

# The Chronicle

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

October 1996

Trappe-Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426

Volume XXV, No. 4

## ***Dr. Marilyn L. Steinbright, Noted Benefactor, Receives 1996 Muhlenberg Award***

Dr. Marilyn L. Steinbright, President of The Arcadia Foundation of Norristown, will be recognized for her regional and national leadership in assisting humanitarian, educational, historical, and religious organizations and non-profit groups in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and the nation and will receive the Muhlenberg Leadership Medal.

The presentation by the Leadership Committee, Muhlenberg Committee, and the Board of Directors of The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, and the Perkiomen Valley will be November 7, 1996 at 4:00 P.M. in the Berman Museum, Ursinus College.

Dr. Steinbright has been a lifelong member of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, now United Church of Christ; a member of Olivet United Church of Christ, Norristown; and a member of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.

One of the family interests has been the continuing education of the pastors of the United Church of Christ in Southeastern Pennsylvania and the Lancaster Seminary, along with the care of children and the aged.

*(continued on page 2)*



*Dr. Marilyn L. Steinbright*

## ***The President's Message***

*We have had a satisfactory Auction and Flea Market with net receipts of \$5,000.*

*Work continues in the restoration of the Muhlenberg House. We now have heat in the house. Flooring on the first floor will soon be installed. Much of the trim is on hand.*

*The plastering of the interior will be done in the next phase as funds become available.*

*Mr. James Lewars will be the speaker at our dinner meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup>. He is the Curator of the Daniel Boone Homestead and is associated with the Conrad Weiser Homestead and will speak about the Weiser family.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ivan W. Hess M.D.".

*Ivan W. Hess, M.D.  
President*

## **Annual Meeting Honors Muhlenberg Relative**

Conrad Weiser was the father-in-law of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. He was also the famous diplomat and treaty maker with the Indians, representing the Penn family. 1996 marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

Pastor Muhlenberg and Anna Maria Weiser were married in 1745 with a wedding gift from Conrad Weiser which helped establish the first Muhlenberg home in Trappe.

At the November 11<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting, which begins at 7:00 P.M., Mr. James Lewars, Curator of Daniel Boone Homestead and an

authority on Weiser, will give the Anniversary Address.

Father Weiser visited in Trappe on his way to confer in Philadelphia. His friendship with the native Americans brought them to the home in Trappe, both on 7th Avenue and on Main Street. They frequently camped here on their way to Philadelphia. Conrad Weiser was, of course, active in the French and Indian War.

Please use the form on the back page of *The Chronicle* to make your reservation for this important meeting.

*From The Journals of  
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg  
1777*

*October 1, Wednesday.* We give thanks unto Thee, Heavenly Father, that Thou hast protected us through the night from all danger.<sup>1</sup>

About ten o'clock this morning several regiments of the American troops which have been encamped here in the neighborhood marched off with flying banners. They passed by our orchard and proceeded toward the Shappach road in order to join the main army. It is said that there are still two thousand and some hundreds camping here in our neighborhood, mostly militiamen. Many visits from friends and acquaintances. Four strangers lodged in our house overnight. Old Mr. Armstrong<sup>2</sup> is the major-general of these troops.

*October 22, Saturday.* From early in the morning we heard a heavy cannonading on the water in the vicinity of Philadelphia. Visited by our son Henrich, his wife, and his father-in-law, who are fetching a load of their household goods and are giving up the little outbuilding because they have rented a house above in New Hannover. They paid Mama £10—Henrich £4 for his room and Mr. Hall £6 for the little house—in full. Afterwards our son Friedrich also came from New Hannover. He was downcast and depressed because his relatives on his side are such a great burden. Indeed, he has more burdens to bear than his strength allows. He is himself an exile, and with his wife and three children, a maid, and a children's nurse, and his brother's wife and child, there are nine persons, and with Sw[aine] and his wife eleven persons, in one small house at a time when prices are exceptionally high. In the evening Sw[aine] came from the camp and put up with us overnight.

<sup>1</sup> Morning prayer in Luther's Small Catechism.

<sup>2</sup> John Armstrong, 1717-95.

### *Preparation for Winter*

Volunteers are needed to clear the walks at Dewees Tavern and Muhlenberg House this winter. The Society does not have a snowthrower so you may bring your own shovel. Please contact Dr. Ivan W. Hess to give this very much needed service (610-489-7622). If you can contribute a snowthrower as a gift, it will be much appreciated.

**Dr. John C. Shetler, Editor**  
Myrna Knaide, Managing Editor  
M-K Computing Services

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

## *1996 Muhlenberg Award*

*(continued from page 1)*

She has been a benefactor of the Montgomery County Historical Society, the Legal Aid Society, the Montgomery County Library, and the Muhlenberg House.

In 1964, Dr. Steinbright, along with her mother Edith, founded The Arcadia Foundation. Before that time, she was an elementary school teacher in Collegeville. Since then, she has dedicated herself—both through the work of the Foundation and on her own—to humanitarian and philanthropic causes in Eastern Pennsylvania. She has supported large organizations such as The University of Pennsylvania and The Philadelphia Orchestra, and small local organizations like the Community Music School of Collegeville and the Retired Senior Volunteers of Montgomery County. This year, The Arcadia Foundation received over 500 requests for funding and awarded 155 grants totaling over \$3.1 million to local charities.

Her leadership also has been expressed through her Board service at Ursinus College, where she has been a member for over 20 years and currently serves as an officer. Dr. Steinbright also has served on the Boards of The Zoological Society of Philadelphia, Wildlife Preservation Trust International, The Franklin Institute, The institute for Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania, and Cedar Crest College, her alma mater.

Public recognition of her philanthropy and service includes honorary degrees from Cedar Crest and Ursinus Colleges; the Humanitarian Award, 1984, from the Valley Forge Area Chamber of Commerce; The Norristown Hall of Fame Award, 1986; Humanitarian of the Year Award, 1987, from the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE), Philadelphia Chapter, and The Judge Milton Moss Award for Community Service.

Her extraordinary support also has been acknowledged by Peoples Light and Theatre in Malvern with their Steinbright Stage, and Arden Theatre Company in Philadelphia with The Arcadia Theatre.

The Muhlenberg Medal is presented from time to time to a person who exemplifies the qualities of Vision, Faith, Integrity, and Service as exhibited by the Muhlenbergs at the birth of our nation. Other recipients have been Drew L. Lewis, William G. Warden, III, and Richard P. Richter.

The Muhlenberg Medal will be presented to a public ceremony of recognition in the Main Gallery of the Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College, Dr. John Strassburger, President. Participating in the presentation will be Ms. Lucy Ivins, Chairperson of the Leadership Committee, Presiding; Dr. John C. Shetler, Invocation; Dr. Richard P. Richter, Tribute; Dr. Ivan W. Hess, Medal Presentation; and Ms. Ingrid Evans, Reflections.

The public is invited to attend. For reservations, please call Dr. Ivan W. Hess (610-489-7622).

## *C E R T I F I C A T E O F G I F T FOR MATCHING GRANT*

To help restore the Muhlenberg House, I/we enclose a check made payable to the  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE**, in the name of

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Town State/Zip Tel.  
\_\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\_\$1,000 \_\_\_\_Other

Clip and mail to:

*Historical Society of Trappe  
P.O. Box 828 Collegeville, PA 19426*

## December Open House—Redware Pottery Exhibit

The Annual December Open House at the Dewees Tavern will be Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 4:00 P.M. This year Dr. Ivan W. Hess will mount an exhibit of redware pottery, a major portion of which has not previously exhibited in this area.

The exhibit will include Pennsylvania Redware mostly made during the 19th century. Featured will be pieces made by Isaac Thomas and Russell Stahl in the Powder Valley. Also on display will be pottery of Mrs. Naaman Keyser who worked in the Plymouth area of Montgomery County.

An interesting comparison will be seen in the pottery of George Ohr of Biloxi, Mississippi, because it is unique and entirely different from Pennsylvania Redware.

Of special interest will be a plate depicting "The Last Supper" done by Russell Stahl. The antique stretcher table in the Muhlenberg Room will be set with redware and 19th century bone handled tableware.

The exhibit will continue on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:30 to 4:00 P.M. Plan to invite your neighbors and December guests to see this fine exhibit. We suggest you mark this date on your calendar now!



## New Muhlenberg Medal Rendering

The 1996 Muhlenberg Medal will be a new rendering of the design by medallist sculptor Charles R. Ross of Schwenksville. The medal was struck by the Old Philadelphia Mint of Havertown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Ross is an award-winning artist with over thirty years of experience in the commercial arts and fine arts fields. With more than eighteen years experience, his work has been commissioned by such corporations as the Franklin Mint, Aero Service Corporation, and New Market Gallery. He has designed and sculpted coins for the British Virgin Islands.

The first three Muhlenberg Medals were produced by the Artist Emblem Company of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Both the 1992 and the 1996 renderings of the medal are based on the original design by the first Co-chairmen of the Muhlenberg Committee, John Stewart, Esq., and Dr. John Shetler. The obverse (front) carries the portraits of the father, Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, and of the three sons, Frederick Muhlenberg, First Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; General Peter Muhlenberg; and the Rev. Henry Ernst Muhlenberg, the first President of Franklin College (now Franklin and Marshall College). The reverse carries the name of the Historical Society, the name of the recipient, and the year the medal was conferred.



## Matching Goal in Sight

Help the Muhlenberg Committee reach the 1996 goal of matching the One Hundred Thousand Dollar Keystone grant by December 31<sup>st</sup>. We are pleased to announce that \$75,000 has been raised through October 1<sup>st</sup>. We now need to raise \$25,000 by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

We invite our members and friends to join in the special achievement of 1996 and complete this goal. Please use the matching gift form (left). Those who would like to give a special advance gift may contact Dr. Ivan W. Hess, President (610-489-7622) or Dr. John C. Shetler, Curator (610-489-2624), or any member of the Muhlenberg Committee.

## C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R

1996	
November 7	Muhlenberg Award Presentation Dr. Marilyn L. Steinbright Berman Museum, Ursinus College 4:00 P.M.
November 11	Veteran's Day Dinner 7:00 P.M. Moorehead's
December 8	Open House —Redware Exhibit Dewees Museum 1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
December 15, 22	Redware Exhibit continues Museum Open 1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
1997	
January - May	Museum Open by Appointment
June 8	Museum Open 1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
June 14	Flag Day Dinner Meeting 7:00 P.M. Moorehead's
September 6	Muhlenberg Flea Market

## Trappe Resident Winner of Quilt

At the September Auction and Flea Market, Ms. Connie Peck won the 1996 Historical Society Quilt. This year the Society Quilters contributed \$1,790 from the quilt raffle.

Mr. Anne Schrack, who leads the Quilters, has returned home from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania where she underwent a quadruple bypass operation. Her address is 555 Bonny Brook Avenue, Trappe, PA 19426.



## Memorial Gift Received

Carlyle and Mary Grimison Herrick have given a memorial gift to the memory of Mrs. Herrick's parents, founders of The Historical Society in 1964 and the last residents of Muhlenberg House. This gift of \$10,000 has helped bring the 1996 giving to the three-quarter mark of \$75,000 on the way to the matching \$100,000 Keystone Grant. We trust this fine gift will inspire many gifts large and small in the next three months. We gratefully remember our founders, Frederick and Violet Grimison.



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE**  
**P.O. BOX 828**  
**COLLEGEVILLE, PA 19426**

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OCTOBER 1996 NEWSLETTER  
PLEASE, DO NOT DELAY!

# VETERANS DAY DINNER

Monday, November 11, 1996 7:00 P.M.

Moorehead's ■ First Avenue ■ Trappe

**"Conrad Weiser—Diplomat, Treaty Maker, Patriot"**

**James Lewars, Curator**  
**Daniel Boone Homestead**

## *Veterans Day Dinner* RESERVATION

Clip and Mail to: Norman D. Holcombe  
21 Main Street  
Trappe, PA 19426

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me at \$15.50  
per person for November 11th.

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## TO PAY YOUR DUES EARLY

Bring to the Dinner or Mail to:

Richard Holcombe  
21 Main Street  
Trappe, PA 19426

No  
Persons

_____ Regular	@	\$8.00 =	_____
_____ Student	@	\$2.00 =	_____
_____ Schrack	@	\$12.00 =	_____
_____ Life	@	\$100.00 =	_____

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_