

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.
from

The Moravian Archives
2007

The Moravian Archives in Bethlehem is the official repository for archival records of both the Northern Province and the Bethlehem Area Moravians. Because of our history and location we feel closely connected to the Moravian Church in the Bethlehem area.

It is our task and our privilege to collect, preserve and to make available the inspiring history of our Church. We do our work, knowing that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of our Church and that in our history we can see Him guiding and leading us. Like the early Moravians we feel that we do not record ordinary history, but that we preserve testimonies of experiences our fathers and mothers had with Him. We want to pass this history on to future generations.

This past year the Moravian Archives celebrated its 250th anniversary: in 1757 the archives of the congregation in Bethlehem was organized for the first time. The Archives celebrated this fact during our annual Friends' Day (March 18) and by the launch of the Journal of Moravian History (published together with the Moravian Historical Society).

Bethlehem Area Moravians contributes to the annual budget of the Moravian Archives. In 2007 we received additional funds from BAM to help us replace the Archives' roof. Thanks to generous financial support from BAM and the Northern Province, combined with an emergency grant from the United Brethren on Staten Island, it was possible to replace the leaky Archives' roof during December of 2007 and January of 2008.

During the second week of November BAM sponsored the placement of the Moravian seal on the Archives' building. The seal, facing the parking lot of Moravian College, makes the Archives clearly recognizable as a Moravian institution.

Highlights from 2007

- ★ we developed a time line of 550 years of Moravian history for the 550th anniversary of the Unitas Fratrum. The ten panels were displayed at BAM events such as Moravian days in June and the BAM picnic in September
- ★ young Moravians from various BAM churches completed an internship at the Archives and helped us organize collections and enter data into our computer system
- ★ a group of over 40 volunteers gave us a total of 1,642 hours
- ★ the archivist taught a course in archival studies at Moravian College during the Spring term of 2007. He is currently teaching a course in Moravian history
- ★ Lanie Graf, assistant archivist, presented our educational outreach program on German script at eight middle and high schools throughout the Lehigh Valley
- ★ an inventory of the records of the Bethlehem Boarding School for Girls or Female Seminary was completed and is available online
- ★ more than 3000 books from the Archives' library are now cataloged and accessible through the international WorldCat system (web based)

- ★ the creation of a reception area in the Archives' entrance area has given our facility a more functional and user-friendly appearance
- ★ the lectures and other programs at the Archives are well attended by church members, students and faculty of Moravian College as well as by members of the public
- ★ our electronic newsletter, *This Month in Moravian History*, reaches an international audience of 700 subscribers every month. Some churches throughout the Northern Province include the newsletter in their church newsletters
- ★ the *Journal of Moravian History*, published in close cooperation with the Moravian Historical Society, reached a break-even point shortly before issue 3 came out
- ★ the Archives received a grant of \$15,000 for our Records Online Project. This project will be realized during the first half of 2008, offering online access to our catalogs

Staff

June Lacke, administrative assistant at the Archives since 2002, left the Archives in September to move to Massachusetts. During her years at the archives, June organized many events and automated the administration of our Friends' donations as well as our financial administration.

Claire Klatchak began her work as administrative assistant/office manager at the end of September.

We were sad to hear about the sudden death of Br. Albert Frank in Niesky, Germany, on February 4, 2008. Br. Frank was assistant archivist between 1996 and 2001. As assistant director of the Moravian Music Foundation he worked out of an office located in the Archives' building. Br. Frank retired in May of 2007 and moved to Niesky together with his wife and daughter.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Bethlehem Area Moravians for their continuous support during 2007. This support enables the Archives to preserve the heritage of the Moravian Church, make it accessible for future generations, and to share the inspiring message of faith Moravians have carried with them over the centuries.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Peucker
archivist

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