



TOWN OF NEWFANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Autumn 2016

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## We've Had A Busy Summer!

*From the desk of our President*

*Have you seen our new beautiful color brochures advertising the Van Horn Mansion? They have been placed in strategic locations around town and Niagara County and promote our Sunday afternoon tours and Private event rentals. Town Historian Bill Clark, Vicki Banks and Melissa Schaeffer have begun re-organizing the library at the Mansion, so that research can be easier for interested persons. They're hoping for a re-launch in 2017. Meanwhile, volunteers have been busy with the Mansion's Carriage House renovations. Medina Windows will be soon be installing 11 new windows, we're cleaning up brush around the building, and painting the exterior continues the restoration. A restored Sleigh, tack and other items are now on display inside the Carriage House, and work on a horse drawn wagon is also being done.*

*The Country Village is being used for more private events: family reunions, wedding rehearsal parties, Beyond Ghost events and a Celtic Halloween Day. Eagle Scout candidate, Scott Zeitz, installed a new monument on the grounds, containing an old headstone, commemorating one of our early Newfane settlers. Our Blacksmith, Bill Ott, has made*

*an elegant Forged Lattice Platter to be raffled off in December. Tickets are available now; thanks to John's Ultimate Auto for the donation of the raffle tickets! New Society hats and polo shirts were ordered and handed out to trustees and a few society volunteers. Sam Clogston and I continue working on renovating a 100 year old Aermotor Water Pumping Windmill. Bruce Genewich is restoring a Myers water pump that will be used with the windmill.*

*Restoration of the Lockport Felt Mill's original 1920's Crompton and Knowles Loom is now complete. This same Power Loom helped manufacture paper making felt at the Lockport Felt Company in Newfane, NY until 1984. Beginning last year, the loom began producing new fabric thanks to our weavers, Pat Fralick, Claire Oaks, and Sam Clogston. A limited amount of handbags have been crafted by Emily Morrissey from this fabric, and will be available for sale and on display during this Fall's Apple Harvest Festival.*

*We are always looking for people to join us in our mission; consider volunteering at our upcoming events!*

*Bill Neidlinger*

## Minute History

*The following is a local advertisement from the late 1890's:*

Try A Pair of  
Bacon \$3.00 Shoes

We buy direct from the factory whose output is five-thousand pair every working day.

This enormous production enables them to produce shoes at the lowest possible price. That's why we save you \$1.00 on each pair.

These shoes are made from the best Tannery stock; every piece of leather is inspected and tested before it is cut, and they are stitched with the best threads made, and in every part nothing but the best quality leather and bindings are used. We guarantee every pair of shoes to give reasonable wear.

They are made in 116 different styles at one price \$3.00.

J. Allen McCollum  
General Merchandise,  
Newfane, N.Y.

## Looking for Festival Volunteers

It's that time of year again! The Apple Harvest Festival is in a few short weeks, and we're looking for society members and new volunteers to help pull off this fun event! Tasks include working in various exhibits, helping with vendors, set-up and tear down. The best places to assist are at our food stops, which have a variety of jobs available. We also accept volunteer hours from organizations (i.e. churches, boy scouts, girls scouts, 4H, school groups and more), and can send letters of hours worked after the event if needed.

Please contact Jill Heck: 716-390-9679 | [jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com)



# APPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL

**FREE ADMISSION**



FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH  
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



AT OUR COUNTRY VILLAGE

2685 WEST CREEK RD.  
NEWFANE, NY 14108

For information & to participate or volunteer:

**NEWFANEHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM**

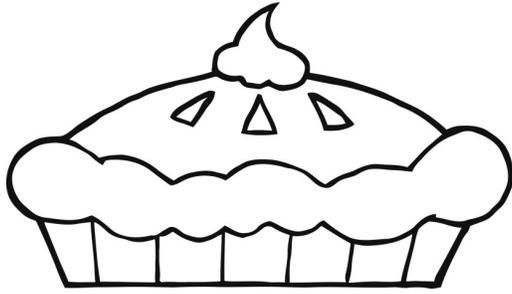
Join us Rain or Shine!

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



## Baked Goods Needed!

Our annual bake sale during the Apple Harvest Festival needs your help. Consider donating a batch of your favorite cookies, brownies, breads, donuts 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 Sept. 23rd, or to the festival on Sunday, Sept. 25th before 10am.

**Thanks ahead of time!**

## Recipe Rewind!

*From The Ladies' Cook Book, issued by the Aid Society of The Newfane Baptist Church of Newfane, N.Y. in 1898; Printed by J.H. Murphy in Lockport N.Y.*

### Rubber Cookies

contribution by Mrs. Walker



3/4 cup brown sugar	1 Tablespoon salt
1 cup molasses	1 Teaspoon ginger
1 Tablespoon vinegar	1 Beaten Egg
1 Tablespoon soda	

Heat sugar and molasses until they come to a boil. Add the rest, mix very hard while hot and bake in a very quick oven.

### What Do You Want To See In Future Newsletters?

Please send ideas & comments to us (contact info. is on the back of this edition). You can also send the names of people you'd like us to keep in our prayers, and any special announcements related to society members and their families.

# 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**  
 7 & 8, 14 & 15, 21 & 22, 28 & 29



**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)



# Halloween Through the Ages



Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, northern France and western Spain, celebrated their new year on November 1. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. And so on the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. Some rituals included sacred bonfires, and dressing in animal skins and heads as costumes. Masks and costumes were worn in an attempt to mimic the evil spirits or appease them. Samhain was also time to take stock of supplies and prepare for winter.

By 43 A.D., the Roman Empire had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. Christians adopted many of their traditions, helping to spread the religion's influence. All Saints Day would eventually be formed on Nov. 1, also known as All-hallows or All-hallowmas, and the night before began to be called All-hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween. Similar to Samhain, they held big bonfires, parades, dressed in costumes as saints, angels and devils.

Halloween came with the early American settlers, more common in Maryland and the southern colonies. Early celebrations included public parties, storytelling, fortune telling, dancing and singing. As the many religions

and customs of different cultures began to mesh together, Halloween slowly evolved into a distinctly American version of the holiday. Now children were dressing in costume and going from door to door asking for food or money. By the late 1800s parents and community leaders began removing anything "frightening" or "grotesque" out of Halloween celebrations. Because of these efforts, Halloween lost most of its superstitious and religious overtones by the beginning of the twentieth century.

By the 1920s and 1930s, Halloween had become a secular, community-centered holiday, with parades and town-wide parties as the featured entertainment. Between 1920 and 1950, the centuries old practice of trick-or-treating was also revived in America. This tradition was a relatively inexpensive way for an entire community to share the



Halloween celebration. In theory, families could also prevent tricks (or vandalism) being played on them by providing the neighborhood children with small treats. It is now socially expected that if one lives in a neighborhood with children, one should purchase treats in preparation for trick-or-treaters.

*Fun Fact: In Ohio, Iowa, and Massachusetts, the night designated for Trick-or-Treating (which doesn't always fall on Oct. 31) is often referred to as Beggars Night.*

Modern celebrations continue to celebrate the not so scary traditions, while equally embracing the spookier side of the holiday as well. Nowadays haunted attractions are as popular as parties or trick-or-treating. Halloween continues to grow in popularity around the globe, making it one of the largest celebrated holidays annually.

A popular new trend is a return to the early roots of Halloween and Samhain. This is further proof of how many of us like to be scared, enjoy celebrating the seasons, and creating memorable moments with family and friends. It also allows us to reach into the past and celebrate with our many ancestors who celebrated this holiday in their own way. And who knows? Maybe that bridge between worlds is a little easier to find on the 31st of October.



# Raffle Tickets Now on Sale!

You can win a beautifully forged lattice platter, handcrafted by society member and blacksmith Bill Ott. Special thanks go out to Bill for this wonderful donation and the time taken to build this one-of-a-kind piece of art.



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

**Where to Purchase:**

- @ Through a society member or trustee
- @ Sunday Tours at the Van Horn Mansion
- @ The Apple Harvest Festival on Sunday, Sept. 25th
- @ Candlelight Tours at the Van Horn Mansion in October
- @ The Carol Sing at the Van Horn Mansion on Dec. 4th

The winner will be drawn at the Christmas Carol Sing on December 4th. Need not be present to win. Good luck and thanks for your donation and support!



## 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. 20th- Trustees Meeting
- Sept. 25th- Apple Harvest Festival
- Oct. 7th & 8th- Van Horn Mansion Candlelight Tours
- Oct. 10th- Columbus Day
- Oct. 14th & 15th- Van Horn Mansion Candlelight Tours
- Oct. 18th- Trustees Meeting
- Oct. 21st & 22nd, 28th & 29th- Van Horn Mansion Candlelight Tours
- Oct. 29th- Celtic Halloween Village at the County Village
- Oct. 31st- Halloween
- Nov. 6th- Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov. 11th- Veteran's Day

# 2016 Officers & Trustees

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

### Trustees:

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

# 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!

# Happy Autumn!



Address Service Requested

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