



The Chronicle



The SPEAKER'S House
HOME OF
Frederick Muhlenberg

Volume XLVIII No. 1 Spring 2019

Living History Day

Kick off the spring tour season with us on Saturday, April 20, as you explore the Henry Muhlenberg House and Speaker's House. Learn how Pennsylvania Germans introduced popular Easter traditions to colonial America—including decorated eggs and the Easter bunny. There will be a special demonstration of making Pennsylvania German Easter eggs; the eggs are first dyed a reddish-brown color with onion skins and then designs are scratched into the surface to reveal the white shell underneath. Try your hand at making your own scratch-decorated Easter egg and take it home with you for just \$1.



Skilled craftsmen will be at both sites demonstrating historic trades including blacksmithing, bookbinding, calligraphy, gardening, felting, hatmaking, spinning, tailoring, and tape weaving. Visit with Henry Muhlenberg in his study and learn about the challenges of his family life and work as a busy Lutheran pastor. Tour the kitchen garden at the Speaker's House and see what spring crops are growing. Our gift shop will also be stocked with lots of new material, including beautiful floral printed fabrics from Colonial Williamsburg and handmade items from local artisans. The Living History Day will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5/adult (members free) and includes guided tours of both the Henry Muhlenberg House and Speaker's House. On-site parking will be limited to handicap only; general parking is at St. Luke's UCC, 200 W. Main Street. Guided tours are available at other times by appointment; contact info@historictrappe.org to schedule a visit.

*(top) Volunteers Jenna Detweiler and Denae Zvarick till the kitchen garden at The Speaker's House, 2018.
(bottom) Easter egg dyed in onion skins with traditional scratch-decorated Pennsylvania German motifs.*

Farmers Market

In 2016, The Speaker's House established a farm stand to sell heirloom vegetables, flowers, and herbs from its newly-restored Pennsylvania German kitchen garden. Beehives and honey were added in 2017. This year, a farmers market is being developed with more vendors including Day Spring Farm in Coatesville, with artisanal sheep's milk cheeses and hand-felted wool items; Lucky Seven Farm in Spring City, with free range organic eggs; and the Ursinus College student-run organic farm with seasonal produce. The farmers market opens on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and runs into October.



Heirloom radishes and carrots from the garden

Pennsylvania German Foodways Lecture

Join us on Wednesday, June 12, at 7 p.m. for a potluck dessert followed by a special presentation by historian Alan Keyser on Pennsylvania German foodways—everything from cooking techniques to kitchen layouts. There will also be a pop-up exhibition featuring local, 18th and 19th century artifacts from several private collections including cooking utensils, redware molds, and more. This free event will be held at St. Luke's UCC, located at 200 W. Main Street.



Sauerkraut-making demonstration

From the Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg

Henry Muhlenberg often bemoaned the terrible poverty that crippled his German-speaking congregations and inhibited them from providing adequate ministry and schooling. Some wanted to solve this problem by eliminating salaries for the clergy.

"Oh, what a great advantage do most of the congregations in Germany have in this regard! We preachers...are content with the

barest subsistence and are glad to make it as easy as possible for the congregations; but there still remains the reproach cast by the sects and some of our own intractable brethren-in-name.

The sectarians say that we could support ourselves by manual labor and preach for nothing, as they put it, and among ignorant people they point to the example of the Apostle...And yet, all those who are concerned for the

truth have hitherto been willing to give the last mite out of their livelihood for the extension of the churches and schools, and say that never in all eternity can they be sufficiently thankful for what our Reverend Fathers and our many worthy benefactors in Europe have done for them and their children."

*Submitted by
The Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer,
Chaplain*

New Objects on Display at Henry Muhlenberg House

Thanks to a new partnership with the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia, several Muhlenberg family objects will be returning to the Henry Muhlenberg House for the first time in more than 200 years. One of these loans is a glass tankard owned by Henry Muhlenberg. The front is engraved with an image of a basket of tulips. Made in Continental Europe, this tankard may have been brought by Henry when he immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1742.



Also on loan is a wooden box first owned by Anna Eve Weiser (c. 1705–1781), wife of Conrad Weiser. At or before her death, the box passed to her daughter Mary, wife of Henry Muhlenberg. Mary (Weiser) Muhlenberg lived until 1802. Look for these objects at the Henry Muhlenberg House when we reopen for tours on April 20. Many Muhlenberg papers, including Henry's journals, are in the Lutheran Archives; learn more at lacphila.org. The Lutheran Archives is open by appointment and located on the campus of the United Lutheran Seminary, 7301 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia.

Dewees Tavern Renovations Update

Renovations to the Dewees Tavern are underway—including the addition of an ADA restroom and upgrades to the lighting, HVAC, and security systems—to create a Center for Pennsylvania German Studies with five galleries for changing exhibitions and ongoing displays of furniture, fraktur, redware, textiles, and more. Objects from the Historical Society and Speaker's House collections will be displayed along with loans from other museums and private collections. The Historical Society's long-time research library and archives will remain, along with more resources on Pennsylvania German art and culture. There will also be dedicated classroom/workshop space and a fraktur/textiles study center.

More information about the opening of the new Center in September 2019 and special exhibition plans will be in our next newsletter.



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Fredrick Muhlenberg

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SpeakersHouse.org

Historic Trappe Spring / Summer Calendar of Events

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| Sat., April 20, 10 am–4 pm | Living History Day, Henry Muhlenberg House/Speaker's House |
| Sun., April 28, 5–9 pm | Party for Preservation, The Barn on Bridge |
| Sat., May 11, 1–5 pm | Mother's Day Tea Party, Keystone Grange Hall |
| Sat., May 18, 10 am–1 pm | Sit n' Stitch, Keystone Grange Hall front porch |
| Mon., May 27, 10 am | Collegeville-Trappe Memorial Day Parade, Main Street |
| May 28 to June 22 | Archaeology Field School, Speaker's House
(Tues./Weds./Fri./Sat. from 8:30–4 p.m.) |
| Sat., June 1, 1–4 pm | Garden Party, Speaker's House |
| Sun., June 2, 9 am–noon | Old Church Sunday, Augustus Lutheran Church |
| Weds., June 12, 7–9 pm | Pennsylvania German Foodways lecture with artifact show-and-tell
and dessert potluck, St. Luke's UCC |
| Sat., June 22, 1–4 pm | Ice Cream Social, Keystone Grange Hall |
| Sun., July 14, 5–8 pm | Dinner on Main, Trappe Main Street |
| Sun., Sept. 1, 12–7 pm | 150Fest, Ursinus College |