

The Chronicle

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

March 1997

Trappe-Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426

Volume XXVI, No. 1

Friends of the Muhlenberg House to Celebrate Restoration Progress

As we announce the success of the matching Keystone Grant and move on to the task of interior restoration, it seems appropriate to take time to celebrate our successes to date and share with the community the excitement and anticipation of our continued progress toward restoring the Muhlenberg House.

That is why we invite you to join us on Saturday, April 12th at Rhône-Poulenc Rorer at 6:30 P.M. for a festive Spring event. We know you will enjoy the beautiful setting of the restored "Barn" at RPR in Collegeville. RPR will also provide wine, microbrewery beer, and soft drinks—and a generous, delightful array of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres.

Muhlenberg House restoration architect John A. Milner and builder Jon Costanza of Sunpower Builders will be available to hear your comments and answer your questions.

An exhibit charting the history of the site and an up-to-date chronology of restoration events will be on display.

To top off the evening, an Art Show and Auction will be presented by the Heisman Fine Arts Gallery, Inc. of Ardmore. Many fine pieces by well-known artists will be presented for viewing as well as for bidding.

Please join us in this celebration. Tickets are very affordable at \$8.00 each (\$15.00 for two). Special rates are available in quantity, and advertising space is available in the attractive Art Show Program.



For tickets and additional information, call (610) 489-6911, Ext. 7.

Mark April 12th on your calendar!

The President's Message

The first phase of the interior restoration has been completed. The heating and cooling systems are functioning. The electric system is roughed in as is the alarm system.

Stairs to the cellar and the second floor are in place and half of the steps to the third floor are completed. Still to be done is the plastering, installation of trim, Bible Box and other trim which is on hand, including the doors.

Sponsoring an Art Auction at Rhône-Poulenc Rorer as a fund raiser is in progress under the general chairmanship of Mr. Norman Grant. This will be held on April 12 starting at 6:30 P.M. Tickets are now available at \$8.00 each. Please contact Randy Riegner, Ed Hiergesell, Norman Grant, Dick or Ginny Weicheld, or myself for tickets. Help to support this auction. RPR is providing wine and hors d'oeuvres prior to the auction.

Membership dues are payable—a statement is enclosed with The Chronicle.

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

Keystone Grant Completed

Wednesday, March 5th, Mr. Bryan van Sweeden, Manager of the Keystone Grant Program administered by the Historical and Museum Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, visited and inspected the Muhlenberg House. Members of the Restoration Committee, Dr. Ivan Hess, Alfred Douglas, Mary Hundertmark for her husband Eric, Dr. John Shetler, and Eric Hess, were present.

Mr. van Sweeden was pleased with the fine work accomplished and encouraged the Muhlenberg Committee to finish the interior.

We thank all our friends who contributed \$100,000 to match the Keystone Grant and the Historical and Museum Commission for awarding the grant.

Now our 1997 Goal is to raise funds to complete the interior of the house.

*From The Journals of
Henry Melchior Muhlenberg
1780*

March 4, Saturday. In the forenoon a noncommissioned officer of a corps of light cavalry came to me and asked whether I could take in some horses and men; seventy cavalry- en were coming through here on their march to Charlestown, South Carolina. We could not serve them because our house and stables are already occupied, nor do we have any hay or oats. It is a so-called *Independent Corps* under a Frenchman, *Col. Mons. Armand*. They quartered themselves in various houses in the neighborhood.

March 5, Sunday. Last night I had another dream about the vexatious unrest in Philadelphia. The weather is pleasant but the roads are still muddy and bad. A deacon let me ride his horse to Augustus Church, where I preached to the congregation on the spiritual agony of our most blessed Redeemer in the Garden of Gethsemane, based on the harmony of the Evangelists. I promised to conduct service a week hence and came home on foot. The light cavalry, or hussars, as one says in Germany, rode on this forenoon. I read Mr. Thomas Pyle's *Paraphrase* of the Epistle to the Hebrews;¹ it is exceedingly fine.

March 6, Monday. In the forenoon a major arrived with a servant and two horses. He is going to Virginia with the general. Registered for marriage: Conrad Schmidt, single, and Margretha Bausman, also single, both of New Providence. She is the sister of Carl Jung's wife. The rest of the time was spent as usual.

Invitation to Membership

With this issue of *The Chronicle* is a history of your Historical Society Membership Dues. If you are presently not a member, we invite you to affiliate. We thank everyone who keeps the membership current.

| | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|----------|
| Regular | \$8.00 | Schrack | \$12.00 |
| Student | \$2.00 | Life | \$100.00 |

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

Printed by ProCopy

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

Inaugural Muhlenberg Leadership Roundtable

On Wednesday, April 2, 1997, the Muhlenberg Leadership Committee will host the first in a series of Leadership Roundtables to be held in the Muhlenberg House on Main Street in Trappe.

The Roundtable will bring together a group of about twenty men and women from the Perkiomen Valley to begin a conversation on leadership needs in this period of rapid change. The Committee, an activity of the Trappe Historical Society, envisions this Roundtable as the first of many such conversations at this historic site. The event is being sponsored by Harleysville National Bank.

The Committee's stated mission is "to positively affect our community and society through leadership development for persons of social responsibility as demonstrated through ancestral and contemporary leaders." "The Committee is pleased to hold the inaugural Roundtable in pursuit of this mission in the restored House," stated Lucy Ivins, Committee Chair. "Through this and subsequent Roundtables, we aim to have an ever-deepening influence on the quality of life in the Perkiomen Valley and beyond."

This first Roundtable, led by Richard P. Richter, will address the question: *Are there constants of leadership in our time of constant change?* The Roundtable members will participate in a search for a set of key changes that will make our community and our society better in the years just ahead. It will then seek agreement on the qualities, attitudes, and actions of leaders needed to make these changes come about, and, finally, determine the next question to address at a future Roundtable.

Richter, who led Ursinus College for eighteen years before becoming President Emeritus in 1995, was the 1994 recipient of the Muhlenberg Leadership Medal.



Finish the Interior in the Muhlenberg Anniversary Year

We invite all our friends and members in the Perkiomen Valley to join in the finishing of the interior of Muhlenberg House in this 255th Anniversary Year of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's arrival in Trappe in 1742 and the 210th Anniversary of his death in 1787.

You will be hearing more about the anniversaries in the next issue of *The Chronicle*. This will be an exciting year. Opportunities will be provided for everyone to participate. To accomplish this wonderful goal we shall need to raise \$125,000. Please use the Certificate of Gift (below) to make your 1997 contribution.

**C E R T I F I C A T E O F G I F T
FOR COMPLETION OF THE INTERIOR**

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

Opportunities for Service

Be a Guide, Host or Hostess for Muhlenberg House and for Dewees Museum. The museum season for Dewees Tavern begins June 8th. Muhlenberg House at present is open only by appointment while restoration continues. However, we are beginning work to prepare for a system of historically acquainted and accurately costumed guides for Muhlenberg House. We encourage both men and women to be interested in both sites. To participate call the Curator, John C. Shelter, 610-489-2624.



Interested in Candle Dipping?

The Society has the equipment for candle dipping in storage. These tools should be in use. We have a target date of September 21, 1997—Heritage Sunday. Please call and volunteer.

If you are already skilled in a craft, we shall be glad to discuss your possibilities for service.



Participate in the 19th Century Tool Exhibit

The museum will mount an exhibit of 19th century tools for June 8th. Of course, we shall also welcome 18th century tools and can accept 20th century tools through 1925. Small tools will be in locked cases. Large items will be hung or given floor space.

All materials should be in hand by May 20th, along with any history or identification. The items exhibited will bear the name of the lender. Call the curator at 610-489-2624.

C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R

1997

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| March-May | Museum Open by Appointment Exhibit: Recent Acquisitions |
| April 2 | Inaugural Muhlenberg Leadership Roundtable Muhlenberg House, 1:00-5:00 P.M. |
| April 12 | Art Show and Auction Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, 6:30 P.M. |
| June 8 | Museum Open 1:30-4:00 P.M. Exhibit: 19th Century Tools |
| June 14 | Flag Day Dinner Meeting Moorehead's 7:00 P.M. |
| June 15 - August 24 | Museum Open 1:30-4:00 P.M. Exhibit: 19th Century Tools |
| September 21 | Heritage Sunday Museum Open 1:30-4:00 P.M. |
| November 11 | Veteran's Day Dinner Moorehead's 7:00 P.M. |
| December 7, 14, 21 | Museum Open for Advent Open 1:30-4:00 P.M. Exhibit: the Madonna in Art from the Collection of The Rev. Robert E. Horne |

1997 Anniversaries

| | | |
|-------|--|------|
| 280th | Settlement of Trappe by John Jacob Schrack | 1717 |
| 265th | Birth of our First President, George Washington | 1732 |
| 255th | Arrival of the Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg in Trappe | 1742 |
| 255th | Founding of the Reformed Church in Providence (St. Luke's) by the Rev. John Philip Boehm | 1742 |
| 220th | Arrival of the Continental Army and Pennsylvania Militia in Trappe following Battle of Brandywine | 1777 |
| 220th | Bestowing the rank of Brigadier General on John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg | 1777 |
| 215th | Matthias Richards, husband of Maria Salome (Sally) Muhlenberg, to Congress | 1782 |
| 210th | Franklin College established with the Rev. Henry Ernst Muhlenberg as First President | 1787 |
| 210th | John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg elected Vice President of Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania | 1787 |
| 210th | Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg—President of the Pennsylvania Convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution | 1787 |
| 210th | The Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg died October 7th | 1787 |
| 195th | John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg appointed by President Monroe to be Collector of the Port of Philadelphia | 1802 |
| 190th | General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg died in Philadelphia and buried in Trappe | 1807 |

Additional Display Area

The cupboard in the Tavern Room (southwest room) of the Dewees House is being equipped with shelves, lighting, and secure glass doors by Mr. Lloyd Ziegler, a member of the Museum Committee.

The original cupboard doors and antique character are being maintained. This will give additional display area for items now in storage and which need secure protection.



Items Needed for Dewees Museum

We shall appreciate the following gifts—new or used:

- Sweeper with Attachments
- Small Tool box
- Bookcases or Shelves
- 6-Foot Stepladder
- Wastebaskets
- File Cabinets

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

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



MARCH 1997 NEWSLETTER
PLEASE, DO NOT DELAY!

Gift and Remembrance Suggestions

Prints of Dewees Tavern from a Water Color

by Mr. Eugene Bechtel (These are limited edition prints. Only 250 were made. When the supply is exhausted, there will not be another printing.)

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Signed Print | \$40.00 |
| Matted Signed Print | \$55.00 |
| Matted Artist's Proof | \$65.00 |
| Framed Signed Print | \$125.00 |
| Framed Artist's Proof | \$135.00 |

Display a TRAPPE FLAG on our National Holidays

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Desk Top Flag with Holder | \$3.00 |
| 12" X 18" Flag | \$5.00 |

Mugs Suitable for All-Purpose Gifts

| | |
|--|--------|
| Displays the Symbols of Trappe or Muhlenberg | \$3.00 |
|--|--------|

Bill of Rights (Facsimile)

| | |
|--|--------|
| Contains the Signature of Frederick Muhlenberg | \$1.00 |
|--|--------|

Anniversary Book of Trappe

| | |
|---|--------|
| 275th - Pictures, Historical Sketches, Businesses | \$2.00 |
| 250th - Pictures, Historical Sketches, Businesses | \$1.00 |

Map of Itinerary of Washington's Army in Montgomery County

| | |
|--|--------|
| Army Crosses Schuylkill at Parkerford and Some Units Camp in Trappe | \$3.00 |
|--|--------|

T-Shirts

Some T-shirts are available. Three different logos: Old Style Muhlenberg House, New Style Muhlenberg House, and Emblem of Trappe. Some Large, Medium, and Small sizes. Also some Children's sizes. Prices: \$6.00 and \$8.00

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| <u>Tiles with Trappe Emblem</u> | \$1.00 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Muhlenberg Sunvisors</u> | 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <u>Postcards/Scenes in Trappe</u> | 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00 |
|---|--------------------------|

| | |
|---|----------|
| <u>Muhlenberg Plate, by Lester Breininger</u> | \$100.00 |
| Call Dr. Ivan Hess (610) 489-7622 | |

Items may be obtained at the Dewees Tavern on the last Wednesday of each month, 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M., where the Muhlenberg Committee and the Historical Society Board meet, as well as during special events.

**IF YOU HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO FORMERLY LIVED IN THE TRAPPE AREA,
 REMEMBER THEM WITH AN HISTORICAL SOCIETY GIFT.**