

Voices from the Vault

Issue 16 May 2012

New Affiliation with Moravian Historical Society

Starting this year, the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem and the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth, PA, are working closely together. Although remaining separate entities with their own boards, members, and assets, both organizations are now officially affiliated. As a result, Archives' staff will oversee daily operations at the Whitefield House, where the museum and offices of the Historical Society are located.

In January we welcomed Megan van Ravenswaay as the new site director of the Whitefield House. While she has some responsibilities for the Archives, Megan's main responsibility is at the Whitefield House. As site director she will be in charge of most day-to-day operations at the Whitefield House, organizing events, keeping the museum open, and working with docents and volunteers. The

additional costs for this position will be covered by the Historical Society. Because Megan also works for the Archives, other members of the Archives' staff assumed responsibility for the Historical Society as well. For example, assistant archivist Lanie Graf will assist researchers who contact the Historical Society. Claire Klatchak, our office manager, is currently working with the business manager of

the Historical Society, Kelly Givens, on the bookkeeping systems of both organizations.

A closer affiliation will prove beneficial to both institutions. "The world of Moravian history is small," says Moravian archivist Paul Peucker. "We do not want to compete with one another over the same people and resources."

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New Site Director at Whitefield House

Megan van Ravenswaay is the new site director of the Whitefield House in Nazareth as part of the new affiliation between the Moravian Archives and the Moravian Historical Society (see above). Megan brings several years of professional experience in public programming, museum management and staff development, and an educational

background in historic preservation and architectural history from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

In her new role Megan will oversee daily operations at the Whitefield House, including staff, volunteers, activities, and guests. In three short months Megan has increased volunteer support by adding greeters and tour guides, and

secured two for-credit student interns from Muhlenberg and DeSales. She has also successfully organized three major events: the "Little Dolls, Little Tea" fundraiser in February, the 2012 Nazareth Area School District "Colonial Days" youth event at the Whitefield House, and the MHS "Share the Heritage" dinner fundraiser at Hotel Bethlehem on March 23.

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Special points of interest:

- Moravian Archives and Moravian Historical Society are affiliated
- Subscription rates for *Journal of Moravian History* have been reduced
- New exhibit: Lehigh Valley Landscapes
- Library catalog contains over 10,000 titles



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Historical Society (cont.)

By working together, the Archives and Historical Society will avoid duplicating work and will become stronger organizations.

The cooperation between both entities began a few years ago when Susan Dreydoppel was the executive director of the Historical Society. The joint publication of the *Journal of Moravian History* (see below) was a successful attempt at

closer cooperation. Last fall the boards of the Archives and the Historical Society began discussing how to work together in other areas as well. "We are not looking at a merger," says Paul Peucker, "but times are changing for non-profits. By working together we try to prepare ourselves for a future that may offer different challenges than before."

In the new constellation the Archives will concentrate on its role as a resource and research institution; the Whitefield House can focus on its role as a museum and an educational institution. Peucker concludes, "Together we will continue to serve and educate the public about the fascinating history of the Moravians."



Megan van Ravenswaay,
site director of the
Whitefield House in
Nazareth, PA

Megan van Ravenswaay (cont.)

Megan has three goals for her work at MHS: to make fresh new connections with MHS members and friends, to engage further the greater community through outreach and help them tap into the treasures at MHS, and to expand educational outreach by strengthening the connections

with students, teachers and families in the Nazareth Area School District. Megan says that she "loves the progressive idea of two organizations working together toward a common goal" and looks forward to the "professional challenge of building this new affiliation from the

ground up."

Megan brings a lot of energy and fresh ideas to our common efforts to preserve and promote Moravian history. She lives in Nazareth with her husband, Chris, and pet bunny, Madeline.

A Word from the Archives' President

A remarkable event in the history of the Moravian Archives occurred recently. The staff of the Archives gathered together with volunteers, friends, and board members to recognize the significant contribution of some of our most active volunteers. Philip Metzger and June Griffiths were congratulated for cataloging 10,000 books from the collection of the Moravian Archives. Such an achievement certainly deserves a celebration and we commended Phil and June for their commitment to the Archives, their generous gifts of time and talent and the example that they provide to the volunteers, staff, and board.

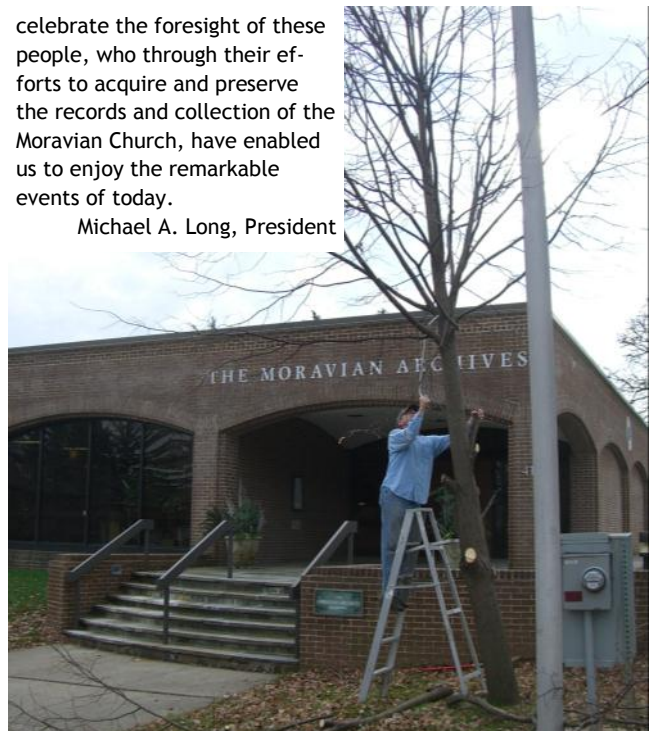
At the heart of all that we do at the Archives, even more than the recording of the history of our denomination or the preservation of its materials, is the celebration of the people who

make up this tapestry of our life here in service to our Lord. We have the privilege of celebrating these children of God by the recording of their contributions to our unique society. When we celebrate the contribution of one, we celebrate the contribution of all and give glory to God. Thank you to all of God's children who give their time, talents, and treasure to make the Moravian Archives the storehouse of this beautiful history and a resource for the future.

While we recognize the contributions of the present day, let us pause to give thanks for the efforts of the original Board of the Moravian Archives. In 1974 the Archives was incorporated with John S. Groenfeldt, Frederick P. Stocker, S. Fred Diffenderfer, John W. Pharo, Charles G. Hafner and Halfred C. Smith as initial directors. We

celebrate the foresight of these people, who through their efforts to acquire and preserve the records and collection of the Moravian Church, have enabled us to enjoy the remarkable events of today.

Michael A. Long, President



Michael Long cutting down a damaged tree
in front of the Archives building

Journal of Moravian History Finds New Publisher

Penn State University Press is the new publisher of the *Journal of Moravian History*. The next issue will be the first published by Penn State Press. It will be mailed out in June and will have a completely new look.

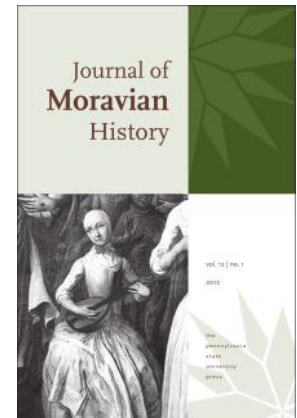
JMH began in 2006 as the continuation of the long-standing and well-respected *Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society*. JMH was initiated as a joint publication of the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth and the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem. By doing

most things in-house, costs were kept low. From its inception it was very important to keep academic standards high. Each article is reviewed in detail by several experts in Moravian history before publication.

The good quality of JMH resulted in this new cooperation. The Press noticed our Journal and showed interest in publishing it. The editorial board realized this would be a great opportunity to take JMH to the next level. The Press is able to publicize JMH much better and

the name of a well-respected university press on the cover will give the Journal more respect. While the editorial board will remain fully responsible for the content, PSU Press will take care of copy-editing, printing, marketing, and subscription management.

The best news comes for the subscribers: annual subscription rates for individuals have been reduced from \$50.00 to \$30.00. We are certain this new reduced rate will increase the readership of the Journal!



individual subscription rate reduced to \$30.00/year

Volunteer Profile: Roy Ledbetter

Roy Ledbetter is one of a few specialist volunteers able to read and translate German script documents at the Archives. Roy is currently working on translating the third volume of the Bethlehem diary, 1745-46. Recently he also translated early documents from the Schoeneck congregation in honor of the church's 250th anniversary. Roy grew up as part of the Friedland congregation in Winston-Salem, NC, and started learning German in elementary school. During his time at Moravian College and Moravian

Theological Seminary (1967-74) Roy learned German script from Bishop Kenneth Hamilton. Following his graduation, Roy served as assistant pastor in Königfeld, Germany, where he also had the chance to hone his script skills and Moravian vocabulary with the church's warden (*Vorsteher*), Heinz Burkhardt.

Roy has served various Moravian congregations. In 1992 Roy earned a doctorate in church history and systematic theology from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. He has remained in St. Louis ever since,

where he serves as pastor of St. Philip's Lutheran Church. He is also copy editor for *German Life* magazine.

Roy is also an avid designer of Moravian putzes and stars, and loves using his German skills for the Moravian Church. He says it helps him "stay in touch with his Moravian roots. The Moravian Church has been so good to me, like a home." And Roy has been especially good to us at the Archives by contributing his time and special script-reading talents. Thanks, Roy!



Rev. Roy Ledbetter is translating volume 3 of the Bethlehem Diary

Friends' Day 2012

This year's Friends' Day at the Archives was a huge success, with more than seventy friends in attendance. Archivist Dr. Paul Peucker spoke on "Moravians and the End of Times," exploring Zinzendorf's calculations about Jesus's second coming (in the year 1928—apparently he got it wrong).

Following the lecture our annual exhibit, Lehigh Valley Landscapes, opened in the gallery. This exhibit celebrates the collaboration we have shared in

recent years with many individuals, local universities, and historical institutions. On display are stunning local landscapes from the 18th century to the present from the Archives' collection as well as from the following local collections: Moravian College, Moravian Historical Society, Historic Bethlehem Partnership, Lehigh University, Sandra Corpora and Dr. John M. and Lanie Yaswinski.

The exhibit will be on display through December 21 and is

accompanied by an art contest. We will continue to accept entries until May 31 (or until we fill the space). The entries will be judged in the summer and winners announced on August 15 at a "Summer Soiree" on the Archives' patio including refreshments and live music - open to everyone! We will award cash prizes for the three winning entries. More information and entry forms are available on our website.



"Lehigh Valley Landscapes" on exhibit through December 21, 2012

Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

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Upcoming Events

“Lehigh Valley Landscapes”
through December 21, 2012; exhibit at the Moravian Archives

“Not Without Women: New Perspectives on the Moravian Mission to the Cherokees”
lecture by Rev. Dr. Daniel Crews, Moravian Archives, Southern Province
Tuesday, April 11, 2012, 7:00 pm at the Archives

German Script Course
June 4-15, 2012,
for more information: www.moravianchurcharchives.org/germanscript.php

Arts and Crafts Festival
Saturday, June 9, 2012, 9:00 am–3:00 pm on the lawn of the Whitefield House, Nazareth, Pa.
more information: www.moravianhistoricalsociety.org

“The Contours of Moravian Pacifism”
lecture by Jared Burkholder, PhD, Grace College
Tuesday, July 17, 2012, 7:00 pm at the Archives

Summer Soirée
Art Contest Reception at the Moravian Archives, 6:00 pm, Wednesday, August 15, 2012

Third Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music
October 11-14, 2012 at Moravian College
for more information: www.moravianconferences.org

News and Announcements

Ten Thousand Books

Over the past few years volunteer librarians, Phil Metzger and June Griffiths, together with a group of Lehigh University students working on the CLIR project, have cataloged 10,000 titles. To honor their work, we celebrated with a champagne reception on March 16. At the event we raised \$500 for the Hamilton Book Fund that will enable us to purchase more books for our collection.

2013 Lecture Series: Sponsor Needed

The lecture program at the Moravian Archives reaches hundreds of people every year and offers historians an opportunity to present their work. We are looking for a sponsor for next year's program.

If you are interested, visit our website for more information (click “Support the Archives”). This is also a wonderful opportunity to commemorate a loved one.

Bethlehem Postcard Book

Thanks to the generosity of authors Bill Weiner and Karen Samuels, more than \$500 has been donated to the Archives from the sales of their postcard book on Bethlehem. Bill and Karen designated profits from two book-signing events: the first at the Apollo Grill's charitable “Therapeutic Thursday” event on January 26, and the second at Moravian Archives' Friends' Day on March 11. In addition, all profits from future sales of the book from the Archives' bookshop will also go to the Archives. The book is a

wonderful selection of old Bethlehem postcards from Bill's collection, along with a few images from the Archives' collection. Karen researched and wrote all the descriptions in the book. It's a must-have for all local history lovers! MAB is extremely grateful to Bill and Karen for this generous donation.

Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music

The third Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music will take place October 11-14, 2012. The conference is sponsored by the Moravian Archives, Moravian College, and Center for Moravian Studies in partnership with Moravian Theological Seminary, Moravian Historical Society, Moravian Music Foundation and Historic

Bethlehem Partnership. Lanie Graf, assistant archivist, will serve as conference chair.

Anyone interested in Moravian history is invited to convene in downtown Bethlehem and explore the latest research on a wide range of topics including the sustainability of Moravian communities, 19th-century Moravian history, the Ancient Unity and Comenius, and the music of Moravian composer, Johannes Herbst.

The weekend will be filled with lectures, concerts, and other events. Historic Bethlehem Partnership will offer tours of museums and historic buildings to conference participants throughout the weekend. Please check out the conference website for more information and forthcoming registration information: www.moravianconferences.org.