

Report to Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.

from

## The Moravian Archives

### 2025

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The Moravian Archives thanks the board of 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.

#### *Highlights from 2025*

1. The financial support received from Bethlehem Area Moravians was gratefully accepted. BAM contributed \$20,000, which represents 3.2% of the Archives' 2025 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 11.4% of our operating budget in 2025. The remaining funds come from the Friends of the Archives, from endowment income, and from program and gift shop income.
2. Brad Sennick currently serves on the Archives' Board of Directors on behalf of BAM. We are grateful for his service and all the help he provides!
3. We are blessed with a large number of volunteers who help us with different projects. Many of our volunteers are member of one of the BAM churches but we are also glad to have many non-Moravians among our volunteer community!
4. During the past year we received records from the following Moravian agencies and churches: Berea, MN; Bethany, MN; Hebron, MN; Mountainview, Hellertown, PA; Our Savior's, Altura, MN; Schoeneck, MN; Watertown, WI
5. During the past year, the following collections have been processed: General Diacony (GD); Genealogy Collection; Administrator to the Unity Elders Conference (AUEC); Records of the Alaska Province (Alaska Prov); Mountainview Moravian Church (MC Mountainview), Hellertown, PA; Hope Moravian Church (MCHopeInd), Hope, IN; Coopersburg Moravian Church (MC Coopersburg), Coopersburg, PA; Morningstar Moravian Church (MC Morning Star), Coopersburg, PA; Grace Moravian Church (MC Grace), Center Valley, PA; Calvary Moravian Church (MC Calvary), Allentown, PA; Our Saviors Moravian Church (MC Our Saviours), Altura, MN; Hebron Moravian Church (MC Hebron), Norton, MN; Bethany Moravian Church (MC BethanyMN), Lewiston, MN; Berea Moravian Church (MC Berea), St. Charles, MN; Records of the Provincial Elders Conference (ongoing); Friedrichstown Boys' School (FBS); Maguntsche School (MagS); Lititz Congregation (LitCong); Donegal Moravian Church (MC Donegal); Records of Synods in America (SynAm)

6. This year we added digital content from the following collections to our online finding aid: PEC, specifically letter books; MC GK Great Kills scrapbooks; Alaska; Photographic Portraits (specifically oversized items); West Indies Mission; Synods and Conferences in Europe. When providing access to material at the archives we observe a 50-year restriction period in accordance with the Book of Order.
7. Issues 25/1 and 25/2 of the *Journal of Moravian History* (joint publication of the Moravian Archives and Moravian Historical Society) were published with Pennsylvania State University Press. Dr. Heikki Lempa ended his work as book review editor; Joshua Follweiler will be his successor.
8. Programming: We offered the following lectures at the archives: “Modernizing the Southern Province Moravian Archives” by Meaghan o’Riordan on Apr. 29; “An Establishment of Order and Prosperity: Outsider Visitation to Moravian Bethlehem” by Christopher Malone on Sept. 9; “Poetry, Companionship, and the Divine: The Life Journey of Bishop Georg Heinrich Loskiel (1740–1815)” by Mara Grudule on Oct. 7, and “When Billy Sunday Comes to Town: Moravian Reactions to America’s Most Sensationalist Evangelist” by Jared Burkholder on Nov. 11. Recordings of these lectures are available on the archives’ website.

Tom McCullough offered three “Coffee Hour with an Archivist” webinars in the spring of 2025. Our preservation volunteer offered a workshop “Medieval limp leather bookbinding” on April 12.

9. Paul Peucker gave various lectures and presentations at Moravian Hall Square, Nazareth; the German Studies Association in Washington, DC, and in Zeist, Netherlands. Tom McCullough gave lectures and presentations at Moravian Academy (5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade) and hosted confirmation classes from Emmaus and Central Moravian Church and the adult fellowship from East Hills Moravian Church. Jonathan Ennis gave an online lecture on archiving emails for the Archivists of Religious Collections Section of the Society of American Archivists on Oct. 9.
10. This year’s German Script Course was held with thirteen participants. This year, all participants were the United States. We also offered two online refresher workshops.
11. The following classes from Moravian University came to the Archives: HIST 270, MATH 121.2, POSC 355. Kaitlin Trainor and Tom McCullough also spoke at the public history class at Moravian University. Two history classes from Liberty High School visited the Archives during the past year.
12. We were happy to host five interns during 2025: Ry Kral, Sean Blocher McTigue, Ryan Rissmiller, Maggie Stephens, and Christine Yorgbor (paid internship funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania History & Museum Commission).
13. Our exhibit “Bridging Bethlehem: 100 years of the Hill to Hill” was extended through March 2026).
14. For the second time this year, our gift shop, the Moravian History Store, was invited to set up a store at Central Church’s putz this year. We were able to raise additional funds to balance our budget. The store was very successful.

15. In 2025, the following research scholarships were awarded from the Rev. Vernon H. Nelson Memorial Fund: John Balz, University of Wisconsin, “Slavery’s Church: German Pietism, Empire, and Race in the Danish West Indies”; Steven Driver, University College London: “Destiny and Diplomacy: US Foreign Policy and Religion during the Occupation Era c. 1912-1934.”; and Savannah Flanagan, Baylor University: “Women’s Health in Utopia: Religious Communities and the Reimagining of Women’s Health.”
16. With the help of Brad Senick and Jedd Foulk we were able to replace a grate on the side walk in front of the archives’ building. The panel of the alarm system was replaced and the front steps were repaired. New computers were purchased in order to upgrade to Windows 11.
17. In addition to all these smaller and larger events, we assisted many researchers in the reading room, answered email requests for information, and supported church agencies and other institutions when they needed information, images, or other advice. The archives is involved with the work of the Institute for Moravian History and World Heritage at Moravian University. We are a partner in the “Mapping Freedom” project of the Danish National Archives. We had conversations with the Native Policy Lab at the University of Iowa about boarding school records relating to Native Americans, and with the Alaska Native Heritage Center about the digitization of records relating to Alaska. Paul is chairing a working group to coordinate events relating to the upcoming 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of August 13, 1722, in 2027.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Peucker, Archivist

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**Staff (fulltime and part-time) in 2025:**

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)