

History

The Town of Newfield was established in the late 1700's and was originally called Florence. It was included in the Town of Spencer and considered part of Tioga County. The town was separated from Spencer in 1811 and named Cayuta. The name was changed to Newfield in 1822 when it became part of Tompkins County.

Newfield is approximately 90 square miles of land located about five miles south of the Town of Ithaca. It has successfully maintained one of the lowest regional tax rates while still offering the convenience of access to numerous educational resources. Many residents commute to Ithaca, Elmira or Binghamton for employment.

The original settlers were primarily British. Many Czechoslovakians and Finlanders settled in the area during the end of the 19th Century to the beginning of the 20th century. The population had increased to 3,816 by 1850. The town's population actually decreased a bit from the mid 1800's to the early 1900's but later began to grow again. By 1970, the town's population rebounded a bit to a total of 3,816. In 2000, the most recent census data available, the population had reached 5,108.

The Newfield Covered Bridge is perhaps the most treasured historical site in town. It is the oldest "working" covered bridge in New York State. It was built between the years of 1851 – 1853. The bridge has been refurbished two times in its history, the first in 1969 when it was almost destroyed and a second time in 1998.

In its early history the churches were an integral part of the Newfield Community. Though many in the community are still members of the local congregations, the school and the fire hall have also become central gathering places for residents.

Sources include:

Newfield 150 Years – Authored by George M. Finley, Frances Winch, Andrew Andersen, Robin Andersen and Alan Chaffee, Newfield Central School District Web Site, Newfield History Web Site, and Census Data provided by Joanne James for the Housing section of the Plan

Websites of interest:

Newfield Historical Society - <http://newfieldhistoricalsociety.org/>