

Newsletter of the Fabius Historical Society

No.18

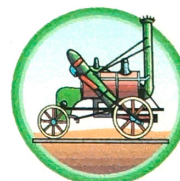
The Winter of 2010



Webster Family

A Newsletter from the
Fabius Historical Society

PO Box 27 FABIUS, NY 13063



President's Message

Hello Everyone.

2009 has been a very busy year for the Fabius Historical Society, completing projects and starting new ones.

The 2-day Memorial Day Historical Display was excellent. We had a large number of people viewing the FHS displays, listening to Brian Abbott's talk about Guantanamo Bay, and buying copies of old Fabius maps. In fact, people are still contacting me to buy maps. We also have note cards of Fabius scenes for sale. Of great interest was the plaque created by Ainsworth Webb containing the names of Fabius Veterans of World War II. If you have not had the opportunity to view the plaque, it is hanging in the Community Center's large room, along with the beautiful Bicentennial Quilt.

2010 New Years Resolution for Everyone

When you take pictures, or uncover your family's old photos, PLEASE take the time to write down the information about the pictures (names, date, location, etc). Do not write on the front or back of the photo with a pen (it will eventually bleed through), but either lightly write in pencil or attach a sticky label to the back and write on that. I have received photos of local people from friends and relatives, and personally found glass negatives amongst my father's belongings, with no information included. The chance of identifying the photographed people or places at this point in time is very slim.

Last year's programs were terrific! What a variety! Our Program Chair, Chuck Kutscher, has been working on upcoming programs and it looks like another super year. Please, when you see a program of interest, be sure to write it on your calendar. Quite a few people have told me that they wanted to see a program but forgot about it when the day came. Also, if there are programs of special interest to you, or would benefit the public, please let us know about them. I am currently working on a tribute to Emily Estey for this July. If you can help me with information or photos, please call me if I haven't already contacted you.

If your mailing address or e-mail address has changed, please let us know.

The FHS has a new office for research and storage in the basement of the Community Center. We have received donated photographs, personal collections and scrapbooks of Fabius articles on people and events. We want to thank the generous people who have made the donations.

Thank you, one and all, for your continuing support.

Sandy Beglinger

Pioneer Museum News

In 2009, we had over 1300 visitors from near and far, tour the museum and view our displays. With its prime location, it appears that people have more than one reason to come to Highland Forest (hiking, parties, reunions, and our museum), making it a combined advantage for all.

The museum is now closed for the season except for appointments and special events. For an appointment, please call Al LaFrance (315-662-7022) or Sandy Beglinger (315-683-5878).

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010

Sandy Beglinger (President, Oral History) 683-5878
Ginny Scida (VP, Advertising) 683-5625
Vaughn Skinner (Treasurer) 683-5379
Ruth Bryan (Secretary) 683-5806
Joanne Casey (Civil War, Newsletter) 683-5674
Judy Conway (Scrapbook, Treas. Audit) 683-5275
Bill Casey (Newsletter, Veterans) 683-5674
Charles Shea (Senior Adviser) 683-5371
Al LaFrance (Museum Chair) 662-7022
Kate Cameron (Treasury Audit) 683-9485
Cheri Gigon (Advisor) 683-9498
Linda Meyers (F-P School) 683-5280
Chuck Kutscher (Programs) 683-9480
Carol Gossner (Senior Advisor) 683-5293
Lili Bergs (Museum Advisor, Curator) 683-5191

Reminder:

FHS Membership dues are due by Jan. 1st 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

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 or to our Historical Collections & Archives in our new FHS Office of the Community Center.

So before you "toss", please think of us.
Contact: Sandy Beglinger @ 683-5878

FHS 2009 PROGRAMS

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

We have tried hard to give you a variety of programs, most of which have something to do with history. It may be history that you recall because you lived through it, or it may be history of great or at least interesting events in our area or in our country. We try to find speakers who are entertaining as well as knowledgeable. Unless the speaker objects, we video record every meeting and the recording is converted to a DVD which can be played on a home DVD player. If you or someone misses a program and would like to hear it, you can contact me to borrow one of these DVDs. If there is a program that is very important to you, tell me and I can give you a DVD for you and your family. Please let me know as soon after the meeting as possible so I don't delete it from my camera. All programs are held at the Fabius Community Center on Main Street in Fabius.

Chuck Kutscher kutscher@gatling.us 683-9480

PROGRAM LINEUP FOR 2010

Feb. 6, Saturday 1 pm:

Norman Dann will tell us the interesting story of Gerritt Smith and his crusade for social reform back in the 19th century. Smith was a wealthy, successful businessman in Peterboro and was active in national causes such as women's rights and abolition. Dr. Dann has access to the personal papers of Gerritt Smith and has written a book about him. He will also have his book on hand for sale.

Mar. 6, Saturday 1 pm:

Chuck Kutscher will present a light-hearted program called "Do you remember these?" There will be a fast-paced Power Point presentation about old TV shows, local events, local people, and some very funny situations. Come and have fun.

April 5, Monday 7 pm:

We present Don Edwards' latest play based on a real murder which took place long ago in peaceful DeRuyter. The play is based on the ensuing trial of a wife who allegedly "did in her husband."

May 3, Monday 7 pm:

Harvey Skeeel presented an interesting program on the history of farming in this area and he and his panel talked about the men. This time we complete the picture as Linda Meyers and her friends tell the stories about the women who worked so hard to make family farms prosper.

Memorial Day Historical Display

Sunday, May 30, 1-3 pm

Monday, May 31, 9 am - 3 pm

The Fabius Community Center will be open to the public on both days. Come and enjoy the parade and visit our displays. We will have veterans' photos, Robert Good's Military Collection, Judy Conway's scrapbooks of historical interest, a display of area pictures, school pictures from the past, many surprises. Come and view the WW II Veteran

Plaque and the beautiful Bicentennial Quilt, lovingly quilted by our local residents and presented to our town in 1998.



Bill DeHart, Sandy Beglinger & Charles Shea

June 7, Monday 7 pm:

Bob Savitt will take us back to the 1940s and ask us to remember the dark days of World War II, the songs of Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, the Andrews Sisters and the musicals of Cole Porter and Rogers and Hammerstein. He will use slides, photos, historic audio excerpts and magazines to take us back to the colorful events of the turbulent 1940s.

July 17, Saturday 1 pm:

*** Note the time and date change to get our meeting to match up with the Rowley reunion ***

Our president, Sandy Beglinger, will present a program on local resident and author, Emily Estey, who grew up in Shackham and graduated from Fabius Academy, later moving to Pompey after marriage. For many years, readers enjoyed the Syracuse Post-Standard columns where she wrote about the life and times of people and events in this area.

Aug. 2, Monday, 7 pm:

Last year Mike Durkin came all the way from Illinois to tell us about coins, coin collecting and the value of collections. He is also an avid and knowledgeable stamp collector and will tell us stories about stamps. Come with your questions and your stamps for appraisal.

Tentative Meeting Planned:

We don't have a date yet, but Anne Shelly has agreed to bring her singing group "Then/Again" back to sing for us, probably to do songs from the 1940s. These ladies, appearing in period dress, do a wonderful job singing songs from the different decades. They love the music and they want to share and preserve it.

*** 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. ***

PROGRAMS OF THE POMPEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

These programs are at the Pompey Center campus.

April 14 John Taibi "The Syracuse & Chenango Valley Railroad" Town Hall 7:30.

May 15 Community Yard Sale (PHS Campus) Call 263-2678 to participate.

June 25 The Annual Strawberry Social.

July 18 The Veterans' Celebration honoring Korean and Vietnam Veterans. Contact Ruth 682-9066.

Aug. 8 One-Room schoolhouse Reunion. Fabius "alumni" invited.

Oct. 3 Pompey Pumpkin Fest.



Ivan John Jacobe and Emma Maria Schlicht

An Evening Conversation with Theresa Kogut

14 July 2008.

This is a story about the lives of two early Fabius people, Ivan John Jacobe (1890-1928) and Emma Maria Schlicht (1892-1972). Ivan and Emma met in a one room schoolhouse on Highland Hills, on the property of Highland Forest.

They married in 1910 and lived in the city of Syracuse, and that is where three of their children (Charlie "Sonny", Agnes "Aggie", and Dortha "Dorie") were born. In 1923, they left Syracuse and lived with Emma's mother, Agatha, in Fabius. Later, they purchased the Gene Wallis Farm on Waters Road in Fabius and began farming. Their fourth child, Robert "Bobby" was born in New Woodstock in 1925.

In 1927, while Ivan was raking hay with a dump rake and mules, the mules were spooked and ran away. The rake hit a stump that Ivan had dragged down for firewood. When the rake hit, Ivan was catapulted over and landed on the stump. Meanwhile, Emma had heard the commotion and Ivan yelling "whoa—whoa" and ran out back to find Ivan on the ground. By the time she reached him and lifted his head in her hands, she said his head "felt like a bag of ice." He was dead.

Family members remained with Emma and the children after this heartache. Emma was feeling poorly, and when the family took her to Doc. Gossner, they found out that she was pregnant with Theresa. Ivan never knew, but this baby would be the very last thing that Ivan gave Emma. The farm on Waters Road was lost due to Ivan's death and the resulting financial hardship. Doc. Gossner offered a house for \$12/month rent to get through the "rough times" — about 13 years.

Emma's mother, Agatha, took care of the five children while Emma went to learn the trade of barbering. She opened her shop in the front room of the house and used a second-hand barber chair. Priest, Father McMann made her a sign, which Theresa still possesses, and her business was started. She started with men's hair cuts and then added hair styling for women. She eventually bought the Waffner house on Main Street and used the two front rooms, one for women and the other for men, while raising her five children.

Theresa went to Beauart Beauty School in Syracuse, the summer of 1943, during her 9th grade in school. She then worked for years with her mother as a hairdresser. In all, Emma was a hairdresser for 45 years; Theresa for 47 years.

Sonny served in the Army, and then worked for the Canteen Company and died in 1996. Agnes did domestic work, and was killed in an auto accident in 1955. Dorie attended Eleanor Beauty School in Buffalo and was also a hairdresser and homemaker, and is presently living in Manlius. Bobby served in the Navy, worked in a body shop and later took up barbering in Manlius. He died in 2002. Theresa married Michael Kogut in 1950 and they bought their Mill Street house in Fabius, where she had her beauty shop for ten years. Theresa and Mike also raised their six boys in this house where she still resides.





HISTORICAL TOUR OF FABIUS VILLAGE

AS REMEMBERED BY AL GALLINGER

(Submitted and locations identified by FHS member Charles Shea, 2010)

"The lot where the big house is now, had been Grandma Barnard's flower garden. The bungalow had belonged to the Fosmers before Grandpa J.G. Barnard bought it and had it remodeled. It is really old. The barn was built with lumber from Grandpa's farm, which was later known for years as the Water's farm. The big house was built in 1911 by Fred Brink. It was painted inside and out by Clayton Brown, my Dad's brother-in-law. I was born there in 1912. My parents had previously lived in the house where Lucien Benedict later lived. *(The big house is the present home of the Gallagher family at 7830 Main Street. The bungalow is next door and to the west of the Riker residence at 7828 Main Street. The home of Lucien Benedict is where Richard Wilbur lives, just west of Marion Murphy. The Waters Farm is on Virgil Road & Waters Road intersection, where the Chip Engst family lives.)*

The house just east of my folks was owned by Mary Mason and her son Fred. Fred kept bees and had a honey extractor in the building which many years later we moved and expanded into a garage. The Masons had left in the late teens and the house rented for a time to Byron Brown, a garage mechanic. Brown had lost all the fingers on one hand, but still had his thumb, so he could hold a wrench quite well. *(The Mason house was between the present Gallagher and Wilbur homes, across the street from the DeMores.)*

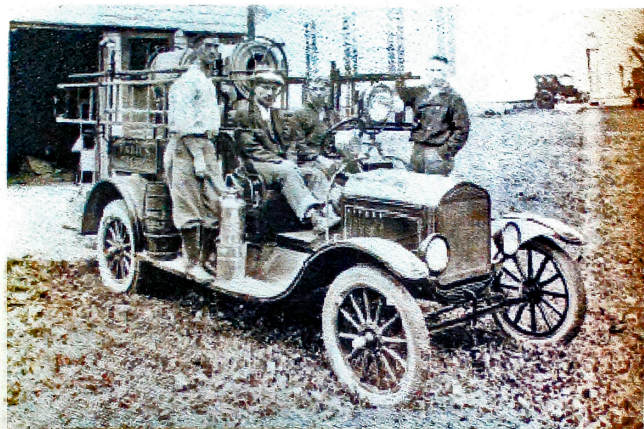
About that time, the house on Job Phillips farm just east of Markams, burned down while Ransie Cornue was living there and running the farm. Job bought the Mason place and had the house moved up to the farm. The move took several days. It was moved by pulleys and a windlass operated by a horse going around in circles. A little later, Lute (Lucian) Benedict bought a piece of the land and my folks bought the rest, including an old long henhouse and Fred's honey house. *(The Job Phillips farm is known as the Patrick, or Leonard or McDevitt farm. Prior to the Phillips, it was owned by the Pope family. The Markams residence became the Doc. Kinslow residence and office.)*

The Methodist parsonage was the house east of Walter Dunn. Later Bob Harris lived there and started raising goats. When we left the Fabius area in 1963, John Virgil was living there. *(This is the house where Mabel Virgil and Carolyn Oaks now live, at 7771 Academy Street.)*

Do you remember the old feed mill owned by the Farmer's Syndicate and run by Jim Powers with the assistance of Ralph Holl? Back in the teens, the mill was owned by the Fabius Creamery Company and my Dad and Billy Farewell ran it for them. Billy was Isabel Hall's father. Her brother Billy worked for the county highway department for many years. There was also a younger sister Mabel. There was no public electricity in town then and the mill was powered by a thirty horsepower single cylinder gasoline engine which took both men to start. When it was running, one could hear the bark of its exhaust up at our house on Main Street. When electricity was available in 1924, they installed an electric motor, but Dad and Billy were no longer there by then. Billy went to work for the state on John Crotty's crew doing road maintenance. He was struck by a car and killed on the job in 1929. Dad went to work for George Shapley in Tully. Shapley had a plumbing shop. There were no snowplows



at the time and we spent the winter of 1921-1922 (Oct. to April) at my Aunt Ella Brown's while she and her husband were in Florida. *(Aunt Ella Brown's house is believed to have been in Tully).*



I remember when they held Old Home Day three years in a row to raise money for the first motorized fire truck. It was made in Buffalo and mounted on a Ford Model T truck chassis. The previous chemical rig was on a two-wheel cart pulled by hand or a truck. Before that, they had a hand pumper which I believe is still in existence. In 1946, they purchased a new Sanford mounted on a Ford chassis and I was a volunteer until we moved into the Town of Pompey in late 1951.

Do you remember the hop house across from Bob and Helen Nash's place? The Bumpus family raised hops before prohibition and used it for storage. I can just remember when the Morell Brookes family lived where Bob and Helen Nash later lived. They had a son Arlo and a daughter Vera. Bob and Helen lived in Pompey next to Dr. Hunt before they came down to Fabius.

The house where Zara Comstock and family lived for many years was occupied by a Mr. Sears, wife and daughter Nettie when I was very small. He was very old then and I don't know where or when they went. *(The Zara Comstock home was east of the*

Methodist Church and directly across from the present firehouse. It was a small, long and narrow structure that was taken down in the 1950's.)

The house where Harold and Isabel Hall lived was originally behind Dr. Gossner's house. It was moved probably in the early thirties and later expanded. Harold did the work himself. He had already built the garage. The old building which housed Charles Meigs blacksmith shop in the west end and Harold's garage in the east end had burned down in 1928. *(The Hall house is on the west end of the village, just east of where David Field now lives, across from the Camerons. The old building that burned was originally a wagon shop.)*

Mrs. Gordon's house, where the present post office is located, burned down in 1928 or 1929. The garage was later moved up to George Underwood's place. *(This was a very nice house and thought to have burned due to electrical problems. It caught fire in the early afternoon when the Shea family was getting their first radio installed. The garage was moved and is still standing just south of the old Knapp house.)*

Sam Gallinger had a store on the corner of Main and Mill Street and lived in the big house later occupied by the Reed family. They sold out to Fred Frost about 1919 and moved west. Their oldest daughter, Halina, was married to Art Rowley (Ed's brother and he needed a drier climate). Sam and Art had an electrical business in Pasadena, Cal. Sam was a cousin to Arthur P. Gallinger and brother to R H Gallinger who had a store at the crossroads in Tully.

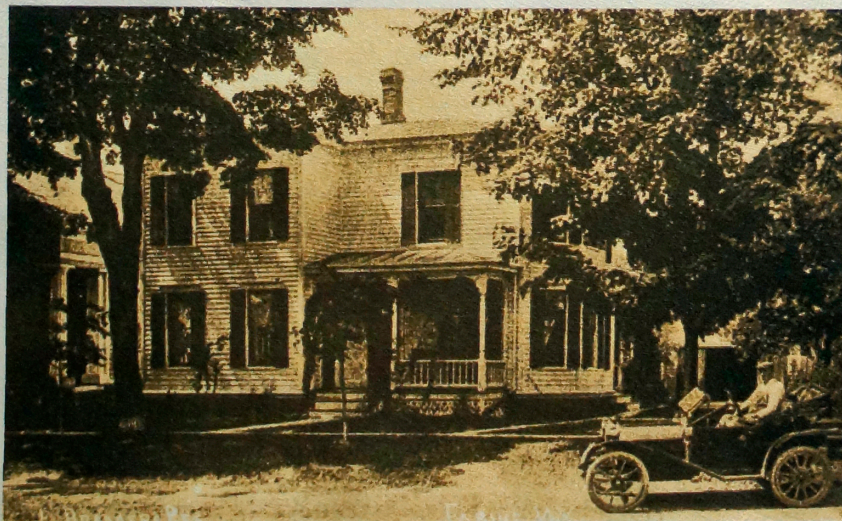
When I was very young, the village had some gasoline burning street lights. There was one over the road in front of Bill Clark's place. A man by the name of Jasper Crandall would come around with his wheelbarrow and equipment to service the light. It was hung on a cable above the street and could be lowered for fueling and lighting, etc. Evidently it worked like a gasoline lantern. Jasper lived in



the house where Ranse Cornue later had his shop for years. There were no porches then---Ranse added those. *(Ranse Cornue lived in and had his barber shop at the present residence of Kermit and Carleena Breed, on the corner of Academy Street and Rt. 91 North, aka Pompey Street.)*

Lewis Bramer (a drummer boy in the Civil War) had a car when few others did. I remember him and his wife Sarah (Sate). When Sate became disabled, Estella Slocum and Grandma Dunn took care of her and then stayed on to take care of Lewis. He had operated the hardware store at one time. *(Lewis owned the first car in town and sold the first gas out of 55-gallon drums.)*

I remember when Will Hamilton lived across the street. He had a mustache and smoked cigars. They had a big touring car, a tan Michigan and Elmore (Stub) used to drive it. Carl and Ruby were then living in the house where Paul Chase's family lived. They came to



Main Street when Will bought a house on E. Kennedy in Syracuse. Carl used to drive a Paulman car which was open but closed-coupled like a club coupe. There was no culvert there then, and he used to come sailing in and up over the sidewalk at a good clip. *(The Paul Chase house is just east of the present Kevin Herlihy home on Academy Street. Paul, Al Chase's father, died in the side yard while working on the house or lawn.)*

The Kennedy family lived in the house with the pillars. His name was Dan and they later lived across from the monument grounds. Their daughter was named Helen and became a nurse at Crouse-Irving. *(The Kennedy house was just east of Bob DeMore's house on Main Street.)*

Mrs. Keefe (John's mother) lived where the Webbs later lived. There used to be a house across from Blairs which burned down in the early twenties. A family by the name of Rich lived there at the time and had left the dog tied to the leg of the stove. *(Mrs. Keefe and her husband were Irish immigrants and retired from their farm just above the Schlicht's farm to the residence that is still known as Pearl Webb's home in Fabius village. He died after the move. The Rich home which burned was at the present location of the DeHart residence.)*

There was a house across from the old Johnson place which burn in the early twenties also. The Krewson family was living there and he worked for Walter Knapp. They moved to Tully later. *(The Johnson place is the present residence of Nancy Sisto and the Mir family.)*

The barn on Tom Heffernan's place burned in the spring of 1922. Grandpa Jim was living there then. It was struck by lightning. *(The Tom Heffernan place is where Dan & Sylvia Driscoll presently live. The barn that burned was replaced by the present barn built by the Skeeles.)*

I was at the mill the day the first load of feed came in from the Summit (Apulia Station) by truck. Someone remarked that it probably wouldn't be long before all of it came by truck. The truck was a green Mack with yellow wheels and solid rubber tires. Schoonmaker had bought two of them. I can remember Harry Schoonmaker cranking on the side of an International in front of Hamilton's store. It was essentially a rubber-tired wagon powered by an engine underneath. The rubber-tired wagon that Walter Crozier used for many years was said to be the old truck chassis. Tommy Maher of Pompey told me he had had one of those trucks. Tommy was the Skinner twin's grandfather.



In the picture of the creamery, you can see other buildings in the background. I assume one of them burned down. At one time there were some low-life characters living in one of them and the villagers weren't fond of the idea, so one night, some of the locals took the old hand pumper and literally washed them out of the house.

The old mill race was a good source of water. I can remember when there were small wooden foot bridges on each side of the concrete bridge, but there wasn't much water then, as the water wheel was no longer used. The water wheel was an enclosed iron device under the mill."

Postcard photos are from the collection of the Fabius Historical Society and from private member collections. If you should have any photos of Fabius Village and/or the town, and are willing to share the images for historical purposes, please let us know. You are welcome to bring them to the Fabius Community Center on Memorial Day so that we can photograph them and return them quickly and safely to you.

We wish to thank Charles Shea for saving and submitting this article about our village and for taking the time to identify the structures for us. We have lost many of our original buildings, and many more have been relocated, recycled and preserved for other purposes.



WEBSTER FAMILY OF APULIA



The Baldwinsville Gazette Farmers Journal 22 Sep. 1887 A GRAND CONCERT

The ladies of the ME Church have in store for the music loving public, a rare treat in the shape of a grand concert to be given by the well-known Webster Family. The concert consists of vocal and instrumental selections. The solos, duets and orchestra music, with the comic songs and family choruses, will not fail to please all lovers of music. Miss Alice, solo violinist, of Syracuse, has made the violin a special study for years, and the press speaks of her as a skilled and charming player. Miss Mabel, second violinist, plays well for one so young; she also plays the harp. Miss Anna Bell, pianist, Master Louis on the violincello, and Little Mary, only five years old, on the piccolo, rendering solos that will surprise you, together with Mrs. H N Webster, soprano, make up a company that will both charm and delight you. An evening of rare enjoyment is promised all who attend. The concert will be held in the ME Church on Fri. evening, Sep. 30th, commencing at 9 o'clock. The admission has been put at the exceedingly low price of 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children.

The musical Webster Family of Apulia was managed by Howell Negus Webster, born in Fabius on 7 Jan. 1839, died in Fabius on 20 Oct. 1920 and was buried in Fabius Evergreen Cemetery. He was the son of Louis Webster (1814-1897), a Fabius shoemaker and one of the oldest citizens of Fabius at the time of his death in 1897. The 1892 Fabius Census lists HN Webster as a farmer living with his family in Apulia, and it is believed that the family might have lived on the farmstead just east of the Apulia Cemetery, a parcel owned by his father-in-law. In 1865, Mr. HN Webster married Sarah M. Winegar. The daughter of Marcus Winegar (1816-1897) & Aurelia Hills (1821-1913), she performed as the soprano soloist in the concert group. Sarah was born in Fabius on 3 Sep. 1843, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Roberts, in Wichita, Kansas on 10 Mar. 1891 and was also buried in the Fabius Evergreen Cemetery.

The Webster children were:

Anna Belle Webster, born in Apulia in Nov. of 1866, played the piano, and attended Syracuse University. On 17 Sep. 1895, she married Wm. H. Seward Greene, the owner of the Apulia Chair Factory. She is also buried in Fabius Evergreen Cemetery.

Alice A. Webster, born in Apulia in Nov. of 1869, played solo violin. On 9 Oct. 1890, she married Frank J. Kitchell.

Mabel H. Webster, born in Montgomery City, Mo. in Jan. of 1872, played the harp and 2nd violin. On 2 Jun 1897, she married Charles E. Sharp.

Louis Howell Webster, born in Montgomery City, Mo. on 3 Apr. 1875, played violincello. He died on 10 Jan. 1954 in California.

Mary Webster, born in Apulia in Aug. 1881, played the piccolo. She married a Mr. Roberts and lived in Kansas.

Grace Lenore Webster, born in Apulia on 6 Sep. 1883, was not an identified musician. On 4 Sep. 1906, she married Robert Warren Allen. She died on 30 Jan. 1987 in California.

According to newspaper clippings, The Webster Family performed during the 1880s and 1890s, mainly for church-related gatherings in nearby towns. They played at Apulia, Fabius, Cardiff, Pompey Hill, Delphi, Jamesville, Baldwinsville, McGraw, to name a few, and eventually were invited to perform in eastern New York around the ritzy Catskill summer tourist retreat areas.