



The Muhlenberg Tercentenary

by Rev. Bob Meschke

In the coming months we'll be celebrating the ***Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of The Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg***. Born in Einbeck, Germany on September 6, 1711, and educated at the Universities of Gottingen and Halle, ***Pastor Muhlenberg's*** life spanned two continents and over seven decades until his death in 1787.

Hopeful that his theological preparation and Call to the Christian Ministry would eventually take him as a missionary to India, ***Pastor Muhlenberg*** was disappointed to learn that he had not been chosen for this endeavor. Instead he would continue his Pastoral ministry in Germany until, on his birthday in 1741, he would be challenged by an even greater Call as Pastor to the ***"Lutheran people in the Province of Pennsylvania."***

Planning has been going on for some time to commemorate the Life and Ministry of this ***Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in Colonial America***. Special exhibits and events will mark the year in Gottingen and Halle, and on this side of the Atlantic at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia where the Muhlenberg archives are kept, the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, and, of course, our own Trappe community.

The ***Historic Muhlenberg Partnership (HMP)*** was formed last year to coordinate the various

activities taking place in our community and involves Trappe Borough, the Berman Museum, The Speaker's House, Augustus Church, and our own ***Trappe Historical Society***. A calendar of special events has been prepared starting with a parade on Memorial Day with a ***Trappe/Muhlenberg*** theme.

For our part, we are expecting visitors to our restored ***Henry Melchior Muhlenberg House*** beginning with the start of Summer hours in June and extending into 2012. Dona McDermott was recently able to obtain additional 18th century furniture and household items to help make the house look ever more like the home the Muhlenbergs occupied from 1776 until 1787.

In our ***Dewees Tavern Museum*** we will have displays related to the family's life, the Muhlenbergs' neighbors, and the breadth and depth of Pastor Muhlenberg's ministry. While all this is going on we will also be in the midst of our second year of archaeological exploration that will include a second look at the Kiln.

We're all very excited about the coming year and the many interesting people this celebration will bring into our midst. You are invited to get involved as a Tour Guide, Museum Committee Volunteer, Archaeological Assistant, or any other of the many ways your talents and interests may beckon you. ❖