

A Newsletter from the
Fabius Historical Society
P.O. Box 27, Fabius, NY 13063
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President's Message

Hello Everyone!

The Fabius Historical Society is so fortunate to have the use of the Fabius Community Center for its monthly programs. Matthias Berry built the oldest section of the building in 1869. It was the home of the Fabius Free-Will Baptist Church until 1915, when the congregation disbanded. In 1916, local residents organized Fabius Grange No. 1404, and its members paid taxes on the building and made necessary repairs in exchange for its use. The Grange bought the building for \$700 in 1924 and used it until the early 1990s, when the Grange dissolved and offered the building to the village. The Fabius Area Community Center Committee organized in 1996 to explore the possibility of renovating the structure for public use.

A big thank you goes to George Davenport, custodian of the Community Center, and many supporters for a new stained-glass window in the steeple part of the building. It honors Fabius.

This summer the Fabius Historical Society received an unusual donation. Tim Rainbow, a Fabius village resident, donated a headstone which had been in his basement for many years. It is not known if it had been replaced or which cemetery it is from.

The inscription says: Miss Maria A. Moore, dgt. of Josiah Moore, Nov. 5, 1822.

She was only 21 years old when she died. Her father, Josiah Moore, came to Fabius in 1794 from Stockbridge, MA. He built the first frame house in the town of Fabius (located at 1401 Rowley-Jerome Road). The gravestone is now on display at the Pioneer Museum.

Onondaga County has added 2 more signs into Highland Forest to guide people to the Pioneer Museum. The signs can be misleading. They have arrows pointing the route to the museum, but the gate on the path is down. Visitors need to go into the Skyline Lodge office in order to have the gate raised so a car can be driven to the museum. If the main gate is open, then you can drive straight to the museum.

On Saturday, June 2, 2018, we will have an Open House at the Pioneer Museum. We have rented the pavillion near the museum where visitors can enjoy a hot dog and a cookie before or after they browse through our wonderful museum. We will be open from noon to 4pm. (Normal hours are 1-4pm.) The main gate will be open for our visitors on that day. Please join us.

Sandy Beglinger

Program Agenda for 2018

Sat., January 6, 1pm—Chuck Kutscher will give a highly debated presentation on aliens and unidentified flying objects.

Sat., February 3, 1pm—A member of the Barbland Farms will tell us about the history and life on the Fabius farm.

Sat., March 3, 1pm—Local author Cheryl Pula will speak on her topic titled "Lady Liberty: The Story of the Statue of Liberty".

Mon., April 2, 7pm—Skaneateles resident Ron Beavers will discuss the railroad industry during the 1800's.

Mon., May 7, 7pm—Dick Woodworth will give his presentation titled "Tribute To Our First Ladies".

Mon., June 4, 7pm—The Fabius Historical Society will have an interactive discussion on past Fabius stores.

Mon., July 2, 7pm—Milton Sernett will discuss his book titled "Harriet Tubman: Myth, Memory, and History".

Mon., August 6, 7pm—Frank Stritter will give a presentation on Aviation Pioneer and Army General Jimmy Doolittle.

Mon., September 10, 7pm—The Fabius Historical Society will have a presentation on the Fabius Grange.

Mon., October 1, 7pm—

Mon., November 5, 7pm—The Town of Sullivan Historian Mike Beardsley will present "Underground Novelties—A Humorous History of the American Casket"

Mon., December 3, 6pm—Our annual pot-luck supper starts at 6pm. Please bring a dish of food to share and your own table setting. For entertainment we will have Dennis McGuire sing songs from the 60's while he plays his guitar.

Saturday, June 2, noon-4pm: Open House at the Pioneer Museum

The following is a written portion of the information on the Rowley families that I presented in November. Whether you were able to attend the program or couldn't, I thought you might like to have it for a review.

Daniel Rowley (1763-1849)

The first Rowley to come to Fabius was Daniel Rowley. He was born in Amenia, NY. His ancestors had come from England. He was the 6th Daniel in the Rowley family. He was blinded by smallpox at the age of 10, but that didn't stop him from being ambitious. His sight may have been limited but not completely gone.

Daniel served in the Revolutionary War from May 25, 1775, to October 2nd of that same year. He served in Capt. Hezekiah Baldwin's Company in the 2nd Regiment of the New York Forces, under the command of Colonel Goose Van Schaick. He would only have been 12 years old.

When Daniel grew up, he married Sarah Beckwith in 1796. They had 7 boys and 1 girl. One boy was named Daniel to follow the tradition.

Daniel was quite a business man. He was a peddler of shoes, harnesses, saddles, and other leather goods. He would make trips from Albany to central New York, exchanging his leather goods for livestock, which he drove back to Albany. His sons made the trips with him and supplied the eyesight for their father.

In the year 1818 "Blind Daniel" and his wife, Sarah, moved to the Fabius area with some of their children. By this time some of the older children were adults and didn't live with their parents anymore.

Daniel had bought a tract of land southwest of the village of Fabius at Cleveland Corners, near the area now know as Shackham. Shackham received its name from the fact that 200 or more acres in that area had never been deeded to anyone. There were at least 30 squatters who had taken possession of the land and built crude shacks there.

Daniel Rowley's tract of land included this settlement. He didn't want trouble with the squatters so he sold his title to this portion of his estate to them at a small price.

Daniel and his sons made a living by trading, breeding and breaking oxen to yoke.

Daniel also preached at the Freewill Baptist Church. The church was built in 1830 on Hemlock Knoll, just west of the crossroads known as Cleveland Corners. This would be in the area of Rt. 80 and Bailey Road. It was later moved into the village of Fabius and became the Grange Hall.

Blind Daniel died in 1849 at the age of 85. He was buried in the Apulia Cemetery.

Newell Rowley (1814-1897)

Newell arrived with his father, Blind Daniel, in 1818, at the age of 4.

In the records he is listed as a principal farmer in the town of Fabius in 1868, owning 750 acres on lot #44. He was a sizable dairy farmer with 75-200 cows.

The property is the current home of Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann on Bailey Road. The stone house was built between 1830 to 1832 and was the home of author Stillman Doubleday.

In 1877 Newell was elected the Fabius township supervisor.

Orson Rowley (1840-1930)

Orson was the grandson of Blind Daniel and the son of Samuel.

Orson was a Civil War veteran. He was 21 years old when he enlisted in 1861. He served in the G Company 61st Infantry in New York. He was wounded 3 times, then discharged in 1865.

In 1917 Orson and his wife Cornelia were listed as farmers on Rural Route 1 in Fabius. On the 1889 map it shows that an O. Rowley and an O. S. Rowley lived on Swift Road just north of Dennison Road.

In 1930 he was listed as the oldest man in Fabius at the age of 88.

In 1917, Orson's son, Giles O. Rowley, was listed as a farmer in Fabius.

Cassius Rowley (1844-1863)

Cassius was the fourth child of Newell Rowley.

In 1861 he enlisted as a Private in the 61st NY Infantry, Company G. He fought over 20 battles. The last battle he fought was the Battle at Snicker's Ford, VA, on November 6, 1862. He was discharged with a disability from being wounded and held prisoner of the war.

The only Civil War military funeral held at Fabius was that of Cassius Rowley, one of the first to enlist. Every resident of the town attended the funeral and a band headed the ceremonial procession.

Hiram Rowley (1309 Rowley-Jerome Road)

Hiram was a grandson of Blind Daniel; born in 1838 in Fabius.

As a young man he was in the dairy business in Truxton, NY. In the 1870's he returned to Fabius where he farmed. He is listed on the 1874 map.

About 1925, H. Duane Skeele bought the farm. There was a cow barn across the road from the house. In 1933 Mr. Skeele built a new large barn behind the house.

Anson Rowley (1401 Rowley-Jerome Road)

This house is the first frame house in Fabius. It was built by Josiah Moore shortly after 1794.

Anson Rowley, born in 1840, was a grandson to Blind Daniel. Anson and his wife owned the farm when their son, Bernard, was born in 1884. When Bernard grew up, he took over the farm from his father to be a dairy farmer until 1926. He moved to Apulia Station and leased the farm to his cousin, H. Duane Skeele, who later bought it.

Bernard also was a member of the Board of Assessors of the Town of Fabius; supervisor of Fabius from 1933-1945; and treasurer of the Apulia Methodist Church.

During his term of office as supervisor he was faced with many difficult problems owing to the depression years. He accomplished a great deal for the community in settling problems relating to welfare and relief programs.

He was living on South Street in Apulia Station in 1964 when he died at the age of 80.

Byer Rowley (1879-1935) (cousin to Bernard Rowley)

Byer and his wife, Myrtle, in 1917, had a farm in Shackham which was called the Maple Spring Farm. It later became a saw mill.

Byer and Myrtle moved with their 5 school-age children to Estey Road which is near Pompey Center Road.

Byer was working on a job with the Onondaga County Highway Department on July 20, 1935. The crew was working on Eager Road, south of Jamesville, when a thunderstorm arrived. Byer stood under a tree for protection against the rain, leaning on a steel-pointed shovel, when he was struck and killed by lightning. He was 56.

Franklin Benjamin Rowley (1847-1930)

Franklin's father was Samuel and his grandfather was Blind Daniel. Between 1870 and 1900, Franklin farmed lot #22 in Fabius.

Anna Rowley (1874-1957) (granddaughter of Blind Daniel)

She married Irving Duane Skeele and had a son named Herbert Duane Skeele.

Maude Rowley (1883-1965) (great-granddaughter to Blind Daniel)

Maude married Walter Knapp. They were farmers on Rt. 91, north of Fabius.

Edward H. Rowley (1873-1946)

Edward was a great-grandson of Blind Daniel. He was born in the house east of the former Baptist Church which we know today as the Fabius Christian Church. When he was very young, the family moved to the farm of his grandfather, Newell Rowley, which was on Bailey Road.

About 1901 Edward moved to the village and was one of the group of men who contributed much to the business enterprises of the community. He bought the canning factory in 1916 and operated it until 1924.

Following the death of his mother in 1913, Edward bought the family home at 7778 Academy Street.

When the Central School was built in 1930, Edward was appointed Clerk of Works by the architect Earl Hollenbeck. Then Edward was the Clerk of the Board of Education. He also served several terms as village president.

Edward continued to supervise the farm until his death in 1946. The farm remained in the family until 1956.

Fabius Canning Factory

In 1900 the Fabius Canning Factory was incorporated with a capital stock of \$9,000. The canning factory was a market for peas and corn raised by farmers in the vicinity. It passed from the hands of the local corporation to Mr. J. P. Dorrance, who later sold it to Mr. Edward Rowley. "Rowley Peas" gained a wide reputation for excellence. Beans were also canned. The business prospered for a number of years, but closed about 1924.