



NEWSLETTER

Spring 1993 Issue

President - C. David Callahan
Editor - Helen F. Randle

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Monday, February 15</u> 7:00 p.m. (Cash Bar 6:00 p.m.)	Presidents Day Dinner at Temperance House. Guest Speaker - Ward Vinson
<u>Monday, March 1</u> 7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
<u>Saturday, March 13</u> 5:30 - 6:00 seating or 8:00 - 8:30 seating (Limited number)	"1733 Tavern Night at Court Inn" (Reservations Required by March 1)
<u>Monday, March 15</u> 8:00 p.m.	Membership Meet- ing. Speaker - Lyle Rosenberger of BCCC, on "Historic Arche- ology in Bucks County"
<u>Monday, April 5</u> 7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
<u>Monday, April 19</u> 8:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting - Committee Reports

NHA Headquarters - Court Inn
Centre Ave. & Court St., Newtown
Telephone - Court Inn - 968-4004

Officers 1992-93:

President - C. David Callahan
First V.P. - Philip Hagan
Second V.P. - Martin Sutton
Treasurer - Eleanor Janney
Recording Sec. - Marjorie Torongo
Corr. Sec. - Mary Rounsavill

"1733 TAVERN NIGHT AT COURT INN"

In 1990, Lee and Skip Gittens put on a formal dinner at the Court Inn, with the assistance of their good friends, Linda and Skip Trowbridge, and a working committee of about 30 volunteers. They secured loans and donations from local businessmen and organizations. In their acknowledgment of these contributions, they thanked the members of the Newtown Historic Association for giving them the responsibility of "combining the talents and enthusiasm of all listed above."

This year they have offered to repeat the occasion, this time with a more informal "Tavern Night", which promises to be a great success. If there is anyone who wishes to join the team, call the Gittens at 968-8783. To quote Skip, "the Trowbridges and the Gittens enjoy cooking!"

For those who wish to enjoy the dinner at "Tavern Night", keep in mind that there is a limit of 60 seats at each seating, so sign up early!

NEW ACQUISITION, A BED

If you have been in the Court Inn lately, you may have noticed that the rather elegant early New England bed which stood in the Innkeeper's Room has been replaced with a country folding bed circa 1780, with crevel drapes. This, a more appropriate piece for a common inn, was discovered by Cathy and Larry Fink. Alerted to the find, the Acquisition Committee, headed by Phil Hagan, took immediate action, and the bed is ours.

CLIMATE CONTROL FOR THE COURT INN

A committee consisting of Glenn D. Hains, Chairman, Thomas Mayer, Roberta Taylor, David Callahan and Rodger N. Taylor (who has generously volunteered his technical assistance) has been actively considering the problem of climate control in the Court Inn.

The major reason for considering a climate control system is to minimize the fluctuations in temperature and humidity in the building, particularly on the second floor. The preservation of historic documents and artifacts in the library and the Edward Hicks room, as well as the comfort of those working on the second floor during the summer were identified as the chief problems that should be addressed first.

The solution to these problems must take into consideration financial constraints as well as aesthetics. The committee has considered the cost of purchasing and installing climate control equipment, as well as the operation and maintenance expenses. There is also an attempt being made to minimize the modern appearance of the necessary equipment in our historic building.

The committee anticipates being able to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors within the near future. In the meantime, any comments from members of the Association are welcome.

Glenn Hains, Chairman
860-1700 (day) or 968-3881 (evening)

EDWARD HICKS - A WALKING TOUR

Many of our members are familiar with the historic walking tours which Mary Jane Crumlish has arranged and conducted for the Association from time to time. Mary Jane has offered to make up a brochure presenting an Edward Hicks Walking Tour. This was a popular and well-received subject. She would appreciate volunteers to assist in the following areas: to walk and time the tour; to check historical facts; to proof read; to compose the layout, etc. Anyone interested in helping, please call David Callahan at 579-2773. (Mary Jane is off again on one of her fascinating sabbatical trips.)

OPEN HOUSE - 1992

The profit from the 1992 Open House was approximately \$10,500. David Callahan wishes to express appreciation on behalf of the Association to Fran Smith and Mary Alice Hagan, Co-chairs, and all of the workers.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

On behalf of the Court Inn Library, Dolly Gish acknowledges receipt of a number of Newtown-oriented items, which are too numerous to list here, but which include donations by the Robert Allens, David Callahan, Harriet Ermentrout, Frank Fabian and Helen Randle, of: books, newspaper articles, photographs, genealogical information and family mementoes. These additions to the Library are greatly appreciated.

Erratum: In our Winter, 1992-93 Issue, Mrs. Edward Curdts was credited with the gift of genealogical material on the Tomlinson and Roberts families. This was donated by T. C. Roberts, of St. Petersburg, FL.

A RANULPH BYE PAINTING OF THE SCHOFIELD FORD BRIDGE is on display at the State St. First National Bank. Chances are available at each of the branches, with a drawing at Open House, December, 1993. A limited number of prints are available at \$95 each + tax (unframed), or posters at \$35 + tax. The proceeds will go toward the reconstruction of the bridge.

THE NEWTOWN CEMETERY CHAPEL

How many of us have taken the time to examine and appreciate the small red sandstone chapel which has stood at the center of the Newtown Cemetery for over 100 years? The Newtown Historic Association's Board of Directors has been looking at it, and would like to see its interior, as well as exterior, restored to their original appearance. Perhaps then it may again serve as a place in which to conduct services for the citizens of various faiths who are buried there.

Already, the Board of Managers has emptied the building of tools and equipment accumulated over a period of years during which it has served, not as a chapel, but as a storage building. This Association hopes to offer hours of volunteer help by those who have the necessary skills, as well as by those who are willing to engage in the hard work of cleaning, refinishing, painting, etc.

Construction of this chapel was commenced in 1880, was completed within a year and the building was dedicated on September 30, 1882, at a ceremony which included music and an address by Rev. W. Dayton Roberts of Philadelphia. Captain William Wynkoop, representing the trustees, announced that there was no debt, all improvements had been paid for, and a "snug sum" left in the treasury. Ministers of several denominations participated in the nonsectarian service.

The first President was Samuel T. Buckman, who served until 1876. He was followed by William Wynkoop, who carried on until 1910. Robert Kenderdine served for 16 years, from 1930 to 1946; and Morris Savidge, who succeeded him, served for 33 years. The present President is H. Stanford Roberts. Bob Kenderdine, grandson of the above of the same name, is Vice-president.

The Superintendents have outdone the Presidents in length of service: Stacy B. Brown for 35 years, followed by Charles F. Swartz, Jr., who, at the request of Morris Savidge, assumed the position "temporarily" in 1950, and is still holding it (a record of 43 years).

Helen Randle

With acknowledgment of information obtained from the following:

Bridget Wingert's article in the May 30, 1985 issue of the Advance of Bucks County entitled "Newtown's History Is Reposed in Its Cemeteries".

Dolly Gish's research on July 10, 1991 of 1880-82 issues of the Newtown Enterprise at the Spruance Library, Doylestown, PA.

Charles F. Swartz, Jr.

A SIGNIFICANT GIFT

Several months ago, the Association was rewarded with a gift of a large collection of artifacts, historic booklets and papers, costumes, etc. from Ann and Bob Bartels. Ann is the daughter of Edward R. Barnsley ("Ned"), Newtown's "historian", who undertook the restoration of the "Bird in Hand" and whose collection of writings is housed in the Barnsley Room of our Library.

This collection is being sorted and catalogued by the Accessions Committee, headed by Cindy Stephenson. Cindy is excited about a Victorian baby carriage and some beautiful costumes of that period. A complete list of the items in the collection will be available prior to the time of our next publication.