



Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Autumn 2022

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A busy Autumn

From the desk of our President

Thanks to everyone who attended our Apple Blossom Festival this past May. It was a well-attended event, which was very appreciated as it was the first since 2019. Many thanks to all those who volunteered and worked hard to pull the entire event off.

Sunday tours at the Van Horn Mansion were busy this summer! It has been nice to have our living museum open again for visitors. Our tour guides have met many lovely people - some who live locally and many others from all parts of the U.S. and Canada. It is always great when we have an opportunity to share our community's history. Public tours return in October, for the evening Candlelight Tours, and again in November and December for Sunday Christmas Tours. Visit VanHornMansion.com for details.

A celebration of our local history and the latest harvest is once again around the corner. Please join us for our Apple Harvest Festival on the 25th of September (details below). We look forward to seeing everyone once again at our Country Village. Make sure to come early for your favorite foods, and stay to enjoy many wonderful historical displays. See everyone soon!



Vicki Banks

Minute History

In the early days of the Goodrich Co., when it was known as B.F. Goodrich Co., they would release an annual Farmer's Handbook and Almanac. They were filled with ads, articles, and tips to help home and farm owners. In the 1947 edition they included a section titled, "Cooking Time Savers". Enjoy a few of their helpful tips:

When frying bacon you can save time by criss-crossing the pieces in the pan and turning all at once with a pancake turner.

To peel oranges more easily, place them in boiling water for three or four minutes. This also makes them more juicy.

To peel onions more quickly and without crying, simply place them in a deep bowl or pan full of water and peel them under water.

When whipping cream, add six or eight drops of lemon juice per pint. This will make the cream whip much more quickly.

When cooking requires long periods, starting times are often forgotten. They won't be if you make a small cardboard clock face, with tin or hairpin hands held on with a paper fastener. This can be set to show starting time and hung near your kitchen clock.

Newfane Historical Society's

Apple Harvest Festival

September 25, 2022
10am- 4pm

Celebrate Autumn during our 43rd annual Sunday gathering! Join us rain or shine and enjoy everything our local harvest offers.

Fun for the Entire Family!

- Local Products
- Food & Drink
- Live Performances
- Tractor & Farm Equipment Show
- Historical Demos
- Fun Activities
- Crafts
- Flea-Market
- Attractions

FREE Admission & Parking!
No Pets Please

at our Country Village
2685 West Creek Rd. Newfane, NY 14108

NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com



Join us Sunday, Sept. 25

The Apple Harvest Festival is nearly here! Please support the Newfane Historical Society at our annual Fall fundraiser, which is free to attend. It is Sunday, Sept. 25 from 10am-4pm. Sales of food, memberships, merchandise and more go towards the many efforts of the society. Thanks ahead of time for everyone's support, and hope to see you there! ♦



Baked Goods Needed!



On festival day, one way we raise much needed funds is by selling baked goods at the Country Store. But we can't do it without you!

Bake your favorite cookies, zucchini or pumpkin bread, cupcakes, or other treats, and package in disposable containers. Please deliver to the Country Store on Sunday, Sept. 25, between 8:30am-1pm and help support the Newfane History Society. Any questions, call Kris DeGlopper-Banks at (716) 946-6805.

We ♥ our MEMBERS!

This section is an ongoing record of our amazing members.

Special thanks to the following
for their continued support!

Dolores Mitchell
Melanie & James Tubinis

We also welcome our newest members:

Mary Beth Betzold
Sara Hay
Kyle Phillips

Sabrina Stabler
Robert & Marie Winter

Recipe Rewind

*From "Ball Blue Book of Canning and Preserving Recipes;
printed in 1930 by Ball Brothers Co. of Muncie, Indiana*

Carrot Honey

1 pint grated raw carrot 2 lemons, juice
1 lemon, grated rind 2 cups sugar

Mix ingredients well, heat slowly and simmer the mixture until it is thick and clear. Pack into clean, hot BALL jars and seal at once. Serve with cold meat.

Canned Baked Apple

Wash and core sound, tart, baking apples. Fill the cavities with sugar to which a little cinnamon has been added. Place in a baking dish containing a little water. Bake in a hot oven until tender. Pack quickly into hot BALL jars and cover with a hot, medium thick syrup made with 1 part sugar to 1 part water. Fully seal.

Brains

Brains should be soaked in several changes of cold water to draw out the blood. Remove the membranes. Sear or fry and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Pack into hot BALL jars, add the fat in which the brains were fried, thinned with a little hot water. Partly seal and process for 3 hours in a Hot-Water Bath or for 90 minutes in a Steam Pressure Cooker at 10 pounds. Remove from canner and seal immediately.

Autumn 2022 Rev. Project Update

The Newfane Historical Society has launched the Van Horn Mansion Revitalization Project, a multi-year, expansive effort focusing on a massive variety of plans which can keep the estate secure into the future and a stand-out attraction in our town.

This summer a number of projects have started (or continued). Thanks to donors we have already been able to make a few needed updates. We truly appreciate those who have supported our efforts!

- Repairs to the upper skylight
- Additions to private rental equipment
- Refreshing the estate's landscaping
- Repairs to the Lower Veranda
- Painting and cleaning the veranda and outer walls
- Minor refurbishments on the first floor

Please consider donating to the project at VanHornMansion.com. Every dollar raised goes towards very important improvements and upgrades. As funds are raised, new parts of the project are able to launch. We truly hope to see many of our visions come to life in the next few years!

You can donate now online, or in person at our events. If you are interested in joining the project committee, we'd love to hear from you! Please send a message to vicki@newfanehistoricalsociety.com. We appreciate any extra help in caring for the landmark property. ♦



DONATE TO THE *Van Horn Mansion* REVITALIZATION FUND



The Van Horn Mansion is a living history museum and event center, first built as a home by the Van Horn Family in 1823. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a cultural and historical centerpiece for the Town of Newfane, NY.

In honor of the mansion's 200th birthday, the estate will undergo a variety of necessary enhancements in order to refresh the property and help keep it a mainstay attraction of the Newfane community.

We need you!

The non-profit Newfane Historical Society is seeking donations towards our financial goals. Please support our efforts through monetary donations, given online or at our events. Better yet, visit the Van Horn Mansion during open hours for a tour and to view our current progress! Thanks to all for your amazing support.

Revitalization Efforts Include:

- Vital repairs & maintenance
- Enhanced displays & artifacts
- Landscaping developments
- Upgrades for private rentals
- Expanded exhibits
- Improved accessibility
- Modernizing to create more meaningful visitor experiences

Learn more & Donate at
VanHornMansion.com



Halloween Fun Facts!

The origins of Halloween date back 2,000 years to the ancient Celtic (Gaelic) festival of Samhain (pronounced "Sow-an"). It was celebrated on October 31 - the eve of their new year. Ancient Celts believed the dead returned to Earth that night, and so they lit bonfires and donned costumes to ward off ghosts.



During the mid-1800s, a flood of Irish immigrants fled from the potato famine to the U.S., bringing the tradition of Halloween with them.



The famous colors of Halloween have other seasonal connections. Orange signifies the Autumn harvest, while black is a symbol of darkness and acts as a reminder that Halloween once was a festival that marked the boundaries between life and death.

Jack-o'-lantern is a term rooted in an Irish folktale about a man named Stingy Jack who fooled the devil. As punishment he was forced to walk the Earth with only a burning coal in a hollowed turnip to light his way. Early on people called him "Jack of the Lantern".

Trick-or-treating was inspired by the medieval English tradition of "souling," which involved children going door-to-door on All Souls Day (Nov. 2), offering prayers for residents' deceased loved ones in exchange for food.

The word "witch" comes from the Old English wicce, meaning "wise woman."



Some people suffer from Samhainophobia, or the fear of Halloween!



Excerpts from "90 Years of Buffalo Railways"

Written by William R. Gordon and published in 1970, this book is a wonderful collection of information and photos about the nearly century story of railways in Western New York. Much of the information comes from the International Railway Company (IRC), also known by a variety of names as business changed hands, combined, and grew. The third owner of the Van Horn Mansion, Burt Van Horn, worked for the company for many years, helping to add railways and trolleys to Newfane and Olcott for tourism and farm exports.

Please enjoy these various tidbits of information for the book, which offer details about WNY railways and its connections to our community.

* * * * *

In 1834, two years after the incorporation of the City of Buffalo, the first street railway carried passengers from Pearl Street and The Terrace, out Niagara Street to Ferry Street, where connections were made with a horse ferry across the Niagara River, to Canada. This was the Buffalo and Black Rock Land and Railroad Company.

Candlelight Tours at the Van Horn Mansion



Fridays & Saturdays
in October
14 & 15, 21 & 22,
28 & 29
from 7pm-11pm

*The perfect adventure for
an October Evening!*

Journey through candlelit rooms
as you tour the haunted estate.

You'll be entertained by
ghostly legends and eerie stories,
and have plenty of chances for
feeling and even seeing the
supernatural! *Come if you dare...*



Van Horn Mansion
2159 Lkpt-Olcott Rd.
Burt, NY 14028

Buy Your Tickets Online Now!

Admission: \$17.00, pre-sale only @VanHornMansion.com

Book now before this popular event sells out!

VanHornMansion.com

Horsecars were the earliest form of city rail transit, and developed in early forms in WNY prior to the civil war. One to four horses propelled boxy tram cars over tracks buried in the streets. Only the tops of the iron rails could be seen; the rest of the track structure was below the surface of the pavement. The book gives insight into the work involved in operating a horsecar:

These cars required a driver of endurance and versatility. He had to be expert in the handling of his horses, as well (continued on page 4...)



Rapid Transit in 1877 - First Horse Car run in Manchester, N.H.

Illustration with the legend "Rapid transit in 1877" - First horsecar run in Manchester, New Hampshire".

(...continued from page 3) as the brakes, in the control of his car. Much like modern day, the driver had to be alert, with his eyes on the road to avert collision with other vehicles and prevent the running over of pedestrians. Nor did his responsibilities end there. He had to warily observe the rear of the car as to who had and had not paid their fare, as well as in winter to care for the little stove and at night to trim and adjust his lamps. Out in front he stood exposed to beating rain or snow, and splashing mud, with the driving reins in one hand and the other constantly grasping the brake lever. All this through a short day of twelve to fourteen hours, and often a long day of sixteen to eighteen hours. In no sense was his work a "joy ride".

* * * * *

The trolley car arrived in 1890. Amid great fanfare - fireworks, aerial bombs. It was greeted with mixed emotions by many onlookers. Those who were fascinated with it rode back and forth from Cold Springs to the foot of Main St., and returned greatly impressed. The crew of the trolley car was the same as the horse-drawn car, and there was very little change in the operation of the trolley with the exception of the handbrake and the electrical control box on the front platform of the trolley, to the left of the motorman. The handbrake staff was to his right, with a handle on it, and when he needed to put on the brake, he would have to wind up the shaft connected with the brake.

* * * * *

The (ITC) International Traction Company's funeral car, which had been building for several weeks at the Cold Springs Shops, was put into commission for the first time March 24, 1895. Costing new \$5,798.00, it had four General Electric 1000 motors and K6 controller and Christensen air brakes on Brill No. 27 trucks. This car, a 30' foot body passenger car was rebuilt at the company's shop. It was rebuilt later in 1905. 38'5" overall with a Monitor roof. It had two compartments, one about 19 ft. long, containing six cross seats and a short longitudinal seat along one side and 5 cross seats and two short longitudinal seats on the other, for a total of 34 seats. The second compartment was 9 ft. long and intended for the casket and pallbearers or immediate family of the deceased. [The compartment holding the casket had] a convenient place for the floral contributions.



Funeral in Niagara Falls, 1913, Car "ElmLawn"

* * * * *

[In Newfane,] the building of a trolley line to Buffalo nearly doubled the net proceeds of the farms. From August until December, farmers from Hartland, Somerset, and Wilson, drew their fruit and vegetables to the trolley line, and at each of the five stations in the town they were often 20 to 50 teams daily with produce. During November, 1907, when cabbages, apples, and sugar beets were being drawn, there were often 20 teams at a time at each station. The village of Newfane showed more growth than any place along the trolley line, with 50 new houses

erected [i.e. new families moving to the town].

* * *

Soon after the ITC completed their trolley line from Lockport to Olcott in 1901, they [purchased land along the shore]. [They built] a hotel, and on June 22, 1902, they opened the sumptuous and elegantly appointed Olcott Beach Hotel. The gifted Victor Herbert, and his talented orchestra provided the music for the opening dance.

ITC & IRC built tourism sites along their rail lines to encourage more riders, profiting off ticket sales and the new businesses.

* * *

Careless trolley crews appeared at times. Once a two-car train, which was to leave Lockport for Olcott at 4:45pm, started later. Soon thereafter the trolley wheel, on the rear car, had "jumped the wire" several times, and near Charlotteville it "jumped" and broke the rope used to replace it on the wire. The motorman of the train did not slow up in the least, and disregarded the errant trolley pole which kept bumping the guide wires, as he had sufficient current on the first car. He did not heed the conductor's "stop" signals until after a third of a mile run, when the trolley pole on the rear car snapped off and fell into a ditch. Fortunately, the trolley pole was not forced through the top of the car onto the passengers as they had been known to do on previous occasions.

* * * * *

In the winter of 1929-30, the IRC maintained the largest snow-fighting fleet in its history, consisting of 30 plows of two types, 23 sweepers, one ice-cutter, and 18 trucks for sanding viaducts and transporting switch- and shovel-gangs from place to place. Within Buffalo, the company operated 220 miles of track, and its total system covered 450 miles. During the winter, the company kept more than 200 men ready for snow fighting. Men doing this work were paid time-and-a-half for actual time on the snow-fighting equipment.

* * * * *

Throughout the existence the Lockport to Olcott line used wooden cars which, originally, were equipped for multiple-unit operation, but later ran only as single cars - and toward the end, even as "one-man". However, they traveled about 60 m.p.h. and gave good service. Considerable freight was carried, for which a connecting track was built on Caledonia Street, Lockport, to the N.Y. Central R.R., and a section, known as the "Gulf Line," to allow freight from points south of Lockport to by-pass the city to reach the Olcott division. ♦

TIME TABLE.	
LOCKPORT & OLCOTT BEACH CARS	
Leave Main and Terrace, Buffalo, on the even hour and half past	
from 6:00 a. m. to 9:00 p. m.	
Baggage cars at 8:00 a. m., 1:30 and 7:30 p. m.	
FOR LOCKPORT ONLY	
6:00 a. m. to 12:30 a. m.	
LOCKPORT TO OLCOTT BEACH	
Every thirty minutes.	
5:20 a. m. to 10:20 p. m.	
Baggage cars at 5:20, 9:20 a. m., 2:50 and 8:50 p. m.	
CARS FROM OLCOTT BEACH	
6:05 a. m. and every thirty minutes	
until 10:35 p. m.	
Car at 11:05 p. m. for Lockport only.	
Baggage cars at 6:05 and 10:05 a. m., 3:35 and 9:35 p. m.	
LOCKPORT TO BUFFALO	
4:50 a. m. and every thirty minutes	
until 11:20 p. m.	
Baggage cars at 6:50 a. m., 12:20 and 6:20 p. m.	
ROUND TRIP	
Lockport and Olcott Beach, 50 cents.	
Buffalo to Olcott Beach, \$1.00	
Buffalo to Lockport, 60 cents	
Saturday and Sunday, 80 cents	
Tickets from Buffalo and Olcott Conductors.	



Book your upcoming event at the Van Horn Mansion

The Van Horn Mansion has been the backdrop for countless parties, celebrations and more. This tradition continues today as the mansion is available to rent year-round at very affordable rates.

We are grateful for rentals, as the funds are used to maintain, upgrade, and preserve the entire estate and all artifacts on display.

**Gift Included!* Private rentals include a 1-year membership to the Newfane Historical Society, helping to keep you up to date on all our latest activities, projects and upcoming events.

Please visit NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com/rent.html to view further details and available dates on our calendar. You can also speak to an event coordinator (listed on the website) for information, to schedule a tour, or to book your upcoming event. ♦

Christmas Season Rentals

Decorated for the Christmas Season: Nov. 10 - Jan. 10

The Van Horn Mansion is lovingly decorated with a unique display honoring Christmas using Victorian and vintage styles. This makes for a beautiful and unique backdrop for your private event or photo session. We look forward to helping host your holiday party this season!



A look back at the Apple Harvest Festival in 1985:



Membership Application

For new members and renewals. Membership includes our quarterly printed newsletters.

**ALSO RENEW OR JOIN ONLINE AT
NEWFANEHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM**

Today's Date: _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Select: Renewal New Member

Would you be interested in learning about or becoming a volunteer?
 Yes No

Our membership year runs January 1st through December 31st.

Annual Membership Dues (Check one):

- Individual Membership \$10.00 (1 residence)
- Family Membership \$20.00
- Life Member \$100.00 (1 person)



Please make all checks payable to (or to the order of): 'Newfane Historical Society'. Tear off this form and mail with payment to: Newfane Historical Society, P.O. Box 115 Newfane, NY 14108

Calendar

For details on our events, visit our website.

- September 5 - Labor Day
- September 20 - Board Meeting
- September 25 - Apple Harvest Festival
- October 10 - Indigenous Peoples' Day / Columbus Day
- October 14 & 15, 21 & 22, 28 & 29 - October Candlelight Tours at the Van Horn Mansion
- October 18 - Board Meeting
- October 31 - Halloween
- November 6 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 8 - Election Day
- Nov. 10 - Jan. 10 - Christmas Season at the Van Horn Mansion
- November 11 - Veterans Day
- November 15 - Board Meeting

2022 Officers & Trustees

President: Victoria Banks **Recording Secretary:** Jill Heck
Vice President: Janice Wiegley **Treasurer:** David Stegges
Corresponding Secretary: Janet Capen

Trustees:

Bill Clark	Kevin Luckman	Mindi Schaeffer
Kristine DeGlopper-Banks	Chuck Manhardt	Rose Schaeffer
Steve Goodman	Mary Ann Miller	George Updegraph
Richard Leader	Bill Neidlinger	Virginia Womelsdorf
	Melissa Schaeffer	

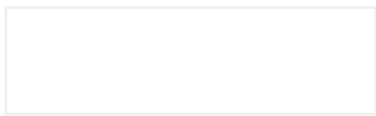
Contact Information

Town of Newfane Historical Society P.O. Box 115 Newfane, NY 14108	Country Village 2685 West Creek Rd. Newfane, NY 14108	Van Horn Mansion 2159 Lockport-Olcott Rd. Burt, NY 14028
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NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com | VanHornMansion.com
Phone: (716) 778-7197 | info@newfanehistoricalsociety.com

Moving? Remember to update your address with us so you keep receiving newsletters!

Sweater Weather!



Address Service Requested

TOWN OF NEWFANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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NEWFANE, NY 14108



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