

Voices from the Vault

Issue 21 November 2014

Moravian History and Music Conference a Success

Moravian scholars from around the world made their way to Bethlehem for the Fourth Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music in October. In line with the conference theme of “War and Peace,” most papers were presented on such topics in a worldwide context from the fifteenth century to the modern day. Lectures, concerts, art, food, and refreshments were offered over four days throughout historic Bethlehem.

Assistant archivist Tom McCullough presented on Moravian missionaries in German East Africa (today Tanzania), discussing ways in which Moravian missions were affected by the First World War. Archivist and director of the Moravian Archives, Dr. Paul Peucker, presented on the 1815 “Haube Revolt” in Nazareth, Pennsylvania, and ways in which this incident exemplifies changes

in American and Moravian values, and showcases participation of women in the public sphere amidst a growing sense of American liberty and entitlement.

During the conference, the Center for Moravian Studies at Moravian Theological Seminary presented the 2014 David Schattschneider Award of Merit to the Rev. Dr. Dietrich Meyer of Herrnhut, Germany, who has spent over fifty years researching and furthering the study of German Protestantism and Moravian history.

The conference was sponsored and hosted by Moravian College, the Moravian Archives, the Center for Moravian Studies, the Moravian Music Foundation, the Moravian Historical Society, the Moravian Theological Seminary, and Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites. Also sponsoring the program was the Pennsylvania State University Press.

We thank all of our sponsors, panelists, and conference attendees for their participation, and for making the conference a memorable one. We also thank former assistant archivist, Lanie Graf Yaswinski, for her outstanding service as conference chair.

The Fifth Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music will be held in October of 2016.



Special points of interest:

- Archaeology reveals foundation of first house of Nazareth
- Special T-shirts with quote from the diary
- Travel Journals have been cataloged
- Volunteers needed for oral histories



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Under the Soil: Archaeology in Nazareth

Remains of the 1740 Moravian “First House” have been uncovered on the grounds of the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth, PA. This past summer Hunter Research Inc. of Trenton, NJ, led by archaeologist Jim Lee, surveyed the grounds of the Whitefield House and Gray Cottage utilizing ground-penetrating radar. Using historical maps from the

Moravian Archives and the Moravian Historical Society, archaeologists were able to combine both resources to create detailed subsurface maps. No extant photographs are known to exist of the First House, which was torn down in 1864. In September archaeologists struck the foundation of this former two-story log house, which was used in its

earliest years as a kitchen by Moravians living in Nazareth. Having discovered its foundation, the Society ultimately wishes to reconstruct the First House for use as an educational center for children.

Many eighteenth-century objects have since been uncovered, including redware pottery, a horse bell, and a metal button.

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Retirement of Daniel Crews

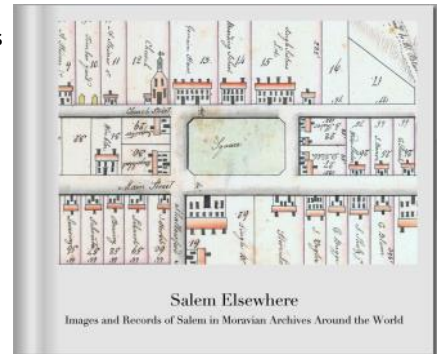
On September 30 Daniel Crews, archivist of the Moravian Archives in Winston-Salem, NC, retired after serving the archives for twenty-two years. During the years that Daniel Crews was archivist he produced more than fifty publications, presented many talks, and moved the Southern Province Archives together with the Moravian Music Foundation into a new, state-of-the-art facility.

Northern Province archivist Paul Peucker was able to attend the farewell dinner in Winston-

Salem. At this occasion Daniel received a book, especially compiled for him by his Moravian colleagues in Europe and North America. Archivists at the Moravian Archives in Herrnhut, Germany; London, England; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; and at the Moravian Music Foundation each chose items from their respective collections relating to the history of Salem, NC. The book is entitled *Salem Elsewhere: Images and Records of Salem in Moravian Archives Around the World* and contains wonderful

samples of significant documents and images of Salem from collections outside of Winston-Salem.

We wish Daniel all the best for a well-deserved retirement! The book is an on-demand publication and can be ordered from blurb.com. Any collector of Moraviana should own a copy!



Special T-Shirts

“We have nothing to do, but to be happy!” These are the words Moravian leader Count Zinzendorf wrote on one of the doors when he visited Nazareth in July of 1742, summarizing Moravian theology. In a letter to the congregation in Bethlehem, Zinzendorf wrote: “O, dear hearts!

Nazareth, your sister (upon whose door I have written: ‘we have nothing to do, but to be happy’) is thriving nicely and living in anticipation, both physically and spiritually.”

We have now put Zinzendorf’s words (in the original lettering from the diary entry) onto a

T-shirt.

The tagless T-shirts come in medium blue and in the sizes medium, large, and extra-large. You can order your copy of the T-shirt from the Moravian Archives for \$20.00 + shipping. Proceeds go to the Moving History campaign.



Word from the Archives’ President

I recently participated in the anniversary banquet for Edgeboro Moravian Church in Bethlehem. This celebration was the culminating event of a year-long observance of the 100th anniversary of Edgeboro. During the past year various facets of church life were highlighted on a monthly basis through special events, Sunday services, and presentations.

We at Edgeboro are blessed to have a very active church family, a devoted pastor, and a role in the life of our local community and the world. It was, and will continue to be, a privilege to celebrate the heritage and history of Edgeboro into the future.

During the past year, my wife Terri led a dedicated and

thoughtful committee of members who, among other events, highlighted the origins and history of our congregation. Although Edgeboro has a rich history and present, we are not blessed with any member who can personally recount our entire history. We have no 100-year-old members. We must rely on our records to bring our history alive today. During the process of assessing our past we gained an exceptional appreciation for the collective record keeping of our congregation for these many years.

Our history is a precious jewel of our collective congregations. Our past should never be prized above God’s grace and salvation for today and its meaning for the future. However, it remains

essential that the beauty and challenge of heritage and history be preserved for generations to come. The documents, maps, art, church records, and other representations of Moravian life will continue to be a resource for understanding of our church’s place in the history of this country and the world. Our staff at the Archives, as well as countless historians and researchers, continually evaluate, present, and analyze the events of the past, not just to celebrate them, but to learn from them.

Thank you for supporting the Moravian Archives, participating in our programming, and being an active part of preserving the jewels of our history and heritage.



Michael Long

Conservation Project

This summer our volunteer team of conservation technicians completed their first project: rehousing of the Bethlehem Congregational Library.

As early as 1751, the Bethlehem congregation organized a *Gemeinbibliothek*. The library consists of books printed between 1481 and 1854. The 1853/1862 catalog of the Congregational Library lists 1,790 titles, including manuscripts and Daily Texts. Currently, our book catalog identifies 1,140 titles from the Congregational Library. The difference is partially ac-

counted for by the fact that the manuscripts and the Daily Text books are no longer listed under the call number CongLib.

In 2010-11 the books from the Congregational Library were cataloged by staff and students from Lehigh University, thanks to a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources. This collaborative grant made it possible to reconstruct one of the oldest communal libraries in the United States.

In September of 2013, Dee Hauser Collins, retired conservation technician from the Free

Library of Philadelphia, began a book-by-book survey with the goal of treating and rehousing the collection and its 1000+ titles. In December, Dee teamed up with Carol Reifinger, Rosi McIlwain, and Craig Mosebach (not pictured). After the team was instructed in crafting a variety of book housings using archival board, work began on carrying out the recommendations of the preservation survey. About 300 books were rehousing in these custom-made archival book enclosures.



Collection of Travel Journals Processed

When Moravian missionaries and congregations began to establish communities outside of Europe, they documented their travels and the experiences in lands new to them. Official diaries, letters, and reports were written by missionaries and itinerant preachers as a means of passing information on to church leaders and other fellow Moravians. The travel accounts offer valuable narratives of their work among Native Americans, Euro-Americans, Africans, African Americans, and Caribbean peoples. In the process of carrying out their duties as servants of the church, these clergymen left a wealth of information behind about the socio-

political and geopolitical state of places around the world following the First Great Awakening and during the Age of Enlightenment.

In 2013, assistant archivist Tom McCullough began processing the collection of over 300 miscellaneous travel accounts which had been assembled in the 1950s by the late Rev. John Fliegel. It is believed that the bulk of the materials were at some point received by the Bethlehem Congregation, and they are thus truly an extension of this record group. They are now arranged geographically and cross-referenced as much as possible. "I wanted to be comprehensive and tie

individual diaries to other manuscripts inside and outside the collection," explains Tom. "My goal was not just for researchers to identify a journey from point A to B, but for them to learn who the authors of these travel accounts really were, and to tap into their spiritual journeys, as well." A 60-page finding aid is now available at the Archives as well as on the website.

"Previously, you had to really know about this collection from an old citation," says Tom. "The materials were accessed only occasionally by researchers for that reason. My hope is that the new online catalog will draw the attention of Moravian scholars to an invaluable collection."



Under the Soil (cont. from page 1)

The 30 ft. x 21 ft. First House was built in 1740 as the Moravians began constructing a much larger stone building to be used as a school for orphans of slaves, though it instead found use as a nursery for Moravian children. This stone building, which was requested to be built

by English evangelist George Whitefield, now bears the name "Whitefield House" and functions as the museum and administrative office of the Moravian Historical Society. It is hoped that continued archaeological investigation of this historic Moravian site will tell us more

about the history of Nazareth, its use as an educational center for children, and as a sanctuary for French and Indian War refugees.

For more information, go to www.moravianhistoricalsociety.org.



Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

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Upcoming Events

German-English Advent Singstunde

December 2, 2014, 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 6, 2014, 6:00 pm at the Whitefield House in Nazareth, Pa.
for more information and reservations, call 610-759-5070

Christmas in Nazareth

December 13, 2014, 1:00–6:00pm
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 1-12, 2015
for more information: www.moravianchurcharchives.org/germanscript.php

News and Announcements



Original Moravian Stars

The original Moravian Stars are available 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. 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 in Bethlehem.

Grunewald Paintings

The request in our previous newsletter to support the restoration of two paintings by Bethlehem painter Gustav Grunewald had a wonderful response. We have now reached the goal of \$4,000. The two portraits of Johann and Catharina Malthaner were donated to the Moravian Archives in the spring. The donors, descendants of the Malthaners, contributed generously to the restoration of the paintings.

Moving History Campaign

Phase 3 of our Moving History renovations project will begin in the spring of 2015. During this final phase the reading room and the work spaces will be upgraded and expanded. Mark your donation as "Moving History."

Oral Histories: Volunteers Needed

At the last synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, a resolution passed to encourage individual Moravian churches to conduct oral history projects with their members. Moravian churches are asked to interview members about their experiences and to record these interviews. The Interprovincial Board of Communication (IBOC) and the Moravian Archives were charged to provide leadership for collecting and preserving these oral histories. In order to make the interviews accessible in the long term we need to transcribe them to paper. We are looking for volunteers who can help transcribe the recordings. Contact Paul Peucker at the Moravian Archives for more information.