



TOWN OF NEWFANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Winter 2018

Inside This Issue

- President's Letter
- Final 2018 Mansion Tours
- Minute History
- 30th Anniversary Christmas Carol Sing
- Members Update
- Baked Goods Request
- Thank You's
- Recipe Rewind
- Christmas Cookies in America
- Restoration Project
- Community Holiday Events
- Calendar

Wrapping up 2018

From the desk of our President

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our fall fundraising events! We had a very successful Apple Harvest Festival in September, and the Van Horn Mansion was visited by many guests during October's Candlelight Tours. Your participation and support is greatly appreciated, and helps us as we focus on our society's goals: educating the community, and restoring & preserving our locations and collections.

Our final event in 2018 is celebrating an anniversary year! Back in 1988, society members held the very first Christmas Carol Sing at the Van Horn Mansion, back before the building was open for tours. Those chilly years with limited amenities surrounded by construction



never deterred society members, and now this wonderful event holds a special place in the hearts of so many community members. We hope you'll join us this year; see the details inside this newsletter.

I hope everyone enjoys spending time with loved ones in the coming months, and remember: please take a little time for yourself as well! The special moments made this year will become lovely memories to look back on with joy and share with future generations, so enjoy every one!

*Vicki Banks
President*

Minute History

In 1906 the Newfane Fireman's Club was established, as the community recognized the growing need for an improved plan for fighting fires. The community could not continue burdening the Lockport Felt Company's Fire Brigade, which had limited resources and staffing. By 1911 the club joined together with Charles Miller, establishing the Miller Hose Fire Company. Quickly they acquired two pieces of motorized equipment including a pump, the latest technology available to fight fires. The town installed their water main system in 1912, and a water tower was erected with a capacity of 125,000 gallons, fed from a nearby spring. Both vastly improved the firefighter's efforts to save lives and property.



VAN HORN MANSION FINAL 2018 TOURS

NOV. 25TH • 1-4PM
DEC. 9TH • 1-4PM

90+ MINUTES
\$5PP; FREE TO MEMBERS



COME SEE
THE MANSION
DECORATED
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS!

Join the 30th Annual Old Fashioned Carol Sing

Sunday, Dec. 2nd; 1-4pm at the Van Horn Mansion

Our annual holiday tradition is celebrating 30 years! The mansion will be beautifully dressed up for the holidays, and seasonal refreshments will adorn our dining room. Performances will be held by the McClure Handbell Choir of the Newfane United Methodist Church. Throughout the afternoon guests are invited to join in carol singing, accompanied by pianist Missy Coleman. This amazing tradition fills the mansion with the same lovely melodies heard for generations.

This event is open to the public, and we ask visitors to please bring a donation for the local food bank. The Van Horn Mansion is located at 2165 Lockport-Olcott Rd. Burt, NY 14028.



WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

Special thanks to the following for their continued support:

- Beverley Gasper*
- Rhonda Gerling*
- Daniel S. Cushman
- Tom Hartley
- Martin & Brenda Horanburg
- Rich Leader
- Dolores & Edward Macek

**new lifetime members*

Welcome to our newest members!

- Rollin Hellner
- John and Kathy Phillips
- Gail D. Pettit
- Jessica Bell

Historical Fun Fact!



In Norse mythology, people left hay and treats for Odin's eight-legged horse Sleipnir, in hopes the god would stop by their home during his Yule hunting adventures. Dutch children adopted this tradition, and began leaving treats for St. Nicholas' horse. Sleipnir's legend lives on: his eight legs may be the origins of why Santa flies with 8 reindeer, and children often gift them hay and carrots alongside Santa's cookies and milk.

Thanks for an amazing year!

As 2018 winds down, society trustees would like to acknowledge the society's many wonderful supporters. Our 2018 fundraisers and membership drives were successful, and we greatly appreciate your help and support!

Among the rarely acknowledged sponsors are local farms that support the Newfane Historical Society each year. Thanks so much to Sun Orchard Fruit Company, Russell Farms Inc., Bittner Singer Orchards, Lakeview Orchards, Voelpel Farms Inc. and Niagara Fresh Fruit Company/ Bucolo Cold Storage!

We look forward to continuing to achieve goals in 2019. If you're interested in helping, consider volunteering your time, and make sure to renew your membership!

30th Please join us for our
Carol Sing

Sunday, December 2nd
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

HOSTED BY
 Town of Newfane Historical Society

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY
 Missy Coleman
 The McClure Handbell Choir of the
 Newfane United Methodist Church

Open to the public | Refreshments served

*Please bring donations
 for the local food pantry*

Baked goods needed for Dec. 2nd!

We are seeking donations for our annual Christmas Carol Sing. Consider donating a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies, brownies or other desserts. Make sure they are pre-wrapped and in disposable containers. Please deliver your donation to the Van Horn Mansion on Dec. 2nd between 12noon and 1pm, or contact Kris to arrange an earlier delivery (716-946-6805 or kdegl@nioga.org). Thanks ahead of time!

Recipe Rewind!

This recipe was published in The Metropolitan Life Cook Book, 1924, by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

Apple Snow

- 3/4 cup cooked apple
- 3 egg whites
- Powdered sugar



Pare, quarter and core 4 sour apples. Steam until soft and rub through sieve. There should be 3/4 cup cooked apple. Beat the whites of eggs until stiff; add gradually apples sweetened to taste. Pile lightly on a dish and serve with custard sauce. One tablespoon lemon juice may be added.

Christmas Cookies in America

Finding the origins of a beloved holiday tradition

It's the most wonderful time of the year, when cooks around the world take to their kitchens to bake cookies galore. But how did cookies come to be such an important symbol of Christmas?

The connection likely originated thousands of years ago, as our ancestors across the globe prepared for the winter. They honored the harvest, while preparing for the lean, cold months, with revelries that have forever connected celebrating with food. By the Middle Ages, Christmas had overtaken previous celebrations. This time period also introduced spices like nutmeg, cinnamon, and black pepper to Europe, along with dried exotic fruits such as citron, apricots and dates which added sweetness and texture to dessert trays. These items, along with sugars, lard and butter, were prized as expensive delicacies by medieval cooks. Families limited their purchases to special times of year, primarily Christmas, permanently associating these flavors with the holiday.

The word Cookie comes from the Dutch word 'Koekjes,' a variation of 'Koek,' or cake. The earliest cookies were harder, and spicier than their modern counterparts. They were also produced in large quantities using stiff dough, allowing for a very long shelf life. This allowed for desserts or snacks at a moment's notice all winter, which was often useful when visitors arrived. Communication was not as easy hundreds of years ago, so often arriving guests would be unplanned and even a surprise. Pies and cookies could spoil quickly, so cookies became a mainstay across the world. Cookies also made for a perfect gift, which remains true today.

Unique cookie shapes were first introduced in Germany in the Middle Ages through cookie boards: carved slabs of wood with religious designs. Germans invented 'Lebkuchen,' or gingerbread, a spice-filled molasses recipe perfect for a time when white sugar was limited and extremely expensive. They pressed the dough onto the cookie boards to add some style to their creations. Gingerbread men came later, when Queen Elizabeth I of England had gingerbread molded into the shapes of her favorite courtiers. Germans also began decorating outdoor trees with cookies in the 1500s, likely as both decoration and food for animals. This was a very early step towards the modern Christmas tree first fashioned in the 19th century. Of course other countries also had their own cookie recipes:



Antique wooden cookie board

Papparkakor (spicy ginger and black-pepper delights) were favorites in Sweden, Norwegians made krumkake (thin lemon and cardamom-scented wafers), Biscochitos from Spain and Mexico, and the Dutch created a lovely variety of simple and sweet doughs.

Cut-out sugar cookies can be traced back to mumming, a Christmas tradition in colonial regions where the Church of England was influential. Christmas stories were acted out and food was used to help depict the tales being told. Yule dows were cut-outs made in this tradition, often in the shape of the baby Jesus.



From a 1960's ad for McCormick-Schilling

In the 1800s, Pennsylvania Dutch children created large cut out cookies as window decorations. They were made with tin cutters and shaped like people, elaborately decorated with icing. The face was always made out of a scrap of paper, which had to be removed before the cookie was

eaten. They were controversial because some factions felt the cookies were not religious enough (i.e., not depicting Jesus).

Europe and other places in the world were often inventing new kitchen utensils to improve cookie doughs, designs, and finding ways to make recipes easier to produce. Unfortunately, American import laws limited the sale of most of these products. That is until the 19th century when the laws changed. Shaped dough cutters, made of tin, became highly sought after in the U.S., and as they worked best with softer doughs, the sweeter Dutch recipes were the perfect match to the cookie cutters. Now emphasis was placed on shape, where in the past, many homemade cookies simply had been square or round.

It may surprise you, but a majority of cookie recipes from the 19th century are identical, or very similar, to those used today. That is likely due to how intensely maintaining holiday traditions are for most people. Efforts to connect with the past, while sharing beloved family foods to new generations, have kept alive seasonal recipes and baking

methods that might otherwise disappear (recipes rarely survive beyond a century due to constantly changing ingredient preferences and evolving cooking techniques). This may make Christmas cookies a tradition that survives far longer than most others we celebrate today. ♦



The first American printed holiday cookie recipe, from Amelia Simmons and found in American Cookery, 2nd edition [Albany: 1796]

Christmas Cookey

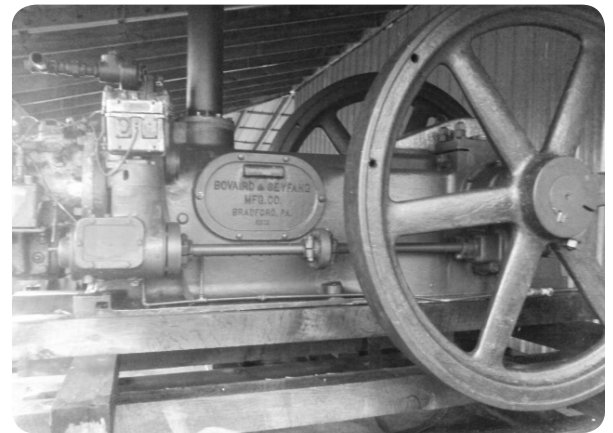
To three pound of flour, sprinkle a tea cup of fine powdered coriander seed, rub in one pound of butter, and one and a half pound sugar, dissolve one tea spoonful of pearlash [a rising agent] in a tea cup of milk, kneed all together well, roll three quarters of an inch thick, and cut or stamp into shape and slice you please, bake slowly fifteen or twenty minutes; tho' hard and dry at first, if put in an earthen pot, and dry cellar, or damp room, they will be finer, softer and better when six months old.

Restoration Project: Bovaird & Seyfang Engine

by Bill Neidlinger

In the early 1990's, society members Chuck Manhardt and Harold Voelpel traveled to the hills north of Bradford, PA. They brought back a Bovaird & Seyfang oil pumping engine for our Country Village. The 8 ton, 2 cycle engine was manufactured in Bradford sometime between 1934-1950. It's a single cylinder, 13x16 inch (2,124 cu.in.) bore and stroke, water cooled and natural gas fueled engine. Rated at 50hp @ 200rpm, its likely use would have been in large bandwheel power applications, such as driving multiple pumping well heads, or powering a triplex pump to move oil from the fields to the pipeline.

After sitting untouched for a few decades, society members Sam Clogston, Bruce Genewich, Steve Goodman, Dave Wehn and Bill Neidlinger gathered to look over the engine in 2016. They decided it was worth the time and effort to get this behemoth running. After inspection, it was found that the flywheels turned and the crankcase and cylinder head were very well preserved, although some parts were missing. Sam Clogston and Bill Neidlinger took a 'field trip' to Pennsylvania to see Troy Schoenly and



Picture of our Bovaird and Seyfang Engine

Denny Greisbaum's operating B & S engine, returning with a great deal of knowledge. The engine starts by compressed air, has pipes for air and a cam system that "times" when top dead center is reached by the piston. Then high pressure air is injected into the cylinder head to turn the engine over.

As the restoration continued, a great many more community members became involved, which we are so thankful for. A trip to Voelpel's barn led us to find many missing parts, which are now refurbished and on the engine. Thank you's also go to Steve Kolb for contacting Lia Honda, and Lia who donated the compressor, plus Kevin Luckman Jr. for the electrical wiring. The water pump and plumbing were installed, the Manzel oil lubricator was cleaned, and the Wico ignition system tuned up. Part of the exhaust manifold is ready to be bolted to the exhaust port. Suburban Propane delivered fuel to the Country Village for the engine. With help from Art Harris and Chris Cezlutus, threads were turned on the one inch bolts that secure the engine to its heavy timber base. A special drill was borrowed from Mike Hopkins with help from Jim Kramer, to enable drilling the heavy timbers. When lowering the engine to its final position, Terry Manhardt, Pat Danielowiz, Steve Goodman and Joe Neidlinger were instrumental in the rigging work. Ralph Grizanti of R&R Door Service installed a garage door to help keep the engine safe from inclement weather.

Everything was in place to try and fire up the engine this past fall. The air starter/compressor turned the engine over, while propane was introduced into the carburetor. After several rpm's our Bovaird & Seyfang engine fired up and ran very well! It is a nice addition to our Country Village, and we hope it's in operation for many years to come, thanks to the foresight and efforts of Chuck Manhardt and Harold Voelpel. If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to visit it during the 2019 Apple Blossom Festival on Sunday, May 19th. ♦



Pictured l-r: Bill Neidlinger, Terry Manhardt, Steve Goodman, Sam Clogston, Joe Neidlinger

Community Holiday Events

30th Old Fashioned Carol Sing at the Van Horn Mansion
Dec. 2nd | 1-4pm

Open to the public, please bring a donation for the local food pantry. Enjoy refreshments, music, and a beautifully decorated mansion, while celebrating the season singing carols (see page 1 for details).

Light Up Newfane!
Dec. 7th | 5:30pm-8:00pm

Main St. in Newfane
Parade, cookies, hot chocolate, a visit with Santa and carriage rides following the parade. 'Candy Cane Lane' Craft Show at the Newfane United Methodist Church, plus the Newfane Community Neighborhood Watch's Snowflake Village inside the Community Center (opens at 4pm). Sponsored by Newfane Business Association.

The Living Nativity
Dec. 7th-9th | 5:30pm-8:30pm

Grace Bible Church | 6023 Dutton Place, Newfane NY 14108
Experience a guided walk through the Christmas story and beyond. Tours take place outside, please dress warm. Free admission; 30 min. tours depart every 1/2 hour. While-you-wait activities include music, coffee, hot cocoa & cookies, and the kid's corner with crafts. Please park at the Town Hall parking lot and take the shuttle to the church.

Castle by Candlelight
Dec. 8th & 15th | 6:30pm-8:15pm

Old Fort Niagara | 102 Morrow Plaza, Youngstown, NY 14174
Visitors enjoy a yesteryear experience in Great Lake's oldest building, the French Castle, which will be illuminated by candles and decorated with natural greens by the Youngstown Garden Club. Admission is \$15pp (children 5 & under are free). Tickets are only available at



the door. Please dress for the weather, wear walking footwear and bring a flashlight. Enjoy "feu de joie" (firing of joy) musket and cannon firings, which recreate an 18th century military ceremony (7:00 & 7:45pm each night). In addition, visitors will meet historical characters and enjoy various hands-on activities.

The Sounds of Christmas Concert
Dec. 8th & 9th | 7pm

Hess Road Wesleyan Church | 2514 Hess Rd. Appleton NY 14008
Everyone is invited to this free holiday concert event. The evening will include classic tunes of the Christmas season, as well as many new contemporary songs, all performed by some of our region's finest musicians. Reception following the concert!

Victorian Christmas at The Babcock House Museum
Dec. 9th | 1-4pm

7449 Lower Lake Rd, Barker, NY 14012
Imagine going back in time to the Victorian Age and experiencing Christmas the way your great grandparents may have. The Babcock House is decorated in Victorian splendor. Dress warm for the horse-drawn sleigh rides. Santa Claus, Christmas Music on the pump organ, Hot chocolate, Cookies and Fresh baked biscuits.

Membership Application

For new members and renewals. Membership includes our quarterly newsletter and free tours of the Van Horn Mansion (society members only)



**Membership Makes a Great Gift
 + Supports a Local Non-Profit!**

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 runs from January 1st through December 31st.

Annual Membership Dues (Check one):

Family Membership \$10.00

Individual Membership \$10.00

Life Member \$100.00

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

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

Calendar

For more details, please visit our website.

Nov. 22nd- Thanksgiving

Dec. 2nd- Hanukkah Begins

Dec. 2nd- 30th Carol Sing at the Van Horn Mansion (see details inside)

Dec. 6th- St. Nicholas' Day

TBA- Trustees Christmas Dinner & Meeting (check with a trustee or email website for details)

Dec. 24th & 25th- Christmas Eve & Day

Dec. 31st & Jan. 1st- New Year's Eve & Day

Jan. 15th- Trustees Meeting

Jan. 21st- Martin Luther King Day

Feb. 14th- Valentine's Day

Feb. 19th- 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

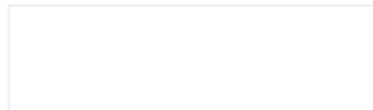
Country Village
2685 West Creek Rd.
Newfane, NY 14108

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

www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

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

MOVING? REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS WITH US SO YOU KEEP RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTERS!



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