



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 and preservation events in our area. We welcome any suggestions for future articles.

Officers

Brian Rounsavill, *President*
David Callahan, *First Vice President*
Jeff Marshall, *Second Vice President*
Michael DiFiori, *Recording Secretary*
Mary Callahan, *Corresp. Secretary*
Marge Torongo, *Treasurer*

Board of Directors

Harriet Beckert
Paul Gouza
Jeanne Haeckel
Bronwyn Jones
William Mahler
Joanne Nardo
Geno Peruzzi
Susan Thompson
David Walton
Dolly Gish – *Hon. Director*
David Mahler – *Parliamentarian*

Newtown Historic Association

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Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on April 21st at the Half Moon (Court) Inn. The Annual Business Meeting included the election of officers and reports from all standing committee chairmen. The following slate of officers was elected:

Officers (two year terms):

President - Brian Rounsavill
1st Vice President - David Callahan
2nd Vice President - Jeff Marshall
Recording Secretary - Mike DiFiori
Corresp. Secretary - Mary Callahan
Treasurer - Marge Torongo

Board of Directors:

Harriet Beckert (2 Year Term)
Jeanne Haeckel (2 Year Term)
Bronwyn Jones (2 Year Term)
William Mahler (3 Year Term)
Joanne Nardo (3 Year Term)
Geno Peruzzi (3 Year Term)
Susan Thompson (3 Year Term)

Other Directors (not up for election):

Paul Gouza
David Walton
Parliamentarian - David Mahler

Following the Annual Business Meeting, a presentation entitled, “*The Discovery and Excavation of the Root Cellar at the Half-Moon Inn*” was given by David Callahan. The lecture covered the excavation of the root cellar located behind the Half-Moon Inn and included photographs of the excavation process as well as artifacts that were uncovered during the dig.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Tracy Ebner, *Bordentown NJ*
(moving to Newtown in July)
- Barry and Judith Fleck,
Newtown, PA
- Karen Groff, *Newtown, PA*
- Robert and Connie McFayden,
Landing, NJ
- Fran Smith, *Newtown, PA*
(upgraded to Life Member)
- June Stevens, *Langhorne, PA*

Annual Dues

The annual dues notices have been mailed to all active members. To continue our membership drive, members are encouraged to submit the names and addresses of potential new members to the Corresponding Secretary, Mary Callahan at dcnhh@comcast.net. We are always looking for new members interested in joining to celebrate Newtown’s history and heritage.

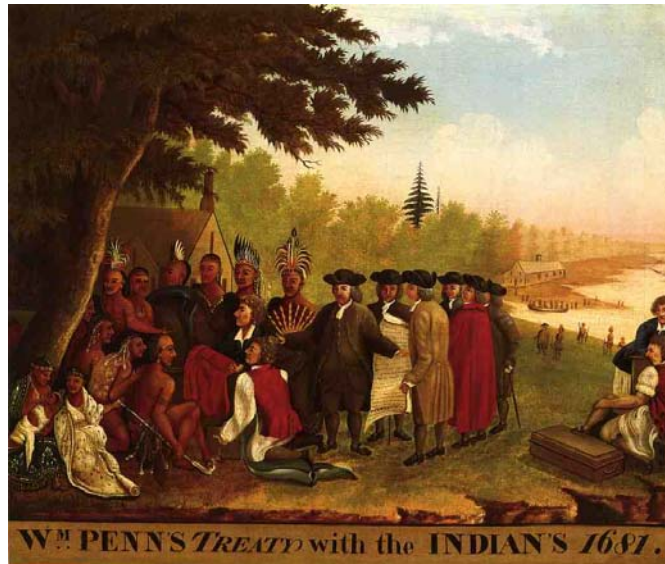
5th Grade Historic Walking Tour

The annual 5th Grade Historic Walking Tour of Newtown was held on June 4th. Over 450 students participated from the three local area schools: Goodnoe Elementary, Newtown Elementary and St. Andrew’s Elementary. The Half-Moon Inn and eight other historic sites were visited on the tour. The weather cooperated and the children had a great time. Special thanks to the volunteers!

Come Celebrate!

Join us in celebrating the 275th Anniversary of the *Half-Moon Inn*. See the website for the calendar of events.





Penn's Treaty with the Indians by Edward Hicks, 1847 [Source: The-Athenaeum.org]

William Penn's First Purchase of Land

- by Heinz J. Heinemann -

On July 15, 1682, William Markham, Deputy Governor of Pennsylvania, entered into an agreement with ten Indians represented by the Indians Kowyockhickon and Attoireham, who made their mark (an "X") on the treaty, for the purchase of a large parcel of land. These ten Indians were Sachamakers, or possibly Sachems (Chiefs). This, the first land purchase on Penn's behalf, was consummated before Penn arrived in the New World.

The property sold began at a white oak on land owned by John Wood near the Falls of the Delaware River, called by Wood, Gray Stones. From the white oak, the line went up the river to a spruce tree that had been marked by the letter "P" and which stood at the foot of a mountain. From the spruce tree the line ran along the ledge or foot of the mountain in a west-northwest direction to another white oak (also marked with the letter "P"), which stood by the Indian path that led to the Indian town called Playwickey, lying near the head of a creek called Towsissinck. Here, the line headed westwards to the Neshammonyes (Neshaminy) Creek. It then went down the Neshaminy until it came to the Delaware River, and from there south and back to the white oak on John Wood's land.

The entire tract encompassed the present townships of Bristol, Falls, Middletown, Newtown, and Lower Makefield, Newtown Borough, and parts of Upper Makefield and Wrightstown Township.

[Sources: Newtown Historic Association Archives.]
Note: Mr. Heinemann is a member and volunteer in the Newtown Historic Association's Research Center.

Future land sales made by Penn were, because of this deed, clear of Indian encumbrances. All land sales are therefore traceable back to the Royal Charter from Charles II on March 4, 1781 and to this Indian deed.

But what did the Indians get for selling their land? It was not just money. The articles for which they either asked, or which were offered to them, and upon which they finally agreed, are varied. These articles included 350 fathoms (a fathom is six feet) of wampum, 20 fathoms of Stroud waters (a woolen cloth, mostly of a scarlet color), 60 fathoms of Duffields (which is a coarse wool fabric), 20 kettles (of which four were large), 20 guns, 20 coats, 40 shirts, 40 pair of stockings, 40 hoes, 40 axes, 2 barrels of powder, 200 bars of lead, 200 knives, 200 small glasses, 12 pair of shoes, 40 copper boxes, 40 tobacco tongs (metal tongs used to take a live coal from a fire to light a tobacco pipe), 2 small barrels of pipes (probably pipes for smoking), 40 combs, 24 pounds of red lead, 100 awls, 2 handfuls of fishing hooks, 2 handfuls of needles, 40 pounds of shot, 10 bundles of beads, 10 small saws, 4 ankers of tobacco (an anker is an obsolete unit of capacity formerly used in European countries, especially for spirits, and is equal to between 9 and 10.5 U. S. gallons), 2 ankers of rum, 2 ankers of cider, 2 ankers of beer, and, finally, 300 Guilders (probably Guilders, Dutch silver coins).

It is interesting to speculate what bargaining took place between Markham, his associates and the Indian representatives. Was it long and drawn out? Did both sides have input with compromises? Or was it a take it or leave it situation? Perhaps we will never know for sure?

PA Volunteer of Year

On June 10th, David Callahan, past President and current Board member of the Newtown Historic Association, was awarded the 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2008 Townie Awards Gala Dinner held as part of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center Annual Conference in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This special award is granted to an individual who has exhibited a commitment to the community's business district revitalization efforts through the unselfish donation of time and talent. The nominees must have been nominated and selected for a volunteer award at the local level prior to being nominated for this category. The award is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC), a statewide organization that sponsors the Main Street Manager program in over 165 communities in Pennsylvania. The PDC is the only statewide nonprofit organization dedicated solely to the revitalization of the Commonwealth's Core or traditional communities. The Volunteer of the Year Award is a very special honor, of which David Callahan is undoubtedly worthy. David is the very embodiment of the term "volunteer" in all aspects of the word. There is literally not an event that takes place in Newtown that does not in some way benefit from his knowledge, experience, selflessness and unending hard work. David's nomination was supported by a number of people from Newtown who wrote wonderful letters of support and recommendation.

Historic Walking Tour

On June 20th, Jeff Marshall, Vice President of the Newtown Historic Association and Vice President of Resource Protection at the Heritage Conservancy, led a group of close to 100 people on an historic walking tour featuring Washington Avenue between Court Street and Lincoln Avenue, in addition to the surrounding area. Jeff provided many interesting architectural facts during the informative and enjoyable stroll through the historic streets of Newtown.

PHMC Grant Complete

In 2007, the NHA received a Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) grant to pay for 50% of the costs associated with new archival storage containers, files, tissue paper and shelving. In 2008, we completed the assembly of the shelving, painted the storage room, and filled the shelving with the boxed items. In the process, additional storage space was created in the Thornton Hicks House attic for materials that are not regularly accessed. In 2005, the NHA had a preservation assessment survey performed by the PHMC Technical Assistance Grant Program to evaluate our archival storage facilities at the Half-Moon Inn. The survey gave us a good review for our facility and suggested that we acquire more storage space and archival storage boxes. This survey provided the foundation for our successful grant application. We are indebted to the volunteers who helped catalog, prepare and box the items for this project. We are seeking donations to help acquire an oversized scanner as the final phase of this project.

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!

Market Day is Coming

The 32nd annual colonial craft fair will be held on Saturday, September 13th (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. We are in need of volunteers to sell hayride tickets and help on the NHA sales table, the shifts on these would be from 10 - 12 noon, Noon to 2 pm and 2 - 4 pm. Also someone to be in charge of hosting and getting people to help on the first floor of the Court Inn. 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.

Antique Appraisal

As part on the year-long events celebrating the 275th Anniversary of the Half-Moon Inn, the Newtown Historic Association will be sponsoring an Antique Appraisal Day. The Half Moon Inn will be the venue for the event on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 1 to 4 PM. Local Appraisers will be on hand to verbally examine, identify and appraise up to three objects per person. There will be a nominal fee per object. Funds raised from this event will be used to operate and maintain the Half Moon Inn. Attendance to this event will be limited and there will be an announcement on how you can reserve your spot. More information will be forthcoming in the next few months.

October Meeting

The October meeting of the Newtown Historic Association will be held on Monday, October 20th at 8 PM at the Half-Moon Inn. The meeting will feature a lecture entitled, “*Haunted Bucks County*”. Spend a spooky hour learning about ghosts, apparitions and other things (the Jersey Devil?) that go bump in Bucks County, and perhaps answer the ultimate haunted Bucks County question: Is New Hope really the most haunted place in the County? This general membership meeting is one of a series of yearlong events and programs celebrating the 275th Anniversary of the Half-Moon Inn. The public is invited, refreshments will be served.



Twining Family Reunion

On June 21st, descendants of one of Newtown’s original settlers, Stephen Twining, held a reunion in Newtown organized by Ray Stinson of Ithaca New York. Twining descendants gathered at the Half-Moon Inn for a lecture presented by NHA Curator Harriet Beckert, assisted by volunteer Justine Bishop. Mrs. Beckert chronicled the Twining Family’s ownership and subdivision of the Thomas Rowland patent and also Newtown’s history. After the lecture, the Twining family enjoyed a bus tour that stopped at eleven sites in Newtown owned at one time by Twining descendants. The tour ended at the Brookside community center on Barclay Street for lunch. Brookside is the original Twining farm that was the childhood home of Edward Hicks. Hicks painted four versions of The Twining Farm between 1845-1847 that depict David and Elizabeth Twining and a young Hicks.

Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- Anchor Automotive
- 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 Automotive
- Stuckert & Yates
- Thomas-Guy Design, Ltd.
- Waitkus Design/Landscape

Some New Accessions

- The Newtown Railroad Reel, Vol. XVII – *Richard N. Mansley*
- Plans for the Development of the Frost Watson Tract – *Paul & Laurie Gouza*
- Items Relating to Newtown Hall – *Unknown*
- Collection of Stars & Stripes Newspapers from World War I, 02/08/1918 to 06/13/1919 – *Unknown*
- Illustration of the Old Court Buildings by T.S. Kenderdine – *Glenn & Barbara Hains*
- Army Uniform from Vietnam War – *James Wolverton*
- 35mm Slides Pertaining to the 275th Anniversary Celebration of Newtown – *George Stockburger*
- Scrapbook of Morris Savidge – *Sarajane Dallas*
- CD Containing: Radio Interview, “Life in Newtown in 1928” by Lucretia Mammel and Raymond Cornell & “Breakfast at Goodnoe’s” hosted by Louise Collins in 1982– *Kenneth Mammel*
- Documents Relating to the Excavation of the Root Cellar at the Court Inn – *Roberta Taylor*
- Fuhrer Family Photographs from the Collection of Camilla Armsworth Akers – *Ron Steeninger*
- Booklet entitled, “The Naming” by Clayton Keller Little, Jr. - *Clayton K. Little, Jr.*

Upcoming Events

- **Market Day**, *September 13.*
- **Antique Appraisal**, *Oct 4, 1:00 pm.*
- **General Membership Meeting**, “*Haunted Bucks County*”, *October 20. 8:00 p.m.*
- **General Membership Meeting**, “*The Role of Women in World War II*”, *November 17. 8:00 p.m.*
- **Open House Tour**, *December 6.*

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