



The Half Moon

- The Newsletter of the Newtown Historic Association -

Welcome

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

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Newtown Historic Association

P.O. Box 303
Centre Avenue & Court Street
Newtown, PA 18940 USA
Phone: (215) 968-4004
www.newtownhistoric.org

Annual Dues Reminder

Annual dues notices were mailed to all members. Send information on potential new members to Mary Callahan at dcnhh@comcast.net.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on April 16th at the Half Moon Inn. Reports were given by the various committees in addition to a showing of some recent acquisitions (*see New Accessions on page 4*).

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Christopher & Michele Amazeen, *Newtown*
- Sara Jane Dallas, *Newtown (Upgraded to Life Member)*
- Terri Doerschuck, *Langhorne*
- Philip & Cynthia Craft Fine, *Newtown*
- Donna Gusty, *Newtown*
- Judith Henry, *Newtown (Contributing)*
- Dan & Deb Knott, *Newtown*
- Michael & Lorrie Ksiazek, *Newtown*
- Clayton Keller Little, Jr., *Hixson, TN*
- Kenneth Mammel, *Newtown*
- Sharon & Tom Marte, *Newtown*
- Michael & Eileen Molloy, *Newtown*
- Geno Peruzzi, *Newtown (Upgraded to Life Member)*
- Gary Laitman & Orli Zamora, *Newtown*
- Charles Schmidt & Kathleen Zeiss, *Newtown*

5th Grade Walking Tour

The annual 5th Grade Walking Tour will be held on June 6th. Over 400 students will participate from the four local area schools: Goodnoe Elementary, Newtown Elementary, Sol Feinstone Elementary and St. Andrew's Elementary. The Half Moon Inn and ten other historic sites will be visited on the tour.

Annual Picnic

The annual picnic will be held on Saturday, June 23rd at the Half Moon Inn. The picnic will be an informal affair, with hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drinks, beer and wine. Guests are asked to bring their favorite salads and desserts. The picnic is a great way for people to socialize and meet the new members and renew old friendships. For more information, please contact Joanne Nardo at (215) 968-9052.

Spring Cocktail Party

The NHA hosted a spring cocktail party on April 21st. The Half Moon Inn was beautifully decorated by Lorraine Pentz & Jeanette Rogers. Members brought their favorite appetizers and about 60 people attended. The committee of Maria & Brian Rounsavill, Laurie & Paul Gouza, Mary & David Callahan and David Walton would like to thank everyone for an enjoyable evening.

Tour & Flower Show

The "Walk in the Footsteps of Edward Hicks" walking tour was held on May 4th. Jeff Marshall led a group of about 50 people through the streets of Newtown pointing out what Edward Hicks would have seen as he walked around town. The Countryside Gardeners also hosted an Edward Hicks themed Flower Show on May 4 & 5. The Inn was full of beautiful floral arrangements and many visitors came to the Inn and enjoyed the event.

Thornton/Hicks House Update



In 1998, the Newtown Historic Association purchased the Thornton/Hicks property immediately adjacent to the Half Moon Inn, which was owned by Ms. Grace Lauer. Ms. Lauer has life rights to live in the house after which the NHA will take possession of the property and plans to use it to accommodate the expansion of our research facilities and enhance the operations of the association.

In 2002, the Thornton/Hicks House was renovated with the help of a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission grant and in-kind donations. This project was the initial step in stabilizing, repairing and restoring the roof, chimney, upper front wall, and attic of this property for later use.

In April, a serious structural problem was discovered on the first floor and a proxy vote of our membership was conducted to approve the funds necessary to remedy the situation. Due to the emergency nature of the problem, and their prior experience with the Thornton/Hicks House, we have engaged the services of Twining Construction to address the problem as cost-effectively and efficiently as possible over the summer months.

Although the total cost of this work will be offset in full by gifts that will be received in the coming months, we felt that it was necessary to bring this issue to the attention of the membership.

The Newtown Historic Association had planned to renovate the Thornton/Hicks House once we took full possession of the property. The recently discovered structural issues require immediate action, but would have been necessary at some point in the near future.

Eagle Scout Project



Scouts of Troop #380 hard at work repainting the barn.

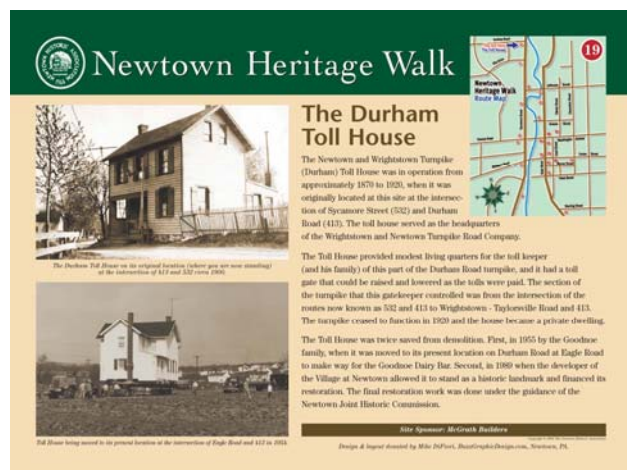
In May, Josh Lepine, member of Newtown Troop #380, completed his Eagle Scout project. Josh's project involved helping the Newtown Historic Association restore the barn located behind the Half Moon Inn and Thornton/Hicks House.

This project included several phases such as, digging out the dirt floor in the third bay of the barn and replacing it with crushed stone, re-landscaping an adjacent area with the displaced dirt, and repairing and painting the old barn.

This Eagle Scout project was a great way for the Newtown Historic Association, with the generous and able assistance of Troop #380, to help revitalize an historic structure in Newtown Borough. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Josh on a job well-done and express our most sincere thanks to the other members of his troop who helped with the completion of this project.

The Newtown Heritage Walk Project

In May, both the Borough and Township approved the Newtown Historic Association's Heritage Walk project. The Newtown Heritage Walk project will be a self-guided walking tour consisting of over twenty stops in Newtown Borough and Newtown Township. An 18" x 24" sign will be installed at each stop that will consist of a blend of text and photos (*see below*).



Sample sign for the Toll House on the Heritage Walk.

The Heritage Walk will integrate historically significant sites along State Street (Borough) and Sycamore Street (Township). Each stop has been selected because of its historical value to the Newtown community, featuring sites from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The Heritage Walk is modeled after similar programs in Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Carlisle, the Delaware Canal, and other historic locations in Pennsylvania.

The Newtown Historic Association is coordinating all aspects of the project, including: selecting the sites, developing the signs and brochures, obtaining the necessary HARB, Borough and Township approvals, confirming site sponsors, and coordinating the installation and launch of the Heritage Walk program.

All site selections are made by a committee consisting of representatives from the Newtown Historic Association, the Borough of Newtown and Newtown Township. The general site selection criteria are:

1. **Historical Significance** – Sites must be considered historic, preferably have been built in either the 1700s or early 1800s, and have contributed to the historical character and/or cultural development of the Newtown community (Borough & Township).

2. **Location** – Sites must be located on either State Street (Borough) or Sycamore Street (Township), or within a one- or two-block radius, to maintain the contiguous flow of an historic walking tour of the downtown Newtown community.

3. **Architectural Merit** – Sites must exemplify, embody or exhibit the unique architectural, construction and design features that have come to define the Newtown (Bucks County) community.

4. **Sponsorship** – Sites must be funded by a sponsor(s) to help cover the fixed costs of the site marker, brochure and marker installation. Newtown Township will install the signs along Sycamore Street.

5. **Total Number** – Every effort will be made to be judicious and equitable during the site selection process, so as to place a practical and reasonable limit on the total number of signs and not to overly “clutter” the streets of Newtown.

The preliminary sites and sponsors listed below have been selected based on their historical significance and proximity in the Newtown community:

1. Brick Hotel (*Brick Hotel*)
2. Fire House (*Newtown Fire Association*)
3. Croasdale Building & Trolley (*Stuckert & Yates*)
4. County Court Buildings (*TBD*)
5. First National Bank (*First National Bank*)
6. Half Moon Inn (*Newtown Historic Association*)
7. Newtown Library (*Newtown Library Company*)
8. Bird-in-Hand (*Newtown Reliance Company*)
9. White Hall Hotel (*Capital Franchise Group*)
10. The Stocking Works (*TBD*)
11. Old St. Andrews Church (*Friends of Old Church*)
12. Lownes Farm (*Quaker Group*)
13. McMaster House (*TBD*)
14. Washington's Headquarters (*LukOil*)
15. Buckman Farm (*Cotswold Group*)
16. Old Presbyterian Church (*Old Church Committee*)
17. Tyrol House (*Tyrol Insurance*)
18. Goodnoe Farm & Dairy Bar (*Goodnoe Family*)
19. Toll House (*McGrath Builders*)
20. North State Street (*Randall Realty Group*)
21. Newtown Theatre (*Knights of Pythias*)
22. Common & Creek (*Newtown Creek Coalition*)
23. Newtown Borough Hall (*TBD*)

Look for the signs some time this fall. For more information, please contact Brian Rounsavill at rounsavills@verizon.net.

Market Day is Coming

The 31st annual colonial craft fair will be held on Saturday, September 15th (rain date Sunday). Over 60 crafters, reenactors and demonstrators will present a wide variety of interesting crafts, from bee keeping, quilting, rug braiding, spinning and woodcarving. There will also be music, hayrides, children's crafts and our "Festival of Foods" featuring Newtown area restaurants. The Newtown Militia –First Crossing Volunteers will set up a camp situation in the backyard of the Half Moon Inn. This is one of our two main fundraisers for the NHA and we always need volunteers to help. If you would be interested in working a shift or help in organizing the day please contact one of the committee members – Mary or David Callahan (215) 968-3914, Laurie Gouza (215) 579-0298 or Jeanne Haeckel (215) 860-0921 – we can always use more help

Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- Anthony Petsis & Associates, Inc.
- Carriage House Collection
- David J. Witchell Salon & Spa
- DeFrehn Corporation
- First National Bank of Newtown
- Gemmi Construction, Inc.
- Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- Newtown Hardware House
- Newtown-Jamison Physical Therapy
- Peruzzi Automotive Group
- ReMax Properties, Ltd.
- Stockburger Chevrolet & Chrysler
- Stuckert and Yates
- The Law Office of Paul R. Beckert, Jr.
- Thomas-Guy Design, Ltd.
- Waitkus Design Landscape Architects

Some New Acquisitions

In March, The Newtown Historic Association acquired a lot of 106 Newtown-related items from a private collector. The following is a selected list of items included in this new acquisition:

- Captain Henry Darrah Revolutionary War Account Book, Bucks County Militia, Aug. 9 to Sept. 12, 1776.
- Ledger Book of the Masons' Account Book for the Period October 3, 1885 to October 31, 1891.
- Siloam Lodge Odd Fellows, Officers Record and Account Book.
- Moon Family Genealogy Notebook.
- Annamelia Hibbs Knot Picture.
- Phebe H. Hibbs Notebook of Favorite Poems, 1832-1857.
- Newtown Photographer's Album containing many Newtown portraits.
- Chautauqua Week in Newtown, PA, June 11-17, 1913 Booklet.
- A Review of the Testimony Against Elias Hicks.
- Newtown Legion Juniors Baseball Team Photograph from 1934.
- Various Cornell Family Photographs circa 1905, including:
 - Photograph of the Stone Bridge Across the Neshaminy Creek in Tyler Park.
 - Brother of Carrie Cornell with wife.
 - Carrie Cornell.
 - Daughter of James Cornell on Horseback at Cornell Stables.
 - Horse & Buggy Country Scene in Newtown.
 - Charles Cornell, and wife Carrie.
 - James Cornell seated in Carriage.
 - Charles and Carrie Cornell with their parents.
 - Steam threshing machinery at work in field.
 - Cornell family and Newtown girls at train station.
 - Mrs. Cornell and ladies at May Day celebration.
 - Various Photographs of the Reading Company Steam Locomotives Nos. 606, 607, 609 & 614 at Newtown Station.
 - Newtown Fire Association Badge.
 - 275th Anniversary of Newtown Plate.

- Newtown Reliance Company Plate.
- Letter, F.B. Wentworth to G.O. Haboust.
- Letter, Mawson Bros to Keith & Ames.
- Letter, Chas. H. Tranter to Ernest Redfield, 1906.
- Blaker & Co., Newtown, PA Advertisement.
- Bylaws of the Newtown Lodge No. 427 F and A. M., 1965.
- War Ration Book of Margaret E. Bohmler.
- Programs of the New Century Club for the Seasons, 1899-1910; 1919-1029; 1940-1941.

Volunteers Needed

During the summer months, the Court Inn is open on Sunday afternoons from 2 – 4 pm for visitors. We need members to staff the Inn during these times. If you would like to volunteer for a Sunday shift – please call Joanne Nardo at (215) 968-9052 and she will arrange the schedule for you. It is a nice way to meet people and show them what a wonderful facility we have and also tell them a little about Newtown. No experience needed!

Upcoming Events

- **5th Grade Historic Walking Tour**, June 6. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Annual Picnic**, June 23, 6:00 p.m.
- **Newtown: Past & Present**, July 12. 1:00 p.m. & Pennswood Village.
- **Market Day**, September 15.
- **General Membership Meeting**, "Civilians in the Civil War," October 15. 8:00 p.m.
- **General Membership Meeting**, "Divining Old Houses," November 19. 8:00 p.m.
- **Open House Tour**, December 1.

The Half Moon is published quarterly by the Newtown Historic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 303, Centre Avenue & Court Street, Newtown, PA 18940



Printed on Recycled Paper.
