

# The Chronicle

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

September 1998

Trappe-Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426

Volume XXVII, No. 3

## *Come to Heritage Weekend Activities*

Heritage Weekend 1998, September 12th and 13th, celebrates two 18th century events that occurred in Providence: Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's purchase of the house of John Jacob Schrack the younger in 1776 and the entrance into Providence of Washington and his Army on September 19, 1777.

The completion of the restoration of Muhlenberg House will be noted with a varied program on the site. The main program will be at 11:00am on Saturday, the 12th, with an address by Congressman Jon Fox, as well as others to be announced. The Rev. Robert Home, Chaplain of the Trappe Historical Society, will offer the invocation. Dr. Ivan W. Hess, President of the Society, will speak on the significance of the future program of the Muhlenberg House. Other dignitaries will be introduced.

To emphasize the celebrative nature of the day, unique entertainment will be presented at 10am at Muhlenberg House by Magician Sam Sandler of Spring Mount. The magic show, which will be especially interesting to children, will be interpreted in the setting of Colonial Pennsylvania.

A parade will begin at 1:00pm on Saturday, the 12th, from 7th Avenue, passing down Main Street to First Avenue, concluding at the former Middle School. Dignitaries of the morning program and of the local municipalities will be in the parade. To

commemorate the entrance into Providence and the encampment, which extended from Trappe to Evansburg on September 19,



20, and 21 by the Continental Army and the Pennsylvania Militia, the current day reenactors, the 5th Pennsylvania Rifles and Coryell's Artillery, will march in the parade. The parade will feature local church floats, fire company trucks, service clubs and veterans' groups, a wagon and six-horse hitch, Pennsylvania State Police Color Guard, and several bands.

Following the parade, the reenactors will provide the reenactment of camp life on the campus of Augustus Lutheran Church. There will be demonstrations of cooking military drills, cannon and musket fire, and a fashion show.

## The President's Message

The dedication of the Muhlenberg House was carried out in a dignified manner attended by over 300 people.

It was attended by Clergy, historians, professional people, and those interested in antiquity. The Rev. Dr. Herbert Michel was General Chairman of the event.

I would like to thank his committee, the hostesses and hosts, and all the people who contributed to make the event a success.

We have met our recent goal of raising \$25,000 to meet the final expenses of the Muhlenberg House restoration. The cost of the Visitor's Center is paid. John Milner, Architect, is going to donate the installation of carpet in the Visitor's Center, and we thank him.

Mr. James Stewart has agreed to pay for lawn care at Dewees and Muhlenberg House for the remainder of the summer, and we are grateful for that.

The need for income will continue as we make an effort to furnish the house with appropriate furniture and accessories. This will be an ongoing effort.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ivan W. Hess M.D.".

Ivan W. Hess, M.D.  
President

Muhlenberg House will be open for tours following the parade on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00pm.

St. Luke's Reformed Church, United Church of Christ, will dedicate an historical marker located just inside the Reformed Cemetery fence, at 11:30am on Sunday, the 13th. The marker will designate the site of the first log church built in 1747 and used as a hospital following the Battle of Brandywine. The reverse side of the stone will show an engraving of the second church of 1835 which was of stone. The present

*(Continued on page 2)*

**From The Journals of  
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg  
1777**

*September 19, Friday.* In the morning we had some peace. Toward noon Mr. Andreas Burghard arrived in a *stagecoach* in which he had his wife and children and Mr. Foulk's wife and children. They fled from Philadelphia early in the morning because the city was in an uproar and turmoil last night and it was said that the British were near the city, whereupon all who wished or were able to flee set out.

Received news in the afternoon that the British troops had marched across toward Providence on the other side of and farther down the Schuylkill. Their camp could be seen, I was told, through a fieldglass. The American troops then marched through the Schuylkill, four miles from us, and came out on the road to Philadelphia at Augustus Church. They had to wade through the river up to the chests. His Excellency General Washington was himself with the troops who marched past here to the Perkiomen. The passage of the troops lasted through the night and we had all kinds of visitors, officers, etc. To get wet up to one's chest and then to march in the cold, foggy night while enduring hunger and thirst, etc. is hard for the poor men. It takes courage, health, etc. But instead of prayers, what one hears from many of them is the horrible national vice: cursing. At midnight a regiment camped on the street in front of my house. Some vegetables and chickens were taken, and a man with a flint came to my chamber, demanded bread, etc.

*September 20, Saturday.* Our weak vessels baked bread twice today and shared what little there was with the sick and wretched [D: without charge]. In the evening a nursemaid came with three English Children of a prominent family which is fleeing from Philadelphia. Since night had fallen, they could not go on and pleaded to be put up; we took them in and gave them such accommodation as we had.

*September 21, Sunday.* We were not disturbed last night, but were preserved by God's gracious shield and protection. This morning Mr. Swain rode to New Hannover and my son Henrich went to the Reformed church to conduct divine service there because the Reformed pastor had requested several weeks ago that we take care of his service today.

***Purpose of Dedication***

Muhlenberg House fulfills the purpose of the Historical Society of Trappe and the Perkiomen Valley by celebrating the heritage of the 18th century nation builders who, from the Muhlenberg family and other residents of Providence, provided leadership for the state and the nation.

The house and the Society are dedicated to passing on the noble heritage of these 18th century nation builders to all who chose to walk in their footsteps and follow their examples of integrity, industriousness, charitableness, service, vision, and faith.

Here we are dedicated to engage in:

- Historical Study and Writing
- Leadership Development
- Preservation of Artifacts as Teaching Tools
- Inspiration to Preserve Historical Sites
- Ecumenical Study and Practice
- Mature Development of Community Life.

Here today, we are dedicated to lift up this heritage in such a manner that the people of the Perkiomen Valley will pass it on with faithfulness and enthusiasm to the generations yet unborn in the centuries to come.

*Dr. John C. Shetler, Curator, Historian  
Given August 9, 1998 at the Dedication Service*



***Come to Heritage Weekend Activities*** *(Continued from page 1)*

Dewees Tavern building adjacent to the cemetery is owned by St. Luke's Church and is on a 99-year lease to the Historical Society of Trappe and the Perkiomen Valley.

The reenactors' encampment will continue at Augustus Church on Sunday from 12:00 to 7:00pm. Residents from the area are invited to attend all events.

The Heritage Celebration Committee includes Alfred N. Douglas (Chairperson), Kim Amway, Martha Douglas, Larry DiPiano, Joyce Haas, Clay Hess, James Kelly, Mary Lozier, Francis Ruggiero, Maureen Ruggiero (Parade Chairperson), May Kay Sam, Wier Shankel, Richard Weicheld, Virginia Weicheld, and Dr. Ivan W. Hess, President, Ex-Officio.

Crafts will be demonstrated at Muhlenberg House by Alison and Courtenay Hess - candle making, Debbie Rodenberger - chair caning, and Howard Moyer - basket making.

**C E R T I F I C A T E   O F   G I F T**

**TO CAST 2 FIVE-PLATE STOVES  
CONSTRUCT CASES FOR RESTORATION MUSEUM**

To help furnish 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 26708    Collegetown, PA    19426-0708**

## Gifts Received

On August 8th, Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Herrick, daughter and son-in-law of Frederick and Violet Grimison, brought a painting, Meadow Scene at Graterford, by David Ellinger, which was given to Mr. Grimison who framed paintings for Mr. Ellinger. Date of painting is 1933 when he was in his late teens or early twenties. The permanent loan is in the name of granddaughter Dr. Katharine Herrick Davis.

On August 12th, Mark J. Haas for Henry L. Haas gave a Revolutionary War bayonet excavated in Trappe.

Mrs. Lee Haas for the late Henry L. Haas gave a facsimile copy of a portion of Holmes' map of the Province of Pennsylvania, 1681, giving the original purchasers from William Penn.

Other gifts will be reported in the next *Chronicle*.



## Schrack Genealogical Resource

Mrs. Betty G. Massman of Cary, Illinois, has compiled a line of descent for Etha June Shartzler (Roehm) families from Johann Jacob Schrack and Eva Rosina (Euphrosina) Lang who were the first settlers of Trappe (Providence) in 1717. It includes such names as Scheib, Heller, Schneider, Keiper, Neff, and Cressman. Mrs. Massman has given a copy to our library.

Dr. Jack Kressman has also done work on the Schrack's which he before his death deposited in the library.



## Repairs at Dewees House

The restoration of Dewees Tavern Museum was completed at the Bicentennial of the Nation in 1976. Since that time very little maintenance was needed other than painting. Now major maintenance is required which includes pointing of the areas around the windows and the back portion of the building, repair of some window frames, repair of cellar window stonework, repair of stone wall at rear entrance, repair of storm doors, and painting of exterior.

The cost estimate is \$7,567. The painting is in addition and will cost approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000.

We have included a certificate of gift for those members and friends who would like to help with this important work.

### C E R T I F I C A T E O F G I F T

#### FOR REPAIR OF DEWEES TAVERN BUILDING

To help repair the Dewees 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 26708 Collegetown, PA 19426-0708

## Report on Roundtable II

The Muhlenberg Leadership Committee held another excellent seminar! This one, "Everything you Wanted to Know about Leadership but were Afraid to Ask," was skillfully presented by Mr. David Cornish, President Emeritus, Collegetown Flag & Mfg. Co. The four-hour roundtable was held at the Visitor's Center on Friday, June 27th.

Over 20 participants listened and discussed at length the "joys" and "pitfalls" of leadership. The level of participation was high and spoke to everyone's experience.

Feedback comments included: "It was successful because of its simplicity." "We could get our arms around it."

"Our deepest gratitude goes to David Cornish for his insight, effort, and super participation," stated Lucy A. Ivins, Leadership Chair. "His leadership skills and personal as well as professional commitment to the Muhlenberg values and ethics are second to none," said Ivins.

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

### 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. Contact the Curator to discuss how your valued possession may help others to learn and enjoy the history of our area.

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

*HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE*  
P.O. BOX 26708  
COLLEGEVILLE, PA 19426-0708

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
COLLEGEVILLE, PA  
19426  
PERMIT NO. 9



Dr. Charlotte M. Witmer  
178 West Main Street  
Trappe, PA 19426-2040

**Come to Heritage Days!  
September 12-13, 1998**

**SEPTEMBER 1998 NEWSLETTER  
PLEASE, DO NOT DELAY!**

*In the Visitor's Center  
at the  
Muhlenberg House*



- Watercolor Print: Muhlenberg House
  - Unmatted / Numbered \$50.00
  - Unmatted / Signed Proof \$75.00
- Watercolor Print: Dewees Tavern
  - Signed / Unmatted \$40.00
  - Matted / Signed \$55.00
  - Matted / Artist's Proof \$65.00
- Painted Plaster Models
  - Muhlenberg House \$50.00
  - Dewees Tavern \$50.00
  - Augustus Church \$50.00
- Note Cards
  - Muhlenberg House \$4.50
  - Dewees Tavern \$4.50
- 13-Star Flag \$30.00      Staff \$6.00
- Map / Itinerary of Washington's Army \$3.00
- Trappe Flag (12" X 18") \$5.00      Base \$3.00

**C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R**

September	Museum / Library — By Appointment Except Sunday, September 13, 1:30-4pm
September 12-13	Heritage Days
November 11	Annual Meeting and Dinner Moorehead's — 7:00 pm
December 6	Advent Open House — 1:30 - 4:00 pm

**WE INVITE YOU TO MEMBERSHIP**

No Persons

_____	Regular	@	\$8.00	=	_____
_____	Student	@	\$2.00	=	_____
_____	Schrack	@	\$12.00	=	_____
_____	Life	@	\$100.00	=	_____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Richard Holcombe  
P.O. Box 26806 Trappe, PA 19426-0806