

NEWTOWNE MANOR HOUSE NEWSLETTER

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Clem Delahay, Tenant Farmer for Newtowne Manor Farm

Clem Delahay, tenant farmer, stands in front of Newtowne Manor House with a tobacco crop. The Newtowne Manor House served for years as the focal point of farming the Newtowne Neck farm. Clem and his wife Susie lived in the manor house and raised two boys there, Francis (Judge) and Bernard (Tub) Delahay. This picture was taken in the 1950's and was published as a postcard at that time.

The farm raised tobacco, corn, wheat, barley and rye. Clem was one of the several tenant farmers on the Neck. The Jesuits started the tenant farmer relationship in the early 1840's. The tenant farmers would work the farm and give 1/3 of what they grew to the Jesuits. This model of farming existed until the late 20th century when the Jesuits changed to the lease farm model.

Newtowne Manor House Committee News

This past fall the Newtowne Manor House Governance Committee had several members of the parish and community volunteer to work on the Manor House. They installed window covers to protect people from falling glass and to help to keep out the weather and critters.

In the Spring of 2015, the Committee will again be looking for volunteers as the clean up of the Manor House continues.

Artifacts and old pictures of the Manor House and farm are being collected. A committee is being formed to get the items together. Please look to see what items or old pictures you might have to share.

This Spring we also will start to gather oral histories about the Manor House and farm. Everyone is welcome to participate in the endeavor. Look for an announcement in the church bulletin for times and place.

Start thinking about what committee or committees you might want to serve on for the Newtowne Manor House preservation and restoration project. We need everyone's skills and talents.

Preservation/ Restoration Started

An account has been set up to preserve and restore the Manor House. You can currently make donations to St. Francis Xavier Church with a note attached, saying that you wish the donation to go the Manor House.

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