

# The Chronicle

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

May 2002 A.D.

Volume XXXI No. 2

## Two New Summer Exhibits

### *Dairy Farms in 19th and 20th Centuries*

On Sunday, June 2nd, at 1:30pm, **Dairy Farms in the 19th and 20th Centuries** will open at the Dewees Museum, 301 W. Main Street, Trappe. Today's residents will be surprised to learn that approximately 20 dairy farms in the local area will be represented by name-bearing milk bottles, photographs, and dairy equipment from the last hundred and twenty-five years.

Old-timers can reminisce and provide additional information to our Museum Committee and docents who will be available to enter into conversation with you. We shall be happy to make notes or receive your notes on past farms and dairy routes.

At 2:00pm, Director of Museums, Dr. John Shetler, will introduce to you the persons who have lent or given items for the exhibit. We invite present operating dairy farmers to be present and to participate in the discussion. This is one way we can express appreciation and give encouragement to those who engage in this oldest of honorable occupations. We are fortunate to have some open space in the area where farming is still taking place and the heritage is being preserved.

Refreshments on this opening Sunday at the Dewees Museum will be available under the leadership of Hostess Chairperson Beverly Spaid. Please use the Main Street cemetery entrance for parking available at the rear of the museum. You may also park at the Muhlenberg House and walk between the two houses.

### *Learn of the Second Oldest Grange In Pennsylvania*

An exhibit of **Artifacts and Historical Materials from Keystone Grange No. 2** will be featured in the Andrew and Anna Maria Miller Room where the changing exhibits are

## The President's Message

*Dear Friends:*

*We have just concluded a display of Crosses from Around the World at Dewees Museum. The event was a smashing success with over 179 people viewing the display, with many attending the lecture given each Sunday at 2:00pm.*

*I was pleased that so many people were interested in a collection that I have assembled over a 30-year period. May we have continued success in our future displays and programs.*

*We are still in the midst of a Membership Drive and hope all of you will soon return your membership dues.*

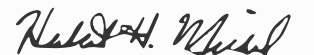
*Several events will take place soon, such as the Flag Day Dinner at Moorehead's on June 14th at 7:00pm. We extend a personal invitation to all of you to come and enjoy.*

*I commend to you the various projects that our Property Committee has undertaken for this year. You will find an article in this issue of "The Chronicle" about a ramp entrance for challenged individuals.*

*Please let us know that you are interested and supportive of The Historical Society with your calls, letters, and donations.*

*I send my warmest personal regards.*

*Sincerely,*



*Dr. Herbert H. Michel,  
President*

featured. It is very appropriate that these two exhibits honoring agriculture will take place at the same time and place.

You will see a collection of wooden nickels observing the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Grange Fair held each year in the Collegetown-Trappe Municipal Park. A file of the Grange Fair booklets will be on exhibit, as well as pictures from the Grange Hall. Post cards of the last century portraying farming from the collection of Jane Wismer will be on view, along with 19th century items from the Grange Kitchen.

The President of The Historical Society, Dr. Herbert H. Michel, will be present to greet visitors at 2:00pm on Sunday, June 2nd. ❖

## From The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg

1742

**April 5.** I took my final farewell of the children of God in Hannover and was accompanied by many good wishes. After farewell, I left Hannover about twelve o'clock noon by post for Osnabrug. At this time I was a bit affected by the thought that I was leaving my fatherland, friends, and so many upright children of God, never to see them again. But the faithful God had compassion on my weakness and so directed the circumstances that I had to ascribe them to His special paternal providence.

Early on the tenth, a Tuesday, we reached Narden, two miles from Amsterdam. There we boarded a canal-boat, a boat which is drawn by a horse on the bank. This was my very first boat ride in my whole life. About ten o'clock we arrived in Amsterdam and my traveling companion, the merchant, did me the final kindness of directing me to the leading merchants, Messrs. Deutz and Sons, to whom I had letters of recommendation. As soon as I had given the letters to Mr. Deutz, he showed me much courtesy and took me, with my effects, to a good lodging, called the Oxfurt, at Widow Hofmann's. Had my first regular meal in the lodging and refreshed myself with sleep, since I had not slept for five nights on the way from Hannover.

**April 11.** In the afternoon I journeyed from Amsterdam on the Rotterdam canal-boat, passed through Leyden, and arrived safely at Rotterdam on the twelfth about ten o'clock. In Rotterdam I at once made myself known to Mr. Hering, who received me with great friendliness and kindness because of the recommendation from Amsterdam. I first had to have a meal with him and afterwards he had me taken to a comfortable lodging.

When we entered the North Sea we all became sick, one after the another. I wanted to hold out longer, but grew the more cold and sick.

Because we had contrary winds, we voyaged from the fourteenth to the sixteenth of April and arrived at Harwich, the first English city, on the sixteenth, about ten o'clock.

**April 16.** About two o'clock in the afternoon, went from Harwich overland to Colchester, arriving about six o'clock in lodgings where I had to get along as best I could with the English language. From Colchester to London there were still fifty English miles

**April 17.** About six o'clock in the morning, went by special coach from Colchester to London, arriving about six o'clock in the

... continued on page 3

## Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Opens for Summer

On June 2nd the Muhlenberg House at 201 W. Main Street will open at 1:30pm for the summer season. You will want to plan a visit to see the additions to the furnishings that now grace the rooms of the Muhlenberg family. There are now two double beds and two single beds.

One of the double beds has been in Providence (Trappe) since the 1700's. It was purchased at auction from the furnishings of the Longacre Farm, known as Far Away Farms in the last century. When one of Longacre men married, his bride brought with her as a dower gift the bed which now stands in the northeast second floor room. The history includes the fact that when the bed was made it contained apple wood from the farm on which she lived. The bed had never been off the farm until it came to Muhlenberg House. We can say the bed is still in Providence, which was the other name for Trappe in the 18th century. This bed was the gift of the Dr. Ivan W. Hess Family.

The other recent local bed was the gift of Ronald Oehlert of Royersford who bought it at the auction of furniture at the Rittenhouse Farm on Rittenhouse Road about two miles from Trappe. This is a single rope bed of country style, and by the appearance and wear it was probably used for a farm laborer. One foot was missing and the others gave the appearance of being in a damp place. Our Museum Committee member, Lloyd Ziegler, our technical restoration specialist, restored the foot. This bed was never out of the family until bought by Mr. Oehlert and given to Muhlenberg House, thus keeping it in Providence continuing its 18th century history. The Rittenhouse bed stands in the 2nd floor southeast corner room. ❖

### Parking During the Summer

Parking is available at each of the houses. If the area is filled at one house, we suggest that you park at the other house. If both are filled, you may try St. Luke's United Church of Christ across the street. ❖

### Dewees Ramp Progress

The Board of Directors has approved the plans from the driveway to the door in the northeast end of the Dewees Building. Estimates are being sought. When sufficient funds have been received, then the work will be done. A Certificate of Gift is included below. Please complete and return it with your gift.

The ramp will provide a safer means of entrance for persons who use canes or come in wheelchairs. Presently the building is not wheelchair accessible. ❖

*Group Tours . . . for Henry Muhlenberg House and Dewees Museum must be scheduled in advance. A suggested contribution of \$2.00 per person per museum is encouraged to help with museum maintenance costs—larger contributions are welcomed. Gifts go directly to the work of the museums. For reservations, call Dr. John Shetler, Museum Director / Historian (610-489-2624).*

### CERTIFICATE OF GIFT for DEWEES HANDICAP RAMP

Enclosed is a check made payable to The Historical Society.

Designated for: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Become a Volunteer!

I am interested in discussing the following:

- Museum Committee Membership       I have the following Craft Experience:  
 Becoming a Museum Docent \_\_\_\_\_  
 Learning a Craft \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Volunteer - The Historical Society P.O. Box 26708 Collegeville PA 19426-0708

## Orientation for Docents

On Sunday, May 19th, at 2:00pm, an Orientation Meeting for Docents will be held at the Dewees Museum. This meeting will focus on the new Dairy Farms and Grange exhibits scheduled to open on June 2nd. It will also prepare Volunteer Docents to guide visitors through both the Henry Melchior Muhlenberg House and the Dewees Museum. Dr. John C. Shetler, Museum Director/Historian, will present the information, distribute materials, and be available to answer questions.

Interested individuals are encouraged to become Volunteer Docents—both those who wish to learn more about the heritage of our area and those with knowledge of our local history and a willingness to share that knowledge. Please call Maureen Ruggiero at (610) 489-7900 to discuss this volunteer effort. ❖

## Plan to Attend Flag Day Dinner Meeting

Historical Society Members and Friends will gather for dinner on Friday, June 14th, at Moorehead's Catering in Trappe, at 7:00pm. This will be the 38th Annual Flag Day Dinner. Dr. Herbert H. Michel, President, will preside. We invite the public to attend and encourage our friends and neighbors to become members at the dinner.

This is the 260th Anniversary of Pastor Muhlenberg coming to Trappe in 1742. Please read the excerpt from his Journal starting on page 2. He tells of his leaving Europe and coming to the Colony of Pennsylvania by way of London.

Dr. Michel reports that a delicious Pennsylvania dinner will include vegetable soup, a chicken thigh and leg, potato filling, cole slaw, beverage, and apple crumb or cherry pie. There will be pleasant table conversation with an interesting and informative program. Several recently received artifacts will be displayed.

Watch the newspapers for further information about the program. The cost per person is \$16.40 and a reservation form is on page 4. As you know, The Historical Society always has programs that are not available any other place. ❖

The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc., is a Pennsylvania nonprofit 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.

The official registration and financial information of The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc., may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Contributions to The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc. are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## Colonial Garden

When you next visit the Muhlenberg House, you will see a surprise in the back yard—the beginnings of a Colonial Garden.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Ivan Hess and Halteman Brothers of Trappe, this is another step in bringing the history of our area to life.

The garden will include a walkway, herb plantings, flowers, and plants typical of the period when Pastor Muhlenberg lived here with his family.

When you next visit the Muhlenberg House, take time to see the progress of this project. ❖

## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP: 2002

No. Persons

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

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

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

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

Checks Payable to: *The Historical Society*

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

## Muhlenberg Journal ... continued from page 2

evening. In London I was somewhat fearful as to how I should find Court Preacher Zigenhagen, since in Halle I had heard that he lived in Saint James, but in Hannover that he lived in Kensington. Night came on and no one could give me information. I therefore chose the latter, took a hackney for Kensington, put in my baggage, and rode away. We still had four English miles to ride, and a heavy rain besides. I had the bad luck that my coachman got drunk on the way at several inns, took another good-for-nothing fellow on the box with him, and drove for two miles through London with loud shouts—and besides, he could not find Kensington. This drove me to prayer before God and He graciously helped me so that before nightfall I reached the residence of the dear Court Preacher and was heartily glad. The faithful God had already made provision beforehand, for, when on the fourteenth I was just about to go to Hellevoetsluis by post and from there to the royal packet boat, there arrived a Hungarian courier with two lackeys who also intended to go to Hellevoetsluis and travel to England. This Hungarian officer knew some English, but mostly Latin and French. He at once befriended me of his own accord and showed undeserved respect and friendliness toward me. We conversed with one another in English, French, or Latin as we could best express ourselves.



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**MAY 2002 NEWSLETTER**  
*Please, Do Not Delay!*

**C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R    2 0 0 2 A . D .**

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|--------------------------|---|
| May 19                   | 2:00pm Orientation for Docents<br>Dewees Museum    Light Refreshments   |
| June 2                   | 1:30 - 4:00pm Dewees Museum Opens<br>Dairy Farm and Grange Exhibits<br>Refreshments   |
| June 2                   | 1:30 - 4:00pm Muhlenberg House Opens<br>Docents for All Rooms   |
| June 14                  | 7:00pm Flag Day Dinner Meeting<br>Moorehead's Catering, 7th Avenue, Trappe  |
| Early Summer             | Dedication of Five-Plate Stoves<br>Date To Be Announced   |
| June 2 -<br>September 15 | Both Museums Open<br>1:30 - 4:00pm (Sundays)<br>All Closed Labor Day Weekend  |
| September 15             | 1:30 - 4:30pm Heritage Sunday<br>Dewees House 225th Anniversary of<br>Continental Army in Trappe<br>Muhlenberg House Colonial Craftspersons<br>Refreshments |



Henry Muhlenberg House



Dewees Museum

**FLAG DAY DINNER**

**June 14, 2002    7:00 PM**



**Moorehead's Catering**  
 First Avenue, Trappe

**Speaker To Be Announced**

Clip and mail to: Richard Holcombe  
 P.O. Box 26806  
 Trappe, PA 19426-0806

----- **Reservation Form** -----

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

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

Street

City

Zip

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$16.40 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Bring a friend!*

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

We are looking forward to the Fall season of the Society. There will be several activities which I hope all of you will attend and support.

I invite you to read the Chronicle in detail with many articles on projects in progress and programs and events yet to come.

We all look forward to the following events: Heritage Sunday, September 15; Veterans' Day Dinner, November 11, 7:00 p.m. featuring the Muhlenberg Quartet. The two 5-plate stoves will, hopefully, be dedicated in November at the Muhlenberg House. We, also, begin a fund drive to install a handicap assessable walkway at the Dewees House Museum. All of the events and projects are described in detail in this issue of the Chronicle.

I would like to express a word of thanks for a very successful summer with many visitors and friends at the Muhlenberg House and Dewees Museum. I am grateful for the dedicated group of Docents who volunteer their time to tell the story of Muhlenberg and our community.

We look forward to seeing all of you on Heritage Sunday, September 15, 2002.

Sincerely,

Dr. Herbert H. Michel  
President