



NEWTOWN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

P O BOX 303 · CENTRE AVENUE & COURT STREET · NEWTOWN, PA 18940

JANUARY 1990 NEWLETTER

SPRING CALENDAR

- Monday, February 19.....George Washington's Birthday Dinner, Temperance House; Cocktails 6 p.m., Dinner 7 p.m.
- Saturday, March 17.....Dinner at the Court Inn, Seatings 6 and 8:30 p.m. This is a gourmet fundraiser, price: \$50. Details: Fran Smith 968-3519.
- Monday, March 19.....Monthly Meeting, Court Inn, 8 p.m. Glenn Tomlinson of the Philadelphia Museum of Art speaking on "Edward Hicks' Noah's Ark."
- Monday, April 16.....Monthly Meeting, Court Inn, 8 p.m. Reorganization and election of officers.
- Saturday, April 21.....Margaret Thornton Cocktail Party, Court Inn, 5 p.m. An annual fundraiser and swing into spring. Details: Marge Torongo 493-0310.
- Plan Ahead Date: October 11-15....."Creole Flavour" Tour to the plantations of Louisiana as well as Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Much good food, music, and visual history. Organized for us by Merriman Tours in conjunction with Mississippi Tours, Inc. These people know what they're doing. Details: Fran Smith 968-3519. Sign up early as there is a limit of twenty travelers. Cost: \$949.00.

AMPLIFICATION

The mounted Farm Map of Northampton given to the Association by Mrs. Ann Sodano was given in memory of her late husband, Alfonso Sodano. We thank Mrs. Sodano for her most thoughtful gift.

BOARD NOTES

President Fran Smith reported that over 1000 people converged on Newtown for the Christmas Open House, down a few hundred persons from last year's mark of 1400. "Gloom and doom" weather forecasting most likely kept the number down to a modest level this year. Margaret Danese, purveyor of fine Open House merchandise at the Court Inn, noted that sales this year were exceptionally good. All involved in the Open House, as well as our many visitors, judged this year's tour to be one of the best ever.

There is a move afoot in town to restore the Newtown Cemetery Chapel which the Board decided to support at its December meeting. The century-old chapel looks great and needs only some relatively minor repairs and refitting according to information presented to the Board. The chapel restoration is not an NHA undertaking, but does have enthusiastic Board support.

Our treasurer Eleanor Janney announced the good news that Newtown Borough Council has awarded its \$15,000 Community Development grant to the NHA for improvements to the Court

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Inn. A significant portion of the funding will be used for improvements to the Inn's climate control both for the benefit of members, their guests, and the valuable old books and other documents housed there.

At long last the Court Street sidewalk improvement project has been completed according to Dave Callahan. Callahan, along with sidekick Ernie Millard, had most to do with shepherding this complicated project through its planning and contractual stages. The last step in the project was the planting of four red oak shade trees which will help give Court Street an aesthetic leg-up in years to come. Congratulations to all involved. One parenthetical note: street resurfacing in that area will occur after the spring thaw.

Plans are being made for the 1990 Market Day which will take place on September 15th, weather permitting. Soothsayers tell us that it will be sunny and warm with low humidity that day thus compensating for last year's washout. Dave Callahan asks all those who want to volunteer to help in the planning work that must now begin should contact him at 968-3611.

EDUCATION BRIEF

The community college will be offering a four session noncredit course on "Historical Preservation" on Thursday evenings (7-9) from March 1 through March 22. This will be an introduction to the general concept of historical preservation methods and techniques for establishing and maintaining a suitable register. Bucks County will serve as the focus-- Newtown will not be overlooked! The very capable instructor for the course will be Jeff Marshall of the Bucks County Conservancy. A must for historical preservationists. Fee: \$33 for the course. Call 968-8409 or 968-8411 for details and registration.