



LEHIGH COUNTY

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Press Release

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New Hex Sign Presented To Lehigh County Board of Commissioners *Presentation Honors Pennsylvania Dutch Roots In Lehigh County*

Allentown, PA- On Monday, November 9th, 2020, the Pennsylvania Music Preservation Society and Historic Benner Mansion Inn presented a new hex sign to the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners. Madam Chair Amy Zanelli was present to receive the sign from coordinator, Siobhan “Sam” Bennett. The sign was awarded to show thanks for the county’s continued interest in preserving its Pennsylvania Dutch roots and unique “blumme” image.

The sign will be placed in Lehigh County’s Public Hearing Room.

Titled the “Trexler-Benner Lehigh County Hex Sign”, it was designed by both Bennett and artist Eric Claypoole. Its design reflects the county’s signature “blumme”, a petal or tear drop hexagon flower in the traditional barn star style specific to Lehigh County. The hex sign’s shape is chosen in honor of Lehigh County’s most notable residents and champions—General Harry C. Trexler and Captain Nolan P. Benner.

Both men earned their military titles from their time in leadership with the PA Quartermaster Corp. Their duties ranged from tending to the needs of troops stationed during WWI to driving Mack Trucks ambulances throughout the war. Trexler, with his protege Benner, became the founders and executive directors of what is now one of the nation’s largest regional foundations, *The Trexler Trust*.

This trust benefits both the city of Allentown and Lehigh County while famously co-funding the Allentown’s renowned park system. Additionally, the trust donated \$155 million dollars of charitable investments over the last 80 years. Benner’s PA German roots and his lasting contributions to Lehigh County, along with General Trexler, inspired the design of this Trexler-Benner Hex Sign.

The sign is meant to honor their shared vision and raise awareness on the region’s unique “blumme” hex sign style and the county’s roots in Pennsylvania German history. An identical barn star will also be permanently mounted on the exterior property line of the Historic Benner Mansion Inn.

Pennsylvania Music Preservation Society Co-Founder and Grammy-nominated polka artist Alex Meixner was also present at the virtual event along with Captain Benner’s grandchildren, Linda and Chuck Garretson.

For further questions, please call or text Siobhan Bennett at 484-560-2810.

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