



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.

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Newtown Historic Association
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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

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following:

New Individual and Family Members

Capt. Terry Christensen
Charlene Hernandez
June Hilbert
Roland & Lynne Kemler
Laura Marnaris
Barbara Mayers
Linda McCoy
Nancy McLaurin
David & Susan Minno
Paul & Jennie Schottmiller
Deborah Walter
Harry & Janice Young

Upgraded to Distinguished Donor

Bernard & Alisa Dupuy
John & Joanne Godzieba
Daniel & Meg Griffin
Ronald & Michele Kumor

Trolley Tour

We had a very successful Trolley Tour of historic Newtown on Sunday, May 20th. Approximately 150 people rode the trolley and listened to details and descriptions of Newtown properties by Susan Thompson and Jeff Marshall. The tour was organized by Kathy Gonsalves and everyone loved it and asked when we were going to do it again. Reservations were made on line for specific time slots.



Garden Walk

The Garden Walking Tour on Sunday, June 3rd was a huge hit. Organized by Mary Jo Garner, it featured 12 gardens in the borough. Lee Gittens of the Countryside Gardeners, who maintain the gardens behind the Half Moon Inn, gave a brief overview of those plantings. Also, Lydia Lewis whose grandmother was one of the original members of the Countryside Gardeners, gave a history of the group. Countryside Gardeners are celebrating their 85th anniversary.





Lee Gittens



Lydia Lewis with President Barry Fleck and Mary Jo Garner



Beautiful Garden

Fifth Grade Walking Tour

The annual Fifth Grade Walking Tour was held on Wednesday, June 6th for children from Goodnoe Elementary, St. Bedes School and St. Andrews to walk throughout the borough and visit 10 places to learn more about historic Newtown. This tour organized by Peg Walker continues to pique the children's interest in the history of Newtown. The children really enjoy this tour and so do the parent chaperones – everyone learns something.

Historic Walking Tour

The annual Historic Walking Tour of one of the historic areas of Newtown was held Friday evening, June 15th with Jeffrey Marshall leading it. The streets covered this year were Liberty and Congress Streets. Jeff is an excellent guide for this walk as he has a wealth of knowledge about the buildings architecturally and historically.

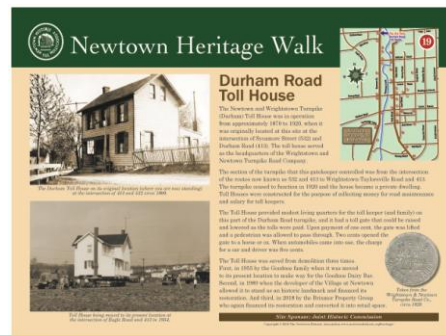


Thornton Hicks House

A quick update on the renovations on the Thornton Hicks House. We have had extensive electrical rewiring done in the house because there was a lot of inferior wiring that we found. We have installed more outlets in every room and installed lighting in the bedrooms and living room. The two bedrooms on the second floor have been re-plastered and all rooms have been primed. Along the way we had to remove a raccoon from the chimney and had wire covering put over the top to deter this from happening again.

New Toll House Sign

The NHA and Newtown Joint Historic Commission are working together to install a new Heritage Walk sign in front of the Toll House. Brixmor is in the process of renovating the Toll House for occupancy by Nina's Waffles in the spring and the new sign will be in place for the grand opening.



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Jack Foster Murals at George School

The October meeting of the Newtown Historic Association will be held on Monday, October 15th at 7:30 PM at the George School, Rte. 413 Newtown.

In 1935 Newtown native John Foster painted a series of six murals illustrating the history of Newtown for the bar in the White Hall Hotel. Over the next 83 years the murals survive a major fire, a three decade stint on the walls of a local antiques shop, to now finding a permanent home in the atrium of McFeely Hall, home of the history department, at George School. The presentation will be give by David B. Long who has been the official Archivist at George School since 2008. He is responsible for maintaining the Quaker school's historical documents, non-digital photographs, and related objects. McFeely Hall (built originally as McFeely Library in the mid-60s) is #15 on this online campus map - <http://www.georgeschool.org/campusmap/index.html> - although there are some parking lots behind Main, the school would like most people to park in the big lot in front of the new Fitness & Athletic Center off Farm Lane and walk up to McFeely. This lot is also the lot one would use for the Meetinghouse or the new Anderson Library. Come hear more about these interesting murals, their talented creator, and where they fit into the story of American art history. This will be a very interesting and informative meeting. For further information call 215-968-4004 or visit the NHA Website www.newtownhistoric.org.

“The Ten Crucial Days – Decisions, Decisions”

The speaker at the November 19th meeting of the Newtown Historic Association will be Larry Kidder, who will speak on “The Ten Crucial Days – Decisions, Decision”. This talk focuses on the various decisions that Washington and other leaders on both sides faced during the events of the Ten Crucial Days – December 25, 1776 – January 3, 1777.

Today we tend to evaluate their decisions with 20/20 hindsight, but the participants made their decisions in their “present” time based on limited information and perceptions of what was needed and possible. This talk is not designed to prove the importance of the Ten Crucial Days or make the case for one person’s importance, but rather to understand the events, including those that occurred at and near Newtown, in relation to human strengths and limitations.

Speaker Larry Kidder is a member of the Washington Crossing American Revolutionary War Round Table, serves on the New Jersey Living History Advisory Council and the Crossroads of the American Revolution Advisory Council and many other organization. He is an author and speaker and has written a book on “The Ten Crucial Days”.

The meeting is November 19th at 7:30 pm at the Half Moon Inn (Court Inn), 105 Court St. Newtown.

All are invited and you don’t have to be a member to attend. There will be refreshments and social hour following the presentation, This will prove to be a very interesting and informative meeting. For further information call 215-968-4004 or

www.newtownhistoric.org

Dues Notices Sent Out

Annual dues notices have been mailed, so please don’t forget to pay them. It is only through the financial help from people like yourselves that the NHA can continue its efforts to preserve Newtown’s unique heritage

Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- A. L. Patterson
- DeFrehn Roofing Services
- First National Bank of Newtown
- Mary Dinneen, Realtor
- Gilbert, Wilson & Hunter LLP
- Global Mortgage Network Inc.
- Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- Monument Bank
- Wm. B. Parry & Son Ltd.
- Stuckert and Yates
- T & T Tree Service
- Upper Makefield Bus. Assn.
- Waitkus Design

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, October 6th 10 am – 4 pm “Market Day in Historic Newtown”
- “Jack Foster Murals” Monday, Oct. 15th at George School 7:30 pm
- “Ten Crucial Days, Decision, Decisions” by Larry Kidder, Monday, Nov. 19th at 7:30 pm
- Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol” Friday, Nov. 30th at 6:30 pm
- Holiday Open House Tour, Sat. Dec. 1st 10 am to 4 pm

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