



TOWN OF NEWFANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Summer 2018

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Welcome Summer

From the desk of our President

What a busy spring we've had! The Van Horn Mansion saw a healthy number of private events. We're so grateful to the community for supporting the society through these rentals, which is a main resource for the building's continued upkeep. As the mansion continues to grow as a rental venue, we hope to see an increase in funds which help us move beyond general maintenance and into new renovations and 'wish list' plans. One such project is already underway: visit the Van Horn Mansion this summer during our public tours and you'll see our new mini gift shop, a great way to see and take home hand-crafted items made by society members using various antique equipment from the Country Village. Even better, members can tour the mansion for free!

Our 42nd Apple Blossom Festival was held on Sunday, May 20th, and it took a lot of hard work from nearly all our trustees plus countless society members and volunteers. It was a successful day, with decent weather and a good crowd ready to finally enjoy some warmer temperatures. Thanks so much to

everyone for all their time and energy in helping keep this tradition alive. Trustees already have plans underway for our 40th Apple Harvest Festival this fall, so make sure to save the date (see page 5) and join us. Even better, consider volunteering- a few hours can help make the event even better.

This summer, as the society has no big upcoming events, trustees and volunteers will host a few more private events, run mansion tours, and - possibly most important - working on solo and personal projects. Countless hours are spent on these, from repairing old machinery or technology, to upgrading our many buildings, accomplishing historical research or traveling to visit other historical sites. With so many of us having a passion for history and/ or a vested interest in our community, it's these special hours that allow us to greater ourselves and our historical society. I hope you find a few hours this summer towards your own personal goal or project- no matter what it may be. When the cooler temps and busier time of year returns, you'll be grateful for your summer accomplishments!

*Vicki Banks
President*

Minute History



In 1887, 'The White House Cook Book: A Comprehensive Cyclopedia of Information for the Home' became a bestseller and essential for kitchens across America. Reprints are still made today. The book's Fourth of July menu is as follows:

Breakfast: red raspberries and cream, fried chicken, scrambled tomatoes, warmed potatoes, Tennessee muffins, toast, coffee

Lunch: cold sliced lamb, crab pie, Watercress salad, cheese toast, graham bread, sponge cake, blackberries, tea

Dinner: clam soup, boiled cod with lobster sauce, roast lamb, mint sauce, new potatoes boiled, green peas, spinach with eggs, cucumbers sliced, chicken patties, Naples biscuits, vanilla ice cream, chocolate macaroons, strawberries, coffee

American Pools

Various forms of pools have been around for about as long as humans have been seeking recreation. However it is the ingenuity of Americans that advanced pools from large public gathering places to the individually owned and technologically advanced water holes we all know today. Which all began with a simple concept: competitive recreation.

Swimming clubs in the late 1800's had become highly popular, resulting in cities and large towns gaining an interest to

investing in their own pool, especially where there wasn't easy access to natural water sources such as ponds and lakes. Water was a known commodity for its ability to draw people, especially in the summers before the invention of air conditioners.

The first known swimming pool in America was a public pool, built in 1887 in Brookline, Massachusetts. ...*(continued on page 3)*



c. 1930's community pool

WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

This new section will be ongoing as a record of the great support given by our members.

Special thanks to the following for their continued support:

Phil A. Banks*
Charles Beyer Jr.*
Kristine De-Glopper-Banks
Sheila McAtee
Brian & Dolores Mitchell
Joe Neidlinger

**new lifetime members*

Welcome to our newest members!

Jesse & Jennifer Beiber
David H. & Lori Caraco
Anne Fanton
Kate Fava
Tim & Angela Klein
Lynn Kuligowski
Tammy Ludwig
Michael Miller
John & Gerie Szatkowski
Mike & Sharon Tomaino
Yvonne Upton
Kimberlee Walker
Mark Williams



Van Horn Mansion Summer Tours

Open 1-4pm
Sundays & Wednesdays

July 8th through August 29th

60-90 minutes | \$5pp; free to society members

With Sympathy

We send our prayers and sympathy to the family of
Harold 'Pat' Ryan



Pat was a dedicated trustee and longtime member of our Historical Society. His contributions can be seen in every aspect of our group, and we will miss him greatly.

With caring prayers that even with great loss you feel surrounded by countless memories of love and hope.

Newfane farmer's journal illuminates local life during wartime

The Newfane Historical Society's library has a 1945 'daily diary' from Clarence Case, who lived on West Creek Road. His writings show the typical life of a farmer, often showing how daily activity was interspersed with World War II activity. Here are a few entries:

Sunday, Feb. 18th: 'Attended church at Grace Church in A.M. = Mr. Lafferty of Gasport preached a good sermon! Warmer today, but very cold last night. Donald Flint from army is home on furlough for 10 days. In evening he spoke, also Mr. Burns from Wilson, at the church.'

Saturday, May 12th: 'Went to Lockport on 9:47am bus and home on 12:15pm bus. Rained in p.m. = saw Frank Droman on street. He said his mother died last week. Geo Wilson called me in pm. I went to village in evening = yesterday soldiers were here looking for escaped German soldier.'

Sunday, May 13th: 'Mr. Beer from Clarence NY spoke at church today. Mother's Day, and also day for Thanksgiving as European war has ended proclaimed by President Truman. Geo Wilson had supper with me and spent the evening here.'

Thursday, June 13th: 'I rec'd telegram today from Mrs. Gordon Holcomb saying Washington has telegraphed her Gordon was killed in action in war in France last Aug. 23rd. This confirms my deductions from the information I could gather formerly. Worked all day and finally finished putting up growing yard fences in 18 pens.'

Wednesday, September 12th: 'I canned 22 pints of sweet coren today. Klumpp drawing up corn stalks from rear field, getting the field ready to plow for wheat. Tojo in Tokyo shot himself today rather than to surrender to General MacArthur.' ♦

(continued from page 1)...The first above ground pool design came in 1907 at the Philadelphia Racquet Club. One of the first residential pools built was on the Vanderbilt estate in Asheville, North Carolina in 1895. Other wealthy families followed suit, with the Edison family constructing theirs in 1910.

With pool construction in its infancy, they were usually built by various contractors, and were usually made of concrete or concrete blocks. You can imagine how labor-intensive pool construction must have been, as they were dug either by hand or with the help of a mule, depending on access. The most common construction method involved workers installing rebar or wire mesh on the wall, dumping concrete into the floor of the pool, and then hand-packing concrete up the walls.

In the 1920's municipal pools were gaining popularity, especially in the hotter and drier states. They served as centers of community life, as hundreds and sometimes thousands of people gathered. Neighbors played, chatted, and flirted with one another, and, for good or bad, fought over who should and should not be allowed to swim and when, long with what sorts of activities and clothing were appropriate for this intimate public space. No matter what or where, public gatherings may always breed discord- yet another reason for private pools to gain popularity.

The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida, was one of the first hotels to see the value in a private guest pool as a great marketing tool. They opened their beautifully designed pool in the 1930's and quickly attracted major Hollywood stars, including Judy Garland, Ginger Rogers, Bing Crosby and more. Their success encouraged more hotels to open their own, helping these human-crafted watering holes to become status symbols.

As pools continued to gain popularity, designs began to improve quality, and lower labor and material costs. Gunitite was introduced in the early 1940's as a replacement for

cement for lining the walls, allowing pools to be produced much faster. World War II slowed production for many years, but following the war Gunitite helped bring private pools to the masses for the first time in history. As pools grew in popularity, designs were changed to entice new buyers. For the first time, rectangle and circle pools were

competing against a new, had-to-have shape: kidney. As pools became must-haves for the middle-class, special financing was introduced, allowing even more families to become owners.

In 1947, Doughboy Plastics began creating products that would target the pool market. They launched a successful lines of beach balls, inflatable toys, and 'splasher' pools that would let families have affordable fun. Their plastic pools introduced a new, albeit tiny, pool option. You could find 'wading' or 'kiddie' pools at the local drug store, five-and-dimes, or the general store- the same places you can find them today!

With pool stores now located all over the U.S., even more money was invested toward innovations. In the late 1950's, Esther Williams brand pools began operation, which was the first vinyl-lined swimming pool manufacturer. Not long after one-piece fiberglass pool debuted. By the 1960's construction really improved, as specialized filtration systems, PVC plumbing, pool skimmers, manufactured main drains, underwater lights, kool deck concrete, and more were introduced to the market. Around this time even Kidney-shaped pools became a past-time, as custom shapes could be produced.

One of the biggest changes of the 1980's was the desire for pools to be more natural looking. This included dark interior finishes that created a lagoon feel, which remains popular today. Next came the vanishing edge pool, which creates a look that the water is emptying out. Pools also got surprising new upgrades from computers: spa controls, lights, better filtration and timers helped grow the industry. This included a greater expansion of burgeoning hot tub manufacturing, which began in the 1970's.

In the 1990's studies were commissioned in efforts to better hear and respond to consumer's feedback. Many people



Swimmers using their local public pool in the 1950's



Magazine ad from the 1950's

also a major concern. The pool industry began offering higher quality automatic cleaners, control systems that are easy to operate, and safety devices such as pool alarms and safety covers. Standard circle pools help make production cheaper and more affordable for most eyes, although rectangle and custom designs remain a major source of income for the industry.

Tiny and inflatable pools options are also now a highly profitable subset of the market, including slightly larger designs, toddler 'water parks', and easy to transport designs. They are not typically quality-made and rarely last long, but that is acceptable to buyers with limited income, space, or long term living arrangements.

Today the National Swimming Pool Foundation estimates there are well over 10 million swimming pools across the USA, including more than 360,000 public pools that are open year round. Although the look and construction methods have changed, the reason remains the same as when the first was built in Brookline over 125 years ago: pools are a great places to socialize, and provide a way to escape the summer heat. ♦

wanted lower maintenance pools...*(continued on page 4)*
(continued from page 3)...that were easier to operate. These studies showed that safety was

Magazine ad from the 1960's



Recipe Rewind!

These recipes were published in The Ladies' Cook Book of The Baptist Church of Newfane, NY, 1898. New cookbooks were published often by the group as fundraisers for the church. The Pastor during this edition's printing was Rev. M. B. Comfort, who served the church from 1898 through 1908. Since the recipes are all so brief, we're giving you a few options to try at home. Note: recipes are accurately transcribed; good luck solving any missing information!

Catsup

contributed by Mrs. C.H. Evans

1 gallon Tomato Juice; 1 pint Vinegar; 4 tablespoons Salt; 1 tablespoon Black Pepper; 3 tablespoons Mustard; one-fourth teaspoon Red Pepper; 1 teaspoon Cloves; 1 teaspoon Allspice; 1 teaspoon Cinnamon.

Newfane Ginger Snaps

contributed by Mrs. John Mohler

One-half cup Butter; one cup Sugar; 1 cup Molasses; 1 tablespoon Ginger; 2 teaspoonful Royal Baking Powder, and enough flour to make a stiff roll.

Peanut Creaps

contributed by Mrs. Julia Thomson

Chop fine 1 cup of Salted Peanut with the hull off and put in a greased tin, and then put on the stove 2 cups Sugar, and let it melt; then take it off, quit and turn on the Peanuts and when cold break off into pieces.

Raisin Filling

contributed by Mrs. Rettie Wright

1 cup Chopped Raisins; one-half cup Sugar; 1 Egg. Put on stove and cook until thick.

Preserves [To Preserve a Husband.]

contributed by Mrs. Ketchum

Be careful in selection. Do not choose one too young and take only such varieties as have been raised in a good, moral atmosphere. When once decided upon and selected let that part remain forever settled and give your entire time and thought to domestic use. Some insist on keeping them in hot water but even poor varieties may be made sweet, tender, and good by garnishing with patience, well sweetened by smiles, and flavored with kisses. To taste them wrap them well in the mantle of charity. Keep warm with a steady flow of domestic devotion and serve with peaches and cream. When thus prepared they will keep for years.

Visit us at the Niagara County Fair

August 1-5, 2018 at the fairgrounds,
4487 Lake Ave. (Rte. 78) Lockport NY 14094

Daily Pass: Wed.-Sat. \$5pp | Sun. \$3pp or \$10/ car
Weekly Pass: \$18pp
Children 6 & under: FREE

Hours: Wed.-Sat. 10am-11pm | Sun. 10am-6pm



2017 fair display

Visit members of the Newfane Historical Society this August at the fair! We are a member of the *Niagara County Federation of Historical Societies*, which hosts an amazing display annually inside the air-conditioned 4H Training Center. Many of the society's members take turn volunteering their time to greet visitors, which means you're sure to meet some wonderful people with plenty of local historical knowledge!

Something to Lean Upon

It is not the Cook, but "the Woman behind the Cook" who rules the world. When cooks fail and servants fail and everything else fails, there is

Shredded Whole Wheat

for the Housekeeper to lean upon in every emergency. Ready-cooked, ready-to-serve, it contains all of the nutritive elements of the whole wheat, steam-cooked and drawn into fine porous shreds so that the stomach may easily take up all its strength giving properties.

Heated in the oven, Shredded Wheat Biscuit is delicious for breakfast with milk or cream. Recipes for making many wholesome and palatable combinations with fruit or creamed vegetables or meats will be found in this book.

SHREDED WHEAT BISCUIT and TRISCUIT (the Shredded Wheat Wafer) are made by The Natural Food Company at Niagara Falls in the cleanest and most hygienic food factory in the world. Our new cook book is sent free for the asking.

"It's All in the Shreds"

Ad inside the *The Ladies' Cook Book* of The Baptist Church of Newfane, NY, 1898, the same book showcased in 'Recipe Rewind' on page 4.

Save the Date:
40th Apple Harvest Festival
will be held Sunday, Sept. 30th!

Have anything to you'd like included in the *Apple Blossom Times*?
Want to see or learn about something? Send your ideas to
editor@newfanehistoricalsociety.com and it may make a future edition.

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 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 (per person)

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

Calendar

For more details, please visit our website.

June 17th- Father's Day

June 19th- Trustees Meeting

June 23rd- Newfane Central High School Graduation

July 4th- Independence Day

July 8th to August 29th- Van Horn Mansion Summer Tours: Open Sundays & Wednesdays (1-4pm)

July 17th- Trustees Meeting

August 21st- Trustees Meeting

September 3rd- Labor Day

September 18th- Trustees Meeting

****Save the Date****

September 30th- Apple Harvest Festival

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

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Bill Neidlinger

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Rose Schaeffer

George Updegraph

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Don't Missed



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