



# Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Autumn 2015

## Inside This Issue

- President's Letter
- Minute History
- Why We Celebrate Labor Day
- Apple Harvest Festival
- With Sympathy
- We Need Volunteers!
- Restoration Projects Need Your Help
- Candlelight Tours
- The Quilt Raffle Has Returned!
- Baked Goods Needed

## Celebrating 40 Years of the Historical Society

*From the desk of our President*

*In 1974, from June 28 - July 6, the Town of Newfane celebrated its 150th birthday with an enormous Sesquicentennial Celebration. Each day had its own theme and special events, including meals, contests, parades, games, rides, lectures, sales and more. The Sesquicentennial celebrated all areas of the town, known today as Newfane, Olcott, Burt, Appleton and part of Wrights Corners.*

*The celebration was a success, and community members recognized the benefit of a permanent organization to help preserve and share the wonderful history and stories of our local ancestors. One year later they established the Town of Newfane Historical Society, and now forty years later our current members are thrilled to celebrate our Ruby Anniversary. The fun kicks-off on September 27th at our Annual Apple Harvest Festival, and we look forward to seeing you all year for plenty of fun and special events, including next Spring's High Tea Party at the Van Horn Mansion. Future newsletters and our website will have all the dates and details.*

*I'd like to personally thank the Fitzgerald and Strickland families for their visits to the Van Horn Mansion this summer. Both have relatives who lived in the mansion back when it was a residential home, and it was great hearing all the stories and information about the house that we never knew before! We truly*

*appreciate any history that helps us better understand the wonderfully long life of the Van Horn Mansion.*

*We have a new project underway at our Country Village, thanks to Eagle Scout Scott Zeitz. His goal is to restore an old gravestone found on Coomer Road near a former cemetery.*

*It's broken and in bad shape; the only clear words say "James W". Scott hopes to raise funds for the restoration and then have it dedicated in its new home at our Country Village. We are grateful for the help of this young man and can't wait to see the end results! If you wish to help financially with his endeavor please send a donation c/o Eagle Scout Gravemarker Project to Town of Newfane Historical Society, P.O. Box 115, Newfane, NY 14108.*

*I'd like to again send thanks to the many hard-working volunteers who have worked diligently for over a year with many restoration and beautification projects at our Country Village. We have a ways to go and there's plenty of work to be done, but we can't wait to share our current progress in September!*

*Rose Schaeffer*

## Minute History

Arthur Patterson, an early settler of Charlottesville (Newfane), built The Patterson Hotel in early 1823. It was built on the northern-most end of Main Street at the time, on its west side. The hotel had a number of carriage houses, making it an ideal stop for travelers and their horses. Behind the hotel there was a popular ice-cold fresh water spring, where plenty of locals and visitors would stop for a drink and to refill their canteens.

Mr. Patterson was also one of the local businessmen who saw the need to fully establish Charlottesville as a village, and with the help of others cleared land and established new and safer roads, all while building his hotel.

## Why We Celebrate Labor Day

by Noah Rayman, Time Magazine [abridged]

The first Monday of September means that sales are on, summer holidays are over and classes begin. For many of us (but far from all of us), it's a welcome day off of work or school, ahead of what is likely to be a busier month than the last.

But the Labor Day holiday has a storied past, one of violence and celebration, that's embedded deep in the history of the American labor movement. And while it has spread around the world in different forms, Labor Day has distinctly American roots.



Labor Day Parade Float; date and location unknown



# APPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL

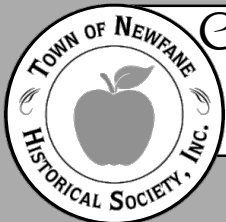
**FREE ADMISSION**



FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH  
10AM-5PM**

FOOD | CRAFTS | LOCAL PRODUCTS | ATTRACTIONS  
LIVE PERFORMANCES | HISTORICAL DEMONSTRATIONS  
FLEA MARKET | TRACTOR & FARM EQUIPMENT SHOW  
HANDS ON FUN | PLUS...ALL VILLAGE EXHIBITS WILL BE OPEN



CELEBRATING  
**40** YEARS!  
1975-2015

AT OUR COUNTRY VILLAGE  
2685 WEST CREEK RD. NEWFANE, NY 14108

For information & to participate or volunteer:  
**NEWFANEHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM**

- Join us Rain or Shine!
- Come early before the food sells out
- It would be appreciated if pets were left at home...Thank You!

Also take a short drive north to visit *The Van Horn Mansion*

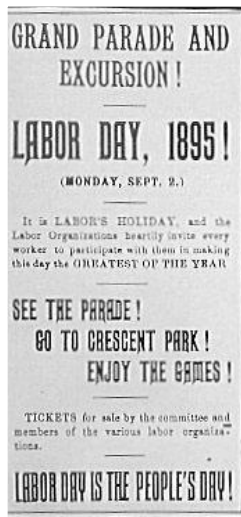
Open for Tours Sunday 1-4pm | 2165 Lkpt-Olcott Rd. Burt, NY 14028

**When did Labor Day begin?**

The modern holiday is widely traced back to an organized parade in New York City in 1882. Union leaders had called for what they had labelled a “monster labor festival” on Tuesday, Sept. 5, according to Linda Stinson, a former historian for the Department of Labor (the idea for a general labor festival may have originated in Canada, which today also celebrates “Labour Day” on the first Monday in September). Initially that morning, few people showed up, and organizers worried that workers had been reluctant to surrender a day’s pay to join the rally. But soon the crowds began flowing in from across the city, and by the end of the day some 10,000 people had marched in the parade and joined festivities afterward in what the press dubbed “a day of the people.”

**When did it become an official holiday?**

The practice of holding annual festivities to celebrate workers spread across the country, but Labor Day didn’t become a national holiday for more than a decade. Oregon became the first state to declare it a holiday in 1887, and states like New York, Massachusetts and Colorado soon followed suit. Under President Grover Cleveland, and amid growing awareness of the labor movement, the first Monday in September became a national holiday in 1896.



**Why is it on the first Monday in September anyway?**

Labor union leaders had pushed for a September date for the New York demonstration, which coincided with a conference in the city of the Knights of Labor, one of the largest and most influential of the unions. The first two New York City Labor Days took place on the 5th of September, but in 1884, the third annual New York City Labor Day holiday was scheduled for the first Monday in September, and that date stuck.

The September rally would soon clash with International Worker’s Day on May 1, which arose out of what is known as the Haymarket Affair. On May 4, 1886, protesters in Chicago gathered at Haymarket Square to demand an 8-hour workday. Toward the end of the day, a peaceful demonstration devolved into violence when a bomb was hurled toward the police, killing one officer instantly and injuring others. The police responded by firing into the crowd, killing a still undetermined number of people. The incident enraged labor activists but also fueled fears in America that the labor movement had become radicalized, prompting a crackdown on labor groups: the bomb thrower was never identified, but four people were hanged for their alleged involvement.

In the wake of the Haymarket Affair, Union leaders and socialists declared May 1 as International Workers’ Day, and the day was and continues to be unofficially observed in the U.S. It’s also the date that most other countries officially or unofficially observe as a holiday in honor of workers. But when President Grover Cleveland moved to create a national labor holiday, he chose to avoid the thorny history of that May date.

**We have Monday off, but does the labor community still actually celebrate the holiday?**

Yep. To this day there is still a major parade in New York City (and other cities across the country, large and small), and #UnionStrong will probably make a big showing on Twitter. It’s true that union membership has been declining for years, but many of the challenges that faced workers more than a century ago are still being overcome today, whether by the growing movement for higher wages in the fast food industry or by overworked tech and finance employees calling for better hours.

“If there is anyone who needs to attend to the spirit of Haymarket, it is the American white-collar professional who works 10 hour days, including many weekends, and who has fewer paid vacation days than other white-collar professionals around the world,” Jonathan Cutler, associate professor of sociology at Wesleyan, said in an interview with NPR.

*With Sympathy*

We send our prayers and sympathy to the family of **Judith Dingleday**

Judy was Newfane’s Town Historian and a longtime member and trustee of our Historical Society. Our society won’t be the same without her, and her loss is greatly felt in our community.



“What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes part of us.”  
-Helen Keller

**We Need Volunteers!**

The upcoming months have plenty of opportunities for our members to help with the upkeep and maintenance of our buildings, and the execution of our fundraising efforts.

Please consider helping at September’s Annual Apple Harvest Festival, the October Candlelight Tours at the Van Horn Mansion, and our Van Horn Mansion Carol Sing this December.

**For information on volunteering:**

Visit [www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com) OR  
Contact Jill Heck: 716-390-9679 | [jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com)



# Restoration Projects Need Your Help

Society members have been hard at work with various restoration projects at our Country Village. Currently they are in need of help and knowledge from the community for these two jobs:

## Water Pumping Windmill

Sam Clogston and Bill Neidlinger are restoring the Aermotor Water Pumping Windmill. The windmill has been on the tower near the blue barn at the Country Village for quite a few years. The gearbox and tail for the 602 Aermotor have been taken down and will be cleaned up, painted and filled with oil, once all parts have been found and assembled. The Tower and well are in good working order.



We are trying to locate blades for the wind catching wheel. If you know of any old windmill parts (preferably from Aermotor Windmill Company) lying around in a barn or field somewhere, please contact Bill at [billneids@yahoo.com](mailto:billneids@yahoo.com).



Windmill Blade

We believe that Mr. Dick Shaw originally installed the tower and windmill and we would like to keep his work operational!



Felt Mill Loom

## Felt Mill Loom

Pat Fralick, Sam Clogston and Bill Neidlinger have been working on restoring the Felt Mill Loom located at our Country Village. After two years of effort and much trial and error, they finally have the Loom working. We wish there were Loom fixers around that could help us out but, they are difficult to find.

Visit our website, [newfanehistoricalsociety.com](http://newfanehistoricalsociety.com) to view a video that explains "How Felt was Made". A new video will be created soon to explain how a 100 year old loom works! Also, we're seeking interviews with anyone that worked in the Mill, and/or have knowledge of the Newfane Felt Mill. If you know anyone with experience or knowledge of the original felt mill or the loom process, please let us know- contact the website or email Bill at [billneids@yahoo.com](mailto:billneids@yahoo.com). Thanks so much!

## Candlelight Tours at the Van Horn Mansion

*The perfect adventure for an October evening!*

Guests are led by candlelight through the spooky halls and grounds of this infamous haunted home. But ghostly legends and eerie stories are just the beginning; make sure to join us for the most popular annual event at the Van Horn Mansion.



**Fridays & Saturdays in October**

2 & 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 23 & 24, 30th

7pm-11pm

*last tour leaves at 10pm*

**Admission: \$5 per person**

**Reservations: Strongly suggested**, please call Rose at 727-9816, or email: [rose@newfanehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:rose@newfanehistoricalsociety.com)



# The Quilt Raffle Has Returned!

To help celebrate the historical society's 40th anniversary, we've brought back a popular fundraiser. The new 'Parasol Ladies' quilt (pictured) is very colorful, and was handcrafted especially for us by Nancy Miller from King George, Virginia. Time is running out to enter the raffle!



Tickets are \$1.00 each/ \$5 for 6

### Where to Purchase:

- @ Through a society member or trustee
- @ Visit our booth at the Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival in Olcott, Sept. 19 & 20
- @ The Apple Harvest Festival on Sunday, Sept. 27th

The winner will be drawn at the Apple Harvest Festival on September 27th. Good luck and thanks for your donation and support!



## Baked Goods Needed!

Our annual bake sale during the Apple Harvest Festival needs your help. Consider donating a batch of your favorite cookies, brownies, cupcakes or other desserts. Make sure they are pre-wrapped and in disposable containers.

Please deliver your donation to Kris DeGlopper-Banks (716-778-9344 or at the Newfane Library) by September 25th, or to the festival on September 27th before 10am.

*Thanks ahead of time!*

## Membership Application

*For new members and renewals*

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 begins on January 1st and ends on 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 M. Miller 3531 Ewings Rd. Lockport, NY 14094

Please make all checks payable to (or to the order of):  
Newfane Historical Society

**Or visit our website and join online: [www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com)**

# Calendar

For more details, please visit our website.

- Sept. 7th- Labor Day
- Sept. 15th- Trustees Meeting
- Sept. 27th- Apple Harvest Festival
- Oct. 2nd & 3rd, 9th & 10th- Van Horn Mansion Candlelight Tours
- Oct. 12th- Columbus Day
- Oct. 16th & 17th- Van Horn Mansion Candlelight Tours
- Oct. 20th- Trustees Meeting
- Oct. 23rd & 24th, 30th- Van Horn Mansion Candlelight Tours
- Oct. 31st- Halloween
- Nov. 1st- Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov. 11th- Veteran's Day
- Nov. 17th- Trustees Meeting

# 2015 Officers & Trustees

**President:** Rose Schaeffer  
**Vice President:** Bill Neidlinger  
**Secretary:** Janet Capen  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Melissa Schaeffer  
**Financial Secretary:** Rosemary Miller  
**Treasurer:** David Steggles

### Trustees:

Vicki Banks	Chuck Manhardt	Craig Schaeffer
Steve Goodman	Terry Manhardt	Mindi Schaeffer
Jill Heck	Bill Ott	George Updegraph
Kevin Luckman	Pat Ryan	

# Contact Information

<b>Town of Newfane Historical Society</b> P.O. Box 115 Newfane, NY 14108	<b>Country Village Museum</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!

# Bounty of the Harvest



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