

# Voices from the Vault

Issue 4 July 2006

## Moravian Archives Features in Video

The Moravian Archives had a taste of Hollywood on April 19th as we experienced a film shoot for our promotional video, made possible through the generosity of a special donation. The video was produced by First Generation studios of Allentown. Despite bright lights and many retakes, Archives' staff and volunteers kept on schedule and the film shoot was completed in one day. The purpose of the video is to educate the public about the Archives' mission and what we wish to accomplish in the near future. The Archives intends to use the video to reach new target groups and to reach those who are unable to visit us in person. At the end of May the video was



mailed to all Friends of the Archives and to all delegates of the provincial church Synod held in June. You can view the video online on our website. If you wish to receive a copy of the video that comes as a DVD and is titled "For the Future of Our

History", contact the Archives and we will send you a copy. Show the DVD to your friends and neighbors or anyone else whom you feel should know about the Moravian Archives!

## New Volunteer

In January of 2006 Phil Metzger, retired librarian and former head of the special collections at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, began to catalog the extensive book holdings of the Archives. In the past various attempts were undertaken to catalog the

books. Unfortunately the old card index does not include call numbers and has not been kept up-to-date in the past decades. Now we are able to catalog the entire collection according to modern standards and using modern technology. The Moravian

Archives joined WorldCat, a worldwide online catalog, that will direct researchers to the Moravian Archives when they are looking for a particular book. In the near future online public access to our catalog (OPAC) will be made available on our website.

## Special points of interest:

- New website for Moravian Archives.
- Records of Moravian Female Seminary in Bethlehem are being inventoried.
- 2006 yard sale was great success.
- Moravian Archives has joined WorldCat.

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## Records of Female Seminary Inventoried

In cooperation with Reeves' Library (Moravian College) and the Bethlehem Area Public Library the Moravian Archives has received a grant to inventory the records of the Female Seminary or "Seminary for Young Ladies" at Bethlehem. Beginning in July of 2006, the records of the Female Seminary (since 1954 part of Moravian College) will be cataloged according to international archival standards. When the project is finished a detailed description of the records, spanning a period from the beginnings of the Seminary in 1785 through the early 20th century, will be available in the reading room as well as on the Archives' website. Funding received by the Archives is part of a larger Library Services and Technology grant from the Commonwealth Libraries of Pennsyl-

vania, awarded to Reeves' Library and the Bethlehem Area Public Library. With this digitization grant these two institutions will expand and enhance the material available on the Bethlehem Digital History Project website (<http://bdhp.moravian.edu>). The digital history website has been in existence since 1999 and already includes many items from the Moravian Archives. In November of 2005 this website was named "one of the best online resources for education in the humanities" by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Pauline Fox, musicologist from East Stroudsburg, began processing the records of the Female Seminary in July of this year and expects to be finished in the Spring of 2007. Ms. Fox based her dissertation research (PhD, New



York University, 1997) on records from the Female Seminary. She works as part-time director of music at the East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church. Previously she processed the Robert Elmore Collection (University of Pennsylvania Archives, Philadelphia) and the Eric Siday papers (New York Public Library).

## In Memoriam: Lothar Madeheim

He was buried wearing his beret, holding a rosary, the ever-present snuff box and a blue handkerchief. Yes, here was the Lothar I had known and worked with: the consummate German scholar, the ever-available helper for those struggling with the issues of old German grammar and script, the lunch partner who enjoyed soup and a beer in the middle of the day. Lothar Madeheim was a mentor, translator, script teacher, a loving husband and step-father, and a

character never again to be encountered in this life. From our earliest associations he was willing to take this college student's research seriously and that support continued until his final days at the Archives. He would repeat for you as long as he knew that you were serious, but could not suffer a fool, or someone who ridiculed him for any seeming fault. He had taught himself English and in his imperfections often brought insights which the native speaker would overlook.



He has gone from this earth now, and we miss his wise counsel, gentle humor and vast storehouse of knowledge. Dein Leben, Lothar, war ein Segen.

Albert Frank

## www.moravianchurcharchives.org

In July of 2006 the Moravian Archives launched its new website. The new website (with the same address as the previous website) presents information on the Archives and its holdings in a more accessible and user-friendly manner. The navigation pane on the left hand side of the homepage groups the information by topic, whereas the horizontal bar beneath the Archives' name (the so-called "eyebrow") organizes the information by target group. The column on the right hand side of the homepage presents the latest news on the Archives and

upcoming events. New features on this website include a photo gallery, a search option, and a link to view the official Archives video (see elsewhere in this newsletter). The website is designed with the possibility to integrate new items at a later time, such as online access to the Archives' manuscript catalog and to the book catalog. A basic list of holdings already provides researchers a general idea of the collections the Archives has. In the future this list of holdings will be linked to more detailed information on each individual record group.

## Church Registers

Church registers are the books in which official acts of the church (such as baptisms, marriages and funerals) are recorded by a local minister. These records are extremely important, especially in times when the government did not record this kind of information. In those cases or when the official government registration is lost, a baptismal entry for example can serve as the substitute for a birth record. Currently the Bethlehem Archives possesses 177 church registers from various Moravian churches in the Northern Province. Many researchers, especially family historians, use these registers to find biographical information about their ancestors. The Archives also receives frequent requests from people who need a certification of their baptism when they plan to join another church or when they

want to get married.

In June of 2006 the Archives received the first volume of the church register of the Reading Moravian Church (1914-1951). Rev. Barbara Rich was worried about the brittle state of the volume and knew it had to be placed in a safe location to prevent further deterioration. The only concern Rev. Rich had was the fact that she sometimes needs to access the information from the register. The Board of Elders of Reading Moravian Church therefore decided to have the register microfilmed and to have prints made from the microfilm. After completion of the microfilming, prints will be sent to the church office in Reading, while the original register and the microfilm will remain in the Archives.

Many church registers are still retained by the respective congregations. Current

registers have to remain with the churches but registers that are closed should be sent to the Archives. The Moravian Archives requests that all Moravian ministers consider depositing their closed church registers in the Archives. Whenever the churches need information from the registers for their current church work, Archives' staff will attend to such requests as soon as possible.

Family historians can personally study the church registers in the reading room of the Archives (free of charge) or they can request information for a reasonable fee.

A complete list of the registers currently at the Archives can be found on our website: [www.moravianchurcharchives.org/inventories.php](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/inventories.php).

***"The Moravian Archives requests that all Moravian ministers consider depositing their closed church registers in the Archives."***

## Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

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Support the archives by becoming a Friend of the Moravian Archives. Send your check to the address above.

## Upcoming Events at the Archives

### “S.H. Gapp and Synodal Highlights. An American’s Journey to the 1931 Synod in Herrnhut”

Lecture by Rev. Dr. Albert Frank, August 22, 2006, 7:00 pm at the Archives.

### “Zinzendorf and the English Moravians”

Lecture by Dr. Colin Podmore, London, Sept. 24, 2006, 7:00 pm at the Archives

### “Pink, White and Blue: the Origins and Function of the Choir Ribbons in the Moravian Church”

Lecture by Dr. Paul Peucker, Nov. 7, 2006, 7:00 pm at the Archives

### “New Discoveries on Nicholas Garrison Jr.”

Lecture by Dr. Ralph Schwarz, Dec. 5, 2006, 7:00 pm at the Archives

## News and Announcements

**Journal of Moravian History**  
Soon a new academic journal on Moravian history will be launched! In cooperation with the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth the Moravian Archives will publish the new *Journal of Moravian History*. The Journal will continue the *Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society* that have been in existence since 1857. The *Journal of Moravian History* will be published twice a year and will contain scholarly articles on the history of the Unitas Fratrum and relevant book reviews. Friends of the Moravian Archives and members of the Moravian Historical Society will receive a

discount when they subscribe to the Journal. Articles can be submitted to Paul Peucker, editor, at the Moravian Archives.

### **This Month in Moravian History**

In November 2005 the Archives introduced a new monthly electronic newsletter: *This Month in Moravian History*. Each month a commemorative event from Moravian history will be highlighted. Subscribers receive the newsletter by email. Signing up as well as downloading back issues is possible on our website.

### **2006 Yard Sale**

The second Archives’ yard sale in May 2006 was a great success. In the weeks before the sale many people donated materials for us to sell. Thanks to many volunteers everything was sorted and priced on time. The result was a total of \$5244! Half of this amount went to our building renovation fund. The other half was used for purchasing a new computer and additional software. Thanks to all the helpers!

### **Summer Interns**

Two interns will be working at the Archives this summer. Eric Ambler, a student at

the University of Southern California, is working on the Indian Records. Eric is checking the contents of the boxes and comparing them with the finding aid. He then enters the descriptions from the old inventory into our data base so they can be integrated into our search system. Allyson Atwood from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, will compile a detailed list of all the microfilms found within the Archives. She will also organize a large collection of video tapes that was recently transferred from the office of the Moravian Board of Communication.