

MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

Inventory of the
Personal Papers of
Joseph Mortimer Levering

Mike Tier
(2007)

Biography:

Joseph Mortimer Levering was born to Lewis Alexander and Sophia Theresa Levering on February 20th, 1849 in Harrisburg. Levering spent most of his childhood moving west with his parents until 1859 in Illinois where he first became involve with the Moravian Church. He began his basic studies with the church. In 1870 Joseph Levering entered Moravian College and Theological Seminary and graduated in 1874. He was ordained as a deacon on December 20th 1874. His first church was located in Uhrichsville, Ohio. He was there from 1875- 1879, and while there, he was ordained a presbyter. Also, while in Ohio he married Martha Augusta Whitesell on June 6th, 1876 and had their first daughter, Marion Sophia on July 17th 1878. The next congregation that Levering served was in Lake Mills, Wisconsin. While in Lake Mills his wife gave birth to their second daughter, Alice Gertrude on July 5th, 1881. Finally Levering and his family moved to Bethlehem where he became a bishop on September 30, 1888. While serving as a bishop in the church he was also asked to be the Provincial Archivist. He served in this position until 1901 when he went on a short retirement from his official duties due to illness until 1903. During his retirement period, Levering resided at the Whitefield House in Nazareth and wrote his book, *A History of Bethlehem*. Bishop Levering returned to his duties at the church until his death at age 59 on April 4th 1908 of neuralgia of the heart.

Archival History:

The Levering papers where found in the old archives building. They were probably left there from when he returned to his official duties within the church after his short stint of retirement. The records were organized by Michael Tier, student at Moravian College, in 2007.

Scope and Content:

The papers are all part of his research for his book *A History of Bethlehem*. The papers consist of the manuscript of the book and some miscellaneous papers about the church. These papers range from brochures about the 100 year anniversary to the hymns that he would give at mass. There are also many letters that people of Bethlehem wrote to him in response to questions about genealogical histories of the people that belonged to the congregation.

Box 1 (Folders 1-7)

- 1. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 1 (pages 1-9) and Chapter 2 (pages 10-54)**
- 2. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 3 (pages 55-92)**
- 3. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 4 (pages 93-118)**
- 4. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 5 (pages 119-179)**
- 5. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 6 (pages 180-269)**
- 6. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 7 (pages 270-369)**
- 7. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 8 (pages 370-486)**

Box 2 (Folders 8-13)

- 8. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 9 (pages 487-579)**
- 9. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 10 (pages 580-658)**
- 10. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 11 (pages 659-733)**
- 11. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 12 (pages labeled 744-840, actual 734-830)**
- 12. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 13 (pages 841-940)**
- 13. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 14 (pages 941-1035)**

Box 3 (Folders 14-18)

- 14. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 15 (pages 1036-1144 3/4)**
- 15. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 16 (pages 1145-1230)**
- 16. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 17 (pages 1232-1255 1/2)**
- 17. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 18 (pages 1296-1358)**
- 18. History of Bethlehem Manuscript Chapter 19 (pages 1359-1403)**

Box 4 (Folders 19-30)

- 19. History of Bethlehem: Details of Pennsylvania Synods December 25, 1741- June 25, 1742**
- 20. History of Bethlehem: Catalogue of Portraits**
- 21. History of Bethlehem: Prologue, Preface, and Introduction**
- 22. Church Literature: Programs/ Newspapers**
 - 1. Cornerstone Laying Linden Hall Seminary Gymnasium. Presented by Governor Staurt. December 6, 1907**
- 23. Church Literature: Programs**
 - 1. First District Synod of the Fifth District (Alberta) and Mission**
- 24. Church Literature: Sermons**
 - 1. Anniversary of First Church, Philadelphia. November 4, 1906. John 1: 51**
- 25. Church Literature: Sermons**
 - 1. Centennial Anniversary of the Consecration of the Bethlehem Church May 20, 1906**

26. Church Literature: Sermons
 1. Commemoration of the 450th Anniversary of the founding Brethrens Church March 3, 1907. Hebrews 11:13 and 39-40.
27. Church Literature: Sermons
 1. Anniversary of Second Church, New York. October 27, 1907.

Zacharia 4:7.

28. Church Literature: Sermons
 1. Act VII, 48 and XVII 24
 2. Eph II 8, (Writer Unknown)
29. Church Literature: Address of Welcome to the Pennsylvania German Society. October 16, 1895.
30. Church Literature: Miscellaneous Notes

Box 5 (Folders 31-43)

31. Genealogical Notes
 1. Nitschmann Family
 2. Warner Family
 3. Leinbach Family
32. Genealogical Notes
 1. Neisser Family
 2. CPT Webb
 3. Honorable William Jones, Secretary of the US Navy
 4. Conrad Matthaei
33. Genealogical Notes
 1. Ancestry of Eleazer Williams
 2. Horsfield Family (Edmonds included)
 3. John Okely
 4. Friedrich Post
34. Genealogical Notes: Moravian Physicians in the Lehigh Valley
 1. John Adolf Meyer
 2. John Frederick Otto M.D.
 3. John Matthew Otto M.D.
 4. Christian Francis Kampmann
 5. Eberhard Freitag M.D.
John Frederick Rudolphi M.D.
Abraham Lewis Stout M.D.
 - Others Mentioned
Joseph Mullei
James Greening
Owen Rice
 6. Notes for McIntyre on early Moravian Physicians in the Lehigh Valley
35. Genealogical Notes
 1. Parson Family
 2. Spugel Family

3. Nichol Garrison and Family
36. Genealogical Notes: Correspondence on Genealogical Notes between Bishop Levering and Charles McIntyre M.D. January 9, 1898-October 28, 1899.
37. Genealogical Notes
 1. Demuth Family
 2. Hartman Family
 3. A list of living descendents of Men and Women who were members of the Moravian Congregation during it's first 20 years of existence.
 4. Miscellaneous Genealogical Notes
38. Historic Research Notes: The Moravian Pastorate of Bethlehem, PA, 1740-1896
39. Historic Research Notes
 1. Silk Culture
 2. Letter on the Origin of the University of Pennsylvania
 3. Collected Papers on the Colonization of Liberia
40. Historic Research Notes: Bethlehem Sketches. A talk on Bethlehem, its origin, traditions and distinctions, given in the chapel of Bethlehem Seminary for young ladies. October 10, 1895.
41. Historic Research Notes
 1. Jubilee 1892 (Sesqui-centennial)
 2. Nov. 24, 1905 Sesqui-centennial of the massacre of Gnadenhuetten, PA (Nov. 24, 1755)
 3. Brotherly Agreement
 4. American Philosophy Society
 5. References to historic items in the "Independent"
42. Historic Research Notes
 1. Publication of English Moravian Hymns
 2. J. Muller's German Catechismus
 3. An Epitome of Christian Doctrine
 4. Journey travel log of Henry Miller (printer) (London to Neuwied)
43. Historic Research Notes: Miscellaneous Notes