

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.
from

The Moravian Archives 2013

The Moravian Archives is grateful for the continued financial support of the Bethlehem Area Moravians. This support enables us to continue our programming, to preserve the history of the Moravian Church and to share this history with the public.

In January of 2013 we began preparations for the installation of new shelving in our main vault. Two project assistants, Zack Biro and Donnie Wieand, were hired to coordinate moving all collections out of the vault into the reading room. Because of the help of many student workers and volunteers (including the director of the Moravian Music Foundation and the archivist of the Southern Province) thousands of boxes were labeled and moved. By the end of April the vault was empty and the gallery and two-thirds of the reading room were filled with boxes. Under the leadership of project manager Jeffrey Long the vault was renovated and new shelving was installed. During these months of renovations a kitchen was installed in the Archives as well. The project manager kept the project on schedule and by the end of May everything was back in place in order for the start of the annual German Script Course on June 3.

The vault renovations and the installation of the new shelving were made possible thanks to a generous matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This federal grant is a wonderful recognition of the relevance of the history of the Moravian Church and of the work of the Moravian Archives. The new compact shelving almost doubles the capacity of the vault. This increase will enable us to store incoming records from our congregations for at least another 35 years.

During the summer we hired Thomas McCullough as new assistant archivist. Tom began his work on August 19. He was able to familiarize himself with our holdings before the Archives officially reopened to the public on September 3.

The renovations of the Moravian Archives will continue in 2014. A generous donation from a Bethlehem Moravian enables us to install new museum-standard LED lighting in the gallery. Once we have raised enough funding for the renovation of the other public spaces, the Archives will close again. When everything is finished, the Archives will be better equipped to serve the Moravian Church and the public.

Other Highlights from 2013

1. Because the Archives was closed during eight months of the year, fewer research visits (160) were recorded than usual (2012: 361). However, September and October were especially busy months.
2. A total of over 44 volunteers gave us a total of 1,716.25 hours. A new volunteer, Dee Collins, conservation technician from Philadelphia who recently moved to

Bethlehem, has trained a group of volunteers to perform conservatory work on the book collection. Currently, the group is working on the Congregational Library (1481-1854), the original library of the Bethlehem Moravian congregation, founded in 1751 and consisting of 1,140 titles.

3. The Archives hosted a German-English Singstunde, together with Central Moravian Church and the Moravian Music Foundation in December and a historic Christmas Eve service at the Whitefield House in Nazareth.
4. Our electronic newsletter, *This Month in Moravian History*, reaches an international audience of more than 1100 subscribers every month.
5. Issues 13/1 and 13/2 of the *Journal of Moravian History* were published in cooperation with our publisher, Pennsylvania University Press.
6. Translation work on volume 3 of the Bethlehem diary continued during 2013.
7. The Moravian Archives and the Moravian Historical Society began the sale of Moravian stars, manufactured in the star factory of the Moravian Church in Herrnhut, Germany. The proceeds of these sales benefit our two historical organizations as well as the Moravian Church in Germany.
8. The steps at the front entrance underwent an extensive repair in November.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Peucker, archivist

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