

# Voices from the Vault

ISSUE 40      JULY 2024

## MAB Board of Directors is Growing and Evolving!

The Moravian Archives (MAB) is delighted to have Diane Windham Shaw step into the role of Board President. We are also thrilled to welcome three new board members: Ricky Santee, Gerry Downes, and Kim Demyan. Let's learn a little more about each member and what they hope to bring to our board.



**Diane Windham Shaw** (pictured left)

Diane Windham Shaw is a trained archivist who received her BA and MLS degrees from Emory University and who has held positions at Emory University, Lehigh University, and most notably Lafayette College where she served as college archivist from 1987 until her retirement in 2019. Diane, a Moravian herself, first joined the Board of Directors of the Moravian Archives in 2009, serving under board presidents Mike Long and Tom Bross. Diane looks forward to helping to further the Archives' programming and education initiatives. She is especially eager to explore how the Archives can participate in and contribute to Bethlehem's role as a UNESCO World Heritage site, should that designation be awarded later this year.

**Ricky Santee, Esq.** (pictured right)

Ricky Santee is no stranger to the Moravian Archives as he previously interned at the archives in 2007 working on the digitization of the Archives' VHS Collection and assisting with processing the Moravian Female Seminary Collection. Ricky is now a lawyer in Bethlehem with a general civil practice. His work focuses on civil litigation matters, estate planning, administration matters, and some municipal work. Ricky hopes to become better acquainted with the current work of the Archives and wants to support its mission and activities.



**Gerry Downes** (pictured left)

When Gerry Downes visited the Archives during the 2018 and 2023 Northern Provincial Synods, he was fascinated by the wealth of information available. When asked to join the Board of Directors of MAB, he jumped at the chance. Gerry grew up in the Moravian Church on Barbados and is now a member of New Dawn Moravian Church in Toronto, Canada. He has been an insurance professional for over 25 years and is specialized in legal liability claims handling. Gerry is excited to learn more about the Archives during his time on the board and help further our mission.



**Kim Demyan** (pictured right)

Kim Demyan has been working at Moravian University for 29 years and is currently the director of Reeves Library focusing on information literacy for student researchers. Kim values, both personally and professionally, the mission of the Archives to preserve and share the fascinating history of the Moravians and Bethlehem and is inspired by the work that the Archives' team does to make historical materials and information accessible to the public. She is happy to support these endeavors in such a direct way and is looking forward to being a part of an exciting future for the Archives, as well.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PROCESSING	2
PLANNED GIVING	2
STAR & CANDLE SHOP	2
DELAWARE NATION	3
UPCOMING	4
INTERNS	4
PROCESSED COLLECTIONS	4

## New Procedures for Processing Photographs

For the past six years, we have been actively working to expand access to our various photographic collections. This includes photograph albums (over 50 processed already!), single photographic prints (including a large collection of oversized prints), 35mm slides, and negatives. As donations and in-vault discoveries of these visual materials continue, we have fine-tuned our processing methods for these types of materials to provide robust well-rounded access at a much quicker pace.

Our process for describing photographic materials differs from how we process text-based

materials such as letters, manuscripts, and other documents. While written materials are often described at a folder level (i.e., small groups of like materials such as meeting minutes from a specific date range), photographic materials are always described individually at an item level.

Processing at an item level ensures that the nuances present in a single image or print can be described as they are uniquely presented and not, instead, as an overall idea. While processing materials in this manner is very beneficial to access, creating a catalog record for a single image often involves creating a detailed

narrative of the image that seeks to describe the visual components of the photograph and how they relate to each other. This can be incredibly time-consuming and often results in albums or collections taking quite a bit of time to process, creating a roadblock to access.

In recent months, we have begun to process our photographic collections a little differently. While individual catalog records are still created for each photograph, we refrain from the creation of narrative descriptions in favor of creating access through titles (either copied or derived) and rich subjects/keywords

(specific people, places, etc.). This creates an effective structure that prioritizes immediate access, while leaving space for the creation of more detailed narrative descriptions in the future. This method has allowed us to catalog photographic albums and images at a much quicker rate and has resulted in researchers having the ability to discover and access these materials in just a few weeks rather than multiple months.

You can find samples from our photograph collections on our online finding aid: [moravianchurcharchives.findbuch.net](http://moravianchurcharchives.findbuch.net)

## MAB to Manage 2024 Star & Candle Shop

We are delighted to announce that this holiday season our in-house gift shop, the Moravian History Store, will be partnering with Central Moravian Church to manage the Star & Candle Shop. A community favorite for many years, the Star & Candle Shop is located right next to the Christmas Putz in Central's Christian Education building and

is open select days from late November to December 31st. This year the shop will be stocked with Moravian History Store merchandise including original Herrnhuter Moravian stars, a variety of ornaments, Moravian star-themed glassware and ceramics, delicate jewelry, and much more! In addition, visitors to this year's shop will be able to

peruse gifts and items from other vendors including Central Moravian Church, artist Linda Wickman, and crafters Carol Reifinger and Karen Reifinger. Shopping hours for the Star & Candle Shop will be announced in the coming months.

Staffing the Star & Candle Shop is no small feat, and we are actively looking for volunteers

who would be interested in donating their time by working in the shop. Volunteer activities during shop hours include interacting and assisting customers and packing up sales.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Archives at 610.866.3255. Thank you!

## Planned Giving

Are you perhaps considering to include the Moravian Archives in your will? There are many ways to do so. Recently we recorded a series of short videos that may answer your questions. We encourage you to view these videos before you sit down with your professional advisors for their advice. You will find these videos in the Support section of our website.

Legacy gifts, large or small, help us to preserve our collections in the future. Previous legacy gifts have helped us create staff positions, keep up the maintenance of our facility, purchase equipment for our digitization program, and purchase items for our collections. When you let us know that you have included the Moravian Archives in your will, we will

gladly add you to our Legacy Society. As a member of our Legacy Society you will receive invitations to special events.

If you are thinking about designating your legacy gift to a special aspect of the work of the Moravian Archives, we ask you to contact us, and we can help you with the right wording.

We also encourage you to contact the Moravian Ministries Foundation to discover ways to make a planned gift to the Moravian Archives ([mmfa.plannedgiving.org](http://mmfa.plannedgiving.org)).

Your planned gift can make a big impact in the future. We are grateful to the Friends of the Moravian Archives for their continued support!



*Stephen Link (left) and Moravian Archives Board President, Diane Windhaw-Shaw (right), meet to discuss planned giving.*

## Digitization of Provincial Records

Currently we are working on digitizing the minutes of the Provincial Helpers' Conference (PHC) from 1767 through 1861. Contained in twenty-one volumes, these are handwritten in German and record meetings of the PHC, the board which oversaw Moravian activities in North America, making them an invaluable record of this fascinating period of Moravian history.

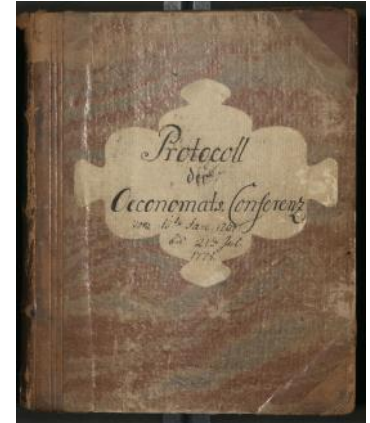
Another ongoing project is the digitization of a series of thirty volumes containing period copies of letters sent in an official capacity by the presidents of the PHC's successor, the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) between November of 1878 and October of 1898. The presidents in question were Edmund de Schweinitz, Edward T. Kluge, E. A. Oerter, J. M. Levering, Morris

W. Leibert, and Charles L. Moench. Interestingly, these letter books are an example of an early technology for duplicating handwritten material, in which each letter was placed on a sheet of moistened copying paper and put through a press so that some of the ink would be transferred to the copying paper. Similar to the PHC minutes, the letters are an excellent resource for understanding the work of the PEC and the church as whole as well as that of the presidents.

These materials have been selected for digitization because of their historical importance and to facilitate easier access by researchers, but the letter books have also been prioritized to facilitate preservation due to their fragility. The nineteenth-

century copying paper used for duplication is very thin and can easily be damaged. The paper also gives off a scent of vanilla that is typically indicative of the deterioration of lignin, an organic material often found in older paper. Digitizing this material, which is reminiscent of tissue paper, has required adjustments to our normal digitization process; specifically it necessitates placing backer paper behind each page before the scan is made so the text can be easily read and then cropping the scanned image to only show the page itself. This results in a slower scanning process but it is well worth it for the improved quality of the resulting images.

We look forward to making both these and the PHC



Cover of the Minutes of the Provincial Helpers' Conference Volume 1, 1767 – 1774

minutes available through our online finding aid once the digitization process is completed.

## Donation to the Delaware Nation



Spring intern Fatimah Bouri prepared thousands of books in our library collection that are either duplicate copies or that fall outside our collection scope for deaccessioning. For many books we are trying to find other repositories or libraries that might be interested in them. Hearing of this project, Katelyn Lucas and Carissa Speck, representatives of the Delaware Nation, expressed their interest in accepting some of the deaccessioned books as donations.

Delaware Nation plans to display the historical religious texts translated into the Lenape language in their new museum, which is expected to open this summer at their headquarters in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

"In the past couple of years, Delaware Nation has been working on language revitalization projects. In our archival collection, aside from our audio recordings of Elders, we have very few written materials in Lenape. For us, being able to acquire historical books translated in Lenape just furthers our progress in restoring the Lenape language amongst our citizens as well as giving us the opportunity to talk about a significant part of Lenape history with the Moravian communities," said Carissa Speck, Delaware Nation's Director of Historic Preservation.

Delaware Nation has been renovating a historical building to create a new museum space, which will be able to house exhibitions, their library, archives, and historic preservation offices all together. The rest of the donated books will become part of Delaware Nation's library collections, so that tribal citizens will have access to them.

The vast majority of Lenape artifact collections and archival documents are still housed in institutions across Lenape homelands, which encompass eastern

Pennsylvania (including Bethlehem), New Jersey, Delaware, and parts of New York, Connecticut, and Maryland. The Lenape (or "Delaware"—this was the term colonists gave to the Lenape) people were forced out of their homelands and fragmented as a result of centuries of colonial dispossessions and broken treaties (which began before, but continued long after the founding of America). Today's sovereign federally recognized Lenape / Delaware Nations are: Delaware Nation (Anadarko Oklahoma); Delaware Tribe of Indians (Bartlesville Oklahoma); the Stockbridge Munsee Community (Bowler Wisconsin); and the Munsee Delaware Nation and the Eelūnaapëewii Lahnkëewiit (Delaware Nation at Moraviantown), both in Ontario Canada. Many of these nations have historical preservation offices located in their homelands, like Delaware Nation's office which is now housed on Lehigh University's campus. But most Lenape citizens still live outside of Lenape homelands today, and often do not have easy access to return to their

homelands and visit their ancestors, artifacts, or historical documents.

"If we are to begin to right any of the wrongs of settler colonialism, reuniting Lenape people with their stolen homelands, ancestors, and belongings is critical. Lenape people maintain sacred relationships with their homelands despite their forced removal, and have a right to preserve, protect, and perpetuate their own cultures and histories on their own terms. It's always great in cases like this one (thanks to the generosity of the Moravian Archives) when we're able to bring artifacts and archival documents to tribal headquarters. That way, a greater number of citizens will be able to view them without the financial and physical burden of having to travel to Lenape homelands (a long journey from Anadarko which many, especially tribal elders, are often unable to make)," said Katelyn Lucas, Delaware Nation's Historic Preservation Officer who works out of their extension office in Bethlehem.

## Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, PA

Moravian Archives  
41 W. Locust Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Phone: 610-866-3255  
info@moravianchurcharchives.org  
www.moravianchurcharchives.org

www.moravianhistorystore.com



### Board of Directors

Diane Windham Shaw, President  
Thomas Bross, Vice-President  
Michael A. Long, Treasurer  
Dr. Scott Paul Gordon, Secretary  
Kim Demyan  
Gerry Downes  
Dr. Katherine Faull  
Alice Mosebach  
David S. Parker  
Ricky Santee, Esq.  
Brad Senick  
Marian Shatto  
Donald A. Squair

## Upcoming Events

### Moravian Archives Annual Summer Soirée

Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 5:00 pm

### "Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice": Origins of a Moravian Hymn

Online lecture by Paul Peucker  
Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 12:00 pm

### "On Tour with the 'Nation's Guest': Lafayette in America 1824-25"

Lecture by Diane Windham Shaw  
Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 4:00 pm

### Moravian Archives Closed

September 2, 2024; October 14, 2024

For the most accurate and up-to-date listing of archives lectures, events, and closures, please visit our website:  
[www.moravianchurcharchives.org/event](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/event)



## News and Announcements

### INTERNS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

This spring, four interns graciously donated their time, talents, and creativity to the Moravian Archives, while also gaining a variety of new skills in the process. A series of blog posts highlighting their unique experiences is accessible on our website at [www.moravianchurcharchives.org/category/intern-highlight/](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/category/intern-highlight/).

### COLLECTIONS RECENTLY PROCESSED

With the help of our spring interns, the archives has been working hard to process collections. The following collections are now available via our online finding aid:

- Lebanon Congregation
  - Rice Collection
  - Vernon Couillard Personal Papers
  - Elizabeth Moravian Church
  - Evangel Moravian Church
  - Palmyra Moravian Church
  - Battle Hill Moravian Church
  - Provincial Women's Board of the Moravian Church Northern Province
  - Moravian Open Door, Inc.
  - Spangenberg Papers
- We continue to process collections and our online finding aid is regularly updated as collections are completed. Remember, we may have records relating to your research—they may just not be available online yet!

### CONGREGATION TRANSFER LIST UPDATED

As the Moravian Church continues to evolve and change, so are the records our churches produce. As the Archives for the Moravian Church Northern Province, we must constantly reevaluate the type and format in which congregations transfer records to us.

Recently, MAB updated the list of materials we ask our churches to send to the archives in order to preserve the unique and diverse history of the Moravian Church Northern Province. This update includes subject areas which were never asked from our congregations such as photographs and

cemetery records.

However, the most notable change to this list includes the transfer of electronic or born digital records for long-term preservation. In the last few years the MAB has worked diligently to create an infrastructure to preserve and maintain records produced in an electronic environment to meet the change in how Moravian congregations produce records. As with many things, MAB has found that the majority of records being produced by Moravian congregations is now being created using electronic media and formats such as emails, word documents, Excel files, and digital photographs. Our transfer list now reflects this change to include born digital records.