

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.
from

The Moravian Archives
2005

The Moravian Archives in Bethlehem is the official repository for archival records for 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 made with Him. This history we want to pass on to future generations.

Staff

On July 1, 2005, a new assistant archivist could be hired thanks to the increased financial contribution we received from BAM. Lanie Graf, a member of Schoeneck Moravian Church, has proven to be a great asset to the Archives.

In December 2005 former staff member, Dr. Lothar Madeheim, passed away. Br. Madeheim was assistant archivist from 1963-2003. During these years he arranged many of the documents and provided English translations of inaccessible German texts.

Programs and Outreach

The Archives continues its tradition of providing programs and lectures to the general public. The annual German Script Course is still the only one of its kind in the US. In the past year we have seen an astonishing increase of researchers. The number of visits more than doubled compared to the previous year (2005: 345; 2004: 141) and more than quadrupled compared to 2003 (79). We see this as a very significant and important development. The purpose of our institution is to share our history and to make it available. We expect numbers to rise even further in the near future.

Our newsletter with the title *Voices From the Vault* came out twice in 2005 with information on new developments at the Archives. In November of 2005 we started to send out a new monthly electronic newsletter, *This Month in Moravian History*, to all the ministers and churches in the Northern Province. This e-newsletter commemorates an important event from Moravian History and will (past issues are available on our website).

Collections

The following collections were cataloged during 2005: Bethlehem Single Brothers' Choir (1742-1844), Bethlehem Single Sisters' Choir (1748-1844), Object Collection, Bethlehem Steel Glass Plates (4700 items, by a Lehigh University intern) and the Papers of Bishop David Nitschmann. Much progress was made in indexing the memoir collection during 2005. Many volunteers from various BAM churches are helping with this project. Other current projects are the cataloging of the records of the Bethlehem congregation before its incorporation (1740-1851) and the memoirs of the Lititz congregation.

Facility

Thanks to a private donation and a grant from the United Brethren on Staten Island the HVAC units in the vaults and the public spaces were replaced. Climate control is an absolute necessity for the professional conservation of documents, books and paintings.

At this point I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Bethlehem Area Moravians for their increased support in 2005. The Archives will continue to preserve the heritage of our Church and make it accessible for future generations to share in the inspiring message Moravians have spread in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Peucker
p.t. archivist