



NEWTOWN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Court St. & Centre Ave., Newtown, Pa.18940
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PRESS RELEASE

Newtown Historic Association presents the
“The Bird-in-Hand Raid Reenactment”

The Newtown Historic Association will host *“The Raid on the Bird in Hand Reenactment”* on Saturday, May 30, 2009 on the streets of Court and Mercer in historic Newtown Borough. **The actual battles will take place at 11:00 AM and at 2:00 PM.** The special reenactment will feature The 5th PA Regiment Continental Army who will be encamped in the area from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and give various demonstrations of colonial things.

On the evening of February 18, 1778, a raiding party of forty Loyalists in the Light Dragoons and Bucks County Volunteers left Philadelphia and marched the twenty-six miles to Middletown in Bucks County, where they surprised and captured a guard and some cloth at Jenk’s Fulling Mill. They then continued to Newtown, where they overpowered sixteen Pennsylvania militia men, led by Francis Murray, in a house known as “Bird-in-Hand,” five of whom they killed. They then returned to Philadelphia, carrying with them 2,000 yards of material, two wagons filled with timber, and thirty-two prisoners.

The Bucks County raid, fifty-six miles traversed in only twenty-two hours, was a bold stroke. In addition to depriving poorly dressed soldiers of the 13th Pennsylvania Regiment of cloth they desperately needed for uniforms, it was the most daring and successful military venture undertaken during the British occupation of Philadelphia – and it was led and carried out by Pennsylvanians. A Tory newspaper in Philadelphia called the “Newtown Skirmish,” as it would later become known, a “gallant action” that “must certainly meet with the applause of the public, and do great credit to officers who conducted it, and the men who, under their direction, accomplished it.” It also showed the commitment of Americans loyal to the Crown to fight for their beliefs.¹

¹ <http://www.explorepahistory.com>

The commemorative plaque in front of the house reads, "*Loyalist Raid of 1778 - The largest Loyalist raid during the British occupation of Philadelphia (1777-78) took place at the "Old Frame House," an inn in Newtown where a group of tailors was making uniforms for the Revolutionary Army. The loyalists*

The Public is invited to watch

For further information call 215-968-3914 or visit the NHA Website
www.newtownhistoric.org.

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