



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.

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Newtown Historic Association

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www.newtownhistoric.org

Research Center Hours

Tuesdays 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Thursday 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
And also by appointment
Admission is free

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Christopher Brill & Gina Tognini, Newtown
- Donald Conover, Newtown
- Nancy Jane Gracia, Newtown
- Keith Wolstenhome, Colledgeville

Market Day in Historic Newtown

Newtown Historic Association will sponsor its 37th Annual Market Day on Saturday, October 5th from 10 am – 4 pm (rain date Sunday, October 6th)

For over three decades the Newtown Historic Association has had Market Day. This custom revives an old harvest season tradition in Newtown, where long ago, local farmers brought their crops to town to sell and enjoy a day of festivities and contests that culminated with a horse race down State Street.

There are over 50 crafters, demonstrators and artists coming with a wide variety of interesting crafts, from quilting, rug braiding, spinning, fine arts, jewelry, photography and woodcarving.

The First Crossing Volunteers - a colonial militia revolutionary war encampment will camp out in the backyard of the Half Moon (Court Inn). We will be having children's colonial games and children's crafts in the historic Boone Garden along with candle dipping.

Captain Billy and the Coyotes will be performing a selection of music, including traditional music of the Colonial Era outside the Half Moon Inn. The "Out of Tuners" and the "Full Moon Musicians" will entertain inside the building. Court Inn.

"A Better Way Farm" will be there with their team of Belgian draft horses and their wagon to give everyone horse drawn hayrides. Our ever successful Festival of Foods will feature local Newtown restaurants – among them - Isaac Newton's - offering delicious luncheon treats. The special kettle corn vendor "Best Darn Kettle Korn" will be here again. There will be Open Hearth Cooking by Mercy Ingraham who uses only old methods of cooking and colonial recipes.

The raffle this year will be a \$400 gift certificate to use toward a weekend at the historic "Queen Victoria Bed and Breakfast Inn", Cape May, New Jersey. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

So come out and enjoy Market Day with all your friends and neighbors. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bronwyn Jones 404-210-5543.



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October Meeting A Walking Tour of Newtown Cemetery

Come join us for the October meeting of the **Newtown Historic Association** will be held on **Sunday, October 13th at 2:00 PM at the Newtown Cemetery Chapel, E. Washington Ave., Newtown** to explore the lives of some of the people who lived in our town and countryside. Some may have lived in your very home.

Our respectful remembrance of some of our past townsfolk and neighbors will transcend the boundaries of their single human lifetime and provide an opportunity to know our local history from a unique perspective.

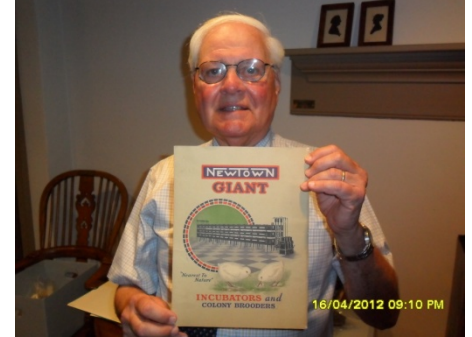
A “Good Will” Donation would be appreciated - Everyone is invited – this will be a walking tour – rain or shine.



April 2013 - Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Newtown Historic Association was held on **April 15th at 8:00 PM** at the Half Moon (Court) Inn. In keeping with tradition, the Annual Business Meeting reports from all committee chairmen were read.

Following the Annual Business Meeting, a presentation entitled, *“Treasures from the Attic: Selected Items from the NHA Archives”* was given by David Callahan. The lecture showcased items from the archives that are interesting and unique to the Newtown community.



5th Grade Historic Walking Tour

The Newtown Historic Association conducted the annual Fifth Grade Walking Tour on **Wednesday, June 5th**. Approximately 500 children from Goodnoe Elementary School, Newtown Elementary School, and St. Andrew’s Elementary School took part in this self guided walking tour through the Borough and Township visiting 10 historic sites. This is a very popular event with the children and enables them to learn about their local Newtown heritage. The weather was perfect for the tour - This tour is coordinated by Peg Walker - a NHA member. We thank her for her time in putting this tour together with the schools and the historic sites.

Spring Cocktail Party

We had our Spring Cocktail Party on Saturday evening April 20th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. The Inn was decorated with spring flowers by Lorraine Pentz. Delicious and plentiful hors d’ourves were served. We were pleased to have quite a few new members and neighbors

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attend and everyone had a really good time.

Historic Walking Tour

Our Spring Historic Walking Tour was held on **Friday evening, June 21st** leaving the Half Moon Inn at **6:30 PM**. This tour was guided by Jeffrey Marshall, President of the Heritage Conservancy in Doylestown. The tour featured architecturally significant homes on South Chancellor Street and other streets and lasted an hour. We had approximately 80 people go on the tour.

We would like to thank Jeff for his wealth of knowledge to be able to be able to lead this tour for us.



WHAT IS IT?



Among the treasures in the Newtown Historic Association's collection is a 7 ¾ inches wide, 22 ¼ inches long and 7/8 inch thick board. It is old. On one side of the board, which has a blue painted background are the words in gold "BLUE HEN". So what was a BLUE HEN??

Was it the name of a bar, restaurant or brew house in Newtown?

Or was it somehow related to the University of Delaware whose mascot is the Blue Hen, a variety of chicken?

Or does it date back to the time of the Revolutionary War? Was it in some manner commemorating the participation of the soldiers from the area then known as the Lower Counties on the Delaware and now the State of Delaware. The regiment of eight companies came from New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties and reported for duty in January, 1776 under the command of Col. John Hasler. Also called "The Fighting Delawares" the soldiers were nicknamed "The Blue Hen's Chickens", too. The troops often amused themselves by staging cock fights with a chicken breed known as Kent County Blue Hen so named because of the chicken's blue plumage and its ferocity and fighting ability. Additionally, the

military company acquired quite a reputation for its fighting ability in engagements with the British at Long Island, White Plains, Trenton and Princeton. It appears that the "Blue Hens" were in our Area during the time of Washington's crossing of the Delaware and so they may, at one time, have been in the vicinity of Newtown.

Or was it named for an old piece of firefighting equipment that at one time belonged to the fire company? Apparently at one time such a piece of fire equipment that had been painted blue did exist. After all, the board was found in the firehouse attic when the building was being renovated and the members of the Fire Association donated it to the NHA. So that may be the answer. However no one in the Fire Company could shed any light on the board.

But where did the sign come from? Why was it made and by whom and why was it given to the Newtown Historic Association as an artifact worthwhile keeping?

CAN ANYONE ENLIGHTEN THOSE OF US WHO ARE VOLUNTEERING AT THE NEWTOWN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION'S RESEARCH LIBRARY? If so, please call us at 215-968-4004 on a Tuesday morning.

**Half Moon Inn Basement
Walls Re-pointed**




Recently the Newtown Historic Association has had three of the basement walls re-pointed with mortar as the mortar was very old and falling out. It was done by Country Stonework of Pineville who had rebuilt the historic bake oven for us last year. The cost of this re-pointing was covered by a tourism grant offered by the Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau which we applied for in the Spring of this year.

We are very grateful to have been able to obtain a grant for this work.

The *Half Moon* is published quarterly by the Newtown Historic Assn. Inc.

P. O. Box 303, Newtown, Pa 18940

 *Printed on Recycled Paper*