American Folk Art Society

Tour of the Perkiomen Valley in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

September 28–30, 2018

Our home base will be the Hotel Fiesole in Skippack Village, a quaint Victorian town lined with historic buildings, shops, and restaurants. From there we will explore the Perkiomen Valley, a region settled in the early 1700s by German immigrants of Lutheran, Reformed, Mennonite, and Schwenkfelder heritage. On the first day we will visit the town of Trappe, founded in 1717 and home to the Muhlenberg family of German Lutheran fame. AFAS academic member Lisa Minardi, director/curator of the Historic Trappe museums, will lead us on a special tour of the historic architecture and current restoration work, decorative arts collections, and gardens. We will also get a special preview of plans to establish a Pennsylvania German heritage center in Trappe, opening in late 2019. In the evening we will tour the private folk art collection of Adrienne Stalek and Dave Pickel. On the second day we will enjoy special behind-the-scenes tours of the Henry Antes House, Goschenhoppen Folklife Museum, Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center (home to 1,300+ fraktur!), and a local private collection. At the end of the day, we will tour the uber-Germanic home of Daniel Hiester, built in 1757 and recently acquired by Lisa Minardi and Philip Bradley, who will host us for cocktails and dinner.

Thursday, September 27
Arrive and check-in to hotel

Hotel Fiesole: 16-room boutique hotel with full restaurant
http://www.hotelfiesole.net/rooms.html
4046 Skippack Pike, Skippack, PA 19474
610.222.8009
info@hotelfiesole.net

Alternative nearby hotel if Hotel Fiesole books up:
Woodside Lodge at Spring Mountain: 9-room bed and breakfast with full restaurant
http://woodsidelodge.us/
150 East Park Avenue, Schwenksville, PA 19473
484-552-8457

Friday, September 28

9:30 a.m. — Depart hotel for first destination

10 a.m. — Tour of Augustus Lutheran Church, 717 W. Main St., Trappe, PA 19426
Built in 1743, the church retains many of its original Germanic architectural details including a pair of extraordinary wrought iron weathervanes with scrollwork and tulips.
11 a.m. — Tour of the Henry Muhlenberg House, 201 W. Main St., Trappe, PA 19426
Built c. 1750 and home of Lutheran pastor Henry Muhlenberg from 1776–1787 and his son General Peter Muhlenberg from 1787–1802. Site includes a newly-restored colonial herb garden.

Noon — Lunch at the Trappe Tavern, 416 W. Main St., Trappe, PA 19426

1:30 p.m. — Tour of The Speaker’s House, 151 W. Main St., Trappe, PA 19426
Built in 1763 and home of Frederick Muhlenberg, first Speaker of the U.S. House and first signer of the Bill of Rights, from 1781 to 1791. Site includes an authentic PA German kitchen garden.

3 p.m. — Tour of the Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College, 601 E. Main St., Collegeville, PA 19426
Focus on the Pennsylvania Folklife Society collection of fraktur, redware, and metalwork

4:30 p.m. — Tour of the Dewees Tavern Museum, 301 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA 19426
Behind-the-scenes preview of the future home of the Pennsylvania German heritage center, opening in 2019 with galleries for special exhibitions and long-term displays, a research library and archives, accessible collections storage, and classroom/workshop space.

5:30 p.m. — Depart for final destination and dinner

6:15 p.m. — Cocktails and tour of private collection, 407 Randall Road, Wyncote, PA 19095
Home to Adrienne Stalek, president of The Speaker’s House, and her husband Dave Pickel, this mid-century modern rancher provides a striking backdrop for their collection of Pennsylvania German wood carvings, painted chests, and boxes including examples by Henrich Otto, John Drissell, the Compass Artist, John Scholl, and more.

7:15 p.m. — Depart for dinner at Marzano Ristorante, 309 York Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046

9:30 p.m. — Return to hotel

Saturday, September 29

9:30 a.m. — Depart hotel for first destination

10 a.m. — Tour of the Henry Antes House, 318 Colonial Road, Perkiomenville, PA 18074
Designed and built in 1736 by Henry Antes, a Moravian master builder, this massive stone house has a central chimney and steeply pitched roof that provide rare evidence of the earliest homes built by
German immigrants to Pennsylvania. The house was also used as a Moravian school, one of the first interracial nonsectarian schools in all of colonial Pennsylvania.

11 a.m. — Tour of Goschenhoppen Folklife Museum, 116 Gravel Pike, Green Lane PA 18054
Located in a former fraternal lodge built in 1907, the Goschenhoppen Folklife Museum is home to an extensive local collection of Pennsylvania German fraktur, furniture (including a spectacular painted corner cupboard), textiles, and tools.

12:30 p.m. — Lunch TBD

2:00 p.m. — Tour of private collection of Tom Musselman, 2946 Upper Ridge Rd., Pennsburg, PA 18073
Focus on early Philadelphia furniture, including examples by joiner John Head, along with Pennsylvania German stove plates.

3:00 p.m. — Tour of Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, 105 Seminary St., Pennsburg, PA 18073
Curator Candace Perry will give us a behind-the-scenes tour featuring highlights from the museum’s 1,300+ examples of fraktur as well as painted furniture, needlework, and more.

5 p.m. — Tour and dinner at the Daniel Hiester House, home of Lisa Minardi and Philip Bradley, 2414 Sumneytown Pike (Rt. 63), Sumneytown, PA 18084 (note: Google Maps and some GPS units use Telford, PA 18969 as the address; the house is just east of the village of Sumneytown).
Built in 1757, the Hiester House retains many of its original Germanic details including ornate wrought iron hardware, built-in schranks and cupboards, a grand baroque staircase, five elaborate fireplace mantels, and a massive attic rafter system. A German immigrant and the prosperous owner of a nearby tannery, brick- and tileworks, Hiester built his house of unique tri-color bricks using Flemish bond and glazed headers on all four sides—an extremely rare and ostentatious manner of construction. The house is currently undergoing a complete restoration and will thus likely be unfurnished during our visit.

9 p.m. — Return to hotel.

Sunday, September 30

10 a.m. business meeting at Hotel Fiesole