



TOWN OF NEWFANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Autumn 2018

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Harvest is upon us

From the desk of our President

In just a few weeks, we'll be celebrating the 40th Apple Harvest Festival. Started decades ago by many hard working volunteers, it has seen plenty of changes throughout the years, constantly evolving to meet the generation running it and the times it was held. Ultimately, the goal has remained the same: hosting an old-fashioned Sunday afternoon gathering which celebrates our shared heritage. Of course with a healthy love and display of apples!

We hope you can save the date: Sunday, September 30th from 10am to mid-afternoon. We hope you will take a little time to join us and celebrate the fascinating history of Newfane. If you haven't attended in a few years, you may enjoy some of the changes and additions that have been made! We also look forwarding to introducing new projects and additions to the festival in the next few years. If you have any ideas, consider joining the festival team and pitching in to this fun event.

*Vicki Banks
President*

Preserving and distributing a source of life

Exploring historical advancements of water systems

Water has and always will be a vital part of life on earth. Although usage played a major role in where civilizations evolved, over time communities learned how to control and manipulate water sources. These changes have allowed for longer and healthier lives, making them worthy of a look back at these historic achievements.

water from the hills to nearby cities or towns. Next came the Roman aqueducts, which were constructed both above and below ground between 312 BC and 455 AD. These aqueducts used gravity flow to bring water from distant sources into fountains and baths, and a few wealthy individuals had water piped directly into their homes. Pipes were mostly made of hollowed out logs or drilled stone, but a few were made of clay and lead as well. Some Qanats and aqueducts still exist today.

Creating Water Structures

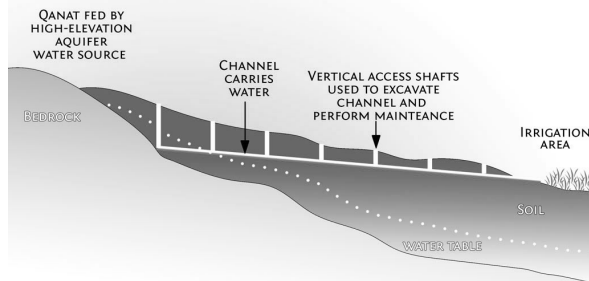
Records show that ancient cultures from over 10,000 years ago would dig wells to help make water collection easier. However the first engineered distribution system came in the form of popular "qanats" in ancient Persia, now Armenia, around 700 BC. Qanats were open tunnels dug into hillsides that pushed ground

One of the most wondrous examples of early hydraulic engineering is the Incan "Stairway of Fountains," built around 1450 at the city of Machu Picchu. The fountains supplied the entire city with fresh spring water from a pair of rain-fed springs atop the mountain. At the main spring, which was a full half mile away from the first of 16 fountains, Incan engineers designed and constructed a 48-foot long permeable wall that fed a stone-lined canal which also collected water from the second, smaller spring. The canal could carry up to 80 gallons per minute, which was twice as much water as the peak flow for the springs. In this way, Incan engineers even prevented overflow and loss. The water flowed to the fountains, which were linked by stone channels that formed a 180 foot...(continued on page 3)

Minute History

Following the War of 1812, Solomon C. Wright purchased land around Ridge Road, leading the surrounding area to be called 'Wrightsville'. In 1835, a veteran of the same war arrived. His name was Colonel John Henning, and he purchased a 270 acre farm which was split in half by Ridge Road. The Hennings became the hamlet's most prominent family after the Wrights, and Col. Henning was known as the "unofficial mayor". In 1839 the government officially changed the hamlet from Wrightsville to Wright's Corners. The reason why has been lost with time, although one guess is it was changed on purpose (or clerical mistake) due to he neighboring hamlet of Warrens Corners.

QANATS, GRAVITY-DRIVEN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, FUNCTION AS BELOW-GROUND AQUEDUCTS, DELIVERING WATER OVER LONG DISTANCES.



WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

This new section will be ongoing as a record of the great support given by our members.

Special thanks to the following for their continued support:

Janice Wiegley
John Shoemaker
Martin and Brenda Horanburg

Welcome to our newest members!

Lawrence J. Funk
Mary Choromanski-Sikes
Cathleen Woods

Seeking Apple Harvest Festival Volunteers

It's that time of year again! The Apple Harvest Festival is in a few short weeks, and we're recruiting anyone who is interested in helping at this fun event.

Tasks include working in various exhibits, helping with vendors, set-up and tear down. The best places to assist are at our food stops, which have a variety of jobs available. We also accept volunteer hours from organizations (i.e. churches, boy scouts, girls scouts, 4H, school groups etc.), and can send letters of hours worked after the event if needed.

Please contact Jill Heck: 716-390-9679;
jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com

Baked Goods Needed!

Our annual bake sale at the Apple Harvest Festival needs your help. Consider donating a batch of your favorite cookies, breads or other desserts. Make sure they are pre-wrapped and in disposable containers.

Have anything you'd like included in this newsletter?

Want to see or learn about something? Send your ideas to editor@newfanehistoricalsociety.com and it may make a future edition.



Historical Fun Fact!

On September 25, 1820, Salem, NJ held a trial against...tomatoes. The general populace believed that they were poisonous, so Robert Johnson stepped in to prove them wrong. He bravely stood before a crowd at the courthouse and consumed a whole basket-full. Upon not dying, the trial was promptly dismissed.



The Newfane Historical Society invites you to the 40th Annual

APPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 30th at 10am

at our Country Village
2685 West Creek Road
Newfane, NY 14108



Make sure to come early before our best-selling foods are gone! It would be appreciated if pets were left at home.



FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

TRACTOR & FARM EQUIPMENT SHOW
LIVE PERFORMANCES | CRAFTS
HISTORICAL DEMOS | GREAT FOOD
HANDS-ON FUN | LOCAL PRODUCTS
ATTRACTIONS | FLEA MARKET

PLUS...

ALL VILLAGE EXHIBITS
WILL BE OPEN!



For details, including volunteering and participating, visit:

NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com



Also take a short drive north to visit *The Van Horn Mansion*
Open for tours Sunday 1-4pm | 2165 Lkpt-Olcott Rd. Burt, NY 14028

Please deliver your donation to Kris DeGlopper-Banks (716-778-9344 or at the Newfane Library) by Sept. 29th, or to the festival on Sunday, Sept. 30th before 10am.

Thanks ahead of time!



The selling of Holland Land Company plots

Have you looked at the Title of your property lately? Were Wilhelm (William) & John Willink the first owners? Actually, it was the Seneca nation people who held one of the earliest claims to the land first, followed by a few entrepreneurial pioneers. The Holland Land Company, an unincorporated syndicate formed by the Willinks and twelve other Dutch bankers, came into ownership in 1793. They took the over 3 million acres and promptly divided it into many pieces to sell for a big profit.

In the spring of 1798, Joseph Ellicott and about 130 men were hired to survey this region's piece of the Holland Land Company Purchase. They carefully mapped each mile of the forest which would become known as Western New York. The surveyors first divided the land into townships, which were then further split into sections and lots. Each plot had a stone marker placed to help others locate their work and take claim to their property. In 1800, Ellicott was appointed Resident Agent for land sales. From his Batavia Office (now a museum), he worked to attract settlers to Western New York.

The sandstone marker pictured, was originally planted at the northernmost point of the original Transit Survey, which extended south to the Pennsylvania state line. Presently, there is a historic sign marking this same point, located at the north end of Transit Road and Lake Road (State Route 18) in the town of Newfane. This marker, with clear words not worn away, is a rare surviving artifact from all the hard work of Ellicott and his men; most were likely removed, re-used or buried.

Thank you to Judson Heck, Terry and Chuck Manhardt and others, that made the first acquisition, in 1985, of this

(continued from page 1)...long cascade of water, or "water stairs," with a total vertical drop of 65 feet. This amazing early engineering feat not only provided a safe, dependable public water supply, but also served to protect the hillside architecture from erosion.

In 1652, the city of Boston became home to America's first major water system, formed to provide water for firefighting and domestic usage. Fires were a common hazard in that period of wood-framed homes and fireplaces, and a ready water supply was paramount. Bored-out logs were constructed from ten-inch thick hemlock or elm trees, cut into seven to nine foot lengths, and attached together with pitch or tar, or sometimes even iron hoops. While primitive by today's standards, this water system was an invaluable tool to fire departments. Firefighters would punch a hole in the existing wooden line to gain access to the pressurized water. After the fire was out, they would plug the hole back up to restore pressure to the entire system.

Historical Marker, and moved it to our Country Village site. This past summer, in 2018, Sam Clogston, Bruce Genewich and Bill Neidlinger moved the marker to its indoor site, to protect it from the weather. We hope you'll swing by to take a look during the Apple Harvest Festival on September 30th! ♦



Unfortunately wood pipes proved problematic for several reasons: uneven ground caused the logs to sag and hold stagnated water, insects infested the pipes, the wood rotted, and the water often tasted woody. In addition, the increased pressure required to pump water into rapidly expanding cities began splitting the wooden pipes. Around this same time, iron became more readily available, and cities began adapting it in their distribution systems.

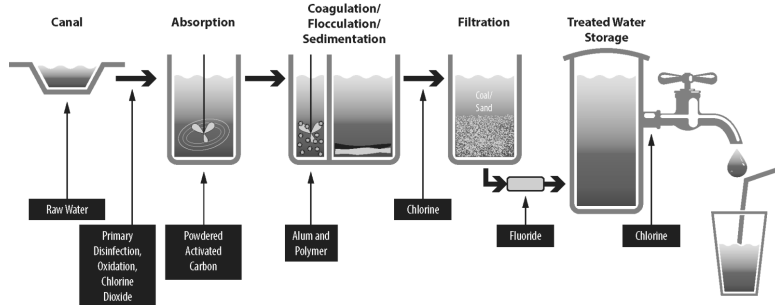
In 1755, Hans Christopher Christiansen instituted services for the first public water works in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. In 1772, the state of Rhode Island chartered two private water delivery companies in Providence. New York City initially used private wells as its main water source, but as the city grew these wells became fouled. In 1804, Philadelphia became the first city in the world to utilize cast iron pipes for water mains, and the first city to build a large-scale waterworks system, drawing from the Schuylkill River. New York City...*(continued on page 4)*

(continued from page 3)...followed suit in 1842 with a water distribution project that consisted of 41 miles of channel with a constant slope of 13.5 inches per mile. The NYC project also had 16 tunnels, 114 culverts, and a bridge over Harlem River.

By the 1800s, steam powered windmills came into widespread use due to the ever-expanding population and industrial revolution. For example, Chicago's population was 350 in 1835. Within two decades it had soared to more than 60,000 people! In 1869, the booming city made worldwide newspaper headlines when it unveiled its incredible engineering feat: a new twin-tunnel system. Chicago Waterpower utilized this to supply the city with water from Lake Michigan. The first tunnel contained a 138-foot tall, three-foot wide standpipe that equalized pressure in the city's mains. Steam-driven engines provided 15 million gallons per day to the city's water mains. Today, six engines pump 72.5 million gallons per day to the city of Chicago, and more than 90 percent of the U.S. population is supplied water from municipal supplies.

Treating Water

Civilizations have understood the necessity for dependable and



healthy water supplies for thousands of years. Ancient Sanskrit texts discuss boiling, sunlight exposure, and charcoal filtering as methods to treat turbidity, or visible cloudiness. Ancient Egyptians even utilized coagulants, which are chemicals still used today to remove suspended particles in drinking water. Greeks and Romans utilized purification methods including sand filtration, water settling, and storage in copper pots. Because ancients had no knowledge of microbes and their only concern was turbidity, no additional progress was made on water sanitation until the 1800's.

The single most important breakthrough in water treatment was the understanding that disease is...(continued on page 5)



Blacksmith Picnic, held on Sunday, Aug. 5th at our Country Village. This annual event was held for the first time in Newfane, and was attended by many blacksmiths from the local area and beyond, who gathered to practice, learn, and share their skills. Thanks to Bill N. for the photo!

**CANDLELIGHT TOURS
AT THE VAN HORN MANSION**

The perfect adventure for an October evening!

Guests are led through candlelit rooms in a spooky tour of this infamous haunted home. You'll be entertained by amazing ghostly legends and eerie stories from all over the estate, and have plenty of chances for feeling and even seeing the supernatural! *Come if you dare...*

Fridays & Saturdays in October
5 & 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20, 26 & 27

from 7pm-11pm

VAN HORN MANSION
2165 LOCKPORT-OLCOTT RD.
BURT, NY 14028

\$7pp pre-sale | \$10 door

FOR TICKETS
CONTACT ROSE AT 727-9816
ROSE@NEWFANEHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

Tours leave every 15 min., last tour is at 10pm. Reserve your tour before this popular event sells out!

NEWFANEHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM



(continued from page 4)...transmitted through microbes in untreated water. In 1804, the town of Paisley, Scotland constructed the first large-scale water treatment plant, which utilized slow sand filtration. In 1855, epidemiologist Dr. John Snow proved that cholera was a water-borne illness by linking an outbreak of the disease in London to a public well that had been contaminated with sewage. London started utilizing sand filters for its drinking water and saw a drastic reduction in cholera cases. Later in the 1800s, Louis Pasteur showed how microscopic organisms, or microbes, transmitted disease through water - the "germ theory".

The discovery of chlorine as a microbicide revolutionized water treatment. Maidstone, England was the first city in the world to treat all of its water supply with chlorine, and Jersey City, New Jersey was the first city in the United States to disinfect public water using chlorination in 1908. Starting in 1910, routine chlorination became widespread in the United States, and over the next few decades, the country saw a drastic reduction in typhoid fever deaths.

The U.S. Public Health Service implemented the first regulation of drinking water quality in 1914, and it only applied to contaminants capable of causing contagious disease. Eventually continued regulations were adopted by all 50 states and encompassed 28 substances. Unfortunately when the Public Health Service conducted a survey in 1969, they learned



only 60% of the nation's water met their standards Most water contained chemicals such as pathogens and toxins from industrial and agricultural advance. These studies led to the passage of several environmental and health laws, including the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974. Prior to the passage of the Act, only 33% of small to mid-sized communities provided any treatment at all. Today, nearly all communities in the U.S. are supplied with drinking water that meets federal drinking water standards. However, water supply and sanitation systems also require continuous maintenance and adequate rehabilitation.

This was already evident with the Roman aqueducts: calcium carbonate incrustation forming within the conduits needed to be removed constantly or it would have stopped the flow of water. Modern systems must be maintained to function properly, an issue the U.S. is facing as they work to repair and replace aging water structures.

Safe, clean, and reliable drinking water is crucial to civilization and humanity, and we are fortunate to live in a time - and country - where drinking water is plentiful and safe. Unfortunately, the same does not hold true for the rest of the global population, with almost a billion people still without access to clean drinking water. So while we celebrate the impressive historical timeline of advancements in both distribution and treatment, we must all continue on the path of innovation until the global population's water needs are met as well. ◆

Membership Application

For new members and renewals. Membership includes our quarterly printed newsletters.

Today's Date: _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Select One:

Renewal New Member

Would you be interested in learning about or becoming a volunteer? Yes No

Our membership year begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st.

Annual Membership Dues (Check one):

- Family Membership \$10.00
- Individual Membership \$10.00
- Life Member \$100.00 (per person)

Tear off this portion and mail with a check to: Newfane Historical Society c/o Rosemary M. Miller 3531 Ewings Rd. Lockport, NY 14094

Please make all checks payable to (or to the order of):
 Newfane Historical Society

Or visit our website and join online: www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

For more details, please visit our website.

September 18th- Trustees Meeting

September 30th- Apple Harvest Festival

October 5th & 6th- Van Horn Mansion
Candlelight Tours

October 8th- Columbus Day

October 12th & 13th- Van Horn Mansion
Candlelight Tours

October 16th- Trustees Meeting

October 19th & 20th, 26th & 27th- Van
Horn Mansion Candlelight Tours

October 31st- Halloween

November 4th- Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 11th- Veteran's Day (*12th observed*)

November 20th- Trustees Meeting

2018 Officers & Trustees

President: Vicki Banks

Vice President: Melissa Schaeffer

Recording Secretary: Jill Heck

Corresponding Secretary: Janet Capen

Financial Secretary: Rosemary Miller

Treasurer: David Steggles

Trustees:

Bill Clark

Keegan Connolly

Virginia Dillman

Steve Goodman

Kevin Luckman

Chuck Manhardt

Terry Manhardt

Bill Neidlinger

Bill Ott

Mindi Schaeffer

Rose Schaeffer

George Updegraph

Contact Information

**Town of Newfane
Historical Society**
P.O. Box 115
Newfane, NY 14108

Country Village
2685 West Creek Rd.
Newfane, NY 14108

Van Horn Mansion
2165 Lockport-Olcott Rd.
Burt, NY 14028

www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

Phone: (716) 778-7197 | info@newfanehistoricalsociety.com

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with us so you keep receiving newsletters!

Autumn Leaves & Pumpkins Please!



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