



TOWN OF NEWFANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Apple Blossom Times

Since 1975

Summer 2022

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Open for Business

From the desk of our President

In recent weeks, the society's board members are finding themselves very busy! Our activity and plans wained in recent years for obvious reasons, but that is not the case now. Great efforts are underway to make up for lost time, which include new ideas that are propeling our group forward as times change. Some plans are public now, and we look forward to making more announcements in the future.

Among our biggest upcoming efforts are the return of our many annual fundraisers. First up is the Apple Blossom Festival, which is days away. The Van Horn Mansion re-opens to the public on May 22, which includes tours, special events, and private rentals. Early plans are also underway for our Fall and Winter fundraisers. We know our events are seasonal traditions for many in the community, and



we're thrilled to be able to gather once again to celebrate local history together.

This newsletter wouldn't be complete without taking a moment to thank the many society members and Newfane School Honor Society volunteers who came together on April 30 to clean and prep the Van Horn Mansion for re-opening. Everyone worked very hard and made so much progress in starting to refresh the entire estate. We hope all our readers plan a visit to the mansion this year...Sundays this summer are a great option.

Vicki Banks

Minute History

In 1866, during the construction of a mill in upstate New York (Cohoes Falls on the Mohawk River), workers discovered the near-complete remains of a 5-ton American Mastodon. They were found deeply buried in a large pothole, which had been worn into the bedrock by the swirling action of water and stones at the end of the last Ice Age. Subsequently the mill became popularly known as "Mastodon Mill."

Called the Cohoes Mastodon, it was first mounted in 1867 in Albany. It was relocated a few times in the last century, but always remained in Albany, currently a great treasure on display at the State Museum. The mastodon testifies to the fact that these giant prehistoric elephants roamed the expanse of New York in thunderous herds, as recently as 50,000 years ago (doubtless alongside their close contemporary of the Pleistocene epoch, the Woolly Mammoth).



Cohoes Mastodon; NYS Museum

Newfane Historical Society's

44th

Apple Blossom Festival

Sunday, May 15th
10am-4pm



*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!

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

Free Admission & Parking
no pets please

NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com

Join us this month!

The Apple Blossom Festival returns to Newfane this month, our first since 2019. Please support the Newfane Historical Society at this annual spring fundraiser, which is free to attend. 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! ♦



Calling All Bakers!



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, May 15, between 8:30am-1pm and help support the Newfane History Society. Any questions, call KrisDeGlopper-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!

Philip & Judy Baehr	Richard Leader
Joyce Collingwood	Joanne Popp-Lindemann
Kristine DeGlopper-Banks	Megan Payne
Cindy Dodge	Patricia Stolzenberg
R. Jeanette Hamminga	James Wendler
Amanda Henning	Laura Wright
Martin & Brenda Horanburg	Pauline Wright

We also welcome our newest member:

Heather Donofrio-Wagner

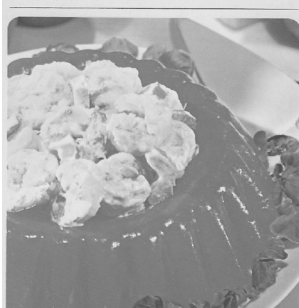
Recipe Rewind

Printed in 1971 by General Mills, Inc.

Tangy Tomato Aspic

1 1/4 cups boiling water
1 package (3 oz.) lemon-flavored gelatin
1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce
1 1/2 T. vinegar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. onion juice
1/8 tsp. red pepper sauce

TANGY TOMATO ASPIC



Dash cloves
2 cups diced celery
Mayonnaise or salad dressing

Pour boiling water over gelatin in bowl, stirring until gelatin is dissolved. Stir in tomato sauce, vinegar and seasonings. Chill until slightly thickened but not set. Next stir in celery. Pour into 4-cup ring mold and chill until firm. Just before serving, fill center of unmolded aspic ring with your favorite seafood salad. Serve with mayonnaise; 6 servings.

Gourmet Aspic: Omit celery and double amounts of aspic ingredients; chill until slightly thickened.

Alternate recipe: Drain 1 can (14 oz.) cut asparagus spears and 1 can (7 oz.) artichoke hearts; arrange vegetables in 6-cup ring mold. Pour thickened aspic over vegetables; chill until firm. Serve with creamy onion dressing; 10 servings.

Aspic [noun]: A clear jelly typically made of stock and gelatin and used as a glaze or garnish or to make a mold of meat, fish, or vegetables. Aspics and gelatin dishes and desserts were all the rage for a few decades in the mid-20th century.

August Fun Facts

August was originally named 'Sextilis' in Latin, because it was the 6th month in the original 10-month Roman calendar under Romulus in 753 BCE, as March was the first month of the year. January and February were added around 700 BCE, but it took until 8 BCE for the month to be renamed: Augustus, in honor of the Roman emperor Augustus.

August is the last month of summer in the northern half of the world and the last month of winter in the southern half of the world.

The sandwich, as we know it, was created in August 1762 when the Earl of Sandwich requested meat between two pieces of bread.

August has 2 birth flowers: the vibrant multicolored gladiolus and the deep crimson poppy.

On August 28, 1963, at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Anglo-Saxons called August "Weod Monath" or Weed Month, because it was when weeds and plants grew the fastest.

The first "around-the-world" telegram was sent on August 20, 1911. The message traveled almost 28,000 miles in 16.5 minutes.

VAN HORN MANSION TOURS HAVE RETURNED

SPRING & SUMMER TOURS: SUNDAYS, MAY 22 - AUG. 28

STOP IN FOR A COMPLETE GUIDED TOUR OF OUR LIVING MUSEUM. FROM CELLAR TO ATTIC, JOURNEY THROUGH THE MANSION WHILE LEARNING ABOUT HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE, AND ITS MANY FORMER RESIDENTS, INCLUDING MALINDA AND OTHER THE RESIDENT GHOSTS!



- OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SUNDAYS, 1-4PM
- NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED. LARGE GROUPS SHOULD CALL AHEAD
- COST: \$5PP / FREE FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS.
- TIME: 90+ MINUTES. CAN BE ALTERED TO SUIT TOUR GROUP.

FOR OFF-DAY, YEAR-ROUND PRIVATE TOURS: CALL JILL AT (716) 390-9679.

Host your next event with us



The Van Horn Mansion and our Country Village are available for private events. Both are wonderful and unique backdrops that provide the freedom to execute your vision. This includes weddings, showers, parties, corporate meetings, specialty tours and more.

Even better, your private rental supports the Newfane Historical Society and the maintenance of our properties and many displays. To learn more, view our calendar and see our printable contracts, visit:
NewfaneHistoricalSociety.com/rent.html

DONATE TO THE

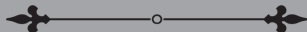
Van Horn Mansion

REVITALIZATION FUND



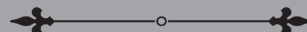
The Van Horn Mansion is a living history museum and event center, first built as a home by the Van Horn Family in 1823. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a cultural and historical centerpiece for the Town of Newfane, NY.

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



A 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 it secure into the future and a stand-out attraction in our town.

This spring a number of projects are underway at the Van Horn Mansion. Special thanks to those who have already supported our efforts!

- Refreshing some areas of the estate's landscaping
- Repairs to the Lower Veranda
- Painting and cleaning the veranda and outer walls
- Initial assessments of indoor displays
- Prepping the mansion for the return of the public

Please consider donating to the project, as every dollar raised goes towards some 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 at VanHornMansion.com, or in person at our events or the mansion when it re-opens. 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. ♦

Find us at Apple Blossom!

Visit the Van Horn Mansion booth at the Apple Blossom Festival, where you can donate to the fund, **join in our 50/50 raffle**, and speak to society members about the progress and plans for the mansion.



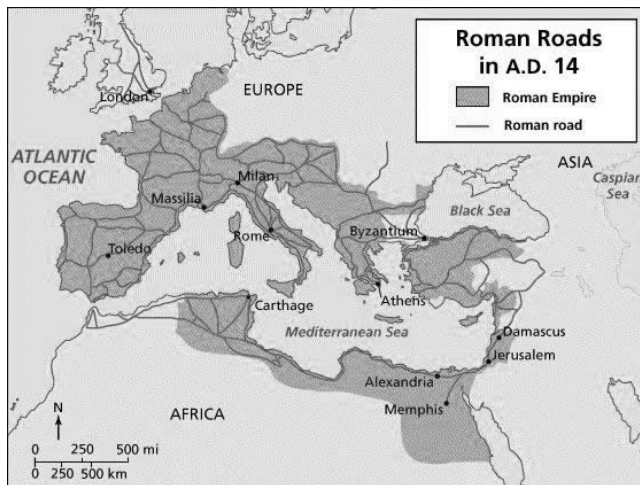
It's Vacay Time!

We're looking back briefly at the origins of vacations, which is a largely modern concept that, along with many other aspects of our lives, has roots deep into our ancestral past.

A Slow Evolution

Pieces of common travel rituals likely began as humans came together in larger civilizations. Travel was difficult and dangerous, as there were no roads and cultures rarely had knowledge of what lay beyond the part of the world they lived in. Early trails and roads developed between 4-6,000 BCE, and their construction expanded rapidly as they proved vital to connecting distant communities. Travel was still rare and used primarily by merchants, soldiers and people visiting family, displaced from their homes and/ or seeking a better life or better health. This travel is connected to the development of hotels, as people could earn income with spare rooms and lodging. Travel guides also were established, as income could be made by those willing to take people where they wished and give insight of their region to newcomers.

The vast Roman Empire, which spanned a thousand years, connected large parts of Europe and the Middle East in peace, creating a safer environment for those traveling between different regions. As these regions traded materials, foods, stories, and their local identities with others, there came a great interest in visiting the places talked about, to see for oneself. It was usually the wealthy who...(continued on page 4)



Map of the most popular or used major roads for travel and trade in the Roman Empire.

...(continued from page 3) could afford to leave for great lengths of time, as far away travel would be months-long excursions. Regular citizens also took part in traveling to escape life for a time, but high costs meant they could not travel far, and likely traveled so only once or twice in their lifetime.

Leisure traveling in Europe largely died out after the Roman period, although the elite located around the world continued whenever they chose, and even built additional homes for lengthy retreats. Pleasure travels were viewed as a luxury activity, and thus carried a negative connotation to the hard-working middle-class frustrated by those in power. Throughout this time though, large advances were made in road construction and transportation technology (i.e. better ships, carriages, and carts) to ease and increase traveling speed.

Changing Attitudes

Vacationing remained an experience for the wealthy into the 19th century, when new advancements paved the way for affordable travel, including railroads (and later, automobiles and airplanes). In the U.S., steam engines connected major cities, helping encourage many to travel and see other parts of the world. Because travel between locations was much faster and safer, more Americans could afford to journey farther distances and return home in only a few days. This encouraged attitudes to shift, helping view leisure vacations as vital to life, rather than a folly of the uber-wealthy. And the more people traveled and told stories of their adventures, the more others followed suit.

In the decades after the U.S. civil war, incomes grew and businesses began offering vacation time as a health benefit for employees. While beach and nature getaways were the most popular escapes, tourism was established in nearly every part of the globe, each offering their own unique destinations which brought income to the local economies. Hotels and lodging also became a massive industry,



Erie Canal Packet Boats; from the files of The Schenectady Digital History Archive

The Etymology of Vacation

In Latin, *vacāre* meant "to be free, have leisure" and later *vacātiō* meant "exemption from service, respite from work".

Anglo-French later evolved this into *vacacioun* which originally meant "time for respite" and later "freedom from work, contemplation time" The modern term *vacation* means both "a break from work" and "time for travel and recreation". The word is also connected to *vacate*, which was often when employees vacationed: when schools or businesses shut down for a set time and their buildings were vacated.



Mass tourism was further developed as places were crafted solely to host leisure travel; this included theme parks, cruises, campgrounds, and destination resorts.

largely along major roadways, coastlines and big cities. Mass tourism was further developed as places were crafted solely to host leisure travel; this included theme parks, cruises, campgrounds, and destination resorts. As big as vacations are in the U.S., they are considered requirements and celebrated in other parts of the world, such as Europe.

Long distance travel while vacationing exploded following World War II, as soldiers served in countless exotic and beautiful locales. Many wanted to return to these places with loved ones to share their experiences, and their travels only encouraged them to see what else the world had to offer.

Vacationing is now a cemented part of life, with families traveling once or more in a year to enjoy whatever sights and sounds their budgets dictate. The wealthy still have grandiose and lengthy escapes, while those with less means may travel closer to home or save for longer to reach their goal destination; i.e. the same structure that has existed as long as leisure travel has been around. Whether you vacation close to home or in a far-off place, life is only enhanced by a change of pace, change of scenery, and change of mindset. ◆



The Hotel Pennsylvania (1919-2020) was a famous hotel in Manhattan, NY that stood on 7th Avenue across from Penn Station. During its first decade it was the largest hotel in the world.

Stargazing in the Summer

Save the dates for this year's Perseid meteor shower

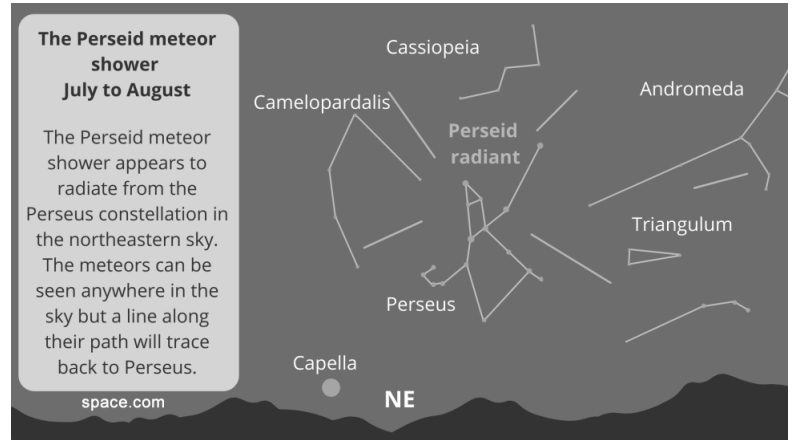
For many, summer isn't complete without scheduling a viewing of stargazing. Constellations, planets, satellites and the International Space Station can be viewed most clear evenings. But for many astronomical lovers, there is no better time to view the skies at night than during the annual Perseid meteor shower.

Also known as The Perseids, they create a spectacular cosmic light show that is visible between July and August. The peak viewing days this year will occur between Aug. 11-12, according to the American Meteor Society (AMS). Unfortunately, the 2022 Perseids' peak won't be as visible as other years because of the full moon happening at the same time.

The comet Swift-Tuttle is the largest object known to repeatedly pass by Earth, which happens around every hundred years or so. Each year, from July 17 to Aug. 24, Earth passes through the dust and debris it leaves behind, causing the comet debris to heat up as it enters our atmosphere and burn up in a bright burst of light. They can streak across the sky at 37 miles (59 kilometers) per second, according to NASA. Those lucky enough, or willing to wait and watch the sky, are rewarded by amazing views when the bigger pieces of debris streak across a large part of the night sky.

The Perseid meteor shower is named after the Perseus Constellation, as this part of the sky is where our ancestors believed the shooting stars originated. However, it's the Cassiopeia Constellation where people look towards to star gaze, as more of the debris is seen there. The best views are in the Northern Hemisphere, wherever there is an open view of the sky that is undisturbed by ambient light (i.e. city lights, building lights). They can appear anytime throughout the night, but the best viewings occur after midnight, and especially during the pre-dawn hours.

To best enjoy The Perseids, pick an evening with a clear sky that is closest to the peak evening. Go to the darkest location possible where



you can see a large amount of the sky. Lean back, relax, and take in as much of the sky as you can (no telescopes or binoculars needed). It can take around 30 minutes for your eyes to adjust, so be patient and you'll be rewarded with an increase of chances to see them.

Skywatchers may also be treated to some stray meteors from the southern delta Aquariid meteor shower which peaks in late July, according to AMS. Though the southern delta Aquariids are best viewed from the Southern Hemisphere, they can sometimes be visible to those in the mid-latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere. Happy Meteor hunting! ♦

Meteor-hunting toolbox

Red flashlight	Warm clothing	Hot drink	Deck chair
In order to see fainter meteors, your eyes will need to be adapted to the dark. If you're using a night-sky map or need to see in the dark we recommend using a red flashlight to preserve your night vision.	When waiting around for a meteor shower, it can get pretty chilly (even in the summer months). We recommend a warm hat, scarf and thick coat for long observing periods. You may even want a sleeping bag!	A hot drink is also a great way to stay warm during a cold night. Tea and coffee are popular beverages of choice to help you stay awake after midnight. We recommend avoiding alcohol as it will actually make you colder.	Hunting for meteors involves a considerable amount of looking up which can be a strain on the neck. A deck chair is perfect for keeping you in an inclined position for maximum comfort and viewing opportunities.

space.com

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 _____

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.

May 15- 44th Apple Blossom Festival

May 17- Board Meeting

May 22 to August 28- Van Horn Mansion Public Tours; *Open Sundays, 1-4pm*

May 30- Memorial Day

June 19- Juneteenth & Father's Day

June 21- Board Meeting

June 25- Newfane Central H.S. Graduation

July 4- Independence Day

July 9- Board Meeting

August 16- Trustees Meeting

September 5- Labor Day

2022 Officers & Trustees

President: Victoria Banks

Financial Secretary: Richard Leader

Vice President: Janice Wiegley

Treasurer: David Stegglers

Recording Secretary: Jill Heck

Corresponding Secretary: Janet Capen

Trustees:

Bill Clark

Chuck Manhardt

Rose Schaeffer

Kristine DeGlopper-Banks

Mary Ann Miller
Bill Neidlinger

George Updegraph
Virginia Womelsdorf

Steve Goodman

Melissa Schaeffer

Kevin Luckman

Mindi Schaeffer

Contact Information

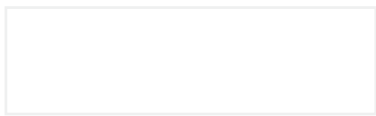
**Town of Newfane
Historical Society**
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Country Village
2685 West Creek Rd.
Newfane, NY 14108

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

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