

# The Chronicle

A Publication of The Historical Society  
of Trappe, Collegetown, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

August 2001 A.D.

Volume XXX, No. 3

## *Come to Heritage Sunday Celebration*

The 224th anniversary of the crossing of the Schuylkill River by the Continental Army and camping from Trappe to Evansburg will be celebrated at the Muhlenberg House on Sunday, September 16th, from 1:30 to 4:00pm.

The Dewees Museum will be closed until 3:00pm so that everyone can attend the program at Muhlenberg House.

The crossing took place on September 19, 1777. The Muhlenberg Journal records that the soldiers took fruit from the trees, produce from the garden, pastured their horses in the fields, and came to the door for food. Mother Muhlenberg and her daughters baked bread twice that day. This year the program will describe by various activities what life was like in the village and at Muhlenberg House.

At 2:00pm Alan Keyser of East Greenville, a noted authority on Pennsylvania German Culture, will speak on gardens of the 18th century. A question period is included. Benches will be available for senior citizens, and refreshments will be offered for everyone.

Crafts of the period will be demonstrated on the Muhlenberg grounds. Some crafters will have items for sale. The following will be participating: Linda Wiernusz will make clear toy suckers which are especially interesting to children; Bonnie Nieman will have her live honey bee exhibit, John Warren will make 18th century type brooms; Paula Brown will have her spinning exhibit; Christine Pinnock will demonstrate Fractur Calligraphy; Debbie Rotenberger will cane chairs; Courtenay and Alison Hess will dip candles; Louis Hill will bring his blacksmith equipment; Joan DiMaria will demonstrate quilting, flax breaking, and tin punching; and George Vinter, toymaker, will interpret 18th century toys.

At 3:00pm Dewees Museum will open where new 2001 areas on the Second Floor include the Military Exhibit and the Kressman Room.

Parking will be available at St. Luke's Church with limited parking at the Dewees Museum (no parking at Muhlenberg House). ❖

## The President's Message

*Dear Friends,*

*In recent years the Society has been blessed with people who contribute to the Society monetarily as well as artifacts and furniture gifts.*

*This process has continued in recent months with a fundraising mailing which has not been that successful. Please consider your support of the Society with a monetary gift for the year 2001.*

*Learn about your heritage by visiting the Muhlenberg House and Dewees Museum, open every Sunday from 1:30pm to 4:00pm. You will be greeted by an informed Docent who will cheerfully describe our glorious history.*

*Have a blessed summer and may it be a time of renewal and refreshment.*

*Sincerely,*

*Herbert H. Michel*  
Dr. Herbert H. Michel,  
President



## Stove-Making Started

Architect Christina Carter and Museum Director/Historian John Shetler were present at W. D. Pattern Company when Warren Mangan and his craftsmen began the process of making the patterns by pouring liquid rubber over the treated 18th century stove plates enclosed in hardwood frames to create the mold which would be used for making the pattern that will later be used in the foundry at Boyertown.

Pattern making is a very technical and intricate process that involves refining and enhancing the basic mold through its various steps to compensate for the imperfections and wear of the original plates.

It is expected that the first of the stoves will be completed and daubed into the wall of the fireplace of the East Room by December. Mark your calendar for the second Sunday in December for the dedication.

We still need the help of many donors. The present total of gifts from members and friends now stands at \$4,180 toward the total of \$8,000 which had to be increased to include installation.

The bookkeeper has informed us that the source of the matching funds for the second stove has reached \$3,000, which will be completed early in the new year. The names of donors will be included in the dedication pamphlet. You may use the form (page 2) of this issue of *The Chronicle* for your gift ❖

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

**September 19, Friday.** His Excellency General W[ashington] was himself with the troops who marched past here to the Perkiome. 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.

**September 23, Tuesday.** The militia troops who are encamped here must have wicked men among them. Some of them have broken into the house of the man who now owns my former farm, have broken chests and boxes to pieces, and have wrought havoc on the place. Others have smashed fences and rails and burned them, etc.

**October 2, Thursday.** We were graciously preserved during the past night by God's protection. This forenoon all the American troops stationed hereabouts marched off down the highway. It is said that the main American army is also moving somewhat nearer the city on the Shippach road. It looks as if a swarm of locusts had been here. Bad policing. If the fences or rails around the farmers' fields and meadows are burned and their limited woodlands are cut and ruined, food for men and cattle will be reduced and starvation must follow. Before this I bought ten acres of woodland near the church; they have now been laid waste, etc.

**October 9, Thursday.** We were graciously preserved during the night by God's goodness. Early this morning we heard heavy cannonading from the direction of Philadelphia. The American army had orders this morning to break camp. This will entail difficulty because a raw, cold rain started to fall this morning, and is continuing, which will ruin the roads and make the rivers high. Our house, kitchen, and barn are already filled with solders who are seeking shelter and want to get dry, etc.

**Heritage Sunday  
Sunday, September 16th  
1:30 - 4:00pm  
Muhlenberg House  
Spend an afternoon in history!  
Light Refreshments Served  
Deweese Museum opens at 3:00pm**

## *Administrative Secretary Begins Work*

Early in the year the Board of Directors approved engaging a secretary to work in the Historical Society office two mornings a week for a total of eight hours. President Michel and Treasurer Knaide reviewed applicants and conducted interviews. They recommended Ms. Gail Latch to the Board, which approved her for the position. Primarily she does work for the President, the Director of Museums, the Board Secretary, and Committee Chairpersons.

When you call the office at the Dewees Museum and must leave a message, please remember to state your purpose and give your complete address if you wish information mailed to you. It is less expensive to send you information by mail than call you long distance.

The second Tuesday of each month is the normal day for the meeting of the Leadership Committee at 8:00am and the Museum Committee workday from 9:00am to noon. If anyone has business with either of these committees, these are good times to come to the office. To make an appointment for a group to visit either museum, call on Tuesday or Thursday morning and the date will be checked with the Director of Museums.

When visiting the office, please park in the rear of the Dewees Museum and use the back entrance. Ms. Latch will be pleased to welcome you. ❖

### *To Schedule Tour Groups*

*Both Muhlenberg House and the Dewees Museum welcome tour groups. Dates must be scheduled in advance. A suggested contribution of \$2.00 per person per museum is encouraged to help with museum maintenance costs—larger contributions are, of course, welcomed. Our docents, officers, and committee persons are volunteers, so your gifts go directly to the work of the museums. For reservations, please call the Museum Director/Historian, Dr. John Shetler (610-489-2624).*

## *Report on Community Mailing*

The Spring Community Mailing gives residents of the Perkiomen Valley area an opportunity to participate in the work of the Historical Society. It has now reached a total of \$2,297.98, but *it is not too late* to help support the two museums that communicate to the younger population what life was like in the days of grandparents and great-grandparents.

Please send your check to the Historical Society, Attention Community Mailing, P.O. Box 26708, Collegeville, PA 19426-0708. Your help in making this fundraiser a success will be most appreciated. ❖

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**CERTIFICATE OF GIFT**  
**MATCHING GIFT FOR FIVE-PLATE STOVES**



Enclosed is a check made payable to The Historical Society:

In the Name of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Tel.

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$500     \$1,000     Other

Clip and mail to: **The Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 26708 Collegeville, PA 19426-0708

## New Policy on Publicizing Artifacts

The policy for publicity on accession of artifacts is based on reality. Recently, a robbery committed in the Perkiomen Valley resulted in the loss of more than a hundred antiques and books taken from a home. One of the robbers had an antique shop and had been in prison. We must always be careful to protect the gifts and loans from our friends.

Therefore, we shall no longer announce in *The Chronicle* the gifts of artifacts that could attract the attention of thieves. We shall appreciate all that is given but will make general statements regarding growing classes of interest. Our docents are always alert to prevent possible theft by carefully watching all who come into the museums. The following three gift announcements are exceptions to the above:

### Exceptional Gifts

A recent generous July gift from James T. Stewart of *The Independent*, Collegeville, was a Job Printing Press patented in the 1880s, along with a floor-standing paper cutter. The weight of the two is a thousand pounds or more and was moved by the Reading Rigging Co. It is the intention to find retired printers who will clean and prepare the press for future use. A part of the gift includes cuts and type along with a proof press and the bound copies of *The Independent*, all of which are given in memory of Mr. John Stewart.

Another exceptional gift was an Outhouse to enhance the grounds of the Dewees Museum. Dr. Stephen K. Williams recently sold his property to be developed with townhouses and generously gave us the Outhouse that stood nearest the building that was the first Prizer School before it moved to Washington Hall. Built more than a hundred years ago in the 19th century, it has a child's seat and one for adults. Many people today have never seen such a building. After a bit of restoration with original boards and slates, it will be included in specially scheduled tours. The building was moved by Halteman Brothers. Old-timers will remember that a lilac bush was planted near the outhouse. That is where it is now.

A collection of farm implements was given by G. John Zvarick in memory of his father, Albert J. Zvarick. The collection includes a corn sheller, a row corn planter, a fodder cutter, a walking plow, a one-horse bobsled, a bag holder for use when filling bags with grain, and an oak barrel. When these items are restored, they will be displayed as part of our Perkiomen Valley Heritage. ❖

### Muhlenberg Leadership Committee Plans Events

Dr. U. Berkley Ellis, Chairman of the Muhlenberg Leadership Committee, has announced two events to be held in November.

The first is a Youth Leadership Conference scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2001, at Augustus Lutheran Church. High school students from Perkiomen Valley, Methacton, Spring Ford, Pottstown, Pottsgrove, and St. Pius (five from each) are invited to attend and will hear speakers from the community present principles of leadership. Thereafter student groups will apply leadership principles to assigned problems and present their conclusions. Speakers are currently being contacted and an agenda is being prepared.

On November 10, 2001, an Adult Community Leadership Session will be held at Ursinus College. Speaker will be Dr. Roger Landry, of All Ways Healthy, Dallas, Pennsylvania. Dr. Landry's motivational presentations address a common sense approach to a fulfilling and meaningful lifestyle for those in leadership roles. Topic title and details are being finalized for this event and will be announced in October. Historical Society members as well as local organizations and residents of the community will be encouraged to attend.

The Committee, in addition to Dr. Ellis, includes Dr. Ivan W. Hess, Myrna Knaide, Dr. Herbert H. Michel, Kenneth L. Schaefer, Dr. John C. Shetler, and Jo Ann C. Waddell. ❖

C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R    2001 A.D.

Through August 26	1:30 - 4:00pm (Sundays) Both Museums Open
September 2	Both Museums Closed
September 9	Both Museums Open
September 16	1:30 - 4:00pm Heritage Sunday Muhlenberg House Deweese Museum Open 3:00pm
September 23 - November 30	Both Museums Open by Appointment
November 11	7:00pm (Sunday) Armistice Day Dinner
December 2	1:30 - 4:00pm Both Museums Open
December 9	1:30 - 4:00pm Muhlenberg House Open 2:00 - 3:00pm Pastor Muhlenberg Speaks 3:00 - 4:00pm Deweese Museum Open
December 16	Museums Open by Appointment until Spring 2002



Muhlenberg House



Deweese Museum

### INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP: 2001

No. Persons

_____	Regular	@	\$10.00	=	_____
_____	Student	@	\$2.00	=	_____
_____	Schrack	@	\$15.00	=	_____
_____	Life	@	\$100.00	=	_____

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

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

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks Payable to: The Historical Society*

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

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 Tel: 610-489-7560

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 610-489-2624

**AUGUST 2001 NEWSLETTER**  
*Please, Do Not Delay!*

**Gifts and Remembrances**

- Prints of Dewees Tavern from a Watercolor 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 |
- Prints of Muhlenberg House Watercolor by Eugene Bechtel
- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Signed Print          | \$50.00 |
| Signed Artist's Proof | \$75.00 |
- The Restoration of The Muhlenberg House ..... \$3.00  
 by Dr. John C. Shetler, 32-page publication with color photos
- Excerpts on Collegeville and Trappe ..... \$7.00
- Pennsylvanians Germans ..... \$12.00  
 By Dr. William T. Parsons
- VCR, Dewees Tavern and Muhlenberg House, 1st Series ..... \$10.00
- VCR, Restoration of Muhlenberg House ..... \$10.00
- Bill of Rights (Facsimile) ..... \$1.00  
 Contains the Signature of Frederick Muhlenberg
- Anniversary Book of Trappe  
 275th - Pictures, Historical Sketches, Businesses ..... \$2.00
- Notebook of a Colonial Clergyman ..... \$10.00  
 Excerpts from Muhlenberg's Journals
- Map, Itinerary of Washington's Army in Montgomery County .... \$3.00  
 Army Crosses Schuylkill at Parkerford and Some Units Camp in Trappe
- T-Shirts: Some T-shirts are available. Three different logos: Old Style Muhlenberg House, New Style Muhlenberg House, and Emblem of Trappe. Large, Medium, Small, and Children's sizes. \$6.00 and \$8.00
- Tiles with Trappe Emblem ..... \$1.00
- Perkiomen Bridge Mugs (1799-1999) ..... \$3.00
- Models by Marbie Foster ..... \$50.00 each  
 Dewees Tavern, Muhlenberg House, Augustus Lutheran Church
- Muhlenberg Plate, by Lester Breninger ..... \$100.00  
 Call Dr. Ivan Hess (610) 489-7622
- Notecards by Julie Longacre ..... \$4.50  
 Dewees Tavern, Muhlenberg House
- Sketched Map, 19th Century Main Street, Collegeville and Trappe  
 ..... Print: \$15.00 Framed: \$100.00

**Thoughtful and Meaningful Gifts for Family and Friends . . . Decorative and Educational Mementos for Your Home**  
 . . . from The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley