



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

Barry Fleck, *President*
William Mahler, *First Vice President*
Brian Rounsavill, *Second Vice Pres.*
Mary Jo Garner, *Recording Sec.*
Caroline Bennett, *Corresponding Sec.*
Rich Seidner, *Treasurer*

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Honorary Life Dir – JoAnne Nardo
Parliamentarian – Tim Potero

Newtown Historic Association

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

Callahan Research Center

100 Mercer Street
Research Center Hours
Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
And also, by appointment

New Members

Dorene Bradley and Stephen Immasche
Janet Keough
David and Anne Pearl
Ivy Stock
Jason and Breanne Weeden

New Corporate Members

Newtown Business Association
The Dave Marcolla Group - Keller
Williams Real Estate

History Book Club



The first meeting of the history book club will be held on Tuesday, October 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn). Please consider joining us in this new endeavor!

If you have questions, please email info@newtownhistoric.org or leave a message at (215) 968-4004.

Historic Visions of Newtown Puzzle

The NHA is excited to announce the second in a series of collectable puzzles taken from the Association's archives. *Historic Visions of Newtown, PA* is a 500-piece puzzle, and a glimpse of what business was like just a century ago. The puzzle consists of advertising cards from Newtown are businesses that are displayed with the background of an advertising page from an 1898 issue of the *Newtown Enterprise* paper.

This puzzle was sponsored by **Johnson, Kendall & Johnson** which has been doing business in Newtown since 1959. The NHA is grateful for Johnson, Kendall & Johnson's

commitment to Newtown and Bucks County, and their support of the NHA.

You can purchase the Historic Visions puzzle at the NHA Callahan Research Center at 100 Mercer Street in Newtown. You can also [purchase the puzzle online on the NHA website](#). (It would make a great holiday gift!)



Did you know?

Margaret Thornton, proprietress of the Half-Moon Inn, had 12 children over 20 years. She ran the Inn for 38 years after her husband's death until she died in 1790 at the age of 85.

Do you have historic items to donate? (pictures, letters, research on a property or family, furniture, etc.) If so, please contact us.

Half-Moon Inn Fall 2021 Page 2

Holiday Open House Tour - Yule Love It!

On Saturday, December 4th, celebrate the beauty of the season with the Newtown Historic Association's holiday open house tour. Now in its 58th year, this tour gives visitors the opportunity to peek into several of Newtown's unique private residences, all dressed for the holidays.

The streets of Newtown Borough will be alive with the sounds of the season as tour goers make their way to the four town residences on this year's tour. Besides the private homes, there will be several public buildings open for visitors. All sites are within easy walking distance from the town center.

The \$30 cost of a tour ticket also includes entry into the Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn), home to the Newtown Historic Association. Once inside this beautifully restored 18th century building, tour goers will enjoy period musical entertainment and hearthside colonial cooking demonstrations.

Tour hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Advance tickets can be purchased at Newtown Book & Record Exchange, 102 S. State Street, in Newtown and on-line at the Association's website, www.newtownhistoric.org/housetour. Tour day, tickets can be purchased at the Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn), 105 Court Street and at the Stocking Works, 301 South State Street, in Newtown.

Please, no picture taking and no high-heeled shoes will be permitted in the houses.

Concerning COVID19: Masks will be required in the private homes (we will have extra masks available for free). History of vaccination is strongly

encouraged. We will have hand sanitizer available at all locations. We are taking smaller groups through the sites to maintain social distancing.

For additional information, call the Newtown Historic Association at (215) 968-4004 or visit our website.



Amazon Smile

Get ready for holiday shopping!

A reminder that there is one very easy way you can continue to support the NHA this upcoming holiday season without costing you any money. Go to www.smile.amazon.com and register under the Newtown Historic Association. Then every time you want to place an order, log into your personal smile.amazon account. You should see, "Supporting Newtown Historic Association" on the web page when you order. The NHA will receive a .5% donation from Amazon for every purchase.

Please note that we do not receive the donation unless you specifically order on your smile.amazon account, so please order using this account. While at no cost to you, the donation from Amazon will help us get through this financially challenging time.

Without the continued financial and emotional support from our community, our ability to protect and preserve Newtown's historic heritage which provides significant value to those who live, work and shop in "Historic Newtown", would not be possible. Thank you for your support!

Garden Photo Poster

The Newtown Historic Association's Garden Photo Contest Poster continues to be available for purchase at Clark's Flower Shop and Countryside Gallery & Custom Frame Design (both on State Street in Newtown), or by contacting Keyna Crawford at (267) 679-9287 or keynacrawford@verizon.net. The cost is \$20.00 per print. A check made out to the Newtown Historic Association is preferable, but cash will certainly be accepted.

All proceeds from this fundraiser go toward the support of the Newtown Historic Association.



Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- ALP Supply Inc.
- Anthony Petsis & Associates, Inc.
- C&N Bank
- DeFrehn Roofing Services
- Mary Dinneen, Realtor
- First National Bank of Newtown
- Gilbert, Wilson & Hunter LLP
- Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- Newtown Business Association
- Wm. B. Parry & Son Ltd.
- Quantum Learning, Inc.
- Stuckert and Yates
- T & T Tree Service
- The Dave Marcolla Group - Keller Williams Real Estate
- Waitkus Design

Half-Moon Inn
Fall 2021
Page 3

Market Day

The NHA is pleased to report that our popular Market Day event was held this year on Saturday, October 2nd, after being cancelled in 2020. The weather was perfect, and the event was well attended.

There were over 40 crafters and demonstrators. The day included plenty of kettle corn, puppet shows, candle dipping, and several food vendors.

The winners of the beautiful Craig Hackett prints were Gina Tognini and Chris Brill, and Carolyn Sherman. The \$400 gift certificate to the Inn at Barley Sheaf was generously donated by Bill Mahler, and the drawing winner was Chuck Stickelmaier.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



Tyler Park Self-Guided Walking Tour

The Newtown Historic Association held its Tyler Park Self-Guided Walking Tour on Saturday and Sunday, October 9th and 10th, 2021.

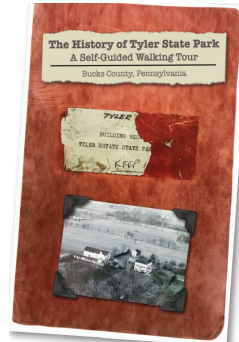
Brian Rounsavill from the Newtown Historic Association and Bonnie Tobin from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provided an overview and answered questions at the beginning of each day. Accompanying the overview, excerpts from some Tyler family home movies from 1939 and 1940 were shown. Many excellent questions were asked, and the sessions were well received by all those who attended.



All registrants received an informative Tyler Park historical book. This limited-edition, 100-page book contains rare photographs and

detailed descriptions of the many historic properties and farmhouses, including the construction of the Tyler mansion, and how they were acquired by the Tyler family in the early 1900s.

Once registrants received their tour book and attended the orientation, they were free to tour the park on their own over the course of the two-day event.



The weather was perfect on Saturday, where there were between 50 and 60 attendees. On Sunday, approximately 30 people participated.



There are so many interesting and historic sites scattered throughout the park. Even if participants could not finish the tour over the course of those two days, the new book is designed to provide visitors with a self-paced and self-guided walking tour, so the tour book can be used again at any time.

This new event was a great success thanks to the leadership and efforts of Brian Rounsavill, Bonnie Tobin from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and all those who provided support and volunteered their time. Well done!

Saving Places

"Old places are where our lives, memories, and stories began. They connect us to the past, anchor us to the present, and lead us into the future." (<https://savingplaces.org>)

Some of us here in Newtown who are preserving our historic homes, buildings, and town are aware of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)—a privately-owned non-profit organization that, for 70 years, has been “working to save America’s historic sites, tell the full American story, build stronger communities, and invest in preservation’s future.”

As you can tell, there are similarities between the NTHP and our Newtown Historic Association. The NTHP focuses on preservation at the national level while we work hard to preserve our beloved Newtown.

In case you didn’t know, the NTHP is an outstanding resource—articles, advice, guidance, and much more—for both Newtown homeowners as well as the Newtown community.

For example, the NTHP offers six practical reasons to save old homes and buildings.

1. **Old buildings have intrinsic value.** Pre-World War II homes and buildings tend to be built with higher-quality and rare materials that no longer exist.
2. **When you tear down an old building, you never know what’s being destroyed.** Only in doing renovations will you discover a home or building’s hidden gems.
3. **New businesses prefer old buildings.** New buildings make sense for major chain stores, but other businesses can thrive in old buildings.

Saving Places (cont'd)

4. **Old buildings attract people.** Older homes and buildings are just more interesting. Many people prefer to live in them and be around them.



5. **Old buildings are reminders of a city's culture and complexity.** Historic homes and buildings allow us to witness the aesthetic and cultural history of an area.
6. **Regret goes only one way.** There is no going back once an historic home or building is gone. Once it's gone, it's lost forever.



Here's another example—a summary of tips from the NTHP on 10 ways to research your home's history (or any other building of interest).

1. **Look closely at your house.**

Details can reveal a lot about the age of your old house.

2. **Be your own archaeologist.** While gardening or working in your yard, you may find buried treasures that can tell you something about who lived there before and when.
3. **Talk to people.** Don't be shy. Neighbors, local business owners, and perhaps even the mail carrier might have information to share about the previous occupants and the home itself.
4. **Learn the history of the area.** Answering questions about the city or town can offer important clues about your own home's history.
5. **Check your historic district's status.** If you don't know whether your home is designated as an historic structure, check with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or the local preservation office. (The Newtown Borough Historic District was created in March 1969, extended in 1976 and 1985, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in October 1986. To learn more, see the [Newtown Borough Zoning Ordinance](#) and [Newtown Borough 2010 Comprehensive Plan](#).)
6. **Research land and property records.** Perform a simple deed or title search to learn about who owned the property and when. In addition, tax records can reveal how the property has changed over time. (The [Bucks County Recorder of Deeds](#) office houses records from 1684 to the present.)
7. **Look up local census data.** Census data can tell you more about the previous owners (e.g., number of children, cost of home). (The [U.S. Census Bureau website](#) includes the 2020 census data.)
8. **Contact your local historical society.** It can be a great place to find old photos, maps, newspaper

articles, and more. (Our hometown treasure, the [Newtown Historic Association](#), welcomes your visit.)



9. **Visit your local library.** Libraries contain books and online archives—two more great resources for finding information. (Our other hometown treasure, the [Newtown Library Company](#), has been serving Newtown since 1760.)
10. **Read!** Many books can guide you further in your research.

You can learn more about the NTHP by visiting their [website](#) or liking their [Facebook page](#).

Upcoming Calendar

October:

- 10/18: **Membership meeting** with Mike Hutchinson, "Historic Preservation and the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB)", 7:30 p.m.
- 10/19: **History Book Club**, 7:00 p.m.

November:

- 11/15: **Membership meeting** with [Larry Kidder](#), "Life in Towns Near Newtown at the Time of the Revolution", 7:30 p.m.

December:

- 12/4: **Holiday Open House Tour** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further details, visit www.newtownhistoric.org