



TOWN OF NEWFANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Spring 2017

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## Long Time Trustee Pat Ryan Retires

*From the desk of our President*

*At our recent January meeting, Pat Ryan officially retired as a trustee from the Historical Society. Ryan has been a member of the Historical Society for over 30 years, filling various positions on the board including President for a two year term.*

*For years Ryan has very often been the "go-to" person when information on an item is needed. The society is grateful he will continue consulting on various topics and projects in the future. His support is appreciated.*

*Ryan worked at Harrison's for 39 years as a welder. He moved to Newfane in 1955. He stated that Chuck Manhardt Sr. got him interested in joining the society, and the two were involved in many artifact adventures. At the Van Horn Mansion, Ryan worked on*

*restoring the beautiful skylight, along with landscaping on the south lawn and north parking lot.*

*Much of Ryan's time was spent at the Country Village on landscaping, preserving Newfane's artifacts and planting a "Nut Tree Grove" behind the General Store.*

*The Town of Newfane Historical Society sincerely appreciates Pat Ryan's many years of outstanding service to our community and society.*

*We'd also like to welcome Keegan Connolly as our newest trustee, approved by Ryan as his successor.*

*Bill Neidlinger*

## Minute History



Following the War of 1812, families bought all available plots of land, in what is now the town of Newfane, very quickly. You may even recognize some of these family surnames: Coomer, Tompkins, Van Horn, Halstead, Buck, McClew, Cooper, Meade, Hess and Wright. Many of these families helped build smaller roads that would connect their properties to main roads. Between road construction and the ownership of large plots of land, many of the founding families are now honored as local road and street names.

## Van Horn seeking new volunteers

*Recruitment has begun for public tours and gardening assistance*

With spring upon us, the Van Horn committee has begun preparations to reopen the Van Horn Mansion for public tours. Very soon we'll also start refreshing the estate landscaping and gardens. We are requesting assistance with both projects. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated!

Public tours of the mansion are held on Sundays from April through November, and Wednesdays in July and August. We are looking for volunteers to guide visitors through the house, sharing the building's history. It is a casual environment and a chance to meet wonderful people. Training is given, along with practice time to help you feel

comfortable as a tour guide. You can also help host at the front door if you're not comfortable with public speaking.

Outside we have a variety of trees, bushes and flowers that require daily and weekly monitoring. You don't need a green thumb! Just a little time to help keep everything watered and healthy. You can also join in on spring planting days.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering, or are interested in signing up, please get in touch with Janet Capen: (716) 946-3007 or janet3276@hotmail.com. ♦





## Congratulations to Joseph Robinson!

Joseph won our 2016 raffle, and is now the proud owner of a forged lattice platter. Thanks to everyone who participated, your support of the Newfane Historical Society is very appreciated. Special thanks to Bill Ott for handcrafting the beautiful piece of art (pictured left).



\$25 adult | \$15 for 12 & Under  
includes full tea

## Victorian Tea

*A benefit for the Newfane Historical Society*

*Saturday, April 8th  
1-4pm*

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

*Enter our Basket Raffle*

*Victorian era (1837-1901) attire  
& accessories encouraged,  
but not required.*

*Limited seats, through pre-sale ONLY!*

Buy online now at  
**NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com**

## DONATE TO OUR VICTORIAN TEA

To help support our annual spring tea, we are requesting support for the event. We are looking for gift baskets for the raffle. We're also seeking empty baskets and new items, which we will use to create more gift baskets. For those interested in supplying baked goods, we are looking for helping crafting bite sized pastries.

Please contact Rose at (716) 727-9816 to reserve a baked good and learn details. You can also contact her to arrange delivery or pick-up of all donations. Thanks ahead of time!





# 2017 Van Horn public tours begin in April; summer Wednesdays added to the schedule

*Open Sundays from April 9th through November 19th, and Wednesdays from July 5th through August 30th*

The popular Van Horn Mansion tours return this April 9th, and to meet demand we have added a summer weekday to the tour schedule. We hope this allows even more tourists and visitors to enjoy one of Newfane's beloved historic homes while visiting our town.

Stop in for a complete guided tour of our living museum, which lasts about ninety minutes. It includes a journey from cellar to attic, along with sharing history of the house and its occupants: our resident ghosts! The focal point of the house remains the dazzling stained glass skylight, imported from Paris, France. We love seeing historical society members return and share their own stories of time spent in the mansion and society.

The Van Horn Mansion is open for tours on Sunday afternoons from April 9th through November 19th, and Wednesdays in July and August (*excluding holidays*). Hours are 1-4pm on all tour days. We ask for a tour donation of \$5.00 per person; tours are free for members.

We also offer special tours and private rentals for parties, events and other gatherings. Please visit our website for details: [NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](http://NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com). ♦



*Open for  
private  
rentals  
year  
round.  
Contact  
us today!*



## New society project is seeking monetary support

Society members have begun work on a new research library, with the hopes of opening it to the public in early 2018.

The library will be located inside the Van Horn mansion. It will be available for community members and other visitors interested in learning more about the town, local history, and genealogy, among various subjects. Historical society members will also be on hand to assist with various inquiries and projects. We also have further plans for the library if it proves successful, which would be added slowly in the future.

We are currently requesting financial donations to assist with the creation of the library. Funding will go towards many items, including but not limited to: *new storage containers, filing accessories,*

*picture frames, new furniture, new technology, and transferring files to digital mediums.*

We will be raising funds at the Apple Blossom Festival. Please visit the General Store during the event, on May 21st, to purchase items or give a donation towards the project fund.



Please visit [NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](http://NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com) to make a general online donation. Or mail a donation (checks made out to Newfane Historical Society), to: Newfane Historical Society, c/o Van Horn library fund, P.O. Box 115, Newfane, NY 14108.

Thanks so much to everyone for your support. Your donation will be a wonderful community investment towards the preservation of our history and heritage. ♦

# Crafting Chocolate

*A brief history of shaping molds*



Chocolate first became the favorite treat we know today during the 1800's, by chefs and inventors crafting amazing drinks and solid forms of sweet milk chocolate. Chocolatiers sprang up around the world, eager to blend science, cooking and art into highly sought after products. This push helped bring about the first chocolate molds, in France during the 1830's. Made of thin copper (silver washed to help chocolate come out of the molds; later tin was used), the early flats made tiny, geometric shapes. They created eye-catching, and affordable sized, chocolate pieces ready for the masses. The flat molds were a success, and shortly after animals and other flat designs were created.

A decade later the first 3D molds were crafted in France. They ranged from ½ inch to 18 inches tall, made from two or more pieces and usually held together with inexpensive hand clamps. This allowed Chocolatiers all around the world to use their imagination and bring their medium to life. Different regions often crafted molds to match local stories, lore, and current events. The most popular creations centered around holidays, including Santas,

rabbits and Easter eggs. Germany would eventually have the most chocolate mold businesses in the world.

By the 1890's copper molds were replaced by steel alloys, which was good for business- for a while. During World War II all German mold companies were shut down to preserve steel, and molds were melted down for other uses. But all was not lost: many, many molds were buried underground for protection. These German chocolate molds are coveted by collectors today.

By the 1960's, new chocolate molds made of thermoplastic came to the market. Their production was cheaper and allowed enhanced designs and new uses for chocolate. For a few decades both metal and plastic molds were sold. By the 1980's cost savings, combined with the FDA outlawing metal molds for food, helped plastic become the preference for all new molds. Plastic molds are also used to shape other products, such as soaps, Jello-O, and candles. Metal molds stopped being produced.

Vintage chocolate molds, in plastic but especially metal, are now very popular items for collectors and chefs. The molds tell stories about where they came from and the people that may have used them. They are cherished pieces in food history and culture.



## Recipe Rewind!

*This recipe was published in the Golden Age Club's Pioneers' Recipes Cookbook, 1974. It commemorated Newfane's Sesquicentennial (1824-1974).*

### Old Fashioned Corned Beef Boiled Dinner

contributed by Nick Nicholas



In heavy kettle place 4 or 5 lb. corned beef brisket. Cover with cold water, add herbs and seasonings, if desired, but no salt. Cover tightly and simmer about 3 1/2 hours. Remove meat; keep warm. Skim off excess fat and add to broth:

8 small onions	4-5 potatoes, halved or quartered
8 whole carrots	
2 turnips, cubed	

Cover and cook about 20 minutes. Add 1 green cabbage cut in wedges. Cook 25 minutes longer. Serve on a hot platter with the vegetables around the corned beef. Makes 10-12 servings.

## Find Us At Newfane 365!

**March 9, 6-9pm**

**at the Olcott Fire Hall**

The Tourism Advisory Board of Newfane is hosting a showcase of the town's businesses, attractions, organizations and annual events. This event is free and open to the public! Come and see the Newfane Historical Society tables and pick up our latest news and 2017 calendar. Let us know if you came after reading this :)

*See you there!*



# Save the Date!

## 41st Annual Apple Blossom Festival

Sunday, May 21st at 10am



at our Country Village  
2685 West Creek Road  
Newfane, NY 14108

*Free Admission!*

Check out our summer (May) newsletter  
for details, or visit our website now:

**[NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](http://NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com)**

## Join the Festival Fun!

Plans are underway for this year's annual Apple Blossom Festival! This year it will be held on Sunday, May 21st beginning at 10am.



If you or someone you know is interested in joining our Flea

Market & Craft Show, let us know! Vendor Spaces are 20x20 and cost (if paid ahead): \$25 Market/ \$50 Food. Contact Rosemary for details: 716-433-3065 or [rosie311@roadrunner.com](mailto:rosie311@roadrunner.com).

We also love new volunteers! Tasks include set-up and tear down, working in our various museum buildings, helping guests, donating baked goods, promoting the event and much more. Volunteers can be ages 14+, and we accept help from school groups and students who need volunteer hours. For information on volunteering, please visit our website or contact Jill Heck: 716-390-9679 | [jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com). ♦

[NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](http://NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com)



## Membership Application

*For new members and renewals. Membership includes our quarterly newsletter*

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Select One:

Renewal     New Member

### Your Membership May Have Expired! Renew for 2017 Today!

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.

March 12th- Daylight Savings Time

March 17th- St. Patrick's Day

March 21st- Trustees Meeting

April 8th- Victorian Tea at the Van Horn Mansion

April 9th- 2017 Public Tours of the Van Horn Mansion Begin

April 14th- Good Friday

April 16th- Easter Sunday

April 18th- Trustees Meeting

May 14th- Mother's Day

May 16th- Trustees Meeting

May 21st- Apple Blossom Festival

# 2017 Officers & Trustees

**President:** Bill Neidlinger

**Vice President:** Kevin Luckman

**Recording Secretary:** Jill Heck

**Corresponding Secretary:** Melissa Schaeffer

**Financial Secretary:** Rosemary Miller

**Treasurer:** David Steggles

### Trustees:

Vicki Banks

Steve Goodman

Craig Schaeffer

Janet Capen

Chuck Manhardt

Mindi Schaeffer

Bill Clark

Terry Manhardt

Rose Schaeffer

Keegan Connolly

Bill Ott

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

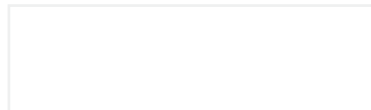
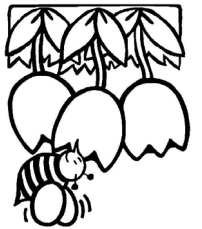
**Van Horn Mansion**  
2165 Lockport-Olcott Rd.  
Burt, NY 14028

[www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](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!

# Spring Has Sprung



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