The Half Moon

The Newsletter of the Newtown Historic Association



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newtownhistoric.org

Vol. 25, No. 4, Fall 2026

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.

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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

Demetria Michailides Barry, Michael and Patricia D'Arcangelo, Edward Donner, Nancy Fitzpatrick, Bard Spencer King, Laurel King, Brad Levine, Sherri and Lauren Madak, Darren Marino, David and Susan Minno, Tracy Schrader, Elisabeth Williams

Upcoming Calendar

October:

- **10/22: October General Meeting "Trowels and Tribulations: The Search for the Newtown Treasury"** at 7:30 p.m., Court Inn

November:

- **11/16: November General Meeting: "Glimpse into Archambault Square"** at 7:30 p.m., Court Inn

December:

- 12/5: **Holiday Open House Tour** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further details, visit www.newtownhistoric.org.

Historic Walking Tour of Newtown

On September 18th, noted historian and NHA Board Member, Jeff Marshall, led a historic walking tour of Newtown.

The walking tour was a great success with a strong turnout of over sixty people. A lot of positive feedback was received from participants. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the history of Newtown, on a wonderful late summer evening.



For more information on guided and self-guided walking tours, go to www.newtownhistoric.org

September General Meeting

(Photos: Neale Messina)

At our September 21st general meeting, narrator Daniel Nurmi McAuliffe. led a presentation on "The Life and Times of Captain Daniel Bray: From Waterman to Militia (1741 to 1840)"

Daniel McAuliffe as Captain Bray



Captain Daniel Bray's life came alive in a first-person program tracing his journey from farmer and Delaware River waterman to militia leader, including his role securing boats for Washington's 1776 crossing.

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).

Tavern Trivia Night

The Newtown Historic Association hosted its first Tavern Trivia Night on September 25th. The event was highly successful with 50 people in attendance and 11 competing teams. Laurel King served as the trivia host and tested people's knowledge in history, sports, general knowledge, geography, and food and drink. Teams sat in the historic tavern room and the meeting room. A fun time was had by all, and prizes were awarded to the top 3 teams. Special thanks to Isaac Newton's for their donation of beer and wine. Stay tuned for more trivia nights hosted by the NHA.





Podcast Explores the History and Future of Tyler State Park

On October 16, Council Rock Living Podcast host Paul Rosso launched his latest episode that focused on the history of Tyler State Park and the historical wayside marker project. You can listen to the podcast at the following link: https://youtu.be/lHzoHgQFqVc

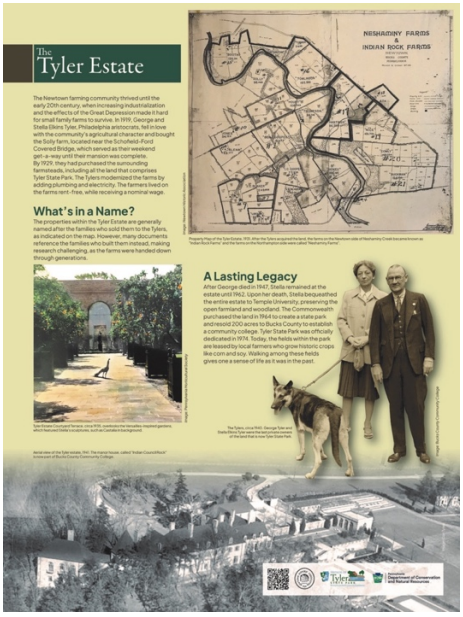
Rosso welcomed Daniel Tyler, grandson of George and Stella Tyler and a retired history professor; Brian Rounsavill, author of *History of Tyler State Park* and a board member of both the Newtown Historic Association and the Friends of Tyler Park; and Tyler State Park Manager, Phil Schmidt, for a conversation about the park's history, preservation, and future.

Mr. Tyler shared the story of his family's legacy and its decision to sell the property to the Commonwealth rather than to developers, helping preserve the land for public enjoyment. He also detailed his book, *Bucks County's Benevolent Squire: In Search of George Frederick Tyler*, and reflected on his family's life on the estate and the lasting significance of preserving the property as Tyler State Park.

Mr. Rounsavill discussed the research behind *History of Tyler State Park* and the work that has gone into the historical wayside marker project now bringing the park's stories to life for park visitors. He explained how the historical markers are an extension of the Newtown Heritage Walk waysides and the *History of Tyler State Park* and how they pay tribute to significant locations throughout the park, such as the Neshaminy Farms Dairy, Buckman Quarry and Spring Garden Mill. The first series of historical wayside markers are being installed this month, with more to come in 2027.

Mr. Schmidt highlighted the work of the Friends of Tyler Park and provided an update on current projects supporting the park and its visitors. He described how volunteer support and ongoing improvements help protect park resources while enhancing the visitor experience. Together, the guests offered an engaging look at the people, history, and ongoing efforts that continue to shape this treasured community resource.

To learn more about the Tyler State Park Historical Wayside Marker Project or to support the effort with a donation, visit the Newtown Historic Association website: https://newtownhistoric.org/visit/walking-tours/tyler-park/





Historic Newtown Market Day

(Photos: Neale Messina)

The NHA held its 49th annual Market Day on October 3rd, 2026. The streets surrounding the Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn) were filled with visitors, crafters, musicians, re-enactors, colonial craft demonstrations, 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 Frank and Nancy Steigerwalt who chose to go to the Black Bass Hotel and Debra Mohan who chose to go to the Golden Pheasant Inn. 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)















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.



October General Meeting
Trowels and Tribulations: The Search for the Newtown Treasury — Presented by Matt Bieleck

October 22nd @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

The Newtown Treasury refers to the historic 18th-century Bucks County Treasury building located at 35 South State Street in Newtown. It is most famous for being the site of the Doan Gang Treasury Robbery in 1781.

On the 245th anniversary of the infamous robbery, join local archaeologist Matt Bielecki to explore the findings of the archaeological dig conducted at the site.

Matt Bielecki, MA, is an instructor in the Archaeological Technician Training Program at Bucks County Community College. He is also an archaeologist, historian, and researcher, with over two decades of archaeological experience in all stages of fieldwork, laboratory work, and technical report production encompassing the Mid-Atlantic region. Matt graduated with a BA from Pennsylvania State University, and a MA from Monmouth University. He is a member of the Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society and has presented at regional archaeological conferences and has lectured at numerous colleges and universities. Matt's research interests include stone tool morphometric and microwear analysis, with a focus on precontact and early colonial period chipped-stone economies. Matt is also a skilled flint knapper and replicative specialist.

This event is free for members. Non-members are also welcome to attend, and donations are always appreciated.

NHA Sponsors

We extend our sincere appreciation to our 2026-2027 sponsors for their generous support and continued partnership.

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November General Meeting: A Glimpse Into The History Of Archambault Square

November 16th @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Join us on November 16th at 7:30 PM at the Half-Moon Inn for a fascinating presentation on Joseph Archambault and Archambault Square. Joseph Archambault was one of Newtown Boroughs' most remarkable figures in 19th century history. He was a former member of Napoleon Bonaparte's entourage as a young man and followed him into exile before moving to Newtown.



Once in Newtown he became a prominent businessman, landowner, and community leader. He worked in several trades, including watchmaking and dentistry, and eventually owned and operated the Brick Hotel, one of Newtown's most historic landmarks. He built the house on Archambault Square in 1837 at 115 Washington Avenue, where it remains one of Newtown's most historical residences. Learn about the unique architecture of the property and hear from the current owners about what it is like to live in such a historic home. This is just one of the homes that will be featured on the 2026 Holiday House Tour in December.



This event is free and open to the public. All are invited and you do not have to be a member to attend.

By attending NHA, or NHA-related, events and activities, you allow the Newtown Historic Association (NHA) to record or photograph you during your attendance and to use these images for promotional and archival purposes on any medium for an unlimited period.

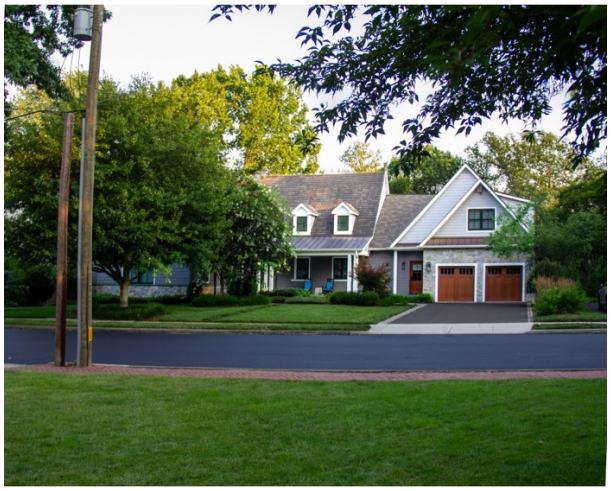
Interested in renewing your membership or becoming a member? If so, please visit
https://www.newtownhistoric.org/renewal

2026 Holiday Open House Tour

The Newtown Historic Association proudly looks forward to our 63rd annual Holiday Open House Tour, which will take place on **Saturday, December 5, 2026, 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 (cash or check only). On the day of the tour, December 5th, 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. **Tickets purchased in advance are non-refundable. This is a rain or shine event.**

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.









2026 Holiday Open House Tour (cont'd)

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





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/.

The Inn is Open!

(Photo: Neale Messina)

The Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn) is open on Sundays from 1:00 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.



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