

# Fabius, LaFayette and Tully

as described in Joshua V.H. Clark, A.M.

in excerpts from "*Onondaga; or Reminiscences or earlier and Later Times.*"

written in 1849

**Fabius** — This town was taken from Pompey in 1798 and included two military townships, viz; Fabius and Tully, and included all the present towns of Fabius, Tully, Truxton and Preble, with parts of Spafford and Otisco, being ten by twenty miles in extent.

In 1803, Tully was taken back from it, and erected into a town by itself. In 1808, when the county of Cortland was set off from Onondaga, the town of Truxton was taken from the southern part of Fabius.

The first settlers in this town were Mr. Josiah Moore and Timothy Jerome, who settled here in 1794 and were from old Stockbridge, Massachusetts. They erected the first log houses in town, and for the first year were entirely alone.

**LaFayette** — This town was organized in April 1824, and was taken from the towns of Pompey and Onondaga. It was named after the Marquis De La Fayette.

That portion of LaFayette, taken from Onondaga, was purchased by the State, of the Onondaga Indians, in 1817, and in 1822 was sold to the white settlers. There are now, within the bounds of the town, six thousand, four hundred acres of land, belonging to the Indians, not taxable. The town contains twenty-eight thousand, two hundred acres. It has an elevated ridge running north and south, nearly through the center, with a valley on the east and on the west, extending its whole length. The former is called Sherman Hollow, after James Sherman, and the latter Christian Hollow, after Michael Christian, who was a Revolutionary soldier, and drew lot number eighteen, township of Tully, and was one of the few who enjoyed the fruits of their suffering and toil, by taking possession of the land for which they served. It is scarcely possible to find more beautiful scenery, than is presented to the view, by looking down upon this hollow, from the high ground along the road leading from Tully to LaFayette. The distance is just sufficient to obscure imperfections, while its contiguity is such, that its peculiar beauties strike the beholder with the fullness of its grandeur.

Some of the first settlers and original inhabitants of this town are as follows: John Wilcox, who lived a little east of the Indian orchard, on "Haskins' Hill," was the first white settler in town, came here in 1791, and located on lot number thirteen.

**Tully** — This was one of the original townships of the Military Tract. In the first organization of towns, it was included in the town of Pompey. In 1803, the township of Tully was set off in a town by itself, and in 1808, when the county of Cortland was erected, the towns of Truxton and Preble were taken from the southern portions of Fabius and Tully. A portion of the township was afterwards still further divided in 1811, by adding a part to the town of Spafford, so that at the present time the town is but about five miles square.

Settlements were commenced in this town in 1795, by farmers principally from the New England States, who hold their land in fee simple. The first settler in this town was David Owen, who came here in 1795. Directly after, came James Cravath, William Trowbridge, and others. The first log house in town was built by David Owen, in 1795, and Timothy Walker built the first frame house, in 1797, and Moses Nash the second, both in Tully Village. Peter Henderson was the first child born in town, 1796.