



# 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.

## Officers

Brian Rounsavill, *President*  
David Callahan, *First Vice President*  
Jeff Marshall, *Second Vice President*  
Teena Hanlon, *Recording Secretary*  
Mary Callahan, *Corresp. Secretary*  
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Claire Hennessy – *Hon. Director*  
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## Newtown Historic Association

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Centre Avenue & Court Street  
Newtown, PA 18940 USA  
Phone: (215) 968-4004  
[www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org)

## Half Moon Inn Sign

Keep an eye out for the new "Half Moon Inn" sign that will be placed in front of the Court Inn this winter (see image above).

## New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Diana Barbera-Horwitz, *Newtown, PA*
- Alice Daniels, *Newtown, PA*
- Charles German, *Princeville, IL*
- Carmen & Michael Gold, *New Hope, PA*
- Beverly Holub, *Newtown, PA*
- Jon & Elizabeth Hunt, *Newtown, PA*
- Andrea Kavalesky, *Newtown, PA*
- Cliff, Maryann & Blair-Ashley Kline, *Newtown, PA*
- William Knabb, *Philadelphia, PA*
- Charles Liberto, *Langhorne, PA*
- Anne Marie McKernan, *Newtown*
- Thomas Murray, *Newtown, PA*
- Victoria & Lily Roza, *Newtown, PA*
- Jeff & Sheri Sturgis, *Newtown*
- Richard & Christine Thompson, *Newtown, PA*
- Janet Beasley & Brian Titus, *Newtown, PA*
- Brian & Sandra Webster, *Newtown, PA*
- Donna White, *Yardley, PA*

## PHMC Grant

The Newtown Historic Association is pleased to announce that we are the recipient of a Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission grant in the amount of \$7,100 to be used exclusively for improvements and supplies for the research center. The Board would like to thank Mary Jane Crumlish for her outstanding work on the grant application.

## Market Day Recap

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Market Day colonial craft fair was held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> after a brief drizzle. The day turned out to be very nice and enjoyable for the visitors who browsed over 60 craftsmen and demonstrators. The candle making and children's craft activities were again very popular, along with the Militia encampment by the First Crossing Volunteers. There was open hearth cooking by Mercy Ingraham, who roasted a goose and made onion pie, while "A Better Way Farms" Belgian draft horses pulled the very popular hayride. Music and entertainment was provided by The Sugar Sands Ramblers, the "Out of Tuners" and the "Greentown Juggler". Area food vendors who participated in our "Festival of Foods" were Isaac Newton's and Lee's Hoagie House. The kettle korn by "Kornecopia" and funnel cakes by the Irish Lassie were popular as usual. The winner of the raffle to the Duke of Windsor Inn in Cape May, NJ was Barbara Hains. The Countryside Gardeners had a table displaying herb baskets, fire starters and flower arrangements. The Court Inn was open all day for tours. Overall, the public really seemed to enjoy the day. The Market Day Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make the event a success.

**GARRET B. GIRTON,**  
Contractor and Builder,  
CONGRESS ST.,  
Newtown, Pa.,

JOBBER of All Kinds Attended to.

WILL MAKE ESTIMATES FOR CONTRACT WORK, or will erect buildings by the day at reasonable figures.

**BUILDING MATERIAL ON HAND,**  
SUCH AS PLUM LINING, TERRA COTTA PIPE, SLATE, &c.

New Dwelling Houses Now for Sale on Easy Terms.

Thankful for past favors, a share of the patronage of the public is solicited for the future.

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**David J. McClanen,**  
Carpenter and Builder,  
Newtown, Pa.

If you want to build a new house or remodel the old one, consult me; your best interests require it.

Satisfactory plans and estimates furnished on short notice. Contracts taken or work done by the day. Jobbing of all kinds given prompt attention. Prices to suit the times.

Take a look at the numerous modern residences I have built in Newtown for evidence of my workmanship.

*Two New Houses, with hot and cold water, electric lights and all modern improvements, for sale on easy terms.*

Building Material constantly on hand and for sale.

Business and Shop—  
No. 125 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE.

Around the turn of the century, Newtown was being developed just as we see today. Whereas, the homes now are being built mainly by Toll Brothers and McGrath, one hundred years ago Garret B. Girton was the largest building contractor in Newtown for a period of over 60 years. Girton's legacy was followed by one of his apprentices, David J. McClanen, who built most of the homes on North Lincoln Avenue. The following article exemplifies the many building activities that were occurring in Newtown exactly one century ago.

The Colonial residence [now 125 North Chancellor Street], which David J. McClanen is building for J. Herman Barnsley, on North Chancellor Street, is now beginning to show to advantage, and the outlines indicate what it will be when finished. The building has been sheathed, all the window and door frames have been set, and it is now ready for the slate roof, which will be put on next week.

## There's Something Doing in Newtown

- by Jeff Marshall & Brian Rounsavill -

George W. Hampton's new frame house, on North Chancellor Street, above Jefferson, is nearing completion [202 North Chancellor Street]. Harry LaRue, of Wycombe, the builder, has the house trimmed out, the plasterers have finished their work, and with the building of the open stairway the carpenter work will be finished. The painters are expected to complete their work next week.

Work on the canning factory [part of 301 South State Street] is progressing, and A. Greiner, of Chicago, in charge of the building, had seventeen men working thereon on Wednesday. He hopes, with favorable weather, to be ready to turn over the building to the company by July 10th. The engine and boiler is being bricked in and the weather-boarding is being nailed on. The building will be 172 x 32 feet, with an annex 32 x 40 feet. It will be under slate roof and fitted out with all the modern appliances for canning and preserving fruits and vegetables. A.W. & W.M. Watson are supplying the lumber for the building.

The stonemasons have about completed their work of running up the cellar walls of the new boys' dormitory at the George School. The water table is in place and the brick are on hand ready for the bricklayers. The iron girders through the centre of the building were put in place this week. A large force of mechanics is at work on the structure, and it will be finished by early fall. The cellar walls for the new kitchen in the rear of the main school building

are being laid and other work is being done.

The frame lean-to, belonging to the Alexander German estate, on Jefferson Street [now the site of 200-202 North State Street], was torn down on Tuesday and Wednesday, under direction of the borough authorities. It has lately been in the occupancy of Sarah and Henry Johnson. In years gone by it had been occupied as a liquor and grocery store by numerous persons, but of late had been used as a dwelling house. The ground where it stood will be needed in making the approach to the new iron bridge, which is being built over Newtown creek at this point. Several men are now engaged in digging a new channel for the creek on the property of James V. Randall [at the rear of the Saloon property on Sycamore Street – formerly the Township House Restaurant], some distance west of where it formerly ran. A derrick for hoisting the large dimension stone and placing them on the new abutments will soon be on the ground.

Mrs. Harriet McMasters has had a new porch in front of her residence on North State Street, [102 North State Street] as has also Amos Lee, in front of his double frame house on West Washington Avenue [6-8 West Washington].

*[This article was compiled from excerpts from "There's Something Doing in Newtown" which was published in the June 20, 1903 edition of the Newtown Enterprise.]*

## Harold A. "Bud" Smith Newtown Mayor (1928-2006)



Former Newtown Mayor, Harold A. "Bud" Smith, 78 on Thursday, September 21, 2006 at his residence in Newtown Borough. Bud was a prominent political figure in Newtown, serving many posts in Newtown, most notably as Mayor of Newtown Borough.

Smith was born in Doylestown and spent his childhood in Yardley. For 30 years, he was the proprietor of Village Smithy Antiques in Newtown, until his retirement in 1992. He lived the bulk of his adult life in Newtown, where he met his wife, Francella, and became increasingly involved in politics. After 14 years of friendship, Bud and Fran got married, and enjoyed a marriage that lasted over 30 years.

Despite the many positions he held and acclamations he received as mayor, "Mr. Newtown," as he was frequently called, was most proud of serving in the Marines during World War II and also in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict.

Son of the late Hunter and Helen Bennett Smith, he is survived by his beloved wife, Francella "Fran" Ferlic Smith; his daughter Kay Bauman and her husband Michael of Webster, N.Y.; and his sister Dolly McCabe of Langhorne. He is also survived by his grandson Michael Bauman Jr.; a great granddaughter Ashley; and two nephews, John and William McCabe; and two nieces, Karen Hornbeck and Aileen Maucher.

Bud's commitment to the Community of Newtown was never ending; he was instrumental in the development of the Newtown community we see today and the building of the Newtown Bypass. In addition to serving as the Mayor of Newtown Borough from 1985 to 1994, he was a member of the Newtown Borough Council for eleven years, and president for nine of those years. Bud was named Mayor of the Year in the years 1992 and 1993 for the Borough of Newtown, chosen out of all the mayors of Boroughs throughout Pennsylvania.

It should be noted that Bud served on the Board of the Newtown Historic Association, the Newtown Tricentennial Committee, and was President of the Committee that Rebuilt the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge in Tyler Park.

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for assisting in the research center with copying and filing on Tuesdays from 9 AM to 3 PM, Thursdays from 7-9 PM, and also on Saturdays beginning after the New Year. Contact Harriet Beckert at (215) 860-7529.

### October Meeting

The October meeting of the Newtown Historic Association was held on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Court Inn. About 40 people attended the lecture entitled, "The History, Architecture and Dating of Bucks County Barns" that was presented by Jeffrey L Marshall, Vice President of Resource Protection for the Heritage Conservancy. The photographic presentation highlighted the history of the different types and styles of Bucks County barns, how to identify typical features found in a Bucks County barn, and how to determine the age of barns. Those in attendance enjoyed the informative lecture.

### Two Book Signings

Two book signings were held to launch the NHA's most recent publication, "*Newtown: Past & Present*". The first was held on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Stocking Works. Over 100 people attended the event and met with the authors. The second signing was coordinated with the Newtown Library Company on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Newtown Library. Over 40 people attended this event and enjoyed a presentation and discussed the work. "*Newtown: Past & Present*" is a unique photographic and historical journal comprised of eighty one photo pairs that chronicle over a century of progress and change in Newtown. The goal was to replicate the original views by attempting to locate the "tripod holes" of the earlier Newtown photographers who first collected these views in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Copies may still be purchased at the Newtown Hardware House. All proceeds benefit the Newtown Historic Association, Inc.

## Open House Tour

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Open House Tour will be held on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. In the event of inclement weather, the tour will be held on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The following private homes and public buildings will be featured:

- Balderston House (232 South Chancellor St.)
- Ettinger/Bauman House (309 Washington Ave.)
- Linkenheimer House (101 South Chancellor St.)
- Sturgis House (23 S. Chancellor St.)
- Edmonds House (117 N. Lincoln Ave.)
- The Temperance House Lodgings
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- Newtown Fire Association
- Newtown Library Company
- Newtown Borough Council
- The Stocking Works
- The Court Inn

The Court Inn will feature open hearth cooking, colonial music and re-enactors of the colonial period. Refreshments of mulled cider and cheese will be served throughout the day. Tickets are \$20.00 and will be sold the day of the tour at the Court Inn and at the Stocking Works. Parking is available at the Stocking Works. Advance ticket sales at Newtown Hardware House. Rest room facilities are located at the Court Inn and the Newtown Borough Council Chambers. No photos or high-heeled shoes allowed in the houses. For information, call (215) 968-4004.

## Chancellor St. Schools

There are only two ceramic Chancellor Street School replicas left! The limited edition lighted schools were cast in 1998 and can be purchased for \$19.99, plus tax.

## Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- Anthony Petsis & Associates
- David J. Witchell Salon & Spa
- Dragonfly, Ltd.
- First National Bank of Newtown
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson
- Mom's Bake at Home Pizza
- Newtown Hardware House
- Newtown-Jamison Physical Therapy
- Newtown Roofing Company
- One Ten South Salon
- Peruzzi Automotive Group
- Pickering, Corts & Summerson
- ReMax Properties, Ltd.
- St. Mary Medical Center
- Stuckert & Yates
- The Law Office of Paul Beckert
- The Temperance House
- The Township House
- Thomas-Guy Design, Ltd.
- Tyrol Agency, Inc.
- Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
- YellowHouse Antiques

## November Meeting

The November meeting will be held on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM at the Court Inn. "Save Our Steel: The Redevelopment of Bethlehem Steel" will be presented by Amey Senape and Mike Kramer, preservationists who formed the grassroots organization "Save Our Steel" in 2003 to advocate the historically sensitive re-development of the former Bethlehem Steel plant in Bethlehem. The short documentary video "Homestead: From Mill to Mall" will be shown. The film explores the consequences of uncontrolled commercial redevelopment of US Steel's former flagship plant, the "Homestead Works," and offers suggestions to Bethlehem for its steel mill redevelopment. The public is invited, refreshments to be served.

## Some New Accessions

- *History of China's Retreat* by Ned Barnsley— Robert & Ann Bartels
- Various Fuhrer Family Photos – George Moser
- Various 1924-35 Chancellor School Class Photos – George Forsyth
- 1876 Bucks County Combination Atlas & Map CD – Charles Lauble
- Interior Photo of Musser's Pharmacy that was located at 2-4 South State St. – Mary Crane
- *The Newtown Railroad Reels, Vol. VIII, IX, X, XI, XII & XIII 1893 - 1920* – Richard Mansley
- *History of Transportation in the United States Before 1860* – Richard Mansley
- Various Antique Linen & Apparel Items – Nancy Russell
- *A Stroll Through Nineteenth Century Buckingham* by Jeffrey Marshall – Jeff & Becky Marshall
- Lavender Hall Farms & Yamamoto & Sons Farms Mailboxes – Paul & Laurie Gouza
- Various Genealogical Items and Photographs Related to the Chambers Family – Susan Rose
- Numerous Photographs, Including: 1939 Newtown High School Band; 1938 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class; Lavelle Aircraft Employees; Cunningham Nursery; and Morrel Smith Legion Post #440 – Mike Donovan
- Items Related to Goodnoe's Restaurant – Paul & Laurie Gouza
- Postcard of Enterprise Basketball Team of 1912 – Sidney Yates

## Upcoming Events

- **General Membership Meeting,** November 20
- **Open House Tour,** December 2. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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