

# The Chronicle

A Publication of The Historical Society

of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

Spring 2011

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## Tour Guide Training on April 10th

*Tour Guides*—the critical link in showcasing our two sites. As we plan for our Summer Sunday Tours, we turn to our members to help. Our **Tour Guide Training Session** will be held on **Sunday, April 10th at 2:00pm at the Dewees Museum**. We are pleased once again to have **Dona M. McDermott** lead this session.

A resident of Collegeville, Dona began her career with the National Park Service in 1984. She joined the staff at Valley Forge National Historical Park in 1992 where she serves as Archivist. This assignment allows her to work directly with the park collections of 18th century military weaponry and documents from the American Revolution. Under her direction these artifacts are exhibited to help illustrate the story of the Valley Forge Encampment of 1777-1778.

Before coming to Valley Forge, Dona was the Supervisory Park Ranger at Hopewell Furnace National Historical Site and Interpretive Specialist at Independence National Historical Park. She has served as a National Park Service trainer for interpretation and as a consultant on 18th century costuming and exhibit design. She is a member of the National Association for Museum Exhibits, American Association of Museums, American Association for State and Local History, Association of Living History Farm and Agriculture Museums, and The Costume Society of America. She holds a B.A. in American History from Eastern College and an M.A. in American History and Museum Studies from the University of Delaware. We are fortunate to have Dona as a member and Administrative Advisor of our Society.

We hope you will consider attending to learn more about our historic sites and to decide if you would like to be a part of this important element of The Society. To register for this event call 610-489-7560 or e-mail info@trappehistoricalsociety.com. ❖



## The Gift Shop at the Henry Muhlenberg House

Visit our Gift Shop when you are looking for a last-minute gift. Because it is not staffed on a daily basis, we will make arrangements to be available for you—with no obligation to purchase—just give us a call!

201 West Main Street in Trappe

Call Linda at 610.489.8805

## From the President . . .

WOW! Time is flying by!!! My life never takes a full breath . . .

With spring upon us we have much to share. Over the winter we have been busy planning. Some of you may know our local area is kicking off a **300th Celebration of Henry Melchior's Birthday**. The website will have the dates of the upcoming events and we will print as many as we can.

We will have **Spring Cleanup**, and our fundraiser at **Iron Hill Brewery** will be on Tuesday, May 3rd (see insert). Your attendance will help us earn 20% of your food bill—a fun night out and **NO COOKIN' REQUIRED!**

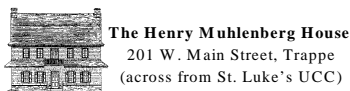
Our **Flag Day Dinner** will be observed on June 5th, which opens our two historic sites for Summer tours. We will be using the social hall at St. Luke's Church, and our program is the history of the Flag. You won't want to miss this event! Dewees will have a special display for the 300th anniversary—a must-see: "Henry's Neighborhood" and a glimpse at the churches Henry looked after on horseback!

As much as I love to share the fun stuff my job has to offer, there is always the hard side to relay. We never have enough people to share the work. We are always in need of volunteers (see **Tour Guide Training** at left). Our jobs go from light duty to being tour guides and event planners. We are working hard to have all of our tour guides in costume. Anyone who can sew, we have a job for you.

I will be appointing a Nominating Committee for Board Officers very soon. If you have an interest in becoming a Committee Member, please let me know!

We also have a wish list that is growing (page 3). We are trying to convert our large hot water heater to the new Hot Shot system. These Hot Shots heat small amounts—less than 2 gallons for each sink—on demand, not 60 gallons all the time. We have a need for two. They will require some plumbing and wiring. If you wish to help out, call 610-489-7560 or e-mail info@trappehistorical.org.

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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)

The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc., is a Pennsylvania non-profit 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. Official registration and financial information may be obtained by calling toll-free (within Pennsylvania) 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Sincere thanks** to those who contributed so generously to our **Capital Campaign** last Fall. Much is needed to maintain our two historic sites, and the following donors helped to make that possible by donating a total of **\$11,013 . . .**

**Conservationist (\$1000 - \$2499)**

Borough of Trappe  
Ruth & Walter Daller  
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***The Muhlenberg Tercentenary***

by Rev. Bob Meschke

In the coming months we'll be celebrating the **Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of The Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg**. Born in Einbeck, Germany on September 6, 1711, and educated at the Universities of Gottingen and Halle, **Pastor Muhlenberg's** life spanned two continents and over seven decades until his death in 1787.

Hopeful that his theological preparation and Call to the Christian Ministry would eventually take him as a missionary to India, **Pastor Muhlenberg** was disappointed to learn that he had not been chosen for this endeavor. Instead he would continue his Pastoral ministry in Germany until, on his birthday in 1741, he would be challenged by an even greater Call as Pastor to the **"Lutheran people in the Province of Pennsylvania."**

Planning has been going on for some time to commemorate the Life and Ministry of this **Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in Colonial America**. Special exhibits and events will mark the year in Gottingen and Halle, and on this side of the Atlantic at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia where the Muhlenberg archives are kept, the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, and, of course, our own Trappe community.

The **Historic Muhlenberg Partnership (HMP)** was formed last year to coordinate the various activities taking place in our

community and involves Trappe Borough, the Berman Museum, The Speaker's House, Augustus Church, and our own **Trappe Historical Society**. A calendar of special events has been prepared starting with a parade on Memorial Day with a **Trappe/Muhlenberg** theme.

For our part, we are expecting visitors to our restored **Henry Melchior Muhlenberg House** beginning with the start of Summer hours in June and extending into 2012. Dona McDermott was recently able to obtain additional 18th century furniture and household items to help make the house look ever more like the home the Muhlenbergs occupied from 1776 until 1787.

In our **Dewees Tavern Museum** we will have displays related to the family's life, the Muhlenbergs' neighbors, and the breadth and depth of Pastor Muhlenberg's ministry. While all this is going on we will also be in the midst of our second year of archaeological exploration that will include a second look at the Kiln.

We're all very excited about the coming year and the many interesting people this celebration will bring into our midst. You are invited to get involved as a Tour Guide, Museum Committee Volunteer, Archaeological Assistant, or any other of the many ways your talents and interests may beckon you. ❖

**Wish List . . .** If you can provide any of the following, The Historical Society would be most grateful!

- Two Under-sink Hot Shot Water Heaters (approximately \$200 each)
- Roof Repairs to Shingles at Henry Muhlenberg House
- Tour Guides (see Training Session on 4/10, page 1)
- Committee Members: Fund Raising, Gift Shop, Property, Museum, Heritage Day, Hospitality

Call (610-489-7560) or e-mail (info@trappehistorical.org) to discuss any item(s) you may wish to donate to assure that it is an appropriate match for our needs.

If you would like to sponsor a project or purchase an item listed above, we will research the cost and advise you.

*. . . Thank you for your help!*

### *Around the Society . . .*

**Society Headquarters Office . . .** Just a reminder to call first if you plan to stop by. You may also e-mail your questions or requests to info@trappehistoricalsociety.org. Thank you for your understanding—we will certainly respond as soon as possible.

**Going Green—Saving Green . . .** Send us your e-mail address (info@trappehistoricalsociety.org) so that newsletters and announcements may be received in a timely manner. If you do not have electronic capability, you will continue to receive your mailings via the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you—you will be helping the environment and saving printing costs!

**Shopping at Redner's Helps the Society . . .** The Society earns cash by using Redner's Save-a-Tape cards! Just present your card every time you visit Redner's and drop off your receipts at the Historical Society office—we'll do the rest. Save-a-Tape cards are available at Dewees or the Visitors Center.

**Thank You! . . . Wegman's** for providing a \$100 gift certificate which we used for our Fall 2010 Tavern Party . . . Steve and Patricia at the **Collegeville Italian Bakery** at 3846 Ridge Pike for providing rolls and tomato pie for the Tavern Party.

Numerous back issues of the **Pennsylvania Folklife Magazine** dating from the **1960s**, when **Ursinus College** took over its publication, through the **1990s** when it ceased publication, are still available for purchase at **\$4.00** per issue for members and **\$6.00** for non-members. Add **\$1.50** per magazine for shipping and handling if you would like your order mailed. We have copies of almost every issue of this quarterly plus a number of special **Kutztown Festival** editions. A complete index of articles arranged by subject as well as a list of issues available awaits your browsing and/or downloading on our **Website**. Your inquiries and orders can be sent via e-mail (info@trappehistoricalsociety.org) or by calling our office (610-489-7560).

From the President . . . continued from page 1

As for our buildings they have weathered

the Winter very well. We have tried to keep the heat turned back and conserve money. The fundraising campaign we had in the Fall filled the gap of some much needed repairs.

Watch for expanded future event news for Heritage Day, the Tavern Party, and our Candlelight Tour.

Also in the works is a raffle this year with some great prizes. Anyone who has an item to donate or sponsor, please contact us.

Don't forget about the Archeological Dig starting in June. The word from Lou Farrell is we will open the kiln site for further interpretation. You can reach Lou, check out the site for all the updates, and see clips from last year at [www.thedigis.org](http://www.thedigis.org).

This year is going to be GREAT! Watch for upcoming news by e-mail, so sign up today!!! Come celebrate with us, here in your own back yard—history does live here!

Linda J. Kehr Wiernusz  
President

***Be a Participant! Be Involved! Be a Member!***

***Help Preserve Our Historic Sites***

***. . . and the History of the Area!***

### **Membership Application**

G Student	\$10.00
G Individual	\$25.00
G Family	\$50.00
G Supporting	\$100.00 - \$249.00
G Patron	\$250.00 - \$499.00
G Sustaining	\$500.00 - \$999.00
G Benefactor	\$1000.00 and up

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

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

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

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

\*Please send my newsletters and announcements via e-mail! **G**

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

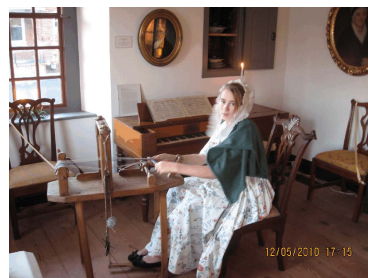
**GIVE (%) 20**

On May 3rd from 5 to 9pm, Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant will donate 20% of your food bill to The Historical Society (excluding alcoholic beverages).  
Coupons enclosed—one for you and one for a friend!

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

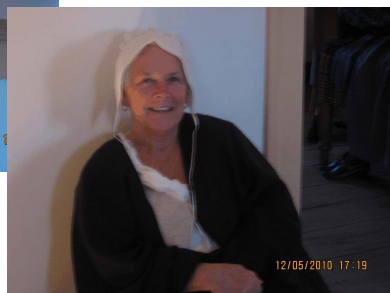
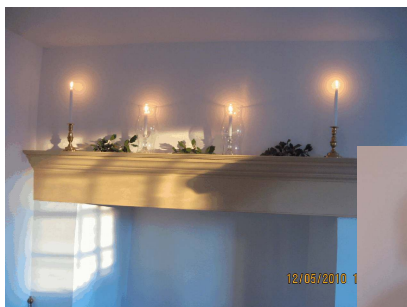
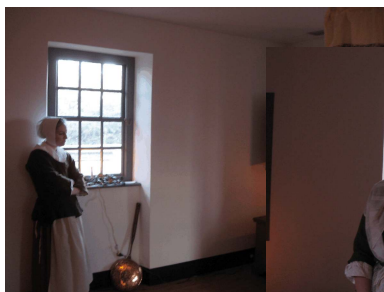
**SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER**

*Timely Information — Please Do Not Delay!*



**A Glimpse . . .**

**Candlelight Tour**



**December 2010**

**Henry Muhlenberg House**