

# The Chronicle

A Publication of The Historical Society of Trappe and the Perkiomen Valley

March 1999

Trappe-Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426

Volume XXVIII, No. 1

## *Spinning Demonstration Marks Pennsylvania Heritage Week*

Paula Brown of Norristown will give a spinning demonstration at the Dewees Museum, 301 W. Main Street, Trappe, on Sunday, March 21st, at 2:00pm. The public is invited.

The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission has designated March 14-21 as Heritage Week for the celebration of the history and crafts of our state. This is a time to observe the principles and standards that will make our nation strong into the 21st century.

Mrs. Brown will demonstrate the spinning of wool and discuss the preparation of the wool with the carding tools. On display will be articles that she has made from her craft. Mrs. Brown will dress in 18th century costume. She has been participating in 18th century reenactments for the last nine years.

The Historical Society is interested in developing a group adults and youth who would like to learn the craft of spinning. We especially invite such persons to attend.

Our 18th century spinning wheels and equipment will be on exhibit on March 21st, which includes a flax wheel of Anna Maria Muhlenberg.

The museum will be open from 1:30 to 4:00pm. Refreshments will be provided by the Museum Committee.

Parking is available to the rear of the Dewees Tavern Museum and at Muhlenberg House four doors east on Main Street.

## **The President's Message**

*This letter originates in sunny Florida, but thoughts and work go on at the Historical Society.*

*The Rev. John Shetler, Curator, and The Rev. Thomas Young, First Vice President, attended a workshop on January 12th dealing with grants which will be available from the Pew Foundation. We will be applying for a grant to do some exterior restoration at the Dewees Tavern. Some sills, windows, and cornices need attention.*

*The enclosure around the electrical panel in the basement of the Muhlenberg House has been completed. It needs painting at this point.*

*Maintenance and other repairs continue, so we need continual support to defray these expenses.*

*We thank the community for continued interest and support.*

*Sincerely,*



*Ivan W. Hess, M.D.  
President*

## ***Bicentennial of Perkiomen Bridge***

1999 is the bicentennial year for the Perkiomen Bridge. A committee to raise funds for the building of the bridge was headed by General Peter Muhlenberg with selected representatives of the Perkiomen Valley.

Your Society to initiate a celebration convened a consultation of representatives of the municipalities and of neighboring historical societies on January 17th in the family living-work room of Muhlenberg House.

Curator John Shetler served as convener, and greetings were brought by First Vice President Thomas G. Young. Many ideas were discussed and the group held an organizing meeting at the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel on Sunday, February 7th at 2:00pm. Hotel Proprietor Glenn Richardson was chosen as chairperson and Ms. Jacqueline Crahalla as Secretary.

Representatives were invited from additional regional organizations.

From The Journals of  
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg  
1777

*March 2, Sunday.* Severe cold. Friedrich Mühlenerg rode to New Hannover in order, God willing, to conduct divine service there today and school examinations tomorrow. [HD: The latter have fallen out of use, although they are very important to encourage the children.] My neighbor, Mr. Müller, was so good as to take me in his sleigh to Augustus Church, and my voice was sufficiently recovered to enable me to preach, after a fashion, on the example of the Ethiopian chamberlain, Acts 8. Before the sermon I baptized a child of Johann Nicol [aus] Rothenwalter and his wife Elisabeth; they fled hither from Philadelphia last December. The child, named Johann Nicolaus, was born January 30, *a.c.*, and the parents were themselves the sponsors. Announced that there would be divine service, God willing, three weeks from today, on the Sunday before Easter.

*March 3, Monday.* Also learned that the *Congress* had promoted the following colonels to the rank of brigadier general: Poor, Glover, Patterson, Wayne, Varnum, DeHaas, Weedon, M[ühlen]b[erg], Cadwalader, and Woodford.

Today I paid the smith, Mr. Davis, 34s. 6d for twenty-three pounds of shingle nails, for which purpose Mama advanced three dollar bills. Also gave Cathy Bradfort 1s. 3d.

Mama gave Mr. Batman 1s. 3d. for a pair of buttons for Sally's shift. Henrich Frey's son split wood today and was paid 2s. 6d. [HD: Paid 2s. to the poor.]

*March 6, Thursday.* In the morning Mr Swaine rode on to the *camp*. I arranged to have Neighbor Müller's son accompany him on horseback to show him the way as far as Butler's Mill. Paid 12s. 6d. for beef, and 11s. 3d. for tallow to use for illumination. [HD: It is just two years today since I returned to Philadelphia from my Eben Ezer journey.]

The Historical Society of Trappe and the Perkiomen Valley

December 26, 1998

The Borough of Trappe  
Members of Borough Council  
Trappe, PA

The following is a report for 1998 of work that has been done by the Historical Society in particular that benefits the Borough of Trappe.

You will recall that on two different occasions boxes of records of the Borough were delivered to the Dewees Museum. These have been inventoried and repacked by inventory. In 1999 we expect to purchase filing cabinets to store these materials. Materials such as canceled checks will be reviewed in terms of dates and nature of expenditures and a decision will be made about recommending to Council for a disposition of them. We appreciate the financial support of Council.

The year 1999 will also see an exhibit arranged for a definite period of time on Borough history such as paving of Main Street and the bond issue as well as other interesting facts and events.

Continually, residents of Trappe are contributing artifacts relating to the life of our citizens or events in the Borough. In addition, people within the Perkiomen Valley are generously contributing artifacts. All these items must have deeds of gift, prepared for storage, and exhibits planned.

All the work is done by volunteers, some of whom are residents of the Borough, while others come from the Perkiomen and Schuylkill Valleys.

We expect to open another exhibit room on the second floor by the middle of 1999. This will require additional display cases. This will be true for both the Dewees Museum and the Muhlenberg House.

We urge members of Borough Council to visit the museums when they are open on special days and during the months of June through September each Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00pm.

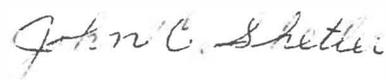
*Dr. John C. Shetler, Editor*

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*M-K Computing Services*

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*Write to the Editor at:*  
*300 W. 3rd Avenue*  
*Trappe, PA 19426-2226*

Respectfully,



John C. Shetler, Historian-Curator

# C E R T I F I C A T E O F G I F T

## FOR REPAIR OF DEWEES TAVERN BUILDING

To help repair the Dewees House, I/we enclose a check made payable to the HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE, in the name of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Town State/Zip Tel.  
\_\_\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\_\$1,000 \_\_\_\_Other

Clip and mail to: Historical Society of Trappe  
P.O. Box 26708 Collegeville, PA 19426-0708

## WE INVITE YOU TO MEMBERSHIP

No. Persons

\_\_\_\_ Regular @ \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Student @ \$2.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Schrack @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Life @ \$100.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Richard Holcombe  
P.O. Box 26806  
Collegeville, PA 19426-0806

## Report on Dewees Restoration

**1998 Review:** First work planned and completed since 1976 includes repointing of two walls of the west kitchen, removing tilted chimney from same kitchen roof, repointing of broken areas of pointing on remainder of building, rebuilding of one cellar window well, reconstructing of stone wall along flagstone back entrance, repairing flashing along one chimney, closing of all holes in stonework along cornice where birds found entrance.

This and other small items of maintenance were paid for out of contributions received during 1998 in the amount of \$8,600. We thank individual members and St. Luke's Reformed Church, United Church of Christ, for their assistance.

**1999 Work to be Completed:** Check 37 windows, replace or treat with epoxy all rotted or deteriorated wood, replace sash where not repairable, replace broken glazing, repair or replace cornice wood, replace crown molding with matching material on cornice boxes, replace two storm doors with wooden doors, all door frames, lintels and trim to be repaired where possible or replaced. Two coats of paint to be applied to all woodwork.

Contractor Jon Costanza will do all work at an estimated cost of \$16,815. Approximately \$1,000 is on hand toward these repairs. We shall need to raise \$15,800 to complete the work. We only do that work for which we have money on hand to complete. A Certificate of Gift is provided (above) for all our members and friends to use.

One of our members has volunteered to make, without cost to the Society, crown molding to match that of earlier centuries. It is wonderful how our members and friends respond to provide the materials or the money to do all that is necessary. The work of the Historical Society is really a labor of love.



## To Arrange for Tours

To arrange for a group to tour either the Muhlenberg House or the Dewees Museum, you may call Dr. Ivan W. Hess, President (610) 489-7622, or Dr. John C. Shetler, Curator-Historian (610) 489-2624. Five groups have already registered for 1999.

Please note that no evening tours will be conducted at Muhlenberg House until June as the house does not have electric lighting facilities.

## 1999 Membership Dues Receivable Now

If you have not paid your 1999 dues, please use the form above. Mr. Richard Holcombe, Financial Secretary, has enclosed an individual report which tells you whether you are up to date.

To eliminate annual dues, you may select a Life Membership for \$100.00 (per person), which is placed in the Life Membership Endowment. You may also choose to give Life Membership as a gift.

## Library Hours

To make an appointment to visit our library, please call the Curator. Contribution expected for research.



## Museum Gifts

If you have a family treasure of historic note, you may wish to donate it to the Historical Society of Trappe for display. Contact the Curator to discuss how your valued possession may help others to learn and enjoy the history of our area.

Dr. John Shetler, Curator  
(610) 489-2624

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE

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COLLEGEVILLE, PA 19426-0708

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## MARCH 1999 NEWSLETTER

*Please, Do Not Delay!*

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March 21	Dewees Museum Spinning Demonstration	1:30 - 4:00pm (Refreshments) 2:00pm
June 6	Dewees Museum Perkiomen Bridge Exhibit Borough of Trappe Exhibit	1:30 - 4:00pm (Refreshments) 2:00pm Greeting from Municipal Officials
June 13	Both Museums Open Dewees Museum and Muhlenberg House	1:30 - 4:00pm Sundays, June through August
June 14	Flag Day Dinner	7:00pm Mooreheads
September 19	Heritage Sunday	222nd Anniversary of Troops entering Trappe, September 19, 1777
November 11	Veterans Day Dinner Annual Meeting	7:00pm Mooreheads
December 5	Dewees Museum Bicentennial of Death of George Washington	1:30 - 4:00pm (Refreshments) 2:00pm Memorabilia related to George Washington
December 12	Muhlenberg House Father Muhlenberg speaks on his sons' contacts with George Washington	1:30 - 4:00pm (Refreshments)
December 19	Both Museums Open	1:30 - 4:00pm