



***The Annual Report of the  
Newtown Historic Association  
April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019***

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# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2018-2019 Report of the President**

The Newtown Historic Association had a very busy 2018-19 year. We were very fortunate last year as the weather cooperated with us for our most important fund-raising events. It requires a lot of money to support the maintenance of our historic buildings and the gardens that surround these properties. In addition to our Hicks Museum and research center that not only require financial support. They require a very significant commitment of time from some very dedicated members.

In addition, this year we have begun an outreach effort to promote collaboration between the NHA and other community associations. We are planning a very active year to find new ways to connect to our community and increase support for our preservations efforts.

As an organization we share and give back to our community. We bring in thousands of people into Newtown for our events that promote one of the most Historic towns in Pennsylvania.

We show off the beauty of our Historic Court Inn when we host events like the our Spring Cocktail Party that was held on Saturday April 27th.

We provide many educational tours to the public showing off Newtown.

June 5<sup>th</sup> is the annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Walking Tour of Newtown which has been held for over 40 years.

June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm a Historic Walking Tour of Newtown by Jeff Marshall

A Garden Walk on July 20th showing off the beautiful gardens in Newtown Borough

October 5<sup>th</sup> will be our Market Day

December 7th our Holliday Open House Tour

We have many dedicated people who have committed their time and efforts to making Newtown a better place to live, visit and work. We appreciate their efforts for without them we would not be able to accomplish our Mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barry Fleck, President

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2018 Holiday Open House Tour Report**

### **REPORT OF HEAD HOSTESS CHAIR, LORRAINE PENTZ**

I try to ask a neighbor, friend or someone with whom the homeowner is familiar to act as Head Hostess. It creates a more comfortable working environment for both.

The Head Hostesses are an important aspect of the house tour. Initially, she and I meet with the homeowners to choose what items of interest should be pointed out to the visitors, discuss the history of the house and map out the flow of traffic. She is responsible for contacting and scheduling approximately 15 volunteers for the day. If needed, I can assist with providing names of workers. We keep in contact with each other and I assist as needed. The day of the tour, the Head Hostesses oversee the shift changes and they are responsible for maintaining a smooth flow of visitors into the homes.

We schedule a meeting at the house shortly before the tour with the volunteers and the homeowners. Room assignments are discussed and written instructions are provided both in person and by email. Half price tour tickets are offered to volunteers.

We are very fortunate to have members of our Association and of the community willing to assume these positions and to work with such enthusiasm. We all look forward to the event and are happy to be a part of this special day in Newtown.

A list of the homes and the head hostesses is below:

#### **Homeowners**

Dr. James Coane & Marty Moss-Coane  
319 Washington Avenue

Nancy Freudenthal  
314 Washington Avenue

June Hilbert  
117 South Congress Street

David & Susan Minno  
428 Washington Avenue

William & Margaret Newell  
35 South Congress Street

Paul & Jennie Schottmiller  
203 Washington Avenue

#### **Head Hostesses**

Bridget O'Malley

Jeanette Rogers

Mollie Mitchell

Jane Mahler

Joanna Hager & Christine Edmonds

Heather Lewis

A special thanks to Terri Keane who also visits the homes and gets the message to all the media.

The homeowners of Newtown are so gracious to share their homes. It allows an opportunity for all of us to come together in the spirit of embracing what makes Newtown so special.

Respectfully submitted,

Report of the Head Hostess Chair  
Lorraine Pentz

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2018-2019 Building and Grounds Committee**

The Buildings and Grounds Committee had another busy year recognizing and addressing maintenance issues on our properties.

President Fleck and Karen Groff met with several landscapers regarding the Boone Garden and needed garden renovations. A landscape plan has been developed and we now look to secure the needed funds from the community and businesses. The committee would like to thank the Countryside Gardeners for taking care of the backyard of the Court Inn - providing beautiful plants and flowers for the Newtown community to enjoy all summer long. Also, we would like to thank Karen Groff for her efforts in maintaining and beautifying our one-of-kind community garden.

In January, the NHA purchased the old ambulance squad building on Mercer Street from the American Legion for our much needed expanding Research/Archives Center. The current interior renovation is moving along nicely with the new HVAC system, electrical/computer wiring installed and the walls have been studded out. This project would not and could not be possible without the guidance and direction of Dave Callahan. Thank you, Dave. Thanks also to Larry Fink for his professional expertise. Mershon Builders, Brian Tomlinson – HVAC Contractor and Dan Knott Electrician and his crew have done a wonderful job. The board is currently looking for a buyer for the Thornton-Hicks House.

Our annual Clean-Up Day was a huge success. Special thanks to Lorraine Pentz, Dave Walton, Dave and Mary Callahan, Paul Gouza, Tim Potero, Barry Fleck and his grandkids Veronica and Ethan, Phil Wynn, Nancy Freudenthal, Keyna Crawford, Annmarie Kaminski and JoAnne Nardo.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Buildings and Grounds Committee  
Paul Gouza, Dave Callahan, Geno Peruzzi and Dave Walton

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2018-2019 Education Committee Report**

For around 50 years, the Newtown Historic Association has been hosting students from various elementary schools, to tour our beautiful town amassed in 18<sup>th</sup> century history. Always the first Wednesday in June, last year's tour, on Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup>, hosted 330 students plus around 60 teachers and parents. The schools attending were Goodnoe Elementary, St. Andrew and St. Bede.

Half of the students were dropped off at the Historic Presbyterian Church on Sycamore St. with the other half dropped off at the Newtown Theatre. The two groups then switched venues, and from there went on to visit the District Court, the Borough Hall, the Newtown Library, the Half Moon Inn, the Newtown Friends Meeting, with a walk-by past the Bird in Hand and the Justice House. The students end at the Newtown Fire Company and are picked up from there.

Last year we were fortunate to enjoy a beautiful warm June day. For many of the students and parents, it's their first visit to Newtown Borough. The Newtown Theatre and the District Court were a big success with the students, although experiences in each venue give the student a perspective on early American life.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers at every venue who donate their time, and often their time off from work, to staff this educational event.

A very special thanks to Peg Walker, who for so very many years, has organized the annual Fifth Grade Walking Tour.

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

- April 2018 – “Treasures from the Attic” with interesting pieces from the NHA collection displayed and discussed (Annual Meeting)
- May 2018 - “Trolley Tour of Historic Newtown”
- June 2018 – “A Garden Walk” was held, chaired by MaryJo Garner – exploring numerous private gardens in the borough. About 45 people attended.
- June 2018 – Fifth Grade Walking Tour of Newtown coordinated by Peg Walker. Over 400 students, teachers and parents from Goodnoe Elementary and St. Andrew Grade School participated in a tour of 10 historic sites in Newtown, including the Half Moon Inn.
- June 2018 – “Historic Walking Tour of Newtown” led by Jeff Marshall, President of the Heritage Conservancy. The tour covered quite a few of the back streets of Newtown

- October 2018 - 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 2018 – Jack Foster Murals at George School (General Membership Meeting)
- November 2018 - “Ten Crucial Days – Decisions, Decisions” – Larry Kidder speaker (General Membership Meeting)
- December 2018 “Holiday Open House Tour” A tour of twelve historic homes and public buildings decorated for the holiday season.
- February 2019 – “Collecting Antiques” presented Kevin Kerchner who is an antique expert (General Membership Meeting)
- March 2019 – Mercy Ingraham speaking on Open Hearth Cooking (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

## **2018-2019 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, over 2,864 people visited the Half Moon Inn, primarily for tours and to do research. Over 108 people called, emailed or visited the Research Center to investigate Newtown history, genealogy and properties.

The main emphasis of our work in the Research Center 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, 2018 to March 31, 2019, we processed 44 gifts and a total of over 1,048 new items were added to the collection. In addition, approximately 1,660 items, which were in our collection but not catalogued, were added to our data base. As of the end of March, our computer inventory included 18,894 photographs, 1,804 books, 4,469 objects and 20,399 archival items for a total of 45,566 items. This total reflects an increase of 2,708 items over last year.

In the last three months we completed an inventory of all of the items on display in the Half Moon Inn. We now have a record for each item that includes size, location, description and a photograph. Many of these items had never been inventoried or added to the computer base and this large project required the aid of all of our volunteers

In the past year, twenty-six volunteers have worked over 1,904 hours in the Research Center. Our very able researchers, David Callahan and Paul Gouza aid visitors and help to process larger accessions. Kathy Gonsalves organized several successful Trolley Tours. Leigh Clark and Tim Potero work on accessions. Leigh also curated an exhibit on Advertising in Newtown for our display case. Bik Remy continues to scan copies of the Advance into the computer. Sarajane Dallas and Carolyn Cavalo worked to update the obituary file. Mary Beth Palestini works on Special Collections and this year has concentrated on the Mansley Collection. Rebecca Woodward and Richard Vitti have almost completed reorganizing and inputting data from the vertical files. Rebecca organized large sections on veterans, wars and Newtown schools. Richard has also updated all of the guides for the museum rooms. Paul McCormick and Dom Manobianco are working diligently on updating our photograph files and we hope to soon begin scanning our older photographs. Rick Speranza deals with computer issues and recently completed the digitalization of the Newtown Enterprise. Harriet Beckert is in charge of accessions, inventory and deals with problem areas. In addition, we had four high school volunteers and seven community service volunteers who helped with many projects including everything from tours to data entry to washing windows.

Unfortunately, one of our most devoted volunteers, Sarajane Dallas retired this year. We will miss Sarajane's work on the Obituary File and on the Textile Collection and we will especially miss her lifelong knowledge of Newtown.

Respectfully submitted,  
Harriet Beckert, Curator



# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2018-2019 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 2018.

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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geno Peruzzi, Museum Shop Chair

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017-2018 Market Day Report**

Historic Market Day was held Saturday, October 6, 2018. The weather was warm but overcast and there were gentle rain sprinkles off and on. The event kicked off at 10:00 am and ended at 4:00 pm.

### New this year

- A facebook page was created just for NHA Market Day, and it had its own facebook event.
  - To date we have 98 followers
- We tried a new method for measuring out the booth space with a long rope knotted at 12' intervals. This worked very well; the street layout took about 3 total hours with 3 people.
- We designed a large scale booth layout in Excel with booth numbers permanently assigned to all legitimate spots, which can be reused again and again.
- We created & distributed a scaled street map for vendors to find their way to the Stocking Works parking lot and back to the event to finish setting up.
- We assigned street checkpoints to all crafters based on their booth location, and gave them dashboard signs with booth numbers. This enabled them to approach their assigned space from the appropriate intersection & direction.
- We received generous support and time from the Washington Crossing United Methodist Church, who met over the summer with me and coordinated at least 10 adult volunteers to help during Market Day in such key areas as vendor move in (traffic control), barricade wrangling for the hayride, and water & soda sales. In exchange, we gave them a 12x12 booth space on Court Street. We thank them very much for their time and efforts and the event was all the better for having them there.
- Our booths reached the full extent of Centre Avenue, all the way up to Congress Avenue.

### By the numbers

- 43 crafters & artisans (9 more than in 2017; 22 of them were brand new vendors)
- 8 Restaurants serving ready-to-eat or cook-to-order food
  - Joseph's Premier Events and Catering
  - Styers Orchards
  - Nina's Waffles
  - Nothing Bundt Cakes
  - Isaac Newton's
  - Thyme Bar and Grille
  - Best Darn Kettlecorn
  - McCaffrey's Market
- 3 Farm stands & gardeners
  - Charlann Farms
  - Indian Head Farms
  - Countryside Gardeners

- 4 Demonstrators showcasing colonial-era activities & trades
  - Wood Joinery
  - Chair Caning
  - Quilting
  - Rug Hooking
- 6 types of Family Activities & Entertainment
  - Hayrides by A Better Way Belgians
  - Music by Bill Dooley & the Coyotes
  - Crossing Volunteers
  - Candle dipping
  - Scarecrow Making
  - Penn's Woods Puppet Theatre
- Two Neighbor Groups
  - Friends Home Bake Sale
  - Newtown Library Company Used Book Sale

#### Education

- Board Members, Members & Volunteers of the Newtown Historic Association provided education about Newtown History at the NHA Table on Court Street & inside the Half Moon Inn

#### Fundraising

- The Cape May Raffle
- Sales from deaccessioned artifacts, newly published books, clothing & gift shop items
- Soda & Water sales

#### Sponsorships

- 4 Sponsors
  - Johnson Kendall Johnson
  - Gilbert Wilson Hunter
  - sixthirteen creative (graphic design)
  - Leck Waste Services

Respectfully submitted  
Carrie Wetherby, Market Day Chair

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2018-2019 Membership & Events Committee**

Once again, lovely decorations were provided by the Countryside Gardeners for our Annual Holiday Open House Tour held on Saturday, December 1, 2018. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Alisa Dupuy of The Ladies of History Historical Productions, performed a one-woman show of **Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol***. She portrayed Ebenezer Scrooge's sister, Fan, and regaled the audience with his story. Her performance was well-received and enjoyed by all.

An Open House social was held in conjunction with Newtown's holiday Midnight Madness shopping event. Coming on the heels of the other annual Holiday events, this event was not well-attended and it is recommended that this event not be repeated with this timing.

Additional Membership activities in 2018-2019 included having a membership table at the Trolley Tour. In addition to a sellout crowd for the Trolley Tour, 2 new members signed up at this event. In an effort to build awareness with our target audience, two articles in *Country Rustic* magazine feature the Half Moon Inn. The Spring issue features Mercy Ingraham and open-hearth cooking, and the upcoming Holiday issue features the Half Moon Inn.

The "Sunday Socials" that have been held over the last few years to encourage new membership, were still 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 and at the ticket sales tables at the Holiday Open House Tour.

Our social media exposure continues to expand through the NHA website and Facebook pages. Participation in NHA events via online ticket sales has increased yet again. Our continuing thanks to NHA members, Brian Titus and Rick Speranza, for their efforts in our social media endeavors.

We are happy to report that we have added 11 new members at this level in 2019.

<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>	<b>BEGIN YEAR</b>	<b>END YEAR</b>
Regular and Contributing	184	201
Life Members	15	16
Distinguished Donors	20	15
Corporate Members	16	14
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>246</b>

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

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## 2018-2019 Treasurer's Report

**DATE OF REPORT: 04/01/19**

**PERIOD ENDING: 03/31/19**

**BALANCE ON HAND: 04/01/18 \$42,276.53**

### RECEIPTS

Amazon	33.51
Appraisal	900.00
Boone Garden	1,000.00
Cocktail Party	1,758.70
CD#393,861	111,937.15
Dickens Night	350.00
Donation	9,618.70
Grant	15,000.00
Mayer Book	175.00
Market Day 2018	6,471.30
Market Day Raffle	2,538.00
Membership-Corporate	1,649.26
Membership	9,662.45
Memorial Donations	2,440.00
Mercer St. Reno	12,543.00
Newtown Book	21.99
NE Raffle	2,435.00
Open House Tickets	26,365.00
Open House Ad & Sponsor	2,650.00
Open Hse. Jan Dinner	2,001.50
Past and Present	439.80
Photo's	120.00
Plaques	264.70
Research	436.00
Royalty	94.13
Sales Tax	40.20
Shipping & Handling	21.57
Trolley Tour	2,757.23
Tours	645.00
Ways & Means	694.01
Check Write-off	489.00
IN/OUT	<u>3,535.00</u> <u>219,087.20</u>

RECEIPTS AND BEGINNING BALANCE

261,363.73

DISBURSMENTS:

HICKS PROPERTY

Lawn Maintenance	975.00
Snow Removal	220.00
Alarm	300.00
Electric	299.30
Water	81.08
Sewer	276.28
Fue1	1,558.90
Building Supplies	<u>46.93 3,757.49</u>

OPERATING EXPENSE

Audit	3,000.00
Appraisal	1,300.00
Boone Garden	1,084.88
Charitable Org. Reg.	100.00
Countryside Gardeners	375.00
Cocktail Party	33.90
Framing	31.80
Insurance	11,468.92
Internet	60.51
IN/Out	3,535.00
Market Day	2,223.07
Market Day Raffle	557.80
Membership	100.00
Miscellaneous	1,888.00
Open House	3,138.88
Plaque	239.70
PO Box & Postage	935.30
Programs	50.00
Research	2,902.97
Safety Deposit Box	25.00
Sales Tax	86.29
Trolley Tour	525.00
Visa Charge	167.51
Website	660.00
Winter Dinner	2,738.86
Cleaning Service	390.00
Copier	421.00
Electric	3,204.11
Electric – Boone	312.78
Electric Mercer St.	38.60
Fire Ext. Inspection	376.00
Fuel Oil	3,617.71
Fuel Oil-Mercer	494.85
Gutter Cleaning	250.00
Inspections	285.00
Lawn Maintenance	1,130.00
Lawn Maintenance Mercer St.	100.00
Maintenance	1,384.00

Sewer	251.07
Sewer-Mercer St.	83.69
Snow Removal	460.00
Supplies –Office	666.10
Supplies-Bldg	433.01
Supplies-Mercer St.	83.67
Telephone	2,009.40
Veterans Assoc. of Nwtn	11,959.40
Water	115.24
Window Cleaning	350.00
Mercer St. Reno	<u>21,000.00</u>
	<u>96,663.99</u>

ENDING BALANCE \$162,942.25

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**FUND BALANCES**

Savings Account:	\$17,620.36
Thornton Hicks:	\$45,086.99
Preservation Fund:	\$ 5,002.49

NEWTOWN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION  
NEWTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA  
THORNTON/HICKS ACCOUNT

DATE OF REPORT: 04/01/19

PERIOD ENDING: 03/31/19

BALANCE ON HAND: 04/01/2018                      \$57,936.53

RECEIPTS:

Interest	65.60	
VERIZON Dividend	834.76	
Grant-Visitor's Bureau	3,000	3,900.36

RECEIPTS AND BEGINNING BALANCE                      \$61,836.99

DISBURSEMENT:

Country Stoneworks	800.	
Randy Yardley	4,700.	
Makefield Painting	3,250.	
Transfer for Electric	8,000.	16,750.

ENDING BALANCE                      \$45,086.99



NEWTOWN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION  
NEWTOWN, PANNSYLVANIA  
SAVING ACCOUNT

DATE OF REPORT: 04/01/18

PERIOD ENDING: 03/31/18

BALANCE ON HAND: 04/01/17 \$ 17,602.79

RECEIPTS:

Interest \$ 17.57

RECEIPTS AND BEGINNING BALANCE \$ 17,620.36

DISBURSEMENTS:

ENDING BALANCE \$17,620.36