

The Half-Moon

The Newtown Historic Association, Inc. Newsletter

Join the Fun! - Annual Picnic - June 17

The NHA Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2000. Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner to follow at 7:00 p.m. The cost of picnic is \$18.00 per person. Marty Sutton is once again chairing this fun event. Please plan to attend, it's a great way to kick off the summer season.

New Officers & Board Elected

At the Annual Meeting held on April 17, the following slate of new officers and Board of Directors were elected:
Officers: (two year terms)
President: Paul Gouza, First Vice President: Brian Rounsavill, Second Vice President Ann Balderston, Recording Secretary, Terry Keane, Corresponding Secretary, Mary Callahan and Treasurer Marge Torongo. The following Board of Directors were elected to four year terms: Douglas "Skip" Gittens, Maureen Harrison, Liz Kelsey and Jean Haeckel. Elected to two year terms were Dave Callahan, Ann Linkenheimer

and Joanne Nardo. Annual reports were also given from all standing committees.

Refreshments and a social hour followed the business meeting.

A special thanks to the nominating committee, chaired by Joanne Nardo including members; Laurie Gouza, Barbara Swanda and Roberta Taylor. Best of Luck to the new officers and Board of Directors.

Thornton/Hicks Campaign

We have received the construction cost estimate regarding the repair and restoration of the roof and west attic wall of the Thornton/Hicks House. Costs were estimated at \$92,000.00. The cost estimate included scaffolding, shoring, preparation of final construction documents and other construction expenses. The major expense of the project is the structural reinforcement of roof framing.

Dave Callahan, Brian Heverin and Nancy Steigerwalt spent several nights gathering information, collating and

copying the necessary paperwork in order to apply for a matching Keystone Historic Preservation Grant.

Graciously we have already received a \$5,000.00 donation from a NHA member. Any member or friend of the NHA who is interested in contributing to the Thornton/Hicks House restoration project should contact Dave Callahan.

A fund raising committee is going to be formed in the near future.

Accessioner Needed

Are you an organized person who has a few hours spare time each month? We are in desperate need of a person to take over the accessions for our museum items. Anyone interested should contact Paul Gouza at 215-579-0298.

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Where's Dave ?

Callahan steps Down

After several years as President of the NHA, Dave Callahan has stepped down. Dave was honored by the Board of Directors at their April Meeting with a wine and cheese farewell. Callahan was also recognized at the Annual Meeting by incoming President Paul Gouza. He was thanked for his years of dedication and hard work to the association.

(Excerpt from Paul Gouza's tribute speech) Thank you Dave for your leadership, your guidance, your countless hours of dedication and hard work to the association. Your efforts over the last several years have developed, shaped and expanded the association to what it is today. Your love and passion for Newtown history has not only helped preserve the past but educate future generations on the importance of Newtown's rich historic heritage. Your leadership will be sorely missed. We wish you the best. Thanks Dave.

Besides remaining on the Board of Directors for a two year term, he will continue his research and committee work.

Calendar of Events

Annual Picnic

Saturday, June 17, 2000
Social 6:00 Dinner 7:00 \$18.00
Marty Sutton 215-968-3211

Market Day

Saturday, September 16, 2000
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Laurie Gouza 215-579-0298

Cocktail Party Success

The annual cocktail party was a huge success. Eighty members and guests attended this years event. The weather was pleasant which allowed guests to wander outside the grounds of the Court Inn. Members brought an assortment of tasty hors d'oeuvres. Speciality chefs, Lee and Skip Gittens provided clams casino. This years event was admirably chaired by Lorraine Pentz and Jeanette Rogers with help from Margaret Danese. The Court Inn was decorated beautifully with fresh flowers from Jeanette Rogers and the Gittens yards.

Newtown Enterprise News - June, 1900

An automobile passed through town early Saturday morning. It was making a trip from Norristown to Yardley. Some say this was the first automobile ever seen in our borough..

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Elisha Worthington recently purchased another red fox as a companion for the one he has in his kennel on Chancellor Street.

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The new hose cart recently ordered by Borough Council arrived Thursday and in the evening some of the fireman pulled it to the engine house. It was made at Seneca Falls, N.Y., and cost \$185.

.....
Watson T. Hillborn has trapped and dispatched eight of the muskrats that have been doing so much damage to his flower beds along the mill race for the past few weeks.

.....
There will be another big race meet at Keith's Newtown Driving Park about the middle of August. Date for same and list of entries and purses published later.

Who wants to be a Volunteer?

Often wonder who the volunteers are that run the research center? They are Mary Kester, Dolly Gish, Dottie Soden, Norma Bidlack, Marian Dahlman, Richard Mansley, Helen Randle and on Thursday nights it's Dave Callahan, Mike Donovan, Heinz Heinemann, Carrie Wetherby, Jennifer Evans and Nancy and Frank Steigelwalt. These dedicated members and friends volunteer their time graciously each week and are truly appreciated for their hard work. Apologies to those we forgot to mention.

Any member who wants to help out in the research center should stop by and see Mary Kester on Tuesday mornings or Dave Callahan on Thursday nights.

CR Fifth graders learn history

Douglas "Skip" Gittens recently led the annual walking tour event for students from the Council Rock Goodnoe Elementary School. As in years past, fifth graders embarked on a walking tour of historic Newtown. Small groups of 15 to 20 students heard an overview of some of Newtown's historic sites including the Old Newtown

Presbyterian Church, Borough Hall, the Newtown Library Company, Bird in Hand, Hicks House, Justice House and the Court Inn. Joanne Nardo with the help of Dolly Gish and Lois Molloy served as guides of the Court Inn.

Donations Received:

The Research Center

By Robert Kenderdine, a bill dated 10/26/1934 to the Newtown Cemetery Co., from D.J. McClanen, Contractor and Builder, Newtown PA for work and material on new Office Building.

By Mary Clark, the New Centennial Atlas of Bucks County, PA. Illustrated & dated 1876.

By the Newtown Township board of Supervisors, a water color drawing of the old Good Intent School, painted by J. Lee Dickstein, 7/9/1980, which was found in the schoolhouse by Ellie Campbell.

Any research item donated to the NHA is placed in the Edward R. Barnsley Room of Early Newtown at the Court Inn where it is preserved and available for study and display.

Welcome New Members:

New members from Newtown:

Joyce & Patrick Armstrong, Glen & Susan Bannon, Eric Bausman, Carlton Ray Barber, Jim & Leslie Gallagher, Kirk Heinz & Marcia Lincoln Heinz, David & Cheryl Kerns Hills, Rand & Robin Jaslow, Ed & Audrie Johnson, Dr. James & Judith Lanfrey, James & Susan McKenna, Brett & Kathi Miller, Betty Milita, Mr. & Mrs. William Pfundt, Scott Pfundt, Henry & Marcea Piotrowski, Mariann McKee & Ron Ricci, Michael Ross, Beth Sanderlin, George & Joan Schwab, Richard Seidner, Kati & Ray Sowiak, Kingdon Swayne, Dr. & Mrs. Peter Stathatos, David & Anita Walton, Caroline Bennett

George Chambers Doan, New York; Joseph Bellottie, Dearborn Hgts, Michigan; Sida Buss, Yardley; Ed & Karen Cummings, Yardley; James & Regina Kurtz, Yardley; Cathy Kotanchik, Emilie; George Moser, Yardley; Leonard Sokolove, Holland; James Webster, Trenton, N.J.; Caroline Wilson, Furlong; and Peggy Adams, Bedminster

Have a healthy, safe summer!