

MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

Inventory  
of the records  
of the

Single Sisters' Choir  
in Bethlehem  
1748 - 1844

BethSS

Paul Peucker  
2005

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## 01. Minutes

No minutes were found. It is possible that at a later point minutes from the Sisters' Choir will be found.

## 02. Reports

- 36 Memorabilia or annual report of the Single Sisters' Choir in Bethlehem for 1758. 1758  
Other memorabilia are to be found with the congregational diary.  
1 item

## 03. Correspondence

Hardly any correspondence survived. It is possible, though, that at a later point correspondence from the Sisters' Choir will be found at other locations in the archives.

- 97 Letter, received by the choir from their former Pfliegerin Anna Rosina Anders, written upon her arrival in Marienborn. 1764  
Sr. Anders left Bethlehem for Europe on May 7, 1764.  
1 item

## 04. Diary

- 1 Diary of the Single Sisters in Bethlehem. 1748 - 1756  
The diary starts with the arrival of the Single Sisters from Nazareth on Nov. 13, 1748. They moved into their choir house (that was previously used for the Single Brothers) on Nov. 15, 1748.  
1 volume  
some pages are loose
- 2 Diary of the Single Sisters in Bethlehem. 1757 - 1766  
1 volume  
some pages are loose
- 3 Diary of the Single Sisters in Bethlehem. 1767 - 1783  
1 volume
- 4 Diary of the Single Sisters in Bethlehem. 1784 - 1804  
1 volume
- 6 Diary of the Single Sisters in Bethlehem. 1805 - 1808  
Some entries are more extensive in this draft than in the official diary; other entries were not transferred into the official diary.  
1 notebook  
draft
- 5 Diary of the Single Sisters in Bethlehem. 1805 - 1841  
Also contains a historical account of the occupation of the extension of the Single Sisters' House on Oct. 19, 1773 (see under Oct. 19, 1823).  
1 volume
- 88 Fragment of a diary for May 3 - 27. 1779  
The text differs from the official Single Sisters' Diary and does not seem to be a draft for that but more an independent text.  
1 item

## 05. Organization

- 11 »Materialien zur Verfertigung der Chorberichte«, list of subjects to be included in the choir reports. 18th cent.  
1 item
- 9 »Hauptprincipia«, main principles of the Single Sisters' Choirs, taken from the »Verlass« or conclusion of the General Synod, held in Marienborn. 1769  
1 item  
torn in the middle
- 19 Instructions for the Helpers of the Single Sisters' Choir, with an accompanying letter from the UEC to the ministers (Gemeinhelfer) and the Choirhelpers and a separate letter to the ministers regarding the confidentiality of these instructions. 1785  
The instructions and the accompanying letters (except for the separate letter) are in triplicate.  
1 bundle  
Edition: See the research project by Katherine E. Faull.
- 75 Notebook of the overseer (Vorsteherin) (?) of the Single Sisters' House. 1813 - 1820  
1 notebook

## 06. Members of the choir

For catalogs, exclusively listing the names of the girls in the Girls' School, see under 12) Girls School.

- 26 Catalogs of the Single Sisters and girls in Bethlehem. 1754 - 1760  
The 1754 catalog also lists Nazareth. The 1758 catalog includes dates and places of birth.  
No catalogs for 1755 and 1759.  
1 folder
- 24 Catalog of the Single Sister Choir and the girls, including information on origin, parents, reception into the congregation and offices. (1760) - 1839  
Alphabetical index in the back.  
The register was started around 1760; latest entry dates from 1839. The original title of the register "Lebensläufe der ledigen Schwestern, kleinen Jungfern, und großen Mädchen" suggest a different kind of content. No Lebensläufe (in a Moravian sense) are included, but it is a catalog or register of membership.  
1 quart volume  
traces of frequent use are noticeable
- 117 List of Sisters by the year that they came to the Moravian Church, that they were received into the congregation and that they were admitted to Holy Communion. 1768 - 1779  
1 item
- 25 Catalog of the Single Sisters in America, i.e. in Bethlehem, Lititz, and Warwick. 1764 - 1765  
The Single Sisters of the town and country congregation are not included, although the original German title suggests so.  
1 octavo volume  
traces of water damage
- 27 Catalogs of the Single Sisters and girls in Bethlehem, including their dates of birth. 1764 - 1780  
No catalogs for 1765-66, 1779. The 1764 and 1777-78 catalogs also lists Nazareth. Most of the catalogs are in duplicate. Possibly one copy was meant for the Bethlehem Congregation or for the Provincial Helpers' Conference, that was at some point combined with the copy that was to remain in the records of the Single Sisters.

- The catalogs for 1770, 1771, 1772 and 1774 are bound in red Herrnhut paper.  
1 pack
- 28 Catalog of the Single Sisters and girls in Bethlehem, including information on their origin, parents, reception into the congregation and offices. 1780  
Nice calligraphy on the title page. Bound in red Herrnhut Paper.  
1 notebook
- 29 Catalogs of the Single Sisters and girls in Bethlehem, including their dates of 1787- 1800  
The 1792 catalog also includes information on their places of birth, reception into the congregation and offices.  
1 pack
- 30 Catalog of the Single Sisters and girls in Bethlehem, including information on their origin, parents, reception into the congregation and offices. 1800  
1 notebook
- 31 Catalogs of the Single Sisters and girls in Bethlehem, including their dates of 1801- 1819  
No catalogs for 1813, 1816 and 1818.  
1 pack
- 119 Catalogs of the Single Sisters and girls in Bethlehem, including their dates of 1820- 1829  
No catalog for 1826.  
1 pack
- 32 Catalogs of the Single Sisters and girls in Bethlehem, including their dates of 1830- 1837, 1844  
1 folder
- 34 Catalog of the Choir of the Older Girls. 1770  
Two lists, one by age and one alphabetically.  
2 items
- 37 Lists of changes in the Choir of the Little Girls (Mägdlein) since the last choir festival, stating births, deaths, transfers into the Choir of the Older Girls (Mädchen) and enrollment in the school. 1774 - 1800  
Contents: No lists for 1775-1778, 1783, 1785-87, 1789-1799.  
On the reverse of the list of 1780 there is a hymn with the tune, apparently written for the choir festival (Aug. 17).  
1 folder
- 35 Catalogs of the girls in Bethlehem. 1774 - 1810  
No catalogs for 1775, 1781, 1783, 1785, 1789-93, 1795, 1797, 1808-09.  
1 pack
- 82 Private (?) cashbook of Juliane Pierce. 1782 - 1813  
1 notebook
- 23 Last wills and papers regarding the administration of the estates of members of the choir. 1787 - 1831  
Contents (with years of death):  
Beck, Benigna (1788); Böckel, Elisabeth (1831); Beroth, Maria Elisabeth (1825); Christ, Mary (1818); Everit, Johanna (1815); Gambold, Elisabeth (1812); Gerhardt, Maria Catharina (1818); Hussey, Anna Johanna (1812); Isles, Maria Elisabeth (1813); Kremser, Anna Catharina (1828); Kremser, Anna Maria (1819); Langley, Anna Rebecca (1787); Langley, Erdmuth (1789); Löffler, Maria Dorothea (1789); Merz, Anna (1797); Meyer, Maria Agnes (1795); Motz, Margaretha (1812); Nitschmann, Anna Dorothea (1803); Österlein, Magdalena (1802); Poppelwell, Maria ("Polly") (1829); Schlatter, Maria (1787); Schmick, Anna (1821); Segner, Elisabeth (1813);

Seidner, Margaretha Barbara (1796); Stauber, Anna Maria (1793); Weber, Elisabeth (1790); Weiss, Hetty (1793); Zahm, Benigna (1804).

In some cases there is no will.

1 box

Language: German (some English)

- 38 Lists of changes in the Single Sisters' Choir and in the Choir of the Older Girls since the last choir festival, stating receptions into the choir, deaths, transfers into the Choir of the Married Couples, numbers, . 1801 - 1840  
No lists for 1804-1818, 1833.  
1 folder
- 89 List of the Single Sisters according to their rooms [?]. 1811  
The names are listed in groups, each with a superior (Vorgesetzte) and a helper (Gehülfin). These groups could refer to the rooms (Stuben) and/or the workshops. The Auswärtige ('non-local' sisters) were members of the choir but did not live in the choir house.  
1 item
- 83 Private (?) cashbook of a member of the choir. 1814 - 1820  
Bound in green Herrnhut paper.  
1 notebook
- 99 Letter of transfer for Mary Ann Harbough, transferring from Lititz to Bethlehem. 1829  
1 item

## 07. Relations with the central bodies in Bethlehem and Europe

- 7 Minutes of three »Jungfern Synodi«, synods of the Single Sisters, held in Herrnhut and Bethel (Berthelsdorf). 1755 - 1760  
Contents: Synod I in Herrnhut, Sept. 2 - 29, 1755, with Verlass.  
Synod II in Berthelsdorf, June 1 - 7, 1756, with an 'synodal' address [by Zinzendorf] to the the Single Sisters in Herrnhut, May 2, 1757.  
Synod III in Herrnhut, Apr. 24 - May 4, 1760.  
The minutes seem to be copied and sent out at the same time.  
1 folder
- 8 Minutes of the first Single Sisters' Conference held in Herrnhut after the deaths of Zinzendorf and Anna Nitschmann, June 17. 1760  
The conference, at which Johannes von Watteville was present, tried to regulate the affairs of the Choirs of the Single Sisters, now that the former leaders had passed away.  
1 item
- 12 Letter, received from Christian Gregor, president of the General Synod in Herrnhut, written to all the members of the Church to examine their spiritual constitution and to renew their commitment to the congregation. 1789  
1 quire

## 08. Spiritual life, festivals, special events

- 95 Fragment of an address to the girls on their choir festival. n.d.  
Beginning and end are missing. There is a change in handwriting on the page 1 and 4 which seems to suggest that this sermon was copied from another source. On the other hand, on page three there is a correction and a reference to two children who were received into the choir. This seems to suggest that this is an address, especially written for the occasion.

- 1 item
- 106 Addresses given by Leonhard Dober to the Single Sisters in Gnadenberg, Gnadenfrei and Herrnhut. 1763 - 1766, n.d.  
Contents: Aug. 28, 1763; May 4, Nov. 1, 1764; May 4, May 26, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, 1765; Febr. 7, 1766; n.d. (Jan. 19).  
1 folder
- 107 Addresses given by Leonhard Dober to the Older Girls in Herrnhut and Zeist. 1765, n.d.  
Contents: Aug. 17, Sept. 28, 1765; n.d. (Sept. 14).  
3 items
- 109 Addresses given by Paul Eugen Layritz to the Single Sisters in Barby and elsewhere. 1772-1774  
Contents: June 7, 1772; March 3, 1774.  
2 items
- 14 Addresses given by Johann Friedrich Reichel to the Single Sisters in Barby, Bethlehem [and elsewhere?]. 1772 - 1781  
Contents: June 11, June 25, 1772; May 4, Sept. 2, Dec. 9, 1773; Jan. 21, 1774; Febr. 15, 1776; Nov. 20, 1777; Apr. 20, 1779; May 4, 1779; Nov. 2, 1780; Apr. 24, May 3, May 4, July 8, July 29 (2 copies), 1781.  
Johann Friedrich Reichel (1731-1809) was a member of the UEC who came to the American congregations on a visitation from 1779-1781.  
The addresses of May 3 and 4, 1781 have corrections in the hand of Reichel himself.  
1 folder  
Annotation:
- 104 Addresses given by Johann Friedrich Reichel to the older girls in Barby and Bethlehem. 1776-1781  
Contents: May 3, 1776 (Barby); July 31, 1781.  
2 items
- 105 Addresses given by Johann Heinrich Andresen sr. to the Single Sisters in Barby. 1777  
Contents: Febr. 13, Oct. 9, 1777.  
2 items
- 110 Address given by an anonymous preacher to the Single Sisters in Barby. 1779  
Contents: Febr. 11, 1779.  
The text also appears in the Gemeinnachrichten, without identifying the name of the person who gave the address.  
1 item
- 108 Address given by Mathias Hehl to the Older Girls in Lititz. 1779  
Contents: March 25, 1779.  
1 item
- 93 Address to the older girls at their choir festival on March 25, in Barby. 1782  
Read in Bethlehem on Jan. 11, 1784.  
1 item  
fragment
- 15 Addresses held by Johann Andreas Hübner, Susanne von Gersdorf, Nathanael Seidel to the Single Sisters in Bethlehem at their choir festival. 1782  
1 quire
- 94 Fragment of a lesson to the girls on the changes in their bodies during puberty (ca. 1790)  
1 item  
incomplete

- 113 Verses written by various sisters and brothers for Marie Rosel Schulz on her birthday and other occasions. 1774 - 1816  
Also contains two undated musical pieces.  
A note by J. Mortimer Levering reads: "Birthday greetings in rhyme, which had accumulated in the Sisters' House at Bethlehem, were last in possession of Emma Rose Walter and her sister Ellen Rose, and after the death of the latter and removal of the former from the Sisters House July 1898 were by her put into the hands of JML."  
1 folder
- 91 Verses, written for various occasions. 1779, n.d.  
Contents: a welcoming verse for Maria Catharina Gerhardt as choir house servant (Chorhausdienerin) and Esther Wappler, a verse for Maria Catharina Gerhardt by 'ARK', and an English verse by 'Eusebius' (19th cent.).  
1 folder  
Language: German, English
- 111 Verse written for Susanna von Gersdorf on her birthday. 1787  
1 item
- 112 Verses written by various sisters and brothers for Marie Elisabeth Kunz on her birthday and other occasions. 1794 - 1816  
A note by J. Mortimer Levering reads: "Birthday greetings in rhyme, which had accumulated in the Sisters' House at Bethlehem, were last in possession of Emma Rose Walter and her sister Ellen Rose, and after the death of the latter and removal of the former from the Sisters House July 1898 were by her put into the hands of JML."  
1 folder
- 114 Verses, written for various unnamed sisters. 1796, n.d.  
1 folder
- 118 Report of the celebration of Anna Nitschmann's birthday by the Single Sisters in Bethlehem. 1749  
Anna Nitschmann was in Europe but the Bethlehem Sisters honored her birthday in absence.  
1 item
- 17 Ode for the lovefeast at the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the founding of the Single Sisters' Choir on May 4. 1830  
According to the Single Sisters' Diary this ode was a revised version of an ode compiled in Herrnhut for this occasion.  
1 item  
fragile

## 09. Choir House

- 84 Account for the construction of a cowshed. n.d.  
1 item
- 85 Journal for expenses and receipts for the construction of an addition to the choir house, of a wood shed and a chimney. 1771 - 1777  
1 quire
- 86 List of cut wood, needed for the addition to the Single Sisters' House. 1772  
1 item
- 41 Receipts for work on the extension of the Sisters' House. 1772 - 1773  
2 bundles

- 90 Calculation of the costs for erecting a fence around a lot of the Single Sisters and of the shares the neighbors are to contribute. 1811  
1 item
- 21 Inventory of the 'Bettkammer', sick room (Krankenstube) and 'Pflegerstube' in the Single Sisters' House. 1815  
Bettkammer: 'eine Kammer, in welcher Betten aufbewahret werden' (Adelung, Grammatisch-kritisches Wörterbuch). The Pflegerstube was most likely the room for the Choirhelper (Schwesternpflegerin) but could also have been the room for the nurse (Krankenpflegerin).  
1 item

## 10. Finances and assets

- 22 Bonds, issued by the Single Sisters' Diacony, payable to various people. 1786 - 1825  
Contents:  
Margaretha Bauer, 1800.  
Catharina Blum in Hope, 1805.  
Christiana Engelhardt, 1800.  
Anna Catharina Kremser, 1807.  
Elisabeth Lewis, 1786, 1800.  
Verona Miller, 1800.  
Christine Elizabeth Möhring, 1805.  
Benigna Charity Pyrlaeus, 1808.  
Verone Schneider in Lititz, 1803.  
Anthony Smith sr., 1811.  
Louisa Stots, 1825.  
Mary Tippet, 1801.  
Anna & Maria Werner, 1811.  
Rosina Werner in Nazareth, 1822.  
1 folder
- 87 Memorandum on the development in the financial situation of the Single Sisters' Diacony over the previous ten years. 1816  
1 item

## 11. Bookkeeping

- 58 Annual accounts of the Single Sisters' Diacony. 1762/63 - 1826/27  
No accounts for 1763/64, 1765/66, 1769/70, 1770/71, 1798/99-1803/04, 1812/13-1815/16, 1819/20-1820/21, 1825/26.  
For the missing years, see the registers of annual accounts.  
These copies were probably destined for the Elders' Conference or the Provincial Helpers' Conference, while the registers of annual accounts were meant to remain in the archives of the Sisters' House.  
1 box
- 54 Register of annual accounts and inventories of the Single Sisters' Diacony. 1766 - 1775  
See the remarks by Elisabeth Seidliz at the end of the 1766 annual account.  
1 volume
- 55 Register of annual accounts and inventories of the Single Sisters' Diacony. 1776 - 1793  
1 volume
- 56 Register of annual accounts and inventories of the Single Sisters' Diacony. 1794 - 1824  
1 volume

57	Register of annual accounts and inventories of the Single Sisters' Diacony. 1 volume	1825 - 1844
50	Ledger A. Red Herrnhut paper on front and back board. 1 volume Language: English	1762 - 1764
51	Ledger B. 1 volume	1764 - 1780
52	Ledger [C]. 1 volume	1780 - 1807
53	Ledger [D]. 1 volume	1808 - 1847
42	Journal A. 1 volume Language: English	1762 - 1766
43	Journal B. Red Herrnhut paper on front and back board. 1 volume	1766 - 1771
44	Journal C. 1 volume	1771 - 1780
45	Journal [D]. 1 volume	1780 - 1791
46	Journal [E]. 1 volume	1791 - 1804
47	Journal [F]. Marked "Cassabuch". Red Herrnhut paper on front and back board. 1 volume	1805 - 1817
48	Journal [G]. 1 volume	1817 - 1830
49	Journal [H]. 1 volume Language: German, few English entries	1830 - 1847
62	Daybook. 1 folio notebook	1805 - 1813
63	Daybook. 1 folio notebook	1813 - 1815
64	Daybook. 1 folio notebook	1815 - 1819
65	Daybook. 1 folio notebook	1819 - 1821
66	Daybook. 1 folio notebook	1821 - 1829

67	Daybook. 1 folio notebook loose pages added in the back	1829 - 1837
68	Daybook. 1 folio notebook	1837 - 1844
69	Cash book used for various purposes. 1 volume	1764 - 1810
70	Cash book used for various purposes. 1 volume	1791 - 1798
60	'Kostbuch', register of receipts from and payments to the Single Sisters in the weaving room (Weberstube). See comment under temp. no. 59. 1 quart volume	1774 - 1815
77	'Kleines Kostbuch', notebook regarding transfers (from a particular shop ?) into various accounts. Exact purpose of notebook needs further examination. 4 notebooks	1790 - 1799, 1808-1819
59	'Kostbuch', register of receipts from and payments to the Single Sisters, according to the rooms (Stuben). The exact purpose of the register is unclear. It seems likely that the sisters received payment for the work they did in their various trades and duties and that they payed for boarding in the Choir House. The register includes the Weberstube, which also has a separate register, but it does not include the group of sisters that is listed in register temp. no. 61. In most cases the amounts on the credit and debit side are the same. The volume 1809-1813 is bound in red and blue Herrnhut paper. 7 notebooks	1791 - 1825
61	'Kostbuch', register of receipts from and payments to a group of Single Sisters. This group of Sisters is not included in the register with temp. no. 59. Further research is needed to determine what kind of work these sisters did. 1 folio notebook	1792 - 1812
115	Various receipts, bundled by account year. Still in the original wrapping. Can be opened on request. 1 box Language: German, English	1821 - 1830
116	Various receipts, bundled by account year. Still in the original wrapping. Can be opened on request. 1 box Language: German, English	1830 - 1837
78	Register of accounts of individual Sisters for clothing issued to them. The volume was originally a folio volume that was trimmed. Some of the entries are therefore incomplete. The register starts upon the dissolution of the General Economy and the forming of the Single Sisters' Diacony. 1 quart volume	1762 - 1770
100	Various notes on financial matters. Contents: drafts, preliminary notes, etc. 1 bundle	1803 - 1838

101	Various receipts. 1 folder Language: German, English	1804 - 1820
81	Daybook of the Vorsteherin for goods that were sold on commission from Owen Rice's store. Later (1835-1838) used as a register for payments from the Sisters to the civil treasury. 3 notebooks Language: English	1805 - 1821
79	'Wasch Buch', cash book for payments made to Sisters for work in the laundry, kitchen and other work. 1 notebook	1816 - 1821
102	Cashbook for an unspecified account. 1 notebook	1834 - 1837
80	Cashbook for expenses made for the purchase of meat from various butchers. 1 notebook	1835 - 1837

## 12. Girls' School

Sometimes the names of the girls in the Girls' School were included in the general catalogs of the Single Sisters' Choir (see under 06. Members of the Choir).

92	'Grundriß der christlichen Lehre in Fragen und Antworten, größtentheils nach dem Haupt/Innhalt der Lehre Jesu zum Gebrauch bey dem Unterricht der Jugend in den evangelischen Brüdergemeinen, zusammengetragen von C.F. Seidel', catechism for teaching the youth in the Moravian Church, by C.F. Seidel. 1 quire	(ca. 1800)
39	Lists of the classes in the girls' school. 3 items	1782, n.d.
33	Catalogs of the girls in the Girls' School (Mädchenanstalt). No catalog for 1765. 1 folder	1764 - 1777
40	Catalog of the girls in the school, stating their dates and places of birth, parents and character (Gemütszustand). The columns Profectus and Physical Condition are left blank. 1 item fragment	(ca. 1765)

## 12. Shops

71	Daybook of expenditures and receipts [of the seamstress shop (Nähterei)]. Expenditures and receipts are separated: the book starts with the expenditures in chronological order and continues with the receipts. 1 volume	1765 - 1773
76	Register of payments of wages to the sisters in the seamstress shop. 1 notebook	1808 - 1811
103	Letters received by Mary Schulz regarding the seamstress shop (?). 1 folder	1810 - 1811

- 72 Inventories of the seamstress shop. 1841 - 1843  
1 folder  
Language: English
- 73 Commission book for the weaving shop. 1775 - 1791  
The book is organized by the names of the sisters, working in the weaving shop.  
1 quart volume  
front board is missing
- 74 Commission books for the weaving shop. 1805 - n.d.  
2 note books

### 13. History of the Choir

- 98 Historical account of the revival among the children in Berthelsdorf and Herrnhut in 1727. (ca. 1780)  
Based upon Crazz' Brüderhistorie and Spangenberg's Zinzendorf-Biography.  
1 item
- 13 History of the beginnings of the Single Sisters' Choir in the Moravian Church. 1785  
Copied from the Gemeinnachrichten, week 12, part 1.  
1 quire
- 16 Historical account of the beginnings of the Single Sisters' Choir in Herrnhut, compiled [by Johann Daniel Anders] for the celebration of the centennial anniversary. 1830  
The Single Sisters' Diary for May 4, 1830: 'Um 9 Uhr versammelten wir uns abermals und Br. Anders verlaß einen Aufsatz enthaltend die erste Stiftung des Jungerfernbundes und deßen selge Folgen etc.'. Anders followed sources like temp. no. 13.  
1 item

### 14. Miscellaneous

- 20 Travel diary by Anna Johanna Piesch of her journey from London to Bethlehem, together with 17 Single Sisters, widow Schulz and Br. Töltschig. 1752  
Probably autograph.  
1 item  
Edition: Translated (from the copy in the UA) by Beverly P. Smaby, in: The Distinctiveness of Moravian Culture (Nazareth 2003) 97-120.
- 96 Report of a visit of the ailing 'Louisel' (Elisabeth von Seidlitz) to a meeting of the superiors (Vorgesetzten) on June 19, to bid farewell. 1782  
Elisabeth von Seidlitz did not die until 1789.  
1 item
- 18 Account by Susel von Gersdorf, former Helper of the Single Sisters in Bethlehem, of her flight from Neuwied to Ebersdorf during an attack of the French in 1795. 1797  
Susanne ('Susel') von Gersdorf (1731-1805) was Helper of the Single Sisters in Bethlehem (1763-1784) and later in Neuwied (1789-1795) and Ebersdorf (1795-1805).  
1 item
- 10 Report of the construction and 50th anniversary of the Single Sisters' House in Herrnhut. 1806  
1 quire