

Voices from the Vault

Issue 19 November 2013

“Ask for Tom”



Hello, friends of the archives! My name is Thomas McCullough, and I began working as assistant archivist for the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, on August 19, 2013. I am originally from Upper Dublin Township, just north of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I received my Bachelor’s Degree in History at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in May of 2011 and a Master’s Degree in

Applied History in May of 2013. I also minored in Anthropology and European Studies, where my desire to understand people and the past culminated in a greater appreciation of cultural history.

Following my undergraduate studies, I interned as an education research assistant at the United States Army Heritage Center Foundation (AHCF) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. It marked my first extensive experience with archival materials, as my primary responsibility was to promote photographs and manuscripts from the collection (of the U.S. Army Military History Institute), featuring them in AHCF publications and educational programs.

During the summer of 2012, I was employed as a graduate assistant in the Shippensburg University Fashion Archives

and Museum, where I had the opportunity to perform archival tasks in a collection of over 20,000 historic clothing items. Later that year, I volunteered as a research assistant and processing archivist in the libraries of Shippensburg University and Dickinson College, respectively.

In January 2013, I began interning as an archives assistant in the U.S. Army Military History Institute in Carlisle, PA, where I processed the manuscript collections of former soldiers. Following this internship, I began working as both an intern and assistant archivist for the Cumberland County Government Archives, becoming acquainted with county courthouse records and their importance as tools for historical scholarship.

Upon completion of my Master’s Degree, I was fortunate

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Special points of interest:

- Tom McCullough is the new assistant archivist
- Volunteers needed for preservation project
- Zinzendorf papers are being processed
- History of Lititz from 1784 discovered
- Call for Papers for October 2014 conference



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Book Preservation Project

In the book collection of the Moravian Archives we have about 20,000 books, printed between 1472 and 2013. Many of the older books need to be treated in order to be better preserved. During the past few months, Dee Collins, a conservation technician from Philadelphia who recently moved to Bethlehem, has made an inventory of the preservation

needs in our library. Later this year we will form a project group of volunteers who will learn to perform conservatory work on the books, such as cleaning and housing of the books. Dee Collins will instruct the project group and oversee their work. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the preservation of the historical material kept at the Mora-

vian Archives. We are delighted to have Dee as one of our volunteers!

The project group will meet on Wednesday mornings between 9:00 am and noon at the Moravian Archives. We need two to three volunteers with good hand skills who are interested in joining this group. For more information, call Tom McCullough at the Archives.

“Ask for Tom” (cont.)

enough to find work at the Moravian Archives, Northern Province. What attracted me most to this position was the opportunity to work with and learn from an experienced staff. I was also interested with the prospect of learning every day about the history of the Moravian Church, and relating this history with other areas of scholarship.

It has been a wonderful experience in my first few months with the Moravian Archives. The

collections are simply amazing, both as a resource for the Moravian Church of America and for all forms of historical research. I am most impressed, however, by the community of magnificent people that are connected to the archives - volunteers, staff members, church officials, and everyone in the Lehigh Valley that has made me feel welcome. My greatest joy lies in helping patrons of the archives and seeing the smile on their face when they uncover

information central to their studies. I am looking forward to seeing more bright faces - volunteers, scholars, and other friends of the archives.

Please let me know if you would like to schedule an appointment to come in and perform research in our newly-renovated facility. I can be reached at tom@moravianchurcharchives.org or by telephone at 610.866.3255. Ask for Tom!

Discovery of Lititz Manuscript

While moving the contents out of our vault in preparation for the installation of new shelving, we were expecting to make some discoveries. One interesting find was a handwritten history of the Lititz Moravian congregation from 1784. Unfortunately, the manuscript is in a terrible state of condition: all the pages are loose and the paper is extremely brittle. Pages crumble at the slightest touch. Because of its bad state we cannot read the content because handling the pages would do even more damage.

According to the title page the history is a continuation of an earlier history of Lititz, beginning in 1771 and continuing through the end of 1779. That means that first years of the Revolutionary War are covered in this manuscript. The author of the manuscript is Matthaeus Hehl (1705-1787), bishop of the Moravian Church who served the Lititz congregation from 1756 until 1784.

Many years ago, the manuscript had been separated from the Lititz collection and placed on a special shelf in the Archives' vault, probably because of the bad condition of the manuscript. Because the box was not marked



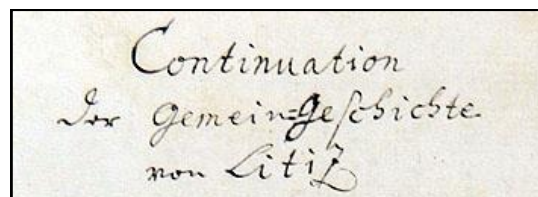
in any way we had not yet noticed this particular manuscript. But as we were moving each item from the vault, we noticed the box and found the Lititz manuscript inside.

The manuscript was then taken to the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia (CCAHA) for a condition report and an estimate for professional treatment.

Because of the generosity of one of the Friends of the Archives it will be possible to restore the Lititz history. CCAHA will clean and wash each page, remove the tape and any adhe-

sives, reinforce the pages with mulberry paper, and re-stitch the book. In the process, the book will also be digitized so that a translator can translate the German original into English. It will be interesting to read a first-hand account of the events in this Moravian community during the early years of American independence.

“a first-hand account of the events in this Moravian community during the early years of American independence”



Conference on Moravian History and Music

For the fourth time the Moravian Archives, Moravian College, and the Center for Moravian Studies, in partnership with the Moravian Music Foundation, the Moravian Historical Society, and Historic Bethlehem Partnership, are hosting a Conference on Moravian History and Music. The last of these conferences took place in October of 2012 and brought people together from ten different countries, reflect-

ing the world-wide scope of Moravian activities. We are currently accepting submissions for proposals for individual papers, panels, lecture recitals, films, and reports on current research projects on any topic related to Moravian history and music. The overall theme of the conference will be War and Peace and the Moravians. We especially look forward to proposals dealing with Jan Hus (1369-1415), Mora-

vians and the Civil War in America, controversy and the Moravians, and Moravian composer Johann Christian Geisler (1729-1815) but, like in other years, we welcome papers on other topics related to Moravian history and music as well. Proposals of 300 words or less will be accepted on the conference website until April 1, 2014. For more information, visit www.moravianconferences.org.



The Zinzendorf Papers

Currently, one of the ongoing projects at the Bethlehem archives is processing the Zinzendorf papers. This is an important collection of material relating to Ludwig von Zinzendorf (1700-1760), founder of the Moravian Church. In the past, anything relating to Zinzendorf was pulled from other collections and combined in this collection. Although most archivists today prefer not to combine materials with different provenances, the advantage is that all material relating to one person is togeth-

er in one place.

The collection contains a great variety of material. First of all, there are many letters written by Zinzendorf to the leaders in Bethlehem and records relating to his 1741-43 visit to Pennsylvania. But there are also items unrelated to Moravian work in America, such as a letter to Princess Maria Louise of Orange in the Netherlands (1728), the manuscript for the second supplement to the Herrnhut Hymnal of 1735 with corrections by Zinzendorf, and a draft of a letter

to the government of Büdingen about the eviction of Moravians from Herrnhag with Zinzendorf's own corrections (1750). The collection contains a great number of sermon texts preached by Zinzendorf in various places, as well as a number of nineteenth-century transcriptions of letters by Zinzendorf from the Unity Archives in Herrnhut, Germany. By processing this material and compiling a finding aid we hope to draw more attention to this important material.



Word from the Archives' President

As we benefit from the recent improvements to our facility, we recognize what the Moravian Archives means to the congregations we serve, the preservation of the resources and history of our church, and the capacity of this resource to educate and enlighten in the future.

The recent completion of the installation of moveable shelving in our main vault extends our capacity to serve the historical community and the congregations of the Moravian Church with space for the next 35 years. Installation of a modest, however very accommodating kitchen allows the Archives' staff and volunteers to better prepare for opening our facility

to social events, special programs, as well as for fundraising and educational events. All of these things have been accomplished within the constraints of a tight budget in the first phase of our Moving History capital campaign.

We are grateful to all of the entities, friends, supporters, and staff who have contributed so much to make these improvements possible.

The Archives is not at a "crossroads," we remain on a "straight path." The board of directors and the archivist have identified the needs of our facility to serve its purpose in the future. However, much remains to be done. Plans are being

formulated to expand our office space, refurbish the reading room, and refresh the gallery. These improvements will comprise the second phase of our capital needs. We will continue to rely on our supporters, Friends of the Archives, board of directors, staff, and volunteers to prepare to meet the needs of our constituency and serve future generations.

Thank you for making our current successes possible and for allowing us to remain focused on making your Moravian Archives the best possible archives for future historians, church leaders, and educators.



Michael Long

Michael A. Long, President

Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

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Upcoming Events

German-English Advent Singstunde

December 3, 2013, 7:00 pm in the Old Chapel on the campus of Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pa.

A Historic Moravian Christmas

authentic Christmas Eve celebration, based on original odes from before the Civil War
December 7, 2013, 5:00 pm at the Whitefield House in Nazareth, Pa.
for more information and reservations, call 610-759-5070

Christmas in Nazareth

December 14, 2013, 1:00–9:00pm
Enjoy a community open house featuring tours, children's activities, live music, and more.
Tickets benefit the Moravian Historical Society.
for more information and reservations, call 610-759-5070

German Script Course

June 2-13, 2014
for more information: www.moravianchurcharchives.org/germanscript.php

News and Announcements

Steps

During October and November the steps at the entrance of the Moravian Archives were renewed.

Gift Ideas

Looking for gift ideas for Christmas? Visit our shops at the Whitefield House in Nazareth or at the Moravian Archives and you will find a wonderful selection of books, stars, and other Moravian gift items. What about a gift subscription to the *Journal of Moravian History*? The original Moravian stars from Herrnhut, Germany, make ideal gifts. The biography of 18th-century Moravian painter John Valentine Haidt is not only an interesting read, it contains over one hundred color images. Find more information on our websites (see above) or call.

Travel to Moravian Historical Roots

Central Travelers and the Moravian Archives present a trip to Moravian roots in the Czech Republic and Germany (June 30 - July 11, 2014). Traveling with us will be Paul Peucker, archivist, to provide historical information and insights. Stops and tours include Prague, Kunvald, 'The Rocks,' Herrnhut, Berthelsdorf, Zinzendorf's manor house, Gross Hennersdorf, and other significant Moravian towns on the way to Dresden. Please contact: Craig Mosebach, cmosebach@rcn.com, 610.625.4576 or the Moravian Archives.

Original Moravian Stars

The original Moravian Stars are available in the U.S. through the Moravian Archives and the



Moravian Historical Society. Each star is individually crafted by hand at the Moravian Star Factory, founded in 1925 in Herrnhut, Germany.

Stars are available in a wide variety of sizes and colors for indoor and outdoor use. Choose from plastic or durable heavy-

duty paper. Garlands with ten 5-inch stars to decorate your Christmas tree are also available. Each star comes ready to assemble, with a light bulb and fixture for hanging included. Purchase your star online or at the Whitefield House in Nazareth and at the Archives.