

The Chronicle

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

Fall 2010

Volume XXXIX No. 2

P.O. Box 26708
201 W. Main Street (Trappe)
Collegeville PA 19426-0708
Tel/Fax: 610-489-7560
www.trappehistoricalsociety.org
info@trappehistoricalsociety.org

Board of Directors

Linda J. Kehr Wiernusz, *President*
Stacey A. Swigart, *Vice President*
Patricia A. Quinty, *Treasurer*
Ruth T. Daller, *Secretary*
Jennifer Moyer-Damiani, *Historian*
The Rev. William A. Fluck, *Chaplain*
The Rev. Robert A. Meschke,
Past President
Richard Clapper
Anne Lachenmayer
Richard A. Holcombe
Raymond Spaid

Dona M. McDermott,
Administrative Advisor

Kim Haas, *Financial Advisor*
Richard B. McDowell, *Webmaster*
James L. Hollinger, Esquire, *Solicitor*

Myrna Knaide, Editor 610-489-3736

Printed by
Print Copy Design Solutions Trappe



The Henry Muhlenberg House
201 W. Main Street, Trappe
(across from St. Luke's UCC)



The Dewees Museum
301 W. Main Street, Trappe
(corner Main Street/Rt 113)

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.

Archeological Dig a Great Success!

The archeological dig at the Henry Muhlenberg House created much interest and excitement, with ongoing activity that lasted from June 23rd through July 18th.

The Society partnered with Temple University in this effort at the site of the Summer Kitchen located at the rear of the Henry Muhlenberg House.

Our thanks to Lou Farrell, who led the dig. He has very generously given his time, not only at the dig but by being available to discuss his findings with curious visitors. Lou plans to continue the dig at the Muhlenberg Property next summer—and longer if possible.

Many questions appear to have been resolved and new ones have arisen. We have more findings of iron works on the property next to the summer kitchen. We also have more answers about the kitchen. Items found throughout the dig numbered in the thousands!

We had a great group of volunteers digging and cleaning artifacts, from retirees to our youngest 9-year-old helper, as well as students from the surrounding area—despite the unbearable hot temperatures! The group also had time on rainy days to clean old artifacts from our previous digs.

The dig was featured in local newspapers, and Lou Farrell's website is listed as a link on the Society website—all of which has given us greater public awareness. Look for photographs in this issue and visit www.trappehistoricalsociety.org to see more. ♦



Lou Farrell discusses a "find" with volunteers.

History Lives Here

Life at the Historical Society is never dull. My family has learned this the hard way. One person cannot run everything themselves—we really do need a core group of volunteers. From small items such as cleaning to larger items such as a building supervisor. Our largest need is always tour guides. **Showing the houses is always our first priority.**

Keeping history alive is hard work, not only in volunteer hours but in financial needs, too! Running this society is no different than running a business or household budget. With grants from federal, state, and local groups ending, we look to the community for help.

We will be announcing our latest recipient of the **Muhlenberg Award**, as well as another **Antique Road Show** event. Great fall activities are coming your way . . . a fundraiser at the **Iron Hill Brewery** in Phoenixville, discount coupon for the **Trappe Book Center**, the **Tavern Party**, and a **Dessert and Artifacts** evening in the New Year . . . with more to come.

There are many great changes happening at the society. The **Archeological Dig** was a great success!!! (See article at left.) Our **Tour Guide Program** is growing. Much interest has been shown and thus we started to mentor new guides over the summer—welcome to our new volunteers. Our **Tavern Party** will be back by popular demand! Marilyn DiRenzo will be organizing this event and will need help to run it and volunteers to set up. Our **Candlelight Tour** will be held December 5, 2010.

After some disappointments, we are turning the corner with some great events. So stay tuned and watch our website and e-mail. The **300th Anniversary** is coming in 2011, so let's celebrate Henry's birthday in grand style!

Linda J. Kehr Wiernusz
President

From the Historian Jennifer Moyer-Damiani

There are events that happen in a community that become forgotten as time passes. A while back, I received a research request regarding a "Jewish camp" that was located near the Perkiomen Creek in Collegeville. After a few false leads, I happened to stumble upon a small blurb about fifty Jewish refugees, all children, twenty-five boys and twenty-five girls, who were brought to a camp in Collegeville called "Brith Sholomville" in 1939.

I figured even if this was not the camp I was searching for information on, it was definitely interesting. In the June 8, 1939 issue of the *Independent*, I found a small article about these fifty young refugees who were brought to the United States from Nazi-occupied Vienna. The *Independent* describes the camp as, "a ninety acre Hebrew camp just west of the borough line." Along with the article in the *Independent*, I also found one in the June 6, 1939 issue of the *Reading Eagle*. Both articles gave the same basic information, mainly that the children, who ranged in age from 3 to 13, were going to be acclimated to American cultures and customs, and then sent to live with Philadelphia area foster families. According to the *Independent*, some of the children's parents were

planning to join their children later in the year. I later found information about a Camp Sholom, which I deduced was referring to the same place called Brith Sholomville.

This was all fascinating to me, but I still did not know if this was the same camp that was on the map e-mailed to me by the requester. Finally, after "googling" Camp Sholom, I happened upon a United States Geographical Survey topographic map of the Camp Sholom quadrant. This was what I was looking for, something that I could match with the map I already had. When I compared the two maps, everything fit perfectly, and I knew I had a match. The land on which Camp Sholom/ Brith Sholomville stood is now a subdivision. I was amazed that in the span of a few days, I managed to not only find information for a requester, but I also brought some forgotten news to the surface.

If anyone has any information on Camp Sholom or Brith Sholomville, especially regarding the fifty refugees, would you be willing to share it? It would be interesting to find more information regarding the refugees or the camp itself. ❖

Tel: 610-489-7560

e-mail: info@trappehistoricalsociety.org



**Help raise money for the
Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, and Perkiomen Valley**

The
Historical
Society
will also get
10%
of the sale!!



This certificate entitles the
bearer to a **10%** discount on
all regularly priced
merchandise in our store.



130 W. Main Street
Trappe, PA 19426
610-454-0640

(sorry, no discounts on magazines, gift certificates, or already discounted books)

NET SALE: _____

NOT REDEEMABLE FOR CASH

Offer valid 09/12/10 – 10/02/10

Coupon may only be redeemed at Iron Hill Brewery in Phoenixville, PA
Offer Valid 10/5/10 ONLY

Trappe Historical Society

GIVE 20%...means have dinner with us on Tuesday 10/5 from 5:00 – 10:00 pm and we'll donate 20% of your food bill (excluding alcoholic beverages) to the Trappe Historical Society. Thank you for your support.

IRON HILL BREWERY & RESTAURANT

130 EAST BRIDGE STREET PHOENIXVILLE 610 983.9333 WWW.IRONHILLBREWERY.COM

Around the Society . . .

Society Headquarters Office . . . Our office at the Dewees Museum is not always staffed, so if you plan to stop by, a call first to coordinate your visit might be in order to save some frustration. Another option is to e-mail your questions or requests to info@trappehistoricalsociety.org. We thank you for your understanding and will certainly respond as soon as possible.

Going Green—Saving Green . . . We continue our efforts to “go green” by acquiring e-mail addresses of our members so that newsletters and announcements may be received in a timely manner. Please send your e-mail address to info@trappehistoricalsociety.org. If you do not have electronic capability, you will continue to receive your mailings via the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you—you will be helping the environment and saving printing costs!

Shopping at Redner's Helps the Society . . . We recently earned \$50.00 from Redner's by using their Save-a-Tape cards! Just swipe your card every time you visit Redner's and drop off your receipts at the Historical Society office—we'll do the rest. Save-a-Tape cards are available at Dewees or the Visitors Center.

Bus Tours . . . We have decided to opt out of our bus tour program, but we are including a link to Upper Providence Township on our website for those who may have an interest: www.uprov-montco.org/Recreation/BusTrips. You may also call them at 610-933-9179.

Thank You! . . . for a donation of paint from **Benjamin Moore Paint & Design** in Collegeville and **Haley Paint** in Wayne, a discount from **Moyer & Son** of Souderton for termite extermination, and a discount on tree work from **Wallace Tree Stump Removal** of Schwenksville. We appreciate their help in maintaining our historic sites!

A Clarification . . . Thanks to a note from **John D. S. Muhlenberg** of Vienna, VA, we have been advised of a correction in our Fall 2009 issue. He and his sister, “**Frederica Muhlenberg Bunge** of Berkeley, CA, have donated three **Hitchcock** chairs with cane seats . . . these chairs were passed down through the family from their Grandfather, Dr. William Frederick Muhlenberg, grandson of [not Dr. William Augustus Muhlenberg, son of Peter Muhlenberg and Sarah Coleman and their father Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, both of Reading, PA, and have been in the family since the early part of the 19th century.”

Heritage Day Cancelled

Sadly, our annual event was called off. This is due to the fact that we are no longer able to pay the crafters the fees they so deserve. It has become more and more difficult to cover the cost of the event—donations provided by the visitors do not come close to equaling the expenses that are incurred.

While we hope to reinstate this event in 2011, it is really up to our members to offer their time, the community to show support, and all to demonstrate interest and enthusiasm.

Be assured that the Board is seeking ways to improve our revenues so that together we may be able to enjoy and celebrate the heritage of our area. ♦



The Gift Shop at the Henry Muhlenberg House

If you haven't been to our Gift Shop, you will be surprised when you see the changes! If you are in need of a last-minute gift—or would like a memento of our historic sites—give us a call. It is not staffed on a daily basis, but we will make arrangements to be available for you—with no obligation to purchase!

201 West Main Street in Trappe

Call Linda at 610.489.8805

Help maintain our Historic Sites and the History of the Area!

G Student	\$10.00
G Individual	\$25.00
G Family	\$50.00
G Supporting	\$100.00 - \$249.00
G Patron	\$250.00 - \$499.00
G Sustaining	\$500.00 - \$999.00
MEMBER BENEFITS	\$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

The Historical Society
of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.
P.O. Box 26708 Collegeville PA 19426-0708

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
POTTSTOWN PA 19464
PERMIT NO. 9

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mark the Dates!

- ✓ thru 10/2 Trappe Book Center Coupon (Coupon Pg 2)
- ✓ 10/5 Iron Hill Brewery Fundraiser (Coupon Pg 3)
- ✓ 11/7 Tavern Party at Dewees
- ✓ 12/5 Candlelight Tour at Muhlenberg

FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

Timely Information — Please Do Not Delay!

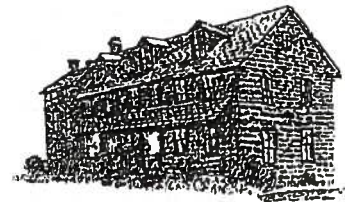
Join us at the **TAVERN PARTY!**

Dewees Museum
Sunday, November 7, 2010
4:00 to 7:00 PM

Followed by the Annual Meeting

Dewees Museum, Headquarters
The Historical Society of Trappe
Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley
301 W. Main Street, Trappe
(corner of Main Street and Rte 113)
Info: 610-489-7560

www.trappehistoricalsociety.org



Come to the Tavern Party in celebration of Veterans Day, bring friends and neighbors, enjoy wine, punch, and a menu of sumptuous refreshments!

Parking available at Trappe Feed & Pet Supply (beside the Dairy Queen)

RSVP by November 1st !!

Veterans Day Tavern Party (Sunday, November 7, 2010)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

e-mail Address: _____

Members # at \$18.00 _____

Non-Members # at \$20.00 _____

Children # at \$10.00 _____

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

Total Amount of Enclosed Check: \$ _____

Check payable to: The Historical Society

For Reservation Information Call 610-489-7266