

The Chronicle

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

September 2002 A.D.

Volume XXXI No. 3

225th Anniversary of the Continental Army in Trappe



Sunday, September 15th, is HERITAGE SUNDAY. It marks the 225th Anniversary of the Continental Army under the command of General George Washington crossing the Schuylkill River following the Battle of Brandywine and coming over what is now Trappe-Linfield Road on September 19th, 1777. The army camped from Trappe to Evansburg. With the army was General Peter Muhlenberg who was in the Battle of Brandywine.

Both museums will be open on September 15th from 1:30 to 4:00pm.

The Henry Muhlenberg House will feature Colonial Crafters that day under the leadership of Dr. Ivan W. Hess.

Participants include: *Spinning*, Paula Brown of Norristown; *Revolutionary War Re-enactment*, Wayne Brunt; *Quilting and Tin Punching*, Joan DiMaria of Hatfield; *Outside Cooking*, Karen Dougherty; *Cording*, Irene Ferguson; *Candle Dipping*, Courtenay and Alison Hess of Audubon; *Sauerkraut Making*, Erich Hess of Trappe; *Blacksmith*, Lewis Hill of Pennsburg; *Spinning, Weaving, Dyeing*, Ruth Konrad; *Calligraphy*, Christine Pennock of Telford; *Chair Caning*, Debbie Rotenberger of Trappe; *Bee Keeping*, Bonnie Neiman of Collegeville; *Dried Herbs*, Judy Taylor; and *Colonial Games and Toys*, George Vinter of Red Hill. Some craftspersons will have children participate, and some will have items for sale.

The re-enactment by Wayne Brunt will help those attending understand the daily life of the soldiers who camped from Trappe to Evansburg that day. The craftspersons will enable children and adults to see what life in 1777 was like.

Parking is available behind the Dewees Museum and at St. Luke's United Church of Christ across the street from the Henry Muhlenberg House.

Docents will be available to guide the visitors at each of the museums. ❖

The President's Message

Dear Friends:

We are looking forward to the Fall season of the Society. There will be several activities which I hope all of you will attend and support.

I invite you to read The Chronicle in detail with many articles on projects in progress and programs and events yet to come.

We all look forward to the following events: Heritage Sunday, September 15; Veterans Day Dinner, November 11, 7:00pm, featuring The Muhlenberg Quartet; and the two five-plate stoves will, hopefully, be dedicated in November at the Muhlenberg House. We have also begun a fund drive to install a walkway at the Dewees Museum to make it more easily accessible for those with canes or wheelchairs. These events and projects are described in this issue of The Chronicle.

I would like to express a word of thanks for a very successful Summer with many visitors and friends at the Muhlenberg House and Dewees Museum. I am grateful for the dedicated group of Docents who volunteer their time to tell the story of Muhlenberg and our community.

We look forward to seeing all of you on Heritage Sunday, September 15, 2002.

Sincerely,

Dr. Herbert H. Michel,
President

Dewees Museum Exhibit: Washington and His Army



In recognition of the 225th Anniversary of the Continental Army entering Trappe on September 19, 1777, an exhibit, beginning on Heritage Sunday, September 15, will display artifacts from the Revolution, including battle streamers from the Steitz Collection. For this special occasion, we also will bring the 19th century Washington Prints of the Grimison Collection out of storage for this exhibit.

In the Fall of 1777, while General Peter Muhlenberg was in Valley Forge, his family was staying at the Henry and Anna Maria Muhlenberg House. Pictures and documents signed by General Peter will also be on exhibit.

continued on page 2

From The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg

1777

September 18, Thursday. Yesterday and all night we had cold, stormy wind without rain. This has lowered the high rivers and gives both armies an opportunity to march across in either direction. Early this morning my son Heinrich's parents-in-law sent their best household goods farther up to New Hannover. Poor Widow Z[immerman] returned today from New Hannover.

I have often been advised to flee farther away because their treatment of preachers is barbarous and merciless, etc. But whither? What God has decreed for me in the course of events I cannot escape, no matter where I go.

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. They would have been glad to stay with us, but we seemed to be nearer rather than farther from the danger. Accordingly they drove on with heavy hearts along the road to Reading and Tolpehaken. Received news in the afternoon that the British troops had marched across toward Providence on the other side of and farther down the Schulkiel. Their camp could be seen, I was told, through a fieldglass. The American troops then marched through the Schulkiel, four miles from us, and came out on the road to Philadelphia at Augustus Church. They had to wade through the river up to their chests. 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 hearts from many of them is the horrible national vice: cursing.

This afternoon my son Heinrich came from Philadelphia to put his family at rest. After my weak prayer I drew the verse, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ," etc. 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.

... continued on page 3

Exhibit: Washington and His Army

continued from page 1

Remember, the Henry Muhlenberg House and the Dewees Museum will be open only on Sundays, September 15, December 1, and December 8, from 1:30 to 4:00pm. For other opportunities, form a group of five or ten persons and make an appointment to visit the museum by calling the Dewees Museum at 610-489-7560 on Tuesday or Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm, or by calling Dr. John Shetler at 610-489-2624. This must be done five days in advance to allow time to schedule docents. ❖

Plan to Visit Both Houses

When you come to Heritage Sunday on September 15th, plan to visit both houses to get the full impact of the 225th Anniversary of the Continental Army camping from Trappe to Collegeville to Evansburg. Remember, the craft re-enactors will be at Muhlenberg House and the Washington prints and 18th century Revolutionary artifacts will be in the Dewees Museum. Both the Visitor's Center at Muhlenberg House and the Society office at Dewees Museum will have books, maps, tiles, Trappe flags, and notepaper for sale, which may be purchased as gifts. ❖

Last Stage of Second Stove

The patterns for the second five-plate stove were taken the last week in July to the Unicast Foundry in Boyertown. When the castings are brought to the Muhlenberg House, they will be blackened in the restoration shop prior to being assembled and daubed into the fireplace wall in the southwest room, the *stube*, and the northeast room, the *kammer*. Both stoves will be dedicated at the same time, and *The Chronicle* will be sent in good time announcing the date.



New Board Member

The Rev. Robert Meschke has joined the Board of The Historical Society. He is the Assistant Pastor of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Knauertown. He has also served as Institutional Chaplain for the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare and in an administrative capacity with the former Veterans Hospital in Spring City. Meschke has served on the Museum Committee of the Society for the past two years. His continued efforts in the work of the Society will be an asset to the Board. ❖

Making It Safer for Those with Walking Problems

Estimates are now being received for the cost of laying an on-grade concrete walk to the west door of the Dewees Museum. This door, not having been used for many years, is accessible without a step. At the same time, it is planned to alter two one-step doorways in the west rooms of the Dewees Museum. The total cost may approximate \$5,000. At present, the amount received is \$285.00. The work will begin as soon as we have sufficient funds to complete one segment. A contribution certificate is provided below. ❖

CERTIFICATE OF GIFT *for* DEWEES NEW ENTRANCE WALK

Enclosed is a check made payable to The Historical Society.

Designated for: _____

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

Become a Volunteer!

I am interested in discussing the following:

- Museum Committee Membership
 Becoming a Museum Docent
 Learning a Craft

I have the following Craft Experience:

Name _____ Tel. No. _____

Address _____

Mail to: Volunteer - The Historical Society P.O. Box 26708 Collegeville PA 19426-0708

Muhlenberg Leadership Committee Plans November Events

The Muhlenberg Leadership Committee is currently making plans for two important events to be held in November: A Youth Leadership Conference and the prestigious Muhlenberg Award presentation.

The **Youth Leadership Conference** will be held on November 6th at Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe. Dr. U. Berkley Ellis and Joanne Waddell are co-chairing the committee for this event. High school students from Perkiomen Valley, Methacton, Spring Ford, Pottstown, Pottsgrove, and St. Pius will participate (five from each school).

Harleysville National Bank has provided funding that will enable the committee to schedule Jack Chambers to address the students. Chambers has worked very effectively with other schools in the area in helping students acquire leadership skills.

On November 19th, The Muhlenberg Leadership Committee will present the **Muhlenberg Award** to a worthy recipient. The Muhlenberg Award Committee, Myrna Knaide, Chair, has begun its search for candidates.

The committee will develop a list of individuals based on criteria that includes Vision, Integrity, Faith, and Service—qualities exemplified by the Muhlenberg family. It will also consider their contributions as leaders not only on a local level, but state and federal as well. A short list will be presented to the Leadership Committee and then to the Board for final selection.

This award will also serve to remind the community that many leaders have developed from the Perkiomen Valley. From the period of 1776-1876 came a congressman, a governor, a state senator, a general, a college president, as well as other leaders in government, business, and the professions. This background and history are examples of leadership and the quality of life that has and continues to permeate and strengthen the county, the state, and the nation.



Previous recipients of this prestigious award include Andrew L. "Drew" Lewis, Jr., William G. Warden, III, Richard P. Richter, Dr. Marilyn Steinbright, Walter E. Daller, Jr., and J. Edmund Mullin Esquire. The Muhlenberg Medal, which was designed and sculpted by local artist Charles Ross, will be presented at a public ceremony of recognition to be held at the Berman Museum.

The Committee welcomes suggestions for individuals to include for consideration. If you wish to submit a name, please send a brief resume of your candidate to The Historical Society, P.O. Box 26708, Collegeville, PA 19426.

The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc., is a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation, a 501(c)(3), exempt organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and is registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations.

The official registration and financial information of The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc., may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Contributions to The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc. are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP: 2002

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

Group Tours . . . for Henry Muhlenberg House and Dewees Museum must be scheduled in advance. A contribution of \$2.00 per person per museum is suggested to help with maintenance costs and the work of the museums. For reservations, call Dr. John Shetler, Museum Director / Historian, at 610-489-2624.

Parking . . . is available at each of the museums. If the area is filled at one location, we suggest that you park at the other. If both are filled, you may try St. Luke's United Church of Christ across the street.

Muhlenberg Journal . . . continued from page 2

September 20, Saturday. Our weak vessels baked bread twice today and shared what little there was with the sick and wretched [D: without charge].

September 21, Sunday. We were not disturbed last night, but were preserved by God's gracious shield and protection. yesterday *Mag[ister]* Streit took leave of us and rode to the army. This morning Mr. Sw[aine] rode to New Hannover and my son Heinrich went to the Reformed church¹ to conduct divine service there because the Reformed pastor had requested several weeks ago that we take care of his service today.

¹At Providence

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P.O. Box 26708 Collegeville PA 19426-0708
Tel: 610-489-7560

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SEPTEMBER 2002 NEWSLETTER
Please, Do Not Delay!

C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R 2 0 0 2 A.D.

- September 8 Both Museums Open
(Closed Labor Day Weekend)
- September 15 Heritage Sunday 1:30 - 4:30pm
Deweese Museum - 225th Anniversary of
Continental Army in Trappe -
New Exhibit: Washington and His Army
Muhlenberg House - Colonial Craftspersons
 - Re-enactments
- September 16
- November 30 Open by Appointment
- November 6 Leadership Committee Youth Conference
November 11 Veterans Day Dinner
November 19 Muhlenberg Award Presentation
November Five-Plate Stove Dedication - To be announced
- December 1 Both Museums Open 1:30 - 4:00pm
Visit by Pastor Muhlenberg
- December 8 Both Museums Open 1:30 - 4:00pm
December 9
- May 30 Open by Appointment



Henry Muhlenberg House



Deweese Museum

***Muhlenberg Quartet to Perform
at November 11th Meeting***



The Community Music School of Trappe, Edwina French, Founder, and St. Luke's United Church of Christ are cooperating with The Historical Society to present a concert by The Muhlenberg Quartet at the Annual November 11th Dinner Meeting of the Society.

The dinner will be held in Moyer Hall of St. Luke's Church, followed by The Muhlenberg Quartet performing 18th Century Muhlenberg period music in the sanctuary. The Society is celebrating the 260th Anniversary of Pastor Muhlenberg's arrival in Trappe, and St. Luke's Church is celebrating the 260th Anniversary of its founding by John Philip Boehm in 1742.

To provide for the sponsorship of The Muhlenberg Quartet, the Society is seeking \$600.00 in gifts. Sponsors will be listed in the program. Levels of sponsorship include:

- Henry Muhlenberg Sponsorship \$100
- General Peter Muhlenberg Sponsorship \$75
- Schrack, First Settler Sponsorship \$50
- Other gifts \$ _____

Please make your check payable to the Historical Society of Trappe and mail it to: P.O. Box 26708 Collegeville PA 19426