

The Chronicle

A Publication of The Historical Society

of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

Volume XLII No. 1

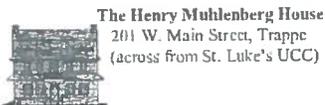
May 2013

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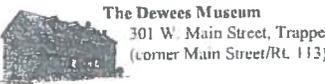
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Myrna Knaide, Editor 610-489-3736



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/RL 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.

Annual Flag Day Celebration!

Plan to join us on **Sunday, June 9th**, on the grounds of the **Henry Muhlenberg House** for a picnic and ice cream social—weather permitting. If weather is a problem, the event will be moved to the Dewees Museum.

In addition to our Sunday Tours from 1:30 to 4:00pm, two activities will highlight this event: From 3:00 to 4:00pm **Jenny Greenwald** will demonstrate how to create a kitchen herb container garden and offer herbs for sale. Throughout the day **The Rev. Tom Kochenderfer** will read from the Journals of Henry Muhlenberg, offering a forum for discussion about the life and times of the Muhlenberg family. The **picnic** will begin at 4:30pm—a busy afternoon!

Reserve early so there will be plenty for all! Members \$20.00, Non-Members \$25.00, Children (12 and under) \$10.00. Mail checks (payable to The Historical Society) to P.O. Box 26708, Collegeville, PA 19426-0708. ❖

Tour Guides

... by Bob Meschke

Kathy Biggar has taken over responsibility for scheduling Tour Guides for our Summer Sundays and also specially scheduled tours. If she hasn't gotten to you yet, to ask you to join her faithful cadre of volunteers, why not call the office (610-489-7560) and let her know you'd like to help

Don't think you know enough to talk to others about our two largest artifacts, and the too numerous to count smaller ones they contain? No one started out knowing everything—nor does anyone make that claim even after years of service. It's something we grow into and over time enjoy more and more. For me, it's the people who visit and are awestruck by what they experience. It makes me proud to be a member of the Society and make my small contribution to our mission to preserve the rich history of our community and to educate others in that legacy.

Oh, yes, one final thing. To be sure everyone has the right information to share with our visitors, we start every volunteer Tour Guide off slowly with a time of mentoring alongside someone familiar with our buildings and collections and, of course, an excellent Tour Guide Training Program to start things off. So, don't be shy, give it a try. You'll love the company! ❖

From the President . . .

Wow! Winter is long gone and Spring has sprung and I realize I have not brought our membership up to date . . .

We have been crazy busy with many projects. Our volunteers have been working on cleaning up stray boxes of papers and organizing them into a more permanent home. In doing so we have many more topics for reference now—and know what we have.

Myrna Knaide has agreed to chair the **Nominating Committee** this year. We are looking for members who want to make a difference and preserve our history. If you would like to be on the Board of Directors please contact her at 610-489-3736 or mkcomputing@verizon.net.

Want to help but not sit on the board? We are always looking for volunteers—office help, research, membership, tour guides, cleaning, gift shop sales, yard work and gardening, advertising, mailings, fund-raising, event planning, letter-stuffing—we can find a perfect fit for you!

Thank heavens for awesome friends who give their free time to help us out . . .

Glenn Donley for electrical work at both sites including replacing the lamp-post at Dewees, **Zita Millichap** who sewed curtains for the attic, **Pat Tomko** for taking charge of cleaning the museums, and all who helped with our clean-up days. Frank Yocum of **Yocum Roofing** repaired our downspout after the pine tree fell during Hurricane Sandy. Dan Mitchell of **Mitchell Heating** cleaned the gas heater on the east side for us. The dig site dirt at the Henry Muhlenberg House was filled and graded by Lee Buchert of **Pottstown Burial Vault Company**. Final grading and seeding at the Henry Muhlenberg House to fill in the dig site was done by **Allen Nester** (who does such a great job mowing our grass at our two sites) as well as at the Dewees Museum after the tree fell and stump removed. *Our grateful thanks to all!*

... continued on page 3

Muhlenberg's Journey to America Begins
From The Journals of
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg
1742

June 12th. As soon as I boarded the ship I looked for my two boxes of books, one from Halle and the other from the Society, but could not find them because everything on the ship was still in great confusion. Afterwards I learned that they had been left behind by mistake of the people in London to whom the Rev. Court Preacher had given the commission, and that they would be sent to Philadelphia by the next ship. In the meantime, I had the most necessary things with me in trunks and boxes, and also a supply of medicines which had been given to me most kindly by the very worthy lady of Dr. Götz in Halle. Later on, took a look at our ship and the passengers with whom I was to live and travel for a time. The ship had two masts, ten medium cannons, several swivel guns, muskets, pistols, sabers, and one drum. On the ship were seven sailors, a captive Spaniard as cook, a drummer, and a boy as steward.

In the captain's cabin, where I was to lodge, there were also seven other passengers going to America; an advocate, a customs officer, a lieutenant, a trader, two young fellows and a freed-woman who had once been taken prisoner by the Spaniards and was now returning. I was the eighth and the captain the ninth of those who had their special sleeping places, living quarters, and table in one room. In the other quarters, called the steerage, were the two Salzburg parents with three children, four tailors, one woman, and all the rest of the ship's company. Our ship was not able to ward off and defend itself against enemies. The gentlemen trustees had therefore requested one of the royal warships as a convoy, which was to meet us in the harbor at Portsmouth and accompany us to America. This promised and expected convoy was therefore an object about which all the English passengers were speaking and in which they placed their confidence in a happy arrival in America. In London I had already prayed the merciful Father in heaven that He might be my reconciled Father and Covenant God in Christ and I His reconciled child through the blood of Christ. For the rest, I would be concerned for nothing since Christ is my life, and death my gain.

Submitted by The Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer

A Milestone Is Approaching . . .

by Bob Meschke

It'll soon be fifteen years since the restored Henry Melchior Muhlenberg House was dedicated in August 1998. Over the past decade and a half the interior of the house has undergone many improvements to have it feel more and more like the Muhlenberg's final home. Like any home, it has also required periodic maintenance and repair to make sure it continues to be the treasure left to our care by those who gave so much to make the restoration possible.

During the restoration it was decided to turn to a new and innovative form of heating and cooling known as geothermal. While such systems are frequently found even in residential homes today, back then this was cutting edge technology. Like the air-conditioning and heat pump units in our homes, these are fast approaching their obsolescence and we need to look forward to replacing them. One unit has already told us it's time for a transplant.

In an attempt to buy some time to raise the necessary funds for replacement of these units, your Board of Directors has decided to maintain what we have as long as we can and as long as spare parts are available until we have the funds to do it right. Slated for upgrading this spring are the two units that provide heating and cooling to the south facing rooms (toward Main Street). This project has been made possible by the generosity of many who contributed to our 2012 year-end fund appeal. As additional members and friends add to this fund we can responsibly plan for replacement of our units when they are no longer serviceable.

Meanwhile, I want to add my thanks to those whose continuing contributions enable us to preserve this historic legacy for generations to come. ❖

Facilities Update . . .

by Tom Biggar

In the Fall of 2012, the entire exterior of Dewees Tavern was painted as well as some touch-up painting at the Henry Muhlenberg House. The contractor, **Ed Young Painting**, did an outstanding job. They also made some touch-up repairs to the building at no charge. If you have not already done so, please stop by to see how much better the Dewees building looks.

Jon Costanza, President of Sunpower Builders, rebuilt the three dormer windows on the third floor of Dewees and also built overlay stairs for the west side cellar and two wooden storm doors. He is currently providing valuable assistance as we make some needed repairs to the geothermal heating system at the Muhlenberg House. All this has been done with charges only for materials used. We continue to be very grateful for Jon's willingness to share his expertise with the Society.

On Saturday, April 20, 2013, members gathered at Dewees Tavern for phase one of our **Spring Cleanup**. A special thanks goes to all who worked that day preparing our grounds for visitors this year.

On Saturday, April 27, 2013, **Youth Group** members from **Trinity Lutheran Church**, Fairview Village, along with their sponsors, Pastor Althea Tysk and Vicar Steve Stitely, washed windows and woodwork at the Muhlenberg House and at Dewees and cleaned up the grounds at Muhlenberg. A special thanks to Erin Smith, Julianne Mohr, Samantha Mohr, Susan Schafer, Will Verna, Scott Castor, Caroline Ditzler, Kelly Zabour, and their sponsors for all their help. They plan to return later this year for a tour. ❖



The Gift Shop

at the
Henry Muhlenberg House

Need a last-minute gift? A memento of your visit?

We are not staffed on a daily basis, but we will make arrangements to be available for you—with no obligation to purchase!

**Open During
Sunday Tours!**

201 West Main Street in Trappe
Call Linda at 610.489.8805

IN MEMORIAM

We pause to remember two extremely important persons in the life of The Society who passed away this year . . .

Ivan W. Hess, M.D. (1918-2013) was a Past President and member who will be long remembered with deep appreciation for his dedication to restoring our Henry M. Muhlenberg House and, with his beloved wife, Thelma, providing many of the 18th century furnishings that make the house feel like a home. Dr. Hess was instrumental in guiding the Committee through the complex process of returning this 18th century treasure to its original appearance, and spearheading the archaeological efforts that uncovered what may prove to be the earliest known redware kiln in Montgomery County. Not content with resting on the laurels of these monumental achievements, Ivan could often be found working on beautifying the Society's grounds and pursuing his passion for Medinger pottery and all things historic—especially as they pertained to our local historic legacy.

Patricia DeMatthews Quinty (1932-2013) faithfully served as our Treasurer, Docent, and Volunteer with many talents for a number of years after retiring from full-time employment. Her ability to guide our Board of Directors in fiscal matters during sometimes difficult periods helped to insure our stable financial future. Extremely dedicated to the mission of the Society to preserve the historic legacy of her community, Pat only stepped away from her numerous roles when her physical condition put limits on her energetic visions and congenial participation in our many activities.

From Your Museum Committee . . .

Bob Meschke, Chair
Museum Committee

It'll take a while but we're hoping, in time, that our new schedule of open Sundays will catch on and everyone will be pleased with the change. In case you haven't heard, your Board decided to have the Henry Muhlenberg House and Dewees Museum open on the second and fourth Sundays from mid-April through October this year. Open times will remain from 1:30 to 4:00pm. The only Sunday we will not open is during Memorial Day weekend. In addition to being more available to visitors, we hope this plan will also ease the pressure on our volunteer Tour Guides and maybe even cut down a bit on our energy costs.

Speaking of energy, for the past two years we benefitted greatly from the PECO Smart Ideas energy reduction program that saved us \$60 per month on our Dewees PECO bill during the summer months. Unfortunately, they have discontinued this program so it's back to spending more of our precious donations to keep our museum at a comfortable temperature to be sure our artifacts are preserved.

On the bright side, our Committee has been extremely busy these past months re-organizing our Roth Library, upgrading our Information Technology capabilities, and establishing new exhibits of our collections. Our new Dewees Private Dining Room exhibit and revised displays in our Tavern kitchen are just two areas that you must see. At the Henry Muhlenberg House you will find additional furnishings and artifacts carefully placed to enhance the sense of "*gemutlichkeit*" that makes the house feel like a home. Thursday mornings are busy times for everyone, and you are invited to join us in coming up with new ways to exhibit our collection of over 2,000 artifacts and rare documents. ❖

From the President

. . . continued

This year is going to be so much fun! We will be open for more months in the Spring and Fall—April through October on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We have some fun programs on board for you, so watch for announcements and updates.

We'll kick off the year on **Flag Day, June 9th**, with readings from the Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg by **Tom Kochenderfer**, and **Jenny Greenwald** will show us how to create a kitchen herb container garden.

Don't forget the Memorial Day Parade, Veterans Day, and, closing the year, our Candlelight Tour.

As most of you know, I have been focusing on the care of my mother during chemotherapy and a move to Peter Becker. Thanks to all who have taken on extra duties and allowed me the time to do this.

Linda J. Kehr Wiernusz
President

Review the Membership Information enclosed . . . and invite and encourage friends and neighbors to join!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$100.00 - \$249.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$250.00 - \$499.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$500.00 - \$999.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1000.00 and up |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No. _____

e-mail address* _____

*e-mail my newsletters and announcements

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

*We are counting on your support
to continue our efforts—please mail today!*

The Historical Society

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

NON-PROFIT
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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO. 9

Mark Your Calendar!

- April-Oct 2nd and 4th Sundays 1:30-4:00pm
Tours at Dewees Museum and Henry Muhlenberg House
- May 27 Memorial Day Parade 10:00am-12:00pm
Start: Augustus Lutheran Church
Finish: Water Works Park
- June 9 Flag Day Celebration at Henry Muhlenberg House
3:00-4:00pm Herb Demonstration by Jenny Greenwald
Throughout the Day: Readings from the Muhlenberg Journals
by Tom Kochenderfer
4:30pm Picnic
- June 22 Grange Fair Booth 10:00am-4:00pm
Waterworks Park, Trappe
- Ongoing Used Book Sale, Dewees Museum
During Sunday Tours and Thursdays 9:00am-Noon.

Please complete and return your membership renewal form. Your participation provides major funding to sustain our Society!

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MAY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Timely Information — Please Do Not Delay!



Don't Forget!

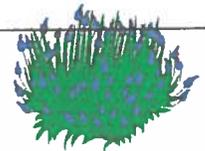
Historical Society Cookbook! We still need a few more recipes to round out our collection. Our own cookbook will highlight favorite recipes provided by you and will make a wonderful gift for friends and family. It will be sprinkled with historic facts about Trappe, Collegeville, and the Perkiomen Valley as well as vignettes about the Muhlenberg Family. Our success depends on you to provide recipes. Mail them to Recipes, Trappe Historical Society, P.O. Box 26708, Collegeville, PA 19426-0708—or e-mail them to info@trappehistoricalsociety.org. Selections will be made by our editors.

Used Book Sale at Dewees Museum! This popular feature at Dewees continues. Donated books keep coming in so there is always a new treasure to find. Stop by on Thursdays from 9 to noon or during our Sunday Tours (2nd and 4th Sunday of each month). Call 610-489-7560 with questions or to set up a drop-off date.

Upcoming Demonstration on Herbs . . .

We are pleased to welcome **Jenny Greenwald** who will demonstrate how to plant a kitchen herb container garden at our **Flag Day event on June 9th**. She will also have an assortment of herbs available for sale.

We are excited that Jenny, a long-time member of our community, has agreed to provide her knowledge and experience with plants to The Society, and we look forward to her special visit!



Wish List . . .

If you can provide either of the following items for the **Dewees Museum**, The Historical Society would be most grateful!

- an old tavern table a new kitchen sink

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.

. . . Thank you for your help!

Visit our website: www.trappehistoricalsociety.org

Sponsors: TR Insurance Group, Inc. and Holcombe Funeral Home, Inc.