

A Home Provided for Marjorie Chaffee at the Death of Her Husband, Pastor Ralph Chaffee by Doug Strobe

When Pastor Ralph Chaffee died of a heart attack in 1953, the church at South Apalachin was shocked. The Lord's work at the church and in the community had progressed well under Rev. Chaffee's ministry and replacing him would be difficult.

However, just as big a problem was how to help Mrs. Marjorie Chaffee and her youngest son Douglas to transition from the ministry into the secular world. Mrs. Chaffee had been very active in the ministry of the church, especially in the music department and was very dear to the hearts of the young and the old. The decision to help build her a home came from some-where and the men of the church put their shoulders to the wheel and the house on Rhodes Road was completed.

Mrs. Chaffee had training in teaching and was able to find employment in the Owego/Apalachin school system as a teacher. Mrs. Chaffee lived in the house until her age dictated that she stay with her daughter Opal.

This is how the house appears today. It has an addition to the right side from the original construction.



Further considerations by Opal Linebaugh

God's care for Mother was so precious and kind. She had prayed for God to lead her. Having read in her devotions, Proverbs 14:1, "Every wise woman buildeth her house..." she was impressed that God was telling her that she should seek to build a house. After prayer she went to Mr. Doane who had a farm building on Rhodes Road. She asked him if he would consider selling her a lot for a house. He considered her request quietly for a few moments, then told her: "I am going to do something that not everyone would do. I am going to GIVE you that lot." And, he did. I believe he was Phil Doane's grand-father. God was at work that day for the benefit of His servant.

Knowing her need to get a cellar built she then went to Mr. Ashcraft to bulldoze the hole for her cellar. When it was time to turn in his bill, he said: "There is no charge." This was God's care again. How faithfully God was caring for her.

The men of South Apalachin Baptist Church saw the hand of God and gathered to build the cellar, laying up walls, pouring the floor, getting in the drains and all that was needed. Like stewards of the Word, those men knew the value of a "Good foundation," and built it. Again, they too donated their labor as an act of love.

Additional Information

More information has come forward after the publishing of this in the bulletin. According to Debbie Dodge the gentleman who gave the land to Mrs. Chaffee was Phil Doan's father, not grandfather. This picture, taken in the 1950s is Walter Doane, he was the one who owned the land and then gave it to Marjorie Chaffee.



He was also Debbie Dodge's grandfather. Debbie's mother's father was Walter Doane. Phil Doane and Anna Jean (Doane) Carr (Debbie's mother) were siblings.