

***The Annual Report of the
Newtown Historic Association***
April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

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Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Report of the President

The Newtown Historic Association had another busy year full of events, programs and activities. We are very fortunate to have dedicated members and friends of the organization who share their interest and commitment to meet our mission of stimulating interest in, preserving and celebrating Newtown's historic heritage.

Through our events like Market Day, Holiday Open House, Tavern Night and walking tours, to name a few, we continue to provide an opportunity to those who share our passion for the history of Newtown.

Our research facility continues to grow and serve as a valuable resource for the surrounding community.

The following committee reports demonstrate the true definition of being a volunteer resulting in another successful year for the association.

Once again, we are indebted to all our members and friends who have given their time and energies toward reliving the past, stimulating the present and preserving for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Gouza, President

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015 Holiday Open House Tour Report

**REPORT OF HEAD HOSTESS CHAIR – LORRAINE PENTZ
DECEMBER 5, 2015**

Homeowners

Marc & Andrea Bayford
120 S. Chancellor Street

Christine Edmonds
117 N. Lincoln Avenue

David and Mary Hunter
32 S. Chancellor Street

Benjamin & Elizabeth Stucker
228 S. Chancellor Street

Phil & Linda Winn
145 Liberty Street

Head Hostess

Lisa Witkosky

Meg Newell & Rebecca Bancroft

Lois Molloy

Johanna Hager

Heather Lewis

Public Buildings

St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church
Newtown Fire Association
Newtown Library
Newtown Theatre
Court Inn
Stocking Works

It becomes increasingly more difficult each year to find six homeowners willing to participate in the tour. This year we had five. Dave Callahan, Bill Mahler and JoAnne Nardo are to be commended for their tireless efforts in scouting the borough for houses that represent our historic heritage. Those homeowners that did agree to be on the tour made an effort to welcome visitors into homes that were tastefully furnished and decorated in the Christmas spirit.

The ladies who act as Head Hostesses for each house play an important role in the tour. I might add they always do it with cheerfulness and are usually people I can depend on to help the day go smoothly. They contact people to work in the houses, set up schedules, meet with the homeowners, the workers and myself at the house prior to the tour date and provide instructions regarding the stations the workers will cover. Concise

written instructions have been developed over the years for both the Head Hostess and the workers. Anyone not attending the meeting is sent the instructions by email. Many people who work tell me how much they enjoy being a part of the tour.

Publicity is an important part of the tour and Terry Keane continues, year after year, to see that the message gets out to the media.

We offered complimentary tickets to the homeowners and workers with the stipulation that they only take them if they plan to go on the tour. All who are offered the tickets are always very appreciative.

It was a pleasure working with everyone on the tour. We are very fortunate to live in a community of people who value and appreciate what Newtown has to offer and contribute to its preservation.

Report of the Head Hostess Chair
Lorraine Pentz

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Building and Grounds Committee

The Buildings and Grounds Committee continued to be pro-active this past year, recognizing and addressing any maintenance issue on our properties.

In looking toward the future needs of the association, the committee enlisted the services of Frens and Frens to develop a conceptual plan of the association's properties.

A new boiler was installed in the Thornton-Hicks House along with a new kitchen drain line. The trim and shutters were also painted.

The committee would like to thank the Countryside Gardeners for taking care of the Court Inn backyard - providing beautiful plants and flowers for the Newtown community to enjoy all summer long.

Also, we would like to thank Karen Groff and her helpers for their continued efforts maintaining and beautifying the borough's most treasured community garden.

Our annual Clean-Up Day was a huge success. Special thanks to Keyna Crawford, Joanne Nardo, Susan Thompson, Neil Messina, Bronwyn Jones, Dave and Mary Callahan, John Duggan, Phil Wynn, Dave Walton, Kevin Brooks, Paul Gouza, Mary Dineen, Barry Fleck and his grandson, Mitchell.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Gouza, Dave Callahan, Barry Fleck, Geno Peruzzi and Dave Walton

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Treasurer's Report

DATE OF REPORT: 04/01/16

PERIOD ENDING: 03/31/16

BALANCE ON HAND: 04/01/15 \$10,715.00

RECEIPTS

Building Rental	500.00	Program Revenue	925.00	
Cocktail Party	2,805.00	"Historic Newtown" Royalties	104.00	
Donations	3,098.00	"Newtown Past & Present" Book	240.00	
Grant – Open House Flags	3,000.00	Research Center	97.54	3,060.00
House Plaques	249.00	Sales Tax	43.00	
Market Day 2015	10,838.00	Tavern Night 2016	2,425.00	
Market Day 2016	1,410.00	Tavern Night Auction	1,000.00	
Market Day Raffle	1,921.00	Tour Donations	486.00	
Membership-Corporate	1,500.00	Winter Dinner	2,580.00	
Membership	8,290.00	Transfer from Savings	10,125.00	
Membership – Life	500.00			
Memorial Donations	1,400.00	TOTAL RECEIPTS		
Miscellaneous	55.00	\$84,116.00		
Museum Shop	232.00			
Open House Tickets	22,710.00	RECEIPTS &		
Open House Ads & Sponsors	1,750.00	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 94,831	

DISBURSEMENTS:

LAUER PROPERTY:

Interest	6,473.00
Gutter Cleaning	250.00
Lawn Maintenance	767.00
Snow Removal	369.00
Maintenance	588.00
Taxes	5,225.00
	\$13,672.00

OPERATING EXPENSE

Accounting Audit	2,500.00
Architect Fee	6,125.00
Boone Garden	91.00
Capital Projects–	
Exit Lights	855.00

Clock Repair	1,200.00
Cocktail Party	589.00
Countryside Gardeners	375.00
Donations	200.00
Grant – Newtown Borough	
Commons	250.00
House Plaques	224.00
Insurance	15,907.00
Market Day	1,808.00
Market Day Raffle	690.00
Membership	484.00
Miscellaneous	212.00
Museum Shop	405.00
Office Supplies	440.00
Open House	3,013.00
Pa. Charitable Reg.	100.00
Photographs	87.00

Postage & P. O. Box	490.00
Programs	140.00
Research	1,721.00
Safety Deposit Box	25.00
Sales Tax	69.00
Tavern Night	2,737.00
Visa charge	131.00
Website	2,200.00
Winter Dinner	2,889.00

OUTSIDE SERVICES

Alarm	300.00
Cleaning Service	275.00
Copier Maintenance	420.00
Electric	3,484.00
Electric – Boone Garden	300.00
Exterminator	400.00
Fire & Boro Inspection	299.00
Fuel Oil	1,224.00
Gutter Cleaning	350.00
Lawn Maintenance	925.00
Maintenance	1,256.00
Sewer	328.00
Snow Removal	444.00
Telephone & Internet	1,724.00
Water	229.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 74,388.00

ENDING BALANCE \$20,443.00

THORNTON/HICKS ACCOUNT

DATE OF REPORT: 04/01/16

PERIOD ENDING: 03/31/16

BALANCE ON HAND: 04/01/2015 **\$143,638.00**

RECEIPTS:

Interest	207.00	
Verizon Dividend	781.00	
Frontier Dividend	35.00	\$1,023.00

RECEIPTS AND BEGINNING BALANCE **\$144,661.00**

DISBURSEMENTS:

Newtown Mechanical	5,300.00	
New heater		
J. Swerk, Painting	3,800.00	
Frens & Frens Architect.	1,875.00	
		\$ 10,975.00

ENDING BALANCE **\$133,686.00**

SAVING ACCOUNT

DATE OF REPORT: 04/01/16

PERIOD ENDING: 03/31/16

BALANCE ON HAND: 04/01/15 **\$19,688.00**

RECEIPTS:

Interest	22.00	
First National Bank Donation	9,000.00	

RECEIPTS AND BEGINNING BALANCE **\$28,710.00**

DISBURSEMENTS:

Transfer to Checking	10,125.00	
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ENDING BALANCE **\$18,585.00**

Respectfully submitted
Marge Torongo, Treasurer

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Education Committee Report

The Newtown Historic Association coordinated the following educational lectures and special educational events this year:

- April 20, 2015 – “Show and Tell” with interesting objects brought by the attendees (Annual Meeting)
- May 17, 2015 “Walking Tour of Newtown Cemetery” featuring 10 business people of Newtown
By members of the NHA Board of Directors (General Membership Meeting)
- June 3, 2015 – Fifth Grade Walking Tour of Newtown coordinated by Peg Walker. Over 600 students from Goodnoe Elementary, Newtown Elementary and St. Andrew Grade School attended. The Half Moon Inn and nine other sites were visited on the tour.
- June 19, 2015 – Spring Historic Walking Tour of architecturally significant homes on North Chancellor St. and North Lincoln Ave. About 80 people attended. Led by Jeff Marshall, President of the Heritage Conservancy.
- October 3, 2015 Market Day –although held indoors due to high winds, featured Open Hearth Cooking by Connie Unangst, woodworking by David Kirkpatrick and scarecrow making by members of the Newtown Historic Association.
- November 16, 2015 “A Behind the Scenes Look at George School” by David Long (General Membership Meeting).
- December 4, 2015 “Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol” presented by Alisa Dupuy and organized by Susan Thompson. November 17, 2014 – “Taverns of New Jersey” by Dennis Bertland (General Membership Meeting)
- December 5, 2015 “Holiday Open House Tour” A tour of twelve historic homes and public buildings decorated for the holiday season.
- February 15, 2016 – “The Man Who Built Newtown – Garrett B. Girton” by Jeff Marshall, President of the Heritage Conservancy (General Membership Meeting)
- March 21, 2016 – “Women at the 1777-1778 Valley Forge Encampment” presented by Dr. Nancy Loane (General Membership Meeting)

Each year, efforts are made to develop special educational programs and coordinate outreach efforts aimed at promoting the history and culture of Newtown and the surrounding community.

Respectfully submitted,

Keyna Crawford, Education Chair

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Tavern Night Report

On Saturday, March 12, 2016, the Annual Tavern Night fundraiser was held in the Half Moon Inn. Approximately 55 people enjoyed Food, Drink, Dancing, Music, a silent auction and Fun! Food was provided by Joe Garvey. Dancing was directed by John Krumm. Wine and Beer were available in the Tavern. The beer was from the Yard's Brewery in Philadelphia and came from their "Ales of the Revolution" line which features brewing recipes passed down from George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. Late night music and entertainment provided by Bill Dooley, Dennis O'Brien and other guests.

A very special thank you to Barry Fleck, Mary Dinneen, Geno Peruzzi, Susan Thompson and Bronwyn Jones for donating Items to the Auction. Also thanks to Marc Masso, owner, of La Stalla; and Kevin Brooks from Johnson Kendall Johnson for their donations.

Additionally, a Special Thank you to Hank Crawford, Owner from Cold Spring Beverages in Wrightstown who ordered the Beer and Tap system.

Financial Report:

INCOME:

Ticket Sales	\$2,400.00
Silent Auction	\$ 995.00

EXPENSES:

Brillman Rental	\$ 191.00
Wine	\$ 200.00
Beer	\$ 110.00
Food	\$1,385.00
John Krumm (and Musicians)	\$ 475.00
Bill Dooley	\$ 150.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 16.00

Net Profit - \$868.00

Respectfully Submitted by Bill Mahler, Chairman of Tavern Night Committee

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Research Center Report

Edward R. Barnsley Room of Newtown History

The Edward R. Barnsley Room of Newtown History or Research Center continues to be open to the public on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. In the last year, almost 1,200 people called or visited the Court Inn and Research Center, primarily for tours. Over 57 people visited the Research Library to research Newtown history, genealogy and properties.

Our main emphasis continues to be updating our computer catalogue with information from new accessions and with data from items in the collection that have not been previously catalogued. From April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, we processed 41 gifts and a total of over 1028 new items were added to the collection. In addition, the computer entries of approximately 700 items already in the computer were updated to complete the entries. As of the end of March, our computer inventory included 16,074 photographs, 1,674 books, 3,653 objects and 17,813 archival items for a total of 39,214 items. This total reflects an increase of 1,981 items over last year.

In the past year, seventeen volunteers in the Research Center have worked over 1,818 hours. Our very able researchers, David Callahan, Rick Speranza and Jeffery Marshall have been busy helping the public. Kathleen Gonsalves and Paul Gouza worked processing larger accessions. Bik Rimmey continues to scan copies of the Advance into the computer so that they can be easily researched. In addition to aiding people who come for research, Richard Mansley continues to be in charge of all accessions and processing archival items. Sarajane Dallas works to update the obituary file and to catalogue new additions to our textile collection. Rebecca Woodward and Richard Vitti are working on reorganizing the vertical files. Rebecca completed the organization of Edward Barnsley's notes and research this year. Gale Jefferson, Rick Speranza and David Callahan continue to work on reorganizing the attic and on cleaning, cataloging and storing the items found in the attic. Harriet Beckert accessions objects and photographs and deals with problem areas. Leigh Clark has been working on identifying and cataloging photographs. Ed Gerhard is inventorying objects especially from the first floor. Rick Speranza has taken over most of the computer responsibilities and he has put several articles on Facebook, with help from Hailey Gouza. In addition we had two high school volunteers, Glen Adams and Andrew Xie, who worked on reorganizing the photograph files.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Beckert
Curator

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Publication & Technology Committee Report

The Publications Committee is charged with maintaining and updating the Newtown Historic Association's print and electronic publications. The Publications Committee is pleased to report that several projects were undertaken this year.

Web – The NHA website www.newtownhistoric.org continues to be updated on a regular basis and serves as a repository for information related to the NHA and events. We also now have internet service at the Court Inn installed by one of our NHA members, Brian Titus.

We now have a page on “Facebook” maintained by Rick Speranza, one of our research center volunteers – who posts interesting pictures and articles from the past and also publicizes upcoming events.

Newsletter – The “Half Moon” newsletter is published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. The newsletter typically highlights events sponsored by the NHA, as well as listing new members, corporate members, recent acquisitions by the archives, articles for sale, as well as feature articles of interest to the Newtown community. Ideas for future articles are always welcome.

Past & Present Book – The “Newtown: Past & Present” book continues to be a steady seller, with approximately 50 copies remaining of the initial pressrun of 2,000 copies. The book consists of 81 historic photos rephotographed and presented side-by-side to highlight the evolution of Newtown. Photographed and written by Brian Rounsavill, with contributing editors David Callahan and Paul Gouza, the book is 168 pages, with a hard-bound cover, in an oversized coffee table style format. The cover price is \$39.99, plus tax. To date, we have almost sold out our supply of these books and have made over \$80,000 through this project.

Newtown Heritage Walk – Although it is not a true publication, the Newtown Heritage Walk is a visual display of Newtown's history for the public to enjoy. The Newtown Heritage Walk is a self-guided walking tour consisting of thirty-four wayside panels in Newtown Borough and Newtown Township that integrates historically significant sites along State Street (Borough) and Sycamore Street (Township). An 18” x 24” wayside sign has been installed at each stop that consists of a blend of text and photos. Each stop has been selected because of its historical value to the Newtown community, featuring sites from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The Heritage Walk is modeled after similar programs in Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Carlisle, the Delaware Canal, and other historic locations in Pennsylvania. We continue to receive many positive comments about the Newtown Heritage Walk waysides.

Limited Edition Postcard Series – In response to community demand, we produced a limited edition series of thirteen postcards. A mix of old and new photos were chosen from “Newtown: Past & Present” that represent the main attractions in town. Postcards were sold to individual businesses and are also for sale at the Half Moon Inn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Rounsavill, Chair

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Museum Shop Report

The Museum Shop had available to the public for purchase embroidered apparel, pottery mugs, cards, and books throughout 2014 - 2015. Items purchased from Land's End are embroidered with our Half Moon Inn logo. These items include fleece vests, pullovers, sweatshirts, polo shirts, and tote bags. All items were available for sale at Market Day and the Holiday Open House Tour. In addition, these items are also included on the Historic Association's website, www.newtownhistoric.org, under the Museum Shop tab. Photos and prices are included.

Respectfully submitted,
Geno Peruzzi, Museum Shop Chair

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Market Day Report

Our 39th annual Market Day was scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd. The weather was rainy, cold and very windy. The predicted wind speeds exceeded our safety level tolerances for crafter tents and so the outdoor events had to be cancelled. Other events were modified for indoors and the Half Moon Inn was open for a “social”. There was a good turnout and much support from the community despite the poor weather.

Market Day continued some past traditions and substituted some new ones. Among the Highlights for 2015 were:

As this was the second consecutive year of poor weather, we chose to share the pain of the cancellation with our crafters. Half of the amount of the crafter booth payments was credited for future use at NHA Market Day.

The Half Moon Inn was open for tours with the Full Moon musicians, the Out-of- Tuners, and Menijeh Pickard, harpist, providing the entertainment. Connie Unangst demonstrated Open Hearth Cooking while children were busy making scarecrows in the Meeting Room. Our primary sponsor, the Rothman Institute, was set up in the Tavern room to hand out literature and freebies.

The Countryside Gardeners moved their operations into the Meeting Room where they prepared and sold their floral arrangements. This was very well received.

All of the outdoor demonstrations were cancelled. However, David Kirkpatrick, historic carpenter and joiner, moved into the Tavern Room and demonstrated traditional methods for making mortise and tenon joints. His activities generated much interest and many questions by attendees.

The NHA Welcome table was located in the Front Entry Room and was especially busy selling raffle tickets, items de-accessioned from the archives and providing free donuts and coffee that had been donated for the day. The Green Grocer, managed by Len and Marilyn Frankowiak, relocated to the meeting room and conducted sales to benefit the NHA. Attendees enjoyed food donated by the Black Horse to help support the day.

Nancy and Frank Steigerwalt managed a very successful raffle. This year’s winner of the “Bed and Breakfast in Cape May” gift certificate was won by Nancy Ksiazek of Prospect CT - the sister in law of Lori Ksiazek (a NHA member).

We want to thank those companies and businesses who helped to sponsor Market Day:

The Rothman Institute, our primary sponsor
Gilbert, Wilson and Hunter
Johnson, Kendall, Johnson
The First National Bank of Newtown
Charlann Farm

And once more, we extend our thanks to the many volunteers, including our members, friends, and students, who helped with donations, all of the planning, set-up, the day’s activities and clean-up. Without your efforts we could not produce this event. Thank you for helping us to continue the Historic Market Day tradition.

Respectfully submitted, Bronwyn Jones and Susan Thompson

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015-2016 Membership & Events Committee

The lovely decorations provided by the Countryside Gardeners on the occasion of our Annual Holiday Open House Tour held on Saturday, December 5, 2015, provided the perfect opportunity for Ms. Alisa Dupuy, a NHA member and owner of “The Ladies of History”, to perform a rendition of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” at the Half Moon Inn. On December 4th, Ms. Dupuy performed to an audience of 32 people and donated her fee \$25/ticket to help defray the losses from NHA Market Day. Her performance was very well-received by the audience and her efforts on behalf of the NHA are greatly appreciated.

We continued the “Sunday Socials” during the past year. On February 21, 2016 we celebrated George Washington with a Cheery Cherry Birthday social which was complete with trivia and delicious food. This is an occasion where we invite possible new members, acknowledge volunteers, meet new people and offer opportunities to volunteer for ongoing and future projects. We have entertained over 40 guests at these events this year and tours were given showing off our building and Research Center and refreshments were served. Many new connections were made between guests and members and plans are in place to hold another Sunday Social in late spring.

As part of the effort to stimulate membership via the NHA website, an additional membership level has been added. The new membership level is the Distinguished Donor at \$100 annually. And the Individual Life membership level will now be titled “Innkeeper’s Circle”.

We continue to strive to tell more of our friends and neighbors about the Newtown Historic Association and to ensure its future through sharing its past.

We began the year with 265 members

Regular and Contributing Members – 237

Life Members – 15

Corporate Members – 13

We ended the year with 240 members

Regular and Contributing Members – 210

Life Members - 15

Corporate Members – 15

We are pleased to welcome our new members to the NHA and thank all of our members for their continued support. We continue to highlight the generous support of our Corporate Members on our website and in our Quarterly Newsletters.

We thank our members for their support and encourage them to invite friends and neighbors to join the Newtown Historic Association

Respectfully submitted,

Susan E. Thompson and Bronwyn Jones
Membership Chairs

Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

2015 Cemetery Tour

Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The Newtown Historic Association held its fifth annual cemetery tour at Newtown Cemetery located on Washington Avenue, Newtown PA on Sunday, May 17, 2015 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

The focus this year was on ten notable business people of Newtown and their individual histories

Sipron Keith – proprietor of the White Hall Hotel – South Lot West

Morris and Jennie Savidge – Savidge Brothers Department Store and Newtown Savings and Loan. Also Jennie Savidge was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Elms, South Lot, Row 6

Dr. Thomas J. Elms, past minister of the Newtown Presbyterian Church - South Lot near Morris Savidge

Harrison C. Worstall – 1842 – 1934 proprietor of Newtown Hardware House – Chapel Lot M

William and Edna Lang – proprietors of the Towne Shoppe- North West, Row 1

J. V. Randall, carriage builder – 1831 – 1916 – North West Lot, Row 5

Dr. Charles Smith – father of Morell Smith – North West

Thaddeus S. Kenderdine – North West Lot, Row 10

Clarence 1900 – 1986 & Esther Savidge – Savidge Brothers Department Store Section AA, Row 1

Local historian and board member, Jeff Marshall related the interesting history of the Newtown Cemetery and the unique architectural aspects of the Chapel.

Various Newtown Historic Association members presented the stories of these past residents of Newtown. Apple cider and cookies were served as refreshments and donations received for the event will be used to help the Newtown Cemetery Association restore the stained glass windows of the chapel.

Respectfully submitted,
Cemetery Committee