

# The Chronicle

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

November 1997

Trappe-Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426

Volume XXVI, No. 4

## *Annual Meeting at Moorehead's*

The 33rd Annual Meeting of The Historical Society will be at the traditional time, Veterans Day, November 11th, 7:00 P.M., at Moorehead's, First Avenue, Trappe. The work and planning for the founding of the Society began in 1963 with Frederick Grimison as the leader. The charter was opened at the June 14th Flag Day Dinner, and the tradition began for the Annual Meeting on November 11, 1964.

This year marks the 255th anniversary of Pastor Henry Muhlenberg's arrival in Trappe. Soon he visited in the home of Conrad Weiser at Womelsdorf where he met the daughter, Anna Maria. In 1745 they were married.

The topic of the meeting this year will be "The Muhlenberg-Weiser Relationship." The Rev. Frederick Weiser of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, will be the speaker (see biography inside). From both of these families have come men and women who have contributed in a lasting manner to the growth of our nation and the church. The Weiser family has had descendants who have served in both Lutheran and Reformed Church.

At this Annual Meeting there will also be an election of Officers for the term 1998-99.



## *The Madonna In Art*

Plan to visit the Dewees Museum on December 7th to see and hear The Rev. Robert Earl Horne speak on "The Madonna in Art."

## *The President's Message*

*The final phase of work at the Muhlenberg House restoration is progressing well. The landscaping has been completed, with green grass now growing noticeably.*

*The interior restoration of the house is also progressing, with the trim and the doors being erected and the plastering to follow.*

*We still need about \$50,000 to complete this phase. Any financial help would be welcome.*

*Reserve November 11th, Veteran's Day, for the Society dinner. Pastor Fred Weiser, an historian and descendant of Conrad Weiser, will speak on the Weiser-Muhlenberg relationship. This should be a very interesting discussion, noting that the two families were joined in marriage.*



Ivan W. Hess, M.D.  
President

The figures to be exhibited are from an extensive collection of figurines representing the Madonna. The earliest is from the fourth century A.D. The materials vary from marble, ivory, porcelain, stone, wood, precious and common metals.

There are paintings in oil, tempera, water color, gewash, and ink. This is an outstanding exhibit. We urge you all to see it.

Pastor Horne will be present on December 7th and give a lecture at 2:00 P.M. on the pieces on exhibit. The museum will be open from 1:30 to 4:00 P.M.

Pastor Horne, interested in art study and collecting for many years, has

traveled in Europe and America to add to his collection. He is a graduate of Gettysburg College and Seminary, pursued graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, and received the degree of Master of Sacred Theology from the Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia. Until his retirement several years ago, he was Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Trinity, Norristown. He serves as Chaplain of the Historical Society.

The exhibit will also be open December 14 and 20 from 1:30 to 4:00 P.M. Beginning December 7th, appointments may be made for visitation. There is no charge. A contribution is accepted for the care of the museum.

*From the Journals of  
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg  
1742*

*December 10, Friday.* Visited several friends and prepared for the journey into the country. This evening two horses arrived from Providence to fetch us there. During this week Mr. Kraft performed a number of *actus ministeriales*; nothing was said to me.

*December 11, Saturday.* Quit my lodgings at the Englishman's and, besides other expenditures, had to pay dearly enough. Rode out of Philadelphia about nine o'clock with Mr. Kraft and arrived first at Germantown, where Mr. Kraft took me to several houses and introduced me to the people.

In the afternoon we had heavy, steady rain, were wet through and through and had to ford the swollen streams in the darkness of night. The one deacon of Providence, who lived not far from the streams, went ahead of us through the murky night and guided us through the water. The gracious God helped us safely through and we put up at the home of the senior deacon who refreshed us again.

*December 12, Sunday.* I preached for the first time at Providence in the senior deacon's barn, since the poor folk there have no church as yet. After the sermon Mr. Kraft read to the congregation my letter from the Rev. Court Preacher. The congregation appeared to be pleased. In the congregation there are many members from the province of Darmstadt who must have had good instruction in their youth. In the evening some of the members were present with us and we engaged in edifying conversation and closed with prayer.

**Dr. John C. Shetler, Editor**

**Myrna Knaide, Managing Editor  
M-K Computing Services**

**Printed by ProCopy**

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

## *Biography of November 11th Speaker*

The Rev. Frederick S. Weiser is a native of Hanover, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of Gettysburg College (A.B. 1957) and the Lutheran Theological Seminaries in Gettysburg (B.D. 1960) and Philadelphia (STM 1966). He is a retired parish pastor in central Pennsylvania, has taught at Gettysburg College, and has been the archivist of Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg. He lived in Germany for one year studying folklife there in small villages in the Palatinate and Franconia.

From 1966-1992, he was editor of the publication series of *The Pennsylvania German Society*. He has written books, articles, and pamphlets on local history, genealogy, church history, Lutheran deaconess work, and Pennsylvania German life and folk art. He is secretary of the Weiser Family Association; a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland; Vice President of the Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg; on the Board of Fellows of Gettysburg College; and a board member and treasurer of the Lutheran Historical Society, Gettysburg. He is a Fellow of the National Genealogical Society. He has lectured at, been a consultant for, and translated Pennsylvania German materials for Winterthur, Colonial Williamsburg, Old Salem, the Dietrich Foundation, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and many regional historical societies.

He has studied the wood figures made in the Erzgebirge and frequently offers tours to this and other parts of Germany Austria, and Switzerland. He resides at Parrehof near New Oxford in Adams County, Pennsylvania.



### *Recent Deceased Members*

During the Fall and Summer, four of our Society members have died. We express appreciation for their membership, activity, service support, and friendship.

Kathleen Hoisington  
Mildred Hess

John Stewart  
Fred Rich

They were all people of faith. We give thanks for the gift of eternal life made possible through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **C E R T I F I C A T E O F G I F T F O R C O M P L E T I O N O F T H E I N T E R I O R**

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

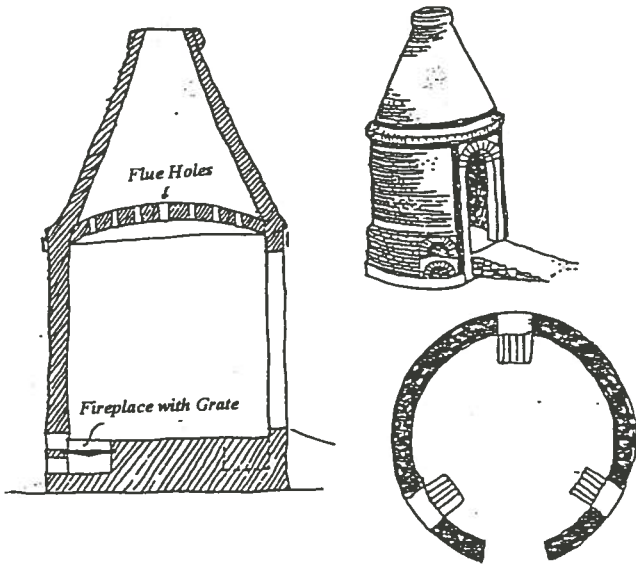
\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Town State/Zip Tel.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other

*Clip and mail to: Historical Society of Trappe  
P.O. Box 828 Collegetown, PA 19426*

## The Providence Kiln

Until three years ago, no one knew that an active and productive kiln was operating along the Great Road to Reading from circa 1720 to 1750 in Trappe. More than 1500 fragments of vessels, kiln furniture, and kiln bricks have been found on the Muhlenberg House property. The rarity of the discovery is in the fact that the kiln foundation was still in place when uncovered.

This was a European style kiln as shown in the diagram below. The kiln report is being written by Ms. Betty Zebooker, consultant for Kittatinny



European Updraft Pottery Kiln

Archaeological Research, Inc. A VCR film is also being prepared by the Kittatinny firm.

The kiln exhibit in the Dewees Museum will continue until November 16th and will be open by appointment. Call the President (610-489-7622) or the Curator (610-489-2624).

The kiln foundation, located within three feet of the Muhlenberg House wall, has been preserved for

future excavation and study by packing it with fine stone screening, covered with straw, a protective film, and finally topsoil. When funds become available it will be possible to construct an outline of the kiln foundation and other surrounding foundations with flagstones laid on the surface of the ground with a descriptive plaque.



### On to the Goal

By the time you receive this newsletter, the contributed amount toward the goal of \$125,000 will have passed \$80,000! These gifts have come from individuals, banks, businesses, industry, and interested groups. Even children have put money in the contribution box. We are most grateful to all who have so far made their contributions.

If you have not joined the ranks of the 1997 supporters, we invite you to do so. Every gift is an act of confidence for the passing on of the heritage to the next century. In order to give as substantial amounts as possible, some are giving monthly, quarterly, or as possible. Every size gift is appreciated. Every cent goes to the restoration. Our number of volunteers still grows. We are a 501 C-3 organization. You may use the Certificate of Gift on page 2.



The first opening of the house to the public will be in 1998.

### Library Hours

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



### Museum Gifts

If you have a family treasure of historic note, you may wish to donate it to the Historical Society of Trappe for display. 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

### 1998 Membership

The general work of the Society is supported by the membership dues and museum entrance contributions. Please use the form provided.

## C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R

### 1997

October 15 - Kiln Exhibit Continues  
November 15 Museum Open by Appointment

November 11 Veteran's Day Dinner  
Moorehead's 7:00 P.M.

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

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**  
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COLLEGEVILLE, PA 19426

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*Support the Restoration*



*of the Muhlenberg House*

**NOVEMBER 1997 NEWSLETTER**  
**PLEASE, DO NOT DELAY!**

**VETERANS DAY DINNER**

**Tuesday, November 11, 1997 7:00 P.M.**

Moorehead's ■ First Avenue ■ Trappe

**"The Muhlenberg-Weiser Relationship"**

*250 Years of Two Colonial Families*

by

**The Rev. Frederick S. Weiser**

***Veterans Day Dinner***  
**RESERVATION**

Clip and Mail to: **Norman D. Holcombe**  
21 Main Street  
Trappe, PA 19426

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me at  
\$16.00 per person for November 11th.

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO PAY YOUR DUES EARLY**  
Bring to the Dinner or Mail to:

**Richard Holcombe**  
21 Main Street  
Trappe, PA 19426

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

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