

# NEWTOWNE MANOR HOUSE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

## Feasibility Study Update

A Feasibility Study for Building Uses of the Manor House was conducted in 2019 by Lawrence Abell & Associates. The final results of the Feasibility Study received in January, 2020 included a Summary of Building Uses with proposed investigations and remedial work with each phase along with cost estimates for each phase.

According to Larry Abell, the following cost ranges are:

\$528,781 - Stabilization Phase

\$1,074,516 - Preservation Phase with No Uses

\$1,505,883 - Preservation with a Single Use

\$1,917,068 - Preservation with Multi-use

\$2,031,435 - Preservation with Limited Assembly Use

The bottom line is that with each passing year, the cost of restoring and maintaining the Manor House may in some cases double. Anyone interested in reviewing the Feasibility Study, please contact Fr. Rob.

## Manor House Roof Replacement

The roof on the Manor House is in dire need of replacing. The shingles continue to blow off. This current project falls under the stabilization and maintenance for restoring the Manor House. According to Fr. Rob, the Archdiocese has a certain protocol that we must follow to accomplish this task.

An RFP (Request for Proposal) was written in June by Manor House Committee members and sent for review to Lawrence Abell & Associates who must be in charge of the project as per the Archdiocese. Next, bids were requested by approved contractors. Two bids were received and opened October 26<sup>th</sup> for a copper roof, an aluminum roof which was on the Manor House until 1980's and a cedar shingles roof which is the most historically accurate. The incurred cost of the roof will require a minimum of half of the restricted funds currently available for the Manor House. A financial statement or bid bond will be necessary from the companies to move forward in the process. Next, a submittal of shop drawings and sample of products by the contractors will be needed for review and approval. Completed documents are then sent to the Archdiocese in December. The College of Consultors comprised of bishops and priests from the Archdiocese will give the final approval on January 14, 2021. The contract is awarded by February 1<sup>st</sup> so weather permitting work may begin in the March or April timeframe.

### NEWTOWNE MANOR HOUSE RESTORATION

Donations to:  
St. Francis Xavier Church  
21370 Newtowne Neck Road  
Leonardtown, Md 20650  
Contact: Lynn Delahay (240-925-6485)  
George Matisick (01-247-7415)  
Email: Newtownemanorhouse@gmail.com

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Newtowne Manor House, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to ensuring that the *Newtowne Manor House*, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century structure, is preserved and restored so that future generations may gain an understanding of and appreciation for its historical significance.

### **A Tribute to Frank Greenwell**

Frank Greenwell was a founding member of the Friends of Newtowne Manor House. In his reserved and humorist manner, he always stood ready to help in any Manor House project. One of his personal projects was to document the Manor House by photographing each room on each floor inside the house, as well as, documenting the outside. It is a Manor House professional treasure as only Frank and Pat would do. The note cards depicting different Manor House scenes that we sell at the St. Francis Xavier Olde Fashioned Christmas Bazaar is also a project reflecting Frank's photography skills. Frank's pictures are displayed on the Site sign and one of the Interpretative signs located by the Church and the Manor House. Frank and Pat enjoyed dressing in period costumes hand sewn by Pat for the Open Houses at the Manor House to greet the visitors and make the history of the Newtowne Manor House come alive.

Frank Greenwell joined the staff at the Smithsonian in Washington, D. C. in 1957 as a taxidermist, and later became the Chief Taxidermist/Conservator of the Mammal Division. Over the years, Frank found his passion was to capture the natural world with a camera and developed his skills as a nature photographer. Frank travelled all over the world. He retired in 1999 and moved back to Leonardtown where he was born and raised. Both Frank and Pat attended all the Manor House meetings until he became ill and always offered invaluable advice in moving forward with the Manor House restoration project. Frank Greenwell died April 4, 2020. He will be missed by everyone.



Frank and Pat Greenwell portray the William and Temperance Bretton descendants at two Manor Open Houses.

### **Walk in the Park**

The Walk in the Park has been postponed to April 24, 2021 out of an abundance of caution for parishioners and community members due to the coronavirus. Safety measures will be in effect for the Walk next spring.

### **Manor House Mask Sale**

Newtowne Manor House masks were sold at \$15.00 each during the months of October and November. Another order will be placed. If interested, contact Pat Greenwell, 301-475-5268 or Sarah Matisick, 301-247-7416.

### **Archaeologists Unearth 300-Year-Old Slave Quarters at Newtowne Neck State Park**

As part of the Maryland Rediscovery 400 initiative, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and St. Mary's College of Maryland began a search in October using ground penetrating radar to locate possible slave quarters at the Newtowne Neck State Park which was once the site of the historic Newtowne Jesuit manor. Rev. Rob Maro, St. Francis Xavier Church Pastor and Rev. Dante Eubanks, New Covenant Christian Worship Center Pastor offered a blessing at the beginning of the project.

Dr. Julie Schablisky, Chief Archaeologist for the State Highway Administration and a team of archaeologists worked to unearth what is thought to be a 300-year-old slave quarters in the corn field near the Lacey/Pilkerton house area. Dr. Schablisky said, "If there was ever a place in Maryland that holds the story of diverse cultures converging to find religious freedom in an environment of conflict, sacrifice and survival, it is here."



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## Archaeologists Unearth 300-Year-Old Slave Quarters at Newtowne Neck State Park (Cont.)

George Matisick, Friends of Newtowne Manor House was introduced and gave a brief overview of the history of the 1789 Manor House. Rev. Dante Eubanks from the GU 272 Descendants Group told his story about tracing his family to the Jesuit manor to both the Friends of Newtowne Manor House group and other members of the GU 272 Descendants Group visiting. He said, "It was a powerful experience. We need to remember these stories, they are important to our history and healing."

The artifacts collected including a 1740 George II coin, oyster shells, clay tobacco pipes, stone ware and rusty nails must be catalogued and analyzed to learn more about the people who lived beyond the Jesuit Manor House. The State plan is to return to Newtowne Neck State Park in the spring to do additional field work.

