

A Newsletter from the
Fabius Historical Society
P.O. Box 27, Fabius, NY 13063
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Program Agenda for 2019

- Sat., January 5, 1pm—Anne Shelly and Ruth Hotaling from the Pompey Historical Society will discuss the mystery about the Covill child.
- Sat., February 2, 1pm—Ed and Margie West will present a program titled "History Embedded in Quilts".
- Sat., March 2, 1pm—Michele Henry's program is about a woman who worked on the Erie Canal.
- Mon., April 1, 7pm—Greg Tripoli (from Onondaga Historical Association) will present a program on "Service, Sacrifice, and Support" during WWI
- Mon., May 6, 7pm—Milton Sernett will discuss his book titled Harriet Tubman: Myth, Memory, and History.
- Mon., June 3, 7pm—Mary Ann Luchsinger will discuss her book titled Legacy of an Immigrant Farmer.
- Mon., July 1, 7pm—Joelle Conant will discuss the research she did on her relatives, one being her grandmother Elsie Dennison Harrison from Fabius.
- Mon., August 5, 7pm—John Taibi: "A Soldier's Journey Through The Heart Of The Park"
- Mon., September 9, 7pm—
- Mon., October 7, 7pm—
- Mon., November 4, 7pm—Robert Searing (Onondaga Historical Association)—Syracuse's aviation history: history of airports testing planes during WWII
- Mon., December 2, 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 Eileen and Shirley playing music and singing.

THE FABIOUS EVERGREEN CEMETERY

The ground where the cemetery now lies was a field of wheat when the cemetery association was organized in 1864. The original tract contained six acres. Several shade and ornamental trees were planted in regards to the name of the cemetery. In 1885 the cemetery was enlarged by the addition of five and one-half acres. This addition was mapped into burial lots in 1895.

The Fabius Cemetery enjoys one distinction which has been accorded to no other cemetery in the United States. A box of earth, taken from the graves of World War veterans buried there, was scattered over the graves of their comrades in France by the American Legion Bugle Band of Oneida when the members of the band made their post-war trip to France.

The cemetery contains the remains of many of the former leaders of the community, and today is outstanding for its neat and attractive appearance.

(This information is from the booklet titled Fabius in History.)

Charles F. Shea was a former cemetery board member. He was a good friend of Barbara S. Rivette (Manlius historian). He told her about 3 items that were stored in the cemetery's small building. Barbara has fulfilled her promise to Charlie by having the 3 documents archivally cleaned, repaired and reframed.

The items are:

- (1) the original 1864 map of the cemetery designed by J. E. Pettit and drawn by J. A. Covil
- (2) the 1895 plot plan for the cemetery's extension
- (3) a portrait of Jonathan Edmund Pettit, age 60 (digital copy)

The original glass in both frames of the maps has been replaced by ultraviolet absorbing plexiglass.

The original crayon portrait of Mr. Pettit was found to be deeply discolored, brittle and dirty. The original has been scanned and digitally enhanced to reduce the stains and filling in the tears and missing spaces.

These 3 framed items will be hung in the front lobby of the Fabius Community Center in early 2019.

A HUGE thank you goes to Barbara Rivette for completing her promise to Charlie Shea, a devoted person to Fabius history.

In the summer/fall 2017 newsletter there was an article about Archer Corbin Bush who was born in Fabius. The author of that article has now written a new article which is included in this newsletter.

Notes on the life of:

CONRAD BUSH

by his great, great grandson: Archer Corbin Bush, Jr.

A soldier of the Revolutionary War, Conrad Bush, lived in the Fabius/Pompey area for more than 50 years.

He was born Georg Conrardt Busch on October 29, 1757, in Mettenheim, a town in what is now the state of Rheinland-Pfalz in the Federal Republic of Germany. His parents were Johannes and Eva Maria Knobloch Busch. They had their infant son baptized on November 1 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mettenheim. The baby's maternal great grandfather, Georg Conrardt Knobloch, was godfather.

The boy's father died in 1761. About two years later his mother remarried. During the summer of 1775, young Georg left home for America. After delays in Holland and England he arrived in Philadelphia on the ship "King of Prussia", (William Pitts, Master), in early October, 1775.

Georg Conrardt Busch's name was third on a list of "foreigners" who had arrived on the ship and who registered at the Philadelphia Courthouse on October 9, 1775. That was three weeks before his 18th birthday.

Momentous events were unfolding in America. The Second Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia and, most likely, the young immigrant walked by the building we now know as Independence Hall where debate was underway on whether to declare independence. In New England, battles with British forces had already taken place in Lexington/Concord and at Bunker Hill. In June, Congress had authorized establishment of the Continental Army and named George Washington Commander in Chief.

Records in the National Archives in Washington show that on July 24, 1776, Conrad Bush enlisted in "a company of riflemen belonging to Captain Abraham Shepard." His pay was "six and two-thirds dollars" per month. His term of enlistment was unstated but on March 14, 1777, he enlisted again, this time in Captain John Doughty's Company in Colonel John Lamb's Second (New York) Artillery Regiment. He initially enlisted for two months, then reenlisted for the duration of the war.

Payroll and muster reports in the National Archives have varied spellings of Conrad's names. In one case his last name is spelled "Boosh", which is probably what his name sounded like when he spoke it, a reflection of his German accent. Eventually, he simplified and Anglicized his name to Conrad Bush.

By September, 1777, Conrad's pay had gone up to "eight and one-third dollars" per month and he had been promoted from private to matross. (A matross was a soldier in an Eighteenth Century artillery unit who assisted the gunners in loading, firing and sponging the guns.)

Conrad was in Valley Forge, PA, during the bitter winter of 1776/1777. The Army crossed the Delaware River on Christmas night to surprise and capture the Hessian mercenaries defending Trenton, NJ. Conrad told his grandchildren that the soldiers on his boat had to use their swords to push blocks of ice away as they crossed the river.

In his later years, Conrad described General George Washington as "a tall, finely formed, dignified man with a noble air."

Records show that Conrad was back in Valley Forge in April, 1778, in White Plains, NY, in August of that year, at an artillery park near Morristown, NJ, in 1780 and at West Point, NY, in parts of 1782 and 1783. He was discharged from the Continental Army on June 9, 1783. (The British commander, Lord Cornwallis, had surrendered in October, 1781. The peace treaty was concluded in September, 1783.

In 1782, the New York State Legislature established "military tracts" of land to provide bounties for veterans who had served in New York units. On July 9, 1790, Conrad Bush drew Lot 47 in Township #10 (later Pompey), Onondaga County, as his bounty land. The deed to the land was signed by Governor George Clinton and dated July 11, 1791.

Conrad was the only man to settle on his bounty land in Pompey. He did not move there, however, until 1800. By then he had a wife and a growing family.

In 1784 Conrad married Mary Watson who was then 16 or 17 years old. Their children were born between 1785 and 1809. The first Federal Census in 1790 lists "George Coonradt Bush" as head of family in Mamakatin, Ulster County, New York.

Conrad built a home on his bounty land in 1800 and lived there more than 50 years. He farmed the land and, according to family members, was also a "traveling merchant" to the state's "frontier counties".

At the age of 71, Conrad applied for and was granted a veteran's pension. His \$18 per month continued the rest of his life.

Roy Dodge, in his book CROSSROADS TOWN, reports that in the 1840s when the local militia gathered in Pompey Hill Green for its annual training day, the old soldier would be called on to fire a cannon "and did so in a most able manner".

Conrad and Mary had more than 60 grandchildren. One of them, Morris Bush, told a newsman in 1902 that his grandfather was blind during the last years of his life but kept his hearing and his intellect until he died.

In his will Conrad declared his wish to have his body buried on his bounty land "on the sand knoll west of the barn on the farm where I live". The inscription on the monument at his grave states, incorrectly, that he died at the age of 101 years. Evidently, Conrad had either forgotten the year of his birth or had a reason at some point to tell people he was four years older than he really was. He was, in fact, 97 when he died on December 19, 1854.

Conrad's gravesite monument is in open country about one-half mile off Bush Road in Pompey. When this writer and his wife went searching for the monument one autumn about 16 years ago, we got lost in a field of tall grasses and wildflowers. We never found the monument, but we will always remember the beautiful environment.

by Archer Corbin Bush, Jr.