



Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Summer 2020

Inside This Issue

- President's Letter
- Minute History
- Schedule Changes
- Member Update
- Word Find
- Admiring boardwalks
- Let's go to summer camp
- Camp Kenan history
- Recipe Rewind
- Calendar

Minute History

From March 1798 to October 1800, Joseph Ellicott headed up the surveying of the Holland Land Company's purchase of Western New York. The entire project cost \$70,921.695, and had a staff of 130 men: surveyors, draftsmen, cooks, ax men, and camp keepers. Among supplies used were 270 barrels of flour, 100 barrels of pork, 15 barrels of beef, 5 boats, 2 ox teams, 35 pack horses, 100 pairs of horse shoes, 200 blankets, 30 regimental tents, 70 'falling' axes, 150 pairs of shoes, 6 large folio blank books, 288 black lead pencils, 1,000 Dutch quills, and 144 book bindings.



Counties owned by The Holland Land Purchase, State of New York.

A Time of Togetherness & Support

From the desk of our President

Hello everyone! I think we can all agree when I say, thank goodness for beautiful weather and each other! With the COVID-19 pandemic happening, it will take time to get back to normal; perhaps we'll find ourselves establishing a new normal. One thing that has been a constant in all of our lives through this, is that we're all in this struggle together. No part of this pandemic has left any aspect of our lives untouched. With that, we sadly had to cancel our Apple Blossom Festival this May.

Although the members, trustees, and people in the community are saddened by this decision, it was made out of a sense of responsibility and caring that we feel for our community. While all of our lives and activities have been put on hold, we have taken this time to look inward and reflect on the projects we want to start, and the vision we have for the future of the Newfane Historical Society. We are certainly hoping to host our Apple Harvest Festival, Candlelight Haunted Tours, and other events and private rentals as planned for the future. We will update everyone via our newsletter,



Facebook and website: newfanehistoricalsociety.com.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to everyone. Thank you trustees for checking on our locations to be sure all is safe and sound, and for literally doing all that you do. Thank you members for continually supporting not only us, but your fellow community members. Thank you to everyone reading this that is probably going stir crazy in their home. Thank you for socially distancing and keeping the welfare and health of everyone around you in mind. We truly are all in this together and remember, truly great things can come out of the gloomiest times. So keep your head up. We got this. Be safe everyone!

Melissa Schaeffer

Schedule Changes

Canceled

Apple Blossom Festival

Due to precautions over COVID-19 we have canceled our Apple Blossom Festival. We will now host our 44th Apple Blossom Festival next year: May 16th, 2021.

Postponed

Van Horn Mansion Opening

To ensure public safety, we have postponed opening the mansion to the public. Please keep checking our website this summer for a possible opening, coinciding with CDC and state guidelines.

Further Delays

Future Events & Private Rentals

Please keep an eye out on Facebook and our website for any updates regarding the opening of our locations and execution of our annual fundraising events.

Best wishes to everyone until we see each other again!

We know everyone's daily lives are currently altered and saturated with the ramifications of global efforts towards the ongoing pandemic. We felt it's important to mention briefly so our members stay up to date with our events, and so our newsletter archive continues to reflect our current lives. However we'll do our best to keep our newsletters focused on other topics, helping to give us all a few moments of reprieve.

WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

This section is an ongoing record of our amazing members.

Special thanks to the following for their continued support:

- Judith G. Sears
- Kenneth Sears
- David & Janet Steggles
- Kimberlee Walker

Summertime Fun Word Find!

V A C A T I O N A O C R B S S F
 S G B A R B E C U E S E U T A O
 U O N A Y E C Q G K W E G R I U
 M D G I L R J W R U I S S A L R
 M I N A L L C O E N M E W W I T
 E R I S M L W V B S M T L B N H
 R I H O J E I E J T I I L E G O
 S K S T R G A R D E N S A R G F
 C S I I R T A X G S G C B R N J
 H R F U C A E R T N P I H I I U
 O E R Q A O V N Y U O N C E T L
 O T A S Y R T E N S O C A S A Y
 L A R O N D A Y L I L I E S O N
 O W Y M D O G D A Y S P B G B W

- Ball
- Beach Ball
- Barbecues
- Boating
- Bugs
- Day Lilies
- Dog Days
- Fireworks
- Fishing
- Fourth of July
- Game
- Gardens
- Grilling
- Job
- Mosquitos
- Picnics
- Sailing
- Siteseer
- Strawberries
- Summer
- School
- Sunsets
- Swimming
- Pools
- Tennis
- Travel
- Vacation
- Water Ski
- Yoyo

Admiring boardwalks

Atlantic City, New Jersey holds the honor of the invention of boardwalks, which have been loved by Americans for nearly two centuries. Their origins began in the 1850s, when local residents recognized their region would be perfect to host health resorts, which had large profit potential. Located alongside the ocean, there were scenic views, fresh air and salt water to bathe in; all ideal items for people looking to escape congested cities. Local investor and resident Dr. Jonathan Pitney quickly recognized his resort plans would not be successful without better access to the island areas. He partnered with civil engineer Richard Osborn to create the Camden-Atlantic Railroad, which began service on July 5, 1854. The train quickly made the city a popular destination; luxurious hotels, resorts, alluring shops, fine restaurants and even cheap rooming houses sprung up everywhere.

Unfortunately the growing number of visitors created a new problem for everyone: dealing with sand. Visitors would track it everywhere: railroad cars, homes, hotel lobbies and stores. This made everything a little dirtier, drier, and caused plenty of damage. Efforts to solve the problem floated through the community for years, until inspiration struck a conductor of the C-A Railroad in 1870, by the name of Alexander Boardman.

Boardman, along with help from hotel owner Jacob Keim, made a presentation to the city council for an 8-foot wide walkway of planks built over the sand, away from the tide, which residents could walk along and remain clean. The idea was approved, and constructed quickly. Running from the beach to the town and costing \$5,000.00, half of Atlantic City's 1870 tax revenue, an 8-foot-wide boardwalk was constructed. It opened on June 26, 1870, stretched a mile long and stood app. one foot above the sand. This original boardwalk was portable, designed to remove and store each winter. Early on, councilmen nicknamed it Boardman's Walkway, which quickly shortened into Boardwalk. Today the creator's name is rarely known, largely because visitors 'walk' on wooden 'boards,' thus easily misconstruing the name. The boardwalk design worked well, and...(continued on page 3)



The Boardwalk Atlantic City NJ, rolling chairs visible; after 1898; Detroit Publishing Company

When swimming, what to wear?

The earliest bathing suits worn in Atlantic City were full costumes, as modesty and law dictated that the whole body be covered. For women that meant wearing stockings until the 1920s, while men required shirts until at least 1940. Censors roamed the beaches monitoring bathers' self-exposure and looking for offenders who showed more flesh than the local code allowed.

Early bathing suits were often made of wool as the material repelled water and kept its shape better than cotton. The more daring bloomer suits and stockings were not introduced until 1907. They were the perfect clothing to sell along boardwalks since they were not readily available in many stores across the country. Bath houses on the boardwalk sold and even rented suits, while offering changing rooms for customers to get beach ready.



Lifeguards Atlantic City NJ; date unknown



Looking down boardwalk toward Million Dollar Pier Atlantic City NJ; c. 1930 - 1945; The Tichnor Brothers Collection

(continued from page 2)...was quickly adapted in other places in the U.S. that had populated beach communities.

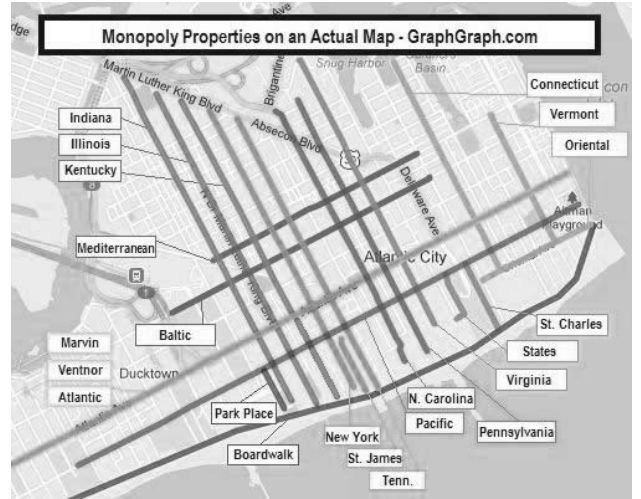
Atlantic City continued evolving their boardwalk, redesigning the size and length multiple times until finally installing a permanent one in 1896. Only pedestrian traffic was permitted on their boardwalk until 1884, when rolling chairs were introduced with great success; they are still popular vehicles used today. By the 1890s it was a major revenue maker, hosting bath houses, shops, restaurants and amusements. Piers were developed for water activities, and new businesses included food concessions, games, and freak & entertainment shows. It had become the centerpiece of “America’s Playground” (the city’s nickname), offering visitors quirky attractions and top-shelf shopping and entertainment. Atlantic City’s Boardwalk was so popular it spawned a wave of such promenades along the coasts. In the middle of the country, landlocked resorts jumped on the boardwalk bandwagon with “riverwalks.”

The Ocean City boardwalk in Maryland was built in 1902 but it was basic, designed to roll up and be stored at high tide. The permanent boardwalk was constructed in 1910, expanded in the 1920s, destroyed by a hurricane in 1962, and promptly rebuilt to its current length of 2 1/2 miles. Santa Cruz, California opened a boardwalk amusement park in 1907 which still operates. In Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, the first boardwalk was built in 1873. Destroyed and rebuilt many times, the one-mile Rehoboth boardwalk is now considered by some travel experts as the best in the country. Coney Island in Brooklyn, NY had many beach attractions and large numbers of beach visitors, but did not have a boarded boardwalk until 1922.

Boardwalk popularity has struggled against the ever-changing entertainment of each new decade. Few boardwalks are around today compared to a hundred years ago. In recent years boardwalk popularity has surged as visitors enjoy the

Monopoly: buying and selling Atlantic City!

A few of the many creators of the board game Monopoly were inspired to use “America’s Playground” as the backdrop for their game. Many properties are named after streets or locations in (or near) Atlantic City, NJ. Illinois Avenue and St. Charles Place both no longer exist, and Marvin Gardens is a misspelling of its actual name, Marven Gardens. Mediterranean Avenue was inspired by Arctic Avenue, and Short Line Railroad honors the Shore Fast Line, a streetcar line that served Atlantic City. Only Reading and Pennsylvania Railroads, two of the many railways serving New Jersey, made it into the game; B&O Railroad (Baltimore & Ohio, a parent company of Reading) was the fourth train line name chosen for the game.



combination of nature, nostalgia, and enjoying time with loved ones. The movement is so popular, in fact, that Myrtle Beach, South Carolina spent well over \$12 million to build a boardwalk in 2010 because visitors expected a beach resort to have one. Author James Lilliefors sums it up well in *America’s Boardwalks: From Coney Island to California*: “The boardwalk bewitches us with lost scents and sounds, reminders of why we went in the first place: to belong, to escape, to watch the parade, to feast, to fall in love.”

The original Atlantic City Boardwalk has arguably remained the largest and most popular. Over the years many fixtures of the boardwalk

have come and gone, including a lighthouse, various piers, amusements, casinos, museums and many other businesses. The Atlantic City Boardwalk has also evolved in size and shape, and now stretches over 4 miles long, is 60 feet wide at its widest areas, and is 12 feet above sea level at the highest point. It remains worth a visit for anyone seeking an American destination bursting with history, recreation, delightful nostalgia, and memorable entertainment. ♦



Vintage postcard from Ocean City, Maryland; c.1953



Let's go to summer camp!

Summer camps are a somewhat new invention, created alongside the development of modern, industrial living. The earliest arose in the 1870s as a way for young boys to escape urban living environments. City dwellers had limited opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, and new generations lacked basic knowledge about nature, farming, and life skills. This was a problem for boys, as outdoor activities were seen as a way to develop into a man. Some believed city boys were becoming feminized and morally corrupt. Religious and community leaders began pushing for the establishment of summer education, which included learning independence and survival skills. Nature education required a countryside setting, meaning it was best suited as a multi-week program where children would live on-site together, far from home. Roughing it would also build character, and, as one early camp founder put it, save humanity from "dying of indoor-ness".

The earliest known one may have been in Gunnery, Connecticut, where Frederick W. Gunn, a well-known abolitionist, established a basic recreational camp for children. Camp Chocorua was another early summer camp, founded in 1881 in New Hampshire by Ernest Balch, a student at Dartmouth college. Boys would learn swimming, rowing, shooting, hunting, and leadership skills. Early overnight camps were fairly basic, but held an even blend of education and fun recreation. They were also largely for the upper class since they came with a high price tag and middle & lower class families needed their children to help work in factories, fields or at home.

Camps in America numbered over a thousand by 1918. In 1910 Alan S. Williams founded the American Camp Association, which began to create certified standards for camps, which included regimented activities, health standards, and requirements for running a good camp. New visions of camps began to form as activities pulled away from nature and survival. Instead of retreats from civilization, they became tiny societies where shared passions would be developed and celebrated. The most popular camps often saw boys staying the entire summer.

Summer camps for girls began conceptually around WWI, as parents and society recognized value in teaching homemaking, sewing, cooking, manners, and preparing for motherhood, with a large dose of morality. Indigenous people and other ethnic minorities saw their own camps as a way to establish and honor cultural and social identities. Camp Atwater was one of the first dedicated camps that focused mostly on middle-class blacks with recreational, networking, and cultural activities. Religious camps became more frequent by the 1920s, with Christian and Jewish groups establishing their own camps to

Camp Kenan: A Niagara County Staple

From ymcabuffaloniagara.org

The idea to develop a local camp for children came from John Tagg, general secretary of the Lockport YMCA in the 1920s. He secured funding and assistance from philanthropist, inventor, humanitarian, and benefactor William R. Kenan. They purchased 7 acres of land along Lake Ontario in 1924, and held the first camping season. Facilities were primitive, but it was deemed a huge success and

New Hampshire camp; date unknown; Courtesy of Pasquaney



Archery at Camp Ogontz; 1940s; Credit Courtesy of Libbie Payne Ogontz, White Mountain Camp Historian

educate their children and provide activities during the summer months. Even camps for different political movements were formed. During the Depression years the New Deal helped finance many summer camps for children to keep them going during the difficult economic times.

The horrors of World War II hit home for many families. Childhood was seen more as a time of innocence rather than preparation for adulthood. Increasingly summer camps began to focus on the arts, playtime, and devoted time to activities that many would not do as adults. Summer camps also became more integrated as resources were limited. By the 1950s and 1960s summer camps increasingly took their more modern form. They are diverse in the range of activities they provide, as well as cultural and educational events.

Summer camp has remained a popular activity for every generation since, although in recent years families are finding it more important than ever to allow their children chances to escape daily-use technology. Kids are encouraged to socialize in person, while learning skills that may elude them due to excessive screen time usage. Some also find it invaluable for children to be a part of nature, to appreciate and better understand threats of climate and environmental change.

Today, American children can choose from a dizzying array of camp types and activities. A mainstay for all remains the same as the earliest camps: maintaining a fun experience where children can build life-long friendships and learn skills and hobbies they may not otherwise have opportunities to develop. ♦

operations expanded the following year.



William R. Kenan

Donations from Mr. Kenan, and later the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust (and family) have made it possible to maintain, expand, and improve the camp. Today YMCA Camp Kenan has over 53 acres and attracts hundreds of campers each year. It remains a tradition for countless families throughout Western New York and beyond. ♦

Recipe Rewind

Vintage Saltwater Taffy

Salt water taffy, a favorite beach-side treat, hails from the famed Atlantic City Boardwalk. The quirky name is thought to come from a confectionary stand owner named David Bradley. In 1883 a coastal storm hit the boardwalk, flooding all the stands including Bradley's, which was near St. James Place. His entire stock of taffy became soaked with ocean seawater, so he began calling it "salt water taffy" as a joke. The fun name was appealing to customers, and so it remained.

Recipe from Josele Swopes; justapinch.com

Cook time: 1 hour | Prep time: 45 minutes | Makes 35 to 40 pieces

1 1/4 c. cane sugar

4 tsp. corn starch

1/2 c. corn syrup, light

1/2 c. water

1 Tbsp. butter, unsalted, plus more for cookie sheet and hands

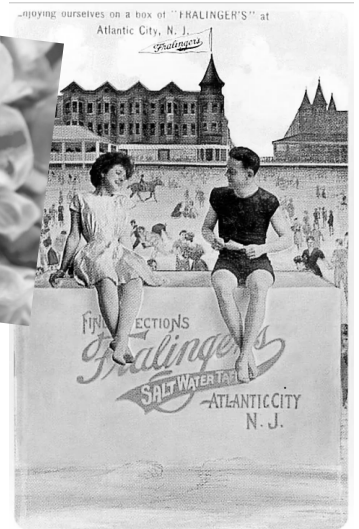
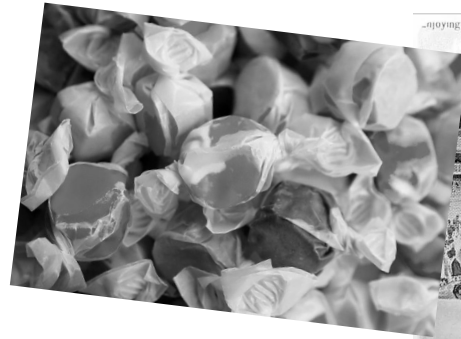
1/2 tsp. sea salt

2 tsp. extract flavor (orange, lemon, cherry, maple, etc.)

1/4 tsp. pure vanilla extract

food coloring (optional)

**better with a candy thermometer



Liberal grease a large baking sheet with butter and set aside. In a medium saucepan, combine the sugar and cornstarch. Add the corn syrup, water, butter, and salt and stir over medium heat until the butter melts and the mixture comes to a boil. Cook, without stirring, until the mixture just reaches 250° on a candy thermometer, or until a small piece dropped into a cup of cold water forms a firm, but not sticky, ball. Immediately remove from heat and stir in the flavor, vanilla, and several drops of food coloring. Pour the mixture onto the greased cookie sheet and let it cool until you're able to handle it, about 15 minutes.

How to Pull Taffy

Make your taffy, then let stand until it is cool enough throughout to touch with your fingers. Wash your hands thoroughly, then butter them. Pick up the taffy with 2 hands. Form the taffy into a ball. Pull your right and left hands away from each other sideways in front of your body (you will be pulling taffy for quite a while, so find a comfortable position or friends to help). Double the taffy on itself by bringing the ends together on the left side and pulling the middle with your right hand. If you plan on making a lot of taffy, invest in a taffy hook. They are available through online kitchen stores. This allows you to pull back and use momentum to help you, making it less exhausting. Re-grease your hands with butter as needed throughout the process of pulling. Pull the taffy until it is light in color and stiff. This will indicate there are enough air bubbles inside to make it fluffy. Pulling taffy can take 15 to 60 minutes, depending upon the number of people you have pulling and the amount of taffy you are working with. Pull hard on 1 end of the taffy so that it is stretched into a thin rope. You may need to take it between your 2 palms and rotate your hands back and forth to keep the round rope shape. Cut the taffy with clean, greased scissors and wrap the taffy in wax paper. You can also twist together ropes of different colors and flavors to form a striped candy.

Membership Application

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

Help keep our society strong by renewing your membership now!



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 10th- Mother's Day

May 17th- Canceled: Apple Blossom Festival

May 25th- Memorial Day

June 21st- Father's Day

June 27th- Newfane High School Senior Graduation

July 4th- Independence Day

July 15th- Tax Day

Sept. 7th- Labor Day

*Please visit NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com for updates to our Calendar, which can be made anytime.

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

Rich Leader

Bill Neidlinger

Bill Clark

Kevin Luckman

Mindi Schaeffer

Keegan Connolly

Chuck Manhardt

Rose Schaeffer

Steve Goodman

Sheila McAtee

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

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

Every summer has a story



Address Service Requested

TOWN OF NEWFANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 115
NEWFANE, NY 14108



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lockport, NY 14094
Permit No. 49