

Guide to the Town of Newfield Collection

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Collection Number V-2-2-1

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See also:

School Records Collection, Newfield – V-6-2-7
Church Records Collection, Newfield – V-6-1-10
Mamie Straight Mitchell Diary Transcripts – V-3-3-7
Curtis Family Album – FA 6
Benoni B. Anderson Account Books 1841-1849 – B2.4.1+++ , B2.4.2+++
Neil Poppensiek Collection – V-64-2-5
Neil Poppensiek Connecticut Hill Photograph Collection – FBO-0143
General Photo Collection S1 – Newfield

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Town of Newfield was originally part of the vast tract of land known as the Watkins and Flint Purchase, named for wealthy developers John Watkins, Royal Flint and others. They bought more than 300,000 acres from New York after the state dispossessed Native Americans in the 1790s. Originally called Cayuta in Tioga County, the town was renamed Newfield in 1822, and was officially annexed to Tompkins County in 1823. Western portions of the town were removed to eventually become part of Schuyler County in 1854, when the final boundaries of Newfield were set.

One of the town's early landowners owed a debt to the state of Connecticut, to which he deeded 16,000 acres of land in the western portion of the town. The state appointed an agent to sell off the land to settle the debt; the last lot was finally sold in 1879. The name Connecticut lives on in the Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area, the largest wildlife management area in New York State. At 11,237 acres extending west into Schuyler County, this natural treasure has diverse habitat including mature forests with maple, hemlock, beech and spruce, streams and ponds, and open meadows that are home to a wide variety of wildlife. Some elevations reach 2,000 feet and there are hiking trails that offer stunning panoramic views of the surrounding lowlands. This area had been farmed in the early days of the town's history but much of the land was acidic and shallow and was abandoned as farmers moved west in the mid-19th century.

A beloved landmarks of the town, the Newfield Covered Bridge spans the western branch of the Cayuga Inlet. It is the last remaining covered bridge in Tompkins County of the three originally erected, and it is the oldest one still open to vehicular traffic in New York State. Built in 1853, it is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

This collection contains disparate materials on a wide variety of topics concerning Newfield's history, including genealogy on local families, town and village records, and a Clock System Rural Index Map from 1920. These seemingly random materials paint a broad-brush picture of Newfield's past from the early 19th century to the late 20th.

CONTAINER LIST

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Funding for this finding aid update was generously provided by

The logo for The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation is presented on a dark green rectangular background. The text is in a white, elegant serif font. The word "THE" is in a smaller, all-caps font at the beginning. "GLADYS KRIEBEL DELMAS" is written in a larger, all-caps font across the top line. "FOUNDATION" is written in a smaller, all-caps font on the line below, centered under the main name.

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