



The Half Moon

The Newsletter of the Newtown Historic Association



IN THIS VOLUME:

- Highlights From Recent Events
- Information on Upcoming Events
- “Jack” Frost Early Newtown Settler
- New Heritage Walk Signs
- Get Ready for Market Day!

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

Kathy Bodine, Dan & Susanne Hogan, Ray & Victoria Robb,
Diedra Sarego, Steve & Carole Williams, Edward Jones
(Shikha Prashar, Advisor)



Upcoming Calendar

April:

- 4/21: **Annual Business & General Meeting** at 7:30 p.m., Court Inn
- 4/26: **Annual Spring Cleanup** at 8:30 a.m., Court Inn

May:

- 5/26: **Annual Memorial Day Tribute to Local Veterans** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Callahan Research Center
- 5/31: **Spring Garden Cocktail Party** from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Court Inn

June:

- 6/4: **Elementary School Walking Tour** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Court Inn (rain date is June 5)
- 6/7: **Annual Garden Walk** from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Court Inn
- 6/20: **Historic Walking Tour of Newtown** at 6:00 p.m., Court Inn

For further details, visit www.newtownhistoric.org.

Annual Appreciation Dinner

Photos: Neale Messina

The NHA annual appreciation dinner to honor those homeowners and public building stewards who participated in the 2024 Holiday Open House Tour was held on February 2, 2025, at the Temperance House.

During this year's event, the NHA recognized six homeowners and seven public building stewards.

In addition, the NHA honored Lorraine Pentz. Lorraine retired from organizing the head hostesses of the Holiday Open House Tour after volunteering for 25 years. She was presented with a gift card for Clark's Flower Shop in Newtown.

This year's dinner was a true colonial experience. The Temperance House experienced a full weekend without power. Despite the setback, they still provided the NHA with a delicious candlelight dinner heated by the fireplace for warmth.



Annual Appreciation Dinner (cont'd)

Photos: Neale Messina

Approximately 65 people attended the dinner. Many thanks to all those in attendance, especially Kathy Buczek and the staff at the Temperance House. The evening was a great success.

Heather Lewis is replacing Lorraine Pentz, so we will continue to be in great hands for this year's Holiday Open House Tour in December.

Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- A Love for Life
- DeFrehn Roofing Services
- Edward Jones (Shikha Prashar)
- Mary Dinneen, Realtor
- First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown
- Fleck Family Holdings
- Gilded Home Furnishings Consignment
- Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- Lin Bethman Auto Center, Inc.
- Marcolla Realty
- 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



NEWTOWN ENTERPRISE.

NEWTOWN, BUCKS COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1884.

“Jack” Frost Early Newtown Settler

Frost Lane to the North of Borough Line Still Bears Original Designation

COLONIAL LAWMAKER

To people not living in Newtown, Jack Frost is only a legendary character who arrives every winter two months ahead of his partner Santa Claus, who, like himself, is only a well-founded tradition as imaginative as the Sand Man at bed time or the Big Bad Wolf during a depression. But to residents of Newtown, “Jack” Frost is no myth. He lived here winter and summer, and was one of Newtown’s most distinguished Quaker citizens.

About 222 years ago, Mr. Frost first came to our community and, although he left no lineal descendants, his name still lives in our annals as being the proprietor of the farm at the end of Frost Lane. This street immediately north of the borough line and parallel to it has the joint distinction with Court Street of being the only two that have kept their original designation since the founding of the town.

It is unknown where John Frost came from or when he arrived in Bucks County. His first record is found in the marriage register of Middletown Monthly Meeting of Friends. On First Month third, that is March 1708-9, John Frost and Mrs. Thomas Stackhouse, Sr. passed meeting, and they were married sometime during that month. She had been married twice before so the ceremony was not new to her though it was to John. Her maiden name was Margaret Fell and she was the daughter of Christopher Fell of Newton, County Lancaster, England. She had married first, in 1679, Christopher Atkinson by whom she had seven or eight children. Atkinson died in 1699 and she had married, secondly, in 1702, a widower named Thomas Stackhouse, Sr., who had come to Pennsylvania on the “Welcome.” Stackhouse died in 1706 and Margaret waited the customary three years and then married, thirdly, John Frost as above stated.

Mr. Frost played an important part in making the colonial history of Newtown. In 1712 and again in 1715, he was elected to the coveted membership of the Provincial Assembly. He was a recognized man of affairs, being chosen as one of the three trustees to whom Newtown commons was patented on August 16, 1716 “for the use of themselves and the other inhabitants of the township.” Mrs. Frost died in March 1715 and her husband a year and a half later. He was buried October 25, 1716, “in Friends Ground at Chester,” whither he may have gone to visit his step-daughter, Isabel (Atkinson) Carter, or he may have been living with her, after his wife’s death: although in his will made five days before his death he gives his residence as Newtown. By his will proved November 16, 1716, he left legacies to his two surviving step-daughters: Margaret Atkinson, widow of Samuel Hillborn (the son of Thomas and Elizabeth, of Newtown Township) and Isabel Atkinson, wife of John Carter, of Chester County. He directed that Isabel’s share, if she should die without issue, would go to Margaret’s only child, Samuel Hillborn, Jr., and that Thomas Hillborn and John Stackhouse, nephew of his wife’s second husband, would be trustees for the same. Isabel however, had about seven children, so died with plenty of issue.

Frost also made bequests to his own heirs: namely, his brothers, Joseph, Edmund, Samuel, Isaac and Thomas, and his sister, Elizabeth Francis. They probably did not live in Pennsylvania. To John Carter, his step-son-in-law, he left his servant man, named John Jones, and he appointed his friend, John Wildman, as executor.

[The above article prepared by E. R. Barnsley was taken in part from Oliver Hough’s “Atkinson Families of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.”]



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/>.

NHA and Social Media

The Newtown Historic Association is active on social media. Be sure to follow us on Facebook (#newtownhistoricassociation) and Instagram (@newtownhistoric). We also have a separate presence for Market Day (#newtownmarketday, @newtownmarketday).



Newtown Heritage Walk

1700s

200 South State Street, c.1720
 The second-story balcony is a notable feature on the top of the first floor. The building was built by John C. Smith, a prominent merchant and politician. It was one of the first buildings in Newtown to have a balcony. The balcony was used for drying goods and for social gatherings. It was also used for storing goods and for drying goods.

Four Centuries of Architecture

At the intersection of State and First Streets, one can see four different buildings that were constructed in each of the past four centuries. These are not only places in the Lehigh Valley where you can see over four hundred years of architecture without moving your feet.

In the early 1700s, houses were built for survival and durability. Colonial designs began to take over in America in the mid-to-late 1700s, using simple forms and local materials. In contrast, the 1800s marked a period of grandeur and drama in architecture, with ornate details and bold designs emphasizing wealth and authority through architecture.

By the time we hit the 20th century, everything changed. Architects began experimenting with new materials such as steel and concrete, creating stronger, larger structures with open layouts and practical designs. By the 21st century, the focus of the 2000s turned toward sustainability and blending with the environment, leading to ways to honor both modern comforts and nature.

Looking at four centuries of architecture, one sees more than just a series of changing designs. Standing here, we see witness to society's evolving priorities, creativity, and technological leaps. In Newtown, our past exists side-by-side with the present, and the old has become a part of the new.

1900s

211 South State Street, c.1920
 Most work in the early 20th century was done in brick. The building was built by the Lehigh Valley Brick Company. It was one of the first buildings in Newtown to have a brick facade. The building was used for a variety of purposes, including as a store and as a residence. It was also used for a variety of purposes, including as a store and as a residence.

1800s

123 South State Street, c.1800
 The highest stone building in the city of Newtown, this building was built in the early 1800s. It was one of the first buildings in Newtown to have a stone facade. The building was used for a variety of purposes, including as a store and as a residence. It was also used for a variety of purposes, including as a store and as a residence.

2000s

312 South State Street, 2003
 The second-story balcony is a notable feature on the top of the first floor. The building was built by John C. Smith, a prominent merchant and politician. It was one of the first buildings in Newtown to have a balcony. The balcony was used for drying goods and for social gatherings. It was also used for storing goods and for drying goods.

YOU ARE HERE

New Heritage Walk Signs

The NHA is pleased to announce that two new Newtown Heritage Walk signs are due to be shipped from the factory by the end of the month. Here's a preview of the new signs.

Newtown Heritage Walk

The Enterprise Building

The Enterprise Building, for which it would be known, housed the publishing of the Newtown Enterprise newspaper at 126 South State Street. In 1874, Elvazor F. Church purchased the parcel on Courton Lane #2 opposite the White Hall Hotel, from the heirs of Watson F. Fego for \$3,000 and made plans for erecting a building that would house a printing office and serve several other purposes.

The brick building was designed by Messrs. Fulton & Corson, Architects, of South 5th Street, Philadelphia, the same architects who designed the Bucks County Intelligencer and Lemay Buildings in Doylestown. The Intelligencer noted that, "Mr. Church, besides printing a good paper, has ample outside means, which enables him to put up a new building somewhere almost every season."

The Enterprise Building was planned to be 22 feet across the front, 60 feet deep, and three stories high, with only the second story designed to be occupied by the newspaper office, as a store was planned to be on the first floor. The brickwork was completed by Wright & Parnes of Bristol, who used 71,000 bricks from Westcott's Brickyard on Washington Avenue, opposite of the Newtown Cemetery.

The first eleven issues of the Newtown Enterprise were struck off with a hand-operated press, published weekly for \$2.00 per year. The paper was published from March 19, 1867, until October 29, 1919, then ceased publication as an independent journal to merge with the Daily Intelligencer of Doylestown. The first issue published from the new building was on December 12, 1874.

After the Newtown Enterprise operations ceased in 1920, the building was used as office space by local architects, Clarke & Reppert. In 1978, Flickering, Coris & Summerson, a local consulting, engineering, and land surveying company, purchased the building and made significant renovations, and operated from this location until 2002. The building has been used by a variety of local businesses ever since.

Site Sponsors: Jim Worthington & Don McCloskey

ENTERPRISE PRINTING OFF

Historical photo with the initials of Thomas F. Church.

NEWTOWN ENTERPRISE

Newtown Enterprise, March 17, 1868 edition. Note the factory address label, top left, for Joseph Sisk.



NHA Happy Hour and Frederick Douglas at the Newtown Theatre

Photos: Dan Griffin, Susan Thompson

On February 4, 2025, the Newtown Theatre welcomed nationally acclaimed Frederick Douglass impersonator Darius Wallace to deliver "Frederick Douglass! The Lion of Freedom," a one-man show about the life of America's greatest abolitionist. Over 250 people attended. A percentage of the ticket sales supported the [African American Museum of Bucks County](#).



Before the show, the Newtown Historic Association hosted a cocktail hour at the Court Inn. Approximately 50-60 people attended. All proceeds from the cocktail hour benefited the Newtown Historic Association.

The NHA was thrilled to have Darius Wallace join us for the cocktail party. We were also pleased to host officials from Visit Bucks County.

Darius Wallace and Andy Smith



February General Meeting

On February 24, 2025, Pat Mervine and Joe Coleman spoke about their new book, "Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County." They shared untold stories about Bucks County people and places involved with the Underground Railroad.

Pat Mervine and Joe Coleman



This was a very popular and interesting topic. Approximately 70 people were in attendance.

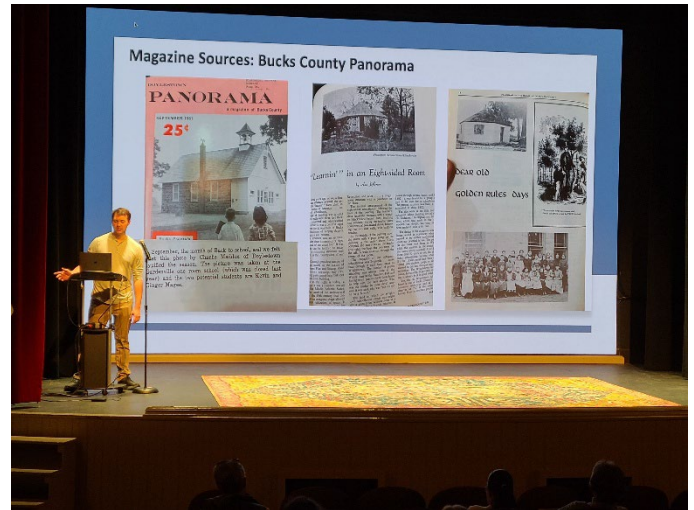


March General Meeting

Photos: Gary Albaugh

On March 24, 2025, Chase Palmer presented his research on the "History of One Room Schools in Newtown and the Surrounding Areas."

Chase Palmer



Another popular topic, there were approximately 75 people in attendance. This meeting was held in the Newtown Theatre. The NHA greatly appreciated the cooperation and partnership shown by the theatre to allow us to hold our event in their venue.



Annual Business Meeting and April General Meeting

The NHA Annual Business Meeting and April general meeting will be held in the Half-moon (Court) Inn on **Monday, April 21st, 2025, starting at 7:30 p.m.**

The Annual Business Meeting will be conducted first. It will include the election of Directors and Officers for a new term. Also, there will be a review of the organization's events over the past year.

The Annual Business Meeting will be followed by the general meeting, which will be presented by Board members Mary Jo Garner and Keyna Crawford. The presentation topic is "Treasures from the Attic."

Annual Spring Cleanup

Our annual spring cleanup day at the Half-moon (Court) Inn will be held on **Saturday, April 26th, 2025, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

We are seeking volunteers to assist with the cleanup. No experience necessary. Please come help us and have some fun making the Court Inn shine again, especially those who are interested in helping with our buildings and grounds.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Gouza at pgouza12@gmail.com.



Court Inn and Callahan Research Center Improvements

The Callahan Research Center recently received a new copier, and all four computers are now connected to it. The NHA was pleased to find a new home for our old copier—the Bensalem Historical Society. New shelves were mounted to display model houses.

The Court Inn now has a new thermostat, and the exterior of the Inn needs painting. The NHA plans to complete this project as soon as the weather cooperates.

All For Love

(From the *Newtown Enterprise*, May 27, 1899)

Lewis Scott and Emma McCann, both former residents of Newtown, but of late boarding at No. 722 Wood Street, Philadelphia, have come to grief. The couple were desirous of becoming man and wife, but the parents of Emma objecting they determined upon a plan of elopement. Before doing this Emma stole a diamond pin from her aunt and gave it to her lover to pawn. When doing so she was arrested. The girl admitted her guilt before Magistrate Ladner, and the couple passed the night in Fairmount Avenue station house. The next day the magistrate was so touched by the girl's eloquent plea for her lover that she was allowed to go free even though she expressed a desire to go to jail in his stead. After a conference between the parties interested the charges against the couple were withdrawn, and the last seen of them was on their way from the station house in quest of a marriage license.

Get Ready for Market Day!

Our Newtown Historic Market Day will be held on **Saturday, October 4th, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** This annual family tradition will include artisan crafts, music, food trucks, colonial demonstrations, a puppet show, wagon rides, and more!

The success of Newtown Historic Market Day can be credited to the support of our sponsors and members. It takes many volunteers to run Market Day. If you are interested in helping, please email marketday@newtownhistoric.org.

The Newtown Historic Market Day Committee is still seeking crafters and colonial craft demonstrators. Vendor applications and information can be found on our website at <https://www.newtownhistoric.org/events/market-day/market-day-vendor-info/#top>.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 4th. We look forward to seeing you then!

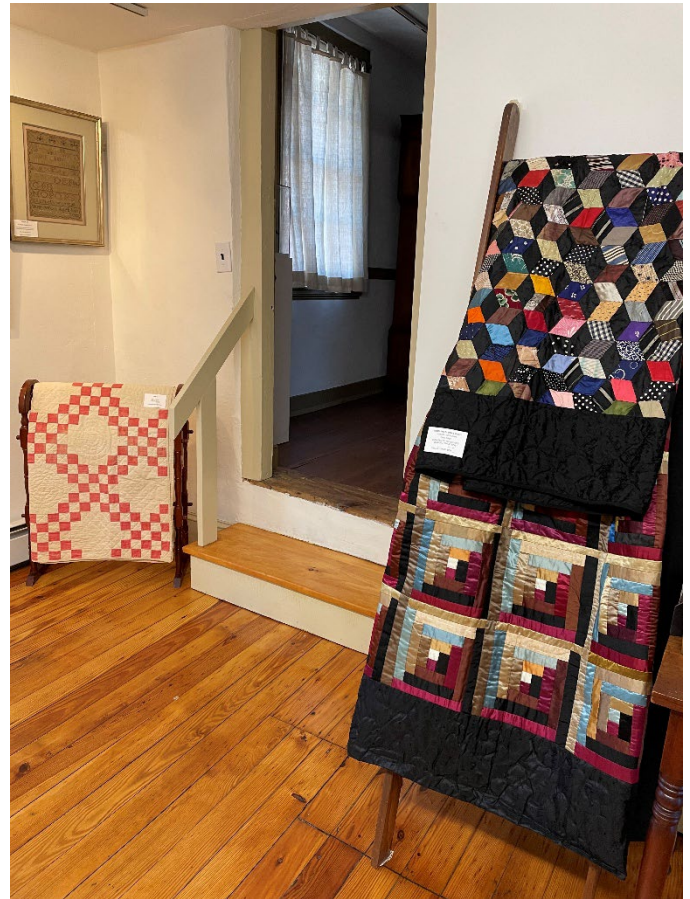


New Acquisitions

- Book: Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County – Patricia Mervine
- Court Street model homes: 12 miniature home fronts, in memory of Roy E. Pugh – Patricia A. Pugh
- Glass coaster: Favor from the class of 1974 Council Rock High School 50th year reunion, 9-14-2024 – David and Charyl Kerns-Hill
- Fireman’s badge: Newtown Fire Association, in memory of Fred M. Weaver – George M. Dooley
- New Centennial Atlas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania (1876), in memory of Douglas Crane – Rose Crane
- Quilted underskirt, in memory of Frank and Madeline Kerns – David and Charyl Kerns-Hill
- Photograph of men who renovated the Whitehall Hotel, June 1983 – James Lee
- Reading Company: Plans of the Delaware River Front (2) – Bennett Levin
- Three photographs, two of J.D. Burdick, barn at Worthington Mill Road Northampton Township (1953), and one of the Newtown Band in the Newtown Cemetery – Frank Fabian

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.



Tribute to Local Veterans

The Newtown Historic Association will hold its annual Memorial Day tribute to honor local military veterans of World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam on **Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Callahan Research Center.

Come see over 100 pictures of local soldiers who fought in these wars. This collection was created by Mike Donovan, a past NHA member and history buff.



Also on display will be letters written by soldiers containing their private thoughts and moments as they experienced war. In addition, more than 300 World War II military shoulder patches from the U.S. Army, Army Air Force, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard will be on display. They represent a variety of battles and war campaigns that took place across Europe and Asia. A special focus is provided through the eyes of 12 Newtown natives and soldiers, not all of them coming home.

There is no admission charge for this event.

Annual Spring Garden Cocktail Party

Save the date for the Newtown Historic Association's annual Spring Garden Cocktail Party on **Saturday, May 31st, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the Half-moon (Court) Inn.

Join your neighbors and friends as you wander among the gardens of the Inn. Hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and cocktails will be served.

Raffle tickets will be sold for Craig Hackett prints and a few baskets of cheer.

Tickets are \$45 a person for members and \$50 a person for non-members. All proceeds will go towards continuing maintenance of the Half-moon (Court) Inn. You can purchase your tickets online at www.newtownhistoric.org/cocktailparty.



Elementary School Walking Tour

The Newtown Historic Association will conduct its annual Elementary School Walking Tour on **Wednesday, June 4th, 2025. The tour begins at 9:00 am and runs until approximately noon.** (The rain date is Thursday, June 5th.)

About 200 children from Goodnoe Elementary School and Newtown Elementary School will take a self-guided walking tour through 5 historic sites in the Borough: Half-moon (Court) Inn, Newtown Library Company, Newtown Fire Association, Newtown Borough Hall, and Newtown Movie Theatre.

The Newtown Historic Association has run this tour for over 45 years. This has proved to be a very popular event with the children and enables them to learn about their heritage.

If you have any questions or for additional information, please contact Dan Griffin at (215) 205-2058.

Annual Garden Walk

We are seeking proud garden owners who would love to include their garden in the NHA Annual Garden Walk. If you are interested, please contact Mary Jo Garner at (215) 858-0939 (or maryjogarner1@verizon.net) or Keyna Crawford at (267) 679-9287 (or keynawcrawford@gmail.com) by May 1st, 2025.

This year's Garden Walk will occur on **Saturday, June 7th, 2025. The check-in time at the Half-moon (Court) Inn will begin at 8:00 a.m. The walk will commence at 9:00 a.m.** We expect the event to last between 2 to 3 hours.

Tickets are \$20 a person for members and \$25 a person for non-members and can be purchased at the Half-moon (Court) Inn on the morning of the Walk or online at <https://www.newtownhistoric.org/event/annual-garden-walk-2/>. Proceeds will go towards maintenance and improvements to the Boone Garden, which is owned by the NHA and located on Court Street directly across from the Half-moon Inn. It will again be featured on the Garden Walk.

Historic Walking Tour

This year's Historic Walking Tour of Newtown will take place on **Friday, June 20th, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m.** in front of the Half-moon (Court) Inn. The tour will be led by Jeff Marshall, historic architecture author, past-president of the Heritage Conservancy, and NHA Board member.

Jeff will share his wealth of knowledge and passion for the history of Newtown, and provide an enjoyable stroll through town.

The tour route is typically determined by Jeff and the attendees, and will feature architecturally-significant Newtown buildings in the Borough.

Tickets are \$20 a person for members and \$25 a person for non-members and can be purchased at the Half-moon (Court) Inn on the evening of the tour. They will also be available for purchase online in advance of the tour from the NHA events page on our website (<https://www.newtownhistoric.org/events/>). All proceeds will go towards continuing maintenance of the Half-moon (Court) Inn.

Come, bring a friend, wear comfortable shoes, and learn something new about Newtown's interesting buildings and history. If you have questions, please contact the NHA at (215) 968-4004.



NHA Founding Member Passes Away

June Kathryn Fulton, 99, of Newtown, PA, passed away on January 17, 2025. She loved Newtown and was a founding member of the Newtown Historic Association. June often spoke of the parties and gatherings in the early years of the NHA when everyone would dress in Revolutionary War clothing. June can be seen in the 1965 photo below (and also on our website) standing against the brick wall to the left of the door.

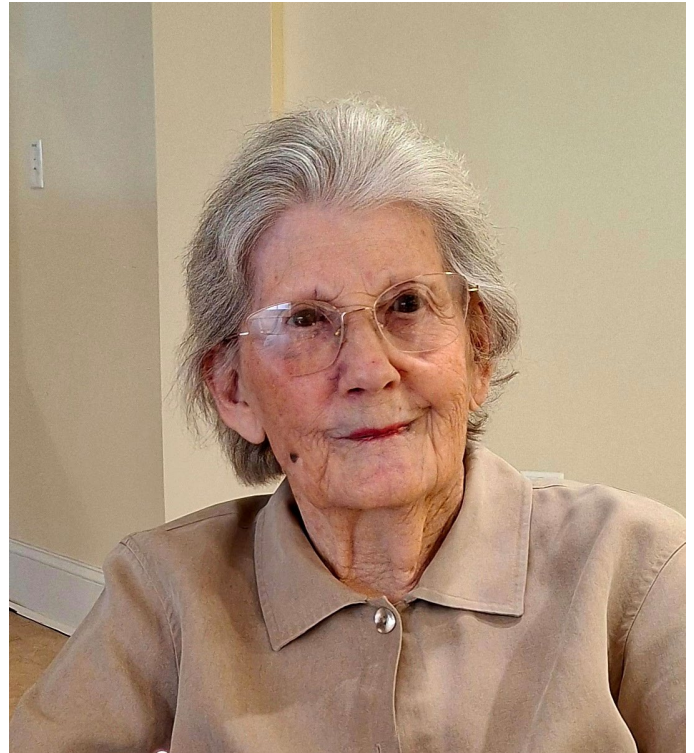


June dedicated her life to serving others, generously giving her time and energy to numerous causes close to her heart, always bringing kindness, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to making a difference.

During WWII, while in nursing training, June worked as a Public Health Cadet Nurse and, during the 1960s, she served as a Volunteer Nurse with the Bucks County "Well Child" public health clinics in Newtown and Bristol, PA. Children had a special place in her heart, and June was an advocate for Native American and underprivileged children.

As a 63-year active member of the Newtown Presbyterian Church, June served as a Deacon, long-time member of the Bell Choir, supporter of "Aid for Friends" food and friendship program, and Quilting Club.

June Kathryn Fulton



June and her husband, Charles L. Fulton, raised two sons and enjoyed four grandchildren in her beloved home on Merion Drive until 2023.

June's selfless spirit touched countless lives, leaving a legacy of love and community. She will be enormously missed and was truly a member of the "Greatest Generation." The NHA would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the Fulton family.

