

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.  
from

The Moravian Archives  
2010

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*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.*

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On January 26, 2010, retired archivist Rev. Vernon H. Nelson, while walking from his home to the Archives was hit by a car. He died later that evening. It was a sad beginning to the year 2010. Vernon left his research notes to the Archives; they are currently being processed and organized. We hope that future researchers will benefit from these materials.

The year 2010 has seen a reduction in income for the Archives. Although the total number of donors has not changed, some of our most generous donors have passed away. Another shortfall in income occurred in the contributions from the Province. These contributions depend on what local churches actually contribute to the Province. We know that the financial situation is difficult for many of our congregations.

We are extremely grateful that Bethlehem Area Moravians is able to continue its financial support to the Archives. This support is absolutely crucial for us. We were also pleased to receive several generous bequests during 2010 that will help us increase our endowment.

*Highlights from 2010*

1. In February the Archives began a project together with Lehigh University to process and catalog collections at the Archives. This project is funded by a grant from the Council on Libraries and Information Resources in Washington DC. The following collections are being cataloged:
  - a. Congregational Library
  - b. Various personal collections from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries
  - c. Records from 18<sup>th</sup>-century Moravian businesses, such as the tannery, apothecary, Sun Inn, Moravian Book Shop
  - d. Maps and architectural drawings
2. The Archives hosted a meeting of Moravian archivists from Herrnhut, London, Winston-Salem and Bethlehem in October. The Moravian Music Foundation and the Center of Moravian Studies were also represented.
3. In October the Archives (together with other Moravian entities) organized the bi-annual Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music. We were pleased that some of the sessions took place in the Saal of the Gemeinhaus (Moravian Museum of Bethlehem).

4. A group of over 49 volunteers gave us a total of 1,503.75 hours.
5. the Archives hosted a German-English Singstunde in December, together with Central Moravian Church and the Moravian Music Foundation
6. Paul Peucker taught courses in Moravian History and in Archival Studies at Moravian College. The Archival Studies students cataloged 190 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century property deeds from the Moravian Congregation of Bethlehem (BAM) and from the PEC.
7. Lanie Graf, assistant archivist, presented our educational outreach program on German script at nine middle and high schools throughout the Lehigh Valley.
8. The exhibit, "The Health of Thy Countenance," attracted 513 visitors. The exhibit was connected with an art contest. Three winners were announced in September.
9. An important part of our work is to assist researchers. Many come to the Archives to study original documents, but a high number research requests come to us by mail, email, and telephone.
10. More than 8400 books from the Archives' library are now cataloged. The book catalog is accessible on our website as well as through the international WorldCat system.
11. Repairs were done to the stone steps outside our facility, as well as minor repairs to the roof.
12. 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.
13. The annual yard sale yielded almost \$3000.
14. Our electronic newsletter, *This Month in Moravian History*, reaches an international audience of 880 subscribers every month.
15. Issues 8 and 9 of the *Journal of Moravian History* were published in 2010 (in cooperation with the Moravian Historical Society).
16. Translation work on volume 3 of the Bethlehem diary began during 2010. We hope to publish this volume in 2012.

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