

Newsletter of the Fabius Historical Society

No. 24

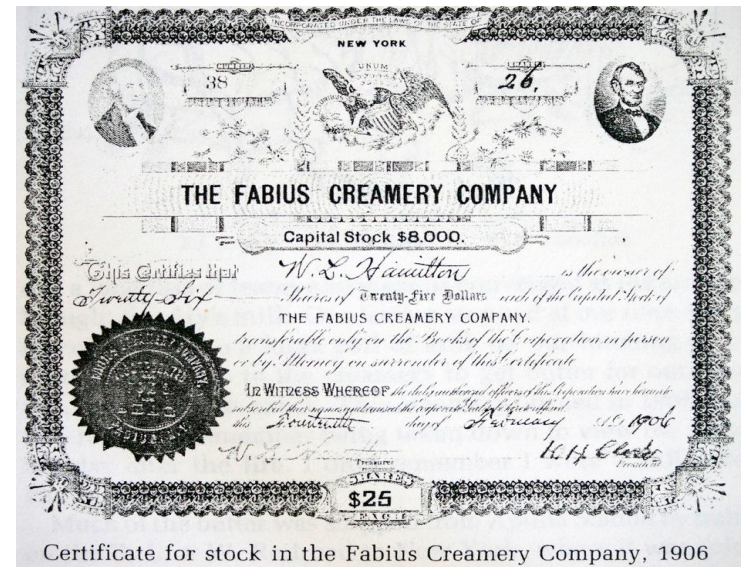
Winter 2013



William Levi Hamilton
(1856-1926)

Farmer, banker, teacher,
bookkeeper, Treasurer of
the Cemetery Assn.,
DeRuyter Gleaner
correspondent, store-
keeper, lumber and feed
store, fire insurance agent.

Buried in Fabius
Evergreen Cemetery.



Certificate for stock in the Fabius Creamery Company, 1906

Fabius Historical Society Membership Application

Membership Categories
(Circle your choice)

\$ 5.00 Student

\$10.00 Individual

\$15.00 Family

\$25.00 Sponsor

\$50.00 Benefactor

\$150 Lifetime

Make checks payable to:
Fabius Historical Society

Your Name:

Address:

PO Box #

Street

City, State, Zip

Telephone:

Email:

Any comments or suggestions to improve the FHS?

Mail to: Fabius Historical Society c/o Vaughn Skinner
PO Box 106, Fabius, NY 13063

A Newsletter from the Fabius Historical Society

PO Box 27 FABIUS, NY 13063



President's Message

Hello Everyone,

I hope you found some enjoyable moments to remember this past summer.

PIONEER MUSEUM

Working at the Pioneer Museum on the weekends has been interesting. Great comments have been made about our displays. One couple expressed that it was nice seeing actual items, and that it wasn't just a lot of reading like so many of the other museums that they had visited around the country.

Three men from western Onondaga County like to hike in Highland Forest once a month. They now make it a point to spend at least 15 minutes examining old items in the museum. When they leave, they promise to come back on the next hike for another 15-minute browsing.

Another man, who grew up in the town of LaFayette, has visited four times, each after a walk in Highland. His ancestor had created household items, patented them, and sold them under the Streeter brand name.

One day a group from a Grange reunion came into the Pioneer Museum. One man pointed out his mother to me and said that she had lived in Fabius for awhile. Lo, and behold, it was George Stas' ex-wife, who remembered me from when I was a teenager.

Can you tell that I enjoy my time in the Pioneer Museum? Our great museum was reopened by Al LaFrance in 2006 after the County had closed it. Thank you, Al, for your great effort in making it popular again.

BAZAAR & FOOD SALES

Our society made a good profit at the Election Day food sale and at the November 17th Holiday Bazaar--both held at the Fabius Area Community Center. A big THANKS goes to everyone who pitched in and helped.

FABIUS ALUMNI DIRECTORY

Directories are now available for sale. A project of Judy Conway and assisted by many other helping hands, it is dedicated to the memory of teacher Mary Shea Demong and a tribute to the efforts of Judy's love of the Fabius community. We all miss her.

SCRAPBOOK COLLECTION

Judy Conway's scrapbook collection will continue to be maintained and shared, by appointment, with Jim Conway at the Conway residence. They will also be available for viewing on Memorial Day at the FACC.

As we start a new year, I feel truly thankful for the great effort and support that all of the board members have put into making our Fabius Historical Society successful.

Please join us for another year of great programs scheduled by Chuck Kutscher at the Fabius Area Community Center. Please bring along a friend or two.

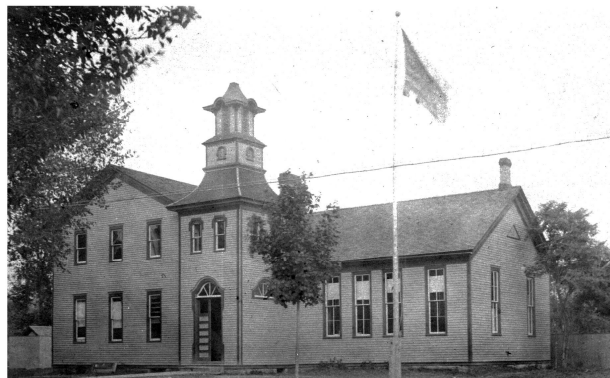
Sandy

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2012

Sandy Beglinger (Pres.) 683-5878, peterpan007@peoplepc.com
Linda Meyers (VP) 683-5280, busylindalou@gmail.com
Vaughn Skinner (Treas.) 683-5379, vaughnsally@yahoo.com
Ruth Bryan (Sec.) 683-5806, rbryan2@twcny.rr.com
Joanne Casey (Civil War, Newsletter) 683-5674, Joanne5308@aol.com
James Conway (Scrapbook, Advisor) 683-5275
Bill Casey (Newsletter, Veterans, Photos) 683-5674, Bill5308@aol.com
Al LaFrance (Museum Advisor) 662-7022, albertredlafrance@aol.com
Kate Cameron (Advisor) 683-9485, kjpcfabiuss@yahoo.com
Cheri Gigon (Advisor) 683-9498, cgigon1@twcny.rr.com
Chuck Kutscher (Program Chair) 683-9480, kutscher@gatling.us
Lili Bergs (Museum Advisor) 683-5191, lbergs@twcny.rr.com
Lorana Zirble (Advisor) 683-5581, rinabus44@aol.com

Reminder: FHS Membership dues are due by Jan. 1st of each year. Membership contributions are the major source of income for the FHS. 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. If you would like an email version of the newsletter, contact Bill5308@aol.com.

FABIUS ALUMNI DIRECTORY



The Fabius Alumni Directory 1895-2012 is available for sale at the monthly Fabius Historical Society meetings or through Sandy Glasgow Beglinger at 683-5878.

YOUR TOSS IS OUR LOSS

With Spring Cleaning almost upon us, please keep in mind that the Fabius Historical Society is a great depository of valuable information and artifacts relating to our Fabius area. We are interested in old obituaries and photos of Fabius residents, photos of homes and homesteads, family genealogies from family collections or scrapbooks for FHS Collection. If you have such items and are willing to allow us to make photographic copies of them, please contact Bill Casey at Bill5308@aol.com or 683-5674 & leave message.

FHS PROGRAM LINE-UP

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

We try hard to bring you a variety of programs every year and this year is no exception. Please come and join us. The refreshments are great and people really enjoy talking with friends and neighbors.

If you have any suggestions for future topics, please feel free to contact:

Chuck Kutscher kutscher@gatling.us 683-9480

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Brooklyn Bridge, opened in 1883, is one of the oldest suspension bridges in the US.

Sat. Feb. 2, 1 p.m. The history of the Brooklyn Bridge is a tale of persistence: it took more than a decade to build (1867-1883), cost the life of its designer John Roebling, and utilized some innovative design features which fueled the criticism of many skeptics who had visions of the whole bridge falling into New York's East River. At the time of its construction, it was the largest bridge ever built and still stands more than 125 years after completion.

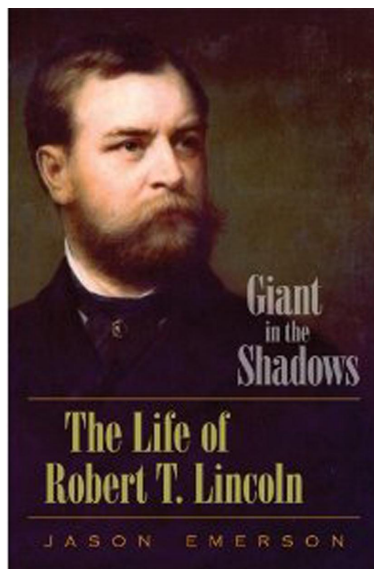
Randy Nash, a barn timber framer by trade, will share his power-point presentation of the Brooklyn Bridge, some of the innovative construction designs along with challenges and solutions that were faced during its construction.

Sat. Mar. 2, 1 p.m. When farm machinery was powered by tractors and not be the muscle of farm animals, it was a revolution in agricultural history. Come and hear Dr. Milton C. Sernett's talk entitled "From Muscles to Motors on the Farm: Henry Ford and the Great American Tractor Wars: 1910-1930." This conflict had important consequences for American agriculture.



The first production model No. 1 of the Fordson Tractor. Introduced in 1917, it was the first mass-produced and lightweight tractor made.

Mon. April 1, 7 p.m. All of us have antiques (and we don't mean your spouse). Come to hear Danna DeVaul from Cazenovia speak about antiques and collectibles based on her 30 years of experience in that field. She will give an historical perspective and may give some information on what they may be worth.



Mon. May 6, 7 pm. Jason Emerson is an expert on the Lincoln family and is the author of the book "Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln" who was a famous lawyer, businessman and statesman and the oldest surviving son of Abraham Lincoln. Robert Lincoln's huge home may now be toured by the public.

Mon. June 3, 7 p.m. The role of women in the military is an old and changing story. Come and hear Elaine Smith Tucker and Rene Kather tell us something about this history from their personal experience. We especially welcome other women who have served in the military to come and be on the panel.

Mon. July 1, 7 pm. This is the only meeting which will be in the Fabius Christian Church. We are so pleased to welcome back Steve Jones and Marina Gorelaya to give us a concert on American composers including George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Cole Porter, Paul Bowles and Irving Fine. In this lecture/concert program Steve will tell us something about the history of the pieces and then sing them to us.

The Fabius Creamery Company

The Fabius Creamery Company, incorporated in September of 1893 as a farmer co-operative, allowed the daily farm milk deliveries to be combined and more efficiently processed into uniform quality dairy products. The main force behind this co-operative was William Hamilton of Fabius, and it proved not only beneficial to the farmer, but also to the commerce of the local community. Farmers brought milk into the village and returned home with feed, seed, hardware, etc. that was produced by the community. Up until the Fabius Creamery Company was formed, life on the farm was different.

Central New York had become the milk shed of New York and Fabius boasted a very large number of dairies, but milk, butter and cheese were generally produced either at the farmstead or at small creameries and sold or bartered locally. In the 1869 Gazetteer, Town of Fabius, there are five cheese makers listed: James Out, Samuel and Arthur Salisbury, Lewis Webster and Rial W. Talbot. By 1875, cheese production in the home decreased significantly because of foreign demand for American-made cheese and the trend to shift cheese making to a central factory. Cheese factories were constructed to produce a uniform cheese in large quantities for their buyers. In 1867, the Cardner Cheese box Factory was constructed to provide boxes for shipping cheese. William H.S. Greene, who operated a saw mill in Summit (Apulia) Station, also began manufacturing the needed wood and paper cheese boxes.

According to the 1880 Agricultural Census of Fabius, there were 282 farmers and 3192 milking cows in the town. In that same year, there were five creameries operating in Fabius which produced "full cream cheese": (1) John Hughes operated his cheese house in the western part of the town of Fabius and near the Tully line, employing 1 person; (2) Lewis H. Webster, utilized the milk of 126 cows at his cheese factory in the west end of Fabius village with his son, Dillis, who was also a cheese maker; (3) Eli S. Howd operated the cheese factory in the present Highland Park, employing 1 and utilizing the milk of 20 cows; (4) Samuel and his son, Arthur W. Salisbury, operated the Salisbury Cheese Factory in Summit Station in 1869, which we believed was taken over by 1880 and operated by H.H. Clark, who employed 2 and utilized the milk of 187 cows; and (5) Myron S. Allen, who operated the cheese factory, employing 3 and utilizing the milk of 500 cows, at the northeast corner of Waters Road and Route 80. The fifth cheese factory of Craw, House & [Noble] Babcock which was commonly known as the Cowles Settlement Cheese Factory was physically located in Fabius, but the census credits it to the town of Cuyler. These cheese factories were opened each year for manufacture in May and closed generally between October and December.

About 1885, Holstein-Friesian dairy cattle were introduced in numbers and formed the principal herds of our region. This was true of the Fabius area, and Hiram A. Hamilton's farm with 43 cows was typical."

Hiram (1823-1886) was the son of early settlers James and Rebecca Hamilton who had relocated from New Hampshire to a farm near Apulia. In 1852, Hiram married Arvilla Whitmarsh (1820-1888), daughter of Job and Arvilla Whitmarsh, and the union produced two children: William Levi, born in 1856 and Lucia Elizabeth, born in 1862. The family resided on the Hamilton Farm of 188 acres on the northwest corner of the intersection of Vincent Corners Road and Route 80 (Vincent Corners, where the schoolhouse was located, originally continued northward from Route 80 and was a "shortcut route to Delphi"). On this farm is where son William was "reared to farm work." He received his education in the common schools of Fabius, Fabius Academy and the Cazenovia Seminary, where he was a graduate of the Commercial course (double-entry bookkeeping and Spencerian penmanship). He then taught school two years, after which he clerked one year in Apulia and four years in Fabius. In 1884, he began working in Syracuse as a bookkeeper for Andrews Brothers grocery which consisted of four stores in



Syracuse and was considered to be one of the most extensive dealers in groceries and general family supplies in Central New York. The Andrews Brothers were James M. and Harlow B. Andrews, natives of Fabius and sons of James F. Andrews, an early settler of Fabius.

On January 8, 1886, Hiram Hamilton died and William was called home to care for the farm and the household, consisting of his mother and sister. Hence the bookkeeper became a dairy farmer with a herd of 40 cows. Though reared to farm work, young "Will" was not too happy with the little social life of Fabius, so he (with violin) and his sister Lucia (who played piano) started playing music at dances. Will met Annie Wheaton at a dance, they were married May 16, 1888, and the new wife moved in with Will's family on the farm. Two months later, on July 28, Will's mother Arvilla died. Two additional years passed when sister Lucia married Frank Moore of Syracuse and left the household.

In 1890, a large creamery was built in Fabius village by John S. Carter of Syracuse.

"At 7:30 on Sunday morning, 1 Dec. 1891, an accident occurred at the Fabius creamery. Charles Palmer was firing up the boiler, located on wheels outside of the building and which furnished steam for running an engine in the creamery. Without warning there was an explosion, which was heard all over the village and for a mile away. The boiler exploded, flying into hundreds of pieces. Some of the debris was forced through Spafford Allen's house, not far from where the boiler stood, tearing out windows, breaking dishes and turning over tables. One large brick was forced through an outside door and the sitting room door, knocking the clock onto the floor and breaking it to pieces. The clock was one that Mr. Allen prized very much. He had owned it for fifty-two years. Mr. Palmer was thrown over a fence, a distance of about thirty feet, and was badly burned. He is not expected to live. Mr. Crozier, who stood with his horse and wagon not far away, was some hurt. The back of the wagon was torn to pieces. The building looked as though a cyclone had struck it. Not a window was left on the side of the building nearest the boiler." (Syracuse Weekly Express, Thursday, 3 Dec. 1891)

Meanwhile, Will, although raised on the farm with the knowledge and appreciation of good farming practices, was looking for an opportunity to apply the business training of his preferred avocation. He had some resources and money from his father's estate to invest and he was waiting for the right opportunity. The opportunity arose in September of 1893, when Will joined with a number of local farmers to take over Carter's Fabius creamery. On the 16th of September, the Fabius Creamery Company was incorporated in Albany to manufacture cheese and butter in the town of Fabius. Thus began the newly incorporated Fabius Creamery Company, a joint stock company which issued shares to owners and/or operators of farms in Fabius. The first directors with the number of shares purchased (at \$25/share) were: Edmund Shea, farmer on whose farm Hiram A. Hamilton held a mortgage (20 shares); Homer H. Gray (16 shares); Rueben Gallinger (14 shares); Henry H. Clark (20 shares); Will L. Hamilton (20 shares); Edward H. Knapp (18 shares); and Frank Gallinger – (John J. Gallinger had 8 shares); and Job Phillips (4 shares) who was to be one of the biggest cattlemen and later president of the company. About 160 shares were sold in 1893. At \$25 each, this provided \$4,000, or half of the authorized capital stock. For the next twenty years, Will Hamilton was a principal stockholder, director and manager of the Fabius Creamery Company. Will had the unusual qualification of being a bookkeeper of experience, with a commercial education.

The chief product of the creamery company at first was cheese. When there was an over-supply of cheese, Will's sons Carl and Milton would peddle cheese through the village with their express carts. Soon after, the Fabius Creamery was principally engaged in making butter and the rate of production was a ton per day. Every day, the local farmers brought milk in cans with special lids which fitted into the top and were pushed down as far as possible to prevent the milk from churning and turning before reaching the creamery. The fresh milk was poured into four separators which were operated by steam turbines, and separated the cream from the skim milk. The cream, with added rennet, was then put into wooden box churns, four feet square and eight feet long, which were turned by steam engine. The liquid was then drawn off and the "unworked" butter was put into a worker machine containing rollers, until it was a solidified mass. It was then packed and stored in second hand wooden tubs which held about sixty pounds and sold wholesale to a retailer.



Butter sold at 16 cents a pound and in June of 1895, butter production averaged 1203 lbs. per day. The sweet butter was sent to Apulia Station by horse and wagon every day, and from there it was shipped by railroad to S.S. Brown and Co. of New York City. The salt butter was sold right in the local area.

A considerable by-product was skim milk, sold back to the farmer for 10 cents per forty quart can. Farmers could use this for their hogs. Some was left and made into pot cheese, but there was always a surplus. In June of 1895, the creamery company purchased a large number of hogs and enclosed them in a pen behind the building, utilizing the skim for their feed.

"On Friday, 16 June 1899, an explosion took place in the Fabius creamery. The boiler was expected to give out for a few days back. There was a large amount of lime collected in the bottom of the boiler, which prevented the water from coming in contact with the inside of the boiler and the heat melted a large hole through the boiler. The explosion fortunately did no damage, and is being rapidly repaired." (The DeRuyter Gleaner, 22 June 1899)

In December of 1900, the state milk inspector boasted that the Fabius creamery was the largest in the state, handling more milk than any other creamery and shipping daily one ton of cheese and one-half ton of butter. The patrons were paid 65 cents per can of milk. The Buffalo Exposition was held the following year and the Fabius Creamery Company entered one tub of butter which was required to be salted and colored. It received 95.5 points out of 100 for Edward Fitzgerald, the Fabius butter maker's product that normally wasn't colored or salted. *"James W. Dexter, a cheese maker of many years' experience, was engaged by the Fabius Creamery Company to work in the creamery for the next year, 1902."*

As manager of the creamery, Will Hamilton had to give the creamery business all his time, so he had to give up the farm and move to Fabius village. He got a Mr. Smith to work the farm on shares and he moved his family of five to the Belden house for the next five years. The Belden house was then located in its original site, where the Civil War monument stands (it was removed down Keeney Rd. about 1900). The Hamilton family homestead, soon after, completely burned.

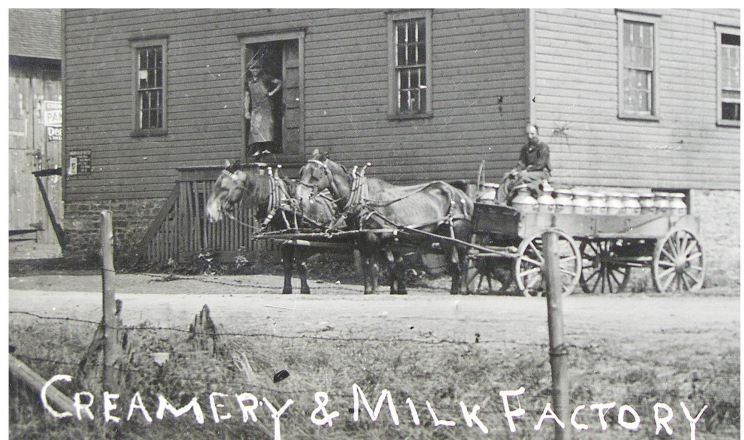
By 1901, Will Hamilton had acquired the Wheaton house (the birthplace of his mother Annie Belle Wheaton), built about 1830 by a Fabius cabinet-maker by the name of Henry Stevens. Henry Steven's daughter Ann married Elmore Wheaton, and their daughter Annie Belle Wheaton married Hiram Hamilton, Will's father. Thus the Stevens home transferred to the Hamilton family through Will's maternal Uncle Charles H. Wheaton, who was residing there before moving to Colorado for his "TB cure."

At one time, some 160 farmers brought their milk to the three creameries of the company in Fabius, Apulia and Pompey Hill. Will kept account of all the milk brought in; a large chart was kept at each creamery on which was recorded the quantity brought in every day by each farmer as well as any skim milk taken or butter bought; and later any feed purchased. Every month Will calculated the amount due each farmer, prepared a statement for him, wrote a check for the amount and mailed it. This was such an ordeal that he worked under pressure until late at night to meet the deadline, the 20th of each month.

Creamery meetings had high priority and were held in the west "ell" of the Hamilton house, through an outside door on the side porch. Meetings were attended by the directors --- men like Ed Knapp, Job Phillips, Ed Rowley, Henry Clark, James Barnard and others. The air was blue with smoke from cigars and pipes; and there was a brass spittoon for the chewers.

The creamery was at the west end of town, and every day a long line of milk wagons converged as local farmers arrived to unload their cans of milk. *"In June of 1902, the Fabius Creamery Co. purchased and added another new 8,000 capacity separator to their plant. In January of 1903, the treasurer of the Fabius Creamery Co. paid its patrons \$8,800 in checks for November milk and complaining of scarcity of milk. Some of the dissatisfied patrons of the Pompey Hill creamery have returned to, and now patronize, the Fabius Creamery Co. They dislike hauling milk so far, but the difference in the price makes it an object for them."* Clarence M. Gallinger was engaged

to work in the creamery, taking the place of J.W. Dexter, who was leaving to manage another cheese factory. It was also during the beginning of the year 1903 that the owners of the Fabius creamery were attempting to sell the factory. A. E. Winlack and a Mr. Adams of Sayre, PA and Mr. Howell of Goshen, NY, were negotiating with the directors of the Creamery Company for the rent or purchase of the Fabius



Creamery, to be made into a condensary. By December, the Fabius Creamery Co. was shipping about 60 cans of sweet milk to NYC daily.

In November of 1904, F.C. Hayford's men of Tully put in a new tin vat at the creamery.

On 15 July 1905 the news of *"The burning of the Fabius creamery Saturday night is a great detriment to the farmers, some from this vicinity having been carrying their milk there"* (The Cortland Standard). *"Yesterday morning about 4 o'clock a messenger from Fabius came down through the Settlement calling the farmers from their slumbers, and informing them the Fabius creamery had burned and they would have to take their milk somewhere besides to Fabius. It can be imagined their morning nap was postponed until some other time."* (The DeRuyter Gleaner).

In September of 1905, *"Fabius Creamery, which burned down six weeks ago has been rebuilt and splendidly equipped..."* (Syracuse Post Standard); *"Most of the farmers commenced to sending their milk to the new Fabius Creamery Sept. 1st"* (The DeRuyter Gleaner).

The original creamery burned 15 July 1905, but was rebuilt in just 6 weeks, and this new structure stands on the south side of Route 80 at the western end of Fabius village. After unloading their milk cans, farmers would load up with cattle feed for their return trip home. A grist mill had operated in Fabius from early in the century on the little stream located in the west end of the village. This stream flowed south from the Johnson saw mill under Route 80, through the swamp to the Tioughnioga. It had a mill race and dam, and utilized water power until the 1880's when a steam engine, and later a gasoline engine, was installed. John F. Powers and Ed Rowley operated the mill at different times. Mr. Powers began working at the Fabius mill as a stationary engine expert, and then formed a relationship with Henry H. Clark, whom he later bought out. He ran the mill until it was purchased by the Fabius Creamery Co. in October of 1907, and E.H. Rowley became operator.

On 3 Feb. 1908, Mr. Skeele was contracted to change the 24' x 36' structure to a "cheese house," at a cost of \$900 for the interior carpentry work, windows and doors, two chimneys and to furnish all the materials. In April of 1908, *"Irving Skeele of Apulia has commenced work on the building that was moved from E.H. Rowley's farm on to the creamery property. It will be made into a dwelling house"* (The DeRuyter Gleaner)



The Apulia Station Creamery was taken over by the Fabius Creamery Co. in April of 1906. Fred Griner continued as manager following this acquisition. Likewise, the shipping of whole milk was also a principal function of the other branch in Pompey Hill, which was the collection center for milk from farms in the area north of Fabius. Much of this milk was carried to Onatavia and shipped on the D. L. & W. Railroad as whole milk. On Sunday, 23 May 1909, The Cold Spring Creamery of Pompey Hill was destroyed by fire. It was built by C.A.

Moore five years prior and had just been purchased by the Fabius Creamery Co. *"Little could be done to stop the fire because of the lack of facilities. Church was just let out when the fire was discovered, and, unmindful of the fact that they were dressed up, all hustled to the spot to lend their aid, but it was of no avail"* (Syracuse Journal). *"A slight east wind is thought to have saved the buildings of R.C. Woodford and others nearby. The butter was all taken away the day before and with hard work the butter and cream from that morning's milk were saved but the engine, machinery, ice and buildings were destroyed by the fire. It was partially insured"* (The DeRuyter Gleaner).

In January of 1912, the price of milk paid to Fabius farmers by the Fabius Creamery Co. was \$1.45 per can; by February, it had dropped to \$1.35 per can; March saw another drop, to \$1.25 per can and by July, \$1.15 per can.

On 22 February 1912, *"Fabius witnessed the worst storm of the season. Trees were broken down, telephone poles and wires went down, one of the large smoke stacks on the National Milk & Sugar Co.'s*

[Fabius Creamery] plant went down and a second was racked out of place, windows were blown in and now we are wishing for spring.” (The DeRuyter Gleaner)

APULIA MILK STATION Wholly Destroyed by Fire – Help Asked From Cortland

On 19 September 1914, *“The milk station at Apulia Station was totally destroyed by fire which broke out at 10:15 o’clock this morning and the coal sheds were badly damaged.*

The fire threatened a considerable amount of Lackawanna property including the depot and rolling stock and Superintendent Cizek at once asked the local Lackawanna men to find out what assistance Cortland could lend, if necessary. Carl Cooper, the operator, got into communication with Chief F. J. Donegan who went at once to the engine house where word was received to wait a while as the fire was thought to be controlled. No further word was received. Cortland would have sent the steamer, a quantity of hose, ladders and a sufficient number of men to man the apparatus, had assistance been requested.

A work train with 20 men who were at Onativia was ordered to Apulia. A fast run was made and the men did effective work.

The creamery was owned by the Fabius Creamery Association and the coal shed by John Dalton, the Apulia agent of the Lackawanna. The fire started in the interior of the creamery.

The milk train had left Apulia a few minutes before the fire was discovered. The train leaving Cortland at 10:45 was held at Apulia about an hour and reached Syracuse at 12:30. (The Cortland Standard)

On 7 December 1914, the Apulia Station branch of the Fabius Creamery Co. was sold to Alexander Campbell Company of Brooklyn, NY. He was to also acquire the creamery businesses in Fabius and Pompey on 1 August 1915. The employees of both plants remained with the new firm. After about a year it was sold to Borden's.



On 7 July 1926 Borden's Farm Products Co. started the first glass-lined tank run from Apulia Station to the Hoboken, NJ terminal of the D L & WRR

Up until World War I, the farmers and creameries prospered. The war, however, brought rising prices and farmers were no longer satisfied with their return on investment. The Dairyman's League, which started in Orange County in 1907, began to gain members in the Fabius area as it campaigned for higher prices. By 1916 it had a membership of sixteen thousand. While milk prices dropped, the League demanded a minimum price effective October 1. Dealers refused and an eleven-day strike resulted in a victory for the striking farmers. A second strike in 1919 caused the

Fabius Creamery Company to go out of business. Many of the creamery directors and stockholders were dairymen themselves and joined "The League."

The end of the Fabius Creamery Company came on 23 December 1923, when the certificate of dissolution was signed by Job Phillips, President, and William L. Hamilton, Secretary-Treasurer. The document was executed before M.G. Shea, Notary Public. *"The Fabius Creamery Company, having been originally organized by the dairymen themselves, had the virtues of a co-operative. The company was close to the farmers, knew them and their needs, and had their interests at heart. As one man testified after my father's death, "We didn't know how well off we were." (Milton Wheaton Hamilton, son of William Levi Hamilton).*