

Town of Newfield



New York State Plane Central
1983 North American Datum



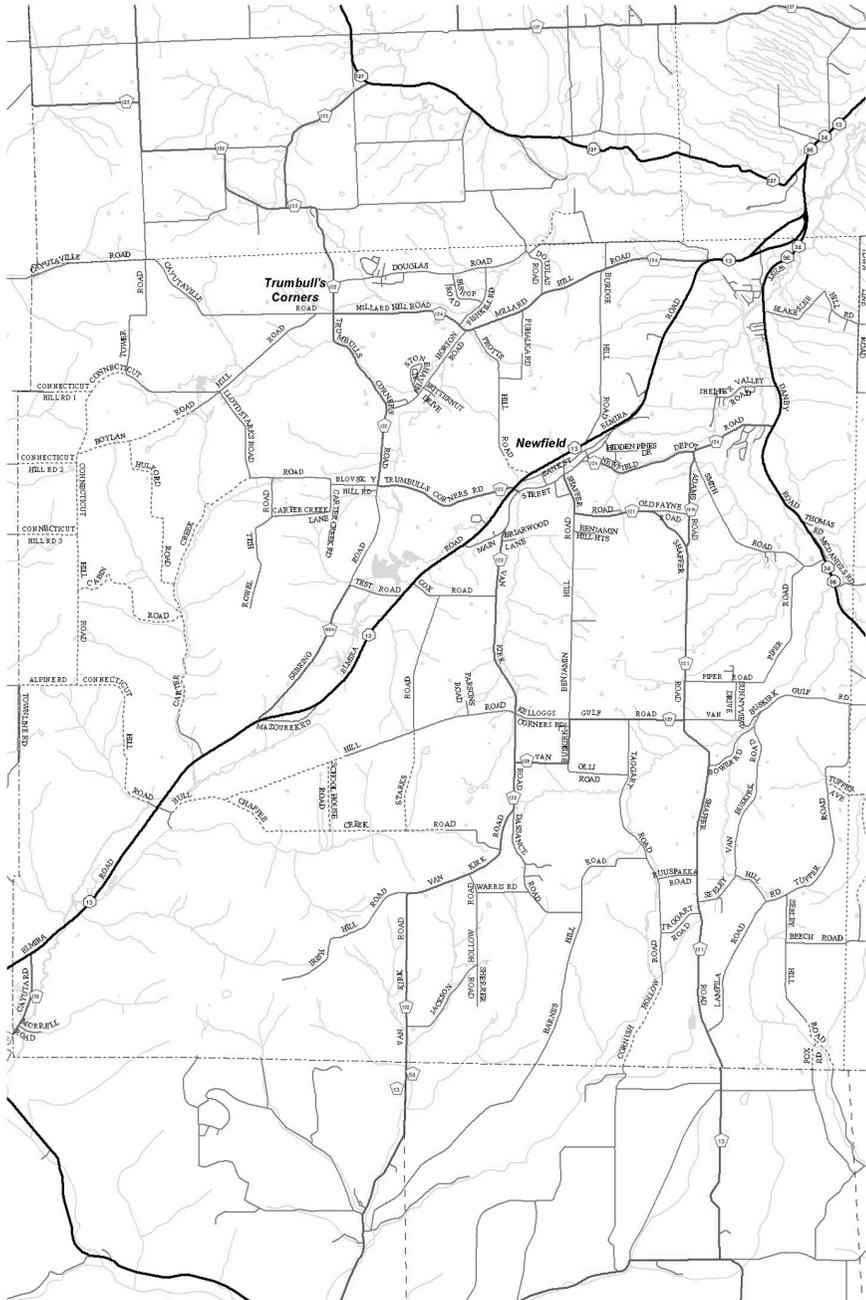
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One Inch represents 4250 Feet



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GIS Division

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02/13/2000



Town of Newfield

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Newfield. In 1807, the German botanist Frederick Pursh traveled through the land that would become Newfield. He noted that on July 7 he set out in a wagon along a road that led through “a very romantick valley, the mountains sometimes very high.” He goes on:

Eight miles this side of Cayuga city, or as it is called sometimes, Ithaca, we crossed a place very beautifully situated called Sapony Hollow. This place had been once cleared and probably settled by Indians, but is now grown up with small white pine . . . and *Magnolia acuminata* ‘cucumber tree.’ . . . About 3 or 4 miles from Sapony Hollow, the timber changes into oak, and from there to Ithaca it is all oak timber mixed with pine, with the rest of plants similar to Tyoga point. We arrived at Ithaca at nightfall.

(Pursh’s book is titled *Journal of a Botanical Excursion in the Northeastern Parts of the States of Pennsylvania and New York during the Year 1807*. It was edited by William Beauchamp and published, Syracuse, 1869.)

Newfield began as part of the Watkins and Flint Purchase on July 25, 1794. It was located in Tioga County, and then in 1806 it was set aside

as part of Spencer when that town was created. In 1811, Newfield, then known as Cayuta, was set apart as a separate town, as were Caroline and Danby. When Caroline, Danby, and Cayuta were annexed to Tompkins County on March 22, 1822, Cayuta's name was changed to Newfield to indicate that these were the latest fields open to settlers.

In 1853, when the state of New York created Schuyler County, Newfield's western three rows of lots were annexed to the Town of Catherine in Chemung County and then, by an 1854 act of the legislature, those lots were moved into Schuyler County.

The Newfield hills have all been named. Settlers gave their names to the various ridges on which they lived: Protts Hill, named for George Protts; Burdge Hill for Mary Burdge; Irish Hill because those on it were of Irish descent; Beach Hill for David Beach; Barnes Hill for David Barnes; Seeley Hill for Zadock Seeley; Blakeslee Hill for Havillah Delivan Blakeslee, the elder.

The village of Newfield was bought by Eliakim Dean of Ithaca, and while remaining in Ithaca, he promoted the growth of Newfield. In 1809 he erected a mill, and in 1811 he put up another. In 1813 James Pumpelly of Owego was appointed land agent for the remaining Livingston lands. In 1816 there was a post office, transferred from an office earlier established in Sebring Settlement.

Early on, the hamlet was known as Florence. Florence in Oneida County, however, was older and larger and so had precedence. The post office insisted upon a name change. In 1822, the name Newfield was selected to become effective in 1823. The village was incorporated in 1895 but dissolved its charter in 1925 and remains an unincorporated village to this day.

Connecticut Hill is 2,096 feet above sea level and was first known as The 16,000 Acre Tract, originally part of the Watkins and Flint Purchase. The owner, Robert C. Johnson of Connecticut owed the state of Connecticut more than \$67,000, his father and brother securing the debt. To excuse this, Johnson deeded 16,000 acres in Tioga County to

the State of Connecticut School Fund; thus the area gained the name Connecticut Hill.

Fishkill Road was named for Philip Fish, an early settler. Kill is the Dutch word for creek.

Jackson Hollow was possibly named for President Andrew Jackson, but there is no indication about the person for whom the Hollow was actually named. In 1883 a post office was established on Jackson Hollow Road. The post office was discontinued in 1902.

Nina, pronounced “nye-nah,” began as East Newfield, It is located where Routes 34 and 96 join. In the 1870s, the railroad agent named the new station after his daughter Nina. Then, the subsequent agent, Walter Messinger, named his daughter after the station!

Nina was important as a stop on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, which began operation in 1871. A post office was established in 1872 as East Newfield, but in 1880, it too adopted the station’s name to become Nina.

Picnic Corners is located at the intersection of Irish Hill and Van Kirk roads, where presidential candidate Theodore Roosevelt visited on October 25, 1910. The name is still used by residents.

Pony Hollow recalls the native people who once lived here and is one of the few names in the county to reflect the early Indian sovereignty. During the eighteenth century, land pressures and local wars in the south forced smaller Native American groups to leave. Two bands of Indians, the Tutelos and the Saponys, came north, and in 1753 they gained permission from the Cayuga Indians to reside as adopted people on Cayuga land. The Cayuga’s main towns, at this time, were to the north and the land in Newfield was hunting grounds. The Saponeys (the usual local spelling) established themselves in the eastern end of what came to be called Pony Hollow. By the time of the

American Revolutionary War, the Tutelo Indians had created a palisaded village called Coreogonel near Buttermilk Falls.

Pony Hollow takes its name from these Native Americans. The first European settler arrived in 1800; the post office was established in 1857 and discontinued in 1892.

Sebring Settlement was named for Cornelius Sebring who settled in the Town of Lansing in 1802, but moved to Newfield in 1804. According to tradition, he put his goods upon a wood sled pulled by a team of one ox and one horse, and followed the blazed trees to what has come to be known as Sebring Settlement. Cornelius became the first postmaster carrying the mail between Ithaca and Elmira. An inn has taken the old name, using a variant spelling, calling itself Seabring Inn.

Stratton is for William Stratton, who settled in the eastern part of the town in 1824. There was a post office established as Stratton in 1872, but it was discontinued in 1894.

Trumbull's Corners is named for James and Jacob Trumbull, who emigrated from New York City in 1813 and took up land at the corners that adopted their name. A post office was established in 1846 under the name North Newfield, but in 1847 it became Trumbull's Corners. The post office was discontinued in 1902.

Windfall Settlement is still used today by area residents. It designates the upper part of Benjamin Hill Road, which the early settlers found covered with young chestnut trees. The hillside had been visited some decades before by a strong wind storm that had brought down the old first growth. This made the land easier to clear, a second "wind fall."