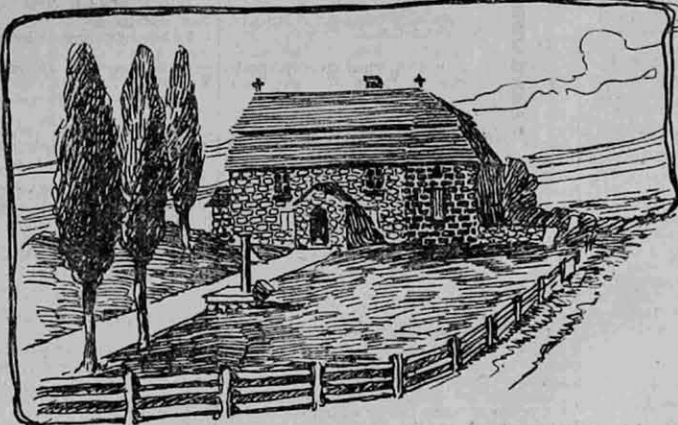
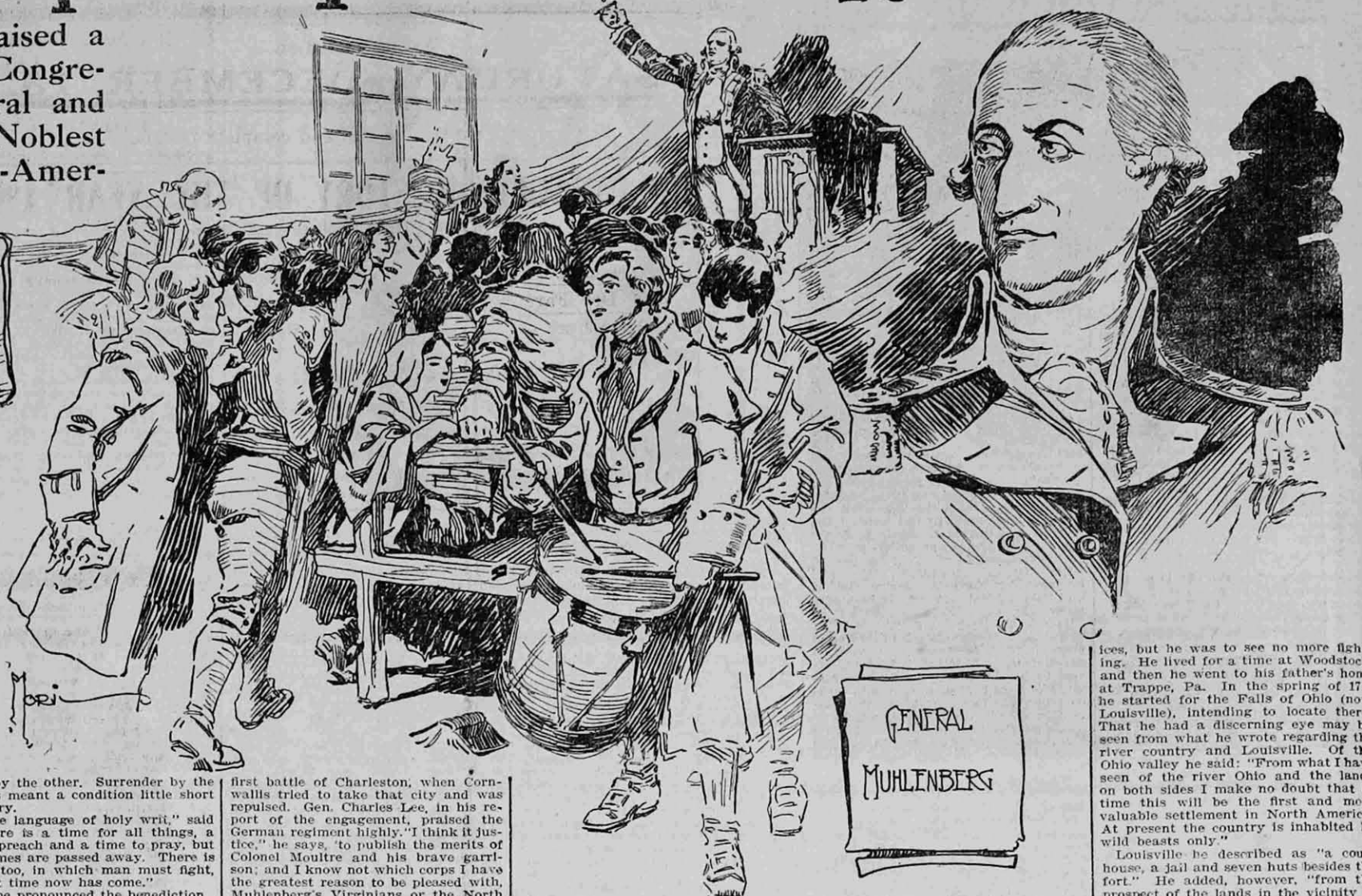


MUHLENBERG, THE PATRIOT PASTOR OF THE REVOLUTION

LUTHERAN Clergyman Who Raised a Regiment from His Frontier Congregation and Rose to Be Major General and United States Senator—One of the Noblest Members of a Really Great German-American Family.



ANCIENT LUTHERAN CHURCH AT TRAPPE
THE CRADLE OF LUTHERANISM
IN AMERICA



THE MUHLENBERG FAMILY.

Henrich Melchior Muhlenberg, patriarch of the Lutheran church in America, pioneer and patriot; born Elmbeck, Hanover, September 6, 1711; died Trappe, Pa., October 7, 1787.

SECOND GENERATION.

John Peter Gabriel, American soldier and statesman, pastor Woodstock, Va.; born October 1, 1746, at Trappe; died October 1, 1807, in Philadelphia.

Frederick Augustus, American statesman, Lutheran clergyman, first speaker of Congress; born January 1, 1750, at Trappe; died June 4, 1801.

THIRD GENERATION.

Peter, American soldier. Francis, American statesman.

FOURTH GENERATION.

William Augustus, P. E. clergyman, founder St. Luke's Hospital, New York; poet, musician, hymn writer, organizer of the first Protestant Episcopal Sisterhood; born Philadelphia, September 16, 1796; died New York, April 8, 1877.

FROM mountain cabin and valley farm there gathered in the rudely built little church at Woodstock in the Blue Ridge country of Virginia one Sunday in January, 1776, such a multitude as the house of worship never held before. For 50 miles or more about the parishioners had assembled, so that when the shepherd of the flock ascended the pulpit the benches were filled, the aisles crowded and the doors and windows choked with people. The pastor was only 29, tall, clean-limbed, athletic. He had none of the orator's gifts except fervor and simplicity of statement. It was his farewell sermon he was to preach, and after a prayer he plunged into his subject. He told his congregation their own story; how they had left Germany years before to seek a

larger measure of freedom, religious and political, in the New World, and how they had gone into the wilderness to get it. He told of his father, the patriarch of the church in America, and of his work. He told of his own career, of his trip to Germany as a boy, of his attendance at the University of Halle, of running away after striking a brutal instructor, of enlisting in a regiment of dragoons, of returning to America and completing his education under his father's direction and of his admission into the ministry.

And then he took up the wrongs of the colonists. In a clear, plain way he sketched the attitude of England toward the American subjects, the harsh, unbending, unsympathetic character of the king, the insistence of the ministry in imposing whatever in the way of taxation it saw fit to visit upon the colonists; the denial of the right to the colonists of having any voice or any representation in the matter of taxation; enforcement by military power of the orders of the crown when these orders conflicted with the legal rights of the people, and of a multitude of other acts that had embittered the people. He traced step by step the aggressions of the government, and named one by one the privileges that had been withdrawn from the people. With every withdrawal of privilege the freedom of the people had been restricted more and more. Absurd laws had been brought into use, the only purpose of which seemed to be to harass, embarrass and madden the people. In his own case, for example, how ridiculous it was to compel him to go to London and go through the form of being admitted to the Church of England ministry before he would be permitted to become pastor of the Lutheran church at Woodstock. He told of the efforts made by the colonists to protect themselves, first by appeals to the government's sense of justice, then by blunt refusal to submit to acts that invaded their legal rights and then by threats of armed resistance. In words that aroused the coldest he told his parishioners that, although the German colonists of the Blue Ridge valley and the German colonists throughout the New World were no less concerned for freedom, and in the battle of the efforts made by the colonists was one of sacred character. Invasion of the rights of the people was the concern of all. He feared and he believed there was no withdrawal from the stand taken either by the crown or by the colonists. Each had gone too far to accept anything except complete sur-

render by the other. Surrender by the colonists meant a condition little short of slavery. "In the language of holy writ," said he, "there is a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to pray, but those times are passed away. There is a time, too, in which man must fight, and that time now has come." Then he pronounced the benediction.

THE CALL.

For 30 seconds or more there was a stillness such as the little church never had known before in times when the congregation were present. Then, slowly and reverently, the pastor took off his priestly robes and stood before the congregation in the uniform of a Continental colonel. Laying his clerical dress on the pulpit rail and drawing his sword, he descended from the pulpit. "Beat the drums! Beat the drums for recruits!" he called to boys he had stationed at the church door.

As the sound of the drums beat a stillness such as the little church never had known before in times when the congregation were present. Then, slowly and reverently, the pastor took off his priestly robes and stood before the congregation in the uniform of a Continental colonel. Laying his clerical dress on the pulpit rail and drawing his sword, he descended from the pulpit. "Beat the drums! Beat the drums for recruits!" he called to boys he had stationed at the church door.

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first battle of Charleston, when Cornwallis tried to take that city and was repulsed. Gen. Charles Lee, in his report of the engagement, praised the German regiment highly. "I think it justice," he says, "to publish the merits of Colonel Muhlenberg and his brave garrison, and I know not which corps I have the greatest reason to be pleased with, Muhlenberg's Virginians or the North Carolina troops. They were equally alert, zealous and spirited."

Considering the fact that Lee, whatever his faults may be, had been a general in the army of England and the army of Poland, and was considered one of the highest military authorities of that day, this was quite flattering for a recruit. But Muhlenberg's regiment had other claims for recognition. It was the first one that was complete for immediate service and it was the best armed, best clothed and best equipped in the Continental army.

Throughout 1776 Muhlenberg served in the south. In February, 1777, he was promoted to be brigadier general, ranking in the army list immediately after Anthony Wayne. He took command of his brigade in May, and had it in a high state of discipline at the time of the battle of Brandywine. If he had not been so the Continental army might have been destroyed in that battle, for it was this brigade that checked Cornwallis after his lordship had turned Washington's flank. One of the English generals, in his report of the battle, said this of Weeden's and Muhlenberg's brigades: "They exhibited a degree of firmness, order and resolution very seldom seen in a militia, and they preserved such a countenance in extremely sharp service as would not have discredited veterans."

STURDY AND TRUE.

These two reports, that of Lee at Charleston and the English general at Brandywine, afford an excellent line on Muhlenberg's men as they were throughout the war. They were good soldiers, very hard to dislodge once they took a position. They were not brilliant, but they always could be relied upon. And the general was a good deal like them. No one ever credited him with being a military genius, but he knew how to put his own good fighting spirit into his men, and he kept up a higher degree of discipline than any other general in the Continental service except Wayne. It is not to be supposed that he was lacking in ability. In the battle of Germantown he did exactly what Washington assigned him to do and was only general to carry out his orders to the letter. If the others had done as he did the whole British force would have been captured, but Muhlenberg carried out his orders so well that he penetrated to the point of concentration, only to be there without support and to have to fight his way out. His lost one regiment before he could extricate himself, but the wonder is that he was not crushed.

Throughout the winter at Valley Forge Muhlenberg had charge of the outer semicircle, and in the battle of Monmouth his brigade formed the right wing of General Greene's division. Greene received high praise for the conduct of his division, so it can be accepted as a fact that Muhlenberg's brigade did pretty well in the grueling fight that followed the rout of Lee's force.

It was not until the magnificent affair of Stony Point that Muhlenberg came prominently into notice again. While Wayne made his dashing assault on Muhlenberg, with 300 picked men of his brigade, and supported the attack. The glory of the assault belonged to Fleury, but the fact that in this hazardous undertaking Muhlenberg should have acted as second in command is evidence of how highly the commander-in-chief considered the pastor of Woodstock.

REAL WORK.

In 1779 Washington sent Muhlenberg back to Virginia. The British had met much resistance and their victories in the north had been barren, but in the south it had been different. The south, while the richest part of the young republic, was the weakest, large sections of Georgia and the Carolinas being disaffected, and Sir Henry Clinton had taken advantage of this condition to send various expeditions to the south. One of these expeditions had ravaged, plundered and burned the Virginia seaboard without opposition. Much as Washington would have liked to defend his own state he could not. He did not dare withdraw his threatened attack upon New York, and he had urgent need of every regiment in his command. Something had to be done, however, for the protection not only of Virginia, but for the support of an army that would keep the British busy in the Carolinas and Georgia. So he sent Muhlenberg to Virginia, but kept Muhlenberg's brigade on the coast. The person not only had to raise and drill a new force, but also to the equipment of the regiments. How successful he was in carrying out the wishes of his superior is shown by the large body of troops under his and Lafayette's command, which entered Cornwallis' in Yorktown and started the fight that ended the war.

Probably throughout the whole Revolutionary struggle General Muhlenberg did no better service for the country than in this period of recruiting an army. His great popularity among the Germans he used to the utmost degree, and then he used the fine example set by the Germans to influence

others to enlist. And when voluntary enlistment had about reached its limit he was not averse to resorting to conscription. He was in Virginia to raise an army and he raised one. What he had to contend with may be appreciated when a letter he sent to Washington in response to one the commander-in-chief had written to him begging him to hurry forward recruits to General Gates, who had taken command in Georgia, is read.

"They would have gone on before this time," Muhlenberg wrote, "but there is a total want of everything necessary to fit them for the field. There are neither tents, tents, nor blankets, and it is but a few days since we were able to procure arms fit for service."

BENEDICT ARNOLD.

While still engaged in filling the gaps in Gates' army, Muhlenberg had something new to worry him. A British fleet of 60 sail entered the James river and began disembarking 3,000 men. Hurriedly collecting his recruits, Muhlenberg marched with 800 men to meet the invaders, leaving General Weeden behind in Richmond to collect troops to reinforce him. Before he left Richmond, however, he rushed a dispatch bearer to General Washington with a message explaining the position of the British, recommending that the French fleet be sent to blockade the enemy's fleet, and promising to keep the land force busy and get it into a net if the French checked escape by sea.

Muhlenberg got reinforcements so rapidly that he advanced on Portsmouth, drove in the enemy's pickets and kept General Leslie confined to his intrenchments. There was no fear of the British in ability, but there was no escape for Leslie if the French fleet appeared. But the French did not arrive. Washington either had other ideas or the French had other ideas. At any rate, Leslie was able to board ship and sail away, his expedition a fiasco, but the Americans more disgusted than he possibly could be.

In January, 1781, there was a new invasion of Virginia. Benedict Arnold landed at Portsmouth to do what Leslie had failed to do. Of the 5,000 volunteers that Muhlenberg managed to get together around Portsmouth when Leslie was cooped up there, 4,000 had disbanded and the remainder were ill provided for. Baron Steuben had been sent to Virginia, and being Muhlenberg's superior, superseded him in command. Muhlenberg was absent on furlough when Arnold landed, and the traitor was ravaging the country before the pastor was in the field again. Before the month of his shipboard exile was over, Muhlenberg had gathered enough force to drive Arnold into Portsmouth. Muhlenberg tried vainly to put through a plan conceived by Thomas Jefferson to capture the traitor, and was much distressed over its failure. He tried, too, to draw Arnold out from the fortifications and risk a battle, but Arnold would not accept his challenge. Then there came a development that changed the whole situation. A detachment of the French fleet appeared, and Baron Steuben, supposing, as he had good reason to, that it would cut Arnold off, left Muhlenberg to look after the investment of Portsmouth, while he, with about 1,000 men, rushed to the aid of General Gates, who had supplanted Gates and who was threatened by Cornwallis.

The French fleet, after capturing a frigate and some smaller vessels, sailed away, Admiral Mifflin saying there was not enough water for his ships. The importance of capturing Arnold so appealed to Washington that he made a vigorous protest against Mifflin's conduct and Admiral Desouches promised to repair the situation by going

with his whole fleet and in addition landing 1,100 infantry on the Chesapeake shore. Washington dispatched Lafayette with 1,200 regulars from the main army to co-operate with the French and to assume command of the forces in Virginia.

It looked as if Arnold was caged sure enough and there was great rejoicing when a big fleet appeared. But the rejoicing did not last long. The fleet was that of Admiral Arbuthnot. It had met Desouches off the capes and smashed the Frenchman with the fleet came 3,000 men under Gen. Phillips. These men were to unite with Arnold's, the whole force to join that of Cornwallis.

YORKTOWN.

The clouds hanging over Virginia were growing darker. The British, tired of inaction, and now having a great preponderance of force, took the aggressive, ascending the James river. On March 25 they attacked Petersburg. Muhlenberg, with 1,000 militiamen, conducting the defense. The British force of 2,300 was resisted stubbornly for two hours, and then the Americans retreated. The conduct of the militia won the highest praise, and the resistance was so spirited that the British were delayed a sufficient time to permit Lafayette to join forces with Muhlenberg, and effectually prevent a junction of the commands of Phillips and Cornwallis at Richmond, where they had planned to come together.

Phillips after some raiding returned to Portsmouth, where he died and Arnold resumed command. Cornwallis and Arnold joined forces on May 20 at Petersburg and then began that fine game between Lafayette and Cornwallis, which resulted in the Yorktown surrender. Cornwallis looked upon Lafayette as insignificant. No doubt he was far below the British lord in ability, but it is unwise to undervalue an opponent. And then Cornwallis was hampered by his orders from Sir Henry Clinton. When orders came for them to retire from Virginia he planned to embark at Portsmouth, but Yorktown was forced upon him and when on Aug. 28, 1781, the fleet of De Grasse arrived in the bay Cornwallis was doomed.

In the attack on the two redoubts that forced the surrender the Baron de Viomenil led the French party that captured the right redoubt, and Alexander Hamilton and Gen. Muhlenberg led the American party that stormed the redoubt to the left, Muhlenberg being in command.

THE CLOSING CHAPTER.

So far as military matters were concerned Peter Muhlenberg's career was closed with Yorktown. He was made a major general, and a grant of 30,000 acres of land in the Ohio valley was made to him in recognition of his service.

ices, but he was to see no more fighting. He lived for a time at Woodstock, and then he went to his father's home at Trappe, Pa. In the spring of 1784 he started for the Falls of Ohio (now Louisville), intending to locate there. That he had a discerning eye may be seen from what he wrote regarding the river country and Louisville. Of the Ohio valley he said: "From what I have seen of the river Ohio and the lands on both sides I make no doubt that in time this will be the first and most valuable settlement in North America. At present the country is inhabited by wild beasts only."

Louisville he described as "a court house, a jail and seven huts besides the fort." He added, however, "from the prospect of the lands in the vicinity of the town, and its situation, it promises fair to become a place of great importance."

He returned to Pennsylvania without settling at Louisville, and in 1785, although he had been a resident of the state only two years, he was elected vice president of Pennsylvania. Benjamin Franklin being elected president. These elections were held under the Constitution of 1776, which assigned these titles to the first and second officers of the state. The general continued in this office until 1788, when the present Constitution of the United States was adopted. Under the new Constitution General Muhlenberg was elected a member of the first Congress to serve from March 4, 1789, to March 4, 1791. His brother, Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, was the first speaker of the house of representatives. The general was a member of the Third and of the Sixth Congress. He always was a strong supporter of Thomas Jefferson and, when in 1801 the choice of a president between Jefferson and Burr was deadlocked in the house of representatives, Muhlenberg worked for his old friend as he never worked before. Not only so, but when it was planned to prominent Federalists to declare the election null and void and vest the executive power in the chief justice so as to keep the Federal party in control, it was Muhlenberg who declared that if such an attempt was made it would be resisted by force. Gen. Muhlenberg was selected by Jefferson to depose the usurping government with the militia of Pennsylvania. On the thirty-sixth ballot, however, Jefferson was elected president.

On Feb. 18, 1801, Muhlenberg was elected United States senator. He served only a few months, and resigned to become supervisor of internal revenue. In 1802 President Jefferson made him collector of the port of Philadelphia, and he held the office until he died, Oct. 1, 1807.

He died of a disease caused by exposure in the Revolutionary war, a trouble that caused him great suffering for a year prior to his death. His body was laid away alongside that of his father in the churchyard of the old Lutheran church at Trappe, Pa., the cradle of Lutheranism in America. Perhaps no modest old churchyard in America contains the dust of so many great men as does that in Trappe.

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\$400 for Sam Christensen, grocer, 5th E. and 7th So. Sts., Salt Lake City.
\$400 for J. H. Bacon, banker, San Francisco, Cal.
\$400 for J. D. Craven, sheep-raiser, Payson, Utah.
\$400 for G. F. & H. B. Beckstead, sheep-raiser, formerly of Riverton, Utah.
\$400 for John Strickley, Kentucky Liquor Store, Salt Lake City.
\$400 for Niel Isaacson, Utah Liquor Store, Salt Lake City.

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