

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.
from

The Moravian Archives
2009

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.

During the past year, the Archives lost three people who were very much involved with the work of the Moravian Archives for a long time: Ralph Wanamaker, Peter Wolle and Vernon Nelson. We are grateful for their dedicated service to our church and especially to the archives. They will be truly missed.

Highlights from 2009

- ★ a group of over 50 volunteers gave us a total of 1,134 hours.
- ★ the Archives hosted a German-English Singstunde (Dec.), together with Central Moravian Church and the Moravian Music Foundation
- ★ Paul Peucker taught courses in Moravian History and in Archival Studies at Moravian College. The Archival Studies students cataloged 190 18th- and 19th-century property deeds from the Moravian Congregation of Bethlehem (BAM) and from the PEC.
- ★ Lanie Graf, assistant archivist, presented our educational outreach program on German script at nine middle and high schools throughout the Lehigh Valley.
- ★ our gallery attracted 493 visitors.
- ★ 166 researchers came to the reading room for research. A high number of research requests was received and answered by mail and email.
- ★ more than 6100 books from the Archives' library are now cataloged and accessible through the international WorldCat system (web based).
- ★ the Archives received a grant of over \$90,000 from the Council on Libraries and Information Resources to catalog and process a large number of collections from the first 100 years of Bethlehem's existence. This is cooperative grant that we received together with Lehigh University. The project will begin in February 2010 and last for two years.
- ★ 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.
- ★ there was so much interest for the annual German Script Course, that we were able to offer two courses in 2009.
- ★ our electronic newsletter, *This Month in Moravian History*, reaches an international audience of 840 subscribers every month.

- ★ issues 6 and 7 of the *Journal of Moravian History* were published in 2009 (in cooperation with the Moravian Historical Society).
- ★ the Archives received a preservation needs assessment grant through the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) to take place during 2010.
- ★ received a collection of miscellaneous Moravian manuscripts from the 1730s from the Karl Koenig Archive in Aberdeen, Scotland, on July 10 (e.g. the original rental agreement for the Ronneburg, signed and sealed by Zinzendorf, 1736).
- ★ the computer server was replaced in the fall of 2009
- ★ a large number of records from Moravian congregations was processed
- ★ the volume *Self, Community, World: Moravian Education in a Transatlantic World*, containing a selection of papers from the 2006 Moravian History Conference was edited by Paul Peucker and Heikki Lempa (Moravian College) and published by Lehigh University Press.
- ★ Michael Long took over as president of the Archives' Board after Peter Wolle passed away. James Gold and John McKeown both ended their term on the Board. Karl Butz, accountant and a member of Schoeneck Moravian Church in Nazareth, now serves as treasurer. Alice Mosebach, Diane Shaw, and Katherine Faull recently joined the Board.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Bethlehem Area Moravians for their continuous support during 2009. 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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