



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 and activities 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*

Board of Directors

Keyna Crawford
Paul Gouza
Dan Griffin
Bronwyn Jones
Betsey King
Geno Peruzzi
Richard Speranza
Susan Thompson
David Walton
Honorary Life Dir. – David Callahan
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
Newtown, PA 18940 USA
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

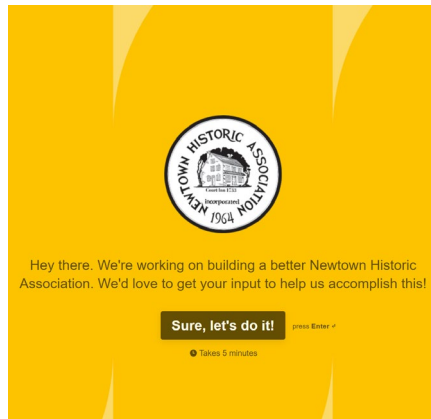
Marc Bjorkman
James Nicholas Davis
Ann Strohlein & Donald Lefebvre
Tracy Schrader

New Corporate Members

Fred Beans Automotive Group
Lin Bethman Auto Center, Inc.

2022 NHA Member Survey

If you have not participated in this year's five-minute member survey, there is still time, and we would like to hear from you!



This year's survey was sent via email to all active NHA members at the end of June. For those of you who have already responded, thank you for your participation.

If you did not see the email with the survey link, please check your junk or spam folder. If you still cannot locate the email, please contact us at (215) 968-4004 or info@newtownhistoric.org so we can resend it to you.

The Inn is Open

The Half-Moon (Court) Inn has been open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. since Memorial Day. It will continue to be open on weekends until Market Day, Saturday, October 1st. Entry is free. Come and visit. We look forward to seeing you!



Upcoming Calendar

September:

- 9/16: **Annual Historic Walking Tour** at 6:00 p.m. hosted by Jeff Marshall
- 9/30: **"Newtown Memory Night"** at 7:00 p.m. hosted by Marty Moss-Coane

October:

- 10/1: **Market Day** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 10/8: **Tyler Self-Guided Walking Tour**
- 10/25: **"Covered Bridges of Bucks County"** at 7:30 p.m. hosted by R. Scott Bomboy

November:

- 11/21: **General Meeting** at 7:30 p.m.

December:

- 12/3: **Holiday Open House Tour** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further details, visit www.newtownhistoric.org.

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Tyler Park Center for the Arts Craft Show

The NHA had a booth at the Tyler Park Spring Arts & Culture Festival weekend in mid-May. We sold over \$250 worth of NHA-branded items, including the History of Tyler Park book, enlightened visitors about the work we do for the community, and did our best to stay dry. We plan to attend the Fall festival on October 15th and 16th, 2022.



Annual Student Walking Tour

Although the weather was uncooperative for the Tyler Park event, it was perfect in early June for the student walking tour. The abundance of sunshine contributed to the great turnout and overall success of the event. The children were very well behaved, knowledgeable, and interested in learning about Newtown's history. The NHA would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with this annual educational event.



Annual Memorial Day Tribute to Local Veterans

The Newtown Historic Association held its annual Memorial Day tribute to honor local military veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Over 100 pictures of local soldiers who fought in these wars were on display. This collection was created by Mike Donovan, a past NHA member and history buff.



Annual Spring Garden Cocktail Gala

Over 90 people attended the NHA Annual Spring Garden Cocktail Gala in June. The weather was perfect, and smiles were plentiful.

The NHA would like to thank all the volunteers and those who contributed food and/or beverage. We could not have done it without you!

Annual Garden Walk

It was a picture-perfect day for this year's NHA garden walk in June. The NHA extends a big thank you to all the homeowners who participated in the event.



Thornton Descendants Visit the Half-Moon Inn

Marc Thompson and his daughter, Sophia, really enjoyed their tour of the Half-Moon Inn in June.

Marc is a descendant of Margaret and Joseph Thornton and currently lives in Miami, Florida. His daughter just graduated from high school, and he arranged a "road trip" from Florida to Nova Scotia to explore their family roots.



Marc grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and attended Moravian University in Bethlehem. He is a descendant from his mother's side through Margaret and Joseph's son, Joseph.

Marc has done extensive genealogy research since the 1970s. We look forward to him sharing his findings with the NHA.

Do you have historic items to donate? (Pictures, letters, research on a property or family, furniture, etc.) If so, please contact us at (215) 968-4004.

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Market Day

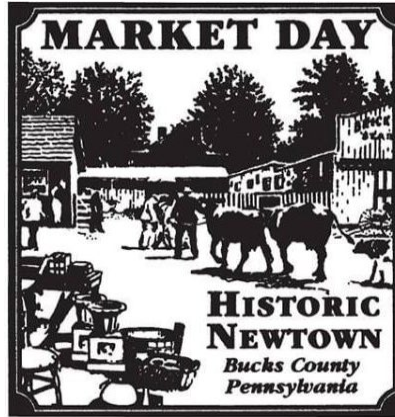
Here's a reprint from 40+ years ago that we thought you might enjoy.

The first Annual Market Day will be held on Saturday, September 16, 1978, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Court Street, Newtown.

Demonstrations of early crafts will be performed by skilled artisans. There will be 33 in all. Strolling musicians will entertain. You may see blacksmith at work, wood carving, butter churning, and theorem painting. There will be spoon dolls, apple head dolls, dancing dolls, and doll houses. From weaving, spinning and crewel work to scrimshaw and scherenschnitte, from pewter to dried flowers – it will all be here. After a free hayride, you can be photographed in the pillory. A military encampment will be replete with camp followers. Join the husking contest or the pumpkin contest. REMEMBER THE DATE – September 16.

Market Day revives an early tradition in Newtown. To quote from the Newtown Borough Council minutes as compiled by Reuben P. Kester and included in Vol. 2 of the bicentennial publication of the Newtown Library Company, "In October 1869, Borough Council passed an ordinance starting a public market in the borough. It took 30 years, however, for the borough to exercise this unusual prerogative." In 1959, the Businessmen of Newtown again revived the custom with some variations with the inception of "Welcome Day." Since this custom was suspended this year, the Newtown Historical Association has taken up the baton

to carry on the tradition. Mrs. Robert Norman is the Chairman.



We hope to see you at this year's Market Day on **Saturday, October 1st, 2022**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For those who would like to volunteer to help, please send an email to info@newtownhistoric.org.

Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

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

Did you know?

Have you ever noticed the sign on Washington Avenue near Congress Street that reads "Archambault Square" and wondered, "What is that?"

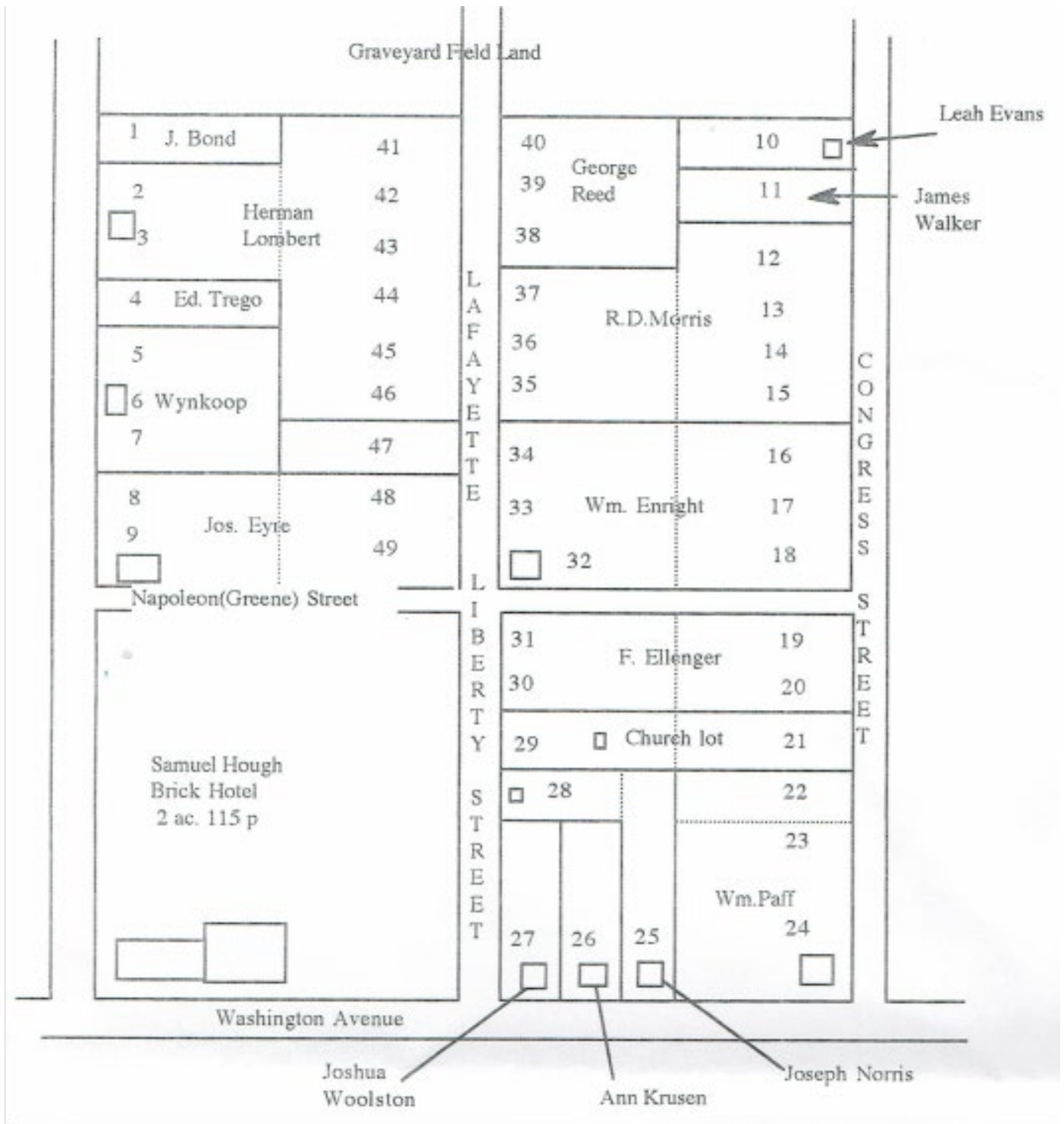
Napoleon Bonaparte took Joseph Archambault at age 10 to Napoleon Riding School. Then in 1808, Napoleon took Joseph to Saint-Cyr-l'Ecole, French Military School. In 1814, when Napoleon abdicated and was banished to Elba, Joseph went with him as a groom.

In 1819, Joseph came to America and settled in Newtown. At the time, Napoleon's brother, Joseph, was living in Bordentown, NJ. Seven years later, Joseph Archambault bought the Temperance House at 5 South State Street. In 1828, he sold it and bought the Brick Hotel at the corner of State Street and Washington Avenue. His residence, built in 1830, is located at the northwest corner of Washington Avenue and Congress Street—the property where the Archambault Square sign is currently posted in the front yard.

Archambault Square was approximately 14 acres, laid out into 53 building lots, and a station on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War. At age 65, Archambault became a major in the 2nd Pennsylvania Calvary during the Civil War.

Joseph Archambault (June 2, 1796 to July 3, 1874) shaped Newtown in ways that still remain today. He put the addition on the Brick Hotel, and he donated the land and funds for Newtown Hall, now known as the Newtown Theatre.

Archambault Square, 1850



Numbered lots on Archambault Square with the owners and buildings in 1850. From *A History of Newtown Land Ownership* by Thomas C. Mayer, pg.224.

Newtown Reliance Company Commemorative Sign

In the 19th century when horses were critical for transportation and livelihood, but police forces were not as organized (especially in rural communities), horse-thieving was a significant problem. Horse protective associations, as they were commonly called, formed throughout the United States. They generally functioned as mutual aid societies, where subscribers worked together whenever a horse was reported missing to apprehend the thief, turn him over to the authorities, and return the horse to its rightful owner.¹

The Newtown Reliance Company—the third horse company in Bucks County—was instituted in 1819 at the sign of the Bird-in-Hand on South State Street in Newtown. The founders were leaders of the community in their respective trades and professions, and the majority of them being Quakers gave the Company a quiet, conservative management, which has had a continued existence to the present day, a background enabling it to slowly increase in usefulness and outlive nearly all of its competitors. When automobiles became popular, the Company, always progressive to meet changing conditions, afforded them the same total protection received by a horse, vehicle, and harness.²

Throughout the 19th century, the "Horse Company" continued to thrive. By 1937, the membership of the Association had dwindled to eighteen members and the treasury was near depletion. A membership drive in that year placed forty-six new names on the membership

roster, and one of Newtown's oldest organizations was revitalized. As late as 1940, the Newtown Reliance Company advertised in the Newtown Enterprise for the recovery of the eight-month-old bull stolen from J. Hibbs Buckman. In 1944, it was advertised in the Advance of Bucks County that a horse belonging to Charles Goodnoe of Newtown was frightened by a stranger and broke away from the hitching post on their property and travelled all across the area and up and down the Delaware being pursued by the Company, where she was finally found by the New Jersey State Police near the Pennington circle. The last detective chase took place in the early 1950s, where members of the Reliance Company banded together against an early morning arsonist who had burned quite a few local barns in a matter of weeks. The members patrolled the roads during the night to serve as a deterrent, and the arsonist was captured in Richboro by State Police officers.

Although the Newtown Reliance Company for the Detecting and Apprehending of Horse Thieves and Other Villains no longer actively pursues local villains, the Company does contribute to the community, particularly in support of law enforcement and fire prevention. Patriotism and service to the community was the Newtown Reliance Company's most persistent activity over the centuries, and that spirit is very much alive and well.

Today, the Company is limited to approximately 300 members, 10 of whom are Detectives and another 12 who serve as Directors. Each year at their annual meeting in January, the Newtown Reliance Company inducts new members and rewards persons who may have apprehended horse thieves or

made significant contributions to the community.

The Newtown Reliance Company is the oldest surviving and continuously operating "Horse Company" in the state of Pennsylvania, as well as one of the oldest membership-driven community organizations still in continuous operation today.

The year 2019 marked the bicentennial of the founding of the Newtown Reliance Company. Accordingly, to commemorate the founding of this organization, an historical marker has been erected on Washington Avenue on the grounds of the Newtown Fire Association so future generations can be reminded of, and continue to celebrate, the oldest continuously operated community-service organization in the State of Pennsylvania.

So while you're sitting in traffic or strolling towards State Street heading west on Washington Avenue near the firehouse, look to the right and upward just prior to the Brick Hotel driveway.....



¹ "Horse Thieves in Newtown", Historical Society of Pennsylvania, February 13, 2013.

² "Newtown Reliance Company for Detecting and Apprehending of Horse Thieves and Other Villains" by Edward R. Barnsley, 1937.

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Research Center Training

Callahan Research Center volunteers recently attended an on-site training session on PastPerfect, our museum management software. PastPerfect allows for the database storage of artifacts, documents, photographs, and library books. The training was conducted by NHA member Lee Clark.



Newtown Memory Night

Take a trip down memory lane at the first-ever Newtown Memory Night on **Friday, September 30th** at the historic **Newtown Theatre**.

Hosted by Newtown Borough resident Marty Moss-Coane, host and executive producer of WHYY-FM's "Radio Times," Newtown Memory Night will **start at 7:00 p.m.** with a community cocktail hour (cash bar) and socializing. The program begins at 8:00 p.m. and will follow a lively talk-show format with Moss-Coane moving through a variety of segments covering topics such as business, entertainment, education, and social life, along with a special segment titled "Then & Now."

During each segment, Moss-Coane will welcome special local guests to stage to share their memories of Newtown.

This special evening is presented by the Newtown Theatre and the Newtown Historic Association. Tickets are \$15 for the public and \$10 for members of the theatre and the historic association. Proceeds will benefit both non-profit organizations.

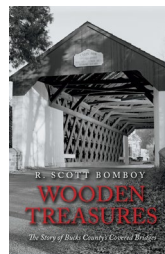
"This event will transport guests back to Newtown's past through the eyes of those who lived it," says Andrew Smith, executive director of the Newtown Theatre. "We think it will be a very special and very memorable night."

"Newtown Memory Night will serve as a great complement to our annual Market Day, which will be held the next day on the streets around the Court Inn," says Barry Fleck, president of the Newtown Historic Association. "Newtown has a rich history, and this event will bring it alive for guests."

The theatre is located at 120 N. State Street in Newtown Borough. For more information and tickets, visit www.TheNewtownTheatre.com/events.

October General Meeting

R. Scott Bomboy, author of "Wooden Treasures: The Story of Bucks County's Covered Bridges," will speak at the historic **Newtown Theatre** about his book on **Tuesday, October 25th, at 7:30 p.m.**



Bomboy spent five years on the book, which accounts for the 51 covered bridges once located in the county. Today, only 12 such

bridges remain, including the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge in Tyler State Park. Most of Bucks County's covered bridges were gone by 1940, as progress led to their demolition. It fell to a small group of people to save the remaining bridges for future generations to enjoy.

Bomboy is a Bucks County resident, historian, and preservationist who has written frequently about Bucks County's past. He has received national awards for his work in journalism and holds degrees in history from Penn State University and Arizona State University. He also produced the website BucksBridges.com as a joint project between the Bucks County Historical Society and Arizona State. He currently works as editor-in-chief at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.



This special evening is presented by the Newtown Historic Association and the Newtown Theatre. Tickets are \$15 for the public and \$10 for members of the theatre and the historic association. Proceeds will benefit both non-profit organizations.

The theatre is located at 120 N. State Street in Newtown Borough. For more information and tickets, visit www.TheNewtownTheatre.com/events.

Restoring Old Stone, Brick, or Masonry

Does your house or barn have old stone, brick, or masonry in need of repair? If so, you might find this “how to” article of interest.

The following series of photos show the before, during, and after conditions of an old stone threshold here in Newtown.



If you decide to tackle a project like this, you will probably need assistance from a masonry contractor for the patching. Proper matching of new materials with the existing structure is critical so that the new materials do not cause unexpected future damage. If materials selected are too hard, too dense, have lower vapor transmission, and/or do not let the masonry system function and manage water, damage can occur.

After patching, if necessary, you can easily apply the two or three coats of colorwash stain yourself. Note that the colorwash is a mineral coating (like liquid stone) so it soaks into the masonry, staining it and becoming part of the stone. It retains the original texture of the stone as opposed to paint, which is opaque and looks like a coating.

Do you have any restoration “how to” tips or projects you would like to share with us? If so, let us know at (215) 968-4004 or info@newtownhistoric.org.

NHA Newsletters

If you would like to revisit previous newsletters, you can find them on the Newsletters page of our website:
<https://www.newtownhistoric.org/about-us/newsletters/>.

Special Market Day Request

With our Market Day event quickly approaching, we are in need again of your discarded jeans, long sleeved shirts (button or jersey), and plastic grocery bags for the Make a Scarecrow activity.

If you find that you have some clothing to donate, please drop them on the porch of Keyna Crawford, 116 N. Congress Street in Newtown Borough. If you have any questions, you can reach Keyna at (267) 679-9287.

Thank you for your continued support of all Market Day activities.

