, too.

Other additions to the permanent exhibits include new Civil War reference binders compiled by Joanne and Bill Casey. These include biographical information on more than 200 Civil War soldiers with known connections to Fabius. As part of our Fabius Veteran Collection, we are hoping to acquire photos of these veterans to complete the biographies.



Volunteers always needed for cataloging collection items and doing mini research projects

Contact Al LaFrance or Lili Bergs if you have some time to spare.



# PROGRAMS



*Irene & Chuck Kutscher looking for more Historical Programs*

Chuck Kutscher, our program chairperson, has been busy putting together the 2008 schedule of program events. He has generously offered his time and has worked diligently to provide the FHS with a diverse selection of topics for our meetings, developing great power-point presentations and offering computer-generated photo duplication. We all love old photos of our town and he loves to duplicate the photographs so that others may enjoy them as well. For 2008 we have meetings set for January, February and March, but we need everyone's input on programs for the rest of the year. Members have suggested that we hold more meetings on Saturday afternoons in lieu of the first Monday night of the month. We will need to have some discussion at the January meeting. Possible programs that have been suggested are as follows:

**Howard Ford:** Stories behind the historic signs one sees along the roadside

**Mary Coffin:** Hiking trails in Central New York

**Bob Ossant:** Reminiscences of teaching in the F-P district.

**Cemetery tours:** Maplewood has been mentioned

**A History of Crouse Hospital**

**Great Graves of Central New York:** Author presentation.

**Bob Savitts:** A member who can speak on historical topics

**Local History from the Tully Independent:** A panel of area lifetime members who can talk about topics of local interest.

**Programs from Judy Conway's scrapbooks:** school history and other topics as recorded in the newspapers and other documents

**A talk on the history of toys**

**History of Cowles Settlement:** Izzy Woodford and Bill Casey

**History of Toggenberg ski area**

**History of Highland Forest:** Al LaFrance

**How to do genealogy research**

**A man who impersonates Syracuse's first mayor**

**Pictures of members then (baby, child, wedding) and now**

**How to date your house:** Rick Porter

**Researching your Family Tree:** Dick Hillenbrand

We are always open to meeting topic ideas. Chuck can be contacted at home: 683-9480, or at a meeting of the Historical Society. You can also email him ([kutscher@gatling.us](mailto:kutscher@gatling.us))

## FABIUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2008 PROGRAMS

All Meetings are at the Fabius Community Center

**January 5<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**1 pm Chuck Kutscher**

Discussion on future programs for the 2008 year.

**1:30 pm Bill Casey** will present information on Fabius Education prior to Centralization.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008** (Ground Hog's Day)

**1 pm The Don Edward's Theatrics Group**

Don and Nancy Edwards reviewed old newspaper accounts and established the facts of the murder trial regarding the murder of John Buck, a farmer in the Nelson area back in the 1800s. Don is a member of the Cazenovia Shakespeare group and those members participate in this play. The judge is a well-meaning and honest individual who tries to make sense out of the testimony given at the trial. This is a very interesting piece of Americana which I think members will find interesting.

**March 1<sup>st</sup> 2008**

**1 pm All About Computers and Digital Photography**

As computers have become increasingly important in our daily lives, they have also provided significant improvements in recording and telling history. We can all learn and/or share a few computer tips we have encountered. Depending on the interest of the group we can have a series of short lectures on the topics below or have three concurrent sessions covering more depth. Let us know at the January meeting what would work the best. If you would like additional topics covered or perhaps you have some special computer expertise that you are willing to share, let Bill or Chuck know. Proposed topics include:

**Working in Word** by Lili Bergs

**Photoshop** by Chuck Kutscher

**Digital Photos Made Easy** perhaps Glenn Ferguson

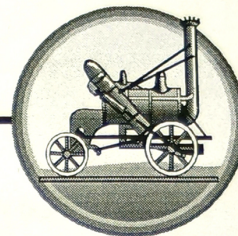
**PowerPoint** by Bill Casey

Since the Community Center does not have a high-speed internet connection yet, it will be very difficult to fully use the capabilities of the internet. We will find out if there are any internet hotspots in close proximity of the Community Center for our use. Should any of our members have Sprint's Wireless Sierra 595 Modem or any other system that would give us high speed internet service, please call Bill Casey at 315.683.5674.



A Newsletter from the  
**Fabius Historical Society**

PO Box 27 FABIUS, NY 13063



Officers: 2008

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Email: LAFRANCERED@aol.com

1583 Cardner Road

New Woodstock, NY 13122

Sandy Beglinger, Vice President - 683-5878

Cheri Gigon, Treasurer - 683-9498

Ruth Bryan, Secretary - 683-5806

*From the President's Desk*

We had a very exciting year and I would like to start by thanking my officers who do the bulk of the work and made my job easier: Chuck Kutscher for the wonderful programs, Irene Kutscher and Sandy Beglinger for their great food and hostess duty, Bill & Joanne Casey for the newsletter. I want to thank all members who manned the museum; it sure made it easier for me. Most of all, thanks to all members and guests who make our jobs rewarding. We are here to serve you.

I'm hoping the upcoming year will be just as rewarding. We need your input in order to give you what you want. Our Town has purchased a projection screen for the Community Center and has pledged \$1,000 a year to our organization. A special thanks to board member Jim Conway who spearheaded both. Thanks, also, to the town supervisor and all board members.

The museum has been doing very well and we have gained support from the park for our efforts. We welcomed 954 guests this year, with many positive comments on Harvey Skeeel's farm toy collection. Harvey has agreed to let us keep it another year, for which we are grateful. Our new sign is up and looks great and the Park trimmed some of the hanging pine limbs so we are more visible. I'm sure my good friend and museum founder Ray Benson would be pleased. I've been working with Pompey Historical Society on retrieving some of the Fabius museum items that were given up by the parks department, so that they can be returned to the museum.

On February 1-2, 8-9, 14-15-16 (from 7 –11 PM) the museum will be open for "Valentine in the Forest," where guests will have their picture taken by the organ in the museum. This event is sponsored by the National Ski Patrol and we will receive a donation from them. They are accepting reservations for 45 couples per night and I will need help on those nights. If you wish to volunteer, please call me at 662-7022. Thanks In Advance.

I finally realized we need a pole barn to store the large horse-drawn farm machinery, along with 2 fanning mills. The Sweetland family has donated a horse-drawn planter which is presently stored in Dale's barn. These are all a part of our history and we need to investigate options for their permanent storage.

Your President,  
*Al LaFrance*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD 2008**

- Ruth Bryan (Secretary) 683-5806
- Joanne Casey (Civil War, Newsletter) 683-5674
- Judy Conway (Scrapbook, Treasury Audit) 683-5275
- Bill Casey (Newsletter, Veterans) 683-5674
- Charles Shea (Senior Adviser) 683-5371
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- Kate Cameron (Treasury Audit) 683-9485
- Cheri Gigon (Treasurer) 683-9498
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- Chuck Kutscher (Programs) 683-9480
- Sandy Beglinger (Oral History, VP) 683-5878
- Carol Gossner (Senior Advisor) 683-5293
- Lili Bergs (Museum Advisor, Archivist) 683-5191
- Ginny Scida (Advertising) 683-5625

*Your Toss is Our Loss*

As you clean out your attics, basements, closets and garages and "toss" some of those neat old things in the garbage, please take a moment and consider if they would be welcome additions for the Fabius Historical Society. We are not doing recyclables or compost, but Grandma's "favorites" and Grandpa's "can't live withouts," just might be a delightful addition in the Pioneer Museum. So before you "toss", please think of us.

Contact: Sandy Beglinger @ 683-5878 or Al @ 662-7022

**Reminder:**

FHS Membership dues are due by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Membership contributions are the major source of income for the Fabius Historical Society. Unless you become a member, you will not receive future newsletters. Please complete the enclosed membership form. If you are current with your membership please pass on the enclosed membership application and encourage others to join.

**ARTICLES ALWAYS NEEDED**

Please consider contributing an article for future newsletters. Our readers are always telling us that they enjoy reading the various articles submitted by Fabius residents, both past and present. You need not worry about your handwriting, punctuation or grammar; the computer works wonders. We also love old photos to copy!!!

Newsletter editors: Bill & Joanne Casey  
315 683-5674, [bill5308@aol.com](mailto:bill5308@aol.com)



# HORATIO N. WHITE

## ARCHITECT OF FABIVS METHODIST CHURCH



Horatio Nelson White, named after the famous British Admiral and hero of Cape Trafalgar, was born in Middletown, NH on 8 February 1814. His family moved to Andover, Mass. when he was young and it was there that he began his trade as a carpenter and builder. In 1840, at the age of 26, he traveled by packet boat on the Erie Canal to Syracuse as a correspondent for a New England periodical. Three years later, he returned to Syracuse to make it his home. This was a timely decision for White, as Syracuse was just at the beginning of its growth. He immediately made a name for himself, earning high praises as the building contractor for the Church of the Messiah.

White moved briefly to Brooklyn, NY in 1845. It was there that he married his first wife, Caroline Towne of Kennebunkport, Me. She died within the year of consumption at the age of 22. Following her death, White returned to Syracuse and opened an office in a large brick building on the canal on Water Street, close to Salina Street.

On 12 May 1847, White married Henrietta Stevens (b. 14 Jan. 1821, d. 1916) at her home in Stoneham, Mass. The Whites were blessed with four children: Florence, Horatio Stevens, Mabel, and William Flint.

In early 1849, Horatio left his wife and infant daughter with Henrietta's family and sailed for the gold fields of California during the "Gold Rush" building boom. It was a five-month journey aboard ship, and White was sick nearly the entire trip. He worked diligently in California as a builder and architect and amassed what his son called "a comfortable sum." In the early 1850's, he had accumulated enough money to return to his wife and daughter in Syracuse, paid off his creditors and established what was to become a highly successful architectural firm.

Horatio Nelson White was considered Onondaga County's most prominent and prolific 19<sup>th</sup> century architect. Among some of his noteworthy structural designs are: the Onondaga County Court House, Onondaga County Savings Bank, Syracuse High School, Grace Episcopal Church, the Plymouth Congregational Church, Onondaga Penitentiary, SU Hall of Languages (the original Syracuse University), Syracuse Armory, and the Onondaga Poor House, to name a few. He created more than 150 structures—private homes, churches, business blocks and public buildings. Verification of all his designs is very difficult because of the unfortunate fire in July 1881, which destroyed all of White's drawings, books and records in his office at #12 Weiting Block. But, of all his accomplishments, his churches were his outstanding contribution; he prepared designs for over 100, and he sprinkled them across the city and surrounding counties.

Why Mr. White decided to honor Fabius with his architectural skills is unknown. According to the Elinore Taylor Horning's biography of White, "he rebuilt and renovated the Methodist Church in Fabius with corbelling and several other nice details." However, among the discovered papers belonging to the church, was the 1860 contract written and signed by Horatio Nelson White. He obviously designed the entire structure, rather than her suggested "facelift." He was also the Church's general contractor, sorting out any differences between the church trustees and carpenters, and he made it very clear that his decisions were final and that all material and labor was to be of the highest quality.

By the 1880's, although White was in his seventies with a declining practice, his reputation remained as one of the most distinguished architects associated with Syracuse. In 1886 White was laid up for some time following an injury he received from a horse carriage accident. His latter years were plagued by declining ill health, and he died at his home on James Street on 29 July, 1892. Surviving his death were his wife, Henrietta, and their four children. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, beneath a plain white marker bearing only his name.





## CONTRACT FOR FABIVS METHODIST CHURCH

1860

Specifications: of labor & materials for a church edifice to be erected in the village of Fabius, to be built in accordance with plans & drawings by HN White.

- Dimensions: See plans on a scale of 8 ft. to 1". The main body to be 65' by 42', the basement to be 9' in the clear and the audience room 20' in the clear.
- Excavation: All needed excavation for the foundation walls and piers to commence below the action of the frost.
- Stone Walls: Laid with a good quality of rubble stone, hammer dressed above surface of the earth, laid in mortar and pointed. The wall to commence 3' below the surface of the grade, smooth finished and rise 1' above the grade. Piers laid in the basement for all pillars to support the floor above. The same to be 2 X 2.
- Chimneys: Two chimneys built in the rear as indicated on the plan – the inside of the flues to be well plastered – the same to be carried up and topped out 5' above the roof. Also, two chimneys in the front corners to be finished in the same way.
- Plastering: The basement and vestibule must be lathed & plastered with a green finish, the audience room must have a white skim coat on the side walls and a hard finish overhead.
- Lumber: This list includes: 10x10 corner posts, 4x10 plates, 7x10 red beech or white elm sills, 8x8 pine or sound hemlock rafters, 8x8 tie beams, 2x6 studs (16" on center), 3x6 braces, 3x12 floor beams (18" apart), 2x12 ceiling beams (16" on center), 3x6 spire posts with 6x6 braces, etc.

All lumber required and not specified in the foregoing must be of suitable sizes and of good quality. The roof trusses & posts for the basement must be white pine, red beech or white elm, the balance may be hemlock. The whole to be full in size, sawed square and framed tight in the best manner. The roof trusses must be bound together by iron band & bolts at the junction of the rafter & cord. The bolts to have nut & head. The tie beam must be suspended from the rafters by an inner rod 1 3/4" in diameter. The basement frame must be 8" larger than the super-structure, projecting 4" all around. The piers to be strongly braced with 3x6 spikes to the posts & girts with 6" spikes. The ceilings to be cross furred and all other framing done & a circle furred at the angle of the ceiling & walls, & at the corners, 12" each way.

- Roof: To be covered with hemlock boards and the best quality of hemlock. Shingles laid not more than 1/3 of their length to the weather. The spire to be covered in the same manner – the shingles to be best selected pine & of uniform width & the butts sawed in an octagonal pattern, making the butts zigzag. All the angles to be made tight with sheet lead. Ridge boards to be put in & 3" angle beads put in the corners of the spire. The bell deck covered with tin and soldered tight. Suitable scuttle? to the roofs.
- Windows: Are to be hung with weight, cased with a plain casing inside with a suitable large molding and the sash glazed with ? Lake Glass – furnished with inside blinds hung & trimmed. The large windows in the audience room are to be well fastened with screws.
- Floors: Laid with mill worked well seasoned white pine, free from shakes, large, loose or black knots and not exceed 8" in width – the joints smoothed off. The vestibule floor not to exceed 4" & be clear.
- Doors: Made of well seasoned white pine according to details & trimmed with suitable locks & loose joint \_\_\_\_.
- Stairs: The principal steps to have \_\_\_\_ risers and 2" treads of clear white pine – the balance may have 1 1/4 "treads all finished with a nosing – suitable stairs to the orchester, and ladders to the bell tower.
- Base: 10" wide with a molding put down in all the apartments \_\_\_\_ to be laid as high as the bottom of the windows, with good sound 1" pine, if required by the trustees.
- Pews: The lumber to be clear pine, butternut or cherry, the outside ends finished with panels, & scroll arms made of cherry, & the back rail made of the same material. Book racks & foot stools of suitable construction are also to be made for each pew. A suitable number of seats are to be made for the orchestra – finished in the same way. The seat & riser may be basswood.



- Ventilation: Tubes carried up in the front cornices & suitable registers inserted with cords attached. The tubes continued to the towers and belfry. Floor registers as may be approved \_\_\_ by the Trustees.
- Gallery Front: Finished as per plans with a suitable book board. The organ niche will have a semi-circular arch – the top of the same to be 3' below the ceiling.
- Pulpit & Platform: The pulpit made as per details of Butternut. The platform made of pine & a suitable balustrade around the altar. The rail to be cherry.
- Painting: All the woodwork inside & outside usually painted – must have 3 coats of pure lead & linseed oil, colored as may be directed, by the Trustees. The hardwood to be oiled & varnished 2 coats & the audience room grained in imitation of oak & varnished. The pews to be numbered as directed by the Trustees.
- Exterior Finish: The basement to be enclosed with clear white pine boards, planed & matched & and put on in imitation of stone work. The walls of the superstructure covered with clear white pine clapboards 1/2" thick, the same to be planed & smooth & nailed to each stud. The window frames, water table, belt courses, pilasters, cornices & all other outside finish made in accordance with the elevation & full size details. The outside of the tower to be covered with clear matched ceiling not exceeding 4" in width.
- Basement: To be finished with a hall & lecture room and 2 rooms designed for a classroom and Sabbath school, according to plans. All the rooms to be framed? as high as the bottom of the \_\_\_ with sound seasoned white pine, free from black or loose knots, planed & matched. The windows to be cased with a plain casing inside & suitable pine floors laid in all the apartments.
- Seats: The lecture room may be furnished with the seats now in the audience room of the **Old Church\***, to be arranged as may be directed by the Trustees. Suitable wall seats to be made stationary are to be constructed in the lecture room on the east, west & north sides. The class and Sabbath School rooms are to be each furnished with a suitable number of seats with backs \_\_\_ - of sufficient height and all fastened with screws. A suitable deck and platform are to be constructed in the Lecture Room.

#### \* Old Church

According to the Town of Fabius Federal 1850 Census, there were four active churches listed on their rolls:

Baptist	valued at \$1500	with 250 seating
FreeWill Baptist	\$1800	300
Congregational (Apulia)	\$2000	400
Methodist E.	\$2000	300

Apparently, there did exist a large size M.E. church building before the existing Horatio N. White structure was designed and built in 1860-61...one about the size of the Congregational in Apulia. The Contract description above (under the specifications for the seats) reads, "The lecture room may be furnished with the seats now in the audience room of the old church." There was no description in the Contract of the old site in reference to removal of an old building, and with the old chairs available for future re-use, apparently there had been no fire to warrant a new edifice. Where the old church was located, perhaps merely on the existing site, remains a mystery at this point, but we hope to find out in the near future.



In the next Census of NYS 1855, there was a second ME church added in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Election District of Fabius (Apulia, \$500 value / seating 150). The population of Fabius in 1855 was 2,410, with about 472 in the Village and 140 in Apulia. In comparison, the population of Pompey was 4,006.

*It is always encouraging when you hear that someone has read the newsletter cover to cover. Sylvia Shoebridge and J. Roy Dodge brought to our attention that our previous newsletter did not mention the architect, Horatio N. White. We wish to thank Sylvia for supplying the architectural information.*



## Apulia Station

### Birthplace of Cultivated Ginseng

The most valuable drugs which grow in America are ginseng and golden seal. Ginseng belongs to the parsley family and for centuries it has been regarded by the Chinese as a very valuable medicine, although it was not considered of any medical value in this country until about 1905. To the Chinese, it is a disease cure-all for the entire body (both mind and soul); an "adaptogen," which is a substance that allows the body to adjust to various types of stress. It is not a cure-all or remedy for any specific ailment, but a component of medicinal combinations that help to invigorate the immune system to ward off disease and prolong life to extreme old age. It was discovered growing wild in Canada in 1716 and exportation began in 1718. In the 1750s, a brisk trade was carried out in Onondaga County, with tons of the root gathered by the Indians and handled by the Hudson Bay Company.

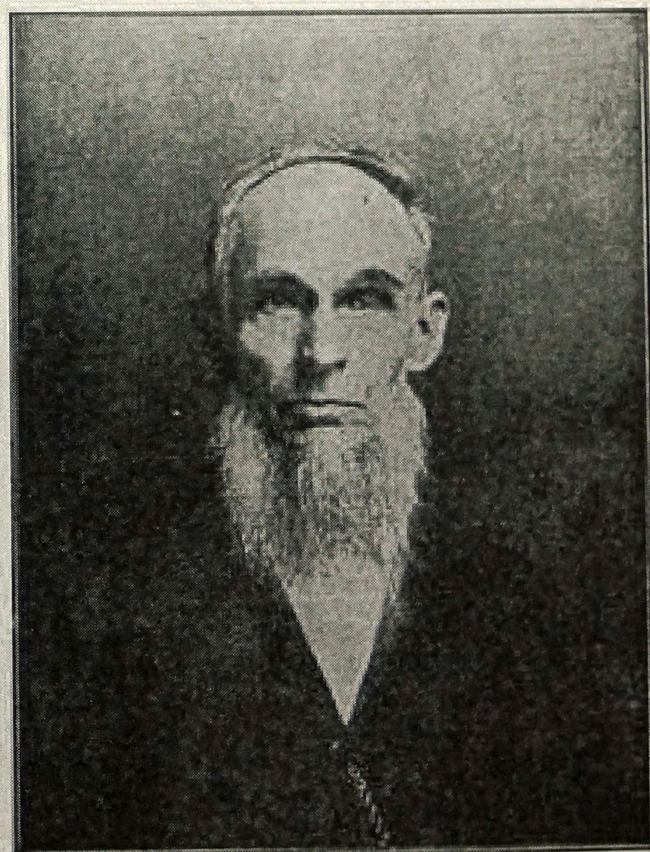
The natural range of ginseng growing was found in those states touched by the Allegheny Mountains: the New England states, New York, and Penn., as far west as Wisconsin, and in smaller quantities in the south through Georgia and Alabama. Ginseng in its wild or natural state grows mainly in mixed hardwood forests, although it is sometimes found among evergreens. It prefers the heavy soil inhabited by the maple, beech, basswood, rock elm and butternuts; not sandy soils. In the forests of CNY, it is most abundant on hillsides sloping north and east, especially on the shady sides of deep gullies.

Ginseng requires practically a virgin soil, one that is calcium rich and well supplied with organic matter. It grows well in temperatures around 65 degrees in forest shade, not absolute darkness, but mainly shielded from the direct rays of the sun beneath varying tree heights. This multi-level canopy also provides good air circulation and an exact moisture level. Because of the dense forest vegetation, the ginseng plant has to survive on a scanty food supply, thus causing it to grow slowly. It does not like damp soil, but will grow on well-drained soil near running water and grows in small patches scattered about, possibly its own defense against disease.

The ginseng family does not spread from the root, but comes wholly from the seed. No known plant grows as slowly as ginseng. It has a record (much like the rings of a tree) upon which it keeps its age, or years of growth, for it passes a great many years in the ground dormant. The record stem of one small root may be from 30 to 60 years old. In New York State, the ginseng plant ripens its seed the last of August and does not grow until about eighteen months after, skipping the first spring (except in rare cases) and waits until the second spring. The first season, it has three leaves and resembles a wild strawberry plant. At two years, it has four leaves and is about 8 to 10" in height. A mature wild plant may reach the height of 24". Once the roots are harvested, usually in the fall, they are sorted, cleaned and hung to dry. The dried root is a yellowish-white color and has a sweetness in taste resembling licorice.

In the late 1800s, while the export demand for ginseng increased and the US native supply rapidly dwindled, select root prices rose to an astonishing \$6.60 per pound in New York State. Crop cultivation efforts began throughout the eastern states, but early attempts to tame the wild ginseng were repeatedly met with failure. It appeared that ginseng could not be cultivated, at least not like other conventional crops (corn, wheat, etc.). It is the history of nearly all wild plants, when brought under cultivation, to develop a weakness and liability to disease. The change of environment from growing among the roots of trees and other large plants competing for soil nutrition to a sunny and rich garden soil location where the beds were exposed to extreme temperatures and covered with a blanket of manure in the fall appeared to stress the plants, making them more susceptible to disease. Ginseng and Golden Seal grow best when cultivated as near to nature as possible.

In the early 1880's, George Stanton, of Apulia Station, was the first to successfully grow ginseng as a cultivated plant. Friends and neighbors were quite frank in



GEORGE STANTON  
The Father of the Cultivated Ginseng Industry.



regarding him as demented. Born August 1837, the son of artist John Stanton and Mary, he lived with his family in Pompey in 1850. Soon after, his family moved to Skaneateles. The following memoriam was read at his funeral by James K. Bramer:

*"George Stanton was a poor homeless boy living with my folks & learning the tinsmith's trade with my father in the village of Fabius, NY. Upon completing his apprenticeship, he took a part interest in the business and still later purchased the entire business, which he conducted profitably for a number of years. As a tin worker Mr. Stanton was an expert. His ingenuity as a mechanic, along with the need of more and better tin working tools, stimulated him to invent and patent several devices. The improved vat used so commonly years ago in cheese factories was his invention. Never a robust man, he was finally compelled to give up his indoor work and for several years his frail body and poor health restricted him from excessive activity, although he never remained idle. His motto was "wear out, not rust out." Along about 1885, no one expected he could survive any length of time, but he would drag himself to the woods and dig a few wild ginseng roots because of the love he had for the exercise.*

*About this time the thought occurred to him to transplant these tiny roots to his own garden, cultivate and grow them to a profitable size for drying and marketing--it might be an occupation that he, in his feeble health, could do. This was the foundation work of ginseng culture and the George Stanton Chinese Ginseng Farm."*

According to the 1855 NYS Census, George Stanton (age 17) had been living in Fabius Village for 5 years with Riley Bramer (b.1818 Mad. Co, NY) and family, working as an "apprentice tinner". As a retired tinsmith, he moved his family to 6464 Rt.80 (the former Greta Case home) in Apulia Station about 1880. It was recorded in the 1880 census that he was a farmer in Apulia Station, which is where he developed the successful cultivation program that was soon adopted by other growers. This launched the greatest ginseng re-planting program in history.

From that point on, Mr. Stanton was considered the "Father of the Cultivated Ginseng Industry." He called his enterprise the George Stanton Chinese Ginseng Farm, which consisted of one small experimental bed. From this small garden, Mr. Stanton made many discoveries about disease control, soil properties, spacing of plants and the proper shade requirements for successful ginseng cultivation. He struggled for several years to get information on ginseng cultivation out to the public through agricultural publications. He finally printed a small circular and sparked interest in a few growers: Timerman, Crosley, Ready, Mills, Perkins, Curtis, Goodspeed (Skaneateles), the Knapps, and others in the vicinity and in the state, to become expert growers. Once growers in New York adopted his methods of ginseng cultivation, they began to supply seeds and roots to growers in other states. The ginseng industry was finally gaining the attention of serious growers.

George Stanton founded and was elected to serve as the first president of the New York Ginseng Association. The NYGA was one of the first agricultural associations to be formed in New York State. George Stanton's death occurred January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1908, near Jamestown, NY, where he was spending the winter. James K. Bramer honored his last request-- that his body be returned to his home for burial in the family plot in Tully, NY. His funeral was from his old home Methodist Church in Apulia Station, of which he was a member of long standing, and he was buried in the Tully Cemetery. According to his obituary, he was survived by one brother, James Stanton of Norwich and one sister, Mrs. Myrtle Underwood of Syracuse. His wife, Rosaltha, had died ten years previously.

In a "Syracuse Post Standard" article dated 9 Sep. 1899: *"The 'shang' industry (vernacular for ginseng) was a very profitable one for local farmer lads around the hills of Spafford, Otisco, Tully and Fabius. A day's work harvesting in the field may fetch a dollar, 'shanging' in the woods and drying the roots may bring in \$3 to \$4."*

On 25 August 1902, the "Syracuse Post Standard" newspaper ran an article on the first Ginseng Convention held in Tully, NY. It stated that the US acreage of cultivated ginseng was estimated at 20 acres, with more than half in Onondaga and Cortland Counties. Those in attendance were: Lucius and Miles Peck, CH Ingalls, Leo C Tyler, Warner Rood, Willard Knapp, Robert Freer, Emmett Jennings, of Cortland; ED Crosley, of Homer; Frenches and Frank Timerman of Apulia Station; along with several others from Tully. The NYS Ginseng Growers Assn. was begun shortly afterwards with EH Knapp, Fabius, as President. Others active in the organization were: HC Hatch, JK Bramer, GR Patterson, EG Ten Eyck and EF Knapp of Preble.

"The Tully Times" (26 Nov. 1904) reported that *"Fabius is one of the most thrifty of our towns today and cabbage and ginseng crops have been the instrumentality for much of it. Everywhere you will see newly shingled barns, bay windows or other additions to houses, fresh painting, new carriages to travel on the splendid six mile stretch of state's road (completed this past September from Apulia Station to Fabius village)... This was the starting place of the ginseng industry in CNY, and the early planters at least have been noticeably helped by their enterprise. In the*

### →Stanton Chinese Ginseng Farm←

J. K. BRAMER, Proprietor,

Apulia Station, N. Y.

We have a few thousand genuine American  
GINSENG SEED (germinated), crop 1901,  
at \$30 per 1000.

### → Fabius Ginseng Gardens, ←

We offer 50,000 Ginseng Seeds, crop 1903 at  
\$10.00 per 1000. A large stock of one and two  
year old roots. Also old plants for sale, all  
pure northern stock. Address,

FABIUS GINSENG GARDENS,

J. E. Ferry, Prop., FABIUS, N. Y.



region of Apulia there seems to be few gardens without those curious lath formed cages, supposed by strangers to be chicken coops. Mortgage lifting has been successfully attempted with ginseng...and the prosperous hustling farms of Fabius—coining money by the cultivation of cabbage and ginseng...smiling faces everywhere."

In the southern edge of town was the most famous of all ginseng farms and one of the largest raisers in the area, Frank Timerman, owner of The Timerman Ginseng Gardens, with an enormous  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre bed. This was in a sheltered clearing on the edge of a piece of woodland located about halfway down the west side of Labrador Pond. In the fall of 1896, Mr. Timerman gathered a few hundred wild roots and endeavored to cultivate them following the recommendations of George Stanton. Eventually, nine thousand wild roots finally increased to an acre worth \$50,000. His house became a summer home for George Wright and was eventually dismantled in the 1980's, when the state took over the Labrador Pond Unique Area.



"This side of the Timerman place, a new clearing is in progress and another famous establishment will soon be in place. Dr. H E Vandeman, of the USDA and the highest authority in horticulture, is at the head of the company developing this enterprise, and his son has charge of it. The scene in the dense forest near the little lake is what appears to be a lumbering camp. Scores of great trees—hemlock, pine, maple and birch—have been converted into building timber by sawing and planing machinery operated on the ground. The workmen's lodging houses and tents are now unoccupied and the mills are gone, but the lumber is there in great stacks, and the foundations are ready for a very fine residence. Dynamite has been used for destroying the stumps and the soil is thoroughly torn to pieces. Pipes are being laid for a supply of water from springs up the bluff."

("Tully Times" 26 Nov. 1904)

Charles Hill of Delphi, started setting out seeds and roots in Oct. 1900. That same year, Charles M. Goodspeed of Skaneateles started his own ginseng operation. Also credited as having one of the largest ginseng beds in the US, his business was returning \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year from his two herb farms. He was the first man in the US to make hydrastis, or golden seal as it is commonly known, to grow under cultivation. Like George Stanton, Mr. Goodspeed shared his knowledge of medicinal herb cultivation with others. As editor and publisher of the monthly magazine, "Special Crops" (started in about 1902), he educated other farmers on herb growing methods and marketed seeds and plants. A contributing expert on ginseng cultivation in "Special Crops" was none other than our George Stanton.

The Knapp Bros. & Sons of Fabius operated the Ideal Ginseng Gardens and offered a descriptive circular and catalogue for those interested in growing ginseng, along with retailing seeds and roots for planting. The parent company, American Ginseng Product Co., had its corporate office and garden in Fabius, but its manufacturing laboratory and salesroom in Syracuse. President was Ezra Fred Knapp (Preble), VP was Willard H. Knapp (Cortland), and Manager Edward G. Ten Eyck (Fabius). As credentials for his ginseng operation, EH Knapp listed the following: Pres. NYS Ginseng Growers Assn.; member of the National Ginseng Growers & Dealers Assn.; Pres. Board of Education, Fabius; Pres. Evergreen Cemetery Assn.; Pres. Fabius Packing Co.; senior member of Knapp Bros., known in the poultry world as exhibitors, breeders, and shippers of the leading strain SC White Leghorns and eggs & breeders and shippers of thorough-bred Holstein-Friesian cattle of the Greenwood Stock Farm.

## THE IDEAL GINSENG GARDENS

KNAPP BROS. & SONS,  
PROPRIETORS.

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Our Gardens are among the *largest and finest in America*, in which we grow  
NOTHING but the *TRUE American Ginseng* (Northern stock).

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## Seeds and Roots for Sale

Write for prices.  
**322,000** Seeds (1902 crop) to offer to our customers.

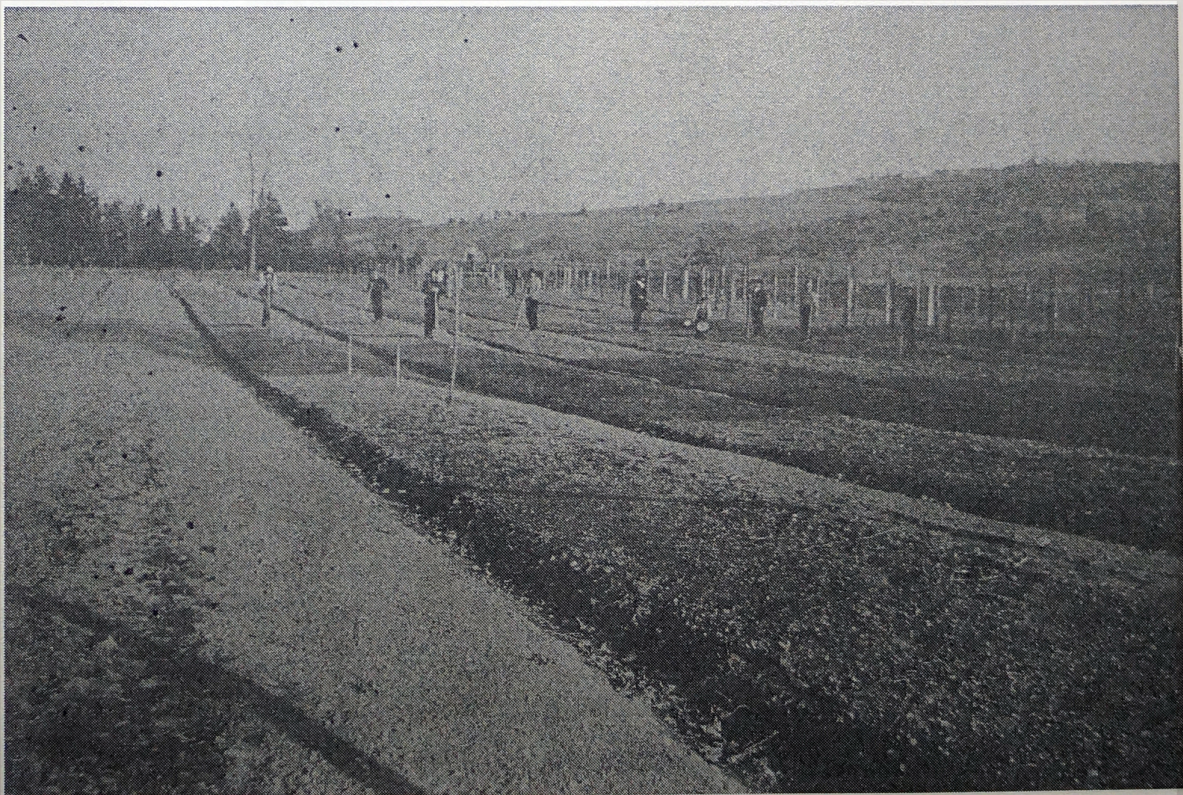
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Where Offices and Gardens are located.



Another large ginseng farm in the area was owned by Edward G. Ten Eyck and his ginseng bed was located on the new baseball field across from the F-P High School, just west of Evergreen Cemetery. In the photos below, the land was plowed and fitted,



ginseng beds were formed as raised beds, post placement was marked with stakes, then replaced with permanent posts erected along the trenched beds and shading lattice was attached. Because ginseng seeds and roots must remain moist and must not be exposed to temperatures greater than 65 degrees, we presume that neither seed nor root were planted until the lath structures were completed.

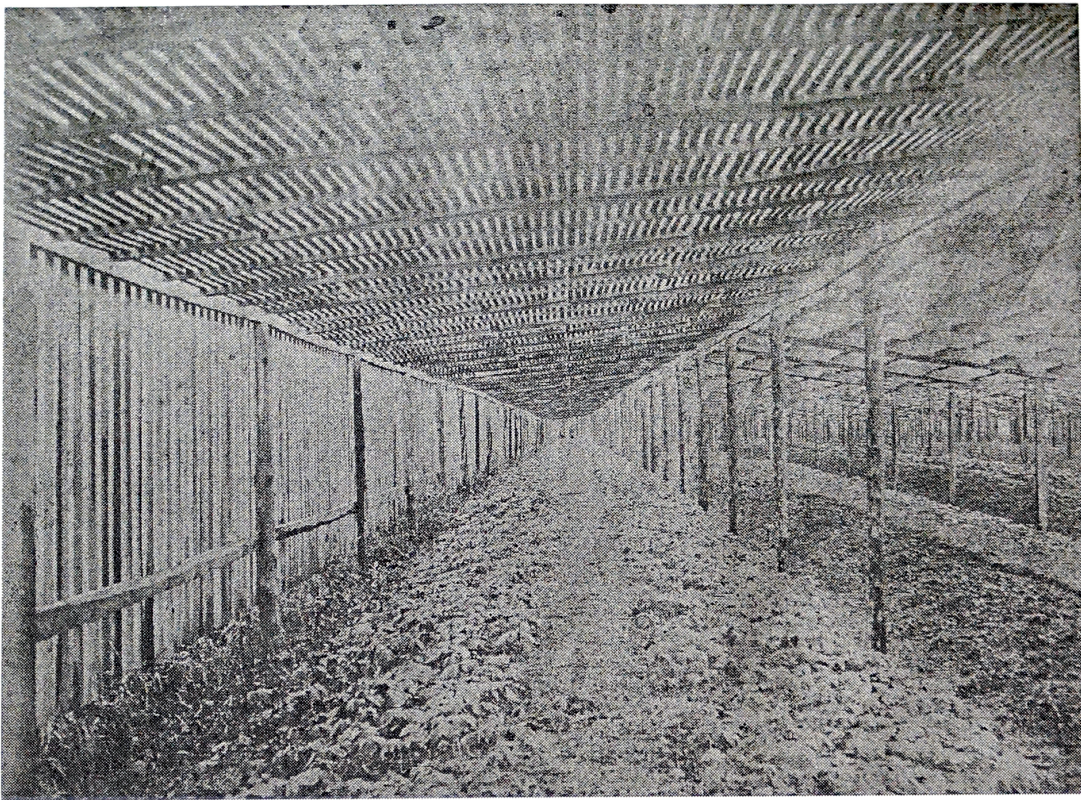




The completed ginseng bed. All the grower needed to do now was to keep it weed free and mulched in the fall. It took seven years

from the time seed was planted and five years from the time roots were planted, before the first crop of roots could be harvested for market. Generally the smaller roots were sorted out and replanted to grow another year or two.

The US Department of Agriculture records that an acre of ginseng yielded an average one ton of dried root. This bed owned by the Ten Eyck farm was planted about 1900. If it measured about an acre and was harvested in 1906, the crop could have been valued at 2,000 pounds X \$7.30/pound = \$14,600.



The heyday of the ginseng industry in Fabius was from 1890 to about 1906. In 1906, a terrible blight caused by the *Alternaria* fungus, wiped out almost all the plants in a very short amount of time. By 1936, there was not a single cultivated ginseng garden in all of New York State.



Photo to Left is of the Pettit Farm, later the Newel E. Rowley Farm, and eventually the Henry A. Ten Eyck Farm.

This photo was taken about 1902 and the farm would have been located on the Keeney Road, south of the F-P High School and to the east of the athletic fields that are behind the school.

House, barn and beautiful elm tree are all extant.