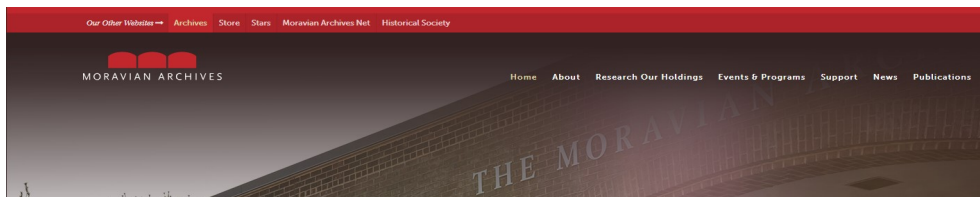


Voices from the Vault

Issue 29

November 2018

New Website & Online Store



The website of the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem (MAB), has been revised and redesigned: www.moravianchurcharchives.org has an updated look and is easier to navigate. By reducing the number of sections, information will be easier to navigate and find. One of the challenges of the previous site was choosing the right catalog to search. People would click on the first link they saw: "online finding aid" and were then disappointed if they could not find any of the books they were looking for. Visitors to the website often did not realize that we have separate search systems for printed material (book catalog) and for archival material (online

finding aid). The new website integrates the search systems onto one page. The online finding aid is a powerful search tool, offering online access to an increasing number of digitized collections. The book catalog has also been redesigned and offers more functionality. This will help visitors better understand the various search strategies employed when searching our vast collections.

The search section also offers access to completely new information: access to the Moravian Roots database and, beginning next year, to the Memoirs & Obituaries database.

Another new feature of the website is the navigation bar at the top of

each page which links users to other related websites: our online Moravian History Store, the Original Moravian Star store, the web portal linking international Moravian archives, and our affiliate, the Moravian Historical Society.

The website is also fully functional on smartphone or tablet.

The beautiful design of the website is a product of J Taylor Design in Easton, PA (thejtsite.com) which also designed the previous archives website launched in 2014.

Special points of interest:

- 6th Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music
- Moravian Archivists hosted at MAB
- Moravian Archives gets a visit from Surinamese Archivist
- Worldwide Fellowship at MAB

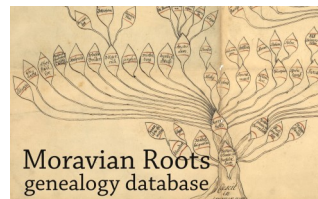


Moravian Roots

We are preparing the launch of the *Moravian Roots* genealogy database, where users will have opportunity to review and download entries from hundreds of church registers preserved at MAB. Designed by programmer Anne Toohey, the database will provide access to entries from the 1700s all the way up to the 1940s. Roughly 45,000 entries are currently

searchable in the database, and this number will only increase as our wonderful volunteers continue to donate their time by entering the data.

Users will have free limited access to entries. Once an individual is identified in the database, users are able to purchase the full record as recorded in the database.



Moravian Roots is accessible in the Research section of the Moravian Archives website.

Inside this issue:

Groups hosted at MAB 3

In Memoriam: Ralph Grayson Schwarz 3

New Collections Available Digitally 4

6th Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music



Photo courtesy of Mike Riess

How can the Moravian memoir be useful in the 21st century? What roles did women play in Moravian missions? How can the stories of enslaved people living in Moravian communities be made meaningful for visitors to Moravian sites today? These are only a few of the many questions that were discussed during the 6th Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music.

Historians and musicians from Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, North and South America, and Australia gathered in Bethlehem October 11 – 13, 2018, to present the findings of their recent research. As it is our mission

to encourage research on Moravian history, the Moravian Archives actively participates as a conference sponsoring institution, together with Moravian College, Moravian Theological Seminary (Center for Moravian Studies), the Moravian Music Foundation, and the Moravian Historical Society. Special funding for international travel grants was provided by Bethlehem Area Moravians.

Events began with an opening reception at the Moravian Archives with display tables of various vendors, including Penn State Press, publisher of the *Journal of Moravian History* and the successful monograph series "Pietist, Moravian, and Anabaptist Studies." Special highlights included a lecture by Dr. Wanelle Kirton-Roberts from St. Thomas on how Christian missions shaped Caribbean imaging of God,

and a lecture by Dr. Craig Atwood on how the General Synod of 1957 dealt with the consequences of World War II and shaped the worldwide Moravian Church at the end of the colonial era and during the Cold War.

Featured performances included a Night of Moravian Music, presented by the Moravian Music Foundation, and lecture/recitals by Alissa Duryee and Christina Ekström. During the conference banquet the prestigious David A. Schattschneider Award of Merit was presented by the Center for Moravian Studies to Archives board member Dr. Katherine Faull, Bucknell University.

Some of the lectures will be published in the *Journal of Moravian History* and in *The Hinge*.

Meeting of Moravian Archivists

Moravian archivists gathered in Bethlehem on October 10, 2018, to discuss common matters. Representatives from the Unity Archives in Herrnhut, Germany (Claudia Mai and Olaf Nippe), the Moravian Music Foundation in Winston-Salem, NC, and Bethlehem, PA (Nola Reed Knouse, Gwyneth Michel, Barbara Strauss, David Blum, and Donna Rothrock), the archives of the Southern Province in Winston-Salem (Eric Elliott and Nicole Crabbe), the archives of the Northern Province in Bethlehem (Paul Peucker, Tom McCullough and Kaitlin Trainor), and the archives of the Moravian Church in Suriname (Marilyn Eiflaar) met in the large reading room of the Bethlehem archives. Lorraine Parsons, archivist of the British Province, joined the meeting by Skype and Lydie Hala-

mová, who works at the archives of the Czech Province had sent in a report. Craig Atwood, director of the Center for Moravian Studies, and Jørgen Bøytler, secretary of the Unity Board of the worldwide Moravian Church, attended portions of the meeting.

Every two years Moravian archivists meet in conjunction with the Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History & Music. It is an excellent opportunity to stay in touch and learn from each other. Two years ago it was decided to develop a common web portal, linking the websites of all Moravian archives around the world. This time the archivists approved the result which is now available for anyone to use (see p. 5).

Herrnhut archivist Claudia Mai reported about plans to host an Ar-

chives Seminar in Herrnhut in 2021 where archivists from the various Unity provinces can meet and learn. Another topic of discussion was digitization: how can digitization increase the accessibility of our holdings? Jonathan Ennis, digitization assistant at the Bethlehem archives, gave a demonstration of the newly acquired scanner.



Back row left to right: N. Crabbe, G. Michel, B. Strauss, O. Nippe, E. Elliott, D. Blum, T. McCullough, C. Mai
Front row left to right: M. Eiflaar, N. Knouse, K. Trainor, P. Peucker, D. Rothrock
Photo courtesy of Mike Riess

In Memoriam: Ralph G. Schwarz



Photo courtesy of Scott P. Gordon

On October 13, 2018, Ralph Grayson Schwarz passed away at Moravian Village in Bethlehem, PA. Dr. Schwarz was actively involved with the Moravian Archives for decades, serving as President of the Board of Directors from 1991 until 1999. Ralph, who was born on July 30, 1925, in Rutherford, NJ, fell in love with the history of Bethlehem when he attended Lehigh University after returning from World War II. Ralph was instrumental with the restoration of many of the historical Moravian

buildings in Bethlehem and was actively involved with such organizations as Historic Bethlehem Partnership, the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem, the Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts, the Sun Inn, and the National Museum of Industrial History. Ralph was also a noted author who published books

on many topics.

Unfortunately, his last work, *Maritime Bethlehem: A Chronological Documentary Narrative*, remains unfinished. The Moravian Archives is currently investigating which parts of the 875-page manuscript can be printed. Ralph Schwarz's research papers have been transferred to MAB. After we process them, Ralph's research notes and books will be made available to the public. We are grateful to Ralph Schwarz for allowing us to preserve his legacy.

Visit from Surinamese Archivist

In October the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem had the pleasure of hosting Marilva Eiflaar, archives assistant of the *Archief der Evangelische Broedergemeente Suriname* (EBGS) in Paramaribo, Suriname. Marilva spent two weeks in Bethlehem attending and presenting at the Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music, enlightening a group of worldwide Moravian archivists on the endeavors and practices of the Moravian Archives Suriname, and learning more about the practices and procedures at MAB.

During her stay in Bethlehem, Marilva spent time working with assistant archivist Tom McCullough learning the finer points of German script and developing a website (still under construction) to bring the EBGS archives online. She took a crash course in housing materials with conservation volunteer Dee Collins (pictured together at right) to learn skills and techniques used to address damaged and critical materials within the collection. She also learned the cataloging practices and procedures implemented and maintained at the Moravian Archives,

Bethlehem while helping processing archivist Kaitlin Trainor catalog and describe a collection of lantern slides depicting images of Suriname housed at MAB. Marilva's descriptions will be accessible in the Moravian Illustrated Lecture Bureau collection through our online finding aid in the near future.



A Place for Worldwide Fellowship



Many groups from around the world have visited the Moravian Archives this past year for presentations, special openings, and guided tours of the exhibition and the vault space. In March of 2018, MAB hosted the Muse-

um and Library Alliance (MLA) of the Greater Lehigh Valley for a reception and guided tours; MAB is a founding institutional member of MLA. In May, the Early American Industries Association (EAIA) and the American Musical Instrument Society (AMIS) both held

their annual meetings in Bethlehem, and each organization was hosted individually at MAB with a reception, preview of the music exhibit, and guided tours. At the end of July, European Moravians who traveled to America to participate in the 3rd International Unity Brass Festival toured the Archives. In August, MAB had the pleasure of hosting the Unity Youth Tour (pictured left), a group of worldwide Moravian young adults. In September, MAB hosted the Unity Board of the worldwide Moravian Church for a presentation and guided tours after Hurricane Florence forced the

relocation of their meetings in Winston-Salem north to Bethlehem. In October, the Board of World Mission visited for tours and a discussion about the value of preserving their records at MAB.

In November, MAB hosted the joint choirs of College Hill Moravian Church and Central Moravian Church for an evening of fellowship and song. We also welcomed the Provincial Boards of both the Northern and Southern Provinces in our reading room for their joint meeting with the heads of Moravian agencies on November 28.

Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

Moravian Archives
41 W. Locust Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Phone: 610.866.3255
e-mail: info@moravianchurcharchives.org
www.moravianchurcharchives.org

affiliated with the Moravian Historical Society
www.moravianhistory.org | 610.759.5070

Board of Directors

Thomas Bross, President
Diane Shaw, Vice-President
Alice Mosebach, Secretary
Karl H. Butz, Treasurer
Katherine Faull
Scott Gordon
Michael A. Long
Rose Nehring
David S. Parker
Brad Senick
Marian Shatto
Donald Squair

Upcoming Events

Saturday Hours

December 1, 2018 - Open House
March 30, 2019
May 18, 2019

German-English Advent Singstunde

December 4, 2018, 7:00 pm
In the Old Chapel on the campus of Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA

Archives Closed for Christmas Holiday

December 24, 2018 — January 1, 2019

"*Christian Slavery - Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World*"

Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 7:00 pm at the Moravian Archives
Lecture by Katharine Gerbner, University of Minnesota

German Script Course 2019

June 3 - 14, 2019

For the most up to date calendar please visit: www.moravianchurcharchives.org



News and Announcements

Digital Collections Available

Jonathan Ennis has been working hard to digitize collections housed at MAB. Materials now available through our online finding aid include:

- Zinzendorf Papers
- David Nitschmann Papers
- Bethlehem Diary
- Jamaica Papers
- West Indies Papers
- Papers of Samuel Isles

Moravian Archives Network

The Moravian Archives has unveiled a new web portal for Moravian archival facilities around the world, titled the *Moravian Archives*

Network. It is available at

www.moravianarchives.net.

The Moravian Archives Network was designed by assistant archivist Tom McCullough as a common portal where patrons can identify Moravian facilities that hold records pertinent to their research. Users of this site will have access to contact information and individual websites for Moravian archival facilities like the Unity Archives, Herrnhut, the Archiv Jednoty Bratřské (Moravian Church Archive, Czech Province), and the Archief der Evangelische Broedergemeente Suriname (Moravian Church Archives, Paramaribo, Suriname).

John Antes 1763 Cello

A cello made by John Antes, notable Moravian instrument maker, is currently on display in the gallery at MAB. This instrument is believed to be the oldest American-made cello, created by Antes in 1763 here in Bethlehem in the Single Brethren's House. Many must be wondering where this historic cello came from. Previously thought to have been lost to history, the 1763 cello was discovered in an attic in Pittsburgh as it was being cleaned out. It was then placed for auction and purchased by a descendant of the Antes family in January, 2018. The Antes cello is on loan for public viewing to the Moravian Archives

until May of 2019 in our current exhibit "Sing, O Ye Heavens: Moravian Music and Instrument Making" along with many other unique pieces of musical history.