

Do you know ?



Number

06



Novel

The smallest commune in the department of Haute Savoie, Novel has 55 inhabitants and is located in a valley with a north east orientation.

The village in olden times...

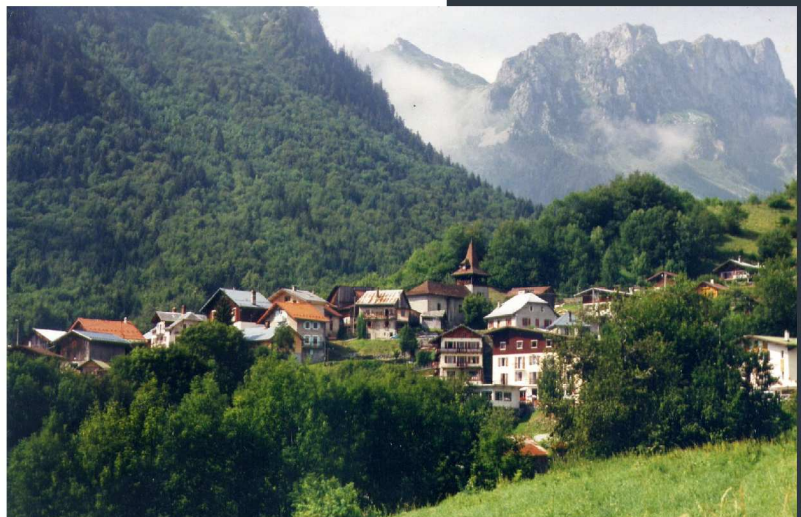
The position of the buildings results in the gardens of the village all being located in the flattest and sunniest part. Along the banks of the river Nan there were vegetables grown by a farmer, three sawmills, a forge and a mill, which gave autonomy to this isolated community.

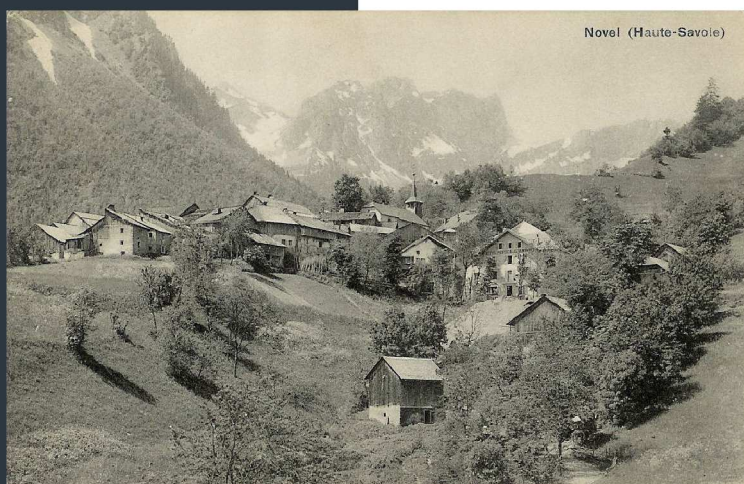
Below the village at a distance away, lies the cemetery and the church of the ancient village which was abandoned before 1760 due to a rockfall.

... Before the fire of 19 October 1924

With the exception of the presbytery, cheese-making building, ancient school and Hotel de Grammant, the whole of the village was destroyed by a fire which occurred on the 19 October 1924. The village lost for ever its mountain architecture with the houses huddled one against the other.

The houses were solidly rebuilt with the mairie and school occupying a central position in the village.





The night of 1 August 1943

During the Second World War the Hotel Grammont was the scene of a bloody event. In the night of 1 August 1943 the Resistance mounted a surprise assault on the hotel in order to take the weapons of the Italian customs officers. Two of them lost their lives. Severe reprisals were avoided due to the intervention of the Duchess of Vendome with the Italian authorities.



Doctor Franken

Many chased the jews, of all nationalities, who to escape death crossed the Morge seeking refuge in Switzerland. Dr Franken, from his holiday chalet located at la Planche, organised these crossings at great risk. He received, with two other inhabitants of Novel the "Medal of the Just".



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This document is offered by the association Lou Vionnets

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