

# Voices from the Vault

Issue 31

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## New Acquisition: Zinzendorf Letter from 1727

In August of 2019 the Moravian Archives purchased an original letter written by Zinzendorf in 1727. The letter was written by Zinzendorf to his friend Anton Heinrich Walbaum (1696-1753), whom Zinzendorf knew while they were both students in Halle. Walbaum was the private tutor of the son of Carl Dubislav von Natzmer, Zinzendorf's stepbrother. From 1725 to 1727 Walbaum accompanied his pupil on a grand tour of Western Europe. During that time, Zinzendorf wrote Walbaum this letter.

The topic of the letter is a book: Johann Arndt's *Of True Christianity*. Zinzendorf had commissioned a French translation of Arndt's book that was published in Amsterdam by the brothers Joannes and Henrik Janson van Waesberge. Zinzendorf asked Walbaum, if he was still in Paris, to hand a copy of the French edition of Arndt's *Of True Christianity* to an unnamed abbot in Paris. Walbaum was indeed still in Paris. On the back of the letter he noted that he received the letter in Paris on March 31. He

also noted when he replied: almost two months later, on May 21 from the city of Tours, France. The Moravian Archives was able to acquire the letter from a dealer in Bavaria, Germany, in August of 2019 and feature it at our Annual Summer Soirée. The letter has been added to the Zinzendorf Papers. More details on this collection, including digitized content, can be found on the Moravian Archives' online finding aid (accessible through our website).

## Special points of interest:

- Assistant archivist visits Oldenburg, Germany
- Archivist takes sabbatical
- New collections available through online finding aid
- New materials accessioned



[www.moravianhistorystore.com](http://www.moravianhistorystore.com)

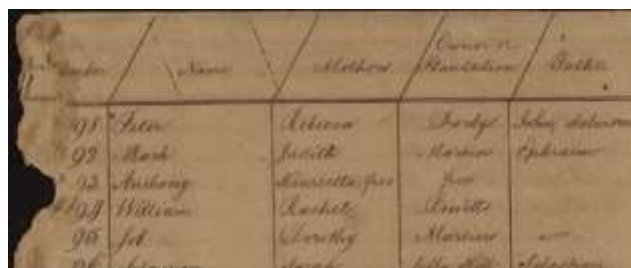
## Volunteer Spotlight: Linda Mallalieu



In conjunction with the our *Archiving Antigua* project, funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), Linda Mallalieu, a genealogist and Archives researcher, has volunteered her time to fully index a register of baptisms (1760-1795) from Spring Gardens Moravian Church in St. John's, Antigua. Asked about her inspiration to take on the project, Mallalieu replied: "I like to learn as much as

I can about the historic background of my husband's family from the West Indies, particularly St. Kitts and Antigua... It's interesting to see the surnames and estate names in common between the two islands, and I think you can get some impressions of life during the period of the register." Using the digitized images of the original register, accessible on the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC), Mallalieu carefully recorded each entry number, name of individual,

mother and father, owner or plantation, minister by whom baptized, date of baptism, date of reception as a member of the Moravian Church, dates of leaving the island, death and place of interment, and link to individual pages. Researchers accessing the digitized register normally sift the digitized images page by page to search for individuals; however, Mallalieu's work has made those names searchable in dLOC. Check out Linda's work at <https://dloc.com/>



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## Assistant Archivist Teaches in Germany



Invited by Moravian scholar Dr. Jessica Cronshagen, assistant archivist Thomas McCullough spent part of May 2019 in Germany teaching classes at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg. Themes of the classes were German script, correspondence networks, and the analysis of historical documents.

McCullough also partook in discussions regarding the Prize

Papers Project, a massive archives' digitization project led by Prof. Dr. Dagmar Freist and based at the University of Oldenburg and the UK National Archives. In a roundtable discussion for the project, Thomas reported on the MAB's digitization endeavors and participation in grant-funded digitization projects. "I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Dr. Cronshagen, Frank Marquardt

and others in the Institute of Early Modern Studies," said McCullough. He added, "It was a chance to provide an enriching experience for students while representing the MAB and encouraging folks to engage in Moravian studies." Funding for Thomas's participation in the teacher exchange was provided by Oldenburg's Forschungsbasiertes Lernen im Fokus (Projekt FLiF).

## MAB Continues to Offer Saturday Hours

Over the last three years the Moravian Archives has seen great success from the introduction of Saturday Hours. Saturday hours were initially introduced on a trial basis, to help meet the demands of researchers and individuals who could not make it to the archives during our regular operating hours. To support this

request from our patrons, MAB staff and the board designated one Saturday each quarter for our doors to be open to researchers, those wishing to tour our exhibit space, and shoppers who browse our Moravian History Store. Since implementation, Saturday hours have evolved as well. In the beginning, after opening on a Satur-

day, MAB had to close the following Monday. But with the addition of staff this is no longer necessary. MAB has also designated the December Saturday hours to be an Open House. First introduced last year, MAB offered vault tours to the general public, research hours, a workshop offered by Dee Collins, exhibit tours, a used book

sale, and special discounts at the Moravian History Store. We look forward our next Saturday Open House on December 7, 2019!

Next Saturday hours:

- March 14, 2020
- May 16, 2020

## MAB Marks 20,000 Titles Cataloged

Earlier this year MAB staff and volunteers celebrated the accomplishments of long-time volunteers, Phil Metzger and June Griffiths, in marking 20,000 book titles cataloged.

Throughout the past few years, we have been marking momentous occasions regarding the library collection which fifteen years ago was only accessible by doing a physical search in the vault. The day after his retirement from Lehigh University in 2006, Phil Metzger began to catalog the various titles which were previously inaccessible to the public.

The Archives purchased library cataloging software and a unique call number system was developed by Phil and Paul. In April of 2009, we celebrated that 5,000 titles were cata-

loged, and in May of 2010 the titles of the Congregational library (CongLib) were identified and cataloged. With many more hours of hard work by our volunteers we have now cataloged 20,000 titles!

Thanks to Phil and June's hard work and dedication, the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, houses the most extensive collection of printed materials on the Moravians in America, now searchable through our online library catalog and WorldCat.

But we are not done yet. There are still plenty of books waiting to be cataloged and newly acquired titles as well! We are excited to continue to watch the collection grow.



## Under Restoration: View of Bethlehem

In the fall of 2018 the Moravian Archives in Winston-Salem, NC, transferred a fragile watercolor to the Bethlehem Archives. The watercolor is a view of the 1794 bridge across the Lehigh River from the southwest, against the background of Bethlehem on the north side of the Lehigh river.

The most interesting thing about this view is its depiction of a water tower among the houses of Bethlehem. The water tower was once located at the south end of Main Street. The Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth, PA, has a drawing of the water tower but most views of Bethlehem do not depict this structure. It is the only view of Bethlehem in our collection that shows the water tower.

The water tower was part of the famous water works of Bethlehem: water from a spring close to the Monocacy Creek

was pumped up into the water tower. From there water was distributed to various cisterns in Bethlehem. The water tower was torn down in 1803 when the site was prepared for the construction of Central Moravian Church.

The watercolor was in very bad shape: the paper was crumbling and several pieces around the border were already missing. The watercolor was probably framed at some point and had been exposed to sunlight for an extended period of time. The paper was dark brown and there seemed to be some stained areas due to water damage.

In May of 2019 the view was sent to the Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts in Philadelphia to be preserved. Currently, the view is being cleaned and the back side of the object will be lined with mulber-

ry paper. We cannot wait to see the results!

The preservation was possible because of dedicated contributions by Friends of the Moravian Archives into our Restoration Fund. When the view

comes back to the Moravian Archives, we will put it on display. We also thank Eric Elliot, archivist of the Southern Province, for transferring this important view to Bethlehem.



View of Bethlehem (1794) prior to restoration

## Archivist Takes Sabbatical

During the early Fall of 2019 archivist Paul Peucker took a three-month sabbatical. The sabbatical was used to write a study on the early years of Herrnhut. "For years, I have wanted to write a detailed study

of the beginnings of the Moravian Church in Herrnhut," said Paul. "Surprisingly, the most recent book on this topic dates from 1959. It is time to take another look at the sources." In the past few years, Paul made sever-

al research trips to Herrnhut, Germany, where he took thousands of images of records at the Unity Archives. "Moravians are familiar with the story of August 13, 1727, but there are so many questions about what exactly

was happening in Herrnhut during the 1720s." The goal is to publish the book in time for the upcoming 300th anniversary of the founding of Herrnhut in 2022.

## Other New Acquisitions

We were able to purchase a rare book for our library that had been used in the Moravian Boys' School in Nazareth (Nazareth Hall). Printed in 1730 and detailing a method for the placement of accents in Hebrew, the book had been owned by former Lutheran pastor Franz Christian Lembke (1704-1785). Owing to his Moravian sympathies,

Lembke was dismissed from his position in Strasburg and went to on serve as a pastor in various Moravian congregations and also as director of Nazareth Hall. The book was authored by Johann Heinrich Michaelis (1668-1738), professor of Oriental Languages at the University of Göttingen. With five editions, the book was considered to be the standard



## Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

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## Upcoming Events

### German-English Advent Singstunde

December 3, 2019, 7:00 pm  
In the Old Chapel on the campus of Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA

### Saturday Open House

Saturday, December 7, 2019

### Lecture: The Lititz Collegium Musicum

By Jeffrey Gemmel, Millersville University/ Moravian Congregation at Lititz  
Tuesday, February 18, 2020 @ 7:00 PM  
Snow date: February 25, 2020

### Moravian Archives Saturday Hours

Saturday, March 14, 2020  
Saturday, May 16, 2020

### German Script Course 2020

June 1-12, 2020  
Registration now open at [www.moravianchurcharchives.org/events](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/events)

### MAB will be closed the following dates:

Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29, 2019 - Thanksgiving Holiday  
December 24, 2019 - January 1, 2020 - Christmas Holiday  
Friday, March 27, 2020 - Moravian Music Foundation Board Meeting



## News and Announcements

### Moravian Roots Update

Thanks to amazing work by MAB volunteers, 64,000 records of baptism, confirmation, reception, marriage, removal, and burial have been indexed in the Moravian Roots database as of September 2019. New areas covered in the indexing include registers from former Moravian congregations in Missouri and upstate New York.

### Archiving Antigua now Available on DLOC

Thanks to a Digitizing Hidden Special Collections grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), 99 volumes from the Moravian Church in Antigua have been digitized and made

available in the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC). Those interested in researching these volumes can check them out at [www.dloc.com/moravianarchives](http://www.dloc.com/moravianarchives).

### SAA Takes Notice of MAB's Collection Policy

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) took notice of MAB's Collection Development Policy and asked for our permission to include this document on their website as part of a set of sample policies for archivists to use as resources. We are honored to have our policy listed as one of the resources of the SAA for reference by other archivists!

### New additions to Finding Aid

As we are committed to make our holdings available to the public, MAB staff has been hard at work processing, revising, and improving many collections. We are pleased to report that the following collections have been added or improved on our online finding aid:

### Newly Digitized Collections:

Collections which have been newly digitized and can be view through our online finding aid include:

- Collection of Travel Journals (TravJournals)
- Photograph Albums (PhotAlbums 1-8)
- Bethlehem Single Sisters (Beth SS)

### Collections newly cataloged:

- Board of World Mission (BWM)
- First Moravian Church of York (MC York)
- First Moravian Church of New York (MC NY First)
- Photograph Albums (PhotAlbums)

### Ongoing cataloging projects:

- Records of Moravian Missions to American Indians (MissInd)
- Lititz Congregation (LitCong)
- Provincial Helpers Conference