

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.
from

The Moravian Archives 2015



The Moravian Archives is extremely grateful for the continued financial support of the Bethlehem Area Moravians. This support enables us to continue our programming, to preserve the history of the Moravian Church and to share this history with the public.

The last phase of the renovations of the Moravian Archives was concluded in 2015. This was the final phase of a three-year renovation project to increase capacity, access, and outreach of the Moravian Archives in order to better serve the church and the community. This last phase included a complete overhaul of the 1977 reading room, as well as the expansion of the workspaces for staff and volunteers. We were able to install new furniture in the reading room and offices. The Moravian Archives is now much better equipped to assist the public in the reading room, to host school and college classes, to offer public programming, and to provide ample workspace for community volunteers.

Other Highlights from 2015

1. Even though the Archives was closed for almost six months, a total of 104 researchers came to research in the reading room. Many visited several times. In addition, the Archives' staff addressed many research requests by email and telephone.
2. More 30 volunteers helped us with many projects. An important project is cataloging our book collection. There are currently over 15,000 titles in our catalog. Volunteers have also cataloged and scanned photographs, indexed obituaries, helped with mailings, book conservation, and transcriptions.
3. While the Archives was closed to the public, assistant archivist Tom McCullough spent the month of February at the Unity Archives in Herrnhut where he familiarized himself with the holdings there.
4. The Bethlehem 275th Anniversary Committee met several times at the Moravian Archives. A separate report is attached.
5. The Archives was able to purchase two prints: a view of the Moravian mission New Herrnhut in Greenland from ca. 1780, and a 19th-century view of the Lehigh River. A collection of silver spoons, made by Moravian silversmith John Matthew Micksch (1798-1882), was donated to the Moravian Archives. Many other acquisitions were received.
6. Issues 15/1 and 15/2 of the *Journal of Moravian History* were published in cooperation with our publisher, Pennsylvania University Press.
7. The Laros Foundation in Bethlehem gave a large contribution for the renovation project.
8. In March 2015, the Archives received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The grant is to fund a planning project for the conservation and

- digitization of approximately 120 linear feet of records from Moravian churches in the Eastern West Indies. This is the second NEH grant the Archives received.
9. The Morning Call featured the Archives in a well-researched and prominently placed article about the NEH grant and the records from the Caribbean.
 10. The Moravian Archives introduced a new logo in April.
 11. During the year of the 600th anniversary of the death of Jan Hus, the Archives hosted several lectures on Hus as well as the exhibit, "Jan Hus – Life, Teaching, Memory."
 12. During the summer a group of students from Lehigh University spent ten weeks working with a variety of German-language primary sources from the former Moravian community of "Christiansbrunn." Under the mentorship of Archives' board member and Lehigh University Chair of English, Dr. Scott Gordon, the students analyzed a variety of diaries, maps, membership catalogs, memoirs, surveys, and letters. Their work resulted in a website.
 13. The Bach Choir of Bethlehem signed an agreement to deposit its records in the Moravian Archives.
 14. Archivist Paul Peucker's book, *A Time of Sifting: Mystical Marriage and the Crisis of Moravian Piety* (Penn State Press, 2015) was launched at the Moravian Archives on June 24.
 15. The annual German Script Course was so well attended that a second course was offered during the summer.
 16. The German Script classes for middle and high schools continued. Over 150 students participated.
 17. Archivist Paul Peucker was invited to a lecture by the German President Joachim Gauck in Philadelphia in September.
 18. Assistant archivist offered a genealogy workshop in October.
 19. Sufficient funding was raised to conserve two portraits by Moravian artist Gustav Grunewald. These portraits of John and Catharine Malthaner were donated in 2014. Painting conservator Steven Erisoty in Philadelphia returned the portraits in November.
 20. The traditional German-English Advent *Singstunde* was held in the Old Chapel on December 1 (attendance 107)
 21. Assistant archivist gave several presentations on the history of the Moravian star.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Peucker, Archivist

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