

# Voices from the Vault

Issue 2 April 2005

## Dedication of Renovated Vault

On February 1, 2005, a small but festive event took place at the Bethlehem Moravian Archives when the completely renovated second vault of the archives was dedicated. Last May, Dr. Carter Litchfield, a former member of the Archives' Board, came to visit the facility. When Dr. Litchfield asked if the archives was in need of new shelving I eagerly answered affirmatively, knowing there was little free shelving space left in either one of the two vaults. With the help of many volunteers the contents of the second vault were packed into boxes and transferred to the reading room. In November, after installing

new lighting fixtures and painting the ceiling, the new shelving arrived. With movable shelving the ranges stand close together; space is therefore used much more efficiently compared with stationary shelving where each range requires an aisle. To access the needed row, we simply move the shelves back and forth along tracks mounted in the floor. This efficient means of storage nearly doubles the shelving capacity! During a meeting of the Archives' Board Dr. Litchfield and his wife Carol officially donated the new shelving to the archives. When asked about the reason behind his generosity, Dr. Litchfield responded by recounting



*Carter and Carol Litchfield at the dedication of the vault.*

fond memories of his experiences at the archives while conducting research for his publication on the Bethlehem Oil Mill. (copies of this valuable study can still be ordered from the Archives for \$ 15.00)

## Special points of interest:

- Search for Assistant Archivist has begun.
- Records of Single Brothers and of Single Sisters are catalogued.
- Zinzendorf family portrait dates from ca. 1705.
- Work on second vault finished.

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## Friends' Day

More than 50 Friends of the Archives gathered on March 13 to hear news about the archives, to see the renovated vault and to hear a lecture by the Archivist entitled "From All Nations. Non-Europeans in the European Moravian Church around 1750". The lecture dealt with the individuals

from overseas that were brought to Europe to live within the European Moravian congregations, many of whom were former slaves. Anyone making a donation towards the Archives will automatically receive a copy of the lecture.



## Spotlight: Zinzendorf Family Portrait

In the painting collection of the Moravian Archives there is an image of Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf as a little boy, together with his parents Georg Ludwig and Charlotte Justine, nee von Gersdorf. There are some unusual aspects about this image, which - to my knowledge - has never been published before. Zinzendorf's father died on July 9, 1700,



only six weeks after his son was born. His mother then moved to her mother's residence in Grosshennersdorf, where Ludwig remained and grew up, even after his mother remarried in December 1704 and moved to live in Berlin. A family portrait like this could therefore not have been painted in reality, but other images must have been combined to create this painting. In this case the artist composed the image using two other paintings. Anyone familiar with the painting collection at the Unity Archives in Herrnhut recognizes the images the unidentified artist used. The Herrnhut archives possesses a portrait of Zinzendorf as a little boy that bears a striking resemblance to the boy depicted on the Bethlehem portrait. The Unity Archives is also in possession of a double portrait of Zinzendorf's parents that was the obvious model for the Bethlehem portrait. There are some differences of course. The Bethlehem portrait leaves out a comforting message that Georg Ludwig hands to Charlotte Justine on the Herrnhut painting. But the Bethlehem painting includes a message written above the

small boy's head: "Do not worry, my son. We may be poor but we will have many a thing if we fear God, avoid sin and do good." While the Herrnhut double portrait contains consoling words to the widow, the Bethlehem family portrait speaks to the little boy.

Interestingly, the double portrait of the Zinzendorfs was also constructed after other originals. The artist used a portrait of Georg Ludwig von Zinzendorf by Daniel de Savoye (also in Herrnhut) and an image of Charlotte Justine that was destroyed in 1945. It seems likely that the Bethlehem Zinzendorf family portrait can be dated around 1705. If a family portrait was desired at a later date, the artist would most likely have chosen to show little Zinzendorf as an older boy. This might therefore be the oldest oil painting that the Bethlehem Moravian Archives has in its possession. This painting was given to the archives by the De Schweinitz family, descendants of the Zinzendorfs. Although it seems to have been restored in the past, new restoration by a trained professional is now necessary.

## 35th German Script Course

The Archives is offering a course in reading 18<sup>th</sup> century German script for the 35<sup>th</sup> time this year! This year's course will be held from June 6 - 17. For more information, please call the Archives or visit our website.

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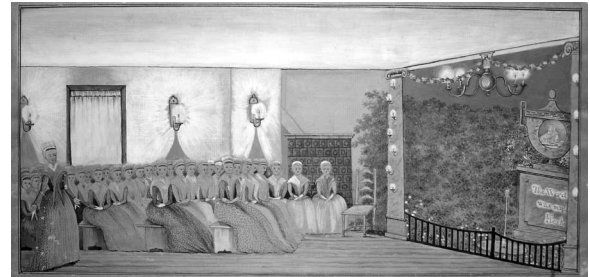
## Records from the Bethlehem Choir Houses

A unique feature of an 18<sup>th</sup> century Moravian community was the division of the congregation into specific groups, or *choirs*. Every member, according to his or her stage in life, belonged to such a choir. Each choir (from the Greek *xopoc*) had its own leaders, its own worship services and its own special choir festivals. Some of the choirs, like the Single Brothers, the Single Sisters or the Widows, lived together in their own choir houses. The

records from two of these choirs in Bethlehem, the Single Brothers and the Single Sisters, were recently catalogued. The new inventories can be found on our website. These records give insight into the unique spiritual and economic life of the choirs. Both the Sisters and the Brothers had their own trades and shops and almost all of the account books still survive! The importance Moravians attributed to every individual is reflected in the

extensive biographical information on the members of the choirs. The surviving choir diaries provide information on the main daily events within the choirs.

*Single Sisters celebrating Christmas, ca. 1800.*



## Thanks To All Helpers!

Before the renovation of the second vault could take place, books had to be put in boxes, heavy boxes had to be moved and stored in the reading room and shelves had to be taken apart. And after everything was placed on the new shelves, hundreds of boxes had to be flattened. All this would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers: Nena Asquith, Chris Carson, Sue

Dreydoppel, James Gold, June Griffiths, David Hochella, Ken Kirst, Jay Lacke, Jeffrey Long, Rose Nehring, Maria Prochnau, Heather Reinhart, Ralph Schwarz, Helen Snyder, Donald and Virginia Squair, Dick Stauber, Wendy Weida and Doris Yob. Many thanks also to Adam Meyer Moving Company and to Moravian College for their assistance!

*"...books had to be put in boxes, heavy boxes had to be moved and stored in the reading room and shelves had to be taken apart..."*

## Work in Progress

Since our last newsletter came out, the following cataloging work has been completed:

- \* Church registers
- \* Bethlehem Single Brothers, 1742-1844
- \* Bethlehem Single Sisters, 1748-1844

The inventories of these col-

lections can be downloaded from our website as pdf-files.

The card index (ca. 10,000 cards) for the memoir (*Lebenslauf*) collection is currently being transferred into our computer system. The information on the index cards is very limited. Volunteers are needed to help find additional information from the original memoirs.



## Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

Moravian Archives  
41 W. Locust Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018-2757

Phone: 610-866-3255  
Fax: 610-866-9210  
Email: moravianarchives@entermail.net

*(pictures in this issue by Peter Wolle and Jeffrey Long)*

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[www.moravianchurcharchives.org](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org)

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Show your support by becoming a Friend of the Moravian Archives. Send your check to the address above.

## Upcoming Events at the Archives

May 6 - 7: yard sale (*see below*)

### 'A Place of Their Own: Life in the Gnadenuhnten Mission, 1746-1755'

Lecture by Mark Turdo, curator at the Moravian Historical Society, May 31, 2005, 7:30 pm at the Archives

German Script Course – June 6-17, 2005

Presentation on the Moravian Mission Photograph Collection at the Unity Archives, by Rüdiger Kröger, Unity Archivist in Herrnhut September 2005 (*exact date and time to be announced*)

### "Lesser Known Moravian Christmas Hymns"

Lecture by Albert H. Frank, assistant director of the Moravian Music Foundation, November 29, 2005, at the Old Chapel of Central Moravian Church

## News and Announcements

### Useful links

The Unity Archives in Herrnhut has recently made it possible to search their collection of maps, views and drawings on their website. This collection of over 7,500 images of places from all around the world also includes hundreds of images from America, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This project was financed by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* in Bonn. Go to: [www.archiv.ebu.de/seiten/de/main\\_bestand.html](http://www.archiv.ebu.de/seiten/de/main_bestand.html), click on *Sammlungen*, then on *Topografische Sammlung*, and on *Suche starten*.

### International Conference on Moravian Education

Moravian College in Bethlehem is hosting an international conference "Self, Community, World: Liberal Arts and Moravian Education", on April 21-23, 2006. A call for papers is to be found on our website (under Programs and Events).

### 550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Moravian Church

The Moravian Church or *Unitas Fratrum* was founded in 1457. Preparations for the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary have recently started. We will keep you informed as plans continue to develop.

### Job Search

The search for an assistant archivist has begun! The assistant archivist will be responsible for helping researchers, answering requests and helping to catalogue the collections of the archives. The job description is available on the Archives' website. It is expected that the assistant archivist will begin employment by July of this year.

### Yard Sale

The Archives is going to have a yard sale. A selection of the items put up for sale: over 100 antique picture frames in all sizes, Windsor

chairs, duplicate books, and old printing blocks. And that is not all: many people have contributed and donated items for the sale. If you are not interested in acquiring "old junk", you can also get drinks and cake! The sale will be held on Friday, May 6, from 11:00 - 4:00 and on Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 - 3:00 in the parking lot behind our building on 41 W. Locust Street. In case of rain we will move inside. More information on our website (under Programs and Events). Anyone interested in helping by donating items, baked goods or help pricing and selling, is requested to call the Archives.