

5/9/15 "Snapshots" of the Town of York

In their attempt to help gather a "snapshot" of the Town of York, the York Impact Research Group is sponsoring a walking field trip along the Little Italy Trail on May 9th from approximately 10:30 AM to noon. For those who are interested, we will meet sometime after 9:30 AM at the Barn Restaurant in Greigsville (Rt 63) for coffee and to coordinate the outing. It will be a relatively easy and kid friendly two-mile hike (round trip) and we will try to make adjustments for anyone with special needs. We will go rain or shine unless there is thunder or lightning. Please join us for this unique event and learn some of the history of Retsof's Little Italy while enjoying a walk in the woods. For questions contact Dave Nagel at 243-3409 or DGNagel@rochester.rr.com.

Report:

On Saturday May 9, a small group hiked into the area of York known as Little Italy to learn about its history and to experience its natural beauty. The field trip, sponsored by the York Fracking Impact Research Group, was led by Davies Nagel. Participants included David Deuel, Patricia Gardner, Anne RothBlizzard and Nancy Fitzpatrick. Amidst the encroaching woods, we observed faint remnants of the community that was originally built around 1885 to house families of mostly Italian immigrants who were early employees of the Retsof Salt Mine. Descendants of many of these original families remain in York, continuing to contribute to its growth. Little Italy had its own reservoir that supplied water and ice for the community and the mine. Bidwell's Creek winds through the tract. There is a plantation of pines, and an old orchard. The trails through Little Italy would provide an ideal linkage between the Groveland Secondary Trail (York to Alexander) and the Genesee Valley Greenway.

Along the Little Italy Trail from Greigsville to Retsof. Foundations from the dam and channel that were built to supply the reservoir with water from Bidwell's Creek:

