



# Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Winter 2019

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## Minute History

Like other miniature worlds, dollhouses began as display items for adults with money to burn. One of the first was made in the mid-1500s for the Duke of Bavaria, who wanted a replica of his house to put on display. The sumptuous "baby house" sparked a fad, and soon wealthy bankers and merchants across Europe were commissioning replicas of their own. The first made for children were single rooms created as teaching toys, such as tiny kitchens intended to teach girls the art of household management. Dollhouses moved firmly into the toy category in the 19th century, but were so expensive only wealthy little girls could have them. The first attempts at mass production were cardboard, with paste-board or paper furniture pieces cut out and pasted together.



## The changing season

*From the desk of our President*

*With Halloween now behind us, we're grateful for another successful season of Candlelight Tours at the Van Horn Mansion this past October. Thanks to everyone who worked or attended, as this is an important fundraiser which helps us year-round to maintain the mansion. We'd also like to thank the many volunteers and donations that helped our Apple Harvest Festival, another annual fundraising event that went very well this year. If you didn't make it to the festival, please mark May 17th, 2020 on your calendars and join us for our Apple Blossom Festival. New exhibits and displays are being added regularly by our trustees and volunteers, so make sure to stop over and see them!*

*As my time as President winds down, I'd like to thank all the trustees who have supported our ongoing efforts to grow and strengthen the society. The amount of time everyone gives to our organization is greatly valued and appreciated.*

*We each bring our unique skills and knowledge to the group, and together we are able to achieve so much. Learning first-hand from all of you has been valuable and very rewarding, and I look forward to seeing everything we create in the coming years.*

*In closing, I wish everyone the happiest of holidays and a wonderful new year!*

*Vicki Banks*



## Recipe Rewind

*This recipe was published by Wisconsin Electric's Holiday Cookie Book, 1971 edition. In 1928 Wisconsin Electric began collecting holiday cookie recipes from employees and customers, then distributed the printed booklets to customers as goodwill freebies. They've continued this tradition up to the present day. The cookie recipes in these books are unique and fantastic, and many Wisconsin households have used their books for generations. Join in on the cookie fun and try their recipes this year by viewing their cookie book archive online: [we-energies.com/recipes](http://we-energies.com/recipes)*



## Cracker Jills

- ½ cup butter
- 1 (3 ounce) package cream cheese, room temperature
- 1¼ cups brown sugar, packed
- 1 egg
- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon soda
- ¼ cup dark corn syrup
- 1 cup salted Spanish peanuts
- 2 cups coarsely crushed soda crackers
- Powdered sugar for rolling

*Cream butter and cream cheese; add sugar gradually; beat in egg. Blend in flour, soda and syrup. Fold in peanuts and crackers. Chill. Shape teaspoonfuls of dough into balls; roll in sugar. Place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees about 12 minutes. Makes about 9 dozen.*

# WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

*This section is an ongoing record of our amazing members.*

Special thanks to the following for their continued support:

Joanne Popp Lindemann  
Catherine Chapman

Welcome to our newest members!

Ron & Cindy Fiegl  
Melanie S. Tubinis  
Jay & Linda Wopperer



**31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL OLD-FASHIONED**  
*Carol Sing*  
AT THE VAN HORN MANSION

**SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2019**

**1-4pm. Spend an afternoon singing & listening to Christmas Carols, plus enjoy a lovely spread of refreshments. Special performances by the McClure Handbell Choir of the Newfane United Methodist Church, and pianist Missy Coleman.**

**ALL WELCOME | FREE ENTRY**  
*\*PLEASE BRING DONATION FOR THE FOOD PANTRY\**

**Van Horn Mansion @ 2165 Lockport-Olcott Rd. Burt, NY 14028**  
*Come see the mansion decorated for the holidays!*

NEWFANEHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM



## Community Holiday Events

**31<sup>st</sup> Old Fashioned Carol Sing at the Van Horn Mansion**  
Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> | 1-4pm

*Enjoy singing (or listening to) Christmas carols, along with a lovely display of holiday treats laid out in the dining room. Throughout the afternoon enjoy special performances by the McClure Handbell Choir of the Newfane United Methodist Church. Pianist Missy Coleman will lead the caroling. This event is open to all; food party donations welcome.*

**Light Up Newfane!**  
Dec. 6th | 5:30pm-8:00pm  
Main St. in Newfane

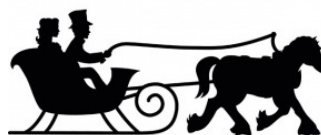
*Parade, cookies, hot chocolate, a visit with Santa and carriage rides following the parade. 'Candy Cane Lane' Craft Show at the Newfane United Methodist Church, plus the Newfane Community Neighborhood Watch's Snowflake Village inside the Community Center (opens at 4pm). Free event sponsored by Newfane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

**The Living Nativity**  
Dec. 6th-8th | 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. 7th & 14th | 6:30pm-8:15pm  
Old Fort Niagara | 102 Morrow Plaza, Youngstown, NY 14174  
*Tour and explore Old Fort Niagara's 1726 French Castle, which will be decorated for the season by the Youngstown Garden Club and lit entirely by candles. Meet historical characters and witness the firing of the grand feu de joie. Visitors can make seasonal crafts and write with a quill pen, plus enjoy music, cooking demonstrations, Native dancing, campfires and other activities. This seasonal, historically-authentic experience will put you in the Christmas spirit! Tickets are \$15 per-sale at oldfortniagara.org, or \$25/ door. Children 5 and under are free.*

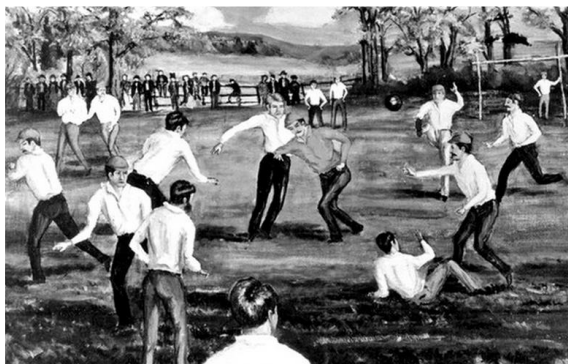
**Victorian Christmas at The Babcock House Museum**  
Dec. 8th | 1-4pm  
7449 Lower Lake Rd, Barker, NY 14012  
*Imagine going back in time to the Victorian Age and experiencing Christmas the way your great grandparents may have. The Babcock House is decorated in Victorian splendor. Dress warm for the horse-drawn sleigh rides. Enjoy Santa Claus, Christmas music on the pump organ, hot chocolate, cookies and fresh baked biscuits. Free admission.*

**Santa at Ye' Old Log Cabin**  
Dec. 8th | 2-5pm  
North-end Krull Park, Olcott, NY 14126  
*Free event. Kids can spend a moment with Santa Claus, and leave with a stuffed stocking. Pictures encouraged; refreshments offered.*



# Establishing Gridiron Football's Roots in America

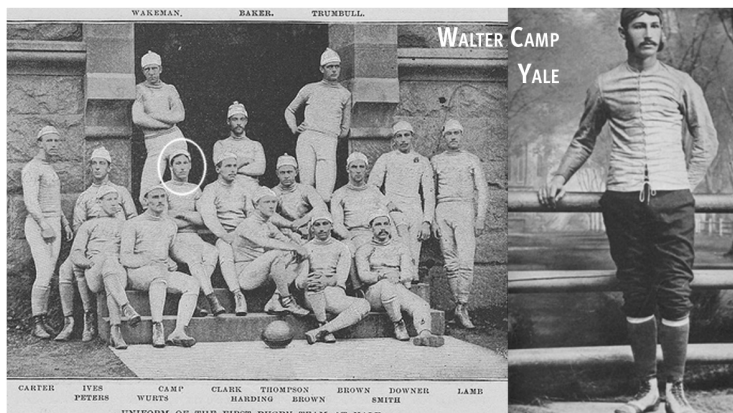
Whether playing or watching American football (or gridiron football, named for the vertical yard lines that mark the field), the popular sport has become a mainstay and tradition in our country. Millions of spectators gather annually to celebrate the highs and lows of their favorite teams. In honor of the many players who helped established and popularize it, let's take a brief look at the evolution of modern American football.



Rutgers-Princeton football game of 1869. Painting by William Boyd

Universities have hosted athletics for centuries, and American colleges followed suit. Students often participated in team challenges, the most popular coming from Europe: rugby, association football (soccer) and mob foot-ball. While playing, few rules were used, or players altered them to better suit their match. Intercollegiate matches led to rules and styles being borrowed and swapped between institutions, eventually forming a unique new game.

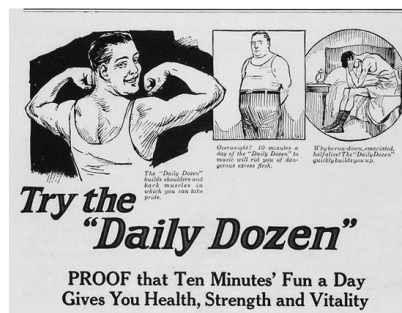
Games at this time were considered brutal and chaotic, causing a number of communities to ban all matches. This led to an 1869 game between Rutgers and Princeton, now considered the first intercollegiate football game. It was different from the sport we know today but is considered a watershed because players collaborated to standardize their version by setting rules, positions, strategies and a few safety measures. Scoring involved kicking the ball (the origin of the field goal), you could not pick up the ball, and the two teams each had 25 players. For another decade game variations continued depending on the teams' preferred rules, including rugby-style play. To further assist with standardization, the first Intercollegiate Football Association (IFA) was established in 1873. In 1876 the first formal Thanksgiving game was played, which would eventually become a tradition for leagues and households across the country.



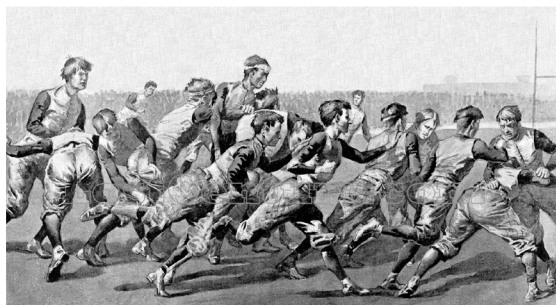
The man most responsible for the transition into the sport we know today was Walter Camp, known as the "Father of American Football." As a Yale undergraduate and medical

student from 1876 to 1881, he played halfback and served as team captain, equivalent to head coach at that time. He became a guiding force on the rules board of the IFA, helping them make two key innovations to the fledgling game: doing away with the opening 'scrummage', and requiring a team give up the ball after failing to move down the field a specified yardage in a certain number of 'downs'. Camp also introduced the 11-man team, quarterback position, line of scrimmage, offensive signal-calling and the scoring scale used in football today. Walter Camp became Yale's coach after graduating, leading to a 67-2 record from 1888 to 1892 - all while working as an executive at a watch-manufacturing firm. Later in life, Camp's known athletic prowess and experience were used by the U.S. military. During the First World War

they approached Camp to help create a new exercise program to keep servicemen fit. His 'Daily Dozen', a set of 12 exercises, became an international phenomenon for both men and women, remaining hugely popular into the 1930s.



In 1875 what became the touchdown was invented, taking precedence over the field goal by 1881. Throwing the football first occurred in 1895, as a team was desperate to score before time ran out. This remained an illegal move until 1906, although limitations still existed which made it a minor part of the game. Another significant milestone came in November 1892, when



'A Run Behind Interference' Drawn by Frederic Remington and published in Harper's Weekly, Dec. 2, 1893.

William 'Pudge' Heffelfinger was illegally paid \$500 to play a match for the Allegheny Athletic Association (the payment was not revealed until 80 years later). Though other players likely were paid as well, the AAA expense sheet is the only evidence made public of a documented cash payment, often referred to today as 'pro football's birth certificate', marking early steps towards a professional era. The first fully professional game came in September 1895 when the Pennsylvania-based teams Latrobe Athletic Association and Jeannette Athletic Club met. By 1897 the Latrobe Athletic Association paid all of its players for the whole season, becoming...(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)...the first fully professional football team.



By 1905, what became the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) was formed, which helped organize games and establish more formal rules. At this time more than 432 cities had some form of American football team. The concept of the halftime show emerged by 1907 in Champaign, Illinois. The popularity of football may have reflected American social norms at the time, which included embracing leisure activities, emphasizing fitness, and encouraging friendly competition.

Though there was increased regulation, conditions for the players remained brutal: fractured ribs and limbs, and broken noses were the norm. In 1904 alone Chicago Tribune reported 18 football deaths and 159 serious injuries, with 19 further deaths in the 1905 season. The toll attracted the attention of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, who summoned college representatives to the White House in October 1905 for game reformation, which included shorter matches and making forward passes legal. Unfortunately, American football continued to be criticized for its excessive violence and overly competitive behavior that emphasized winning at all costs.



*The Green Bay Packers are victorious over the Kansas City Chiefs during the first Super Bowl match in January 1967, at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. (from Getty Images)*

Opinions changed during World War I, because competition and athletics were viewed as vital to producing better soldiers. These sentiments helped football survive the decades of evolving safety challenges. The war also created a shortage of athletic men, resulting in bidding wars and steeply rising salaries for desirable players to join professional teams. The need for regulated player transfers led to creation of the American Profession Football Association in 1920, which changed its name in 1922 to the National Football League (NFL). More than 40 different teams formed in the first dozen years, including the Arizona Cardinals and Wisconsin's Green Bay Packers. A championship game was added in 1932, and by 1941 there was an official commissioner.

After World War II the NFL developed more teams and increased audiences. In 1958 the championship game, Baltimore Colts vs. New York Giants (often called the 'greatest game ever played') aired on NBC TV and drew 45 million viewers. Having proved its value to Americans everywhere, and with huge

financial potential, the NFL was approached by several franchises to expand the league. When the NFL refused, a rival competition was formed: the American Football League (AFL). The NFL retained higher support but, as the AFL became more stable, the two leagues' struggle for supremacy created a 'civil war' within the sport. On June 8, 1966, after a series of secret meetings, the rival leagues announced they would merge, and the winners of the two leagues would meet in a championship game at the end of the season, in January 1967. Initially known as the 'AFL-NFL World Championship', this annual meeting would become known as the 'Super Bowl'.

The first Super Bowl was played on January 15, 1967, and saw the Kansas City Chiefs take on the Green Bay Packers at the Los Angeles Memorial Stadium in California. Despite the fixture's huge popularity today, the first match didn't even sell out. The Packers earned the win, under their coach Vince Lombardi. Famed for his grueling training regimes and high standards, Lombardi had joined the Packers in 1959 after the team's worst losing season in its history. He went on to coach the team to three successive NFL Championships (between 1965-7) and victories in the first two Super Bowls. To this day, teams in the Super Bowl compete for the Lombardi Trophy, renamed after the coach's death in 1970.

American Football is now a multi-billion-dollar industry, which includes ticket, merchandise, and advertising sales. Over 2 million footballs are produced each year and of those, about 700,000 are regulation NFL balls. Broadcasted games, both collegiate and professional, are aired 3-5 days per week during the season and viewed by fans all over the world. The Super Bowl has become the most watched sporting event of all time.

So we send thanks to Walter Camp and the many players over the years, who remained steadfast in their love of the game. Their enthusiasm has carried into every generation that has followed, allowing so many of us to come together, find common ground, and create countless shared memories. It's an amazing legacy that is well deserved. ♦





### Historical Fun Facts!

January is named after Janus, the god with two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward. He is the god of beginnings, transitions, gates, doors, passages, and endings.

The tradition to kiss at midnight isn't a recent invention. According to old English and German folklore, the first person you come across in the new year could set the tone for the next 12 months.

Also to ensure a year of good luck, firecrackers and noisemakers became tradition in order to scare away any remaining evil spirits and to ensure a brand new start.

The song traditionally sung on New Year's, "Auld Lang Syne," means "times gone by".

### Donate Baked goods for Dec. 1st

To help round-out our Carol Sing refreshment tables, we're seeking homemade Christmas cookies, brownies or other desserts. Please make sure they are pre-wrapped and in disposable containers. They are given free to guests as they attend our annual event in support of the food pantry.

Please deliver your donation to the Van Horn Mansion on Dec. 1st between 11am and 1pm, or contact Kris to arrange an earlier delivery (716-946-6805 or [kdegl@nioga.org](mailto:kdegl@nioga.org)). Thanks ahead of time for your support.



### Thanks for an amazing year!

This past year has been one of great fundraising successes and project achievements. From busy Candlelight Tours to new displays at our country village, our members and volunteers have contributed so much to help us keep going, and we're eternally grateful.

There's still time to add your support throughout the winter! Please renew your membership, and consider purchasing membership for others. It's an inexpensive gift that makes a big difference to our local organization. We also have various ways you can get involved in the historical society, so please contact us if you're interested in learning more.

We wish everyone the best during the rest of the year and into 2020. We can't wait to see more of our projects launch in the new year!

## 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](http://www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com)**

# Calendar

For more details, please visit our website.

- November 19<sup>th</sup>- Trustees Meeting
- November 28<sup>th</sup>- Thanksgiving
- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>- Carol Sing @ Van Horn Mansion
- Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>- St. Nicholas' Day
- Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>- Trustees Christmas Dinner & Meeting
- Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>- Hanukkah Begins
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Eve & Day
- Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>- New Year's Eve & Day
- Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>- Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>- Trustees Meeting
- Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>- St. Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>- Presidents' Day

# 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

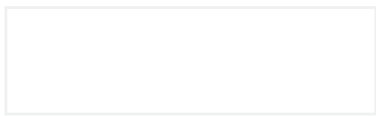
<b>Town of Newfane Historical Society</b> P.O. Box 115 Newfane, NY 14108	<b>Country Village</b> 2685 West Creek Rd. Newfane, NY 14108	<b>Van Horn Mansion</b> 2165 Lockport-Olcott Rd. Burt, NY 14028
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[www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com)

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

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

*In the meadow we can  
build a snowman...*



Address Service Requested

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



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