

The Chronicle

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

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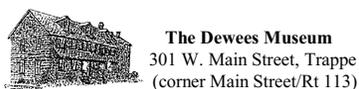
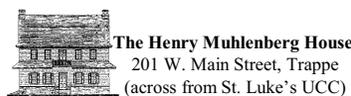
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The Muhlenberg Tercentenary Continues

We are pleased to announce that our observance of the *Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of the Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg* will continue through *September 2012*. So, if you have not had the opportunity to tour our period furnished and restored home of the *Muhlenberg* family and our special exhibits in the *Dewees Museum*, there's still time.

Since the commencement of our *Tercentenary* celebration last spring, we have had numerous requests from congregations and groups for tours of our historic sites. Their number was swelled by the interest of our many summertime visitors and participants in our memorable *Candlelight Tour* in December. We were especially heartened by the pilgrimage to *Trappe* of *Muhlenberg* descendants and their very favorable comments about their ancestral home as well as their many vignettes of family life they brought to share.

In planning your visit to our *Henry Melchior Muhlenberg House*, also include some time to tour our *Dewees Tavern Museum* and the historic *Augustus (Trappe) Church* that was erected soon after *Pastor Muhlenberg's* arrival in *1742* and continues as a place of worship to this day. Summertime visitors may also find us in the midst of our third year of *archaeological exploration* with many artifacts already uncovered and on display.

During this past year we have finally realized a dream of many involved in the restoration project. *The Restoration Room* in the *Muhlenberg House* has been completely re-designed and outfitted with many 18th century architectural artifacts that detail the story of the construction of the house in *1755* and the painstaking efforts of architects and artisans to return it to the period of the *Muhlenbergs* residence from *1776 to 1787*.

I do hope you'll have a chance to stop by. A telephone call to our office at 610-489-7560 or an e-mail to info@trappehistoricalsociety.org will get us started on planning your visit.

Rev. Bob Meschke

From the President . . .

We're off and running in 2012. The new Board of Directors kicked off the first meeting with a bang. We are working with many new ideas and events. I'm pleased to say we are 100% volunteer-based group. With budget cuts across the board affecting everyone near and far we have turned to a completely free-will work force.

We are looking for a few people to help with our different committees. We have a variety of groups forming. Call and let us find that great fit for *your* talents—building/maintenance, public relations/advertising, social events/food planning, newsletter, outside community events, parade planning, and people who love to bake, to name a few.

The Society would like to hear what events you would prefer to attend—topics, hands-on events, visiting other historical sites, etc. Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and let us know how we can better serve you.

We're still trying to go "Green" and cut back on paper. Please share your e-mail address so we can keep you up to date on all of our great happenings.

Have a 5th grader studying U.S. History? Bring them for a tour of our local history. We offer more than Colonial views of our area.

Hope to see all of you for this exciting year at the Historical Society!



Linda J. Kehr Wiernusz

President



The Gift Shop
at the
Henry Muhlenberg House

201 West Main Street in Trappe
(across from St. Luke's Church)

In need of a last-minute gift? Something new to decorate your coffee table? Your walls? Or perhaps you would like a memento of our historic sites?

Give us a call. The shop is not staffed on a daily basis, but we will make arrangements to be available for you—with no obligation to purchase!

Call Linda at 610.489.8805

We welcome several new Board members and provide below a brief introduction . . .

The Rev. Tom Kochenderfer, Chaplain. A graduate of Norristown High School, Muhlenberg College, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Tom was ordained in 1968 and served three congregations before retiring: Mediator, North Philadelphia; Tabernacle, West Philadelphia; and St. Andrew's, Audubon. He is now enjoying his retirement in Trappe.

Trevor J. Hart, Treasurer. Currently Branch Manager of the First Niagara Bank in Collegeville, he joined the bank in 1992. Trevor resides in Bechtelsville with his wife, Leigh and son Alex. Following his service in the Navy, he earned an Associate's degree in Business Management and Accounting from the Pennsylvania Business Institute. He is Past Chairman of the Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce, President of the Chairman's Club, and Treasurer of the Collegeville Unit for the Salvation Army. He also coaches Little League Baseball and Soccer.

Thomas Biggar, First Vice President, and his wife Kathy reside in Collegeville. They have two children, Jenn B. Nobles of Clearwater, Florida, and Allie Biggar of New York City, and one granddaughter, Ava Nobles. Tom was employed with the Social Security Administration from 1975 to 2010. He enjoys reading, traveling, politics, history, genealogy, and watching sports. He became associated with Trappe Historical Society by a referral from RSVP. He serves on the Museum Committee and is learning to be a Tour Guide. He is currently organizing and maintaining the Society's research files and materials, as well as working with the Redner's Save-a-Tape program.

Zita Millichap, Second Vice President. "On my way to work one day from my home in Limerick, I came upon a notice outside the Dewees Tavern that read, 'Volunteers Wanted.' I wrote down the phone number, and shortly thereafter I called. That is how I came to be a Tour Guide at the Trappe Historical Society.

"In real life I am married to Richard, a retired businessman; we have two sons, Richard and Christian. I work as an instructional assistant at an elementary school.

"One of my passions is theater, and for years I was involved in community theater. I am probably best known for my part as the Wicked Witch of the West in Methacton Community Theater's production of 'The Wizard of Oz.' Currently, my husband and I volunteer at the Colonial Theater in Phoenixville. My second great interest is travel—I don't need to be asked twice to go on a trip. I am always ready to explore new places and to revisit the past."



We are grateful to the outgoing board members for all their efforts in behalf of The Society: The Rev. William A. Fluck, Patricia A. Quinty, and Stacey A. Swigart, as well as Administrative Advisor, Dona M. McDermott. We thank them for their service and look forward to continuing the association we have formed with each over their years of participation.

About our Student Volunteer . . .



My name is Jessica Tomala and I am currently attending Perkiomen Valley High School, Class of 2013. For my career I am planning on majoring in business, but I am unsure about what job I want to have within that category.

In every school in Pennsylvania there is something called a Senior Project that is required for a student to graduate. There is a 24-hour participation requirement in this project. The stu-

dent is allowed to do a number of things, including volunteering, which is what I decided to do.

I grew up in Queens, New York, but have been living in Trappe for about eight years now. I happen to be interested in history and really wanted to find more out about the borough I am currently living in. Becoming involved with the Trappe Historical Society has helped me do so. Pennsylvania itself has a lot of monumental history to offer, and I feel honored to be in the area of the Muhlenberg House and the Dewees Tavern.

My first volunteer project was in the Dewees Tavern organizing books for the library. What I did was dust the books, go through them to see if there was anything in them that wasn't supposed to be there, and organize them accordingly. While doing this I got to skim through all of the books, some dating back to the 1600s, and get a sense as to what they are about. After that I got a personal tour of the Muhlenberg House and really got to learn more about the Muhlenbergs. As my final project I have been helping out by transcribing. After being here for awhile I have decided to go beyond my hours and become a Tour Guide for the Trappe Historical Society.

Our thanks to Jess for her work and for her interest in The Society. We look forward to seeing her often.



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 plus installation)
- New Faucet for Kitchen Sink in Dewees (Approximately \$100 plus installation)
- Upgraded Lighting in the Ross Library (Approximately \$100)
- Roof Repairs to Shingles at Henry Muhlenberg House
- Tour Guides
- 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 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.



Historic Home Show . . .

The Society was represented the weekend of March 9-11 at The Greater Philadelphia Historic Home Show at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks.

Our thanks to Sophia Wiernusz, along with her mother, Linda, for spending all three days greeting visitors at our table, telling them about our two historic sites, and demonstrating the craft of taping on a loom built by her father, Matt Wiernusz.

The Weatherization Fund Update

Your donations thus far have enabled us to install three storm windows on Dewees to cut down on heat loss and also to reduce damage to the wood frames. We are also planning for the replacement of two wood storm doors on the Tavern. The contemplated construction of an entry door in the west basement will increase the efficiency of our heating system and reduce fuel costs.

Gifts to the Weatherization Fund continue to be a need as we move forward with our plan to enclose the interiors of all our windows in the Andrew Miller House-Dewees Tavern with low energy windows to reduce the damage to artifacts by natural light and also provide one more barrier to heat transfer.

Thank you to all who have contributed thus far. As you can see, your donations have made a big difference and they are much appreciated!

Bob Meschke, Museum Committee Chair

Fundraising Opportunity . . .

A special committee, chaired by Ruth Daller, has been appointed to develop a fundraising opportunity in which the entire membership of the Historical Society can become involved. *A cookbook*—yet to be titled—will highlight favorite recipes provided by our membership—all the better if a recipe has been handed down through your family!

More than a cookbook, the publication will be sprinkled with historic facts about Trappe, Collegeville, and the Perkiomen Valley as well as writings about and from the Muhlenberg Family.

Participation by our membership is key to the success of this fundraiser—first, by providing recipes and, second, by purchasing it for yourself and for gifts. So start going through your recipe box and send us your best! Our editors will make the selections and, if chosen, your name will be included with the recipe. And if you have an idea for a great cookbook title, send that along for consideration as well!

Mail them to Recipes, Trappe Historical Society, P.O. Box 26708, Collegeville, PA 19426-0708. You may also e-mail them (using “Recipes” in the subject) to info@trappehistoricalsociety.org.

We are currently researching publishers so there is no deadline yet, but our committee can begin the process of categorizing them. We are excited about compiling this cookbook which should, in so many ways, uniquely reflect the history of our area! As well as liven up our menus!



Be a Participant! Be Involved! Be a Member!

**Help Preserve Our Historic Sites
. . . and the History of the Area!**

Membership Application

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No. _____

e-mail address* _____

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

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mark Your Calenders!

- May 5 Spring Clean-Up 9:00am til ??
Henry Muhlenberg House & Dewees Museum
- May 19 Tour Guide Training 1:00-3:00pm
Dewees Museum

Fill out and return the enclosed Questionnaire!

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

Timely Information — Please Do Not Delay!



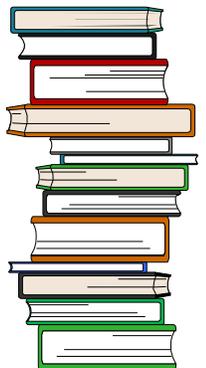
We are happy to report that First Niagara Bank has provided a grant of \$10,000 to The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley. Shown here is Trevor J. Hart, First Niagara Assistant Vice-President/Branch Manager, Collegeville Office; Ruth T. Daller, Society Board Secretary; Linda J. Kehr Wiernusz, Society President; and Anne Fearnside, First Niagara Area Sales Manager. Our thanks to First Niagara Bank for this generous grant!

Who doesn't love a Book Sale?!

The Historical Society will be holding a Book Sale at the Dewees Museum in June—date to be announced.

Start looking through your bookshelves for donations to the Historical Society. They may be dropped off at the Dewees Museum on Thursday mornings from 9 til noon. (Call to arrange a more convenient drop-off time.) They should be in fairly good condition.

And then plan to be there to replenish your own supply of reading material and get ready for some great Summer reading!



Call 610-489-7560 with questions.



The Historical Society
of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

**MEMBERSHIP
 QUESTIONNAIRE 2012**

As part of our 2012 planning, we would like to hear your opinions and suggestions. Please take a few minutes to complete and mail the following brief questionnaire to let us know of your interests and your concerns so we that may offer programs and events that will most benefit your membership.

Please keep in mind that we are an all-volunteer organization, but expenses will be incurred with each planned event. Therefore, it is necessary that we, at least, cover our expenses, and, at best, create some profit to help maintain our two historical sites. *(Please check all that apply and add your suggestions.)*

What event(s) do would/would you like to attend?

- Dinner at a restaurant Buffet at our historical sites
 Flag Day Heritage Day Veterans Day
 Candlelight Tour Speakers Other

What topics would most interest you?

- Revolutionary Era Civil War Era
 WWI / WWII Eras Local Historical Events
 Local Historical Sites Historical Leaders
 Genealogy Other

What time(s) would be most convenient for you?

- Saturday Sunday Weekday Evening

Would you have an interest in Hands-On Crafts Events?

- Weaving Taping Herb Gardening
 Flower Arranging Other No interest

What affect does cost have on your attendance?

	<u>Acceptable</u>	<u>Unacceptable</u>
Dinners (\$20-\$40-\$60 per person)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tours (\$4 adults \$2 children)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speakers/Hands-On Crafts (\$5-\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Would you visit our Gift Shop if we had regularly scheduled openings?

- Yes No Perhaps

Would you be interested in volunteering for events?

- Yes No Perhaps

Comments:

Thank you! We appreciate your input, which is valuable in planning interesting, informative, and entertaining events appropriate to the interests of our members. Please respond by April 14, 2012.

