

The Chronicle

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

November 2007

Volume XXXVI No. 4

“An Evening of Antique Appraisals”

The date of our exciting fundraiser is almost here! “An Evening of Antique Appraisals,” is scheduled for Friday, November 2nd, 6:30pm, at Columbia Station in Phoenixville.

To help you learn the value of your treasures, three experts from Alderfer Auctions of Hatfield will be available to perform the appraisals. Tickets are \$35.00, allowing one appraisal per person.

Enjoy a lavish buffet throughout the evening. Menu will include a beef carving station with au jus, four choices at the potato bar, an elegant salad presentation, and an Asian and seafood station of pork dumplings, vegetable spring rolls, a sizzling wok of chicken stir fry and oriental vegetables with a variety of sauces, as well as salmon fillet splashed with white wine, lemon, and capers and a selection of three sauces. For dessert choose from fresh berry trifle, three-chocolate mousse with roasted pistachio crumbs, white chocolate chunk and toffee bread pudding drizzled with raspberry sauce, and peach cobbler. Cash bar is also available. Fresh brewed coffee and imported and herbal teas will round out this exquisite meal. Tables will be arranged for you to enjoy your meal in comfort.

Names of our generous sponsors will be displayed throughout the evening. If you or your organization would be interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Linda Wiernusz, Chair of this fundraiser at 610-489-7560. Proceeds will be used for ongoing maintenance and repairs of our two sites, the Dewees Museum and the Henry Muhlenberg House.

This promises to be a gala event, so bring your friends and family. Space is limited, so make your reservations as soon as possible! ❖



Veterans Day Dinner

Sunday, November 11th — 7:00 PM

Caroline T. Moorehead Catering

Speaker: Noah Lewis

If you attended our Heritage Day event, you will remember Noah Lewis and his enthusiastic portrayal of Ned Hector, Black Colonial Soldier, Wagoneer, Respected Patriot, and Hero. His knowledge of the period and the circumstance in which Ned Hector lived will be brought to life by Noah Lewis.

(See registration form and details on page 4)

From the President . . .

As my term will expire at the end of this year, this will be my last newsletter message, but it provides an opportunity to tell you that I have enjoyed working with so many of you, meeting new people, and learning about your connections to this historically rich area. It was my personal mission to make the community aware of this richness by creating new programs, expanding on annual events, and publicizing our activities. It has been a challenging experience, one which has widened my world and increased my own knowledge of local history. I now look forward to working with you as a member and volunteer.

I am happy to report that **Heritage Day** on September 22nd was a great success, as you will read in the article on page 2, but sad to report that it was necessary to cancel our **Bus Tour** on October 19th to **New York City** due to lack of participants. Our **Historic Site Research Workshop** on October 20th hopefully will attract many in our area who would like to distinguish their homes with an historic marker.

Our fundraising event to be held on November 2nd, “**An Evening of Antique Appraisals**,” has attracted several sponsors (see article at left). This will be a very exciting event, and I am grateful to Chairperson Linda Wiernusz who is working so hard to make this a success. Proceeds from this key event will help us continue our stewardship of our two historic sites.

It is a heartwarming experience to meet our veterans during our **Military Room Exhibit**—this year to be held on November 4th. Don’t miss a chance to meet those who made history and who were forever affected by it.

Our **Annual Veterans Day Dinner** on November 11th will be at Moorehead’s. I know you will enjoy the presentation by Noah Lewis who was a popular participant at our recent Heritage Day.

Don’t miss our **Holiday Candlelight Tour** at the Henry Muhlenberg House. Our first was a grand success and had rave reviews, so we look forward to another success!

And that will round out my term! I look forward to welcoming you to these events. Please continue to support The Society in all we do—through volunteerism, through support of our events and programs, and through your financial assistance.

Again, thank you for all you have done to make my term as president a rewarding one . . .

Myrna Knaide
610-489-3736
info@trapphistoricalsociety.org

**From The Journals of
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg**

1777

October 19, Sunday. Early in the morning I was fetched by horse and escorted to the home of an old friend, Mr. Nicol. Seidel, on the Shippach, seven miles from our house and a mile this side of the main American army. His wife died yesterday morning of dysentery. I could not well refuse to go because many years ago I often conducted services in this man's house and barn and accordingly the people desired to hear and see me again. Moreover, my host is Pastor Kurtz's brother-in-law and a steadfast Lutheran whom I joined in marriage with his wife thirty-three years ago. It took almost three hours to ride the seven miles with my escort. I wrote down an account of the life of the deceased, walked a mile with the funeral to the cemetery, preached a half-hour in the Reformed church, returned to the house of mourning, and from there was obliged to go another mile to the home of a Christian woman who was dying of dysentery. She manifested a profound desire for conversation, intercession, and Holy Communion, and her hearty wish was satisfied. From there I had to ride back about nine miles and reached home in the evening, safely but as tired as if, in my younger years, I had ridden forty-or fifty miles . . .

October 20, Monday. I feel the onset of dysentery . . . I also receive news that the Christian woman, to whom I administered Holy Communion yesterday, died confidently six hours afterwards. I was strongly urged to go there tomorrow, God willing, and edify the mourners.

October 21, Tuesday. A very heavy rain fell last night, and this morning a strong, cold north wind cleared the atmosphere and brought the first severe cold weather. Early in the morning a Christian neighbor brought me a gentle horse and accompanied me nine miles to the house of mourning, from which the aforementioned deceased woman was to be buried.

Necrology

During the annual meeting in November we will remember those who died during the year since November 2006.

William Clelland, December 24, 2006
Evelyn M. Hoopes, October 14, 2007
Muriel Pancoast, May 28, 2007
Lydia Taxis, May 20, 2007

If you know of a member who should be added to this list, please call Myrna Knaide at 610-489-3736 so the name can be included in the printed program.

Donating Artifacts . . . If you have an artifact to loan or donate to our exhibits, please register them and complete the paperwork at the office on Tuesday or Thursday between 9am and 12pm. Each will be reviewed by the Museum Committee. Not all artifacts are appropriate to our collections, and we hope you will understand if this is the case. Working together, we can create interpretive exhibits and displays for all to enjoy. Thank you for your help!

Memories of Heritage Day

Our Annual Heritage Day celebration was held on Saturday, September 22nd. Colonial crafters filled the grounds of the Henry Muhlenberg House from 10:00am until 4:30pm. The event commemorated the 230th Anniversary of Washington's Army encampment in Trappe following the Battle of Brandywine.

Our gratitude to Dona M. McDermott who coordinated and achieved an exciting and festive day. Our thanks to St. Luke's UCC church for the use of their parking lot and the Trappe Fire Police who guided our visitors safely across Main Street.



Crafters included Lewis Hill, Blacksmith; Christine Pennock, Calligraphy and Fraktur; Lynn Symborski, Doll Clothing; George Vinter and Evan Snyder, Games and Toys; Becky Ledebom, Lace Making; Richard Aldorasi, Paper Making; Francisco R. Torres, Plane Making; and Diane Bentley, Spinning. Re-enactor Noah Lewis portrayed Black Colonial Soldier Ned Hector. Our own Dona McDermott demonstrated Tape Weaving and Linda Wiernusz made

Clear Toy Suckers, while children's activities were covered by Janet McDermott, Theorems; Stacey Swigart, Thaumatrope; Pat Quinty, Lavender Sachets; Pat Mancuso, U.S. Flags; and Larry DiPiano, Corn Shelling. Boy Scout Troop 91 of Harleysville sold hot dogs and sauerkraut. Our sincere thanks for the participation of all.

Our expanded time period increased the number of visitors and allowed them to leisurely review the exhibits and enjoy refreshments. A steady stream of visitors flowed through the Henry Muhlenberg House, and we thank our docents who so ably interpreted this period in history and the Muhlenberg family in particular.

All of this could not have been accomplished without the help of our volunteers—our thanks for giving so much of their time and effort to make the day a success! Each year we learn ways to improve and enhance this annual event, and plans are already in the making for next year! ❖



***Start the Holiday Season with a Colonial Christmas
at the Henry Muhlenberg House!***

On Sunday, December 9, 2007, we will once again host a Holiday Candlelight Tour of the Henry Muhlenberg House, from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Start your tour at the Visitors Center where you will enjoy festive holiday refreshments with a Colonial theme. Take time to visit our Gift Shop. Reservations are not required. Bring family and friends to enjoy this beautiful Colonial Christmas at the Henry Muhlenberg House.





Military Exhibit
Honoring Veterans of All Wars
Sunday, November 4, 2007
1:30 to 4:00 PM
Dewees Museum

On Sunday, November 4th, Veterans of all wars will be welcomed to a special Military Exhibit at the Dewees Museum. Our growing exhibit of military artifacts and memorabilia will be of interest to veterans as well as those interested in military history.

Veterans are invited to sign our Visitor's Book, share experiences and the company of fellow veterans, as well as enjoy some light refreshments.

Please note that even though the stairs to our second floor exhibit may present a challenge to some, plan to attend anyway so that the Board and our members may meet you and thank you for your service. Refreshments will be served on the first floor.

Reservations Not Required

Visit our Website: www.trappehistoricalsociety.org
Sponsors: **TR Insurance Group, Inc.**

Holcombe Funeral Home, Inc.

We are interested in hearing your comments about our website. Please e-mail us (go to "Officers and Contacts") and let us know of your ideas and suggestions so that we may better serve your needs.

Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Society, the Nominating Committee of the Historical Society of Trappe recommends the following slate of officers be presented to the Society for election to full terms of office at its Annual Meeting on November 11, 2007:

President	The Rev. Robert A. Meschke
First Vice President	Lawrence G. DiPiano
Second Vice President	Stacey A. Swigart
Secretary	Ruth T. Daller
Treasurer	Patricia A. Quinty
Historian	The Rev. Judith A. Meier
Chaplain	The Rev. William A. Fluck

In addition to the wonderful program planned, please try to attend our dinner meeting so that you, as a member, may participate in this voting process. ❖

The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc., is a Pennsylvania non-profit 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. Official registration and financial information may be obtained by calling toll-free (within Pennsylvania) 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Renew your Membership . . . and invite and encourage friends and neighbors to join!

- Student \$10.00
- Individual \$25.00
- Family \$50.00
- Supporting \$100.00 - \$249.00
- Patron \$250.00 - \$499.00
- Sustaining \$500.00 - \$999.00
- Benefactor \$1000.00 and up

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No. _____

e-mail address: _____

Checks Payable to: The Historical Society

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

Wish List . . .

If you can provide any of the following items, The Historical Society would be most grateful!

- Track Lighting
- Subsidize the cost of one or more of six required Fire Extinguishers
- Office Supplies (postage, copy paper, file folders, envelopes, etc.)

Give us a call at 610-489-7560 to discuss any item(s) you may wish to donate to assure that it is an appropriate match for our needs.

If you would like to sponsor the purchase of an item listed above, we will research the cost and advise you.

In addition, we are seeking the knowledge and experience of someone familiar with fire alarm protection systems. If you could donate a minimum of time to guide the Society with this maintenance project, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Building Chair Larry DiPiano at 610-489-7560.

. . . Thank you for your help!

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a publication of

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of Trappe, Collegetown, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

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NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

Timely Information — Please, Do Not Delay!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 2 "An Evening of Antique Appraisals"
Fundraising Event 6:30pm Columbia Station
\$35.00 per person (includes 1 appraisal) Buffet
- Nov 4 Military Room Exhibit to Honor Veterans
Dewees Museum 1:30-4:00pm Light Refreshments
- Nov 11 Annual Veterans Day Dinner Caroline T. Moorehead
\$26 members / \$32.00 non-members 7:00pm
Speaker: Noah Lewis
- Dec 9 Holiday Candlelight Tour Henry Muhlenberg House
4:30 - 7:30pm Holiday Refreshments Donation

Group Tours by Appointment

*Contribution of \$2.00 per person is requested
4-person minimum*

Call Office 610-489-7560



Henry Muhlenberg House
201 W. Main Street



Dewees Museum
301 W. Main Street



Veterans Day Dinner



Sunday, November 11, 2007

7:00 PM

Caroline T. Moorehead Catering

40 First Avenue • Trappe

Speaker: Noah Lewis

**Portraying Ned Hector, Black Colonial Soldier,
Wagoner, Respected Patriot, and Hero**

Full Course Turkey Dinner

Reservation Form _____ Deadline: November 6, 2007

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____

Members: No. @ \$26.00 ea _____ Non-Members: No. @ \$32.00 ea _____

Total Amount of Enclosed Check: \$ _____

Mail to: Richard A. Holcombe P.O. Box 26708 Trappe PA 19426-0708

Check payable to: The Historical Society For Information Call (610) 489-7266