



Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Summer 2019

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Apple Blossom is around the corner...

From the desk of our President



We're once again preparing for the Apple Blossom Festival, our first major fundraiser of the year. Make sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, May 19th, and join us for a wonderful afternoon celebrating history, heritage and our community. This festival continues over 40 years after its start thanks to the great support of our society members. If you're not already helping out in some way, consider getting involved this year- view some options listed below. We'd love to have a boost in volunteers and attendance, which would help us to further the many projects we hope to achieve in the coming years.

to visit the house and enjoy everything it offers, as we're all stewards of the estate. This includes hosting private events, as the mansion is available for rental use year-round. Summers offer the chance to use the lawns and enjoy an afternoon outside at the mansion surrounded by picturesque gardens. If you're interested in booking an event, please visit our website or stop in to the mansion during tours. Renting the mansion is another great way to support the historical society!

I hope all society members have chances to enjoy the wonderful late spring and summer, and we'll chat again with our next edition closer to Labor Day.

The Van Horn Mansion re-opened for Sunday tours on April 7th. We encourage all our members

Vicki Banks

Support the Historical Society this May

Minute History

In 1807 Jesse Hawley, a flour merchant from WNY who went broke trying to get his product to market in the Atlantic coastal cities, published a series of essays from debtor's prison. Hawley advocated for a canal system that would span nearly 400 miles from Buffalo to Albany. Hawley's eloquent essays caught the attention of NYC Mayor DeWitt Clinton. He believed a canal was crucial to the economic advancement of his city. Clinton saw his plan come to fruition in 1817 after he became the governor of NY. Workers broke ground on the Erie Canal on July 4, 1817, near Utica. It took laborers, Irish immigrants and U.S. born men, eight years to finish the project. They cleared the land by hand and animal power, and blasted through rock with gunpowder (dynamite wasn't invented until the 1860s by Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel). It was considered a major engineering feat at the time of its completion in 1825.

Donate to Our Festival Bake Sale

Support the Apple Blossom Festival's annual bake sale, held on May 19th at the Country Village. Donate a batch of cookies, brownies, breads, or other desserts.

Please pre-wrap everything in disposable containers you won't get back. All funds raised support the Newfane Historical Society. Thanks for the help!

Deliver to Kris DeGlopper-Banks (716-778-9344) by May 18th, or to the festival's General Store on May 19th before 10am.



We're looking for Festival Volunteers

Working at our 2 Apple festivals (held each May & September) are always great fun! You're helping the community while socializing with friendly guests and volunteers. Work is held between 9am-4pm, broken into smaller shifts. Helping two days a year is a small commitment to fit in your schedule, but it does make a huge difference for our society!

Tasks include working in the various exhibits, serving food, set-up and tear down, grounds management and more.

Interested in Volunteering? Please contact Jill Heck:

716-390-9679

jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com

Help us spread the word about Apple Blossom!

Stop by the Van Horn Mansion on Sundays (1-4pm) and pick up some Apple Blossom flyers.

Help us hang them around town, and please spread the word about our annual May fundraiser. Thanks so much!

Renew Your Membership & Seek out New Members

Please renew your membership if you haven't done so for 2019 (Check your address label: expired accounts will have an asterisk * following your name). We also ask you to help grow our numbers through friends and family. Use the form in this newsletter or sign-up on our website. Memberships are a vital way to keep the society alive and flourishing, and we greatly appreciate the support!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

This section is an ongoing record of our amazing members.

Special thanks to the following for their continued support:

- Philip & Judy Baehr
- Judith G. Sears
- Kenneth Sears
- Charles & Patricia Thursam

Welcome to our newest members!

Annette & Richard Komroy

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

Newfane Historical Society's



43rd

Apple Blossom Festival

Sunday, May 19th
Begins at 10am

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

Celebrate spring during our Sunday afternoon gathering! Join us rain or shine and enjoy everything planting season offers.

TRACTOR & FARM EQUIPMENT SHOW ♥ LIVE PERFORMANCES ♥ CRAFTS
 HISTORICAL DEMOS ♥ GREAT FOOD ♥ HANDS-ON FUN ♥ LOCAL PRODUCTS
 ATTRACTIONS ♥ FLEA MARKET ♥ + ALL VILLAGE EXHIBITS WILL BE OPEN!

NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

FREE Admission and Parking!
No Pets Please



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

Van Horn Mansion Summer Tours

Open 1-4pm
 Sundays & Wednesdays

July 3rd through August 28th

60-90 minute guided tours
 \$5pp; free to society members



Historical Fun Fact!

The “dog days of summer” refer to the weeks between July 3 and August 11, and are named after the Dog Star (Sirius) in the Canis Major constellation. The ancient Greeks blamed Sirius for hot temperatures, drought, discomfort, and sickness that occurred during the summer.



Canis Major

Fruit or Flower: what would you grow?

Survival produces food gardens; Leisure fashions ornamental ones

Healthy economies allow people to earn personal wealth and time, which allow for more than a life of survival. This was true centuries ago as it is today; income levels dictate whether someone has time for extracurricular activities such as volunteering, living improvements, health, travel and more. For this reason, the history and evolution of gardens has been directly connected to the economy since prehistoric times.

The earliest gardens were practical: cordoning off space near living quarters to grow herbs, grains, fruits and/or vegetables. They began sometime around 10,000 B.C.E., and were limited to items naturally growing nearby. The earliest recorded gardens come from India and Asia, however most cultures contain variations of garden crafting. Each gained valuable experience that, in many ways, is used even today. This includes the creation of new and altered species, adding more variety to the food supply.

Over time, profitable cultures created the first upper class. This led to the new art-form of landscape architecture, i.e. pleasure gardens that could be admired and used for leisure. They were typically maintained by staff and slaves, and contained flowers, shrubbery, trees, stones and water formations. Evidence of early pleasure gardens includes Egyptian tombs, where paintings from the 16th century B.C.E. presented ornamental horticulture. In 27 B.C.E., Roman author and engineer Vitruvius wrote *Ten Books on Architecture*, which focused on design, landscape, engineering the environment, water, and the importance of public gardens. The word garden comes from the Old English word, "geard", meaning "enclosure".

Pleasure gardens became a refuge for the well-educated, and were important status symbols, leading to their



often ornate and elaborate designs. Early Persians crafted the first 'paradise' gardens, fully enclosed by walls to keep out wild animals, thieves, and better control the environment. They also invented underground aqueducts to bring water to their gardens without it evaporating on the way. The Spanish introduced public parks, while Greeks crafted the earliest school gardens and created the study of botany. Romans built extensive villa gardens with visionary water features, topiary and shaded arcades. In China and Japan, aristocratic gardens featured miniaturized and simulated natural landscapes. They also created Zen gardens, which emphasized the concept of using a garden for reflection and increasing one's own wisdom. The English loved 'wild' gardens filled with perennials. Assyrian King Nebuchadnezzar is supposed to have built the hanging gardens (stepped terraces) of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. All of these cultures and more surrounded their religious structures with lovely gardens.

As mentioned before, the types of gardens grown throughout history are connected to the local economy. In times of war or famine, food gardens are vital, and thus



have periods of growth and innovation. Pleasure gardens see the same in calmer and fruitful periods of history. One example of this is the Middle Ages. During this time many people struggled to earn a living, causing a sharp decline in European pleasure gardens. Those who could afford gardening put their attention on vegetables and herbs, and often walled them off for security from others. This led to greater understanding of medicinal herbs, along with improved cultivation practices. Gradually order was restored in Europe, and by the late 13th century, pleasure gardens became vital property to anyone who could afford them.

Beginning in the 16th century, a pleasure garden's value was dependent on the latest trends in design and flora. For centuries vogues among the rich evolved, rotating between landscape designs invented by Romans, Greeks, Italians, French, English,



Indians, and so on. Depending on the trends of the moment, gardens could be divided into sections, use stone or hedge walls, and include paths, sculptures, fountains, topiary, grottos, water organs, trellises, mock temples, sundials and more. They were also styled in shapes such as triangles, circles, knots, hearts, mazes, or have a more natural, forest style. It all depended on what was popular.

From the 16th-19th centuries, as global travel increased so did the sharing of flora to different cultures. Fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices, flowers and trees were no longer restricted to their origin lands. Grafting and other experiments grew the bounty of options even further. This allowed for healthier and stronger vegetation that could survive inclement weather, while also looking more beautiful and tasting better than its ancestors. One example of this is the apple, which has pedigrees as barely edible, bland fruits.



Gardens during these centuries continued to be an indicator of wealth and status. Pleasure gardens were only for upper and middle classes. If the poor had a garden at all it was strictly for...
(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)...herbs and vegetables. Any poor who could scrape some coins together might pay a fee to visit public beautification gardens in the larger cities.

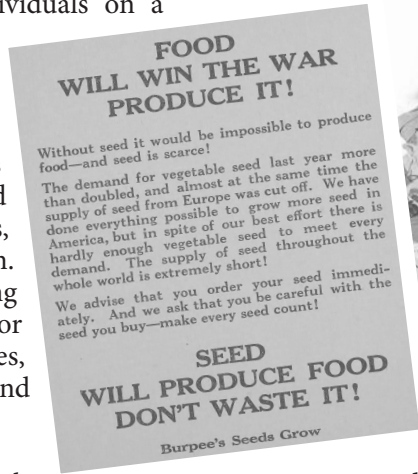
By the 18th century many countries had overall increased wealth, allowing for a growing middle class in Europe that invented new technology and innovative cultivating techniques. During this time, the wealthy began using their free time to establish clubs, societies and organizations to socialize with like-minded individuals on a regular basis. This included gardening clubs, the first being established in 1725 in England known as the Society of Gardeners. These groups popped up in towns and cities all over the world, and helped contribute to garden designs, maintenance, beauty and production. Meanwhile in the burgeoning America, colonists were often poor or had limited access to supplies, and so they focused on survival and productive food gardens.

Many great advancements in the 1800's further improved caring for gardens. In 1830 Edwin Beard Budding invented the lawn mower. Greenhouses and conservatories allowed plants heat and light year-round, along with individualized micro-climates based on plants' needs. One of the largest ever built was London's Crystal Palace, for the Great Exhibition of 1851. Around this time, public parks also became common features in municipalities, allowing anyone to enjoy nature near their homes for free. While parks aren't exactly gardens, they often feature crafted landscaping from techniques formed through centuries of gardening. By 1860, insecticides and pesticides first emerged, and quickly became a vital tool for managing greenery.

Food gardens were the standard throughout the decades with both World Wars and The Great Depression. Food production was low in the United States and Europe, and prices soared. The National War Garden Commission was formed in America, which encouraged citizens to grow food. Interest in growing vegetable gardens and orchards waned following the wars.



Now, as regions of cities found improved income sources, 'city', 'urban', and 'community' gardens emerged. These offered natural spaces filled with colorful flowers, and/or various fruits and vegetables. They help reduce human's negative impact of the environment, and allow people unfamiliar with country living the opportunity to learn horticulture skills. These reasons encourage more people to establish gardens all their own.



A look at the history of gardens would be incomplete without mentioning Botanical gardens. They combine edible and leisure types, while serving as tools for education, medicine, scientific advances, and conservation. Their origins come from monks, who grew plants for beauty, food, and medicine. The first known botanical garden was built in 1543 at Italy's University of Pisa, created by Luca Ghini. Other universities followed suit, and all focused primarily on the study of

medicinal plants and their many uses. Over time the gardens were expanded to study and cultivate new species, especially tropical plants that required costly greenhouse spaces to stay alive during colder European seasons. This helped increase the use and popularity of cloves, tea, chocolate, coffee, palm oil, pepper, rubber, etc. Throughout the 16th-18th centuries, universities throughout North America, Europe and Asia all



created their own botanic gardens. During the 19th century botanic gardens also began increased the size of pleasure gardens, allowing even greater public use and appeal. Fees could be charged to visitors, allowing a sustainable income source to continue research. By the 20th century, scientists, gardeners and landscape artists had become increasingly focused on conservation. Modern botanic gardens often place high value on rescuing and growing endangered plant species, along with the growth and sustainability of all plant-life on earth.

Today there are endless ways to build and design gardens, and nearly all used by our ancestors can be found today. This includes a return to 'wild' or 'forest' gardens, which are among the earliest gardens ever crafted. They are...(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)...a mixture of various plants without any order, rows, or shapes. Forest gardens vary in size and feature flowers, fruits, vegetables, trees, shrubs and more, all blended together creating a beautifully unique aesthetic with a food source. Edible gardens are increasingly popular in recent years, as more people are health-conscious and invested in their food's origins. This also coincides with a world-wide economy that is struggling, along with the massive increase in those with lower class status. Once again, our preferences intersect with how much income we earn.

Do you have a garden? Is it filled with fruit or flowers? Are these choices affected by your income, which also effects the time, energy, and funds you put towards what matters in your life? We hope any gardens you see might serve as a greater reminder of their connection to us all. Not just as forms of survival and pleasure, but indicators of our collective progress of life on earth. ♦



Recipe Rewind

Green Tomato Pie

19th century southerners created this as a summertime substitute for apple pie. This recipe comes from printings in various magazines in the 1970's:



- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 cup packed light brown sugar | 1/4 teaspoon salt |
| 1/3 cup all-purpose flour | 3 green tomatoes (about 1-3/4 pounds), cored and cut into thin wedges |
| 2 tablespoons lemon juice | Pastry for double-crust pie (9 inches) |
| 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg | |
| 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon | |

Preheat oven to 425°. In a large bowl, mix the first six ingredients until blended. Add tomatoes; toss gently to combine. On a lightly floured surface, roll 1/2 the pastry dough to a 1/8-in.-thick circle; transfer to a 9-in. pie plate. Trim pastry even with rim. Add filling. Roll remaining dough to a 1/8-in.-thick circle. Place over filling. Trim, seal and flute edge. Cut slits in top. Bake 15 minutes. Reduce oven setting to 350°. Bake 35-45 minutes longer or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cool on a wire rack.

Earliest recorded recipe came from "Housekeeping in Old Virginia", 1878; contributed by Mrs. S.T. :

Slice green tomatoes and stew in a thick syrup of sugar and lemon juice. Grate in the yellow rind of a lemon. When transparent, spread evenly over the bottom of a pie-plate that has been lined with paste. Spread strips of pastry across or cut into ornamental leaves with a cake-cutter, place over the fruit and bake.

Visit us at the Niagara County Fair!

July 31st to August 4th, 2019

Hours: Wed.-Sat. 10am-11pm | Sun. 10am-6pm

Niagara County Fairgrounds, 4487 Lake Ave. Lockport NY 14094

Wed.-Sat. \$5pp | Sun. \$3pp or \$10/ car | Week: \$18pp | Kids 6 & under: FREE

Visit members of the Newfane Historical Society this August during the fair! We are a member of the Niagara County Federation of Historical Societies, which hosts an amazing display annually inside the air-conditioned 4H Training Center. Many of our members volunteer their time, which means you'll meet some wonderful people with plenty of historical knowledge!



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:

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

Calendar

For more details, please visit our website.

- May 5th- Cinco de Mayo
- May 12th- Mother's Day
- May 19th- Apple Blossom Festival
- May 21st- Trustees Meeting
- May 27th- Memorial Day
- June 16th- Father's Day
- June 18th- Trustees Meeting
- June 29th- Newfane Central High School Graduation
- July 4th- Independence Day
- July 16th- Trustees Meeting
- August 20th- Trustees Meeting

2019 Officers & Trustees

- President:** Vicki Banks
- Vice President:** Melissa Schaeffer
- Recording Secretary:** Virginia Dillman
- Corresponding Secretary:** Janet Capen
- Financial Secretary:** Rosemary Miller
- Treasurer:** David Steggles

Trustees:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bill Clark | Kevin Luckman | Bill Ott |
| Keegan Connolly | Chuck Manhardt | Mindi Schaeffer |
| Steve Goodman | Sheila McAtee | Rose Schaeffer |
| Jill Heck | Bill Neidlinger | George Updegraph |

Contact Information

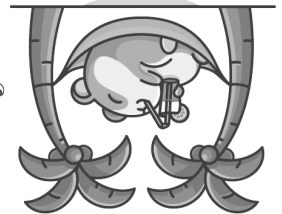
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| Town of Newfane
Historical Society
P.O. Box 115
Newfane, NY 14108 | Country Village
2685 West Creek Rd.
Newfane, NY 14108 | Van Horn Mansion
2165 Lockport-Olcott Rd.
Burt, NY 14028 |
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www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

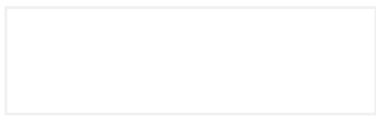
Phone: (716) 778-7197 | info@newfanehistoricalsociety.com

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