

# The Half Moon

The Newsletter of the Newtown Historic Association



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- Our 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Open House Tour!



## 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

Dan Griffin, President  
Brian Rounsavill, First Vice President  
Richard Speranza, Second Vice President  
Mary Jo Garner, Recording Secretary  
Caroline Bennett, Corresponding Secretary  
Rich Seidner, Treasurer

## Board of Directors

Keyna Crawford  
Paul Gouza  
Betsey King  
Jeff Marshall  
Geno Peruzzi  
Amy Smith  
Susan Thompson  
Gina Tognini  
David Walton  
Honorary Life Director – David Callahan  
Parliamentarian – Tim Potero

## 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

Christopher & Christine Lilley



## Upcoming Calendar

### October:

- 10/27: **Historic Newtown Walking Tour** at 1:00 p.m., Court Inn

### November:

- 11/18: **"Painting Conservation Techniques and Materials"** at 7:30 p.m., Court Inn

### December:

- 12/7: **Holiday Open House Tour** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further details, visit [www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org).

## Honor Ceremony for Sgt. Charles Duckworth

**Written by Baker-Fisher Camp 101**

Baker-Fisher Camp 101 honored Sgt. Charles Duckworth in September at Newtown Cemetery. Sgt. Duckworth was the last Union veteran of Bucks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Sgt. Duckworth served in the war as a private in the 18<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Calvary, Co. I and as a sergeant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Provisional Cavalry, Co. F. He saw action in the 1864 Overland campaign and was able to see President Abraham Lincoln while riding through Washington.

After the war, Duckworth continued to live and work locally in Bucks County. He was heavily active in the G.A.R., serving as the last post commander of Capt. H. Clay Beatty Post #73, located in Bristol.

Sgt. Duckworth passed away at the age of 102 in 1949.

## September General Meeting

The NHA hosted local author and historian Scott Bomboy for our September general meeting. The title of the presentation was "The Lost Covered Bridges of the Neshaminy Creek." Approximately 30 people were in attendance.

Dan Griffin, NHA President, and R. Scott Bomboy



Bomboy took a look back at the network of covered bridges that once spanned the lower Neshaminy Creek, featuring rare photos and local newspaper accounts.

At one time, six covered bridges spanned the Neshaminy Creek from Bristol Township to Wrightstown. Today, only one

covered bridge remains on the creek, in Tyler State Park.



Each bridge had an interesting story to be told and were key players in the growth of lower Bucks County. Bomboy explained how each bridge was lost in a different way.



The presentation ended with a lively question-and-answer session, followed by snacks and cider.

Susan Thompson, NHA Board Member





## Tyler State Park Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour

**Photos: Sheryl Rubin-Patel**

The NHA held its Tyler State Park self-guided historical walking tour on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. It began with an historical overview of the Tyler family, mansion, and park properties by Brian Rounsavill, First Vice President of the Newtown Historic Association, and Bonnie Tobin, Environmental Education Specialist at Tyler State Park. Approximately 20 people were in attendance.



Many interesting questions were asked during the event. All participants received a copy of the "History of Tyler State Park" book, and they were free to tour the park on their own at the conclusion of the event.



The book is still available for purchase on the [NHA website](https://newtownhistoric.org)

(\$16). It provides all the details on the self-paced and self-guided walking tour, and would make a great holiday gift.

**Dave Callahan, NHA Honorary Life Director, Brian Rounsavill, NHA First Vice President, and Mary Callahan**



## Court Inn and Callahan Research Center Improvements

The NHA Buildings and Grounds Committee coordinated the exterior painting of the windows and walls of the Callahan Research Center. Holes in the side alley walls were also filled.



The trees in front of the Court Inn were trimmed by NHA corporate member, T&T Tree Services, in preparation for Market Day.

The committee has been given authorization by the NHA Board to renovate the Court Inn first floor bathrooms.

## Boone Garden: The Fence is Fixed!

NHA member, Jimmy Garner, tackled yet another volunteer project. This time, it was the top of the wooden fence on the perimeter of the Boone Garden, across the street from the Half-moon (Court) Inn.



This was not an easy undertaking, and with the deadline of Market Day the clock was ticking. Jimmy was determined and finished it in time. Thank you, Jimmy!





## Historic Newtown Market Day

Photos: Neale Messina

The NHA held its 48<sup>th</sup> annual Market Day on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The weather was picture perfect, resulting in the streets around the Half-moon (Court) Inn being filled with visitors, crafters, musicians, food trucks, fun activities, pets, and more—and creating a glimpse into colonial America. This community-oriented event brought hundreds of families and friends into our town to celebrate our historic past and enjoy the solace of the day.

The winners of the NHA raffle were Brandon Wind and Georgia Koenig—both choosing to use their gift certificates to go to the Black Bass Hotel. The winner of the Brick Hotel oil painting, donated by the D.A.R., was Marie Wise. All proceeds from the raffle tickets sold for the painting were donated by the D.A.R. to the NHA. The NHA is appreciative of their generous donation.





## Historic Newtown Market Day (cont'd)

Photos: Neale Messina





## Historic Newtown Market Day (cont'd)

Photos: Neale Messina





## 2024 Historic Newtown Market Day Sponsors

This year's Market Day was funded by generous sponsorships and donations from local businesses and supporters. The NHA appreciates their generosity.





## 2024 Historic Newtown Market Day Sponsors (cont'd)

The Newtown Historic Association would also like to thank Wegmans of Yardley, PA, for their generous donation in support of Market Day.



## Did You Know?

(From the Doylestown Democrat and Farmers' and Mechanics' Gazette, April 27, 1836)

The Newtown Debating Society will meet at the Academy on Saturday evening the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Question for discussion, was Napoleon a greater General, than Caesar.

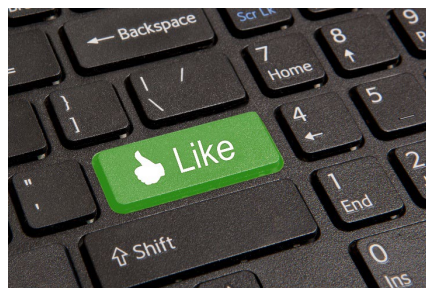
The Public, generally, and the Ladies in particular, are respectfully invited to attend. Per order of the Committee.



## Current Statistics: Social Media

The Newtown Historic Association maintains an active presence on social media.

The statistics on our Facebook page (Newtown Historic Association) are impressive. We have over 1,200 followers!



The NHA also maintains an Instagram presence (@newtownhistoric) and we have over 1,200 followers there, too!

If you have not already done so, please follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram to stay updated on our events.



## Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- A Love for Life
- ALP Supply Inc.
- DeFrehn Roofing Services
- Mary Dinneen, Realtor
- First National Bank & Trust of Newtown
- Gilded Home Furnishings Consignment
- Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- Lin Bethman Auto Center, Inc.
- Newtown Business Association
- Wm. B. Parry & Son, Ltd.
- Anthony Petsis & Associates, Inc.
- SDG Holdings I, LLC
- Steele's Gulf Auto Repair, Inc.
- Stuckert and Yates
- T & T Tree Service
- Waitkus Design

## Do You Have Historic Items to Donate?

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

## 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/>.





## November General Meeting

The NHA is hosting conservator and gold leaf specialist Paul Gratz for our November general meeting, which will take place on **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the Half-moon (Court) Inn.** The title of the presentation is "Painting Conservation Techniques and Materials."

Paul Gratz in His Studio



Gratz's presentation on art conservation will explain how the combination of modern techniques with Old World craftsmanship offers the finest in treatment for oil paintings, murals, and gilt objects. Truly skilled art conservation preserves as much as possible of the original art itself, and therefore preserves its utmost value. Conservation treatment restores original radiance, color, and detail to treasured oil paintings and art objects, adding years of life and maximum value to even the most damaged artwork.

Mr. Gratz is the owner of Gratz Gallery & Conservation Studio, Inc. Under his leadership, the gallery has represented American artists with numerous exhibitions and publications for over four decades. Most recently, Mr. Gratz started representation of an extensive collection of works by American Modernist, female painter, Peter Miller. The collection of over 220 works went through his careful art conservation and is

accompanied by a monograph on the artist published by Mr. Gratz in cooperation with art historian Francis M. Naumann.

Gratz Gallery has been a trusted representative for private collectors and museums in the expansion and upgrade of their fine American art collections. Over the years, Gratz Gallery has successfully sold to and represented a long list of renowned art organizations and private collectors, and assisted in exhibitions with fellow galleries and Fine Art Museums.

Mr. Gratz has been a private conservator for 40 years, working with Princeton University Art Museum for 30 years, providing conservation services for private collectors, prestigious national museums, and art organizations. The Conservation Studio specializes in the conservation and restoration of oil paintings and gilt frames.

Mr. Gratz's formal training began at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and was developed through various apprenticeships with some of the nation's most respected art conservators. While attending the Academy, Mr. Gratz studied with the esteemed Louis Sloane, the conservator and artist Joseph Amarotico, and the unparalleled instructor, Arthur DeCosta. Paul Gratz was a founding member of the Society of Gilders.





## 2024 Holiday Open House Tour

The Newtown Historic Association proudly looks forward to our 61<sup>st</sup> annual Holiday Open House Tour, which will take place on **Saturday, December 7, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

This year's tour will feature a total of thirteen private homes and public buildings. Reminder: No picture taking or high-heeled shoes are permitted in the private homes.

Early-bird ticket prices are \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members, available [online now!](#) Tickets can also be purchased at the Newtown Book & Record Exchange, 102 South State Street, Newtown (beginning November 15<sup>th</sup>). On the day of the tour, December 7<sup>th</sup>, ticket prices will be \$40, and can be purchased at the Half-moon (Court) Inn, 105 Court Street, and at the Stocking Works, 301 South State Street, in Newtown. Children under the age of 12 are free.

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

The Holiday Open House Tour is a major fundraiser for the NHA. Please come and join us. We look forward to seeing you!

