

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.

from



## The Moravian Archives

### 2023

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The Moravian Archives is grateful to Bethlehem Area Moravians for their 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.

*Mission statement: The Moravian Archives collects and preserves records and historical materials of Moravians in North America and makes them available to the public. It is the official repository of the records of the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province. The Archives fulfills its mission through archival processing, research services, education, publications, and public programming.*

#### *Highlights from 2023*

1. The financial support received from Bethlehem Area Moravians was gratefully accepted. BAM contributed \$20,000, which represents 3.7% of the Archives' 2023 operating budget. Combined with the financial support from the Northern Province, the Larger Life Foundation and the Society for Propagating the Gospel, we can say that the Moravian Church as our main constituency covered 13.7% of our operating budget in 2023. The remaining funds come from the Friends of the Archives, from endowment income, and from program income.
2. In addition to this amount, the Archives received a \$2,000 from BAM Ministries to support technology expenses for the bi-annual Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History & Music (see below). Because of this grant, it was possible to livestream the conference and have participants who were unable to travel (for example, from Germany, South Africa, and Tanzania) to present their papers.
3. Brad Sennick currently serves on the Archives' Board of Directors on behalf of BAM. We are grateful for his service.
4. During the past year we received records from the following Moravian agencies and churches: Schoeneck Moravian Church, Nazareth, PA; controller of the Northern Province; Daggett Moravian Church, Daggett, MI; Ebenezer Moravian Church, Watertown, WI; Interprovincial Board of Communication (IBOC); Grace Moravian Church, Westland, MI.
5. Other important acquisitions include: collection of papers on the Rinderknecht family, original wooden peg from the Gemeinhaus, oil painting of the Geissinger farm between Allentown and Bethlehem by Gustav Grunewald, notebook of Moravian pastor William

- Rice, portrait of August Gottlieb Spangenberg (mezzotint), and portrait of Zinzendorf (engraving).
6. During the past year, the following collections have been processed: First Moravian Church of Easton, PA; Nicaragua Province Records; Kilbuck Papers (reprocessed); Synod of the Northern Province; F. P. Stocker (PEC) papers; Grace Moravian Church, Westland, MI; Audiovisual Materials; Hope Moravian Church, NJ; Lebanon Moravian Church, PA; Moravian Historical Society; Bethlehem Warden; Bethlehem Congregation (ongoing).
  7. The restoration of the Nativity painting by John Valentine Haidt, purchased in 2021, has been completed.
  8. Digitization has become an integral part of our work. The digital content of our online finding aid continues to grow. This year we added the digital content from the following collections to our online finding aid: Nicaragua Province (diaries); Kilbuck Papers; August Gottlieb Spangenberg Papers; church registers; Rufus Grider Collection; as well as many additions to other collections.
  9. Issues 23/1 and 23/2 of the *Journal of Moravian History* (joint publication of the Moravian Archives and Moravian Historical Society) were published with Pennsylvania State University Press.
  10. We offered the following lectures: “Moravian Bethlehem and the Problem of Slavery,” Mar. 21, by Scott Gordon; “The Moravians in Greenland: Where did they go?” Oct. 17, by Christina Petterson; “Discovering the Nativity,” Nov. 29, by Stephen Erisoty, Heather Reinert, and Paul Peucker. We also offered two 3-part webinar series: one on early Herrnhut (Mar./Apr.) and one on the Moravian Book of Ceremonies (Oct./Nov.), both by Paul Peucker.
  11. On May 7, Michael Kretschmer, prime minister of the German state of Saxony, visited Bethlehem, including the Moravian Archives. He was pleased to see two pencil drawings from 1803 by Moravian pastor F. R. Frueauff showing Waltersdorf, the small village in the Zittau Mountains where he lives.
  12. As part of a grant-funded project to digitize Moravian records from Labrador, two members of the advisory committee of this project visited Bethlehem in March. In May three staff members (Jonathan Ennis, Tom McCullough, and Paul Peucker) traveled to Labrador to present the results of this project during various community events.
  13. A highlight was the 8<sup>th</sup> Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History & Music, Aug. 17–19 with presenters from Canada, Germany, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, Austria, Sweden, South Africa, Lithuania, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland and the United States. Many local Moravians attended the free concert, given by the Collegium Musicum from Lititz. We are especially grateful for the financial support received from BAM Ministries for this conference (see above).
  14. Before the start of the History & Music Conference, we hosted a meeting for Moravian archivists from around the world (Aug. 16).

15. Paul Peucker gave various lectures and presentations at the American Society for Church History in Philadelphia, University of Mainz, Germany, Center for Pietism Studies in Halle, Germany, the Young Center at Elizabethtown College, and the German Studies Association in Montreal, Canada.
16. During the past year, we worked with a planned-giving consultant to better equip the Moravian Archives to receive bequests.
17. Together with members of Central Moravian Church we helped develop a walking tour on the topic of enslavement in Bethlehem. Board member Scott Gordon (Lehigh University) wrote the script for the tour.
18. A second, expanded edition of Paul Peucker's Moravian dictionary (in German) was published.
19. This year's German Script Course was held with twelve participants. We were especially pleased that our colleagues from the Southern Province Archives (Meaghan O'Riordan and Sabrina Garity) were able to participate. We also offered an online refresher workshop. Tom McCullough taught a German Script workshop at Whitehall High School.
20. In June we held the opening for our exhibit "The Archival Process: New Acquisitions at the Moravian Archives."
21. We hosted a reception and open house for the delegates of Northern Province Synod in June. Synod approved the changes to par. 605 of the Book of Order that we recommended. These changes made it possible for the Provincial Elders' Conference to approve the proposed changes to the bylaws of the Moravian Archives. The revised bylaws are now in effect.
22. In November we hosted Bethlehem Heritage Day as an open house for the community.
23. Tom Bross concluded his term as president of the Board of Directors in December. Diane Shaw is the incoming president in 2024.
24. We were happy to be invited to participate at the Holiday Market at Moravian Village
25. In 2023, the following research scholarships were awarded from the Rev. Vernon H. Nelson Memorial Fund: Tucker Adkins, "New Birth, New World: Space, Sound, and the Body in the Early Protestant Awakenings"; Jane Chang, "Intermingling of the Old and New: The Formation of a New German-American Medical Culture in Colonial"; Clement D. Fumbo, "Moravian theological teachings in Tanzania and its contribution to Moravian World and beyond"; Tim Sharp, "Maria und Johannes by Johann Abraham Peter Schulz: A Musical Treasure from Moravian Archives"; Ann-Catherine Wilkening, "Radical Pietism, Kinship, and Intimacy in Lenape and Mohican Homelands (1730-1800)."
26. After having provided office space for the assistant director of the Moravian Music Foundation since 2004, we had to end this arrangement as we needed the space for Archives' staff. We are glad MMF found an office in the Church Center on Center Street.
27. The annual German-English Advent Singstunde in early December had to be canceled because of Covid-related illness.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Peucker, Archivist

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**Board of Directors in 2023:**

Thomas Bross, President (PEC appointee)  
Diane Shaw, Vice President (Board appointee)  
Scott Paul Gordon, Secretary (Board appointee)  
Michael A. Long, Treasurer (Board appointee)  
Gerry Downes (PEC appointee)  
Katherine Faull (Board appointee)  
Alice Mosebach (PEC appointee)  
David S. Parker (Board appointee)  
Ricky Santee (Board appointee)  
Brad Sennick (BAM appointee)  
Marian Shatto (PEC appointee)  
Donald A. Squair (Board appointee)

**Staff (fulltime and part-time) in 2023:**

Paul M. Peucker (archivist)  
Thomas J. McCullough (asst. archivist)  
Kaitlin Trainor (processing archivist)  
Kelly F. Givens (office and finance manager)  
Jonathan Ennis (digital archivist)  
Emma Horning (office and archives assistant)  
Heather Reinert (office assistant)