

***The Annual Report of the  
Newtown Historic Association***  
*April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017*

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# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2016-2017 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,  
Barry Fleck, President

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2016 Holiday Open House Tour Report**

**REPORT OF HEAD HOSTESS CHAIR – LORRAINE PENTZ  
DECEMBER 5, 2016**

### **Homeowners**

Barry Fleck and Mary Dinneen  
127 Court Street

Eric and Jen Nicholl  
239 Court Street

Randy & Nancy Scurlock  
101 Liberty Street

Brian Titus and Janet Beasley  
27 Court Street

James & Karen Waitkus  
201 Penn Street

Ronald & Michelle Kumor  
410 Washington Avenue

### **Head Hostesses**

Mary Dinneen

Johanna Hager

Heather Lewis

Betsey King

Sue Bannon

Marian Diskin

### **Public and Commercial Buildings**

Anthony Petsis                      Hostess – Keyna Crawford  
Friends Boarding Home  
Newtown Fire Company  
St. Lukes Episcopal Church  
Newtown Library  
Half Moon Inn  
Stocking Works

Dave Callahan, Joanne Nardo and Bill Mahler are to be commended for their efforts in selecting the outstanding homes for this year's tour. They reflected the warm and welcoming life style of the owners who were so gracious to share their homes.

Terry Keane reaches out to the media and the resulting good coverage brought approximately 900 visitors.

Report of the Head Hostess Chair  
Lorraine Pentz

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2016-2017 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.

At the Court Inn, kitchen roof was painted along with the north kitchen wall. The white picket fence was repaired and painted by Steve Fidler. The south chimney on the north portion of the Court Inn was repaired and repointed by George Newett.

George Newett also helped us reinstall the historical marker at the Bird-In-Hand on south State Street which was a leaning safety hazard.

This past year, the committee continued to develop a master plan to renovate and use the Thornton-Hicks House in the most effective way to resolve our lack of space and storage needs at the Court Inn.

The committee would like to thank the Countryside Gardeners for taking care of the Court Inn back gardens - 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 Boone Garden, the borough's most treasured community garden.

Our annual Clean-Up Day was a huge success. Special thanks to Keyna Crawford, Bronwyn Jones, Charlie Ponciroli, Len and Marilyn Franckowiak, Dave and Mary Callahan, Kevin Brooks, Carmel Lanzilotti, Paul Gouza, Barry Fleck and his granddaughter, Veronica.

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

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## 2016-2017 Treasurer's Report

**Date of Report:** 04/01/17  
**Period Ending:** 03/31/17  
**Balance on Hand:** 04/01/16 \$20,444.82

### Receipts

Appraisal Fair	385.00
Bike Ride	105.00
Cocktail Party	1,790.00
Donations	11,584.00
Grants	9,000.00
In/Outt	3,422.00
Insurance Refund	14.00
Market Day 2016	5,918.00
Market Day Sponsors	22,700.00
Market Day 2017	328.00
Market Day Raffle	2,248.00
Membership-Corporate	1,650.00
Membership	6,269.00
Membership-Cntrb&Dstng	1,275.00
Memorial Donations	2,155.00
Open House Tickets	28,093.00
Open House Ad & Sponsor	750.00
Open House Dinner (Jan. 17)	1,677.00
Past and Present Book	319.00
Plaques	1,207.00
Photos	355.00
Programs	1,534.00
Research	461.00
Sales Tax	29.00
Shipping & Handling	5.00
Tavern Night	2,230.00
Tavern Night Auction	755.00
Use of Building	700.00
Tours	380.00
Ways & Means Shop	239.00
Website	350.00
Check write off	105.00

### Disbursements

#### Thornton-Hicks House

Alarm	135.00
Interest on Mortgage	5,729.00
Lawn Maintenance	1,003.00
Snow Removal	70.00
Maintenance	431.00
Taxes	6,577.00
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	13,945.00

#### Operating Expenses

Audit	2,500.00
Boone Garden	61.00
Charitable Org. Reg.	100.00
Charitable Donations	150.00
Countryside Gardeners	375.00
Cocktail Party	317.00
Framing	272.00
Insurance	7,185.00
In/Out	3,422.00
Market Day	9,681.00
Market Day Raffle	658.00
Market Day Sponsors	5,675.00
Membership	309.00
Membership Socials	190.00
Memorials – Donovan	1,447.00
Miscellaenous	173.00
Open House	3,391.00
Painting	560.00
Photos	181.00
Plaques	1,095.00

**Receipts & Beginning Balance**

128,483.36

**Disbursements – continued**

PO Box & Postage	751.00
Programs	400.00
Research Center	3,224.00
Safety Deposit Box	25.00
Sales Tax	69.00
Tavern Night	2,417.00
Visa Charges	237.00
Website	890.00
Winter Dinner	2,584.00

**Outside Services**

Alarm	892.00	
Cleaning Service	350.00	
Copier Maintenance	1,330.00	
Chimney Repair	2,420.00	
Electric	3,640.00	
Electric – Boone Garden	328.00	
Fence	3,440.00	
Fuel Oil	2,749.00	
Lawn Maintenance	2,765.00	
Maintenance	714.00	
Sewer	299.00	
Snow Removal	165.00	
Supplies –Office	931.00	
Supplies-Bldg	486.00	
Telephone & Internet	1,716.00	
Water	124.00	
State Sign Repair	540.00	71,234.00

**Grants**

Website	2,000.00	
Chimney Repairs	9,000.00	
Open House Flags	2,961.00	13,961.00

**Total Disbursements** 99,141.00

**Ending Balance** \$29,342.00

**Thornton Hicks Account**

**Date of Report: 04/01/17**  
**Period Ending: 03/31/17**

**Balance on Hand: 04/01/2016 \$133,686.00**

**Receipts**

Interest	186.00	
Verizon Dividend	780.00	
Frontier Dividend	35.00	1,021.00

**Receipts and Beginning Balance \$134,707.00**

**Disbursements**

Grace Lauer	62,500.00	
Mortgage payoff		

**Ending Balance \$ 72,207.00**

**Newtown Historic Association Savings Account**

**Date of Report: 04/01/17**  
**Period Ending: 03/31/17**

**Balance on Hand: 04/01/2016 \$ 17,585.00**

**Receipts**

Interest	18.00	
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**Disbursements**

**Ending Balance \$17,603.00**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marjorie Torongo, Treasurer

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2016-2017 Education Committee Report**

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

- April 18, 2016 – “Treasures from the Attic” with interesting pieces from the NHA collection displayed and discussed (Annual Meeting)
- May 7, 2016 - “Walking Tour of George School” led by David B. Long, Archivist of George School. About 60 people attended touring the Quaker Meeting building, Mollie Dodd Library, the new Gym, and the site of the George School Train Station (General Membership Meeting)
- June 1, 2016 – Fifth Grade Walking Tour of Newtown coordinated by Peg Walker. Over 600 students, teachers and parents from Goodnoe Elementary, Newtown Elementary, St. Andrew Grade School and Albert the Great School of Huntingdon Valley participated in a tour of 10 historic sites in Newtown, including the Half Moon Inn.
- June 26, 2016 – “Bike tour of Newtown and George School” led by past President of the NHA Paul Gouza. The tour stopped at 4 historic sites in Newtown, then on to George School where member Jim Garner led the group. About 25 “bikers” attended.
- October 1, 2016 - Market Day Artisan and Craft Fair with plenty of educational opportunities, open hearth cooking, woodworking, blacksmithing, chair caning, rug hooking, candle dipping and the favorite re-enactor’s encampment and firing of the muskets.
- October 15, 2016 - “Antique Appraisal” hosted by the NHA in partnership with Johnson, Kendall & Johnson Inc. at the Half Moon Inn. Member Cindy Stephenson, Paula Fox and Tom Wakely all of Stephenson’s Auction House in Southampton gave appraisals of a great variety of objects that people bought in. A very interesting event.
- November 14, 2016 - “Grand Forage 1778 – The Revolutionary War’s Forgotten Campaign” presented by Todd W. Braisted, past president of the Bergen County Historical Society, an honorary vice president of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, and a Fellow of the Company of Military Historians. (General Membership Meeting)
- December 2, 2016 - “Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol” presented by Alisa Dupuy of the Ladies of History Historical Productions.
- December 3, 2016 “Holiday Open House Tour” A tour of thirteen historic homes and public buildings decorated for the holiday season.
- February 11, 2017 – “George and Martha: A Love Story” presented by member Alisa Dupuy of The Ladies of History Historical Productions. (General Membership Meeting)



- March 21, 2017 – “Morell Smith Revisited” presented by Jon Guy, retired Army Reserve Officer and past Commander of Post 440, at the American Legion Post 440 to a full house of attendees. (General Membership Meeting)

There are 3 self-guided walking tours with maps and directions, as well as an Architectural Scavenger Hunt, available on our website [www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org).

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

## **2016-2017 Tavern Night Report**

On Saturday, March 11, 2017, the Annual Tavern Night fundraiser was held in the Half Moon Inn. Approximately 50 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, Jane Mahler and Bronwyn Jones for donating Items to the Auction. Additional thanks to all of the business owners who donated to the event and everyone who assisted with cleaning up!

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

### Financial Report:

#### INCOME:

Ticket Sales	\$2126.00
Silent Auction	\$855.00

EXPENSES:	\$2440.00
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Net Profit -	\$541.00
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Respectfully Submitted by Bill Mahler  
Chairman of Tavern Night Committee

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2016-2017 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 1,700 people called or visited the Court Inn and Research Center, primarily for tours and research. Over 54 people visited the Research Library to research Newtown history, genealogy and properties.

The main emphasis of our work in the Research Library 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, 2016 to March 31, 2017, we processed 45 gifts and a total of over 701 new items were added to the collection. In addition, the computer entries of approximately 1,102 items already in the computer were updated to complete the entries. As of the end of March, our computer inventory included 16,992 photographs, 1,701 books, 3,764 objects and 18,560 archival items for a total of 41,017 items. This total reflects an increase of 1,803 items over last year.

In the past year, fifteen volunteers have worked over 2,000 hours in the Research Center. Our very able researchers, David Callahan, Rick Speranza and Jeffery Marshall have been busy helping the public. Kathleen Gonsalves, Leigh Clark and Paul Gouza worked processing larger accessions. Bik Remmey 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 and this year he was joined by Mary Beth Palestini. Sarajane Dallas works to update the obituary file. Rebecca Woodward and Richard Vitti are working on reorganizing the vertical files. Rebecca is concentrating on the Newtown schools files. Rick Speranza, Paul Gouza 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. Rick Speranza has taken over most of the computer responsibilities. In addition we had two high school volunteers, Durga Ramachandran and Andrew Xie, who worked on reorganizing the photograph files.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Beckert  
Curator

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2016-2017 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](http://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 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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

## **2016-2017 Museum Shop Report**

The Museum Shop had available to the public for purchase embroidered apparel, tee-shirts silk screened with the Half Moon Inn logo, stoneware mugs, postcards, and books throughout 2016.

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 Open House Tour.

Books, postcards, and stoneware are available on our new website [www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org) and apparel will be available upon restocking. Photos and prices are included.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geno Peruzzi, Museum Shop Chair

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2016-2017 Market Day Report**

Our 40<sup>th</sup> annual Market Day was scheduled for Saturday, October 1st. The Library 5K was held in the morning with the race ending at the Library on Centre Avenue and McCaffrey's serving breakfast. The weather was wet with showers off and on. There was a good turnout for both events and much support from the community despite the poor weather.

Market Day continued some past traditions and added some new ones for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Among the Highlights for 2016 were:

- For this special anniversary year, Sponsorships were sold by Lisa Kruse of Angelmark Associates. The sponsors underwrote free hayrides, puppet shows, music, balloon artists, goody bags, t-shirts, etc. State Street between Centre and Washington was closed for the sponsor booths. Community Non-Profit organizations were also included for the first time and were on Centre Avenue at State Street.
- The Half Moon Inn was open for tours with the Full Moon musicians providing the entertainment. Connie Unangst demonstrated Open Hearth Cooking while children were busy making scarecrows in the Innkeeper's Room.
- There were approximately 85 crafters signed up this year with over 50 attending.
- Some of the outdoor demonstrations like dressmaking and gunsmithing were cancelled; however, most others were well-received with the First Crossing Volunteers generating large crowds and much interest in their encampment in back of the Half Moon Inn.
- The Penn's Woods Puppeteers performed "*Captain Crook and the Missing Treasure*" and paper pirate hat making was a big hit with young and old alike.
- Shuttle bus service was provided by Pickering Manor Home with transport from the New Life Christian Church.
- The NHA Welcome table was especially busy selling raffle tickets, items de-accessioned from the archives, t-shirts and giving away goody bags from the sponsors. The Green Grocer, managed by Len Frankowiak conducted sales to benefit the NHA.
- Nancy and Frank Steigerwalt managed a very successful raffle. This year's winner of the "Bed and Breakfast in Cape May" gift certificate was Jeannette Rogers (NHA Member).

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

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

## **2016-2017 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 3, 2016, offered 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 2nd, Ms. Dupuy performed to an audience of 45 people with refreshments being served afterward.

The “Sunday Socials” that have been held over the last few years to encourage new membership, were suspended this year in lieu of exploring other means of expanding membership. The socials may be reinstated in future. Membership information continues to be distributed at summer Sunday openings of the Half Moon Inn and at events. These include activities such as: membership applications in the Market Day welcome bags and at the ticket sales tables at the Holiday Open House Tour.

On February 11, 2017, in honor of both George Washington’s actual birth day and Valentine’s Day, Alisa Dupuy and Sam Davis performed. They portrayed General George Washington and Martha during the years 1770-1783, encompassing the years leading up to, the start and the finish of the Revolutionary War. An audience of over 40 people enjoyed the performance with wine, appetizers and desserts served after the performance.

Our social media exposure has been expanded by the implementation of the new NHA website and increased use of Facebook. Participation in NHA events has been facilitated through online ticket sales, mass emailing to membership and the new on-line events calendar. Our thanks to NHA members, Brian Titus and Rick Speranza, for all of their efforts in these endeavors.

A new level of membership, Distinguished Donor, was added. We have 11 members at this new level in 2017.

We began the year with 240 members

Regular and Contributing Members – 210

Life Members – 15

Corporate Members – 15

We ended the year with 235 members

Regular and Contributing Members – 189

Life Members – 15

Distinguished Donors - 11

Corporate Members – 19

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



Once again, 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