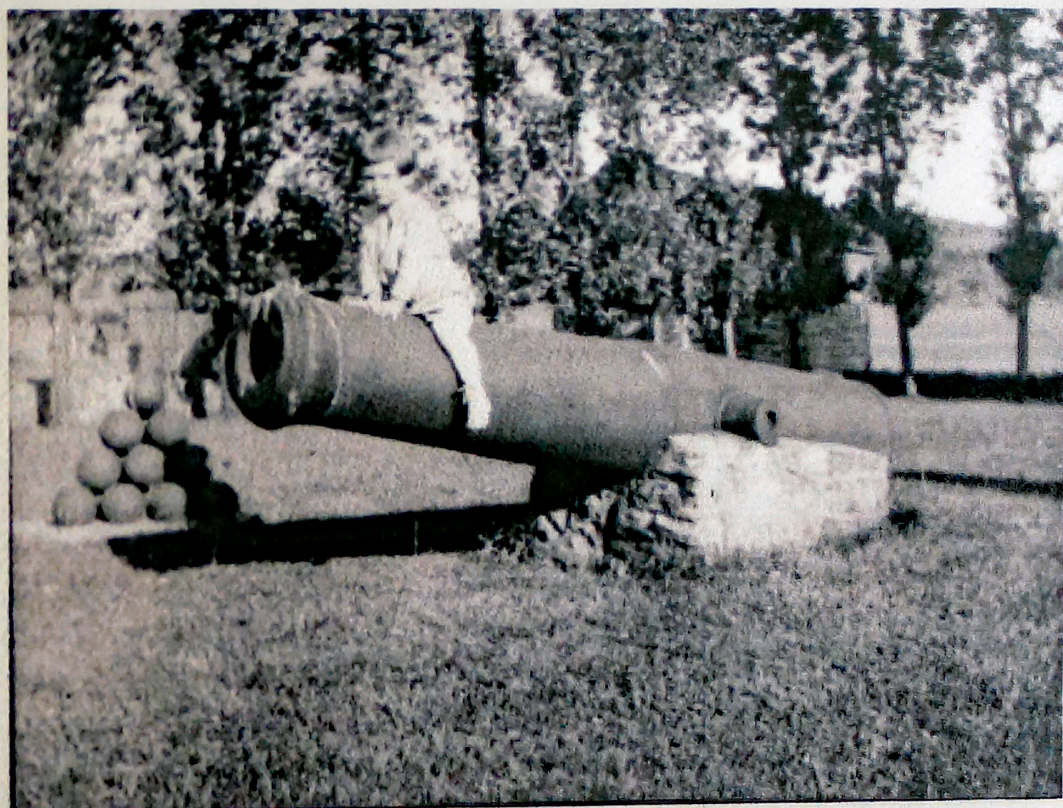


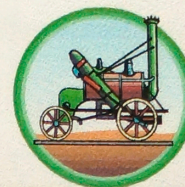
Newsletter of the Fabius Historical Society

No.17

The Summer of 2009



THE YOUNG LAD WHO SAVED OUR CANNONS



President's Message

Hello Everyone. After the first 2009 newsletter was mailed out, I received several great responses. A member in FL. called to ask about the bird in the picture with me (the photo was "sneaked in" by a friend just before publication). It is a rare grey crow, who fell out of its nest early last May. I took it home, cared for it and named it "Bandit," as this one had a black band around its eyes and crows are known to be thieves. Bandit treated my two dogs as brothers and tried to follow us wherever we went. One morning near the end of July, Bandit was gone, along with all the other noisy crows in the area.

The picture of the saw mill was from Randy Vaas, who has been researching the mill. According to the 1874 Sweets map, the mill was located next to a house owned by C. Austin. The 1959 ed. of Fabius Past & Present lists 15 sawmills in 1836; 12 sawmills by 1845. If you have additional info, please contact me.

My friend and classmate, Cathy Virgil Devine, has been searching The Syracuse-Herald online for Fabius articles and found many. One dated 6-24-25, "Yeggs Rob Two Fabius Stores" (yegg is slang for robbers). Another article dated 3-1-28 told that "The Citizens Club held its annual business meeting Sat. evening in the clubrooms." Any info. about these clubrooms, where they were, and what happened to the Club? Thank you, Cathy, for the articles.

PIONEER MUSEUM NEWS

The 2009 summer schedule is June, July, & August, Sat. and Sun. from 1 - 4 p.m. or by request for special events. Please call Al LaFrance at (315) 662-7022 or Sandy Beglinger (315) 683-5878. Last year there were over 1164 visitors to the museum.

If you have any "tidbits" that you would like to share in our newsletters, please contact us.

I am blessed to have good people working with me to make the Fabius Historical Society such a great organization. Thank you one and all.

Sandy Beglinger



EXECUTIVE BOARD 2009

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Lili Bergs (Museum Advisor, Curator) 683-5191

MAPS FOR SALE

The Fabius Historical Society will be offering the following Fabius maps for sale during the Memorial Day Display:

- 1839 by David Burr
- 1852 Land Ownership by Fagan
- 1860 Land Ownership by Dawson, with surveys by Homer D Sweet
- 1874 Land Ownership by Homer Sweet
- 1889 Land Ownership by Clark

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

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,
Linda Meyers 683-5280 or Judy Conway 683-527

FHS 2009 PROGRAMS

All Meetings are at the Fabius Community Center Main Street, Fabius, NY

Memorial Day Historical Display

The Fabius Community Center will be open on Sunday, May 24, 1- 4 pm and Monday, May 25, 9 am - 3 pm. Come and enjoy the parade and visit our displays. We will have veterans' photos, Judy Conway's scrapbooks of historical interest, a display of pictures and objects from the collection of Cheri and Julius Gigon, school pictures from the past, and photos of previous Memorial Day parades. At 1pm on Monday, Brian Abbott 1999 F-P grad will show a Power Point presentation and talk about his military experience, most recently in Guantanamo, Cuba.

Monday, June 1st 7pm

Harvey Skeelee and Bob Bitz (founder of Plainville Turkey Farms), both very knowledgeable about farming, will team up to tell us much about the history of agriculture in Central New York and share some great photos. Mr. Bitz will bring along copies of his book, "A History of Agriculture in Onondaga County" for anyone interested in purchasing one.

Band Concert date to be announced

Monday, July 6th 7pm

Our plan is to assemble a panel of Veteran Farmers to talk about the history of farming in this area. This program worked well in Pompey and we would like to present our version of it. Although the economics of farming has brought changes, for so many years the family farm was the economic mainstay of the area. We would like to record the stories of those hard-working people who made those farms work. I would like names of people we should contact for this program.

Monday, Aug. 3rd 7pm

Mike Durkin, a relative of mine from the Chicago area will visit with a talk entitled "Show Me the Money, An Amble Through History Looking at the Currency." Mike is a retired teacher who has had for many years, a passion for stamp collecting and coin collecting. He is an authority in each area and may be able to answer some questions about historic coins and stamps which you have.

Monday, Sept. 14th 7pm

Steve Teal of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry will speak about some of the Insects which infest our trees and kill them.

Monday, Oct. 5th 7pm

Chuck Kutscher will return to scare us for Halloween month with a talk on the famous San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. That city is built on a major fault line and just waits for the "next big one". He will present pictures on how the city looks now after a century of rebuilding. He hopes you enjoyed the presentation on the great Chicago Fire two years ago in October.

Monday, Nov. 2nd 7pm

We are honored to have Anne Shelly and her group of singers called "Then Again," come to present songs and commentary on historic popular music you will recognize and

love. They can offer a sing-along portion of the program as well. Come for a really good time.

Monday, Dec. 7th 6pm **NOTE THE EARLY TIME**

We will spend Pearl Harbor Day conducting our annual dinner and business meeting. Bring a dish to share, a place setting and come to enjoy a really good time. We hope to be celebrating a year well done.

***** Our meetings are free and open to the public. If you would like to be a part of the refreshment committee, please let us know.*****

FHS MEETINGS

It has been my pleasure to serve as Program Chair for the Fabius Historical Society for several years and to try to assemble a varied agenda of programs. It seems to me that the kind of history people like the most, is the history they can remember and relate to. In the May meeting, we shared memories of the World War II period and had a delightful time. The Fabius area is a place where families have deep roots. If you look at old maps you will see many names of families who still live here.

I remember, soon after moving to Fabius, witnessing a vigorous argument in Al Chase's barber shop about an event which happened in 1939. This convinced me that people here have roots. One idea of future programs is to highlight some of those families which have been here for so long, to encourage them to collect photos and memories, and to share them with the rest of us. We can, in turn, present them with DVDs of the program and help preserve some of those great family memories.

Feel free to contact me with program ideas either at our meetings, at kutscher@gatling.us or at 683-9480. I appreciate and need your input.

Chuck Kutscher



MEMORIAL DAY IN FABIUS

The largest celebration in the town of Fabius is Memorial Day. I am not sure of the date that this Fabius celebration started, but I can remember being at the Fred and Mary Shea Demong home on Main Street, Fabius in the late 70's and witnessing the excitement of the family getting ready for the day's activities. Mary was busily dusting her brother, Charlie's dress white Navy hat with baby powder to make it as white as possible for his Military March in the parade. The streets were packed with past and present residents, students, families and visitors to watch the long parade, listen to the speeches at the monument, visit the cemeteries, and top the day off with a barbeque chicken. For some, it is the annual pilgrimage "home" to visit old friends and family. The years have passed since then, but the excitement continues in the village every Memorial Day.

The Fabius Historical Society hopes that you will join us at the Fabius Community Center again this year for our Tribute to Fabius Veterans. Our Veteran Photo Exhibit will be on display, as well as Judy Conway's Old Scrapbooks for viewing. We are also fortunate to display the Fabius and Apulia Photo Collection of Julius Gigon, a very respected and active past member of our organization. We will have some old-time photos that we will ask the community to help identify. The Society is also searching for photos of "Old Parades." What we have, will be on display, but if anyone has similar parade photos, please bring them on Memorial Day so that we can make us a copy 'while you wait.' The Fabius Community Center will be open on Sunday, 1-4 pm and Monday, 9 am - 3 pm.

Memorial Day is our day to remember our veterans. We have many veteran photos of the most recent wars, a good many of WWII, many of WWI, but very few of our Civil War veterans. Although we have a set of binders with information on as many as have been found to date, there is a need to put "a face" on the young Fabius men and boys who served in the Civil War.

Syracuse Daily Journal: 2 Nov. 1861 "We have just completed the raising of a company of upwards of 80 men in our town and vicinity. This company is under the command of Captain Eugene Deming and two Lieutenants chosen from our own young men. The Company mustered on 6 Nov. 1861 for Staten Island, attached to Col. Coan's regiment and proceeded to Washington. It will cost us between four and five hundred dollars in fitting out and getting this Company to Staten Island. The ladies of our town have been busy during the past two weeks making shirts and water-proof blankets, and many little comforts that the soldiers will need in camp. Wives have given up husbands, and fathers and mothers have devoted to the service of their country their dearest offspring. Mrs. Button gives one son; Mrs. Thatcher gives two; Mrs. E A Call, one; Mrs. Lucy Kinyon, one; Mrs. Clough, two; Newel Rowley, one; Samuel G. Wilmot, one; Z P Colgrove, two; Stephen G. Hills, one; Nathan Abbott, one; Elijah Andrews, one; J E Cadwell, one; Samuel Rowley, one; John Webster, one; Orrin Woodruff, one; Chas. Whitmarsh, one; Isaac Hanchett, one; Orace Newman, one; Leonard Woodruff, one; Daniel Porter, one; Daniel Hills, two; Richard Estes, one and many others I cannot now name."

Near the end of the war when requisition was made for men, a public meeting was held at the Baptist Church and about \$4,000 was raised to prevent the draft. (Town Records 28 Dec. 1865)

From "**Fabius, Cuyler and Keeney Settlement**" by O.W. Webster, 1925: *"Some of the boys, schoolmates, became soldiers of the late Rebellion. A recruiting officer came to our place and took many of them away with him. We looked upon them as heroes, as they left for war: but how hard it was to part from them. Some of them never lived to come back."*

The following soldiers did not return to Fabius alive.

HIRAM DANIEL PORTER

"Hiram Porter, son of Daniel Porter, left his testimony in the (ME Church) class meeting. He said in substance as the writer remembers it: *"Dear friends, I rejoice in the religion which I have so recently experienced; that I have found the pearl of great price. I am about to leave this old church which I love; the Gospel's charming sound which I have heard so often here, and go away. And dear friends, if I never see you more, remember that I died for my country, and that I shall expect to meet you hereafter where there will be no more wars, or battles, or death. Kind friends, farewell, and when you pray, do not forget the soldier."*

(From O.W. Webster, 1925)

Hiram Porter was born in Fabius, NY on 15 July 1836, the son of Daniel Porter (b.8 Sep. 1801, Fabius; d.30 Oct. 1873) and Jerusha Andrews (b.22 Dec. 1805, Fabius, d.11 Aug. 1847). He was 25 and single when he enlisted in Fabius on 28 Oct. 1861 with the 61st NYV Infantry, Co. I, for 3 years service. There is some confusion as to how he died; the Fabius Clerk's Register lists that he was killed at the Battle of White Oak Creek on 30 June 1862, but the National Archives lists that he died as a prisoner 15 July 1862 at Richmond, Va. Either way, he never returned to Fabius.

THADDEUS MORRIS BROWN

Thaddeus Morris Brown was born 21 Aug. 1846 in Truxton, NY, the son of Zurial Brown (Master house painter and farmer, b.1823, d. 1891) & Cynthia Negus (b. 8 May 1822, d. 17 May 1855). He enlisted as a Private in the 10th NYV Cavalry, Co. A. at Syracuse, NY, on 27 Feb. 1864 for 3 years service. He received the bounty paid by the county of \$300. Barely into his service, he was taken sick and sent to Douglas Hospital in Washington, DC. He died on 2 May 1864 of typhoid fever, aged 17-8-11. His body was brought home to Fabius and buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Section C, Lot 1. The tombstone reads: "Died May 2, 1864 Ae 17-8-11 Son of Zurial & Cynthia N., Company A, 10th US Cavalry"

Below is a letter addressed to the hospital chaplain at Douglas Hospital, describing his very short life:

Reverend Brown, Sir:

It is a sad pleasure which I am permitted to avail myself of, through the courtesy of Zurial Brown to whom you recently communicated the painful intelligence of the death of his eldest son; by a few lines in reply to your kind inquires concerning the subject of your letter. Thaddeus Brown was the second of two noble and patriotic, soul-inspired youth; sons of gentlemen connected with the Baptist Church Society in this town; and who are most sincerely mourned on account of their unexpected and premature decease within a few short weeks of their enlistment by the fell power of disease. The Sunday School of the Society will unite with the family and friends next Sunday in the mournful funeral observance appropriate to his death.

Thaddeus was a youth of barely seventeen summers, whose early life had fallen most happily, in pleasant walks amongst an intelligent Christian and patriotic population....the spontaneous impulse of his youthful ardor had in the first year of the Rebellion gained from his Father's continual promise that when 17 he might enlist as a soldier. Having attained that age, inspired by a burning zeal for his country, newly aroused by the repeated calls for volunteers to fill up our armies, he surprised and pained his family and acquaintances by suddenly leaving his pleasant school companions and enlisting, causing them such sadness, whilst at the same time it challenged their heartiest admiration and approval. Their solicitude and anxiety induced on their most unsuccessful efforts for his release and disengagement from military obligations. The argument pushed upon him with much force, that in the prospect of a speedy suppression of the revolt, it was better for his country's future good, that he should apply his diligence in school, extend his knowledge and nurture his mind in readiness at the conclusion of the war for the more urgent and important service, of civil life...legislation must change the standard age for drafted from 18 to 20 years.

When his parents suggested withdrawing from his engagement, they were met in silence, followed by the declaration, "I have wanted to go for two years—I have been waiting for this time to arrive — my Father promised me that I might go." A few days after, in the latter part of February or early in March, his fury and irreproachable ardor again proved how impossible it was to dissuade him from the earnest purpose of his youthful zeal and devotion for his country and the Right; he had enlisted. To you personally it is a pleasure to acknowledge myself in debt for the precious assurance contained in your letter.

Very respectfully, J. E. Pettit

HENRY PETTIT CORBIN

Henry Pettit Corbin was born on 24 June 1841 in Logansport, Indiana. The only child of Rev. William P. Corbin (d. 8 Nov. 1841) and Harriet Emmaline Pettit (b. 26 May 1818, d. 2 Oct. 1841), he was orphaned as an infant and adopted by his aunt and uncle, Jonathan Edmund and Lucia Peck Pettit, who were also living in Logansport at that time. Uncle Jonathan was born in Fabius, NY on 15 Sep. 1816 and married Lucia Peck at Truxton, NY on 4 Oct. 1840 (she died on 31 Dec. 1875). At the urgent request of young Henry's grandfather, Hon. George Pettit (b. 13 Jan. 1780), the family returned to Fabius. George Pettit came to Fabius and located in Keeney's Settlement in 1800; a few years later, he moved to his large farm just south of the Fabius Village. Advancing in years, George Pettit wished to withdraw from active farm life, and needed Jonathan to take charge of the family farm. At ten months of age, Henry traveled with his new parents and a step-sister, from Indiana to Fabius by wagon. The trip took 30 days.

It was in Fabius that young Henry attended school and progressed with his education, much to the pride of his parents, to undergraduate classes at Hamilton University and membership in the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. During his third year at college, this six-foot tall single man with black hair, hazel eyes and a fair complexion decided to enlist in the service of his country. On 22 July 1862, Henry enlisted as a Private with the 114th NYV Infantry, Co. G at Hamilton, NY for 3 years and mustered out on 12 Aug. 1862. The bounty paid by the Town: \$10. Within six months and several promotions, Private Corbin reached the ranks of Full Lieutenant.

On 14 June 1863, Henry Pettit Corbin was killed in action at Port Hudson, La. 'on the charge of the rebel works.' "The body of Lt. HP Corbin was not identified - it lay in the ditch directly under the rebel works where I last saw it, but when the bodies were taken out, they were indistinguishable. His property consisted of watch, belts, sword, pocket book, AKE pin & clothes, all left on the field. He left the remainder of his effects in Brashear City in Regt. Comp. all of which were captured by the rebels in their raid down the railroad. I know of nothing left of his effects — should I find any articles, I will send them to his family" (source: National Archives, copied by FHS member, Courtney Tucker)

Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY, July 9, 1863

"Hon. NP Banks, Major General USA:

Sir, I would not presume, stranger as I am, to tax your time for a moment, aside from the arduous and overburdening duties of the command of your Military Dept. but for the hope, that the mention of the name of Hon. John Uphold Pettit, late M.C. from Indiana and one of those who is ...my inquiry concerning one late in your command and for whose memory both he, myself and an aging grandfather beyond four score years, besides numerous other kindred cherish the most sorrowful affections, a moments attention personally or through some of your military subordinates.

Can the body of Lieut. H P Corbin of Co. G, 114th Reg. NYSV in command of Col. Smith and who is reported in The Utica Herald of the 30th by Lieut. John F Buell of Co. F same Regt., to have been 'killed' by a saber in the assault on Port Hudson on the 14th last, be identified and transmitted to this place if requested by me or my brother, the Hon. J U Pettit of Wabash, Ind. And are there any effects of said Lieut. H P Corbin which can be sent home? Letter, papers, watch or other effects?

Lieut. C. was, in the fall of 1841 at 10 months of age, the orphaned child and only issue of Rev. Wm. P Corbin, whose wife was my beloved sister. We adopted him as a twin foster brother to our then only born child and daughter of 3 or 4 months. In the spring of '42 the children were brought by myself and wife by wagon on a long journey of 30 days from Logansport, Ind., to our present house, and we now have 5 other children. He has resided as our child with us, except during the time of his academic pursuits, which he has pushed successfully to the end of his 3rd college year in Madison University, from which he went forth, as he wrote to our daughter, 'the representation of this family in the war.'

God has taken this precious offering, in common with the tens of thousands of other noble sons, husbands and fathers.

I am very respectfully, Jonathan E. Pettit"

Henry Pettit Corbin has a grave in Section H, Lot 7 of the Evergreen Cemetery, Fabius, NY.

A WALK HOME FROM SCHOOL

Submitted by Christine Dickerson, Otisco, NY, as dictated by her mother, Dorie Jacobe Cain, who lived in Fabius during her childhood and part of her young adult life.



"I especially recall the winter of 1926, when I was only 8 years old. We had just moved to a large farmhouse on the corner of Penoyer and Waters Road. We lived close to my grandparents, who lived at the top of what is now called Schlicht Hill. We had recently moved to Fabius from Colvin Street, in Syracuse, NY. Although Colvin Street was thought to be country, it wasn't nearly the country that Fabius was. My dad used to work on a streetcar in Syracuse and every day he had to lean over to pull the lever to stop it. He realized that the movement with this job bothered his back, so he and my mother decided to move to Fabius and try farming.

This winter wasn't any harsher than all of the rest and we kids, my brother Sonny (Charles), my sister Agnes, and two friends, Bob Dwyer and Ann Penoyer were all walking to school. Now we lived on a hill one side of Highland Forest, but our school was at Gooseville Corners. Gooseville Corners was a good three mile walk from my home. On the way we would meet up with Bob and Ann and then we would all continue the three mile trek to school. As I recall it was very cold that morning that we ventured on to school and by the time we got there, our teacher Ms. Katherine Heffernan noticed I wasn't feeling too well. I remember Ms. Heffernan and how fond I was of her. This was her first year teaching as she had just finished training class. Because I wasn't well, she told me to walk back home, but to be sure to take the road and not venture onto the cross lots as we

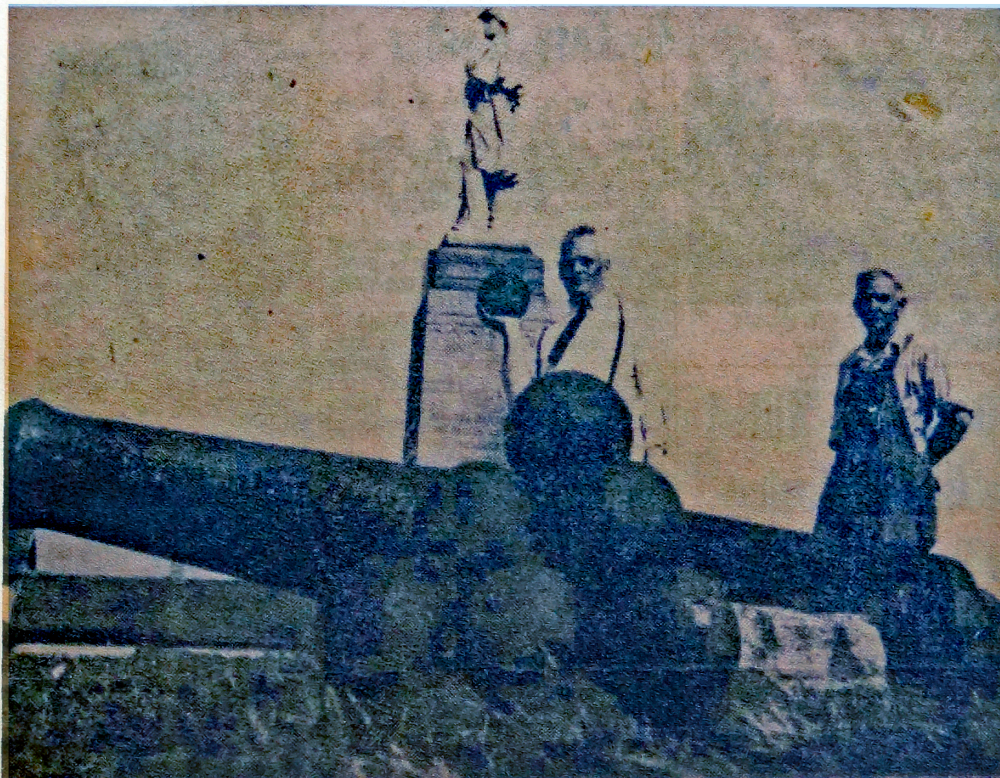
kids sometimes did. The top of Highland Forest wasn't forested as it is today; it was all farmland. She gave me this advice just in case I couldn't make it the three miles and had to stop to rest, someone may come along and pick me up to help me get home safely.

During my childhood, school being canceled because of "snow days" was nonexistent. We walked to school no matter how brutal the weather. As I was about half way home between Gooseville Corners and Schlicht Hill, my father came along on a mule drawn sleigh. Surprised to see me walking towards home, he stopped to ask why. I explained that Ms. Heffernan had sent me, seeing I wasn't feeling my best. My dad told me to stop at the next farm and ask Mrs. Marie Haswell if I could please stay there until he could return and pick me up to take me the rest of the way home. Dad was on his way to DeRuyter to pick up a load of wood for our stove at home and couldn't take me home right then. So, I went to Mrs. Haswell's house and when she greeted me at the door I explained the situation. She welcomed me into her warm home and helped me to remove my soaking wet outer garments. We didn't have pants to wear in those days; we girls were always dressed in skirts or dresses, with long underwear. And for boots we only wore 'buckles' over our shoes. I remember being quite cold. Mrs. Haswell wrapped me up in a warm blanket and led me into a room with a potbelly stove that had a cot set up behind it. She told me to lay down, but before I took a nap she said she had something for me to drink. The drink was the most delicious drink I'd ever tasted! It was my first experience with hot chocolate and tiny marshmallows. After I savored the drink, I layed down and slept until my dad arrived to pick me up. Before I left Mrs. Haswell's house, she gave me a mirror to look at myself. You can imagine my surprise when I saw a bunch of red dots covering my face and neck. Now, the mystery was solved. I knew why Ms. Heffernan had sent me home and why I didn't feel well at school. I had the measles."



Gooseville Corners School House. Back Row: Beach Burlingham?, Emmet Penoyer, Leona Ingersol (Shimp), Bessie Zopfi (Reynolds), Margaret Murray, (teacher), Bob Schlicht, Edward Penoyer. Front Row: Harold Penoyer, Ella Fox, Agnes Murray (Cerio),

TWO GUNS AND SHOT * READY FOR SCRAP PILE



"Food for the arsenal of victory. Michael G. Shea, captain of the scrap drive in Fabius, and E. H. Rowley, mayor of the village of Fabius, stand at one of the two cannons being donated to the scrap drive.

The two guns, 42-pounders, are dated 1829 and 1833, respectively, and saw service on American ships of the time.

Also slated for the melting pot are 40 cannon balls, heaviest of which weighs 63 pounds. All told, the Fabius donation is expected to yield between eight and ten tons of metal."

*The Post Standard,
Sunday, 20 Sep. 1942*

So why do these cannons and the stacks of cannon balls still remain on either side of our Belden Civil War monument in the village green?

Story has it, that when the news of their fate reached Washington, DC, where Lt. Charles Shea, USN was stationed, he quickly wrote his father that "there were a great many iron fences and gates in Washington that could easily be melted down, in place of the cannons." The wise man and astute politician that he was, Mike Shea decided to support the scrap drive by purchasing old farm equipment in and around Fabius, with funds from a federal money account he had access to, rather than scrap our cannons.

I still like to think that their meltdown fate was saved by the young lad on the newsletter cover, Charles Shea, who asked his father not to scrap them.

COACHES vs. CANCER HIKE IN HIGHLAND

SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

HIGHLAND FOREST PARK

The Fabius Historical Society is sponsoring a fund drive with the "Coaches vs. Cancer" organization this year in Highland Park. The proceeds from this walking trail adventure through the scenic park will be equally split between our two organizations. We are asking FHS members to participate in the drive, encourage family members to participate, or to sponsor walkers. Depending on a person's commitment or ability, there will be a choice of three trails: a 1 mile nature trail, a 3 mile short cut trail, or a 4.2 mile crossover trail. We ask that sponsors donate at least \$1 for each mile walked, totaling a minimum donation of \$10. Individuals who bring in the most donations will receive prizes. Food and family fun will also be available aside from the walk, and the Pioneer Museum will be open for touring.

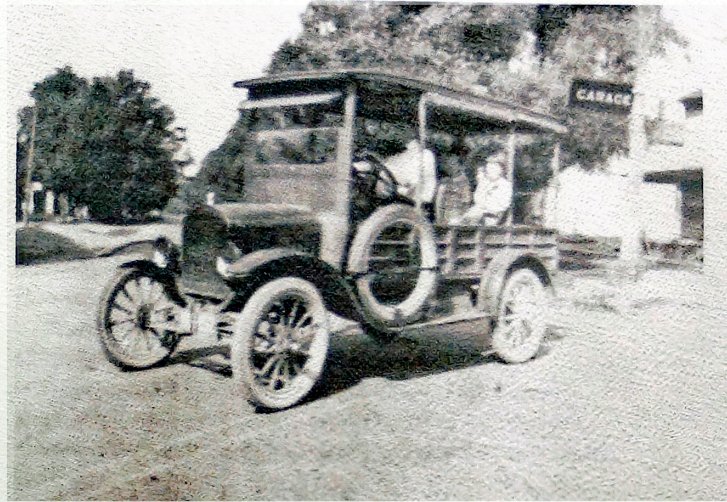
Registration forms can be found online and mailed to the FHS, PO Box 27, Fabius, NY 13063.
For more information, please visit: fabiusny.org or call 683-5878

WANTED

HELP FROM THE FABIUS COMMUNITY

The Fabius Historical Society is searching for post cards or old photos of “Past Fabius Parades” for next year’s display. We are also working on an expansion of Virginia Cameron’s National Register of Historic Places historic district in the Fabius Village, to include more village structures. The original project was a joint effort between Virginia and Cornell University, begun in 1990, which documented building structures and their architectural design, along with other significant historical information.

If anyone has such a photo(s), please bring what you have to the Fabius Community Center on Memorial Day. With permission, we will photograph your photograph, while you wait; the photo will never leave your sight.



“OPERATION SKYWATCH”

During World War II, Fabius had a group of volunteers known as the “Ground Observer Corps.” Working usually in pairs, on four-hour shifts, their duty was to observe the skies around Fabius Village for low-altitude enemy aircraft and potential bombers; something that the US radar could not easily detect. Air Force officials presumed that any attack on the US would be from dispersed bombers cruising at low altitudes. Stationed in “posts” set up approximately eight miles apart, the Fabius observer post building was located on the roof of the present Elementary School on Main Street during most of WWII. Comprised of students, parents and any willing resident, it operated in both the heat of summer and in the dead of cold winter (warmed with only a small electric box radiator-type heater).

Observers were equipped with a map and a photo chart of types of planes to monitor. Each time a suspicious aircraft was spotted, a “pip” was placed on a table to mark its spot. All aircraft reports from scores of these volunteer observation posts in the Central New York – Pennsylvania area were gathered and tabulated by the Syracuse Filter Center, under the 32nd Air Division Command. It kept track of all planes in a round-the-clock vigil, called “Operation Skywatch.” Aircraft sky trails were made from the “pips” from each of the individual observation posts, which were then mapped on a mammoth plotting board.

Some of the known Fabius members of the Ground Observer Corps were Mary Shea Demong, Carol Gossner and Muriel Webb Partridge. The photo, at left, is the second observer post building that was used in the latter part of the war. It was erected by volunteers and located on the property of the Fabius American Legion, the present Sports Center. In the photo, the Fabius crew is out scanning the skies with Sue Stein, from left, Filter Center instructor, Mrs. Charles A. (Pearl) Webb, Mrs. Charles (Allie) Thompson, and Art Knapp.

