Pastor Muhlenberg to be Present at Bible Dedication

The recently purchased Muhlenberg Bible will be dedicated on Sunday, December 5th, at 2:00pm in the Henry Muhlenberg House. Our Chaplain, Rev. William A. Fluck, has informed us that Pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenberg will be present to read in German a passage for Advent from the Bible, and then also for those who do not understand German, he will read it in English.

The Bible, a translation by Dr. Martin Luther, was published in 1778 in Basel. It was first owned by John Ruth of New Hanover, the site of Pastor Muhlenberg’s New Hanover congregation. We learn of John Ruth’s area of residence, as Henry Muhlenberg records in his Journal on February 2, 1779, that John Ruth was a witness for the wedding of William Hauckins on that day.

It is recorded in the Bible that on April 9, 1770, John Ruth and Catharine Hiester, sister of Joseph Hiester, were married. After Catharine Ruth’s death, the Bible passed to her brother, Joseph Hiester.

The Rev. Henry Augustus Philip Muhlenberg of Reading married Mary Elizabeth Hiester, daughter of Joseph Hiester. Mary Elizabeth Muhlenberg died in childbirth. Her surviving child was a daughter. The family named her after her mother, Mary Elizabeth Hiester Muhlenberg. Joseph Hiester records in the Bible, “This 28th day of September AD 1831 I make a present of it [the Bible] to my granddaughter Mary Elizabeth Hiester Muhlenberg.” Mary Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Henry Ernst Muhlenberg, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, and great granddaughter of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and Anna Maria Weiser Muhlenberg. She is a bloodline descendant.

The Henry Muhlenberg House will be open on December 5th from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Refreshments will be available in the Visitors Center by Hospitality Chairperson, Beverly Spaid and her assistants.

The Dewees Museum will be open to visitors from 3:00pm to 4:30pm, following the Bible dedication. Parking is available on the Main Street portion of St. Luke’s Church parking lot.

Both Museums will be decorated in the Muhlenberg tradition of simple natural greens and fruit, as may have been available in the 18th century. Dr. and Mrs. Ivan W. Hess will arrange the decorations. Docents will be available in both museums.

From the President . . .

While we are still digesting the reality of Dr. John Shetler retiring as Director of Museums, we realize that we must turn to our membership to fill the many voids that will be created going into 2005. He will surely receive many congratulatory words on his retirement from this position. Fortunately, his leadership will continue as he will remain on the Board and as Historian.

Those attending our Veterans Day Dinner at the Berman Museum offered very favorable feedback on the location, the dinner, and the speaker. It was a beautiful evening and enjoyed by all.

I want to remind you that you now have the opportunity to have your 18th or 19th century home or building designated as an historic structure. Historic Plaques are now available for purchase pending verification and documentation of the year they were constructed. Such documentation will become part of the archives of the Society, and this designation will establish its place in history.

We appreciate the generosity of all who have joined in sharing the cost of the Muhlenberg Bible. This important acquisition is in keeping with our goal to furnish the Henry Muhlenberg House with Muhlenberg family possessions. We look forward to seeing you at our Open House on December 5th, when the Bible will be dedicated (see calendar on page 3).

The Finance Committee recently met to develop the budget for 2005. We face expenses beyond the scope of our ongoing costs to maintain our two historic sites, such as painting the Henry Muhlenberg House and air conditioning the Dewees Museum. In 2005, we will need to rely more than ever on the generosity of our members in a variety of ways—to support our programs and events, to volunteer valuable time and experience, and to assist with financial necessities. Our common interest in history, and especially local history, should inspire us more than ever to work toward the growth and conservation of our heritage.

As always, I invite your thoughts and ideas and look forward to hearing from you . . .

Myrna Knaide
610-489-9211 THS708@aol.com

Museum Director Retires

At the October meeting of the Board of Directors, The Rev. John C. Shetler read his retirement letter as Director of Museums, to be effective December 31, 2004. Dr. and Mrs. Shetler have been members of the Society since November 1964. Dr. Shetler became President of the Society in November 1988 until 1992. During this time the Henry Muhlenberg House was purchased. During the restoration he became Curator and Historian. In the Presidency of The Rev. Dr. Herbert H. Michel, he became Director of Museums.

(continued on page 2)
From The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg
1779

January 31, Sunday. Clear weather. It was Pastor Voigt's turn to hold divine service here. He was unable to ford the Schulkiel, but he was taken across in a canoe and came the rest of the way on foot to conduct the service. Visit from Mr. Swaine from Philadelphia.

February 2, Tuesday. In the evening married William Hauckins and Hanna Ruth of Newhannover Township by License. Bondsmen were Michael Hinderleiter and William Hauckins, residents of New Hannover Township. Witness: John Ruth, brother of the bride.

February 3, Wednesday. Read and wrote. I expected Mr. Swaine to come back that I might give him the correspondence to take to Philadelphia, but he did not come.

February 4, Thursday. The news is that in December, a. pr., the English troops, about 5,000 strong with thirty-seven ships captured the capital city of Savanna and the entire province of Georgia. What will happen to the poor people of Eben-Ezer? Visit from Mr. Kugler who was recently in Philadelphia.

February 7, Sunday. Rain and snow. Family worship. Visit from Valentin Scherer. He said that his son was going to Philadelphia next Tuesday, God willing. I gave him the bundle of documents and letters mentioned under February 1 and 2, a.c. Visit from an old widow of Philadelphia.

Museum Director Retires...

During the period of Dr. Shetler's being Curator, the Museum Committee was established to assist in the work of the museum in all of its areas. He pays tribute to The Rev. Robert A. Meschke, Marie Shetler, The Rev. Thomas Young (deceased), Esther Ziegler, and Lloyd Ziegler. They all did physical work—cleaning, sewing, record keeping, exhibit assembly, serving as docents, preparing refreshments, and in the case of Lloyd Ziegler, doing restoration of display cupboards, artifacts, and an 18th century door. They provided much material at their own expense. It is true they paid to work. Dr. Shetler expressed appreciation to his wife, Marie, who waited for him many hours, was supportive in all that he has attempted, and has worked beside him in many tasks.

Dr. Shetler expresses thanks to officers, Board members, generous donors, docents, office secretaries, and all who have made the work of the museums successful.

During this past year and a half, the Museum Committee analyzed the work of the museums and prepared a job description that can be used to provide a staff person or persons for the future. In this past year, two additional volunteers have been added to the Museum Committee and the Board: The Rev. Judith A. Meier for genealogy and Dona McDermott for museum administration.

Dr. Shetler continues to work in the elected position of Historian and looks forward to seeing old and new friends.

Behind-the-Scenes Volunteers

Did you ever wonder how The Chronicle actually winds up in your mailbox? Each issue, Dr. John Shetler after arranging for the printing, picks up the newsletters and delivers them to Rich Holcombe, who ultimately takes them to the post office. Year after year, issue after issue, volunteers appear to prepare them for mailing under the supervision of Rich and his secretary, Sandy Musselman. Four couples have generously given their time toward this effort: Ivan and Thelma Hess, Ray and Beverly Spaid, Richard and Virginia Weicheld, and Joseph and Muriel Ludwig. Our thanks to them for their wonderful dedication and the many hours they have spent over the years to bring The Chronicle to our members.

Year-End Contributions

As you consider your tax exemptions for 2004, you may want to consider a contribution to the endowment for the purchase of antiques that come on the market that have in the past belonged to someone in the Muhlenberg family. Please use the form below, and talk to the President or the Historian if you have any questions.

When appropriate artifacts become available, it is then too late to assemble the money to purchase the family heirloom. It is important to establish such a fund now.

Certificate of Gift

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Best Wishes to all on these Blessed Holy Days, and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

May the world find Peace and Joy in 2005.
The Historical Society
of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

invites you to

Welcome Spring with a Bus Tour
to our Nation’s Capital

Friday, April 1, 2005

Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to spend the day visiting our Nation’s Capital while the cherry blossoms are in bloom. Your drive through Washington will recapture familiar sites as well as observe new construction in this growing, exciting city. Enjoy a narrated luncheon cruise on the Potomac, and then visit the World War II Memorial that honors our veterans. Invite family and friends to share this relaxing Spring day.

Departure Date: Friday, April 1, 2005
Depart / Return: Depart 7:00 A.M., Henry Muhlenberg House, 201 W. Main Street, Trappe Return approximately 8:30 P.M.
Lunch / Dinner: Lunch will be served during the cruise. Dinner not included, but Perkiomen Tours driver will stop at a buffet restaurant (approximately $10.00 per person). Morning rest stop/fast food stop enroute to Washington.

Cost: Members: $85.00 per person
Non-Members: $90.00 per person

Payment is Due by February 1, 2005 Not Refundable after February 18, 2005

Space is limited, so make your reservations early!

Reservations Required

Deadline: February 1, 2005

Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley
Bus Tour (#58217) April 1, 2005

Name: ___________________________ Tel. No: ___________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________

Members: No. @ $85.00 ea _______ Non-Members: No. @ $90.00 ea _______

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

Total Amount of Check: $_________
Payment Deadline: February 1, 2005
Note: Non-Refundable after February 18, 2005
Bus Trip Scheduled

Our long talked-about bus trip has finally become a reality. Our committee, Anna Maria Black, Pat Mancuso, and Myrna Knaide, has learned that such trips require much advanced planning and are now working accordingly on future trips.

Our first trip is on April 1, 2005, when we will be taken from Trappe to Washington, DC, where we will enjoy a narrated lunch cruise on the Potomac, a visit to the World War II Memorial, and hopefully the cherry blossoms as well. A detailed flyer and response form are included with this newsletter. The cost is $85 per person for members, $90 for non-members. The bus company, Perkiomen Tours, requires an early reservation deadline for their planning purposes, so please return your reservation form by February 1, 2005.

We have heard good reports about this trip, so set this date aside on your calendar and invite your friends and family to join you on this get-away day. It is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the company of Historical Society members and make new acquaintances as well.

We hope to make a great success of our bus tour program and new trips are already in the planning. Anyone wishing to join our committee would be most welcome. Please call Myrna Knaide at 610-489-9211 (business number).

A Collection of Memories

As announced at the Veterans Day Dinner on November 11th, we are planning to compile a collection of vignettes and anecdotes from the memories and reminiscences of our members. President Myrna Knaide noted that the idea sprang from many conversations she has had with our members about their lives and families, their homes and neighborhoods, and family traditions. Many changes have evolved over the years, so we want to recapture the way it was before the new construction and the renovations—in some cases demolition—of some of our historical buildings.

Many stories will be lost if we don’t capture them for all to share. So please contribute to this effort to reflect the essence of days gone by and send us your anecdotal memories for all to share and enjoy in this unique publication. We are part of the history of the area and we hope to recall our past for present and future residents.

Society member Anna Marie Black, an author and editor, has very generously and enthusiastically consented to take on the task of editing this publication. Each anecdote may be as short as a paragraph or two—handwritten, typed, word processed—or even audi-taped. Each will be reviewed and selected according to appropriateness of content and edited to conform to the format of the publication. Mail your offerings to Historical Society Memories, P.O. Box 708, Collegeville, PA 19426. A helpful guideline is available by calling 610-489-7560. Call also if you wish to make arrangements to meet with us.

It is sure to become a much sought-after publication and a successful fundraiser for the Historical Society—so start gathering your memories.

Dues Structure to be Reviewed

A committee has been formed to review and revise our current dues structure. New rates will become effective in March 2005 at which time each year membership reminders are mailed with The Chronicle. You may wish to renew your membership for 2005 before the new rates are in effect—and you may want to consider becoming a Life Member in order to avoid yearly renewal.
**The Chronicle**  
*a publication of*  
**The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 26708, Collegeville PA 19426-0708  
Tel: (610) 489-7560  
e-mail: THS708@aol.com

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(610) 489-2624

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**DECEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER**

*Please, Do Not Delay!*

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**Holiday Gifts and Mementos**

- **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

- **Excerpts on Collegeville and Trappe** 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)**  
  - Contains the Signature of Frederick Muhlenberg  
  - Anniversary Book of Trappe  
  - 275th - Pictures, Historical Sketches, Businesses: $2.00  
  - Tiles with Trappe Emblem: $1.00  
  - Perkiomen Bridge Mugs (1799-1999): $3.00

- **Notebook of a Colonial Clerk**  
  - Excerpts from Muhlenberg's Journals  

- **Brief Glimpse into Muhlenberg Family History**  
  - Highlighting Muhlenberg Women (6/14/04 Flag Day Presentation)  
  - by John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, M.D.: $3.00

- **Map itinerary of Washington's Army in Montgomery County**: $3.00

- **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 each

- **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

- **Deeves Tavern, Muhlenberg House**  
  - Sketched Map, 19th Century Main Street, Collegeville and Trappe  
  - Print: $15.00  
  - Framed: $100.00

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

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