

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.  
from

## The Moravian Archives 2016

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

### *Highlights from 2016*

1. A total of 133 researchers came to research in the reading room during the past year. Many visited several times. In addition, the Archives' staff addressed many research requests by email and telephone.
2. More than 30 volunteers helped us with a variety of projects. An important project continues to be cataloging our book collection. There are currently over 17,000 titles in our catalog. In 2016 we began a new project: Moravian Roots. During the coming years, volunteers will enter the entries from the more than 250 church registers into the Moravian Roots database. In the future, information about baptisms, marriages, funerals, etc. will be readily available.
3. The Bethlehem 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee met several times at the Moravian Archives. A separate report is attached.
4. Archives staff was involved in the production of two 275<sup>th</sup>-anniversary publications: the coloring book and the flyer. Both publications were funded by Bethlehem Area Moravians.
5. During the past year we received many acquisitions for our collections, including records from the following congregations: Lititz, PA; Kellner, WI; London, WI; Central, Bethlehem, PA (Busy Workers); East Hills, Bethlehem, PA; Morning Star, AZ; Stockholm, WI; Alice, ND; Casselton, ND; Evangel, NJ; Rudolph, WI; Saratoga, WI; and from the Western District Executive Board.  
We were able to purchase many publications on the Moravians including a rare hymnbook in the Raetian language (Switzerland) from 1789 containing many Moravian hymns. We also received two donations of silverware made by Moravian silversmiths in Bethlehem and Nazareth.
6. In February a team of conservators from the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts spent seven days at the Archives to assess the condition of the material in the record group Eastern West Indies. This assessment was made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and will be the basis for future grant applications.
7. Issues 16/1 and 16/2 of the *Journal of Moravian History* were published in cooperation with our publisher, Pennsylvania State University Press.
8. On April 2 we showed the deed for the original 500 acres purchased by the Moravians in 1741 on display for one day. More than 850 people came to visit the Archives that day. The exhibit "Building Bethlehem" will continue through June of 2017.
9. New outside lights were installed in the spring along the west side of our building.
10. We offered our annual German Script Course as well as a series of workshops (genealogy, bookbinding).

11. A highlight was our annual Summer Soiree for Friends of the Archives on August 16.
12. We increased security at our facility by installing a buzzer system on the door into the reading room. Entry to the reading is only possible for visitors after completion of the registration process; staff can use a swipe card.
13. In the fall we introduced Saturday hours to enable people who cannot visit the Archives during the week to come to the Archives. In the period September 2016 – May 2017 we will be open on four Saturdays. This trial will be evaluated during the summer of 2017.
14. The biannual Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music, organized by the Archives, Moravian College, and other Moravian institutions, took place in October.
15. In conjunction with this Conference, the Archives hosted a meeting of Moravian archivists from Herrnhut, Winston-Salem, London, and Bethlehem. This was the fourth time this meeting took place.
16. In November we hosted a workshop “Privacy and Confidentiality” on behalf of the Society of American Archivists.
17. The German Script classes for middle and high schools continued. Over 150 students participated.
18. In October former assistant archivist Lanie Yaswinski returned on as a contract employee to help answer research requests. We now offer a new service on our website for people to submit research requests for a pre-paid fee.
19. The Archives contributed to the PBS television show “Finding Your Roots.”
20. Assistant archivist Thomas McCullough became editor of *Archival Spirit*, the newsletter of the Archivists of Religious Collections Section of the Society of American Archivists.
21. The traditional German-English Advent *Singstunde* was held in the Old Chapel on November 29 (attendance 90).
22. Assistant archivist Tom McCullough gave several presentations on the history of the Moravian star.
23. On December 12 the Archives’ board thanked Michael Long for his leadership during the years of his presidency and elected Thomas Bross (Nazareth Moravian Church) as the new board president starting 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Peucker, Archivist

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**Staff:**

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