



# 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.

## Officers

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

## Board of Directors

Harriet Beckert  
Douglas "Skip" Gittens  
Paul Gouza  
Jeanne Haeckel  
Joanne Nardo  
Geno Peruzzi  
Susan Thompson  
Cathy Treverio  
David Walton  
Dolly Gish - *Hon. Director*  
David Mahler - *Parliamentarian*

## Newtown Historic Association

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

## New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Newtown Historic Association:

- Evelyn Boada, *Newtown*
- Marianne Brady & William Mark, *Newtown*
- Chris & Johanna Hager, *Newtown*
- Ross & Ann Hendricks, *Newtown*
- Beth & Jeffrey Rogers, *Newtown*
- Eva Saggese & James Meeks, *Newtown*
- Ruth & Bill Voss, *Newtown*

## November Meeting

The November meeting will be held on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM at the *Half-Moon Inn*. "Divining Old Houses" will be presented by Kathy Auerbach, a noted preservation consultant, who will present clues to understanding the construction, age and history of old houses in Bucks County. Ms. Auerbach consults with the Institute for Community Preservation on historic bridge issues and specializes in architectural analysis and historical research. She has led Bucks County community College students to receive Honorable Mention (1997), 3rd Place (2003) & 4th Place (2005) Peterson Prizes and is currently directing Historic American Building Survey documentation for the National Park Service. The public is invited to enjoy this most informative lecture and refreshments will be served in the *Half-Moon Inn*.

## Open House Tour

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Open House Tour will be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. In the event of inclement weather, the tour will be held on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The following private homes and public buildings will be featured:

- Hager House (237 S. Chancellor St.)
- Saggese/Meeks House (139 N. Lincoln Ave.)
- Moss/Coane House (319 E. Washington Ave.)
- Hagan House (203 E. Washington Ave.)
- Markey/Greene House (15 Liberty St.)
- Mathis/Tottoroto House (114 Liberty St.)
- Hendricks House (17 Jefferson St.)
- Szwajkos Train Display (107 Penn St.)
- Newtown Friends Home (50 S. Congress St.)
- Newtown Methodist Church (Liberty & Greene Sts.)
- Newtown Borough Hall (23 N. State St.)
- The Half-Moon Inn (101 Court St.)

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.

## Come Celebrate!

Join us in celebrating the 275th Anniversary of the *Half-Moon Inn*. See the website for more details in 2008.



## Thornton/Hicks House Update



As noted in the June 2007 *Half-Moon*, a serious structural problem was discovered on the first floor of the Thornton/Hicks House. Accordingly, a proxy vote of our membership was conducted in April to approve the funds necessary to remedy the situation.

We had planned to renovate the Thornton/Hicks House once we took full possession of the property; however, the recently discovered structural issues required immediate action, but they would have been necessary at some point in the near future. Due to the emergency nature of the problem, and their prior experience with the Thornton/Hicks House, we engaged the services of Twining Construction to address the problem as cost-effectively and efficiently as possible over the summer months.

We are pleased to report that, through the prudent project management by our Buildings & Grounds Committee, in particular David Callahan, the total cost of the project came in at \$69,824, which was approximately one-third less than anticipated. 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 update the membership on this important project.

## Boone Garden Project



Work continues on the Boone Garden restoration project. The Newtown Historic Association has enlisted the help of a second Eagle Scout, Chris Ruth, member of Newtown Troop #29.

Chris has been working toward completing his Eagle Scout project, which involved clearing the area where the new fence will be installed, regrading the center of the lot and helping erect the wooden fence, modeled after the fence at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, between the Grotto property and the Boone Garden.

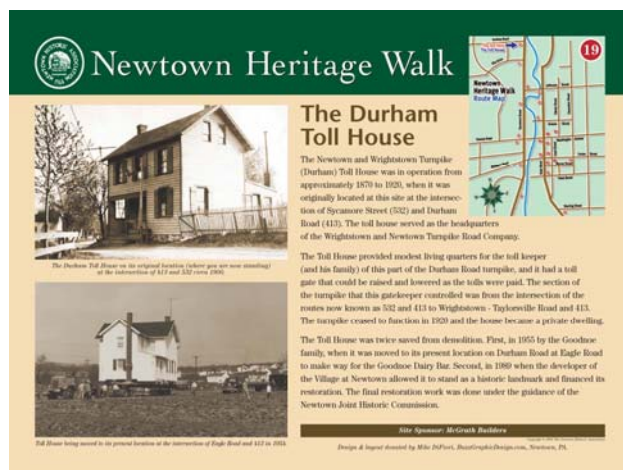
This Eagle Scout project is a great way for the Newtown Historic Association, with the generous and able assistance of Troop #29, to help revitalize one of the few remaining open spaces in Newtown Borough. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris and his fellow troop members who have been helping with the completion of this project.

Once the project has been completed, the Newtown Garden Club will take on the annual maintenance of the Boone Garden grounds. The NHA is seeking contributions from members and other organizations interested in supporting this project.

## The Newtown Heritage Walk To Be Officially Launched

The Newtown Historic Association will celebrate the official grand opening of the Newtown Heritage Walk on Friday, November 2nd at 6:30 PM at the Half-Moon Inn. Join us for a ribbon-cutting, cake and an evening walking tour (weather permitting).

The Newtown Heritage Walk project is a self-guided walking tour consisting of thirty-four sites in Newtown Borough and Newtown Township.



Sample sign for the Toll House on the Heritage Walk.

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

### Sites (Sponsors):

1. **Half Moon Inn** - 101 Court Street (*Newtown Historic Association*)
2. **Newtown Library Company** - 114 East Centre Avenue (*Newtown Library Company*)
3. **Edward Hicks House** - 122 Penn Street (*Newtown Friends Meeting*)
4. **White Hall Hotel** - 127 South State Street (*Capital Franchise Group and the Casey Family*)
5. **Friends Meeting** - 219 Court Street (*Newtown Friends Meeting*)
6. **Stocking Works** - 301 South State Street (*Newtown Historic Association*)
7. **Newtown Cannery & China Factory** - 451 South State Street (*M&T Bank*)
8. **Olde Church of Saint Andrew** - 138 South Sycamore Street (*Callanan Stained Glass Studio*)
9. **Twining Farm** - South Sycamore Street & Cambridge Lane (*The Corners at Newtown Place - Managed by The Quaker Group*)
10. **McMasters House** - 13 West Centre Avenue (*Paul Allen & Jack Lacey*)

11. **Washington's Headquarters** - 2 South Sycamore Street (*LukOil*)
12. **Buckman Farm** - 2 Swamp Road (*Cotswold Group*)
13. **Old Presbyterian Church** - 76 North Sycamore Street (*Historic Church Committee*)
14. **William Penn's New Town** - North Sycamore Street - Near Jefferson Avenue (*Newtown Rotary Club*)
15. **Saloon** - 203 North Sycamore Street (*Saloon*)
16. **Brooks House** - 221 North Sycamore Street (*Carriage House Collection / Robert & Sandra Thomas*)
17. **Boyd-Yardley House** - 223 North Sycamore Street (*Tyrol Insurance*)
18. **Goodnoe Farm & Dairy Bar** - 2865 South Eagle Road (*Goodnoe Family*)
19. **Durham Road Toll House** - 298 North Sycamore Street (*J.W. McGrath Organization*)
20. **Macedonia Baptist Church** - 218 North State Street (*Macedonia Baptist Church*)
21. **North State Street** - 156 North State Street (*Randall Carriage Realty Group*)
22. **Newtown Theatre** - 120 North State Street (*Knights of Pythias & Mr. & Mrs. James M. Baniewicz & Family*)
23. **Newtown Common & Creek** - 30 North State Street (*Newtown Creek Coalition*)
24. **Newtown Borough Hall** - 23 North State Street (*Newtown Borough*)
25. **St. Mark AME Zion Church** - 136 North Congress Street (*Friends of St. Mark*)
26. **Wesley Hall** - 35 Liberty Street (*Newtown United Methodist Church Memorial Fund*)
27. **Newtown Fire Association** - 14 Liberty Street (*Newtown Fire Association*)
28. **St. Luke's Episcopal Church** - 100 East Washington Avenue (*Mary Benedict Callahan & Mary Roberts Hunter*)
29. **Brick Hotel** - 1 East Washington Avenue (*Brick Hotel*)
30. **Paxson-Croasdale Building & Newtown Trolley** - 2-4 South State Street (*Stuckert & Yates*)
31. **Temperance House** - 5-11 South State Street (*Temperance House*)
32. **Newtown - The County Seat** - 35 South State Street (*Newtown Business & Professional Association*)
33. **First National Bank** - 40 South State Street (*First National Bank*)
34. **Bird-in-Hand** - 111 South State Street (*Newtown Reliance Company and Jonathan & Elizabeth Hunt*)

Remember to come join us on November 2nd at 6:30 PM to officially open the Newtown Heritage Walk. For more information, visit the NHA Website: [www.newtownhistoric.org/heritagewalk.html](http://www.newtownhistoric.org/heritagewalk.html).



## Market Day Recap

The 31st annual Market Day colonial craft fair was held on Saturday, September 15th after tropical storm Humberto left us with a downpour at 9:00 am and then clear skies at 10:00 am. 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 in the backyard of the Half Moon Inn. There was open hearth cooking by Susan Plaisted who cooked a whole pig on a spit while "A Better Way Farms" Belgian draft horses pulled the very popular hayride. Music and entertainment was provided by The Boys from County Bucks (our new group) and the "Out of Tuners". 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 Queen Victoria Inn in Cape May, New Jersey was Susie Morton of Riegelsville. Overall, it was a very nice day. The Market Day Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success!

### Earn a History Detective Badge

Visit all 34 locations on the Heritage Walk and answer the History Detective questions on our website and you will receive an official *Newtown History Detective* badge.



## 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 Chevrolet & Chrysler
- Stuckert and Yates
- The Law Office of Paul R. Beckert, Jr.
- Thomas-Guy Design, Ltd.
- Waitkus Design Landscape Architects

## October Meeting

The October meeting of the Newtown Historic Association was held on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Court Inn. About 40 people attended the lecture entitled, "Civilians in the Civil War" by Paula Gidjunis, a noted Civil War historian, that explained the roles and functions that civilians performed during the Civil War. The focus of the talk was on detailing the occupations, services, and other duties that civilians carried out during the Civil War. In addition, the lecture explored the impact that the Civil War had on the lives of civilians. Specifically, details were shared on how civilians coped with the destruction of Civil War and its aftermath. The use of primary sources such as diaries and letters helped tell the story of the Civil War participants. Those in attendance really enjoyed the informative lecture and light refreshments.

## Some New Accessions

- Newtown Railroad Station, Framed Prints, – *Craig & Belva Hackett*
- 36 Color Photos from the 2002 Gala for "Signs" – *David Graham*
- Various Photos and Business Cards of Homiller Family – *John D. Orr*
- 1943 Ledger Book from Edward Pickering – *Paul & Laurie Gouza*
- Worstall Carriage House Drawings at 98-100 Penn St. – *Allan Smith*
- Collection of Various Items from the First National Bank & Trust Company – *John Parry*
- Photograph & Bio of John Fitzpatrick – *Thomas Foote*
- Township House Restaurant Souvenir Coin – *Paul & Laurie Gouza*
- Sands Pharmacy, Holiday Opening Advertisement, circa 1950 – *James & Dori McCrane*
- Various Items Relating to Council Rock Community Center Concerts Association – *Everett Johnson, Jr.*
- Two Complete World War I Uniforms, including: Photographs, Army Saddle, Helmet, Revolver, Holster, Duffle Bag, Three Artillery Shells – *Walter Eckard*
- *CD of Historic Map Preservation Series – 1886 Maps of Newtown, Hulmeville, Langhorne & Yardley – Jeff & Becky Marshall*

## Upcoming Events

- **Newtown Heritage Walk Grand Opening**, November 2. 6:30 p.m. @ the Half-Moon Inn.
- **General Membership Meeting**, "Divining Old Houses," November 19. 8:00 p.m. @ the Half-Moon Inn.
- **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.

---