



Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Autumn 2020

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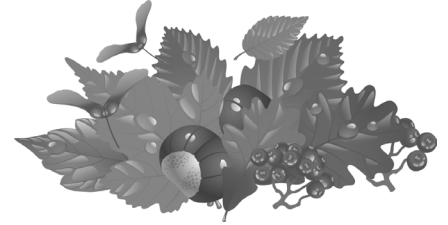
Moving Forward in a Unique Way

From the desk of our President

Hello history seekers and avid learners! I'm hoping this newsletter is greeting you in good health and high spirits. I believe I speak on behalf of everyone when I say we will miss the warmer days of summer as we slowly slip into the cool weather of fall. Before you know it, the bountiful green trees will be turning into beautiful colors of the sunset.

Sadly, as everyone is aware, this year has certainly not been normal. Here at the Newfane Historical Society, we resumed our trustee meetings in July (all are clad in masks and socially distanced). However, the hallways and corners of the Van Horn Mansion have been eerily quiet, and I'm sure the buildings at the Country Village have collected more dust than I'd care to imagine.

In years' past, at this time we would be gearing up for our Apple Harvest Festival, followed closely behind by our October Candlelight Tours. As a community we are all making progress in the push back against COVID-19, but things aren't yet where they should be in order to come together as we normally would. So we have made the decision to cancel our public and fundraising events for the remainder of the year. While it was a difficult and sad decision, the safety and health of all comes first.



Fear not readers, as we are still finding ways to come together in support of preserving our heritage!

For those missing our Apple festivals, we've come up with a solution for you to enjoy part of the festival at home safely. We are hosting a Take-Out Food Fundraiser of our popular, seasonal & locally prepared foods. Boxes are pre-sale only, and will be available for pick-up on Sunday, Oct. 4th. Visit our website to order now. More details can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

For those of you interested, we are also still allowing private rentals of the Country Village and Van Horn Mansion. Renters will be required to meet any up-to-date CDC and state guidelines for small, private gatherings. Please visit our website to learn more if you are interested. As always, thank you all for your continued support during this difficult time. We are all in this together, and we will truly make it through together. Until next time, continue keeping yourselves safe, healthy, and in good spirits.

Melissa Schaeffer

Minute History

By the mid-1800s, lands surrounding Niagara Falls were largely controlled by private interests, and public access to the falls was limited. Committees were formed in the U.S. and Canada, both wanting preservation and restoration of the falls. For a time they worked together to establish one international park. While this never came to pass, each country was successful in protecting Niagara Falls and the surrounding land. A group of influential individuals, led by Frederick Law Olmsted, lobbied in NY, which led to the creation of the 400-acre Niagara Falls State Park in 1885. It is the oldest continuously-operating state park in the United States. It also inspired the creation of the National Park Service. In 1887, Canada's Niagara Parks Commission established Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park. It is known today as Queen Victoria Park, and is over 118-acres.

We have canceled all remaining public events for 2020

This includes the Apple Harvest Festival, October Candlelight Tours, and Christmas Carol Sing

We thank everyone for their understanding as we navigate the current difficult environment. We miss everyone, and can't wait until we're all celebrating local history together once again. In the meantime, our little non-profit can use any financial support you're able to give, to see us through the many unknown months ahead.

How Can You Help?

- Pre-order your Food Box, ready for pick-up on Oct. 4th- see pg. 3
- Membership Dues
 - Renew your annual membership- *online or see pg. 5*
 - Give membership as a gift to loved ones
 - Become a lifetime member to make a substantial difference
- Contribute a one-time financial donation- *online or mail to our address on pg. 6*
- Sign up to volunteer your time and help us keep growing!



WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

This section is an ongoing record of our amazing members.

Special thanks to the following for their continued support:

- Audrey Faulkner
- Sue McKnight
- Cliff Niethe
- Michael Ryan
- Janice Wiegley
- Pauline Wright

Welcome to our newest members!

- Susan Bochenski
- Angelo Delbalso, MD
- Jennifer Marshall

Recipe Rewind

From Newspapers.com

Sweet Potato Soup.

Put one-half tablespoon of butter and one tablespoon of flour into a saucepan or a double boiler, blend and add one pint of milk, one pint of stock, one-half teaspoon of onion juice, one-half teaspoon of salt, one-fourth teaspoon of pepper and a small stick of cinnamon. Stir carefully over the fire until the mixture is hot and beginning to thicken, add the sweet potatoes, stir well and cook for ten minutes longer, strain into soup dishes, sprinkle chopped parsley over the top and add a dash of grated nutmeg. Serve very hot with croutons.

Printed Nov. 16, 1921; Evening Star (Washington, D.C.)

Mother's Apple Slump—Part and quarter enough tart apples to fill a four quart stewpan half full; cover with water and add one cup of sugar, as much nutmeg as you wish, a pinch of salt and let come to a boil. Have ready a rich biscuit dough, cut out biscuits and lay over the boiling apples. Put on the cover of the kettle and steam for 25 or 30 minutes, without lifting the cover. The kettle must not be placed over a very hot fire, as the apples will scorch. Serve hot with hard sauce or cream.

Printed Oct. 7, 1916; Norwich Bulletin (Norwich, CT)

Our latest Country Village project

Gilbert & Barker T-8 gas pump restoration

In the early years of automobile use, their popularity greatly increased the demand for gasoline. At that time, gasoline was retailed, much like kerosene, and sold in metal cans. It was transported from bulk oil storage facilities on the edge of town to general stores, hardware stores and drugstores. Repair garages and livery stables were eventually added to these outlets. Motorists had to transfer the liquid into the car tank with a can, bucket or picture and funnel- a slow, messy and dangerous method.

This led Gilbert & Barker, from Springfield, Mass., to start manufacturing hand-operated gas pumps in 1910. The G&B pump would bring the gas up from an underground tank with a hand-operated pump, helping to make automobile driving much more practical. Mechanical gauges like these made retail sales safer, cleaner, efficient and more accurate.

Sam Clogston, Bruce Genewich and Bill Neidlinger found our T-8 pump and three T-65 pumps (from the 1920s) at the Country Village, and have included them in our Newfane Garage Display. At this time, they have restored the T-8 pump, and are working on restoring one of the T-65's.

We would love to know the history of these pumps, if they were used in Newfane, who owned them and where they were located. Please email Bill Neidlinger at billneids@yahoo.com if you have any information about these pumps. ♦



Do you have any information about our gas pumps?

They are all currently on display at our Country Village's 'Newfane Garage'.

Pictured Above: Our newly restored T-8 gas pump

Pictured Left: Our 3 T-65 gas pumps

Happening Now

☆☆ Support Our New Fundraiser! ☆☆

“Taste of the Apple Fest” Food Box

\$50 each
Serves 6-8

Includes:

- 1 Gallon of Art Gladow’s Famous Chicken Chowder
- 1 Pint Fresh Apple Butter
- 8” Homeade Apple Cake
- 1/2 Gallon locally produced Apple Cider
- One year membership (new or renewal) to the Newfane Histocial Society

Limited Boxes Available
Order before they sell out!



**Pre-Order Only:
Online Today**

or pay by phone: 716-417-6791

**Pick Up:
Sunday, Oct. 4th, 1-4pm**

Order online at NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

About our apple cake

We are excited to bring back a traditional recipe that was shared at our Apple Festivals for many years. This dairy-free and nut-free cake boasts a lovely fall flavor blend of apples, brown sugar and cinnamon. You can enjoy it warm or cold, by itself or with whipped cream, ice cream, or a cup of coffee. Make sure to pre-order your food box to experience the apple cake yourself!

Don't miss your only chance this year to enjoy our most popular Apple Festival foods. All proceeds benefit the Newfane Historical Society, and we thank you so much for your support!



Apples in Colonial America

North American apple harvesting began with settlers at Jamestown in 1607, who brought seeds and cuttings from Europe. The original varieties planted were not all suited for cultivation in the New World, but their seeds eventually began to produce all-new varieties of American apples.

Small apple orchards were a common feature on farmsteads and plantations in the British American colonies. Most early varieties were bitter and had poor quality, which didn't matter since they were grown primarily for their juice. Hard cider was the most common colonial beverage year-round, because well-water was not safe. Most families produced 20-50 barrels of cider to drink and use as barter for other goods & services. Some settlers also converted distilled cider into "applejack," which was even stronger than hard cider.



The first hand-cranked cider mills appeared in the colonies around 1745. Prior to this cider was made by pounding apples in a trough & draining the pomace. ♦

Improve your history hunting skills

Become a better researcher starting today

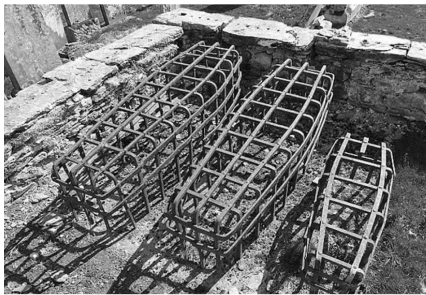
Researching our ancestors' lives comes with countless mysteries, most which will never be solved due to information lost with time. By applying theories and problem-solving skills, historians can often find breakthroughs that help bring the past to life. Here is some knowledge that can improve anyone's ability to solve historical or genealogical mysteries.

Parsimony

In science terms, this theory suggests that all things being equal, you should prefer the simplest explanation possible based on the facts in front of you. For example, if you hear barking from inside your house, and you own a dog, it's reasonable to assume that you're hearing your dog, rather than a different dog who snuck inside. Parsimony is a useful concept, valuable for problem solving scenarios. A main reason it is vital to historical research is because there can be an infinite number of possible explanations, so you need to find a way to narrow your search.

The most famous variation of parsimony is Occam's Razor, posited by philosopher William of Ockham. Most people know the altered variation, "the simplest explanation is most likely to be true". Occam's Razor actually states "plurality should not be multiplied without necessity". Simply put, it's not about the simplest answer, but rather the one with the least assumptions attached to it.

To see parsimony in action, look at this picture (right). What are they?



You might guess cages, or possibly medieval torture devices. Your conclusions come from what you see in the photo, plus prior knowledge. You used facts to find an answer that is grounded in reality. As opposed to say, believing these are remnants of alien space pods.

Space Pods??



Parsimony is a powerful tool that can help curb conspiracies. Conspiracy theories are created when people *must* have an answer where none can be found, or when they refuse to believe the truth in front of them. Claiming they are alien space pods may sound absurd, but people have been known to believe similarly ridiculous things throughout history, including today. Based on other facts we know, we concluded the items pictured were made by humans. However, if you've never seen anything like what's pictured, it would be difficult to make a realistic guess, making you more susceptible to believing falsities.

Also, just a mention of aliens may have led you to briefly imagine how the items could be space pods. This shows how easily someone can be influenced away from facts. Using parsimony in decision making can strengthen your ability to better disprove false stories and rumors.

Parsimony doesn't always mean finding the real truth. The items pictured are actually called mortsafes, which were 19th century creations used to protect the deceased from grave robbers. Your answer was valid based on the facts you had, however learning more information helped you learn the truth.

The study of mankind is incredibly difficult, as there is no absolute consistency from any generation or culture. Parsimony guides you towards the answers you seek, but not necessarily the right answer. It's the most reasonable explanation you can find for now. Always be ready to update your conclusion whenever you find new information. The more we all learn helps us continue to find more accurate reflections of what really happened.

Survivorship Bias

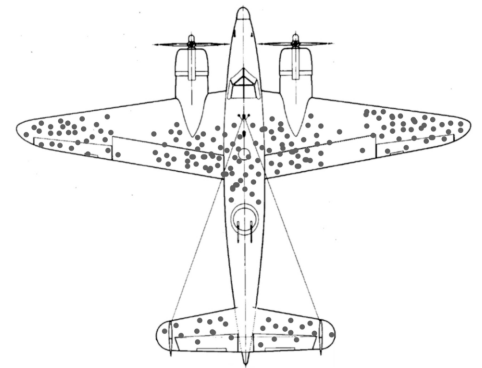
Sometimes researchers fixate on the facts in front of them and overlook all other data. This is a well-known cognitive bias that psychologists refer to as "survivorship bias". Put simply, it's the tendency to focus on items or people that have survived through time or selection, while forgetting about other important factors. Survivor bias explains why every generation believes products from their youth were made of better quality. This opinion is based on the objects which have survived, while ignoring the thousands of duplicates which were broken, defective, dangerous, had no value, etc. Falling prey to survivorship data leaves you with clouded judgment, which can keep you from finding the real answers.

One example of removing survivorship bias from research comes from artifact hunts. Archaeologists have learned that artifacts do not provide a true view of life from a given time period, as their data is weighted to the wealthy. Rich people have always had better crafted objects from higher quality materials, which end up being the items that can survive for centuries. Soft, organic articles rarely survive the passage of time, including fabrics, wood, etc. The poor could only afford these basic materials. Therefore, relics cannot not speak for all people of a civilization.

Similarly, a common modern belief is that early people only preserved written language by carving or painting stone. In reality, people have likely always printed their language on organics, such as cloth or paper, but they disintegrated long ago, leaving no trace.

Theories in action

You might be familiar with this story about damaged World War II planes. The U.S. armed forces wanted to better protect returning pilots and their bomber planes, which were returning from missions riddled with bullet holes. A research group from



Columbia University was given the project, and they set about reinforcing the areas hit the worst: tail, body and wings.

That is, until statistician Abraham Wald realized it was a terrible mistake to upgrade these sections. Why? (*continued on pg. 5*)...

...(continued from pg. 4) Because the researchers were only focused on damage from the surviving planes. They hadn't factored in the planes that hadn't returned, all which failed due to their true weakness: the engines.

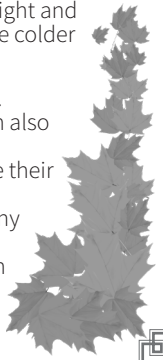
Parsimony was used to conclude the need to reinforce the tail, body and wings. Factoring in survivorship bias led to the correct answer: fortify the engine areas.

In short, use your current knowledge to reach conclusions, but keep in mind there is plenty you do not know or cannot see. Never agree blindly with anything told to you. If the facts given don't quite line up, be comfortable questioning the errors. It might help you to discover new evidence that will replace an assumption with fact. Honing these skills (and more) make it a little easier to navigate the challenges with exploring our past. The ultimate reward is gaining stronger connections and understanding to all who came before us. ♦

Painting the Earth with leaves

Sunlight is absorbed by a chemical in leaves known as chlorophyll, which absorbs red and blue light, making it appear green. The absorbed sunlight combines with water and carbon dioxide to create the plant's food. Because chlorophyll needs sunlight and warmth for production, it begins to deteriorate when the colder months set in.

As the green disappears, hidden colors begin to appear. Yellow and orange are from carotenoid pigments, which also create the color in carrots and corn. Flavonoids are responsible for reds, which are particular to fall because their pigment is created from bright sunlight and cool temperatures. Consequently, autumns with a lot of sunny days and cold nights offer the most amber, red, and magenta hues. The intensity of leaf colors vary based on moisture and temperature, leaving every autumn with varying displays.



Newsletter Look Back

Every once in a while we're going to take a peak back at a previous edition of the Apple Blossom Times, for a look into the yester-years of the society. Today's reprint comes from the January 1982 edition. 'Our own museum' refers to the Hrvol House Museum, located at our Country Village.

The 1981 Christmas program, held on December 18th, was very interesting for the many who attended. It all began with a visit to the Col. Bond House on Ontario Street, Lockport, where there were 12 rooms decorated for Christmas and furnished pre-1845.

Upon our return to our own museum, all joined in singing of Christmas songs led by our choir director, Edna Hausman.

Following this, all present were given the opportunity to get up and tell of their remembrances of Christmas, as if it was back in the days of their youth. Some of those participating and shedding some light on the subject were: Hersee Landel, Ruth & Jim McKernan, Shirley Bixler, Charles Boyer, Edna & Harold Hausman, Jeanne Voelpel, Wanda & Chuck Manhardt, Wanda Parkin, Bill Wellman, Dave & Carol Dillabough, Delores & Steve Kalota, Audrey Faulkner and Jud Heck.

A door prize was awarded to Carol Wellman and Lyle Kurtz, they having the good fortune to have their names drawn out of Jud Heck's hat.

Then came along the real Santa Claus, all the way from the North Pole. But poor Santa, all tired from his schedule of toy making and travel had to sit down and rest for a bit. In the meantime all became overcome with anxiety as to what Santa had brought them. But this editor is happy to report that all were pleased, especially Chuck Manhardt who was awarded with a can of soft soap for his many hours of physical labor at the museum.

The program concluded with the serving of refreshments consisting of a refreshing drink and cookies made by Jeanne Voelpel and Delores Kalota that came from recipes from Italy, Germany, etc.

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 _____

Help keep our society strong by renewing your membership now!



Select:

Renewal New Member

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

Our membership year runs January 1st through December 31st.

Annual Membership Dues (Check one):

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

Please make all checks payable to (or to the order of): 'Newfane Historical Society'. Tear off this form and mail with payment to: Newfane Historical Society, c/o Rosemary M. Miller 3531 Ewings Rd. Lockport, NY 14094

Or join online at www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

For more details, please visit our website.

Sept. 7th- Labor Day

Sept. 15th- Trustees Meeting

Oct. 12th- Columbus Day

Oct. 20th- Trustees Meeting

Oct. 31st- Halloween; All Saints' Eve

Nov. 1st- All Saints' Day
Daylight Savings Time Ends

Nov. 2nd- Día de Muertos; All Souls' Day

Nov. 3rd- U.S. Election Day

Nov. 11th- Veterans Day

Nov. 17th- Trustees Meeting

Nov. 26th- Thanksgiving

2020 Officers & Trustees

President: Melissa Schaeffer

Vice President: Virginia Womelsdorf

Recording Secretary: Jill Heck

Corresponding Secretary: Janet Capen

Financial Secretary: Rosemary Miller

Treasurer: David Steggles

Trustees:

Victoria Banks

Bill Clark

Keegan Connolly

Steve Goodman

Rich Leader

Kevin Luckman

Chuck Manhardt

Sheila McAtee

Bill Neidlinger

Mindi Schaeffer

Rose Schaeffer

George Updegraph

Contact Information

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Historical Society**
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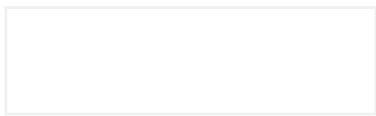
Country Village
2685 West Creek Rd.
Newfane, NY 14108

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

www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

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

Moving? Remember to update your address with us so you keep receiving newsletters!



*I love fall
most of all*



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