



# Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Spring 2015

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## Happy St. Patrick's Day and Easter!

*From the desk of our President*



*What a winter this has been! The snowfall rates are about average, but the constant below normal temperatures have kept the snow around longer, creating the giant piles that surround us- and which aren't likely to go anywhere anytime soon. Thanks to the Town of Newfane for helping us with snow plowing services.*

*Of course we all know that warmer weather will return soon as it always does. I hope this new Spring edition of our newsletter will help get you in the mood for warmer weather, new flowers, babies, weddings...everything that comes during this wonderful season!*

*also begin again on April 12th, from 1-4pm, and are held through December.*

*Both the Mansion and Country Village are in the middle of some new cleaning, renovation and repair projects. Time and weather have worn parts of many buildings, and the time came to start sprucing everything back up. We are likely to be continuing these projects all year-long, so please get in touch if you can volunteer any time (donations and membership renewals also are greatly appreciated).*

*Among the biggest of undertakings is the village's West Side. Some of the barns had new roofs installed just before the winter began, and they look wonderful. A few of our members, spearheaded by Vice President Bill Neidlinger, are hard at work rennovating the entire west side (a few others helping include Steve Goodman, Bill Ott, Ken Hannah, Chuck Manhardt and George Updegraph). It'll be great to see a few of the upgrades at May's Apple Blossom Festival. Please make sure to thank the guys if you see them.*

*Thanks for reading our latest edition, we appreciate the wonderful support from all our members. Look for the summer edition in early May, as we all get ready for the Apple Blossom Festival!*

Rose Schaeffer

## Minute History

Many thousands of years ago, Lake Ontario (named by the Wyandot [Huron] people) was a much deeper and larger lake. In this area, the water covered all of what is now known as the Town of Newfane. As the water receded, the original shoreline remained a ridge of higher ground than the rest. This ridge, which spans from the Niagara River to the current city of Batavia, was far easier to travel through than the surrounding harsh woods. It became the major route used by local tribes (still used today: Ridge Road/ Rte. 104).

The receding waters also created vast amounts of marshland between the ridge and the newer lake shoreline. The marshes helped create very fertile soil around them, great for growing. Wild cranberries were plentiful in the area over 200 years ago.



*The Van Horn Mansion is getting busy once again, with private showers and parties starting to book during the spring and summer. Please consider the mansion for any of your own upcoming events. Regular Sunday tours*

## Special Announcement

The March Trustees Meeting is being held at a special location:

**The Babcock House Museum**  
7449 Lower Lake Road  
Barker, NY 14012

**\*\*Want to Carpool? \*\***

*Be at the parking lot of the Van Horn Mansion before 6:45pm.*

# The Return of Springtime Tea at the Van Horn Mansion

Thanks to a special donation by Carol Tomaino and Joanne Stanton, we have gained a wonderful assortment of tea cups, dishes and accessories. As we combined them with our current collection, it was agreed that it was time to bring back the tea party fundraiser. Unlike our previous Victorian Teas, this year's setting is the 1920's-30's. So get out your best "Downton Abbey" outfits and join us for a wonderful afternoon at the Van Horn Mansion!

Here are the details:

## Full Tea at the Van Horn Mansion

a benefit for the Newfane Historical Society

Saturday, April 11th  
12-4pm

Van Horn Mansion

2165 Lockport-Olcott Rd. Burt, NY 14028



Enter our Basket Raffle  
(donations currently being accepted)

1920's-30's attire & accessories encouraged, but not required. Special prize for Best Dressed!

\$15pp, includes Full Tea

Reservations Required: Please call 716-622-6709 or 716-778-7197 (if needed, leave a message). Admission is due at the door upon arrival.

### Menu:

- Earl Grey tea
- Scones with jam and cream
- Tea sandwiches: cucumber, ham salad, egg salad & chicken salad
- Fresh fruit plate
- Miniature pasties
- Plus a special surprise!

## What Should I Wear to the Full Tea?

So what is the proper attire for an early 20th century afternoon tea? We have some tips help ensure you a great chance to win Best Dressed.

By the 1920's, restrictive corsets were starting to go out of fashion. Ladies often wore low-waisted tea dresses, accessorized with a hat and gloves; in fact you wouldn't be seen dead in public without wearing a hat and gloves. Even now her majesty the Queen is always seen outside of Buckingham Palace wearing a hat and gloves. Remember to remove your gloves to have tea, and place them on your lap with your napkin over the top. Small hats and fascinators can remain on your head, but are not required.

Menswear hasn't changed a great deal in the last century, in part because suits continue to look fabulous on any man. The later the tea is held in the afternoon, the more formal the outfit. Gloves and Hats are appropriate; however men should leave them at the front door. Suit jackets are also recommended to look your best.

24 *Plum Blossom* for July, 1923

### Lace Captures Mid-Summer Fancy



## For Your Next Important Event, Consider Us

Both our Van Horn Mansion and Country Village are available for private rentals. We can host small and large events: weddings, dances, showers, parties, corporate meetings, tours and more. Both properties are wonderful backdrops for a variety of occasions.

Our Country Village has two large lawns to hold parties or gatherings. Some of the barns and museum buildings can be a part of the event as well. The various structures are a fabulous backdrop for country themed gatherings and photos. The Village is newly available to rent, making it a unique locale for those who want something different.

The picturesque Van Horn Mansion has played host to countless showers, parties and weddings for nearly two decades. Larger events can be held outdoors in the summer, while small, intimate groups take use of both the indoors and wrap-around porch. The mansion is also available for private tours and haunted activities, along with photography sessions.

For more information on both locations and to check our Event Calendar for available dates, please visit our website: [www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com).



Photo courtesy of LakeFX Studio & Brightside Photography

## Save the Date!



## Apple Blossom Festival

May 17th, 10am-5pm

Country Village

2685 West Creek Rd. (corner at Ide Rd.)  
Newfane, NY 14108

Details will be in our next newsletter, or see them now on our website:

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

## Apple Blossom Festival Planning Is Underway

Our Annual Apple Blossom Festival is scheduled for Sunday, May 17th from 10am-5pm. Many of our members are beginning preparations for another wonderful Spring festival.

We are looking to grow the festival's Flea Market & Craft Show. Vendor Spaces are 20x20 and cost (if paid ahead): \$25 Market/ \$50 Food. Anyone interested can visit our website for details or contact Rosemary: 716-433-3065 or [rosie311@roadrunner.com](mailto:rosie311@roadrunner.com).

Our festival is always in need of volunteers for nearly every aspect of our event. 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 ([www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com)) or contact Jill Heck: 716-390-9679 | [jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:jill@newfanehistoricalsociety.com).

# In Your Easter Bonnet...



Spring is in the air and Easter is upon us. What better time to explore a little background into the tradition of Easter Bonnets!

During Roman times, young women celebrated the arrival of spring by wearing wreaths of new laurel and olive leaves, intertwined with flowers. They symbolized rebirth, hope, and a new beginning. Later, Christians came to celebrate Easter Sunday, which falls during the arrival of spring. Traditions started to merge, and soon it was custom to dress in new attire to celebrate the arrival of both Spring and Easter. The centerpiece of each new outfit remained the headpiece, filled with the newest flower blossoms.

By the 1800's in Europe, cloaks and dresses of richly colored material and elaborate head coverings were more and more prevalent. Women began to replace the flowers and wreaths of times past with hats decorated with flowers and ornaments.

In the United States, elaborate Easter celebrations did not evolve until several years after the Civil War. In those years, a reunited Nation put aside the painful memories of the war, and women exchanged their somber clothing of mourning for brighter and happier colors. Their hats were adorned with blooming and fresh flowers. If the flowers were not blooming they would make them from paper, ribbon, feathers or sea shells. At the same time, large numbers of immigrants arrived from European countries, bringing their strong religious traditions, including Easter celebrations.

With each passing year, the celebrations became a tradition known as "the Easter Parade", drawing people, eventually in the hundreds of thousands. Vying for attention, ladies displayed their elaborate spring millinery, which became a hallmark of the parade.



In the 1870's, a new tradition emerged in New York City. After Easter services in many of the large cathedrals, *(continued on page 5)*

## With Sympathy

We send our prayers and sympathy to the family of  
**Shirley Cushman.**



Shirley was a longtime friend and member of the Historical Society, and we will miss her greatly.

Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead, and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.

## Recipe Rewind!

This recipe was published in the Niagara Celtic Heritage Society's Discover Celtic Cuisine Cookbook, 2010.



### Irish Soda Bread

contributed by Julie Gow

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 c. flour                      | 3 tsp. butter         |
| 1 1/2 tsp. sugar                | 2/3-3/4 c. buttermilk |
| 3/4 tsp. salt                   | 1/4 c. raisins        |
| 1 tsp. baking soda              | milk for brushing     |
| 1 tsp. caraway seeds (optional) |                       |

Heat oven to 375°. Combine flour, sugar, salt, baking soda and caraway seeds in the bowl. Cut butter into flour until mix resembles course meal. Add up to 3/4 c. buttermilk to make soft, but not sticky, dough and then add raisins. Knead dough until smooth (about 1 minute). Shape into 5-inch disc and put in a baking pan. Cut a 1/4-inch cross in the top. Brush the top with milk and bake until golden brown (about 35 minutes).

## 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.

(continued from page 4) spontaneous celebrations ensued, with people walking down the streets in their Easter finery. The greatest parade could be found on 5th Avenue, where the social elite paraded showed off expensive and elaborate new fashions. With each passing year, the annual 5th Avenue's Easter Parade would see hats become larger, heavier and more creatively decorated. Ladies loved taking the opportunity of the end of Lent to buy luxury items; spectacular head gear included live bird nests, portable flower gardens and pets.

In 1933, songwriter Irving Berlin immortalized the 5th Ave. parade in his song "Easter Parade." This remains one of the best known Easter songs of all time. By the late 1940's, the famous Easter Parade expanded out of 5th Avenue and extended from Madison Square to Central Park, and it continues today. To this day, shops in 5th Avenue have displays of Easter Bonnets in their windows. The shops compete to see who has the best display and the windows are a tourist attraction.



New York 1913 Easter Sun 5th Ave #1878

Today, Easter Bonnets (and hat wearing in general) remain common in Europe. However in the U.S. they're now a holiday novelty and are not seen as often at church services. Modern Easter bonnets are simple, made of pastel colored straw or plastic and covered in satin ribbons and occasionally satin flowers or springtime motifs.

This Easter, consider renewing the traditions with your very own Easter bonnet. Whether handmade or store bought, old or new, small or large, wear it proudly with your head held high!

## 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.

March 8th- Daylight Savings Time

March 17th- St. Patrick's Day

March 17th- Trustees Meeting (*Special Location: The Babcock House Museum in Barker*)

April 3rd- Good Friday

April 5th- Easter Sunday

April 11th- Full Tea at the Van Horn Mansion

April 21st- Trustees Meeting

May 1st- May Day

May 10th- Mother's Day

May 17th- Apple Blossom Festival

May 19th- Trustees Meeting

May 25th- Memorial Day

# 2015 Officers & Trustees

**President:** Rose Schaeffer

**Vice President:** Bill Neidlinger

**Secretary:** Janet Capen

**Corresponding Secretary:** Melissa Schaeffer

**Financial Secretary:** Rosemary Miller

**Treasurer:** David Stegges

**Trustees:**

Vicki Banks

Kevin Luckman

Pat Ryan

Judy Dingleday

Chuck Manhardt

Craig Schaeffer

Steve Goodman

Terry Manhardt

Mindi Schaeffer

Jill Heck

Bill Ott

George Updegrah

# Contact Information

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

**Country Village Museum**  
2685 West Creek Rd.  
Newfane, NY 14108

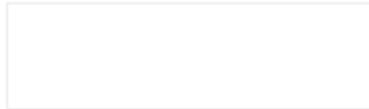
**Van Horn Mansion**  
2165 Lockport-Olcott Rd.  
Burt, NY 14028

[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!

# Welcome & Easter!



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