



The Chronicle



The SPEAKER'S House
HOME OF
Frederick Muhlenberg

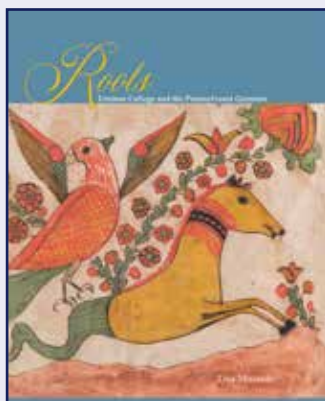
Volume XLVIII No. 2 Fall/Winter 2019

Dewees Tavern Reopens

After months of renovations, the new Center for Pennsylvania German Studies at the Dewees Tavern opened in late September to much fanfare. Nearly 300 people attended the preview receptions and opening weekend. The first floor now contains five exhibition galleries—four semi-permanent installations of furniture, fraktur, needlework, and much more, plus a changing exhibitions gallery which currently features *Roots: Ursinus College and the Pennsylvania Germans*. The renovations included the addition of an accessible restroom, LED track lighting, security alarm upgrades, repainting, and extensive repairs.

Many local businesses supported this effort, including Dave's Hardwood Flooring, Spring City, Pa.; Old Village Paint LTD, Perkiomenville, Pa.; and Tint-Pro, Trappe, Pa. Our volunteers contributed their skills and enthusiasm in countless ways. Eric Hundertmark oversaw the renovations and kept the project on track, with the help of Jim Reynolds, Ed Dixon, Bruce Grasberger, Jim Kelly, and Tom Musselman. Joan and Victor Johnson of Philadelphia generously provided the lead financial support needed to bring this project to fruition. The Dewees Tavern is now open on Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm, and Sundays, 1 to 4 pm.

Roots exhibition catalogues are available for sale at the Dewees Tavern for \$25 and include 116 pages and many color photos of Ursinus College's Pennsylvania German collection.



Guests enjoying the preview party



Members Lee Knepp, Carolyn and Bill Weigel



Highlights from the *Roots* exhibit

Reflection on Summer Internship

My name is Melissa Bergoffen. I've worked at Trappe's historic sites for four years, starting with the archaeology field school at The Speaker's House, then in 2018 and again in 2019 as a summer intern. This year, my main focus was the library at Dewees Tavern, a large undertaking due to the scope of this mostly uncatalogued collection. At the start, fellow intern Jessica Steele and I went through all of the books to assess their condition and relevance to the collection. Then, we catalogued the books to record details such as title, author, publication date, and inscriptions by previous owners. Items were identified for possible removal due to condition issues, duplication, outdated research, or lack of relevance. We then worked with Jeanne Harper and Lisa Minardi to cross-check everything against the Historical Society's donor records and present our findings to the Museum Committee. At the start of this project, it was quite a challenge to find a specific item in the library, but now, after a summer's worth of hard work, it has become much easier to do so. Future steps include making the library collection available online. I am extremely grateful to have been part of this effort, and I'm excited to hear that the library is already being used by visitors to the new Center for Pennsylvania German Studies at the Dewees Tavern.



Melissa Bergoffen (left) and Jessica Steele (right)

Donations of any size to help fund new library bookcases are welcome. Please contact info@historictappe.org for details.

From the Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg

In 1746, Henry Muhlenberg assisted his father-in-law, Conrad Weiser, to mediate a dispute within the Lancaster congregation. One party was so upset with the pastor for being friendly with the Moravians that they barred him from the church; the other side supported him. Muhlenberg wrote down and clarified all the points of contention and got both sides to agree on some common ground. The result would have been a strong,

united congregation. Unfortunately, it all came to naught. The pastor and his followers left and built a new church. We would do well to pay attention to the failures as well as the successes of our ancestors. We can learn from both.

"My father-in-law...made peace proposals, suggesting that both might have their services in the church with equal rights without disturbing one another. When I learned of this,

I wrote down the points and attempted to find out whether the united party was satisfied with them..." [But the pastor] "struck out several points and desired to have it changed, in spite of the fact that the majority of both parties had agreed upon the document the preceding evening."

*Submitted by
The Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer,
Chaplain*

Candlelight Tours at Henry Muhlenberg House

Enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of a colonial Christmas during the Candlelight Tours at the Henry Muhlenberg House on Saturday, December 7, from 3 to 9 pm and Sunday, December 8, from 12 to 4 pm. Learn how Pennsylvania German families like the Muhlenbergs celebrated the Christmas season with special foods including citrus fruits, gingerbread, and pretzels. Explore the Henry Muhlenberg house by the glow of candlelight, accompanied by the scent of fresh cloves, grated nutmeg, and oranges from the kitchen, while live piano music drifts through the air. Don't miss a truly magical experience!



Photos by Gavin Ashworth

Trappe Tree Lighting

Mark your calendar for the annual Trappe Tree Lighting on Wednesday, December 4, starting at 6:30 pm on the front lawn of the Speaker's House. This beloved event begins with a community sing-a-long of traditional Christmas carols and seasonal songs prior to the countdown to the official tree lighting, followed by a visit from Santa Claus who arrives on a fire engine courtesy of Trappe Fire Company No. 1. We will also be collecting donations of non-perishable food and pet food items as well as new, unwrapped toys for the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry.





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TrappeHistoricalSociety.org

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Friedrich Muhlenberg

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SpeakersHouse.org

Historic Trappe Fall / Winter Calendar of Events

Through December 31	Center for Pennsylvania German Studies galleries open for tours, Dewees Tavern (Saturdays 10 am–4 pm, Sundays 1–4 pm)
Thurs., October 10, 6–9 pm	Tavern Night, Dewees Tavern
Sat., October 19, 8 am–2 pm	Craft Fair/Flea Market, Augustus Lutheran Church
Sat., October 26, 1–3 pm	Trunk or Treat, St. Luke's UCC
Sat., November 16, 2–4 pm	Historical Society Annual Meeting, Dewees Tavern
Sun., November 17, 3–5 pm	Speaker's House Annual Meeting, Augustus Lutheran Church
Weds., December 4, 6:30 pm	Trappe Tree Lighting, Speaker's House
Sat., December 7, 3–9 pm	Candlelight Tours, Henry Muhlenberg House
Sun., December 8, 12–4 pm	Candlelight Tours, Henry Muhlenberg House
Sun., December 14, 3 pm	Christmas Concert, Augustus Lutheran Church

Tavern Night

Tickets available at HistoricTrappe.org