

Howard Edward Babcock - 1889 - 1950

Teacher of Agriculture at Albion High School During the School Year, 1911 – 12

After graduating from Syracuse University in 1911, with a major in Botany, H.E. Babcock, widely known among his friends as either H.E. or Ed., applied for the teaching position being offered at Albion High School to provide instruction in a new course in agriculture that had been approved by the New York State Education Department. The Albion School District was the first one in New York State to offer the course of study. Babcock was selected for the job, with the provision that he would attend the summer session at Cornell University and take some courses in agriculture, including one in Feeds and Feeding. The salary offered at Albion was \$800 for the year.

During his one year of employment at Albion, he also coached the track team, which won the sectional competition at Buffalo. He met Hilda Wahl Butler, a 1906 graduate of Albion High School, who had received her education at Elmira State Teachers College, then returned to teach at the Albion School. They were married a couple of years later.

Leaving Albion after the one year, Babcock taught science for another year at Elmira. He then worked as a County Agent in the newly created Extension Service. Becoming noticed for his abilities and leadership qualities, he was tapped to served as a County Agent State Leader, working out of Cornell, to assist counties in getting their Extension Services set up properly. He served as Marketing Professor at Cornell for a brief time and then was tapped to manage the new and struggling Grange League Federation Exchange, GLF, from 1922 until 1936. Under his careful and expert management, GLF became a much needed and thriving Farm Cooperative that served farmers in the Northeast well for several decades. GLF was one of the two parent farm cooperatives from which Agway was formed in 1964.

In 1933, Babcock was elected to the Cornell University Board of Trustees, where he served as Chairman from 1940 – 47.

However, his career began right here in the Albion School System during the fall of 1911.



H. Edward Babcock, General Manager, *GLF*
July, 1922, to February, 1937.

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND F.F.A. AT ALBION HIGH SCHOOL 1948-52

STEWART NEW – VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHER

Students enrolled in the Vo-Ag program, who wanted to earn a regents diploma and meet full college entrance requirements, generally completed the following courses of study:

FIRST YEAR

	Credits
Agriculture 1	1
English 1	1
Ninth Year Science	1
Social Studies 9	1
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	4

SECOND YEAR

	Credits
Agriculture 2	2
English 2	1
World History	1
Health	1
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	5

THIRD YEAR

	Credits
Agriculture 3	2
English 3	1
American History	1
Elementary Algebra	1
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	5

FOURTH YEAR

	Credits
Agriculture 4	2
Problems of Am. Democracy	1/2
English 4	1
Physics	1
Plane Geometry	1
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	5 1/2

Students, who planned on going to Cornell, were advised to take physics instead of plane geometry if the course load the fourth year seemed too heavy. Those students, who did not plan on attending College, could substitute with other electives in place of the math or physics courses.

Ag 3 and 4 classes were combined into the same two periods. Over the two-year period all students would receive the complete instruction offered in those classes. Ag 1 consisted of a single period class, while Ag 2 occupied two periods. In that manner Mr. New taught classes five periods each day, was in charge of a study hall for one period and had one free period during the seven-period schedule.

The students in those classes were all male, with many of them coming from farm families. Many were actively engaged in farm activities on their parents' farms. A few students did not come from farms, but all of them resided in rural areas and were somewhat familiar with agriculture and farming.

The Vo-Ag course of study was designed to provide instruction in production agriculture. Ag 1 students did initially receive training in parliamentary procedure and how to

properly conduct a meeting, instruction that did not seem to be available anywhere else in the educational system. Green hand members had to meet certain requirements before being accepted into the F.F.A. as full fledged members. At that time the organization was known as The Future Farmers of America.

During the course of the four years students were enrolled in the program, they received instruction in vegetable, grain, dairy, livestock, hog, poultry and fruit enterprises, all of which were found on Orleans County farms. The units of instruction, then referred to as "Jobs", were taught in a detailed manner with whatever time was needed to insure that students gained an understanding of the material being presented. Rates of seeding, fertilizer rates, cultural practices, formulation of balanced rations for livestock, hogs, poultry and dairy animals, were all a part of the instruction received by students. Time was spent in the classroom gaining an understanding of what was involved in judging dairy cattle and culling a poultry flock for production purposes. Field trips were taken to dairy farms to actually judge classes of cattle at barn meetings around the County organized by Cooperative Extension. Field trips to implement dealers allowed students to learn how to properly calibrate corn planters and grain drills for correct seeding rates. An understanding of closed and open formula feeds was gained, as students, with the use of feeding tables, actually formulated balanced rations. A field trip to a feed dealer was utilized to learn how the ingredients were adjusted or at least reviewed each Monday based on cost changes that may have taken place over the previous week with regard to ingredients used in the feeds.

As a part of their training, each student was expected to be responsible for carrying on a project of their own, which could consist of a small enterprise in the crop or animal area of agriculture. It became known a few years later as a Supervised Farming Program. In addition to looking after the daily needs of the project, students were also expected to keep financial records of receipts and expenses and, ultimately, determine the financial outcome of the enterprise. In some instances when students needed extra cash to finance their projects, arrangements were made by Mr. New for them to meet with a farm loan representative at a local bank to set up small short-term loans with a repayment schedule designed to meet their needs along with opening checking accounts for paying the bills. These activities enhanced a participating student's education with regard to the business side of farming.

During field trips to cooperating fruit growers' orchards in the fall, several varieties of apples were picked by students and carefully placed on newspapers under the trees in order that the apples received full color. Students then made daily trips to those orchards to turn the apples until they did develop a uniform color. They were then placed in cold storage until exhibits utilizing the best of them were displayed in competitive classes and judged at the "Fruit Show" in Rochester during January.

Shop work that was much simpler then, involved rebuilding lawn mower engines, spray painting tractors, and building truck racks along with other projects. Testing milk for

butterfat was also done in the shop, as that was an important concern to the many dairy farmers in the area at that time. The Dairy Herd Improvement Association was gaining importance among dairyman in the region. The current milk testers had been former Vo-Ag students. Students received instruction on the importance of keeping good production records on individual cows in the herd.

In addition to his regular daytime teaching duties, Mr. New also taught a Veteran's class one night a week during at least part of the school year. That program was possibly another part of the G.I. Bill that offered some formal training to World War II veterans who, as young men, were now engaged in beginning careers as farmers. In years to come there were several of them from that generation that became quite successful in their profession. Frequently, on the following morning, Mr. New would discuss important items touched on during the Veteran's class that would be of value in classroom training.

During the Ag 4 year of instruction students received detailed exposure to many aspects of farm business management. Each one received both a Cornell Farm Inventory and Cornell Cash Account Book. Instruction was given on how to utilize those books. Students then used them to keep records on their home farm business, if they came from a farm or by posting information from a hypothetical classroom farm if an actual farm business was not available. Students received exposure to the concepts of assets and liabilities, net worth and the importance of calculating interest on the invested dollars as a charge against net farm income. Time was spent discussing the differences between short and long term loans and the concept of amortization; how it worked and its importance in creating even loan repayments that could make repayment easier during the early years of the loan. During the instruction dealing with farm finance, one statement made by Mr. New in relation to long-term debt and long remembered was, "Most farms are paid for, once in principal and once in interest".

At the end of the fourth year, Ag 4 students took a New York State Regents exam designed to test the knowledge they had acquired during the four years of comprehensive agricultural instruction.

Field trips to farms to observe what was going on in the field, in relation to what was being studied at the time, were frequent and many times taken on short notice. Except for all day trips, apparently there was no need to clear any of them with the main office. If there was need to make a trip and there were enough students in class, who had cars available to transport the class members along with the use of Mr. New's automobile, the class just filed out of the door and were on their way.

Owning a farm, where he utilized a hired man, and also worked on it himself on nights and weekends, Mr. New used the farm as a teaching tool on many occasions when the experiences on it, good or bad, could be of benefit to the education of his students.

A Father and Son Banquet was held in the high school cafeteria in late winter or early spring of each year. Students were responsible for arranging with outside cooks to prepare and serve the meal at those facilities, as well as planning out the list of guests to be invited. With the assistance of their advisor, Mr. New, students also had the responsibility for obtaining a suitable speaker for that special evening.

During the four years, several students received Empire Farmer Degrees and one student won the public speaking contest at the State F.F.A. Convention. Students felt honored to have received recognition for their achievements. They did not expect, nor receive in most instances, prize money for their accomplishments.

Money raising activities involved selling 100 Christmas trees during one year that returned 50 cents profit per tree and hosting an occasional Donkey Basketball game. An additional opportunity to earn some money became available when personnel from Cooperative Extension, then known as the Farm Bureau, contacted Mr. New with a request for assistance from the Albion Chapter of F.F.A. to take charge of organizing the parking, for the first time, at the 4-H Fair. The Fair, now in its 5th year, was growing and disorganized parking was thought to be at the point of becoming a problem. At a time when life was so much slower than at present, with few extra activities, the class members welcomed the diversion. It was an opportunity to get away from their farms and other work responsibilities, spend some time over a couple of days participating in and observing some exciting events at the fair, while sharing in the enjoyment of working with classmates parking cars. They were able to boost their Chapter treasury with the 10 cents per car they received for their work. The Albion High School Chapter of F.F.A. took charge of that activity for several years.

Part of the money earned during the year was spent on a one-day visit to the Crystal Beach, Canada Amusement Park, at the end of each school year. A school bus was furnished to transport the Chapter members to Buffalo. They then boarded the ferry-boat at Buffalo and traveled across Lake Erie to Crystal Beach. At a time when events of that nature were infrequent, the boat ride as well as the day at the park provided a treat enjoyed by Mr. New and his students.

In summary, a great deal of instruction in production agriculture was received during those four years with many pleasant times remembered as students in association with one another studied and learned together. However, in keeping with the long term trend of declining numbers entering farming, even though a majority of the students had a farm background, few of them pursued farming as a career and some, who did begin farming, eventually left to devote their time to other fields of endeavor. – John Long – '52

A LIST OF VO-AG TEACHERS AND THEIR TENURE AT THE ALBION SCHOOL
COMPILED FROM INFORMATION FOUND IN THE VARIOUS YEARBOOKS.

Mr. H. Edward Babcock – 1911 – 1912 – The first year of the Chevron publication,
which included the first Agriculture Class report on activities.

Mr. Doyle – 1913 - 1918 or '19*

Mr. Leon Stephens – 1919 or '20 – 1925*

Mr. Leon Packer – 1926 - 1930.

Mr. Kenneth Martin – 1931 – 1937

Mr. William Sherman – 1938 until early in the 1944 – '45 school year**

Mr. Stewart New – 1945 – 1959***

Mr. Hugh Dudley – 1960 – 1966

Mr. Frank Van Apeldoorn – 1967 – 1989

Miss Darcy Demmins – 1990 - 1991

Mr. Lynn Van Tassell – 1992 – 1994

Mr. Jeffery Parnapy – 1995 – 2000

Mr. Adam Krenning – 2001 – To present time

* It is unclear from a search in the Chevrons which teacher was in charge during 1919.

** William Sherman left the Albion School during the fall term of 1944 to accept a
position as Secretary of the New York State Cannery Association. Stewart New
became his replacement.

*** Stewart New taught for a few days during the fall term of 1959 before taking a
medical leave. He was unable to return to his teaching duties. Hugh Dudley began
his teaching duties during the beginning of the fall term, 1959.

COMMENTS FROM TWO STUDENTS IN THE AGRICULTURE CLASS AT ALBION HIGH SCHOOL – 1928 – AS REPORTED IN THE DECEMBER EDITION OF THE YEAR BOOK RATHER THAN THE “GRADUATION NUMBER” THAT WAS COMPLETED FOR DISTRIBUTION AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

AG 111 CLASS – EMORY WOODRUFF, CLASS OF '28 - REPORTING

There are 7 members in the class. The 3rd year class of Agriculture is devoted mostly to fruit with some shop work. At the beginning of the school term we took up the study of apples. We studied apple varieties, disease and insects, and methods of control. This was supplemented with several field trips to orchards where we had actual experience in looking for insect pests and observing the results of various methods of insect control. We also saw many of the varieties of apples grown in Orleans County. Next we studied a survey of the apple industry in the United States and Canada and the marketing of apples. We made several trips to local packing houses to study grading and packing methods.

The Young Farmers Club decided to buy some apples and potatoes, regrade and repack them to conform to standards and sell them to customers in town. The third year Agriculture class cooperated with the club in this enterprise. We constructed a grader in the school shop and did the grading and packing of the apples.

At the present time we are working in the school shop, constructing various things for the class or for our own use on our home farms.

We find the work in Agriculture very interesting and instructive, with enough variation to prevent it from becoming monotonous.

AG 1V CLASS – PAUL CRANDALL, CLASS OF '29 – REPORTING

This year the work of Agriculture 1V consists of running lines of level, farm drainage, concrete work, how to keep accounts on a farm, farm management, and some mechanical work. We have already started running lines of level, farm drainage, concrete work and keeping accounts on a farm.

The first thing we studied was methods of running lines of level and farm drainage, which come together. The purpose of running lines of level is to find out the elevation of the ground to be drained and how much slope there is. When we have seen a lines of level and have added up, if we have an error of .02 feet, we cannot go on until the error is corrected. We next figure out the size of tile and how many. We also made a graph of our work.

We next studied concrete work. In our concrete work we constructed a base for the steps at the school shop.

We are now studying a complete set of farm accounts, which is indoor work. Mr Packer gives us a complete set of accounts for experience, he says. There are about a thousand different items that we have to set down in the right columns and add up to see if a certain farm is paying.

The work the rest of the year will consist of studying the art of drawing maps of different farms, farm management and some work on machinery.

Agriculture is a very good study because it gives one kinds of work that one could not get in any other study. We have some mathematics, drainage, business methods and farm law.

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AS REPORTED
IN VARIOUS ALBION HIGH SCHOOL YEAR BOOKS – 1912 - 2009

1912 – Mr. H. Edward Babcock – Teacher - The main idea in putting in the Agriculture course was to accommodate the students, who came in the fall and left in the spring in order to help with the heavier farm work. Because we are situated in a fruit growing region, fruit growing was the first subject introduced. The life history of the apple tree, locust, spraying, grafting and fertilization were all taken up in turn. The class listened to many interesting lectures and demonstrations by men sent out by the State and by men from the Geneva Experimental Station. The next semester the class studied forage crops and poultry raising.

Chase Brothers Nursery of Rochester provided 18 varieties of apple nursery stock, which were pruned by the class and then given to different members of the class to take home and set out. Manufacturers of the "Friend Spraying Engine" gave us the free use of complete gasoline spraying equipment. When the class came to study how to pack apples, The Montgomery Company of Buffalo sent fifteen packing boxes with their compliments.

With all of this it is small wonder that we have been so successful in this line of work. This year we have broadened out and are now studying the course as outlined by the State Department of Education.

1915 – Mr. Doyle – Teacher - This year the Vocational Agriculture course in the high school, with the direction of Mr. Doyle, has been brought up to a very high standard and is now considered one of the best in the State.

There are two classes; one in Field Crops and one in Fruit Growing. The Field Crops class takes up the study of various cereals and forage crops. This includes the life history, of insects and diseases and the treatment and control of pests and blight. Many other details of Field Crops too numerous to mention, are also studied.

The Fruit Growing class studies the history of fruits, the different varieties, their characteristics and the methods of control of insects, pests and disease. How new varieties are produced, is also taken up, as well as the packing, handling and storing of fruit.

With these two courses in our school and a competent man as instructor, there is no reason why the Vocational Agriculture course should not be very profitable to those who care to take up the work.

1920 – Mr. Leon Stephens – Teacher - Much has been said of the success of Albion High School in athletics, of its school spirit, of the high character of its students and of the unusually large percentage who enter college; but there is another respect in which Albion stands among the foremost schools in the State. That Wesley Childs was the fourteenth boy in New York State to receive an Agricultural diploma is a fact known to many, but we repeat the statement because we realize that in having an Agricultural course in its curriculum, Albion High School has shown a progressive spirit of which we can be justly proud.

It is not exaggerated to say there is no course, which is more practical or more interesting to the students, who take it than is this. Just a visit to the agriculture room,

with its various exhibits as an education, yet that shows only a little of the work that is covered by the course. Every branch of farm work is touched upon in a simple practical way. The students are not merely taught theories, but have a chance to carry out these theories in active work with their hands. To those interested to make farming their occupation after leaving school, the course is invaluable, but no one could take the course without finding it of benefit, no matter what his future may be.

Albion is fortunate too, in having such a man as Mr. Stephens for instructor in this department. Not only is he well grounded in his knowledge of the subject, but he is an enthusiastic teacher.

1925 – Mr. Leon Stephens – Advisor - The Orleans County Farmers' Club – Mr. Stephens, our Agriculture teacher, organized a young farmers' club in which all farm boys who are members of the Junior Project course, regular course or have an interest in farming can become members. Like all clubs, there are dues and qualifications.

The club is divided into three units; Albion, Medina and Holley. The first meeting was held in Albion a month ago for the purpose of getting started and gaining membership. The attempt was very successful. Forty of the eighty boys present became members at once and others followed later.

Mr. Stephens arranged a fine program for the evening. He introduced the local successful farmers, the Manager of the Farm Bureau and Mr. Getman, the Manager of the State Agricultural Department as speakers. With Mr. Getman, were two Russians, who were, at the time inspecting methods of education in the County. After the speeches, those interested, enrolled as members and refreshments were served.

The unit in Holley, a month later, held a meeting for the same purpose. They too had excellent speakers for the evening, including Mr. Weaver, of the State Department. The membership was not so large as that obtained in Albion. The next meeting will be held at Medina, for the purpose of organizing another club as unit three.

A club of this sort is practical and entertaining. It brings the men together and gives them first hand knowledge from real experts.

There is a realization that it has its pleasures as well as its toils. Mr. Stephens deserves a great deal of credit for his work in organizing such a club. May good luck and success reward him. - T. Christopher

1926 – Mr. Leon Packer – Advisor - The Agricultural Department of the Albion High School is one of the oldest in the State. Many of the boys, who have taken the course are now successful farmers. This year there are about twenty boys preparing to be the successful farmers of tomorrow. During the year we have many field trips where you learn by seeing or doing things yourself. We also go to the shop where we have carpentry work, tool sharpening, rope splicing etc. During the winter a short course is maintained for boys not in school. For two weeks the boys come in to the school and receive instruction in farming methods and practices. College specialists are usually employed to help in the instruction. A Junior Project Club was formed by former Agriculture teacher, Mr. Stephens. The club was composed of rural farm boys, who

joined together in a Potato Club. The boys secured a yield of over three hundred bushels to the acre and the club was pronounced a success.

Another organization formed by farm boys under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture, is the Young Farmers' Club of Albion. The club meets once a month and listens to an interesting speaker, or has lantern slides or other interesting programs.

1928 – Mr. Leon Packer – Advisor - Ag 111- The class studied apple production with emphasis on varieties, disease and insects, along with methods of control. They also studied the grading and packing of apples. Several field trips were taken to farms to observe apple production and disease management. Field trips were also taken to packing houses to study grading and packing methods. The Young Farmers Club purchased apples and potatoes for grading and packing to be sold to customers in town. The class constructed a grader in the school shop to be used for that activity

Ag 1V- The class studied surveying, laying out "lines of level", farm drainage including the planning and installation of drain tile, concrete work, farm management and methods of setting up farm accounts. The class constructed a concrete base for steps at the farm shop.

1930 – The Farmerettes' Club was formed during 1929 for girls, who lived on farms. Officers were elected at the first meeting. During the first meeting there were twenty girls present. This year the membership has increased to twenty five to thirty girls.

The object of the club is "to promote scientific housekeeping, experience in cooperation and to improve rural social life." Our main purpose is to give the girls experience such as they would derive from a home economics course. With this idea in mind, the girls in the club work for degrees which cover almost everything in connection with homemaking, including cooking, mending and sewing, interior decorating, keeping household expenses and even dishwashing.

We have had several demonstrations given to us by women who were interested in the welfare of the club. We have also joined with the Young Farmers' Club in picnics and parties. This year we have grown so much that we were able to participate in the production of "Alabama Bound," thereby making all the members of the cast, members of the Young Farmers' Club or Farmerettes' Club.

The club has carried on its work under many difficulties. We have had difficulty in finding any suitable place to meet and we have very little equipment to carry out our work. In spite of these difficulties, however, the club has continued to grow until we are confident that we may do something really worthwhile.

We are hoping to make it so much of a success that the girls in other villages will want such a club until it may possibly become a state organization like the Young Farmers' Club.

1931 – Mr. Kenneth Martin – Advisor - Mr. Martin, the new agricultural teacher is well fitted for his position.

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Because of his calmness, he does not “go up in the air” over things done by the boys. His advice to the boys is limited, thus teaching them to think for themselves and become more independent.

At the Young Farmers Club meetings, he does not interfere, but lets the chairman preside.

In reality he is one of them. The Ag boys are glad to welcome the new teacher with his new ideas and companionship. Herbert Keitel '31

1933 – Mr. Kenneth Martin – Advisor – The Agriculture boys have been quite active during the year, in as much as they have participated in many contests such as product judging contests held at Ithaca and at the Rochester Horticultural show.

If a young man is a member of the Farmer's Club, he has a wonderful opportunity to show his ability in speaking. William Barnum, Junior Chapman and Jesse Young were three of the better speakers this year. William Barnum was quite successful. He captured a first place in a contest held under the auspices of the Transit Grange and a second place in the contest in Newfane, New York.

The annual banquet took place May eighth and those attending experienced a rare pleasure by hearing Dr. Getman deliver a splendid address on “Future Farmers of America”.

1939- Mr. William Sherman – Advisor - The Albion Chapter of Young Farmers – In August the club exhibited fruit, poultry, livestock, vegetables and eggs at the Orleans County Fair. In late August the club members attended the Syracuse State Fair, exhibiting fruit, eggs, poultry, livestock and vegetables. Students took part in various judging contests. The Chapter was one of seven in the State having a booth of exhibits. A student won 2nd place in the State Fair speaking contest, worth \$25. The Chapter was awarded 2nd place in the State Chapter Contest, worth \$30.00. Altogether, the Chapter won \$165.00 while there. Students put on a large fruit exhibit at the Rochester exposition and won \$22.00.

In October, 3 students and their advisor, Mr. Sherman, attended the National FFA convention at Kansas City. The club put on three radio broadcasts during the year.

In January the boys exhibited fruit, they had gathered in the fall and placed in cold storage, at the Rochester Horticultural show. They won 2nd place and \$53.00 cash. During February the boys in Ag 1V attended Farm and Home Week at Ithaca. They took part in various contests. While there the club placed 2nd in the Chapter Broadcasting Contest. A parent, son banquet was held in April.

1944 – Mr. William Sherman – Advisor - A few of the boys did so well with their projects this year that they had to pay some income tax. Imagine that – the boys really made some money. The poultry judging team placed first in the poultry judging contest held as part of the Poultry Fancier's Contest in Rochester in December. The FFA boys

have their fun, but they also have to work. The members, through the Chapter, have purchased several thousand chicks, seeds and supplies for their projects. The Albion FFA is one of the outstanding Chapters in this section and owes much of its success to its excellent leader, Mr. William Sherman.

1946 – Mr. Stewart New – Advisor - There were 37 members in the class at the beginning of the year, but some of the boys had to leave for the Army or Navy during the year. Large quantities of chicks, seeds and strawberry plants were purchased to be used by members. Students gained practical experience in the killing and dressing of poultry. They also participated in bowling and basketball activities. The class sold Christmas trees and realized a good profit from that activity. Several field trips were made to student's farms to inspect their projects. The class agreed to pledge one dollar per member to the State FFA to help finance a camp in the Adirondacks, which will be used for a recreation and training center for all FFA boys in the State.

1952 – Mr. Stewart New – Advisor - The members sold Christmas trees and apples and sponsored a donkey basketball game in order to raise money. The FFA received \$100 for winning first prize in Chapter Competition from the New York State Vegetable Canners Contest. The club submitted several fruit exhibits at the Horticultural Show in Rochester that won honors.

Several students, who placed in the fruit judging, also received honors. Other activities included a Father and Son Banquet and a two day trip to Cornell to attend Farm and Home Week.

One member won the State Public Speaking Contest and three members received Empire State Farmer Degrees at the State FFA Convention held at Holland Patent Central School.

1961 – Mr. Hugh Dudley – Advisor - Plowing, welding machinery, cultivation – if it's about farming, the FFA knows how to do it. Throughout the fall season the chapter sold apples both in and outside of school. In September, as a service to area farmers and to gain some practical experience, the boys tested soils as part of their curriculum. During early January, the chapter distributed over five hundred of its annual calendars, which was under the auspices of the FFA's public relations program.

One of the year's big projects was the planting of ten acres of corn. Through this, the boys learned how to prepare the ground, determine the right amount of fertilizer to use, set a planter and finally how to harvest the corn.

The chapter basketball team opposed other similar teams from Lyndonville, Medina, Kendall and Hilton and usually won. In April the chapter held a banquet for all boys' parents in the high school cafeteria. Five boys represented the chapter at the State FFA Convention that was held in Minisink Valley.

The double period classes have been eliminated, so that college bound students can fit Vocational Agriculture into their schedules.

1966 – Mr. Hugh Dudley – Advisor - The Future Farmers of America is an organization of which Albion Central School can be proud. When the young boys decide to join the club they are inexperienced for the most part. Under the firm guiding hand of Mr. Dudley, these boys are taught and helped to become fine young men.

In the classroom the boys learn new methods of improving crops and in the shop how to maintain and repair machinery. Later they test their new knowledge on their own thirty acre plot of land.

The Future Farmers of America is an active group, participating in many external activities. One of these is the Horticultural Exhibit in Rochester.

1979 – Mr. Frank Van Apeldoorn – Advisor - The purpose of Agriculture, as taught at Albion High School, is to give students a broad understanding of the many aspects of agriculture. Because of changes in world economics, more students turn to Agriculture to learn agri-business rather than small scale farming. The course moves from general basic introductory units to the more complex facets of agriculture over a four year period. All students are required to join the Future Farmers of America while taking agriculture. This organization gives members wide experience through convention, sales and projects.

The enrollment of girls in Agriculture has increased by a small number in the last decade. Beginning with one girl in 1967, the number of girls enrolled has risen to about 6. More freshmen are now enrolled than before.

A combination of practical work and comprehensive study, Agriculture is a valuable learning experience. No matter what vocational field a student finally decides on, Agriculture is definitely useful.

1981 – Mr. Frank Van Apeldoorn – Advisor - The FFA is a National youth organization of young men and women, who study Vocational Agriculture in high schools. The local Albion Chapter is active on all levels, local, State and National.

On the local level, the Albion Chapter sponsors many activities, including livestock chains, contests, rallies, citrus sales donkey basketball games and the parent annual banquet.

On the National level, the Albion members attend conventions in the mid west, compete in corn growing contests and apply for National farming awards.

The Albion FFA represented New York State at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Mass. The Albion members placed first in the County soil judging contest. This year several members were present at the annual State Convention.

1983 – Mr. Frank Van Apeldoorn – Advisor - The FFA Club has many fund raisers such as donkey basketball games, cheese and sausage sales, citrus sales, an FFA farm market and many others. The money is used so that they can go on trips, judge events and contests. FFA is a National organization for boys and girls from ages 14 -21 years of age. They study Vocational Agriculture. The main purpose of FFA is to build character, develop leadership, thrift and help the community.

1990 – Miss Darcy Demmins – Advisor - The FFA is a National Youth Organization of students enrolled in Vocational Agriculture. FFA represents leadership and friendship to others. The club is doing donkey basketball, citrus sales and field trips. Jody Neal, a student of Miss Darcy Demmins, was awarded the American Farmer Degree in 1992 – the first Albion High School Student to receive that high honor in many years.

1994 – Mr. Lynn Van Tassell – Advisor - The Albion FFA began its year at the New York State Leadership Training Facility called Oswegatchie Camp. The 8 members attended for a week. The program included training in public speaking, officer responsibilities, group activities and team building. Their next major function was the New York State competition in the Horticulture Contest. Rebecca Miller placed sixth and Angela Columbo ranked twelveth in the event. Students sold 700 cases of citrus fruit in the annual fundraiser, and profits were used to incubate, hatch, raise and barbecue chickens for Greenhand Induction.

1998 – Mr. Jeffery Parnapy – Advisor - Albion High School's FFA was a growing and expanding club, not only for farmers, but those interested in areas of natural resources and the food industry and business. The FFA's primary fundraiser was the citrus sale. The money raised went to their annual trip to the FFA State Convention, FFA camp in the Adirondacks, a trip to Cornell and various projects. The members were involved in a major community service project where they picked, bottled and delivered fifty half gallon cider jugs to Meals on Wheels recipients. Their service has not gone unnoticed; they won the National Chapter Award and also won the State Superior Chapter Award for the excellent devotion to their group.

2003 – Mr. Adam Krenning – Advisor - The main FFA fundraisers were the citrus sales and chicken barbecues. They started the year sending freshmen members to Frog Conference. The food science team competed at Nationals in Kentucky. Members competed at State Convention and they finished up the year with their annual awards.

2009 – Mr. Adam Krenning – Advisor - The FFA is an organization steeped in tradition. It provides knowledge, experience and skills needed, not only in high school, but also in life. Colleges look for this organization on student's transcripts, as it speaks to a wide array of skills, knowledge and real world applications. Their advisor, Mr. Krenning, helps his many members along by assisting them in preparations for their projects and competitions. Our local FFA chapter sent several students to conferences and programs throughout the year, which only further shows their dedication to the group.

The Science of Agriculture

Prepared by Mr. Leon Packer - Advisor - 1930

A few years ago the term "Scientific Agriculture" was greatly ridiculed. In those days he who would apply scientific principals to farming was laugh to scorn. Hard practical experience, not theory and experiment, was held to be the requirement of successful farming. But today a new science of agriculture is being evolved. Men realize that agriculture deals not only with inanimate objects, but with life and living things and must therefore deal with many sciences. Among these may be named chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics and economics. A knowledge of these subjects is essential to success in any agricultural pursuit or calling of the present day.

A knowledge of the science of chemistry is necessary in order to understand and apply the principals of plant nutrition. The trained agriculturist must understand how the chemicals which he uses to fertilize his soil may, through a series of chemical changes, become food for plants, and he must know how to hasten and guide these processes. He must understand how organic matter in the soil, likewise undergoes chemical changes until it also becomes food for plants, and he must know and provide the conditions under which this takes place. He must know something of the chemicals of the spray mixtures which he uses to control insect and plant diseases. He must be familiar with certain tests, such as the soil acidity test, and the Babcock test for butterfat, which are purely and simply chemical reactions.

The scientific farmer must apply physical principals at every turn. He must use internal combustion engines, which are highly complicated devises by which the properties of levers, of mass, of expanding gases, and of electricity are made to serve him. He must harness electricity with its many properties, and make it work for him. He must understand pulley ratios, power application, friction and a thousand other things wholly physical in nature.

In the field of biology, he must be guided by the laws of heredity in the breeding of his stock; he must utilize the laws of plant growth in raising his crops and he must abide by the laws of animal nutrition in feeding his livestock; and he must understand the life history and habits in combating crop and livestock enemies.

It need not be emphasized that the scientific farmer has need of mathematical training. Money transactions, estimates of distance, area, and contents, farm engineering problems, farm cost accounting and numerous other jobs of like nature require a practical working knowledge of mathematics.

Last, but perhaps in this modern age, most important of all, the scientific farmer must understand and be guided by the laws of economics. In the midst of problems of overproduction, distribution, tariff, farm boards, high pressure advertising, competition

from foreign fields, cooperatives, production cycles, combinations and mergers, and intricate marketing problems for every farm product, his hope lies in the economic laws by which those things operate. Only with such knowledge, may he adjust his business to changing conditions and survive.

Two new beings are being evolved in this scientific age. The first is the trained agricultural worker who concerns himself with the discovery of scientific principals and the application of them to practical farming. The second is the scientific trained farmer, who sets himself to make use of these scientific principals in the task of feeding and clothing the peoples of the world. With the appearance of these two beings, agriculture is rapidly becoming a science worthy of taking its place in the world.

Agriculture at Albion High School

Prepared by Mr. Kenneth Martin – Advisor - 1935

About five thousand young men in New York State enter farming as owners or managers each year. An agricultural training is highly essential to these men. The Albion High School was one of the first schools in the State to recognize the responsibilities of the school to rural boys. Our goal is to train pupils who decide to farm so that they will be able to perform farm work skillfully, to make business decisions wisely, to cooperate with others effectively and to maintain a wholesome attitude toward country living.