



The Half Moon

- The Newsletter of the Newtown Historic Association -

Welcome

The Newtown Historic Association proudly presents this newsletter to the Newtown community with the goal of providing news and information on related historic and preservation events in our area. We welcome any comments or suggestions for future articles.

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Newtown Historic Association

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Open House Tour

Despite a surprise snow storm, which was Mother Nature's way of adding her seasonal touch, the 41st annual Christmas Open House Tour was held on Saturday, December 6, 2003. Twelve private homes and public buildings were on tour:

- Goodnoe Gardner house - *North Sycamore St.*
- Dineen home - *319 East Centre*
- Harrison house - *113 Penn St.*
- Hagan house - *203 East Washington Ave.*
- Pentz house - *98 Penn St.*
- DelGreco house - *109 Court St.*
- Chancellor Street Center - *30 North Chancellor St.*
- The Old Presbyterian Church & Session House - *North Sycamore St.*
- Newtown Borough Hall - *23 North State St.*
- The Court Inn - *Court Street & Centre Avenue*
- The Stocking Works - *303 South State St.*

Approximately 250 people participated in the tour and enjoyed visiting the sites under a fresh, white blanket of snow. The homeowners and volunteers did a wonderful job decorating and hosting. Overall, those who braved the weather really seemed to enjoy the day. The Open House Tour Committee thanks everyone who helped make the day a success.

A Basket of Bucks

The "Basket of Bucks" raffle was a great success attracting over 400 entrants. The lucky winner was Jessica Gicking of Langhorne, PA, who will receive over \$400 from seven local establishments:

- David J. Witchell Salon (*Spa certificate*)
- Newtown Hardware House (*\$75 gift certificate*)
- Township House Restaurant (*comp. dinner for two*)
- Bucks County Roses (*gift certificate for a dozen roses*)
- Starbucks (*\$25 gift card and thermos*)
- Highly Recommended Salon (*salon certificate*)
- Newtown Theatre (*4 comp. theatre tickets*)

Thank you to the merchants who contributed prizes, and congratulations Jessica!

Bucks County Grant

Recently, the Newtown Historic Association was awarded a grant from the Bucks County Community Development Advisory Board in the amount of \$12,925 specifically for roof repairs on the Court Inn. This grant is the first step in raising the funds needed to enable work to begin replacing the 20+ year old roof of the Court Inn. Additional funding sources for the completion of this project will be solicited in the coming months.

Garden Initiatives

The Court Inn was decorated by members of the Countryside Gardeners for the recent Christmas Open House Tour. The Countryside Gardeners are a local garden club and have had the opportunity to hold two meetings this past year at the Court Inn. President, Lee Gittens, is in the process of a grant proposal to the National Garden Clubs, Inc. for the "Restoration of existing gardens at Historic Sites." The grant is provided by the Principal Financial Group Grant Project, which enables Garden clubs to apply for funding up to \$3,000 in matching funds. If the grant is awarded, the matching funds will be raised by having garden tours, lectures and receptions co-sponsored by the NHA and Countryside Gardeners. The grant and matching funds will be used to begin work in early spring to restore the existing gardens at the Court Inn.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Michael & Heidi Adams, *Newtown, PA*
- David Heuscher, *Richboro, PA*
- Pamela Simpson, *Newtown, PA*
- Wally Stremming, *Evansville, IN*

Corporate Members

We are proud of our corporate members, both long-time members and those joining as a result of the recent membership drive:

- The Brown Agency
- David J. Witchell Salon & Spa
- Dragonfly, Ltd.
- The First National Bank of Newtown
- Intrasource – Blair Park Services
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson

- The Law Office of Paul R. Beckert, Jr.
- Newtown Hardware House
- One Ten South Salon
- Anthony Petsis & Associates.
- Re-Max Properties
- Stuckert & Yates
- The Pro Shop of Newtown
- The Township House
- Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

January Meeting

The January meeting will be held on Monday, January 19th at 8:00 PM at the Court Inn. Come out and bring some interesting Newtown memorabilia, objects, postcards, pictures or other Newtown-related items and learn or tell about them.

February Meeting

The February meeting will be held on Monday, February 16th at 8:00 PM at the Court Inn. Anne Richtarik from the Bucks County Historical Society will discuss the topic of Victorian Valentines. Commercially printed valentine cards first became available during Victorian times. This program examines the origin and evolution of the valentine card, and offers viewers a chance to view many lovely examples from the Spruance Library collection.

Clean-Up Day

The annual Court Inn Clean-up Day will be held on Saturday, March 6th at 9:00 AM. Volunteers are encouraged to help restore some luster to the many historical items and furnishings in the Court Inn. No experience necessary, just bring a friend, a little elbow grease, and some cleaning gloves and volunteer a few hours of your time to help make the Court Inn shine!

Colonial Tavern Night

An 18th century colonial tavern night will be held on Saturday, March 20th at 7:00 PM at the Court Inn. Ten local Bucks County colonial taverns will be there and will organize a silent auction with wares from their taverns. Tickets are \$50 per person, attendance will be limited. Please join us for this wonderful 18th century event

Recent Acquisitions

We are pleased to announce the following additions to the NHA archives for the period of September – December 2003:

- "Sweetland", working script, "Bucks County Courts and the Bucks County Bar Assn.", and "Newtown 250th Anniversary" Booklet - *Mary & Paul Kester, Newtown, PA*
- WWII Navy Uniform - *Dorothea Soden, Newtown, PA*
- WWI Bond Poster – *John Farruggio, Newtown, PA*
- Phila., Newtown & New York Railroad Company, 12/15/1873 Stock Certificate – *C. Scott Eves, Millville, NJ*
- Metal Box Marked "Horace G. Reeder – *Susan Melroth, Oxford, PA*
- Shopping & Business Guide to Newtown, as well as many items relating to the history of Newtown and the NHA – *Robert & Ann Bartels, Newtown, PA*
- Collection of Rocks, Civil War Memorabilia & Native American Arrow Heads – *Grace Lauer, Newtown, PA*
- Newtown High School Class of 1940 Photo – *Joanne Stidier, Newtown, PA*
- Magazine Articles relating to Newtown – *Newtown Borough Council*
- Newtown Co-Op/Agway Financial

Records - *Karl Kotanchik, Downingtown, PA*

- U. S. Government Issue Fishing Kit - *Ernest Zehnder, Southampton, PA*

Hicks Family Items

In November 2002, the Newtown Historic Association received a significant donation of articles relating to the family of Edward Hicks from Mrs. Katherine K. Fabian, currently residing in Philadelphia, but who previously resided at the Hicks' Home "Stenton" at 35 South Congress Street in Newtown borough for over 30 years. Some of the more interesting items were:

- 41 daily journals/diaries of Sarah Worstall Hicks covering the period 1871 to 1941 found in the Carriage House.
- 61 black and white negatives of the Hicks family descendants taken from 1885 to 1948.
- 45 newspaper articles pertaining to the Hicks/Lee family from 1891 to 1970.
- 12 daguerreotypes of prominent Newtown citizens from mid-1800's until early 1900's.
- 12 World War II ration book sets of Hicks family members.
- Garland autograph album circa 1902 showing Hicks family autographs.
- 12 letters handwritten with senders and receivers within the Hicks family.
- One two-seat sleigh manufactured by Randall Carriage Company of Newtown that was owned by Isaac Hicks.
- One Silver Cup inscribed Marian Clara Hicks.
- One Wooden T-Square owned by Edward Hicks.
- Hicks Brass Candelabra verified as having historical significance per "Living with Antiques" magazine.
- Embosser of the Corporate Seal, 1936 from the Newtown Exhibition Co.
- One Wooden Doorstop, verified that it was made by Edward P. Hicks in 1805 by "Living with Antiques" magazine.
- Water Color Painting of a pigeon by Cornelia Hicks dated April 16, 1914.
- Dictionary presented to Isaac W. Hicks by his sister, Elizabeth H. Plummer in 1886.
- Hicks Family Shopping Lists for Newtown stores 1902-1923.
- Original poems for Infant Minds, poems for children, owned by Sallie (Sarah) Worstall Hicks.
- Sarah Hicks copybook dated 1871 from the Newtown Grammar School.
- Willie Hicks copybook, Sarah Hicks Diary Jan. to May 1884.
- One Tole Tray painted by Edward Hicks as verified by "Living with Antiques" magazine.
- Thomas P. Worrall letter to Isaac Hicks dated March 31, 1892 describing investment opportunities.
- Benjamin D. Hicks to esteemed friend dated March 28, 1882 concerning Hicks genealogy.
- John Carle, Jr. letter to dear brother, dated February 12, 1856 crossed out and back used to record Hicks family data.
- Isaac Hicks letter, no date.
- Cornelia Carle Hicks letter to Mother and Father dated December 11, 1911.
- William Penrose (Deceased) accounts for administrators Jarrett Penrose, Abel Penrose, Governor of Pennsylvania.
- Two autograph books of Nellie Hicks Brown, Newtown, dated August 27, 1881.
- Journal for the Newtown Friends Association kept by Sarah W. Hicks from 1901-11.
- Receipt from Edward Hicks.
- Genealogical chart – Ancestors of Elizabeth Hicks.
- Agreement, Isaac W. Hicks and Benjamin J. Taylor dated January 7, 1888.
- Isaac W. Hicks lease to George Worthington dated Feb. 16, 1877.
- Isaac W. Hicks land sale deed recording receipt April 13, 1883.
- County Property Tax Notice sent to Isaac Hicks dated 1840.
- R. Jarrett letter to H. P. Hicks dated December 8, 1872.
- Fall of the Year - Poem by P. W. Hicks, original by Sarah W. Hicks, 1870.
- Handwritten record of marriages of Hicks and Penrose family.
- Receipt addressed to Isaac Hicks by William Wynkoop dated February 16, 1882.
- Handwritten list of births, marriages and deaths of the Craven family and relatives.
- Edward and Isaac Hicks' Ledger Book, detailing various portraits, signs and carriages that they painted and the individuals for whom they did work.
- 21 carved and painted wooden blocks in shapes of various numbers and letters of the alphabet. These blocks were made by Edward Hicks and authenticated by Edward Barnsley, Newtown's most prominent historian, now deceased.

Articles for Sale

With space limitations and multiple copies already in storage, the NHA archives is offering the following items to members:

1. George P. Donehoo, ed., *Pennsylvania: A History* (Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1926), 5 volumes, 4 historical and one biographical. Illustrated. Good condition. \$200.

2. *Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, 1985-1992, We the People: Final Report*. 326 pp., illustrated. Very good cond. \$5.

3. *St. Andrews Church, Newtown, PA, Centennial book*, 1980. 96 pp., illustrated. Very good condition. 3 copies. \$25.

4. George MacReynolds, *Place Names in Bucks County*. 412 pp. Good condition. \$60.

5. *Bucks County Historical Society, Papers, Vols. 6, 7, and 8*. Fair condition. \$50 each. Topics include: Vol. 6 -- Edward Hicks, Walking Purchase, Peddlers, Tin Plating, Harness Making, Pt. Pleasant, Dolington, Henry C. Mercer, Thompson-Neely House. Vol. 7 -- Neshaminy Schools, John Fitch, Pennsbury, County Seat at Newtown, Hough Family, Durham Ironworks, Gristmills, Judge Gilbert Hicks, Ellis Family. Vol. 8 - - Early Bucks Co. Public Schools, Revolutionary Newtown, Agricultural Societies, Joseph Hampton and PA Quakers, John Barclay, Mary Israel Ellet.

6. Doron Green, *History of Bristol, PA* (1911), 369 pp., illustrated. Good condition. 2 copies. \$75.

7. Donna B. Munger, *Pennsylvania Land Records*. 234 pp. Researcher's guide. Very good condition. \$35.

8. William Penn Tercentenary Commission, *Remember William*

Penn (1944). Fair condition. \$15.

9. Laura Watson White, *Rhymeland* (1927). Poems about Newtown history and other subjects. 255 pp. \$20.

10. *Life Magazine*, January 10 and 17, 1969. Fair condition. \$1 each. Topics: January 10 -- review of 1968 -- Nixon election -- Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations. January 17 -- Apollo 8 -- Sirhan Sirhan interview.

11. *Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., Pennsylvania Division*. Blank forms, documents, and song sheets. Organization for sons of Civil War vets. 1 manila envelope. \$5.

12. *Bucks County Panorama Magazine*, 8 issues from November 1973-December 1974. Fair condition. \$10 for lot. Topics include Newtown Open House Tour, 1973 and 1974; General Greene Inn; Fordhook Farms; Red Lion Hotel; Carversville; Fox Hunting; New Hope; Barley Sheaf Farm; women of Bucks County.

13. *Newtown Tricentennial Calendar of Events*, 1983-84. \$3.

14. *Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine*, fall 1992. Good condition. \$1. Articles on Rachel Carson, James Wilson, Josiah W. Gitt.

15. "William Penn's New Township" (Newtown), pp. 52-87, Colonial Homes, February 1987. Illustrated. Fair condition. \$2.

Persons interested in any of the above listed items should contact David Callahan with questions and for payment, shipping and availability details.

Leave a Legacy

One of the best ways to ensure the future of the Newtown Historic Association is to leave a legacy. Individuals can make provisions in their estate plans that will provide important benefits to both them and the NHA. Planned giving can be done by will or trust, through which either a percentage or specific dollar amount may be designated to support the NHA. Through your gift you can preserve your assets, reduce estate taxes, and make an enduring contribution to the NHA. To discuss ways to make a gift through your estate to benefit the NHA and create a legacy, contact David Callahan.

Upcoming Events

- General Membership Meeting, *January 19. (Show & Tell)*
- General Membership Meeting, February 16. (*Victorian Valentine card demonstration by BCHS*)
- Court Inn Clean-Up Day, *March 6, 9:00 a.m.*
- General Membership Meeting, *March 15.*
- Tavern Night, *March 20.*
- Annual Meeting, *April 19.*
- 5th Grade Historic Walking Tour, *June 6.*
- Cocktail Party, *May 1 (May Day).*
- Annual Picnic, *June 19.*
- Garden Party, *August.*
- Market Day, *September 18.* 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Open House Tour, *December 4.* 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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