



The Historical Society of Trappe Pennsylvania

*For the preservation of the history, ancient buildings and land marks
of the Trappe area.*

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 3

THE TRAPPE CHRONICLE

FALL 1987

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Briefly --- 1987 --- A very good year at the Society headquarters, attendance up, no major repairs were needed to the building and a great deal of new members. Let's all see if we can work a little bit harder in 1988 to even make it a better year. Many new changes are in the works for 1988 - stop in and see.

NEW MEMBERS:

1. Judge Alfred Taxis, Jr.
1414 Powell Street
Norristown, Pa. 19401

3. Ms. Mary E. Walsh
192 Main Street
Trappe, Pa. 19426

2. Mr. & Mrs Victor Swarr
57 Gravel Pike
Rahns, Pa. 19426

If there is anyone I forgot my apology.

B A N Q U E T :

DATE: Wednesday, November 11, 1987 Veteran's Day
Place : Perkiomen Bridge Hotel
Time: Dinner is at 7:00 PM with the speaker after dinner.

Please attend we'd like to see you.

NOSEY NEWS -----

Recuperating at home after a brief illness is Betsy Ross.

Recuperating (recuperated) at home after not having a good summer is Esther Keller.

Recuperating after a serious infection this summer is our Property Chairman Fred Conard.

I hope that at this writing all our members are well.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

The following are the last four entries Henry M. Muhlenberg made in his journal before his death, which occurred two hundred years ago October 7th, 1787.

September 16, Sunday. No public worship here today. Joh. F. M(uhlenberg) had a visit from Mr. Collon Helchior.

September 17, Monday. F. M(uhlenberg) set out again on his journey to Philadelphia. My wife took from Fr(iedrich) Aug(ustus') store two yards of warm cloth for a winter coat; 16s. on credit. Joh. Henrich Rohrman and his wife Catharina brought their child, Elizabeth, from Limerick for Holy Baptism. The child was born May 18, a.c. and baptized today. Sponsors: Mr. Grant Rohrman and his wife Elizabeth, of Philadelphia.

September 22, Saturday. Received a letter from Pastor Krug, dated September 12, a.c. Today gave my grandchild Margreth Schultze, 7s. 6d. as a douceur.

September 27, Thursday. Paid 3 pounds in gold to Hanna Muhlenberg for food and maid's wages for the past month and for interest. Also paid Fmmerich, of the Swamp, 7s. 6d. for cabbage heads.

September 29, Saturday, Faptized Anna, infant daughter of Joh. Frey and his wife Hanna. The child was 15 months old. The parents were sponsors.¹

¹ A little more than a week after this last entry, early in the morning on Sunday, October 7, 1787, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg died in New Providence (Trappe), Pennsylvania, and was buried there on October 10.

From The Muhlenbergs of Pennsylvania, by Paul A. W. Wallace, pg 272-3

"For a week he suffered intense pain, without sleep. His mind remained clear and his senses acute. Strangely, near the end his hearing returned.

He sat up till the last. Even on the night of his death, he would not go to bed until it was time for the last good night. His strong sense of order, his insistence on keeping times appointed, remained with him to the end.

" ' He expected to die at midnight.' writes William J. Mann, 'and inquired whether it were not yet twelve o'clock. At his request two of his children took him to bed.'

.....
He died between twelve and one o'clock on Sunday morning, October 7, 1787, at the age of seventy-six.

.....

"So many people came for the service in Augustus Church that they could not all be gathered indoors, and the funeral address had to be preached 'under the open sky' - where Muhlenberg himself had preached at Providence on January 16, 1743

.....

"The woods were less dense than they had been in 1743. But there was still an echo."

Esther C. Keller