

Voices from the Vault

Issue 5 November 2006

Journal of Moravian History to be Launched

The study of Moravian history is a growing field. Whereas in the past Moravian history was an isolated field studied by Moravians themselves and by a few individual scholars, Moravian history has become more and more integrated into the general study of Atlantic history, church history and cultural history. A new magazine, the Journal of Moravian History, to be launched November 2006, will cover the field of Moravian history. The Journal of Moravian History (JMH) is a joint publication of the Moravian Archives and the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth. It is the only academic English language journal on Moravian history! JMH will be published twice a year. Members of the Historical Society and Friends of the Archives will receive a 10% reduction on the subscription price.

From its beginning in 1857 the Moravian Historical Society has published the Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Historical Society and the 250th anniversary of the Archives in 2007, both institutions decided to work together and publish a new journal. JMH will be the continuation of the Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society.

The first issue will contain the following articles: Moravians as a transatlantic community by Peter Vogt, an article on Zinzendorf's blood and wounds theology by Craig Atwood, an essay on the writing of the history of the Southern Province by Daniel Crews and a translation of a letter written by David Nitschmann on the reasons for purchasing the Bethlehem tract in 1741. Future issues will include articles regarding the position of



women in the Moravian Church, Moravian missions in the West Indies, Moravian music, Moravian ideas on conversion and transatlantic communication, the Labrador mission and the Sifting Time. The Journal will also print primary source materials as well as book reviews. Our website offers a link to subscribe and pay online.

Special points of interest:

- Archives publishes new Journal on Moravian History
- New Historic Marker in Front of Archives' Building
- Discovery of 400 year old papers sheds new light on history of Unitas Fratrum
- More than 600 people subscribe to the Archives' electronic newsletter

Archival Discovery in Czech Republic

During restoration work in a former monastery in Mladá Boleslav, Czech Republic, workers found two chests under the rubble of a collapsed vault. The chests date from the beginning of the 17th century and to the surprise of the staff of the local museum they contain the personal archives of Matouš Konečný, bishop of the Unitas Fratrum.

Konečný fled to Brandýs nad Orlicí after the Battle of White Mountain (1620). He died two years later in Brandýs. Experts think Konečný hid the two chests when he left Mladá Boleslav. Now, almost 400 years later, they were recovered. The papers are extremely valuable. They consist of more than 400 letters and a series of lists of members of

the Unity throughout Bohemia. The papers are in a good condition. (*Herrnhuter Bote*, Oct. 2006).

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German Script in Schools

As part of the Archives' new outreach and education programs, Lanie Williamson presented an "Introduction to German Script" at Nitschmann Middle School in Bethlehem on November 1. Lanie visited two sixth-grade German classes taught by Maria Spaihts at the middle school. Each class received a brief history of German script and how it was used to record 125 years of Bethlehem's earliest history. The students examined a real quill pen used for writing and then analyzed a passage from the Bethlehem Diary describing George Wash-

ington's visit to Bethlehem in 1782. Afterwards they learned how to write each letter of the lowercase German script alphabet. At the end of the activity everyone could write their names!

Lanie was amazed at the level of classroom participation. Nearly all hands were raised to answer each question, and everyone wanted to get a chance to write their names on the blackboard. The students were very eager learners and took great care in forming their letters.

The visit was such a success that Lanie was asked to present

the program to higher-level German classes at Nitschmann. In addition to Bethlehem, the Archives hopes to make this program available to all schools in the Lehigh Valley. German script, after all, was used to record the early history of many local communities. By visiting schools the Archives can play an important role in teaching local history by raising awareness about German script and early written documents. Making sure these documents remain accessible is a goal of the Archives as we educate students for the "future of our history".

The 37th German Script Course will take place from June 4–15, 2007. For more information, visit our website.

*bezeugt: Ich bleibe zu dem großen Consolation gott
und die ich bald wieder die ich alle sentimente in
die germanische Landung für mich für mich für mich
... ..*

New Look for the Archives' Gallery

Visitors to the Archives will notice a big change in our gallery. Recently our assistant archivist, Lanie Williamson, rehung the Archives' gallery with a new exhibit culled from our collection of 18th and 19th century Moravian art. The new exhibit mixes examples of fine and decorative art, many of which have never before been on public display. Included in this new exhibit are several portraits and religious paintings by the 18th century painter, Johann Valentin Haidt, works by the 19th century painter, Johann Gustav Grunewald, and landscapes by Reuben O. Luckenbach, a Bethlehem native, and DeWitt Clinton Boutelle.

The Archives owns many fine examples of needlework produced in Moravian communities,

including Bethlehem and Lititz. On display are elaborate ribbon-work wreaths, as well as a wreath made of human hair! Furniture on display includes a tall case clock constructed in Bethlehem for Central Church.

The art in the new exhibit is accompanied by description labels, so that visitors can inform themselves about the art and artists on display.

As more of our collection is researched and cataloged, expect new displays in our gallery. We have a wonderful collection here at the Archives and we want you to know about it.

Come see for yourself!

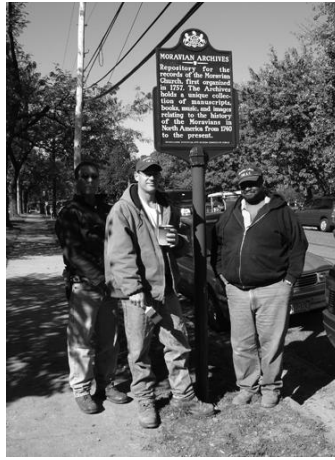


The Gallery of the Moravian Archives is open Monday to Friday, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Admission is free of charge.

Historic Marker Replaced

In the year 2000 the historic marker in front of the Archives' building in Bethlehem suddenly disappeared. What exactly happened to the marker remains a mystery. Was it taken off the pole by vandals, as some people say, or was it damaged while a truck tried to make a turn on the street, as others claim? In any case, for many years an empty pole in front of the Archives was the sole reminder of the historic marker. In 1953 the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission had placed a marker at the former Archives' building, on the corner of Main

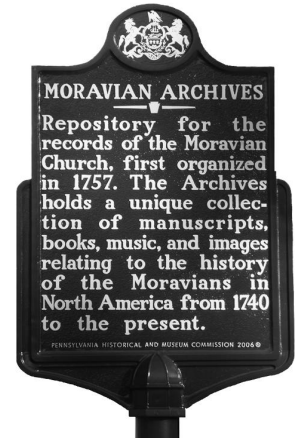


Street and Elizabeth Avenue. When the Archives moved into



its new facility in 1977 the marker moved as well, where it remained for 23 years.

In order to increase the visibility of the Archives archivist Paul Peucker applied for a replacement marker. Since it was a replacement of an earlier marker, the process was relatively easy. The Archives submitted a new, updated text and 50% of the cost was covered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The remainder was paid by an anonymous Friend of the Archives. The marker, which arrived in October of this year, was mounted onto a new pole by the enthusiastic Facilities Management crew of Moravian College. In addition to thanking the anonymous Friend for their kind donation, The Archives wishes to thank the individual members of the Facilities Management crew, John Laidlaw, supervisor, Buck Tarboro, foreman, and Randy Axelson, groundsman, who generously donated their time and effort to this project.



Did you see the 7 minute video about the Archives? Download it from our website or order a copy from the Archives.

Sponsor a Project at the Archives

The Archives is providing its Friends with many new opportunities to preserve history! In addition to making general contributions, now Friends can adopt a "project in need" at the Archives. This program is an excellent opportunity for Friends to make a personal connection with their gifts. Now individuals or groups who have special historical interests - in areas such as rare books, fine and decorative arts, church

affiliations, etc. - can be paired with a special conservation project. You can even sponsor a project on behalf of your favorite history buff. Here are some possibilities:

- Church register rebinding and conservation. Adopt a church register that means something to your history!
- Restoration of a tall case clock constructed in Bethlehem for Central Church. Get it ticking again!

- Protection of our fine needlework collection. You can sponsor the re-framing and re-matting of our needlework according to archival standards, with protective glass and acid-free materials.

Your gift will be credited in the Archives' catalog and in turn - you will become a part of our history! Please contact Paul Peucker for more details and project ideas.

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

“New Discoveries on Nicholas Garrison Jr.”

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

Advent Singstunde in the Old Chapel

Presentation and worship with Dr. Albert H. Frank, assistant director of the Moravian Music Foundation, Rebecca Kleintop Owens, organist.
December 13, 2006, 7:30 pm at the Old Chapel (near Central Church, Bethlehem, Pa.)

Treasures from the Vault

Friends' Day at the Archives, March 18, 2007, 3:00 pm at the Archives
All current and future Friends of the Archives are invited!

News and Announcements

Archives' Anniversary

In January 1757 the records that had accumulated in the archives' room in the Bethlehem Gemeinhaus were organized for the first time by bishop Matthias Hehl (1705-1787). The Moravian Archives of the Northern Province considers this as its founding date. We will keep you informed about the celebrations of our 250th anniversary!

600 Subscribers to *This Month in Moravian History*

Every month more than 600 people receive *This Month in Moravian History*, an electronic newsletter published by the Moravian Archives since November of 2005. Each month a commemorative event from Mora-

vian history will be highlighted. You can sign up for this service on our website.

Archival Studies at Moravian College

Moravian College in Bethlehem will offer a seminar on archival studies during the spring term of 2007. This seminar is being offered in close cooperation with the Moravian Archives. Archivist Paul Peucker will teach the seminar and students will have an opportunity to do practical work at the Archives. This is a way for the Archives to fulfill its mission as an educational resource.

Interns

The Archives welcomes the following interns from Moravian

College: Michelle Squiccimara (Tibet photo album), Elizabeth Paly and Keri Traficante (sorting and organizing periodicals) and Tim Wait (categorizing books in the library). In January of 2007 Ricky Santee (Dickinson College) will continue the conversion of VHS tapes from our film collection to DVD.

IRA gifts

Did you know the new Pension Reform Law, enacted by Congress and signed into law by the President, may provide you with a better way of supporting the Moravian Archives? If you are over age 70 ½ and have an IRA, you can now make a gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the Archives that is not subject to taxation, provided you fol-

low the proper procedures. This gift-giving opportunity offers another means for supporting the Archives. For many people their IRA can be an excellent and low cost way to give. Speak to your accountant or call the Moravian Archives for more information.

Gifts of Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

Giving stock is a great way to give. The value of the gift is determined by its market value on the day of the gift - not what it originally cost. You also avoid the pitfall of paying Capital Gains Taxes. The Moravian Archives maintains a brokerage account for the purpose of receiving donations in stock. For more information, please contact the Archives.