

The Chronicle

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

December 2003

Volume XXXII No. 5

Pastor Henry Muhlenberg Visits His Neighbors

Pastor Henry Muhlenberg will visit the home of his neighbor, Andrew Miller, also now known as the Dewees House at 301 W. Main Street, Trappe. On December 7th at 2:00 and at 3:00pm, Pastor Muhlenberg will be portrayed by The Rev. William Fluck, Pastor of Visitation of Augustus Lutheran Church. Historian Dr. John Shetler will interview him about his neighbors: Riegner the carter, Bradford the shoemaker, Ried the butcher, and George Diehl who lived in the pastor's first house. To each person who visits the Andrew Miller home, a copy of Pastor Muhlenberg's account of the National Day of Prayer on December 7th, 1780 will be given.

The Andrew Miller house was built between 1720 and 1740 on land which Herman DeHaven, a Reformed settler, bought in 1723. Mr. Miller bought the house and 168 acres from Michel Hawk in January 1750. Andrew Miller, a Lutheran, married Anna Maria Ewald, the daughter of Ludwig Ewald, a Reformed Deacon. This was their home until 1794, two years after Andrew's death.

The Miller/Dewees House will open for visitors at 1:30pm on December 7th. Refreshments will be served by Hostess Beverly Spaid and her committee following each Muhlenberg interview.

The home of Pastor Muhlenberg at 201 W. Main Street will also be open on December 7th from 1:30 to 4:00pm.

The Pastor's family during the American Revolution did not speak of Christmas decorations as we

Historical Society Chaplain Improves

The Rev. William Fluck experienced an automobile accident on November 8th, but is improving.

We are prepared to continue with the interview with Pastor Muhlenberg on December 7th as announced. The Rev. Robert A. Meschke, First Vice President of the Society, is prepared and on standby for the December 7th program at the Andrew Miller/Dewees House at 301 W. Main Street, Trappe.

Please keep Pastor Fluck in your prayers.

The President's Message

Dear Members and Friends:

I could report to you today about the progress we are making in the Historical Society; you can read all about that in this issue.

My letter for this month will be a letter of thanks and reflection.

As you may know, my term ends this year as President. I have elected not to seek a second term. As I reflect over the years that I had the privilege to serve you, we have accomplished much, and for that I am grateful.

There have been bumps and problems with programs and people, but the overall end result is good, with many programs and projects completed and in place.

I leave the Presidency grateful that we are in good shape and our new leadership will do an excellent job for the future.

But I challenge you, the members, to become an active part of the Society. Without your contributions and volunteerism, we would not succeed. So I look to you for your prayers and help for our beloved Historical Society.

Have a Blessed and Happy Christmas Season and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Herbert H. Michel

*Dr. Herbert H. Michel,
President*



know them. However, from his journals we know they had certain fruits such as lemons and oranges which were brought from Philadelphia and, of course, apples from the straw-lined pit in the ground and nuts from the woods. Both houses will be decorated in the 18th century manner by Dr. and Mrs. Ivan W. Hess.

Both houses will also be open on Sunday, December 14th from 1:30 to 4:00pm. The Historical Society President, Dr. Herbert H. Michel, extends an invitation to all persons in the Perkiomen Valley to visit on either the 7th or 14th. All visitors are asked to register and receptacles are available for their entrance contributions. Parking is available at both houses.



From The Journals of
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg

1778

December 6, Sunday. Pastor Voigt had services here and announced that I would preach here on the Fourth Sunday in Advent and the First Christmas Day, God willing. He published the banns of Valentin Baier and Juliana Kerst, single persons, and, for the third time, of Georg Zilling and Hanna Henrich, single persons, of T[o]y[amenson] [Town]ship.

Also had a visit from Mr. Georg Diehl and his wife and I paid . . . for the hundredweight of flour which he . . . recently brought with him from the city.

December 7, Monday. Visit from Johannes Jürger of Reading; from Mr. Swaine, on his way to Philadelphia. I wrote a few lines in haste to Pastor Kuntze, enclosing £22 10s. *currency* for each of the following: Pastor Kuntze, Heinrich M[ü]hlenberg, and Pastor Schmid, of Germ[antown]; and also a model of the receipt which I desire from each of them. Visit from Mr. Hamilton, to whom I paid 15s. for a bushel of salt which I had from him during the past year. Sent for some milk jars and a few kitchen utensils, which formerly could be had for a few shillings. They cost £1 18s. 6d. Pastor Slatter sent his young son up with a cart and horse to fetch some charitable contributions from us, since he and his family are completely impoverished. We packed up some potatoes, turnips, dried apples, apples, green cabbage, and several sausages.

December 8, Tuesday. Last night there was a heavy rain, and today an unusually severe windstorm. Wrote a few lines to Mrs. Kuntze, which will be delivered by Mrs. Diehl. Young Slatter journeyed back home with his cart. In the afternoon I married Jacob Hippel and Elisabeth Reiss. Her father, Zacharias Reiss, was surety; Laurentz Hipple, witness. *Vid[e]* bond. Married, after proclamation on three Sundays, George Silling, a shoemaker, and Hanna Henrich; *vid[e]* bond. Mr. Sauer brought two and a half bushels of buckwheat as a present. Mrs. Diehl brought meat or, as they say, a mess of soup.

*See the Berman Museum Pennsylvania
German Exhibit*

The Pennsylvania German Exhibit from the Berman Museum of Ursinus College will still be in place at the Henry Muhlenberg House and the Miller/Deweese House on December 7th and 14th from 1:30 to 4:00pm.

The Berman Curator for this special exhibit, Ms. Lisa Minardi, will be present in the Henry Muhlenberg House to speak with visitors and answer questions about particular items of interest. Our Society docents will also be present to assist.

All visitors are asked to start their tour at the Visitors Center where they may register and make their entrance contributions.



Muhlenberg House Parlor
Photograph by Jim Roesse

2004 Officers Elected

At the Annual Meeting of The Historical Society on November 11th, the following officers were unanimously elected to the Board of Directors: Myrna Knaide, *President*; The Rev. Robert A. Meschke, *First Vice President*; The Rev. Judith A. Meier, *Second Vice President*; Ruth T. Daller, *Recording Secretary*; Anna F. Schrack, *Corresponding Secretary*; Phyllis V. Parsons, *Treasurer*; The Rev. Dr. John C. Shetler, *Historian*; and The Rev. William A. Fluck, *Chaplain*.

In accordance with the Constitution, the officers will serve two-year terms, which become effective on January 1, 2004. At that time, Dr. Herbert H. Michel, our current President, will continue on the Board in the capacity of Past President. On the occasion of the first Board meeting of 2004, Committee Chairpersons will be appointed. ❖

Year-End Contributions

You are invited to consider a year-end special gift. This Fall, the chimney tops have been repaired on the Dewees Museum and stone caps installed on non-active chimneys. The well pump at the Henry Muhlenberg House had to be pulled and replaced with a new gauge installed at a cost of \$2,700. We attempt always to keep the properties in repair. We appreciate your generosity. You may use the contribution form below for your gift. All gifts are tax deductible.

C E R T I F I C A T E O F G I F T
for YEAR-END GIVING

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

How Your Membership Money Is Used

Your membership dues are used to pay for publishing *The Chronicle*, for electric and fuel bills, water and sewer costs, telephone bills, photocopying, insurance on buildings, postage, stationery, security systems, and for heating/cooling system maintenance at the Henry Muhlenberg House.

Our docents, officers, museum committee members, property and grounds committee members, finance committee members, historian and director of museums, and publicity staff are all volunteers. They get no remuneration. In fact, by their material and financial contributions, you could say that they pay to work. ❖

Necrology

Members who died this last year were remembered in a memorial prayer at the Annual Meeting on November 11th by The Rev. Dr. John C. Shetler:

Karl Kemp
Thelma Rich

Architects Recognized

At the November 11th Annual Dinner Meeting, our Architect, John D. Milner and Staff Architect, Christina Carter, were recognized with much appreciation for their relationship with the Historical Society since 1989 when Mr. Milner was engaged as our restoration architect. Following the completion of the restoration in 1998, both Mr. Milner and Ms. Carter have graciously retained their relationship with the Society and its Board. During this time there have been many consultative telephone calls and visits as part of their relationship with the Henry Muhlenberg House and the whole concept of the relationship of this community to the founding of the nation with the distinguished Muhlenberg Family and other 18th century residents of Trappe/Providence.

By action of the Board of Directors, President Herbert H. Michel awarded Mr. Milner and Ms. Carter framed Certificates of Life Membership in The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, and the Perkiomen Valley. Individually, many of the members expressed their friendship and appreciation. ❖

Pennsylvania Folklife Magazines For Sale

Out-of-print issues of *Pennsylvania Folklife Magazine* are available for sale at the Dewees Museum between the hours of 9:00am and noon every Tuesday and Thursday. Our secretary, Teresa Soffa, will be glad to assist you. Here is a sample of topics:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Spring 1976 | Pennsylvania Germans and the American Revolution
A Settler's Log Fort/Home |
| Summer 1979 | Journal of Rev. Johann Heinrich Helfferich
Abstract of Diary of Warren G. Bean, 1899 |
| Spring 1973 | Pennsylvania German Astronomy and Astrology
A Blacksmith's "Summerkich" |
| Winter 1975-76 | Shingle Making
Powwowing Among the Pennsylvania Germans |

The cost is \$4.00 each. You may select from 65 different issues. ❖

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: 2004 Dues Paid in December Are Credited for 2004

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Best Wishes to all for a
Blessed Holiday and a
Happy, Healthy, and
Prosperous New Year!

May the world find
Peace and Joy in 2004.



C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R 2003 - 04

- Dec 7 Both Museums Open 1:30-4:00pm
Visit by Pastor Muhlenberg to
Dewees Museum
- Dec 14 Both Museums Open 1:30-4:00pm
- Dec 14 Group Tours by Appointment
to May 30, 2004 (4-person minimum)



Henry Muhlenberg House



Dewees Museum

The Chronicle

a publication of

The Historical Society

of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

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DECEMBER 2003 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
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 Breininger \$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

Items may be obtained at the Visitors Center during tours or special events and at the Dewees Museum on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00am to noon (please use rear entrance). You may also call or leave a message at 610-489-7560.

Thoughtful, Meaningful Gifts for Family and Friends . . . Decorative, Educational Mementos for Your Home

. . . from The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley