

# The Chronicle

A Publication of The Historical Society

of Trappe, Collegetown, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

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*Come Celebrate My  
Anniversary on  
Heritage Day 2013*

Is it my twenty-fifth or fifteenth? Actually it's both. Let me explain.

Back in 1988 a number of visionaries in *The Society* imagined the possibility of enshrining the legacy of Pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenberg right here in Trappe where his life in the colonies began in 1742 and ended in 1787. The home of Frederick and Violet Grimison may soon have to pass to others and, fearful that it would end up like so many other historic treasures in our area, it was felt that this should not, and could not, happen to me.

The die was cast in 1989 when Mrs. Grimison's health required the sale of her home. In a bold move, *The Society* negotiated my purchase and, with broad support from its members and friends throughout the region, was able to pay off my mortgage in a year. The rest, as they say, "*Is History.*" Much hard work was done to save me and restore my structure and appearance to those days when Muhlenbergs filled my rooms, tilled my grounds, and dressed my orchards. Many of those facets of the family's life remain to be uncovered.

But one thing is certain: *The hard work and support of many individuals and organizations, recognized when my restoration was celebrated in 1998, has not been in vain!* You are the firm foundation on which my future is assured. As bare rooms are carefully furnished with 18th century pieces, some of which are generously provided by Pastor and Anna Maria's descendants, I am becoming more and more the home in which the Muhlenberg Spirit still resides.

*I do hope you can be among the many who will be visiting with me from 2:00-4:00pm on the afternoon of September 22nd.* I'm looking forward to joining again with the people who made my new life a reality. Some key people in my restoration have passed from our midst and we'll want to pay tribute to them. Others remain to tell their stories and I want you to be on hand to share yours too. Whether you were with me since my beginnings, or you have just gotten to know what I represent as a legacy of the past and a beacon for the future, please come and join in my *Anniversary Celebration.*

## *From the President . . .*

Summer is slowly closing and Fall means back to school and regular schedules. For the Society this means Heritage Day, Veterans Day, and our Candlelight Tour.

Our Annual Meeting will be in conjunction with the Veterans Day event. After the program we will have a short meeting to elect Officers and announce appointments to the Board for the next two years (see page 2).

I'm very proud to say we are making headway with many projects. Our Research Library continues to make progress in organizing all of our information. Anne Grasberger and college student Hannah Toombs have organized all our Archeological artifacts from the 1990s digs into boxes that are labeled for easy reference.

Our museums continue to receive donations of furniture. Over the Summer we have received several new items at Dewees and have rearranged many of our displays. Make sure to stop by for a tour to see the new items.

We continue to give private tours along with being open the 2nd and 4th Sundays, April thru October.

Please volunteer as Tour Guides or your time for the countless other jobs we have. We also have great gift items for your holiday shopping needs at our Gift shop in the Visitors Center at the Muhlenberg House. We are happy to make time for you to shop!

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Linda J. Kehr Wiernusz  
President

**The Henry Muhlenberg House**  
201 W. Main Street, Trappe  
(across from St. Luke's UCC)



**The Dewees Museum**  
301 W. Main Street, Trappe  
(corner Main Street/Rt. 113)



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**Muhlenberg's Journey to America:  
Ship Runs Out of Drinking Water**

**From The Journals of  
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg**

1742

**August 27, Friday.** Today we again had no wind and mostly calm, which may well make our voyage difficult, since the water for drinking and cooking is nearly gone. The captain had the animals which remained (swine, ducks, and chickens) killed, in order thereby to save some water. During this week he has also given us small portions, which is somewhat burdensome in these warm days [D: since there is no other beverage to be had which might strengthen our stomachs], especially for the sailors who must work and keep watch.

**August 30, Monday.** Today the wind changed, came from the north and suddenly became biting cold. In the early morning we also had very heavy rain. The people on the ship were all very busy hanging out tablecloths, bedclothes, and sail cloths in order to catch up the rain water. It was amazing to see how greedily the people gathered up and drank the water. I said to them that it would make me very glad if I saw them run so eagerly to Christ to draw living water and comfort for their souls. Some of them answered and said: Unfortunately we are not so greedy for the water of life as for bodily water. Our Salzburgers had also gathered some of the rain water for themselves, but it is very bitter and not good to drink as it is. I made some coffee for them with it, which agreed with them well. The sudden cold after the preceding extreme heat made a number of our ship's company very sick and weak. The cold and the wet weather gave such a shock to my constitution that I was seized with high fever, lost my strength, had no appetite, and had to lie abed, besides having to vomit several times. Under our present circumstances, when drinking water is lacking, it is even more painful to be sick than it was before. Yet everything that the faithful God sends must be for the best.

*Submitted by The Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer*

**Up And Down Main Street . . .**

by Bob Meschke

There's a lot going on along Main Street in Colledgeville and Trappe these days. The Farmers Market is in full swing, the college students are back at Ursinus, and The Speaker's House had a very successful dig.

Closer to home, we've had our busiest Summer in recent memory at Dewees. Since Bridgie Daller has made every Thursday an open day, a number of folks have come to do research in our extensive library. Others have stopped by for the Book Sale that continues to be a successful recycling effort for many avid readers and also another source of revenue to support our work. Some additional Museum volunteers have also enabled us to take on new projects in our unending effort to make the historic legacy of our community available to this busy "on the go" generation.

Our new schedule for open Sundays at the Dewees Tavern and the Henry Muhlenberg House has been slow in catching on, but we're confident that this is a good way to showcase our "largest artifacts." We will be open on the second and fourth Sundays through October and will start again next April. Meanwhile, our welcoming policy extends throughout the year for groups of visitors to plan a tour at any time by calling our office (610-489-7560) or sending us an e-mail (info@trappehistoricsociety.org). ❖

**Election of Officers to be Held on November 10, 2013**

**Nominations for Officers to serve from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016:**

Ruth T. Daller, *President*  
Thomas Biggar, *Vice President*  
Trevor J. Hart, *Treasurer*  
Jennifer Cianci, *Secretary*  
The Rev. Judith Meier, *Historian*  
The Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer, *Chaplain*

Submitted by Myrna Knaide, Chair, Nominating Committee

The President will appoint the following to the Board of Directors:

Jon Costanza  
Anne Grasberger  
Joyce Haas  
Ronald Hess  
The Rev. Robert A. Meschke



**The Gift Shop**  
at the  
Henry Muhlenberg House

**Open During  
Sunday Tours!!**

*Something unique for your home? A last-minute gift? A memento of your visit?*

We are not staffed on a daily basis, but we will make arrangements to be available for you—with no obligation to purchase!

201 West Main Street in Trappe  
Call Linda at 610.489.8805

### *Happenings at the Society . . .*

We are always happy to open our two historical sites to visiting groups.

On October 9th, we will welcome the **Collegeville High School Class of 1948** who are returning to town for their reunion. They will visit Dewees Museum for a luncheon and "Tea at the Tavern." The 1948 bound editions of the *Collegeville Independent* (part of our archival items) will be dusted off and available to them for some additional remembrances of those "best days of their lives." They will also be encouraged to tour the museum at their leisure.

Also scheduled for a visit to the Dewees Museum are the **Heirloom Questers** on October 23rd, and the **Poor Richard Questers** in April 2014.

Of note, last Spring we were pleased to welcome to the Henry Muhlenberg House 40 members of the **Gospel Choir from Wittenberg, Germany** who were performing at Augustus Lutheran Church. Ten volunteer Tour Guides, with the help of translators, enthusiastically told the story of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and his family during their time in Trappe.



### **A Halloween Event!**

A timely program will be presented by our Historian, **Jennifer Moyer-Damiani**, just in time for Halloween!

### **Civil War Embalming and Ghost Stories!**

Some facts—and some fun—will be enjoyed by all, young and old, so mark your calendar:

**Sunday, October 27th  
2:00 PM**

**Dewees Museum  
301 W. Main Street Trappe**



**Suggested Donation \$4.00 each  
(under age 10 at the discretion of parents)**

**Augustus Lutheran Church** invites you to a **Cemetery Tour** **Saturday evening, October 26th** highlighting Revolutionary War and Civil War soldiers.

*For details check the Community Calender on our website: [trappehistoricalsociety.org](http://trappehistoricalsociety.org)*

## **Veterans Day Celebration** *Honoring Veterans of All Wars*

**Sunday, November 10, 2013  
1:30 to 4:00 PM**

**Dewees Museum  
301 W. Main Street, Trappe**

Presentation by  
**Ray Rossa**

Instructor, Delaware and Montgomery County Community Colleges

### **"Pearl Harbor"**

This presentation with great slides will show Ray Rossa's passion for the topic, so bring your love of WWII history and memories of your own military experiences. A collection of military artifacts and memorabilia will be of interest to veterans as well as those interested in military history.

**Members \$5.00    Non-Members \$7.00    Veterans \$3.00\***

*\* Veterans will be invited to sign our Veteran's Guest Book. We look forward to meeting you and thanking you for your service.*

**Light refreshments will be served                      Reservations Not Required**

Annual Membership Meeting will follow.

### *Membership Information*

*If you have not yet renewed, please do so today!*

- |                          |            |                     |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student    | \$10.00             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$25.00             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family     | \$50.00             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting | \$100.00 - \$249.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron     | \$250.00 - \$499.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining | \$500.00 - \$999.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor | \$1000.00 and up    |

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

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

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

e-mail address\* \_\_\_\_\_

- \*e-mail my newsletters and announcements*  
The Historical Society

Checks Payable to:

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

*. . . and encourage your friends and neighbors to visit our historical sites!*

# The Historical Society

of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

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## Mark Your Calender!

- Sept 22 Heritage Day at the Henry Muhlenberg House 2:00-4:00pm  
Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Dedication of the  
Muhlenberg Home Cake and Ice Cream will be served  
(please bring your own chair) (see pg 1)
- Oct 27 Halloween Program: Civil War Embalming and Ghost Stories  
Deweese Museum 2:00pm Jennifer Moyer-Damiani (see pg 3)
- Nov 10 Veterans Day and Annual Meeting Dewees Museum  
Special WWII presentation "Pearl Harbor" (see pg 3)

**Ongoing** Guided Tours at Dewees Museum and Henry Muhlenberg House  
through October, 2nd and 4th Sundays 1:30-4:00pm  
Used Book Sale, Dewees Museum during our Guided Tours  
(2nd and 4th Sundays) 1:30-4:00pm and Thursdays 9:00am-Noon

Visit our website for updated details on these events:

[www.trappehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.trappehistoricalsociety.org)

SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

*Timely Information — Please Do Not Delay!*

## *A Reminder . . .*

**Historical Society Cookbook!** If you have recipes you would like included in our upcoming cookbook, there's still time! Our own cookbook will highlight favorite recipes provided by you and will make a wonderful gift for friends and family. It will be sprinkled with historic facts about Trappe, Collegeville, and the Perkiomen Valley as well as vignettes about the Muhlenberg Family. Our success depends on you to provide recipes. Mail them to Recipes, Trappe Historical Society, P.O. Box 26708, Collegeville, PA 19426-0708—or e-mail them to [info@trappehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@trappehistoricalsociety.org). Selections will be made by our editors.

**Used Book Sale at Dewees Museum!** This feature at Dewees continues to be popular. Stop by on Thursdays from 9:00am to noon or during our Sunday Tours (2nd and 4th Sunday of each month through October). Call 610-489-7560 with questions or to set up a drop-off date to donate books.

## Stay Informed – Check the Website

In response to an increasing number of requests by community organizations in our area to publicize their activities we have instituted a **Community Events Calendar** on our website. Now, with one click of the mouse, you can get up-to-date information on upcoming Society events as well as those of our friends. And while you're there also check out the excellent Home Page spreads of **Historic Milestones** so ably put together by our **Webmaster, Richard McDowell**.

## *Our Wish List . . .*

If you can provide any of the following items for the **Deweese Museum**, The Historical Society would be most grateful!

bathroom sink/faucet     kitchen sink/faucet     Office Supplies

Give us a call at 610-489-7560 to discuss any item(s) you may wish to donate to assure that it is an appropriate match for our needs.

*. . . Thank you for your help!*

Visit our website: [www.trappehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.trappehistoricalsociety.org)

Sponsors: TR Insurance Group, Inc. and Holcombe Funeral Home, Inc.