The Chronicle

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

November 1999 Trappe-Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426 Volume XXVIII, No. 4

Alan Keyser to Speak at Annual Meeting

Noted Pennsylvania German author and speaker Alan Keyser will be featured at the Veterans Day Dinner at Mooreheads, First Avenue, Trappe, on Thursday, November 11th at 7:00 pm.

Alan Keyser, who is currently working on a book on Pennsylvania German cooking, will speak on Early American Foods. This presentation will be especially interesting to all because Mr. Keyser will tell of two recipe books handwritten by a mother and daughter in the Muhlenberg line of descendants. Come and learn the identity of these two Muhlenberg women.

Among Mr. Keyser's publications are "Beds, Bedding, Bedsteads, and Sleep," *Der Reggeboge (The Rainbow)*, Vol. 1, 12:4, 1978, and "Thatching in Pennsylvania," co-authored with Robert Bucher, *Der Reggeboge*, Vol. 16:1, 1982.

The meeting, conducted by Dr. Ivan W. Hess, will be open to the public. A registration of $16.00 per person may be sent to Richard Holcombe, P.O. Box 26806, Collegeville, PA 19426-0806. We invite you to come and bring your friends. ❖

Muhlenbergs and George Washington

In observance of the 200th Anniversary of the Death of General and President George Washington in December 1799, the Dewees Museum will feature an exhibit related to George Washington and the Muhlenberg sons Peter and Frederick.

Because of the interest already developed in this subject, we are inviting members of the Society and the community to place on exhibit any items related to President Washington.

The Dewees Museum will be open Sunday, December 5th and 19th, from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. On December 5th at 2:00 pm, Dr. John Shetler, Curator, will make a presentation regarding the exhibit. Refreshments will be served on the 5th.❖

The President's Message

The Historical Society of Trappe recently acquired a painting of Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg done by Adrian Lamb. It is a copy of the painting hanging in the Capitol. This was donated by Mrs. Nancy Lawson, a descendant of the Muhlenbergs.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Veterans Day, November 11th, with Alan Keyser as our speaker. He will discuss Colonial Cooking. At our Annual Meeting we will elect officers to direct the Society for the next year. We will also vote on a name change for the Society. It is proposed that the name change will be "The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc."

We will also vote on an amendment: ". . . a director of the corporation shall not be personally liable for monetary damages as such for any action taken or any failure to take any action . . . ." This amendment should be adopted to reduce the liability to which Officers and Directors are exposed. Our Society is a member of the Tristate Coalition of Historic Places which strongly advised that we comply as a non-profit organization.

The dedication of the Kuntze portraits and the Craft Show was well attended with about 150 people present, including a number of Muhlenberg descendants who are very supportive and cooperative in our projects.

Sincerely,

Ivan W. Hess, M.D.
President

Pastor Muhlenberg Speaks of Washington

On Sunday, December 12th, the Muhlenberg House will be open from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Refreshments will be available. At 2:00 and 3:30 pm, Pastor Henry Muhlenberg, portrayed by The Rev. William Fluck, will speak about his sons' relationship with Washington, both as General and President.

Each year we are able to share more of this important story about events with the Trappe families and the beginnings of our nation as the volume of information continues to grow.

On Sunday, December 19th, both museums will be open from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Limited parking is available at both museums with overflow parking at St. Luke's United Church of Christ.

We especially invite families to bring their school children to become acquainted with the significant history of our villages. ❖

From The Journals of
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg
1777

November 10, Monday. We have unpleasant weather again—dark with cold rain. Widow Z[immerman] is moving today to another house in the neighborhood in order that she might supply those who are traveling back and forth with emergency meals and make her living in this way. All day, despite the continuing heavy rain, we have heard violent cannonading on the water near Philadelphia.

Had a visit from our cousin, Mr. Georg Schäfer. Also a visit from Mr. Benedict Gerber, with whom I discussed the question as to whether a German school should be opened in his neighborhood. I said that in my opinion the man who, with his wife, has been lodging with me since Saturday would be suited for this purpose. However, there are all kinds of difficulties and impediments in the confused circumstances of war.

Since the two English women set out again early this morning in an attempt to reach the city, I gave them an open letter for Margretha Kuntze, dated November 9, to take along—"in the belly of the fish," Jonah 2.

November 11, Tuesday. Today we have clear weather, a sharp wind, and the first severe frost. The man and his wife set out for Jacob Sänger's in Whitpan *Township*. I gave them 5*s*. and a *blanket* which I had exchanged with Mrs. Z[immerman] for my *couch*. This morning Mr. Gerber took me, on his horse, five miles to Leonhard Spär's house in order to deliver an admonition in connection with the burial of the latter's child. German and English neighbors were assembled there. Returned home at three o'clock in the afternoon and found a traveler there who was calling on a fellow-craftsman.

November 12, Wednesday. Some snow and cold wind. Two travelers stopped in, one a man from Switzerland and the other a man from Nassau, who . . . were hungry. Visit from Mr. Sw[aine]. Christian Schrack sent meat, which is not yet paid for. Widow Z[immerman] had her son fetch Mr. Andreas Burghard's stove and pipes and carry them to Mr. Peterman's front house; she said that Mr. Burghard had promised to lend her the stove.

Dr. John C. Shetler, Editor

Myrna Knaide, Managing Editor
M-K Computing Services

Printed by Pro Copy

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

Annual Business Meeting

Two important constitutional amendments will be presented at the November 11th Annual Meeting.

Errors and Omissions: We now live in a litigious society when an increasing number of people take advantage of others' errors or omissions to increase their financial wealth by entering a suit against the alleged offender. All the Society Officers, Board Members, Committee Members, and Workers are Volunteers. They do not get paid. They also are generous contributors. To protect them in the event of a legal suit, the Board through its Solicitor, Robert Brant, Esquire, has prepared an appropriate action for the Annual Meeting of The Historical Society of Trappe to protect its Officers and Volunteers. Copies are available for your inspection. For further information, call President Hess.

Addition to the Name: In recent years the constituency of the membership has been growing and the artifact collection has significantly increased. Recognition of the museum as a worthy place to preserve valued treasures has brought gifts from beyond the Boroughs of Trappe and Collegeville to include the Perkiomen Valley, the County, and, in fact, the Pacific Coast. The purchase and restoration of the Muhlenberg House has led people from the entire Perkiomen Valley to own the Muhlenberg family along with residents of many states.
It is right to honor this developing relationship by adding to our name the words "Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley." This addition makes clear that the Society is inclusive and open to people from near and far.

By Board Action:

WHEREAS it is the desire to have the name of the Historical Society more clearly reflect the area of service and influence of the Society;

IT IS THEREFOR RESOLVED that the "Constitution of the Historical Society of Trappe, PA, Inc." be amended as follows: "Article I. Name; Section 1" shall be amended to read: "The corporate name of this organization shall be The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a new Section 1 shall be added to read, "The Society retains legal title to and sole use of the name, "The Historical Society of Trappe, Pennsylvania, Inc." as its predecessor.

FINALLY, IT IS RESOLVED THAT these amendments shall be forwarded to the General Membership meeting to be held on November 11, 1999, for ratification pursuant to the provisions of "Article V. Amendments of the Constitution."

Adopted by vote of the Board of Directors meeting at Trappe, Pennsylvania, on May 27, 1999.

Report of Nominations: President Hess has indicated that after three terms as President he desires to retire. The Constitution requires the Immediate Past President to be a member of the Board of Directors. Nominations for Officers are as follows:

President	The Rev. Thomas G. Young
1st Vice President	The Rev. Dr. Herbert H. Michel
2nd Vice President	Maureen R. Ruggiero
Treasurer	Myrna Knaide
Secretary	Dr. Charlotte Whitmer
Corresponding Secretary	Anna F. Schrack
Historian	The Rev. Dr. John C. Shetler
Chaplain	The Rev. William Fluck
Chaplain Emeritus	The Rev. Robert E. Horne
Nominating Committee:	Richard Weicheld, Chairman
	Richard A. Holcombe
	The Rev. Dr. John C. Shetler

REGISTRATION FORM **(Please respond by November 1, 1999)**

☐ ***Yes, include me in the Strategic and Long-Range Planning Roundtable!***

Name: _____ * Tel. No. _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

☐ Check Enclosed (*$20.00 per person, payable to The Historical Society of Trappe*)

No. Attending: _____ No. Attending Luncheon: _____

Mail to: Roundtable / The Historical Society of Trappe
P.O. Box 260708 Collegeville PA 19426-0708

Muhlenberg Leadership Committee Roundtable

The Muhlenberg Leadership Committee has scheduled a Roundtable on Strategic and Long-Range Planning to be held on November 16th from 8:00 am to 12 noon in Fellowship Hall of Augustus Lutheran Church, West Main Street, Trappe.

Larry Webber of L. R. Webber Associates, Inc., Hollidaysburg, will serve as facilitator, using the philosophy, mission statement, and objectives of the Leadership Committee as a model.

Webber's management services firm, established in 1976, serves clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic states, with areas of concentration in strategic business planning, management and organization planning, executive compensation, leadership development, and quality improvement and re-engineering consulting. He has extensive writing, lecturing, and teaching experience, authoring two books and numerous topical articles. Webber has a B.A. degree in Economics and Business Administration from Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA. Postgraduate work in Educational Psychology was completed at Western Maryland College, Westminster, MD. He also holds an M.A. degree in Industrial Relations from St. Francis College, Loretto, PA. He is past Treasurer and Trustee of the Association of Management Consultants, Inc., and a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) as designated by the Institute of Management Consultants.

Walter E. Daller, Jr., Chairman and CEO of Harleysville National Bank, which is sponsoring this Roundtable, will present his insights on the importance of Strategic and Long-Range Planning to businesses and community leaders. George Meschter, Committee Chairman, will moderate the Roundtable.

Business and community leaders interested in expanding their leadership roles are encouraged to attend this Roundtable. A continental breakfast is included. Reservations at $20.00 per person are required. A tour of the Muhlenberg House and a buffet luncheon will also be offered following the presentation. ❖

More Muhlenberg Gifts

Since the dedication of the Kuntze portraits on September 19th, additional Muhlenberg gifts have been received.

Mr. Winthrop deV. Schwab presented a print of Christ (Swamp) Lutheran Church, New York City, which had been served both by Frederick Muhlenberg and later by John Christopher Kuntze.

Mrs. Nancy Clawson presented a copy in oil done by Adrian Lamb of the portrait of Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg done in 1790 by Joseph Wright in New York. The original hangs in the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC.

Mrs. Clawson also presented two prints: one of General Peter Muhlenberg and the other of Henry Augustus Muhlenberg, First Minister to Austria.

Both donors are Muhlenberg descendants. We are most grateful for these gifts. We also received other gifts from members, which will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Thank you to all. ❖

History of Muhlenberg House Restoration

The last issue of the Pennsylvania German Society magazine, *Der Reggeboga* (*The Rainbow*), featured a brief history of the purchase and restoration of Muhlenberg House by Dr. John C. Shetler, Historian of the Society. Excellent photographs taken by various persons accompany the article. *The Rainbow* is available at the Dewees Museum and at the Muhlenberg Visitors Center at a cost of $3.00. ❖

CERTIFICATE OF GIFT

FOR REPAIR OF DEWEES TAVERN BUILDING

To help repair the Dewees Building, I/we enclose a check made payable to the:

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE,

in the name of:

_____

_____

_____
Street

_____
City State/Zip

Tel.: _____

____$25 ____$50 ____$100
____$500 ____$1,000 ____Other

Clip and mail to:
Historical Society of Trappe
P.O. Box 260708
Collegeville, PA 19426-0708

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 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
P.O. BOX 26708
COLLEGEVILLE, PA 19426-0708

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COLLEGEVILLE PA 19426
PERMIT NO. 9

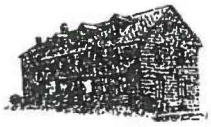
VETERANS DAY DINNER

November 11, 1999

NOVEMBER 1999 NEWSLETTER
Please, Do Not Delay!

C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R

November 11	Veterans Day Dinner and Annual Meeting Moorehead's 7:00 pm
November 16	Roundtable on Strategic and Long-Range Planning Augustus Lutheran Church / Muhlenberg House Tour (See Article and Reservation Form, page 3)
December 5	Dewees Museum 1:30 - 4:00 pm Bicentennial of Death of George Washington (Refreshments) Presentation 2:00 pm Memorabilia Related to George Washington
December 12	Muhlenberg House 1:30 - 4:00 pm Father Muhlenberg speaks on his sons' contacts with George Washington (Refreshments)
December 19	Both Museums Open 1:30 - 4:00 pm



VETERANS DAY DINNER

Thursday, November 11, 1999
7:00 P.M.
Moorehead Catering
40 First Avenue, Trappe

Guest Speaker: Alan Keyser

Lecturer on Pennsylvania German Culture
will present a lecture on . . .

Early American Foods
— Two Muhlenberg Recipe Books

RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ place(s) for me at $16.00 per person for November 11th

Total Enclosed:$_____ (checks payable to The Historical Society of Trappe)

Name: _____ Tel No._____

Address: _____

_____

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