

The Chronicle

A Publication of The Historical Society of Trappe and the Perkiomen Valley

December 1997

Trappe-Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426

Volume XXVI, No. 5

Exhibit of The Madonna in Art

On Sunday, December 7th from 1:30 to 4:00 P.M., come to the Dewees Museum of The Historical Society, 301 West Main Street in Trappe, to see the exhibit of The Madonna in Christian Art presented by The Rev. Robert E. Horne, retired Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Trinity, Norristown.

In the course of the year, the Society has noted two events that occurred 255 years ago in 1742, which have had a continuing beneficial influence in the community. The Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg came from Einbeck, Germany, to be the first resident pastor in Providence (now Trappe) serving Augustus Lutheran Church. He preached his first sermon on December 12th. The Rev. John Philip Boehm began his monthly horseback ride from Witpain to found the Reformed Church in Providence (now St. Luke's Church) and gave the first communion in the barn of John Herpel on November 5, 1742.

Therefore, in remembrance of the 255th anniversary of these two events, it is appropriate to have the exhibit of The Madonna, the Mother of Christ, whose ministry brought these two distinguished pastors to Providence. *Continued on page 2*

MADONNA WITH BIRD 11"



The President's Message

Our last fund raising campaign to raise \$125,000 has reached \$89,000. We are still in need of \$36,000. We need help as the work is progressing.

In view of the end of the restoration being in sight, we are planning for a dedication program for next August. The details will be worked out by a Committee of The Rev. Dr. Herbert Michel, The Rev. Dr. John Shetler, Mr. Alfred Douglas, and Mrs. Lenore Haas. They will work on the time and other items of this celebration.

Work continues at the Muhlenberg House with the trim being installed and the plasterer working also.

Dr. Shetler and Karyn Joire have stabilized the foundation of the kitchen on the north side of the house.

*Ivan W. Hess, M.D.
President*

Officers Elected at the Annual Meeting

The year 1998 marks the beginning of new terms for officers of The Historical Society. Following nominations by Mr. Thomas Lachenmayer, Chairperson, the following persons were elected for two-year terms beginning January 1, 1998:

President:	Dr. Ivan W. Hess
First Vice President:	The Rev. Thomas G. Young
Second Vice President:	The Rev. Dr. Herbert H. Michel
Treasurer:	Mr. David L. Shrom
Secretary:	Dr. Charlotte M. Witmer
Corresponding Secretary:	Ann Schrack
Chaplain:	The Rev. Robert E. Horne
Historian:	Dr. John C. Shetler

President Hess expressed appreciation to those officers who have served during the past two years: First Vice President, Dr. Gail Snyder; Second Vice President, Mr. Erich Hundertmark; Secretary, Mrs. Mary Hundertmark; and Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Lachenmayer.

*From the Journals of
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg
1777*

December 1, Monday. Had two day laborers in today to split wood. Each gets 5s. a day. In the evening *Commissarius* Robert Dill came from the American camp to say that he had heard that we had, under our house, the largest and best cellar in this neighborhood, and since he had to lay in stores for the winter he asked for permission to use it. I did not dare refuse, for it is a duty to serve friends and foes as one can.

December 2, Tuesday. Today about a dozen wagons arrived from the American camp and brought things for storage in our cellar. Again had a day laborer in. The temporary government in Lancaster has published a proclamation that a day of prayer and thanksgiving should be held in this province, etc., on December 18.

December 6, Saturday. Have day laborers here again to work on the flax. Through Maria Sw[aine] I paid Mr. Ried £4 2s. 6d., in full, for 4½ cords of firewood. To the day laborer Jacob Busch £1 12s., in full, for two days of splitting wood and two days of breaking flax. To Maria Leber 5s., in full, for swingling flax, and repaid Selly 7s. 6d.

Late at night a wagonmaster, a Mr. John Rowan, came; he had a letter for Robert Dill, Esq., in whose *absence* I was to open the letter. I stayed up most of the night—as long as the bitter cold permitted.

December 7, Second Sunday in Advent. The wagonmaster, John Rowan, fetched a hogshead out of the cellar as he was ordered. Today Pastor Voigt conducted the service in Augustus Church, it being the fourth Sunday. This was for us a restless day of rest, for *Commissair* Robert Dill came with six wagons to take the *provisions* from the cellar and transport them to the army. There are now four barrels remaining.

Dr. John C. Shetler, Editor
Myrna Knaide, Managing Editor
M-K Computing Services

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Write to *Editor* at:
300 W. 3rd Avenue
Trappe, PA 19426-2226

Exhibit: The Madonna in Art *Continued from page 1*

At 2:00 P.M. on December 7th, Pastor Horne will interpret The Madonna in Christian Art as represented from his art collection developed over more than a half century. Pastor Horne will also be present on Sunday, December 14th and 21st, between 1:30 and 4:00 P.M. to talk with visitors to the exhibit.

Pastor Horne's interpretation of the figures, tryptichs, dyptichs, and prints will show how color determines a church-dedicated Madonna as distinguished from one privately owned. The meaning of the nimbus, the influence of nationality upon the artist's style, and the significance of the cherubim and seraphim are discussed. A Madonna to be placed in a church had to have only the two primary colors of red and blue. White could be used, but no other. There was no restriction on the use of color when a Christian painting was used outside the church.

President Hess will greet the visitors and Mrs. Thelma Hess will be in charge of refreshments for the fellowship hour. No admission is charged, but an offering may be given for the work of the museum.

Parking is available behind the Dewees Museum or at the Muhlenberg House, 201 West Main Street.

MADONNA
"Queen of Angels" 11"



Visitors from Germany

Sixteen persons from St. Mary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Einbeck, Germany, visited Trappe and Augustus Lutheran Church, which has a sister Church relationship with the St. Mary congregation. St. Mary Church was the home church of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, in which congregation he was baptized and confirmed.

The Einbeck visitors viewed the Muhlenberg House interior and the Dewees Museum which has Muhlenberg artifacts. A Trappe flag bearing the symbol of the community was presented to each international participant. In 1995, a pilgrimage was made from the Perkiomen Valley to Einbeck and St. Mary Church.



Work Progress

The interior door, window, and mantles with primer coat of paint have been completed. Plaster lathe is now being installed. It is expected that the plastering will begin by December. Doors and hardware will be installed when plastering is completed. Work progresses when enough funds have been given to cover the cost. During restoration, debts have been avoided and thus no interest has had to be paid. Every cent goes into the work.

FOR YOUR YEAR-END GIVING
CERTIFICATE OF GIFT
FOR COMPLETION OF THE INTERIOR

To help restore the Muhlenberg House, I/we enclose a check made payable to the HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE, in the name of:

Street Town State/Zip Tel.
____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ \$500 ____ \$1,000 ____ Other

Clip and mail to:

Historical Society of Trappe
P.O. Box 828 Collegetown, PA 19426

DEWEES MUSEUM

THE MADONNA IN CHRISTIAN ART

DEC. 1997

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The decorations throughout the museum have been provided and arranged by Mrs. Sue Ellen Nolan as well as the large wreath that graces the front of the building.

SIGN THE VISITORS' RECORD BOOK

Please sign the visitor's record and give your name and address. We invite you to membership. Then you will receive the five issues of THE CHRONICLE and be informed about the activities of the historical society. Membership forms are available on the table in the office.

A HISTORIC SPOT

The Dewees Tavern sits in one corner of the St. Luke's United Church of Christ Cemetery and is the property of the Church. The Society has a 99 year lease from the church for the tavern and approximately forty feet of ground behind the tavern. During the American Revolution the building then the one third toward the road to Rahns, was the home of Andrew Miller the closest neighbor to the Muhlenbergs. The Reformed Cemetery was in the same location as now and the first log church was built on the cemetery ground in 1747. It was used as a hospital during the Revolution. The church bought the house, then known as the Dewees Tavern, near the end of the 19th century completing the ownership of the entire plot of ground.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME !

If you would like to work with one of the committees of the Historical Society, please speak to Dr. Ivan W. Hess, President. In the new year there will be new opportunities with the expanding of the work of the Society and the completing of the Muhlenberg House.

TO WORK WITH THE MUSEUM

If you enjoy the museum and would like to work with the Museum Committee, please speak to Dr. Shetler, the Curator. The committee has a work day the first Tuesday of each month. Special work days are scheduled before the major exhibits.

To become a museum guide speak to Dr. Charlotte Witmer and she will be glad to invite you to the next orientation session.

WINTER EXHIBIT

It is the policy of the museum to rotate its holdings that are in storage. From January until May 15th Andrew Miller section of the museum will feature items that have been in storage, some for a long time. This will include some items that belonged to the Grimison Family and were stored in their outbuildings at what is now Muhlenberg House.

Achieving with Gratitude and Pride

The number of persons participating in the completion of the interior of Muhlenberg House continues to increase and the total is now over \$89,000 toward the goal of \$125,000. It is wonderful that all this has occurred since the Spring of 1997.

Tax Exemption: You may make a year-end gift and use it for a tax exemption. The Historical Society with the Muhlenberg House is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt educational non-profit corporation.

You may check the record with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State.

There is still time to become a 1997 contributor. You will be participating in carrying the heritage of strong moral leadership into the next century. If you have already given, you may join those who have made their second or third gift for the Muhlenberg House, of which the whole Perkiomen Valley is proud.

Every cent contributed goes to the house. When there are meetings with meals, each one pays his or her own bill or there is a generous sponsor. With this historical society we say, "Here we contribute or pay to work." Volunteers are welcome and sought.



Activities of the Leadership Committee

The Leadership Committee is progressing with plans to host another Roundtable in early Spring. The agenda being worked on is a continuation of the work started at the First Roundtable in April, led by Dr. Richard P. Richter.

Lucy A. Ivins, Chairperson, commented, "We were so excited to utilize the Muhlenberg House in April for our first Leadership Development Program and are eagerly awaiting total completion of the interior to welcome the next attendees."

Dr. Ivan Hess, President of the Trappe Historical Society, stated, "Fundraising continues to fuel the restoration. We are grateful to so many for their support and commitment to this work. We look forward to the day the house is completed and it can serve as the site in the Perkiomen Valley for the development of leadership, as well as the center that represents our heritage."

Ivins also pointed out that the next Muhlenberg Leadership Award will be presented in the Spring. Myrna Knaide, serving as the Award Subcommittee Chair, stated, "The Muhlenberg Medal has been awarded four times to recognize those whose faith, vision, integrity, and service exemplifies the lives of the Muhlenberg family."

Knaide also noted that the Leadership Committee is now soliciting nominations for the Muhlenberg Award. To nominate a candidate, contact a member of the Leadership Committee—Dr. Ivan Hess, Lucy Ivins, Dr. Herbert Michel, Kenneth Schaefer, Dr. John Shetler, or Myrna Knaide—or mail to The Trappe Historical Society, P.O. Box 828, Collegeville, PA 19426.

IMPORTANT ADDRESS INSTRUCTIONS

To send mail to The Historical Society of Trappe, it is required by the Post Office that it be sent to P.O. Box 828, Collegeville, PA 19426. If it is sent to the West Main Street address, we probably will *not* receive it.

If you are writing to an officer at his/her home address, it is necessary to write the officer's name and personal home address. Please do not address any mail to the West Main Street address for either the Muhlenberg House or Dewees Museum.

Library Hours

To make an appointment to visit our library, please call the Curator. Contribution expected for research.

Museum Gifts

If you have an 18th century family treasure, you may wish to donate it to the Historical Society of Trappe for the Muhlenberg House. Call the Curator to discuss how your valued possession may help others to learn and to enjoy the history of our area.

Curator: Dr. John Shetler (610) 489-2624

TO PAY YOUR DUES

Bring to the Museum Exhibit
or Mail to:

Richard Holcombe
21 Main Street
Trappe, PA 19426

No		Persons			
_____	Regular	@	\$8.00	=	_____
_____	Student	@	\$2.00	=	_____
_____	Schrack	@	\$12.00	=	_____
_____	Life	@	\$100.00	=	_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R

1997

December 7,
14, 21 Museum Open for Advent
1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Exhibit: The Madonna in Art
from the Collection of
The Rev. Robert E. Horne

1998

January - May Museum Open by Appointment
(Call 489-2624 or 489-7622)

June 7 - August 30 Museum Open 1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Sundays Only

June 14 Flag Day Dinner Meeting
7:00 P.M. Moorehead's

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE
P.O. BOX 828
COLLEGEVILLE, PA 19426

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Happy Holidays!!

DECEMBER 1997 NEWSLETTER
PLEASE, DO NOT DELAY!

Gift and Remembrance Suggestions

Prints of Dewees Tavern from a Water Color

By Eugene Bechtel (These are limited edition prints. Only 250 were made. When the supply is exhausted, there will not be another printing.)

- Signed Print \$40.00
- Matted Signed Print \$55.00
- Matted Artist's Proof \$65.00
- Framed Signed Print \$125.00
- Framed Artist's Proof \$135.00

Display a TRAPPE FLAG on our National Holidays

- Desk Top Flag with Holder \$3.00
- 12" X 18" Flag \$5.00

Excerpts on Collegeville and Trappe \$7.00

By Dr. William T. Parsons

Bill of Rights (Facsimile) \$1.00

Contains the Signature of Frederick Muhlenberg

Anniversary Book of Trappe

- 275th - Pictures, Historical Sketches, Businesses \$2.00
- 250th - Pictures, Historical Sketches, Businesses \$1.00

Map of Itinerary of Washington's Army in Montgomery County

Army Crosses Schuylkill at Parkerford and Some Units Camp in Trappe \$3.00

T-Shirts: Some T-shirts are available. Three different logos: Old Style Muhlenberg House, New Style Muhlenberg House, and Emblem of Trappe. Some Large, Medium, and Small sizes. Also some Children's sizes. \$6.00 and \$8.00

Tiles with Trappe Emblem \$1.00

Muhlenberg Sunvisors 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00

Postcards/Scenes in Trappe 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00

Muhlenberg Plate, by Lester Breininger \$100.00

Call Dr. Ivan Hess (610) 489-7622

Sketched Map, 19th Century Main Street, Collegeville and Trappe

..... Print: \$15.00 Framed: \$100.00

Items may be obtained at the Dewees Tavern on the last Wednesday of each month, 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M., where the Muhlenberg Committee and the Historical Society Board meet, as well as during special events.

IF YOU HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO FORMERLY LIVED IN THE COLLEGEVILLE-TRAPPE AREA, REMEMBER THEM THIS HOLIDAY WITH A GIFT FROM THE TRAPPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

