



Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Autumn 2021

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Join us this September 26 for the Apple Harvest Festival

From the desk of our President

Fall greetings!

As we wind down from summer and glide into fall, it's hard to believe the year is more than half over!

Just because summer is over, doesn't mean things have slowed down. We are very happy to be bringing back our Annual Apple Harvest Festival this year! The festival is on September 26, and we can't wait to see you all there!

Personally, the Apple Blossom and Apple Harvest festivals have always been one of my favorite events participate in. Nothing signifies the start of fall in Newfane quite like the Harvest Festival. If you haven't been, I encourage you to swing by and visit! Parking is free, no fee to get in, and there's so much to see and delicious food that is awaiting your taste buds. So swing by on Sunday, September 26 to check out what we have going on.

Synonymous with fall, we also will be seeing kids and faculty heading back to school. I would like to wish everyone the best of luck with this new school



year starting and best of luck to our football team. Go panthers!

Before I go, make sure to keep an eye on our website, NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com, for updates on future events. Thank you everyone. Take care of yourselves and loved ones; I will see you all at the festival!



Melissa Schaeffer

Minute History

Pumpkin spice has no pumpkin in it. Its namesake comes from its origins as a great blend of spices that enhance pumpkin while cooking. The earliest mention of pumpkin spice is from a Pumpkin Spice Cake recipe, published in 1936 by The Washington Post. Up until the 1950s, recipes with pumpkin were the only ones that used the special blend. Things changed when spice companies like McCormick began packaging the blend and selling it as pumpkin pie spice (and then shortened to pumpkin spice in the 1960s). Its versatility helped it to work with many sweet and savory recipes, helping the spice mix to fly off the shelves. The love of pumpkin spice has only grown since.



A look at the Cider Press, located at our Country Village

Our Hydraulic Cider Press came from the Chestnut Grove Fruit Farm, a 200-acre fruit farm located one and a half miles east of Olcott, on Lake Road. J.B. Chapman and Sons were the owners of this "noted" Newfane fruit farm. The Chapman's grew apples, peaches, pears, and plums.

The press is a Mt. Gilead "Orchard" Press, and it was manufactured in Mt. Gilead, Ohio in the early 1900s. The juice capacity is 7 to 10 barrels per day. The cylinder has a 4-inch bore, and the stroke of the ram is 12 inches with a capacity of 10 tons. The Class "A" Pump has a 9/16 inch diameter plunger, with a 3½-inch stroke.

Chuck Manhardt and Family procured this press and a cooler for the Newfane Historical Society. Sam Clogston, Bruce Genewich and Bill Neidlinger restored it for display at our country village, and is highlighted during our annual Apple festivals. It is found in the Cotton Candy room of a barn on the West property, along with our Pease Apple Peeler Corers, and other apple processing equipment. ♦



We ♥ our MEMBERS!

This section is an ongoing record of our amazing members.

Special thanks to the following
for their continued support:

Peter & Pat Ketch

Donna Watterson

We welcome our newest members!

Joanne Allison
Janet Buchanan

Kyla Rice
Paul VanDeCarr *

* - new life member

October Candlelight Tours 2021 Update: Canceled



We have moved our Candlelight Tours at the Van Horn Mansion until 2022, when we hope to once again bring large groups together!

Please keep an eye on our website and social marketing for any upcoming plans or fundraisers we may host later this year and next year.



Newfane Historical Society's

Apple Harvest Festival

September 26, 2021
10am - 4pm

Celebrate Autumn during our 42nd annual Sunday gathering! Join us rain or shine and enjoy everything our local harvest offers.

Fun for the Entire Family!

- Local Products
- Food & Drink
- Live Performances
- Tractor & Farm Equipment Show
- Historical Demos
- Fun Activities
- Crafts
- Flea Market
- Attractions



at our Country Village
2685 West Creek Rd. Newfane, NY 14108

NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

Recipe Rewind

Printed in the October 1943 issue of Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife magazine. This recipe was part of a wartime food-conserving series called "Ways to Use All That Food", by Miriam Williams.

Sweet Potato Souffle

- 3 cups mashed sweet potatoes
- 1/2 cup mild molasses
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs, separated
- 1 cup scalded milk
- 2 T. butter
- 1/2 cup black walnuts
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 cup sugar

Whip mashed potatoes, molasses, sugar and salt until smooth. Beat egg yolks, add milk and butter, or use part cream and omit butter. Add nutmeg and nuts, fold in whites beaten stiff with the sugar. Pile in a greased baking dish, bake in a moderate oven (350°F) 40 min. or until set. Serve warm with whipped cream, thin cream or custard sauce flavored with grated orange rind. ♦



Support our Historical Society

How Can You Help?

- Membership Dues | Contribute a one-time financial donation |
- Book our locations for a private event | Sign up to volunteer

Visit NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

Bird Migration Evolution

In our region it's customary for many bird species to migrate south during the winter. It's a very common symbol of Autumn, just like their return in the Spring. Their migration is nearly the same one seen by countless ancestors that came before us. Although we don't know everything about this adaptation, what scientists have learned is very fascinating. All animals – yes, even humans – are prone to migration. Common reasons can include changes in local climate, geography, food sources, and for mating. Typically migration affects clusters of creatures in a certain locale only when or if needed, and they travel only until they find a more appropriate location to settle.

This is vastly different than the many bird species that take part in a bi-annual relocation to another part of the world. Answering why they travel in Spring and Fall is easy. Seasonal change is one of the most dependable features of our planet, providing predictable resources such as spring leaf-out, monsoon rains, insect hatches, and fruiting seasons. But how did some birds develop such long and intense migration patterns, like the Yellow Warblers who summer in North America, and winter in Central & South America?

One leading theory holds that avian migration evolved by a gradual extension of smaller annual movements as birds searched for improved food or breeding opportunities. Individuals whose movements gave them better chances to survive and reproduce passed that migratory behavior along to their offspring. So a short jaunt to and from a seasonal feeding ground might over time have become a long journey.

A key force in this evolution may have been the earth's many cycles of environmental change, including, over the last 2.5 million years, more than 20 glacial cycles. The most recent of these was the melting and retreat of vast ice sheets about 15,000 years ago. It's easy to imagine birds surviving by moving away from dangerous cold temperatures, and then returning to their preferred home as the ice melted and plants began to regrow. Scientists believe this survival instinct quickly developed into a permanent genetic trait among the first birds on our planet. This instinct has helped birds to survive on Earth; as they evolved into many different species, sizes, skeletal structures and skillsets, countless bird species have retained the predisposition to gamble on the regular appearance of resources someplace else.

Studies have shown that bird migration largely evolved from very early bird species heading south to avoid the winter. Some birds survived in the warmer climates well and stayed, slowly adapting into new and colorful species that better blended into tropical climates, including Macaws and Toucans. Somewhere along the way, a few

Some birds fly in formation, which adds an aerodynamic benefit that help them save energy during their flight.



One of the most impressive migrants is the Arctic Tern. Each year they fly more than 49,000 miles round-trip—roughly equivalent to flying twice around the globe! They travel between breeding grounds in the Arctic and winter foraging areas in the waters off Antarctica.

new tropical climate birds began migrating north in the summer – but they were not remembering or following their ancestor's paths. The new migration patterns were to avoid major risks from intense heat during mating season. While many developed shorter distance migration paths, a few headed very far north. And so today, across the globe you can find birds migrating in all directions, traveling various distances or not migrating at all!

Exactly how and why birds become “migration dropouts” is still a puzzle, but even today birds will sometimes change their inherited instincts. Around the 1980s, ornithologists in Argentina first discovered some Barn Swallows who remained behind and began breeding. Their many offspring also followed this new pattern, and 40 years later they have a population known as

Argentine Barn Swallows. Their new lifestyles could produce divergences in their genes, leading them to become a new variant swallow species. This is only one example of the ever-continuing evolution of birds.

In some birds, it's possible to still see...continued on page 4

Birds flock together during migration because there is safety in numbers!

Many birds are hardwired on when it's time to begin the journey, and they deal with whatever weather they find when they arrive. Other species that don't travel as far will use weather and temperatures as signals on when it's best to go; they will remain longer or leave earlier depending on their needs.



It was a mystery to our ancient ancestors where birds went when they disappeared for extended parts of the year. Some believed they hibernated, while many thought birds in the summer transformed into birds they saw in winter.

continued from page 3... the imprint of past evolutionary forces. The Northern Wheatear, for example, is a small songbird that breeds in tundra-like habitats around the Northern Hemisphere. It was originally found in Eurasia, but as the northern ice sheets began to recede around 20,000 years ago, the species colonized North America. Amazingly, none of these wheatears have found wintering grounds in North America. They all still retrace their ancestral migratory paths to wintering grounds in Africa. Wheatears in Alaska head westward across Asia to East Africa, a route covering 8,700 miles, which is the longest distance recorded for a migratory songbird.

The many species who have kept patterns and traits for thousands of years have helped us to learn so much about migration origins, along with getting a peak back into a time we have never seen- a previous Earth that had different geography and species and weather, all which helped form the amazing planet as we know it today. ♦

How Can You Help Migrating Birds?



You can help birds with their migration in two simple ways: adding decals to windows (up to 1 billion birds die each year from window collisions), and feeding them. Great foods you can leave outside include seeds, nectar, sliced oranges and grape jelly.

A more sustainable option, albeit one which requires more effort, is planting native/ local plants in your yard. Many migratory songbirds prefer insects, flower nectar or berries, so growing plants and gardens helps them greatly! Plus, you get a beautiful outdoor show in return as you watch them enjoy their meal.

An Abridged Look at Hot Cocoa

Hot chocolate's history goes quite a way back, and the drink has evolved a lot over the centuries.

We can trace the history of chocolate back thousands of years to the Olmec, Mayan and Aztec cultures of present-day Mexico and Central America. These early chocolate makers cultivated the cacao tree, ultimately rendering the seeds of its fruit (the bean) into a drink. As early as 500 BCE, the Mayans were drinking chocolate made from ground-up cocoa seeds mixed with water, cornmeal, and chili peppers (as well as other ingredients)- a much different version from the hot chocolate we know today. They would mix the drink by pouring it back and forth from a cup to a pot until a thick foam developed, and then enjoy they'd the beverage cold. Although the chocolate drink was available to all classes of people, the wealthy would drink it from large vessels with spouts, which later would be buried beside them. Many historians suggest the drink was not a part of the average person's diet, rather used primarily for medicinal and ceremonial uses.



When it hit London in the 1700s, chocolate houses (similar to today's coffee shops) became popular and very trendy, even though chocolate was very expensive. In the late 1700s, the president of the Royal College of Physicians, Hans Sloane, brought from Jamaica a recipe for mixing chocolate with milk, which made the drink more palatable in his opinion. Others agreed and the English started adding milk to their chocolate; it was then enjoyed as an after-dinner beverage.

By the 18th century, chocolate began to evolve past its drinkable form. First, cocoa powder was invented in Holland, where the Dutch controlled nearly the entire cocoa bean trade. Since the cocoa powder blends much easier with milk or water, it allowed for more creations to come. Next came chocolate as a candy by mixing cocoa butter with sugar. In 1876, milk chocolate was developed. From then on, chocolate has become more popular as a solid treat rather than as the drink it started from.

Up until the 19th century, hot chocolate was used as a treatment for stomach and liver diseases as well as a special drink. Today, however, we simply treat this warm concoction as a beverage to sip and savor. It can be instant powder to add to water or chocolate, or specialty gourmet versions. Some popular international varieties include Spain's thick *chocolate a la taza*, spiced chocolate *para mesa* from Latin America, and Italy's super thick *cioccolata calda*. ♦



In the early 1500s, explorer Hernán Cortés brought cocoa beans and chocolate drink-making tools to Europe. Although the drink remained cold and bitter-tasting, it gained popularity and was adopted by the court of King Charles V, as well as the Spanish upper class. Spaniards began serving it hot, sweetened, and without the chili peppers. They were very protective of their wonderful new beverage, and it was over

100 years before news of it began to spread across Europe.



Donate to our Bake Sale



Support the Apple Harvest Festival's annual bake sale, held on September 26 at the Country Village. All funds raised support the Newfane Historical Society.

Donate a batch of your favorite dessert or baked item; autumn flavors are appreciated! Please pre-wrap everything in disposable containers you won't get back. Deliver to Kris DeGlopper-Banks (call her @ 716-778-9344) by Sept. 25, or to the festival's General Store on September 26 before 10am. **Thanks for the help!**



Volunteers Needed for our Apple Fest

We are seeking volunteers to assist at our Apple Harvest Festival on Sept. 26. Volunteering is a great way to assist the growth of our society, and allows you to give back to the community in a fun way. There are a variety of jobs available, and various time lengths to work. If you are interested, please get in touch today (we accept student volunteer hours):

Jill: 716-390-9679 | jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com

September Fun Facts!

Out of all 12 months of the year, September is spelled with the most letters. It contains nine letters, and it happens to be the ninth month of the year. No other months have the same amount of letters as their number in the calendar year.

A little-known, but highly significant American holiday falls in September. September 17th is Constitution Day, which marks the day that the U.S. Constitution was adopted.

The birthstone for September is the sapphire which is said to reduce inflammation, treat fever and act as a lucky charm for the person wearing it. It symbolizes intuition, clarity of thought, peacefulness, as well as loyalty and trust.

There are more pop and classic songs with "September" in the title than any other month.

Save the Date!

32nd Old Fashioned Carol Sing

at the Van Horn Mansion

Sunday, December 5

1-4pm



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 _____

**ALSO RENEW OR JOIN ONLINE AT
NEWFANEHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM**

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):

- Individual Membership \$10.00
- Family 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

Calendar

For details on our events, visit our website.

September 6- Labor Day

September 21- Trustees Meeting

September 26- Apple Harvest Festival

October 11- Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 19- Trustees Meeting

October 31- Halloween/ All Saints' Eve

November 1- All Saints' Day

November 2- Dia De Los Muertos/ All Souls Day/ Election Day

November 7- Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 11- Veterans Day

2021 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

Steve Goodman

Richard Leader

Kevin Luckman

Chuck Manhardt

Maryanne Miller

Bill Neidlinger

Mindi Schaeffer

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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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*The season of
Pumpkin Spice*



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