



Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Winter 2022

Inside This Issue

- President's Letter
- Minute History
- We Need Your Help!
- Member Update
- Thanksgiving Fun Facts
- Recipe Rewind
- Revitalization Project Update
- Christmas Season at the Van Horn Mansion
- Tales of Phrases
- Community Holiday Events
- Calendar

Minute History

For centuries, eating oysters has fallen in and out of favor, based on accessibility. Currently pollution, overharvesting and climate change have collapsed the population. Oyster farms produce most of our limited supply at high prices.

But back in the 18th and 19th centuries, the US and Europe harvested oysters at a massive level, making them very affordable for the working class.

Called the 'Golden Age of Oysters', they were the most commonly eaten shellfish.

Consumed raw and cooked, they were staples in households, restaurants, bars, saloons, and street carts. Records show New Yorkers in the 1800s ate about 600/ year. Oysters were added to countless recipes, including some exclusive to regional preferences. Oysters were even so standard they were a mainstay for Thanksgiving dinner. It's likely they were served by the Wampanoag tribe at the first Thanksgiving...and as turkey was not, it may hold claim as the meals' original star protein! Families served oysters as a main dish, and others stuffed them into turkeys to help offset the pricey fowl. The most popular recipes were for oyster stuffing (or dressing), beloved by British colonists.

A busy Autumn

From the desk of our President

We've had a busy and productive Autumn! Thanks to everyone who attended, participated, and supported our annual Apple Harvest Festival in September, and Van Horn Candlelight Tours in October. We had strong attendance at all, and it means so much to see all our annual events return and rebound after a difficult few years. We also hope to see many visitors to the Van Horn Mansion this November and December during our Christmas Season. You can find out more details on page 3 of our newsletter.

Now my attention turns towards the Van Horn Mansion Revitalization Project and our fundraising efforts. We have been honored with a challenge grant by a local organization. If we can raise \$35k, they will gift us \$35k! If you haven't already donated to this cause,

this is the perfect time as it's almost as though your donation is doubled! Any little amount helps, and the faster we earn funding, the quicker visitors will see the wonderful changes we're planning for the Van Horn Estate. This includes new appliances and equipment for private rentals, and upgrades to our historical displays and preservation methods.



Please visit VanHornMansion.com to donate using gofundme or PayPal, and to see various info regarding our plans, status updates, and to track our achievements. Thank you so much for your support!

Vicki Banks

We Need Your Help!

Help us win a \$35k grant for the Van Horn Mansion

Our Goal = Fundraise \$35,000
If we do, we Win another \$35,000!

Earning this grant will put the Van Horn Mansion in great standing as we near its 200th birthday in 2023. It can go a long way towards refreshing the property with many improvements and upgrades.

Please help us reach our goal!

- **Best Option:** Visit VanHornMansion.com and donate using gofundme or PayPal
- Donate in person at the Van Horn Mansion on Sundays in Nov. and Dec. (see page 3)
- Mail a check (include Rev. Project in the note/ subject line) to: Town of Newfane Historical Society, P.O. Box 115, Newfane, NY 14108



DONATE TO THE
Van Horn Mansion
REVITALIZATION FUND

\$260,000 Goal!

Revitalization Efforts Include:

- Vital repairs & maintenance
- Enhanced displays & artifacts
- Landscaping developments
- Upgrades for private rentals
- Expanded exhibits
- Improved accessibility
- Modernizing to create more meaningful visitor experiences

The Van Horn Mansion is a living history museum and event center, first built as a home by the Van Horn Family in 1823. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a cultural and historical centerpiece for the Town of Newfane, NY.

In honor of the mansion's 200th birthday, the estate will undergo a variety of necessary enhancements in order to refresh the property and help keep it a mainstay attraction of the Newfane community.

We need you!

The non-profit Newfane Historical Society is seeking donations towards our financial goals. Please support our efforts through monetary donations, given online or at our events. Better yet, visit the Van Horn Mansion during open hours for a tour and to view our current progress! Thanks to all for your amazing support.

Learn more & Donate at
VanHornMansion.com

We ♥ our MEMBERS!

This section is an ongoing record of our amazing members.

Special thanks to the following for their continued support!

Thomas & Lindy Beilein	Carolyn Leibring
Theresa Bittner	Michael Ryan
Daniel S. Cushman	Lewis Tombari

We also welcome our newest lifetime member:

Donald Thieme

Recipe Rewind

From "The Southern Sportsman Cookbook"; printed in 1978 by Frane White. It was the third cookbook published in conjunction with the television program, The Southern Sportsman, where host White took viewers on exotic trips finding the best fishing around from 1972-96.

Fish with Bananas

4 fish fillets	2 oz. Cognac brandy
seasoned flour	1/2 cup slivered almonds
clarified butter	lemon juice
2 firm bananas	

Wipe fillets with damp cloth and dust with seasoned flour. Have about 1/2-inch of the clarified butter in the skillet and cook the fish quickly until golden. Remove fish to a warm dish, cover with foil and place in oven. Peel and split bananas, then quarter each half, dust lightly with flour and brown them in the butter. Arrange over the fish. Brown the almonds in the remaining butter and sprinkle over the fish. Now sprinkle over the lemon juice, pour warm Cognac over all and light it. Bring to table while aflame.

Shrimp-Stuffed Creole Eggplant

1 medium eggplant	3 slices day-old bread
3 green onions, chopped	1/8 cup parsley flakes
1/4 cup minced celery tops	salt, pepper, cayenne
1/2 lb. peeled raw shrimp	1 egg, beaten
1 clove garlic, minced	2 tbsp. grated Parmesan
2 tbsp. butter	cocktail sauce, heated

Cook eggplant by boiling until almost tender, cut lengthwise after cooling and scoop out pulp. Sauté shrimp, onion, garlic and celery tops. Soak bread in water and squeeze dry, adding pieces to shrimp mix along with chopped pulp from the eggplant, parsley and seasonings. Add the egg, stirring well. Put eggplant shells in baking dish, stuff with shrimp mix and sprinkle with cheese. Bake 20-25 min. at 400 degrees. Top with hot cocktail sauce and serve.

Thanksgiving Fun Facts!

The first professional Thanksgiving Day football game was played in 1920 when the holiday landed on November 25, a date pre-scheduled for six games.

In 1857 composer James Pierpont wrote a Thanksgiving song titled "One Horse Open Sleigh." It became so popular around December 25 that in 1859 the title was changed to "Jingle Bells."



A turkey's tryptophan doesn't make you tired, as the amount is far too small. In truth, after you've had a big meal your body goes into "postprandial fatigue", which is a bodily reaction that includes low energy and drowsiness.



In 1953, an overzealous Swanson employee overestimated the number of frozen turkeys the company should order for Thanksgiving — and the company was left with 260 tons of excess turkey after the holiday. Salesman Gerry Thomas came up with the idea to create pre-made turkey dinners served in re-heatable individual trays, just like airline meals. By the end of 1954, Swanson had sold 10 million frozen turkey meals, and the TV dinner industry was born.

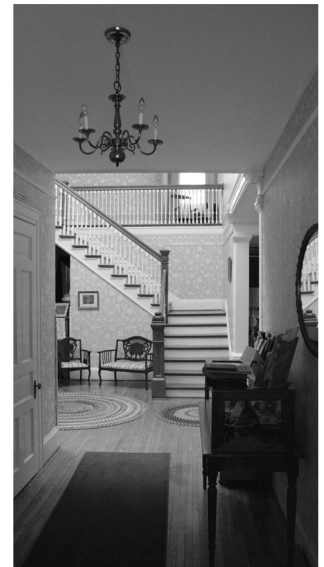
Revitalization Project Update

The Newfane Historical Society's Van Horn Mansion Revitalization Project is a multi-year, expansive effort focusing on a massive variety of plans which can keep the estate secure into the future and a stand-out attraction in our town.

Thanks to previous donations we have been able to continue with various plans at the mansion. Please donate now to our grant challenge (*see page 1*), and you can help us get much farther in the new year! Recent activity includes:

- Refreshing the estate's landscaping
- Painting and cleaning the veranda and outer walls
- Minor refurbishments on the first floor

Every dollar raised goes towards important improvements and upgrades. As funds are raised, new parts of the project are able to launch. We truly hope to see many of our visions come to life in the next few years! ♦





Christmas

at the

Van Horn Mansion

2159 Lkpt-Olcott Rd. Burt, NY 14028



The Van Horn Mansion hosts a growing collection of antique Christmas decorations and old-style displays.

Book Your Private Event!

Decorated for the Christmas Season: Nov. 10 - Jan. 10

The Van Horn Mansion hosts a lovely display of Victorian & Vintage decorations. Enjoy this unique backdrop for your upcoming holiday party or photo shoot. Book now at: NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com/rent.html

2022 Christmas Tours Sundays, 1-4pm | Nov. 13, 20, 27, Dec. 11, 18

Explore the decorated Van Horn Mansion while learning the origins of many Christmas traditions. Open to the public, 90-min tours; cost \$5 pp



33rd Carol Sing Open House

Sunday Dec. 4, 1-4pm

Join us for this free event which showcases the holidays through song, food, light shopping, and special activities. We'll be accepting food pantry donations.



Visit VanHornMansion.com

Tales of Phrases

Dive into the background of common sayings

“A sight for sore eyes”

Meaning: A person or thing that one is extremely pleased or relieved to see

Origin: Writer Jonathan Swift, probably most famous for Gulliver's Travels, used the phrase in the 1700s. In 'A Complete Collection of Genteel and Ingenious Conversation', he wrote, "the sight for you is good for sore eyes." The phrase was actually negative, saying that looking at 'it' will give you sore eyes. By 1826, writer William Hazlitt used it in the New Monthly Magazine: "What a sight for sore eyes that would be!" This began the transition to the saying's current meaning.

* * * * *

“Bite the bullet”

Meaning: Having strength to accept an inevitable hardship and endure the resulting pain

Origin: A few hundred years ago, medical practices were far cruder, especially on battlefields. This included painful surgery methods, and before anesthesia was developed. To distract wounded soldiers, medics would have them bite down on a bullet as they received medical care. At this time, bullets were musket balls, made of soft lead, which kept teeth safe – something impossible with modern bullets.

* * * * *

“The walls have ears”

Meaning: Be careful what you say as people may be eavesdropping

Origin: Legends say the walls of The Louvre Palace in France had a network of listening tubes, to hear everything that was said in different rooms. It's believed this is how Queen Catherine de'Medici discovered political secrets and plots.

* * * * *

“Blood is thicker than water”

Meaning: Family relationships and loyalties are the strongest and most important ones

Origin: The original saying was “The blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb.” It referred to warriors who shared the blood they shed in battles together. These 'blood brothers' have stronger bonds than biological brothers. It's not clear when the saying reversed meaning, but it likely was due to people misunderstanding the phrase.

* * * * *

“Break the ice”

Meaning: To remove the tension and awkwardness at a first meeting or gathering

Origin: In the north, ice on waterways made it difficult to trade goods and communicate between communities. Small ships were developed to break up ice to form pathways, allowing easier navigation for larger ships. This led to the phrase 'to forge a path for others to follow', and later this was shortened into a second phrase when attempting to start communication: “breaking the ice”.

* * * * *



*'Parnell's Puppets', printed for the St. Stephen's Review Presentation Cartoon, November 1st, 1884, London. Museum no. S.1291-2010.
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Note: Punch is the puppet holding a stick, disposing of the other puppets!*

“Pleased as punch”

Meaning: To feel a great sense of delight; often pride with oneself

Origin: Back in 17th century Europe, a popular and traditional puppet show featured Mr. Punch and his wife Judy. Their stories were beloved for their shock laughter, typically coming from Punch's aggression and attacks on other characters. The act of killing brought him pleasure, and so he felt pleased with himself afterwards. No one knows who said this saying first, but one hundred years later various writers were using the term, as it had already become part of common vernacular.

* * * * *

“Butter someone up”

Meaning: To impress someone with flattery

Origin: Although there are a few ideas for this saying's origin, it most likely stems from an tradition in ancient India. A customary religious act was for devout people to spread balls of clarified butter (called “ghee”) at the statues of their gods. This offering was intended to secure favors from them, such as good fortune, abundant crops, peace and health. This practice may have originated as far back as 1600 BCE, making it one of the oldest origins of a saying still in use today.

* * * * *

“Pull out all the stops”

Meaning: Doing something on a grand scale, giving your best effort

Origin: This saying originates from pipe organs. Stops in the organs control which pipes can make sound. When musicians pull out all of the stops, it opens all the pipes making the organ as loud as possible.

* * * * *

“Straight from the horse's mouth”

Meaning: Getting information from a reliable source

Origin: This comes from the early 1900s and describes the practice of examining a horse's teeth to find out its general age and health. If someone trying to sell you a horse was lying about the quality, you could just look in its mouth and see for yourself.



Community Holiday Events

Christmas Tours of the Van Horn Mansion

Sundays, Nov. 13, 20, 27, Dec. 11, 18 | 1:00-4:00pm
 Van Horn Mansion, 2159 Lkpt-Olcott Rd. Newfane, NY, 14108
 Explore the Van Horn Mansion while it's decorated for Christmas in a Victorian/ Vintage style. Tours feature a look back at Christmases of yesteryears. Open to the public, 90 minute tours. Cost: \$5pp. Reservations not necessary; tours start as groups arrive. vanhornmansion.com

Christmas Concert & Community Tree Lighting

Nov. 26 | 5:00-7:00pm
 Wilson Historical Society, 641 Lake St. Wilson, NY 14172
 Join us as we ring in the Christmas and holiday season! Enjoy seasonal favorites performed by sections of the Barker Community Band. Free admission and refreshments. After the concert at 7pm join everyone at Martin's park behind town hall for the ceremonial tree lighting!
facebook.com/wilsonhistoricalsociety

Holiday Light Up & Parade

Dec. 2 | 5:30pm-8:00pm
 Main St. in Newfane
 Parade, cookies, hot chocolate, a visit with Santa, and carriage rides following the parade. Candy Cane Craft Show at the Newfane United Methodist Church, plus the Newfane Community Center's Snowflake Village (vendor/craft show). newfanebusiness.com

Living Nativity

Dec. 2-4 | 5:30pm-8:30pm
 Grace Bible Church, 6023 Dutton Place, Newfane NY 14108
 30 minute guided walk through the Christmas story and beyond. Tours take place outside, please dress warm. Free admission and while-you-wait activities. gbcnewfane.com

Carol Sing Open House at the Van Horn Mansion

Dec. 4 | 1:00-4:00pm
 Van Horn Mansion, 2159 Lkpt-Olcott Rd. Newfane, NY, 14108
 Visit the beautifully decorated mansion during Christmastime. Enjoy listening to Christmas carols as you peruse various rooms with activities and refreshments. Free admission, donations accepted for the local food pantry. vanhornmansion.com

Castle by Candlelight

Dec. 10 & 17 | 6:30pm-9:00pm
 Old Fort Niagara, 102 Morrow Plaza, Youngstown, NY 14174
 Tour and explore Old Fort Niagara, 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 enjoy a variety of activities. Ticket prices vary, available online. oldfortniagara.org

Victorian Christmas in the Country

Dec. 11 | 1:00-4:00pm
 Babcock Cobblestone Museum, 7449 Lower Lake Rd. Barker, NY 14012
 Experience a late 1800s-style Christmas. The Babcock House is decorated in Victorian splendor. Dress warm for horse-drawn sleigh rides. Enjoy homemade cookies and hot chocolate, and singing carols around the antique organ. Free admission. somesetnyhistoricalsociety.org



Membership Application

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

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

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):

- Individual Membership \$10.00
- Family Membership \$20.00 (1 residence)
- Life Member \$100.00 (1 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, P.O. Box 115 Newfane, NY 14108

Calendar

For details on our events, visit our website.

Nov. 10 to Jan. 10 - Christmas Season at the Van Horn Mansion

November 11 - Veterans Day

November 15 - Board Meeting

November 24 - Thanksgiving Day

November 25 - Native American Heritage Day

November 27 - Advent Begins

December 4 - Annual Carol Sing Open House at the Van Horn Mansion

December 6 - St. Nicholas' Day

December 18 - Hanukkah Begins

Dec. 24 & 25 - Christmas Eve & Day

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

January 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Janary 17 - Board Meeting

February 14 - Valentine's Day

2022 Officers & Trustees

President: Victoria Banks

Recording Secretary: Jill Heck

Vice President: Janice Wiegley

Treasurer: David Stegges

Corresponding Secretary: Janet Capen

Trustees:

Bill Clark

Kevin Luckman

Mindi Schaeffer

Kristine DeGlopper-Banks

Chuck Manhardt

Rose Schaeffer

Steve Goodman

Mary Ann Miller

George Updegraph

Richard Leader

Bill Neidlinger

Virginia Womelsdorf

Melissa Schaeffer

Contact Information

Town of Newfane Historical Society
P.O. Box 115
Newfane, NY 14108

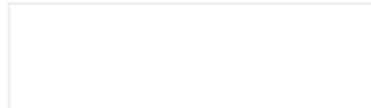
Country Village
2685 West Creek Rd.
Newfane, NY 14108

Van Horn Mansion
2159 Lockport-Olcott Rd.
Burt, NY 14028

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

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

*but first...
Hot Cocoa*



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