



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

Paul Gouza, *President*
Bill Mahler, *First Vice President*
Barry Fleck, *Second Vice President*
Mary Jo Garner, *Recording Secretary*
Mary Callahan, *Corresp. Secretary*
Marge Torongo, *Treasurer*

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Brian Rounsavill
Susan Thompson
David Walton
David Callahan-*Honorary Life Director*

Newtown Historic Association

P.O. Box 303
105 Court Street
Newtown, PA 18940 USA
Phone: (215) 968-4004
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:

Carrie Wetherby

Major Donations Received

Charles Bancroft \$2,397
Leonard Franckowiak \$500
Paul Gonsalves – Veterans Project
Richard & Georgia Koenig \$750
Susan McEwen-Fial \$1,000
Marga Rogers \$800
Robert Weiss \$400

Note – meeting time change

All meetings will begin at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted

January Dinner

The January Homeowner & Volunteer Recognition Dinner meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th at 6:00 PM at the Temperance House, 5 S. State St. Newtown. Honoring the homeowners who had their houses open for the Holiday Open House Tour Public Building Stewards and two Volunteers of the Year will be honored. Contact Keyna Crawford 215-968-2783 for reservations – the cost is \$40.00 per person – or sign up on line.



Holiday Open House Tour

Our tour this year had a beautiful and sunny day and we sold over 900 tickets which was more than we have sold in recent years. We had a great variety of houses on the tour with all different decorating styles. We also had very interesting public buildings to tour. We wish to thank everyone who had a hand in the tour as it was a really great day.



*George & Martha:
A Love Story*



February Program

We are having a different February program this year - it will be “George and Martha: A Love Story” to be held on Saturday, February 11th at 7:30 pm at the Half Moon Inn. Our own professional storyteller, Alisa Dupuy, portrays numerous ladies from history that have shaped our world. Alisa performs all over New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland for historical societies, libraries, bed and breakfasts, book clubs, social clubs, church fundraisers and schools.

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Sam Davis, has brought George Washington to life at many historic sites. As a first-person interpreter, he continues to enlighten and entertain audiences of all ages with his vast knowledge of George Washington. Complimentary wine and cherry desserts will be served after the program.

Cost \$25.00 per person – send checks payable to Newtown Historic Assn. P. O. Box 303, Newtown, PA 18940.

Or register online at

www.newtownhistoric.org/george-martha.

Space is limited – so get your reservation or check in early

For further information call 215-968-3914.

Newsletter Articles

We are always happy to have people write articles of interest for our readers. If you have a topic of interest, please send to Mary Callahan dcnhh@comcast.net



15th Annual Tavern Night at the Half Moon Inn

“Tavern Night at the Half Moon Inn” will be held on Saturday, March 11th from 7 – 11 pm. The evening will feature 18th century ale and beer, music, dancing and games, along with delicious food catered by Joseph Garvey of Joey G’s and Joseph’s Catering. There will also be a Silent Auction. As ever, all proceeds from Tavern Night benefit the Newtown Historic Assn and support its various projects. Reservations are \$50.00 per person – mail a check payable to Newtown Historic Assn c/o Callahan, 113 Court St., Newtown or order online

www.newtownhistoric.org/tavernnight. Space is limited – for further info call 215-968-3914 or email billyswim33@yahoo.com.

Morell Smith Revisited

The March meeting of the Newtown Historic Association will be held on **Tuesday, March 21st at 7:30 PM at the American Legion Post 440, 41 Linden Avenue, Newtown.** “Morell Smith Revisited” will be presented by Jon Guy, retired Army Reserve Officer and past Commander of Post 440. The story behind the death of Morell Smith doesn’t end with the tragic tale of a Newtownian felled in the line of duty while serving his country, it continues on with the long and painful story of a prominent family crushed by their loss. He was the only Newtown resident killed in World War I and his legacy sparked Newtown’s then newly-formed American Legion Post No. 440 to be named in his honor – a distinction still held today. No reservations needed.

Spring Clean

Join us, roll up your sleeves and give an hour or two on Saturday, March 18th from 8:30 am to whenever. Make the Half Moon Inn shine!

Why Construction Costs Matter

By Kevin Brooks

Often owners of historic homes are faced with a dilemma – **What coverage limit is appropriate for my home?**

Historic Homes need special attention and care when developing your insurance policy coverage limit. Unique construction features, handcraftsmanship and other rebuilding considerations all need to be evaluated.

Historic Homes should not be insured in the same manner as tract homes. Consider the typical features of a Historic Home: extensive handcraftsmanship, plaster and lath walls and ceilings, solid masonry exteriors, random-width hardwood floors, custom crown moldings, and the list goes on. If you have renovated your historic home you understand that the associated materials and construction costs differ from modern construction costs. By their nature, Historic Homes are inherently more expensive to repair or replace.

Consider the numbers:

- Custom carved molding in historic homes can cost as much as \$30 per linear foot. The increase from standard 3-inch molding to 5-inch molding doubles that cost.
- Plaster and lath is approximately three times more expensive than drywall and is more labor intensive to repair or replace.

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- Solid masonry can increase the rebuilding cost by 20-25% more than brick veneer, and solid stone can cost 25-30% more than stone veneer.
- Asphalt shingles cost about \$5 per square foot compared to slate shingles, which cost about \$28 per square foot.

So, what coverage limit is appropriate? The best way to determine the appropriate value is to have a qualified reconstruction estimate performed. The determination must include your homes special features and attributes. It is essential for historic homeowners to assure they are protecting their home for its true replacement value. This is separate and apart from the homes Real Estate Value or any Mortgage Commitments. You want to be sure your evaluation considers your home's unique features and that your policy doesn't replace your random width flooring with laminate floors, your plaster and lath with sheetrock, or your custom moldings with off the shelf replacements from Home Depot. So when you get around to your spring cleaning this year, dust off those old insurance policies and ask yourself, **“What is my historic home really worth?”**

Kevin Brooks is a personal insurance advisor with Johnson, Kendall & Johnson in Newtown, PA. He can be reached at 215-579-6434 or kbrooks@jkj.com.

Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- A. L. Patterson
- David J. Witchell Salon & Spa
- First National Bank of Newtown
- DeFrehn Roofing
- Friends Home & Village
- Gilbert, Wilson & Hunter LLP
- Global Mortgage Network Inc.
- Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- Mary Dinneen, Realtor
- MeMa Mates
- William B. Parry & Son Ltd
- Robert Small & Associates LLC
- Stuckert and Yates
- T & T Tree Service
- Triumph Physical Therapy
- Waitkus Design Landscape Architects
- Zlock & Coverdale, PC

Upcoming Events:

January Dinner

Sunday, January 29th 6:00 pm
At the Temperance House

George & Martha: A Love Story

Saturday, February 11th 7:30 pm

Tavern Night at the Half Moon Inn

Saturday, March 11th 7:30 pm

Clean Up Day

Saturday, March 18th 8:30 am

Morell Smith Revisited

Tuesday March 21st at 7:30 pm
American Legion Post, 41 Linden Ave. Newtown

April Annual Meeting

“Show and Tell”

Monday, April 17th at 7:30 pm bring an interesting item and tell us a story about it. Also election of Directors and Officers and reports from Committee chairpeople.

Spring Cocktail Party

Saturday, April 22nd from 5 – 8 pm.
Come and socialize with neighbors and friends. \$35.00 per person – Invitations will be forthcoming.

Please check out Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/newtownhistoricassociation>

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