



Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Spring 2022

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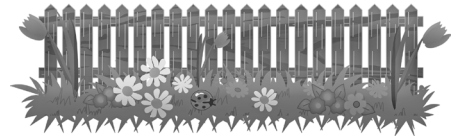
Help us grow ~ we need you!

From the desk of our President

While winter is usually a quiet time of year for our trustees, the year it has brought new ideas and projects! We are looking forward to the return of our many annual fundraisers, while also launching new efforts to boost the Newfane Historical Society.

One of our biggest endeavors is the Revitalization Project of the Van Horn Mansion- the first massive updates the estate has seen in a few decades. You can find more information, including how to donate, in this newsletter.

Along with efforts to boost fundraising, comes a call seeking volunteers to assist with our many



projects, events, and more. Volunteers (age 12+) can give whatever time they can, as everything makes a big difference! If you're interested in learning more, visit NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com, or send an email to info@newfanehistoricalsociety.com.

Please enjoy the coming spring and warmer weather, and we'll write again in May- just before the Apple Blossom Festival returns (our first since 2019). See you then!

Vicki Banks

Minute History

In 1844, Canadian politician William Hamilton Merritt conceived the idea of a suspension bridge connecting NY and Ontario to boost trade. Many assumed such a bridge could never be safely built across the Niagara River, but Merritt persevered. The Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge was constructed by partner companies in the U.S. and Canada, and saw plenty of drama attached to its decade-long creation. John Augustus Roebling, a renowned civil engineer, would eventually design and construct the 825-foot bridge. He opened the lower deck (for pedestrians and carriage travel) in 1854, and the upper deck (for passenger and cargo trains) on March 18, 1855. It was immediately considered an engineering marvel and great success, boosting local commerce and tourism, and allowing the transport of millions worth of goods between the countries. The bridge's greatest achievement was serving as safe passage to freedom for enslaved people fleeing the U.S. Over the years as wood and limestone parts decayed, they were replaced by iron and steel, helping it to survive until 1897 when it was decommissioned. Roebling and his son, Washington, would later become most known for crafting the illustrious Brooklyn Bridge.

A Season of Clean

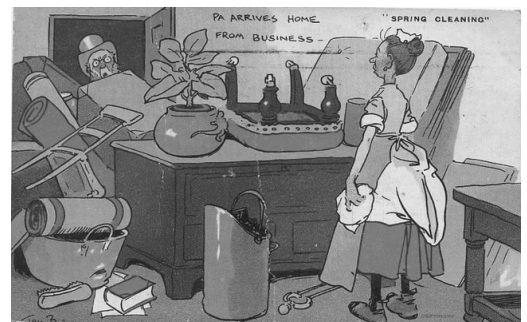
The connections of Springtime & housework

Cleaning house in the Spring is a tradition for households around the world. Families clean everything they own, purge unwanted items, and give their lives a fresh jump-start towards warmer weather. But why? Why do so many participate in this annual activity? It turns out it's equal parts learned habits, cultural rituals, and biological drive!

A spiritual tradition

Cleaning as a cultural and/or religious tradition was first recorded, among various civilizations, over 3,000 years ago. In ancient Jewish tradition, spring cleaning is linked to Passover in March or April, which in part comes from ensuring any bread that isn't unleavened is removed from the house. Passover is a celebration that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites. According to the Book of Exodus, enslaved Israelites escaped Egypt and relied on unleavened bread for their journey. Jews then adopted this bread as a symbolic reminder of the subjugation they overcame, and the Torah requires no traces of leaven (called "chametz") be left in the house at this time. So they thoroughly clean their entire home, including all crumbs, to ensure no non-Kosher remnants remain.

In Iranian culture, the Persian new year, called Nowruz, falls on the first day of spring and is celebrated for 13 days. A popular tradition during this time is khooneh takouni ("shaking the house"), which involves a very thorough cleaning of the home,



"Spring Cleaning - Pa arrives home from business" vintage postcard via Blue Mountains Library, Flickr CC.

along with displaying fresh cut flowers. Chinese New Year preparations also include a deep clean, known as Xiaonian, or "Little New Year", where people also symbolically rid their home of any negativity and any lingering spirits. This is also because the Chinese are prohibited from cleaning the first few days of the holiday, to ensure they don't sweep away any good fortune that arrived with the new year. Thailand also deep cleans during a holiday, called Songkran, which is a festival of purification. Water is vital to the celebrating, used when cleaning but also to pour on streets, statues, and each other to wash away sins and bring good luck.

Some Christian faiths also have cleaning rituals connected to the Spring, including Greek Orthodox who clean during the week leading up to and on the first day of Lent, known as Clean Monday, and Catholic churches who thoroughly clean their alters on the day before Good Friday. In Japan, the practice of ōsōji (big clean-up) dates back to the Edo Period (1603 to 1868), if not before. *(continued on page 2...)*

We ♥ our MEMBERS!

This section is an ongoing record of our amazing members.

Special thanks to the following for their continued support!

Tami Deemer * David & Janet Steggles
Audrey Faulkner George & Debbie Updegraph
Rose, Mindi & Melissa Schaeffer

*new lifetime member

We also welcome our newest members:

Tamela Faulkner Kriss Sniffen
Dawn Henning Lewis Tombari
Jeff & Nicole Hiller

(...continued from page 1) In this December ritual, people clean their homes to welcome the deities of the new year. Today, many continue the practice during Japan's Golden Week, a period of 7 days from late April to early May that contains four national holidays.

Habits for a reason

Considering the many centuries that humans heated and lit their homes using oil, wood, coal, and kerosene, it's no surprise that homes would get very dirty. For those living in cold climates, layers of soot and grime would build up in every room- no matter how much effort was given to removing it all. So, it seems natural that a really good cleaning would occur as soon as the weather began to warm. Sunlight exposes dust that was previously hidden in dark corners, windows and doors are opened for fresh air, rugs and bedding could be hung outside to beat dust out of them, and furniture and more could be placed outside so that floors and windows could be deeply scrubbed.

During the Victorian era (1838 to 1901), English journalist Isabella Beeton canonized modern spring cleaning in her popular *Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management*, where she states that "Spring is the usual period set apart for house-cleaning." In 1864, women's rights activist Lydia Maria Child noted in a diary entry: "Swept and dusted sitting-room & kitchen 350 times. Filled lamps 362 times. Swept and dusted chamber & stairs 40 times."

Cleaning, while still a challenge, has been greatly improved thanks to many inventions, including washers, dishwashers, vacuums, and more. But even as the ways to clean have made tasks simpler and quicker to complete and maintain, many still complete massive cleaning projects as winter winds down. While it could be a learned habit, one engrained in youth as a family tradition, it also has connections to human nature.

It's in our DNA

The urge to clean at Springtime is linked to our biology. During dark winter months, the body produces more melatonin, a hormone that increases sleepiness, leaving us less active and motivated. As days lengthen, our natural lethargy lessens, causing us to feel "lighter". Having more energy boosts our inspiration to accomplish more, which makes it easy for us to start noticing the space we live in (and see every day) could use some attention. And the more you notice these urges returning every Spring, the more you're inclined to consider it the "proper time of year to complete these tasks".

Even better, the sense of accomplishment you feel after cleaning and organizing comes from the release of dopamine into the brain, further encouraging your inclination to spring clean as it actually does



make you happy! All together, these instincts solidify how our bodies respond to the change in seasons, and demonstrate how traditions can be influenced by personal choice as much as cultural influence.

Strengthen your clean game

According to a spring cleaning survey from the American Cleaning Institute, 72% of households engage in some form of spring cleaning, with the bedroom, kitchen and bathroom topping the list of rooms that need attention. Join in the craze this spring- the results will boost your mood and add serenity to your home! Here are some tips that can help you get started:

- Break your cleaning plan into separate, smaller tasks, and make a list to keep track. That way you can celebrate all the mini achievements, encouraging you to keep cleaning. Plus, crossing items off a work list is exhilarating.
- Spread the work into multiple days, to keep you from burning out.
- Do the worst projects first. Removing the hardest tasks lightens your load, helping make the rest of the list feel simpler to complete, which can speed up your efforts.
- When cleaning spaces and rooms, start with the ceiling, walls, and anything high, as dust and cobwebs will fall from these areas. Make sure to move furniture as well; you'll be surprised what is found in spaces that are usually out of sight.
- Consider re-arranging furniture and displays, for an added feeling of freshness and cleanliness.
- Cleaning in the spring months has an extra benefit- the work is done before the warmest weather arrives, giving you more time for fun in the sun! ♦

"Wanna smile, wanna cry...saying goodbye"

Honoring the lives of legends among the Newfane Historical Society

*Sam
Clogston*



*Rosemary
Miller*



Called the “Master Tinkerer of the Newfane Historical Society”, Sam Clogston spent over three decades positively influencing the many displays of our Historical Society. Sam and his family came to live in Olcott in 1959 from Massachusetts, and worked at The Lockport Felt Company until his retirement in 1984. He became very involved in countless community efforts, and we’re grateful our society is one that he chose.

Sam had a fascination with how things work his entire life, and worked hard to learn a large variety of mechanical machines, tools, engines and more. Steam engines were his favorite type to tinker with, especially his beloved steamboat. He worked a number of jobs in his life that allowed him to ‘play’, and also spent plenty of free time enjoying his hobby.

Perhaps Sam’s skills were the most valuable gift he gave to the Newfane Historical Society, especially in recent years after teaming up with Bill Neidlinger. Both gentlemen have shown a passion for understanding and restoring a great many machines that are housed at the society’s Country Village site, and they have also created new displays to delight visitors. Over the last decade, and with help from others, they have revived a great many items; too many to list here. Highlights include a Model T Hack, an early 1900s apple peeler and cider press, a 1927 Aeromotor Water Pumping Windmill, and even a 1933 Loom from his former employer, The Lockport Felt Company. Sam was not able to see the completion of their current project, an early 1900s “Hardie Orchard Sprayer”, which is in the middle of restoration. Bill will carry on, with plans to display their final project together as soon as it is ready.

Bill appreciated a saying that Sam said often: “It’s a poor day if you don’t learn something new.” Would that we all could take his message to heart, and be his legacy of never-ending learning - and tinkering. ♦

Thank heavens for Rosemary Miller. For her passion for local history, dedication to community, and tireless energy towards philanthropy and the greater good. And above all else, for the love and kindness she showered on everyone she met, knew, and loved. Thank. The. Heavens.

Rosemary’s endless support of the Newfane Historical Society lasted over four decades, and she never failed to show up and support any activity or event the group held. This meant thousands of hours managing memberships, creating advertising, making phone calls, shopping, recruiting, managing people and money, etc. The list of hard work was endless, but if there was a task to do, she would willingly take it on and complete it successfully. She even carried her dedication and enthusiasm with her as she expanded local history preservation with the Niagara County Federation of Historical Societies.

Above all else, it was clear her family was the most important thing in her life, and she treasured sharing stories of her loved ones whenever she could. Her enthusiasm, love, and pride for the amazing (and massive) family she and her husband John raised, were clearly the driving forces in her life. They were gifts to her, and the inspiration for most everything she did in life. These natural attributes, in turn, made her a gift to us all.

Rosemary had boundless energy and an unflappable spirit, which she brought with her as a valued member of our society. We are grateful for whatever steered her our direction, as she has left an indelible mark that will live on in our volunteers. She is a part of our story, which we’ll *happily* share as often as we can. ♦



Recipe Rewind

*From the Newfane Health Facility Cookbook, 1986.
Contributed by Cheryl Rosemelia*

Strawberry Butter

- 1 10 oz. frozen strawberries, thawed, with syrup
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 8 oz. margarine or sweet whipped butter

Combine all ingredients in a small bowl and whip until fluffy.

Strawberry Bread

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 10 oz. frozen strawberries, thawed, drained & chopped | 1/2 cup chopped walnuts |
| 1-1/2 tsp. cinnamon | 1-1/2 cups flour |
| 1/2 tsp. baking soda | 1 cup sugar |
| 1/2 cup oil | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| | 2 eggs, beaten |

Mix all ingredients together until moistened. Bake in greased loaf pan approximately 1 hour. Use toothpick test. Serve with strawberry butter.

Revitalizing the Van Horn Mansion

Fundraising efforts have launched to support major refurbishments

In 1985, the Newfane Historical Society took over as steward of the historic Van Horn Mansion estate, an infamous property of Newfane that has been around even before the town was established. At the time, the estate and building were in very poor shape- only a shell of what once stood as a great home in the region (the first brick home in Newfane). Using blueprints and a large amount of research, a Restoration Project was undertaken to return the building to its original splendor. Thus began a 16-year, million-dollar effort to restore the home back to use for the entire community, as a living history museum and event center.

Now, a few decades later, the Van Horn Mansion is once again in need of community support for repairs, refurbishments, and upgrades. The trustees of the Newfane Historical Society have launched the **Van Horn Mansion Revitalization Project**, a multi-year, expansive effort focusing on a massive variety of plans which can keep it secure into the future and a stand-out attraction in our town.

The Mansion has been closed for a majority of time since December of 2019, due to the the pandemic, and the loss of fundraising



efforts has been challenging. Factor in the enormous financial costs to maintain a historic property, leading the trustees of the Newfane Historical Society to request help, to allow the estate to once again flourish. Although sights have been set high, in terms of financial needs, the hope is the Van Horn Mansion will become an even greater gem to the Newfane community, boosting tourism and encouraging local pride in our shared history.

You can donate to the Revitalization Project's Fund now, at VanHornMansion.com, or donate in person at our events or at the mansion, when it re-opens on Sundays this spring. Larger fundraising efforts will launch later this year, and there will be constant updates given about the progress of the entire project. We truly hope to surprise visitors with everything we have planned!

If you are interested in joining the Van Horn Mansion Revitalization Project committee, assisting with fundraising efforts, or volunteering for projects or our public tours, we'd love to hear from you! Please send a message to vicki@newfanehistoricalsociety.com, or speak to any of our trustees. We appreciate any extra help in caring for the landmark property.



The Van Horn Mansion completed initial construction in 1823 by James Van Horn. This new home was built south of the original family home, made using bricks from James' brickyard business. The home was an immense structure, fitting for their affluent family. The Van Horns would host the first town meeting in their parlor on April 6, 1824, Newfane was officially formed.

The original style was Federal/ Greek, and was a 2-story dwelling plus basement, with 4 rooms on each floor, a pitched roof, and a stairway in the hallway located in the center of the home. The Van Horn Mansion has gone through various rebuilds throughout its life, giving it the look it has today. The biggest changes were completed by James' grandson, Burt, c. 1900, who nearly double the home's size, added a Parisian skylight, and updated the style to the modern Arts and Crafts movement. ♦

DONATE TO THE

Van Horn Mansion

REVITALIZATION FUND

\$260,000 Goal!

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

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! Thank's to all for your amazing support.

Learn more & Donate at

VanHornMansion.com

Van Horn Family Facts

Mathias Cornelissen Van Horne (1658-1716) was born in the Netherlands and immigrated to America (when he traveled is unknown). After settling, he met and married Fytie Adamse Brouwer in 1692, and together they had 2 sons. Mathias' great-grandson, James, would eventually settle in Newfane, NY.

Mathias' son, and James' grandfather, Cornelius Van Horne (1695-1744), held the Commission of Captain from King George II of England, an honor of which was he extremely proud and was always known as "Captain Cornelius" ... it was even inscribed on his gravestone.

Daniel Van Horn (1794-1882) was the oldest son of James Van Horn, who built the Van Horn Mansion. Daniel followed his father to Niagara County by 1815, ready and willing to work for him. At 19, Daniel ran a mercantile store his father established in Johnson's Creek, to profit off travelers on Ridge Road. After a few years they sold the shop, and Daniel, using an investment from James, opened a successful sawmill along Eighteen Mile Creek. Daniel chose to settle and raise his family in the Hartland area, supporting the town as a judge and then supervisor.

You can learn even more during one of our many tours of the Van Horn Mansion! Types of tours and dates available at VanHornMansion.com.

Is it time to renew your society membership?

Check your address label on this newsletter. If there is an asterisk * after your name, your membership has expired. Please use our form below, or renew your membership online! Thanks so much for your continued support.

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 _____



Celebrate spring during our Sunday gathering! Join us rain or shine and enjoy everything planting season offers.

Local Products | Food & Drink | Great Hands-on Fun
Historical Demos | Tractor & Farm Equipment Show
Crafts | Flea Market | Attractions | Live Performances

Fun for the Entire Family!



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

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
- Family Membership \$10.00
- Life Member \$100.00 (per 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.

- March 13- Daylight Savings Time Starts
- March 15- Trustees Meeting
- March 17- St. Patrick's Day
- April 15- Good Friday
- April 17- Easter Sunday
- April 18- Tax Day
- April 19- Trustees Meeting
- April 22- Earth Day
- May 5- Cinco De Mayo
- May 8- Mother's Day
- May 15- Apple Blossom Festival
- May 17- Trustees Meeting

2022 Officers & Trustees

President: Victoria Banks **Financial Secretary:** Richard Leader
Vice President: Janice Wiegley **Treasurer:** David Steggle
Recording Secretary: Jill Heck
Corresponding Secretary: Janet Capen

Trustees:

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

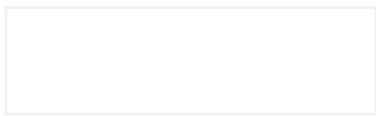
Student Ambassador: Brianna Johnson

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!




Living the Spring Life!



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