



The Half Moon

The Newsletter of the Newtown Historic Association



IN THIS VOLUME:

- Highlights From Recent Events and Information on Upcoming Events
- The History of Newtown Exhibition
- The American Revolution, Ken Burns, and Our Beloved Half-Moon Inn

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
Lori Michelin, 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

Fran Taloricco, Andrew & Maura Wagner



Upcoming Calendar

November:

- 11/17: "Spotlight on the Golden Rod House" at 7:30 p.m., Court Inn

December:

- 12/6: **Holiday Open House Tour** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further details, visit www.newtownhistoric.org.

Friends of Tyler State Park History Hike

(Photo: Toby Tobin)

On August 24th, NHA First Vice President Brian Rounsavill led a history-oriented hike for the Friends of Tyler State Park related to America's 250th birthday.

The hike started at the Mill Dam parking lot and proceeded along Tyler Drive all the way to the Bucks County Community College mansion. The event was very well attended.



For information about the Friends of Tyler State Park, send an email to foftsp@gmail.com or visit <https://ppff.app.neoncrm.com/forms/friends-of-tyler-1>. You can also

find them on Facebook and Instagram.

September General Meeting

At our September 15th general meeting, Patriotic Instructor Kyle Purchase led the presentation on "A History of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)."

Kyle Purchase



Kyle explained the history, impact and purpose of the G.A.R., and discussed the auxiliary organizations of the G.A.R. that are still active today. It was a full room by the time the presentation commenced with approximately 25 attendees.

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 have a separate presence for Market Day (#newtownmarketday, @newtownmarketday).



Tyler State Park Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour

(Photos: Sheryl Rubin-Pitel)

On September 21st, the NHA hosted another Tyler State Park self-guided historical walking tour. NHA First Vice-President Brian Rounsavill kicked off the event and led the introduction and orientation.



Some of the attendees gathered together before dispersing to tour the park on their own.



Interested in renewing your membership or becoming a member? If so, please visit <https://www.newtownhistoric.org/renewal>



Historic Newtown Market Day

(Photos: Neale Messina)

The NHA held its 49th annual Market Day on October 4th, 2025. The streets surrounding the Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn) were filled with visitors, crafters, musicians, re-enactors, food trucks, fun activities, pets, and more—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 \$200 gift certificates were Orli Laitman and Patty Lynch. Both chose to use their gift certificates to go to the Black Bass Hotel. All proceeds from the raffle tickets and this entire event go towards the ongoing maintenance and operation of the NHA.



Historic Newtown Market Day (cont'd)

(Photos: Neale Messina)

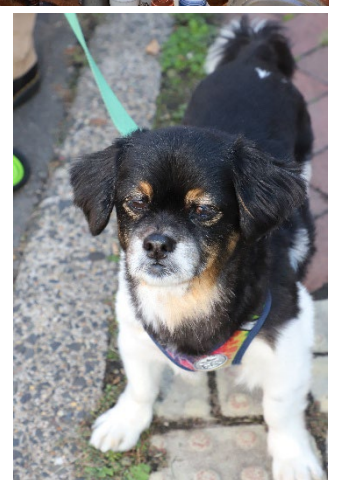


Historic Newtown Market Day (cont'd)

(Photos: Neale Messina)

This event could not have taken place without the help from many volunteers. The NHA extends our sincerest appreciation to all of them—those who volunteered before, during, and after the event.

We hope to see everyone again next year!



2025 Historic Newtown Market Day Sponsors

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



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& Associates**

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We appreciate our sponsors!

The Inn is Still Open!

(Photo: Neale Messina)

The Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn) is open on one more Sunday this year—**October 26th, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

You can tour the Inn at your own pace, including the new History of Newtown Exhibition. We have beautiful self-guided booklets you can use. Volunteer docents will be on hand to guide you.

Admission is free but of course donations are always welcome—via cash at the door or online at any time (<https://newtownhistoric.org/join-us/donate/>).

Please contact us at (215) 968-4004 if you have any questions.



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/>.



Newtown Heritage Walk Update

The NHA is pleased to announce the installation of another new Newtown Heritage Walk sign. This sign is located in front of the Friends Village Paxson Campus at 50 S. Congress Street in Newtown Borough.

Newtown Heritage Walk Sign: Paxson Hall



Paxson Hall has remained in continuous use for its original purpose for 125 years.

Paxson Hall



Visit our link to learn more about the Newtown Heritage Walk: <https://www.newtownhistoric.org/visit/walking-tours/newtown-heritage-walk/>



November General Meeting

NHA Board member Jeff Marshall and Newtown Borough resident Rebecca Rescate will co-host our November general meeting, which will take place on **Monday, November 17th, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn)**. The title of the presentation is "Spotlight on the Golden Rod House."

The Golden Rod House is located at 35 South Chancellor Street in Newtown Borough. Rebecca, her husband Chris, and their family reside in the home. Since 2021, Rebecca has been posting about the restoration of the house on Instagram (@thegoldenrodhouse).

Built in 1900, the year 2025 is the 125th birthday of the Golden Rod House. The presentation will start with Jeff sharing key points about the history of the house. Afterwards, Rebecca will speak about the restoration.

The Golden Rod House

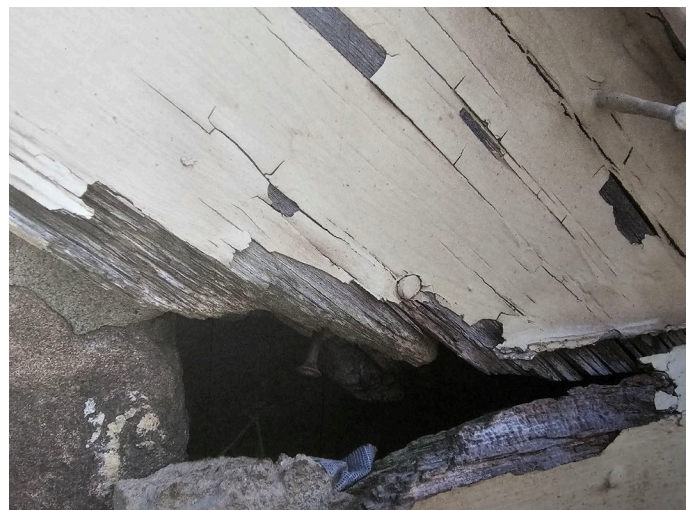
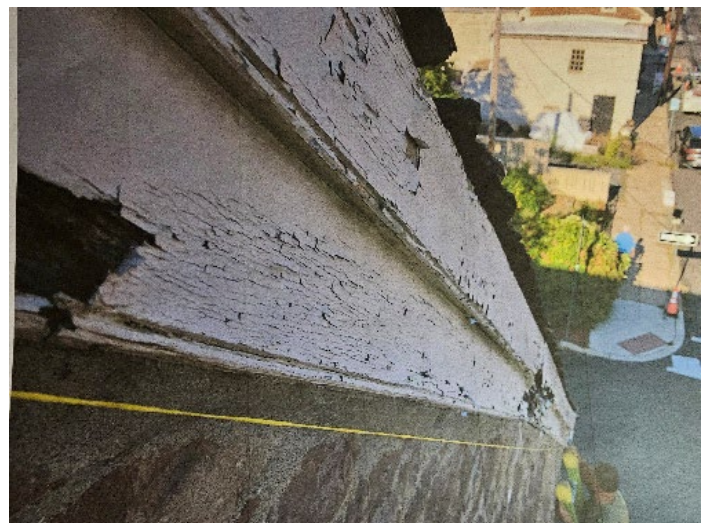


Court Inn Repairs

The NHA Buildings and Grounds Committee was given approval by the NHA Board for expenditures associated with critical repairs to the Court Inn roof (see photos).

We are pleased to report that these issues have been fixed. They would not have been possible without the generous support from our members and donors. This support is very much appreciated. We cannot do it without your help.

The Court Inn Roof Damage



Boone Garden Improvements

The NHA Buildings and Grounds Committee is spearheading the latest improvements to the Boone Garden, including a Newtown Heritage Walk sign. The images show the progression of the improvements. It's great to see the progress being made so quickly. Support from our members and donors help make this happen. Again, we thank you.

This garden was donated to the NHA by Grace R. "Missy" Boone in 1972 for the enjoyment of the community. Ongoing maintenance is performed by interested members who volunteer many hours each year toward its upkeep.

Before



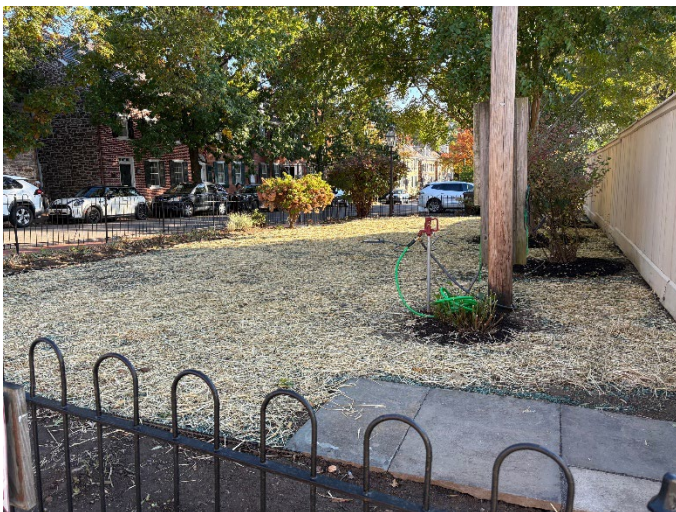
Before



After



After



Newtown Heritage Walk Sign: The Boone Garden



The History of Newtown Exhibition

(Photos: Neale Messina)

The Newtown Historic Association held the grand opening of our History of Newtown Exhibition the weekend of October 17th, 2025. Curated by David Callahan (NHA Honorary Life Director) and Brian Rounsavill (NHA First Vice President), the exhibit takes you on a journey through over three centuries of Newtown history. It was designed and curated to coincide with America250PA, the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

The NHA would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with this event. We could not have done it without you! The NHA would also like to thank the generous support from Irwin Build, The Frame Game, Knott Electric, Randall Signs and Graphics, the Knights of Pythias, and DiFiori Graphic Design. And a final thank you to Wegmans for providing a gift card so we could purchase beverages.

Be sure to visit the exhibit when the Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn) is open on Saturday, December 6th, during our Holiday Open House Tour.



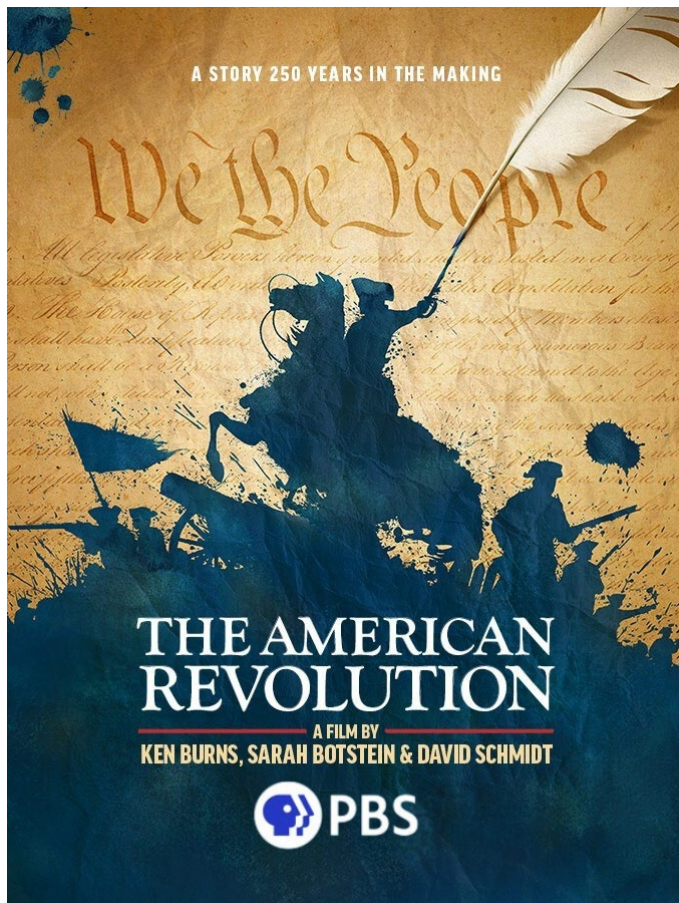
Dave Callahan and Brian Rounsavill
(on right)



The American Revolution, Ken Burns, and Our Beloved Half-Moon Inn

The American Revolution by Ken Burns and his team is a six-episode series (2 hours each) that will air nationwide on PBS this coming Fall, premiering on **Sunday, November 16th, and continuing through Friday, November 21st, 2025.**

We are excited to share that footage shot at our beloved Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn) is in the final cut of the documentary! The NHA is very grateful for the opportunity to be involved in the project and we can't wait to watch it. We hope you will be watching, too!



Do You Have Historic Items to Donate?

(Photo: Neale Messina)

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.



Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- Mary Dinneen, Realtor
- Edward Jones (Shikha Prashar)
- First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown
- Fleck Family Holdings
- Gilded Home Furnishings Consignment
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- Lin Bethman Auto Center, Inc.
- Marcolla Realty
- Marisa Pilla Design
- Newtown Business Association
- Parry Insurance
- Anthony Petsis & Associates, Inc.
- SDG Holdings I, LLC
- Steele's Gulf Auto Repair, Inc.
- Stuckert and Yates
- T & T Tree Service
- Tomasello Appraisals & Advisory
- Waitkus Design



2025 Holiday Open House Tour

(Photos: Kati Sowiak)

The Newtown Historic Association proudly looks forward to our 62nd annual Holiday Open House Tour, which will take place on **Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Besides the private homes, there will be multiple public buildings open for visitors. All sites are within easy walking distance from the town center. 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 15th). On the day of the tour, December 6th, ticket prices will be \$40, and can be purchased at the Half-Moon Inn (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 Inn, home to the Newtown Historic Association. Once inside this beautifully restored 18th century building, tour-goers will enjoy period musical entertainment, hearthside colonial cooking demonstrations, and the opportunity to see the History of Newtown Exhibition.



2025 Holiday Open House Tour (cont'd)

(Photos: Kati Sowiak)

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

