

MHS
 MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ABUNDANT HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated with The Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pa.

ROAD TRIP! MHS Travels to Lititz to Explore Moravian Music

The Moravian Historical Society's 162nd Annual Meeting and Lecture will feature a road trip to Lititz, PA, to reinforce the day's theme: "Moravian Music of a Particular Time and Place: The 'Lititz Anthems' of Johannes Herbst." Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell, director of music ministries at Lititz Moravian, choral conductor at Millersville University, and founding artistic director/conductor of the Lititz Moravian Collegium Musicum (LMCM), will discuss the history, culture, and musical development of the settlement where Johannes Herbst composed over thirty well-crafted and distinctive anthems between 1791 and 1811. The lecture sets the tone and introduces the repertoire for a concert to follow.



Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell

Originally founded in the 1760s, the Lititz Collegium Musicum provided an opportunity for accomplished musicians to rehearse and perform regularly for practice, entertainment, and enlightenment. These colonial musicians strengthened their skills in order to perform the sophisticated repertoire regularly used in worship services and were the core of what would become the Lititz Philharmonic Society in the nineteenth century. The LMCM performed its inaugural concert in September 2018 and was hailed as one of Lancaster County's "Top Ten Musical Moments of 2018." The motto

(continued on page 6)

DEVELOPMENTS AT FRIEDENSHÜTTEN

An obelisk erected in 1871 by the Moravian Historical Society marks the site of the Moravian Indian mission town of Friedenshütten, which flourished from 1765 to 1772 in what is now Bradford County. The men, women, and children who settled at Friedenshütten in 1765 had survived more than a year of confinement in Philadelphia. Pennsylvania's government had gathered them there, first at Province Island and then at the Barracks in the Northern Liberties, in an attempt to protect them from white settlers who were murdering Indians on the frontier in late 1763. But, safe from the violent frontiersmen, more than 50 Moravian Indians died of disease while confined in Philadelphia. The community of Europeans, Mahicans, Lenape, and Iroquois that survived resettled at Friedenshütten in log houses and bark dwellings and worked, worshipped, and sang together. The more than one hundred people who attended a 1765 Christmas Eve service there heard the gospels in the Lenape language.

(continued on page 6)

VOLUME 7: NUMBER 2

2019

INSIDE

PAGE 2

A Note From the Executive Director

PAGE 3

Staff Spotlight:

Christopher Malone

Collection Spotlight:

Nazareth Hall Bed

PAGE 4 and 5

Photo Gallery

PAGE 6

Lead articles continued

PAGE 7

Upcoming Events

News From Elsewhere:

Genadendal

BACK

Calendar of Events

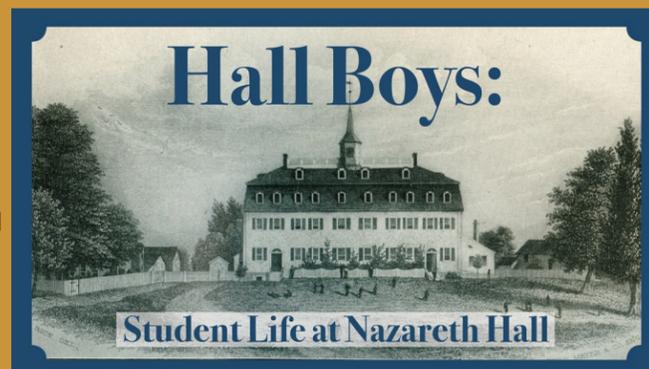


Moravian Historical Society

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 8/25-11/10: Hall Boys: Student Life at Nazareth Hall
- 9/14 at 4 p.m.: Walking Tour of Historic Nazareth
- 9/15 at 4 p.m.: Talk by Benjamin L. Walbert on Nazareth Hall and reception for exhibition
- 10/18-19 and 10/25-26 at 7 p.m.: Spooky Walking Tour
- 11/30, 1-4 p.m.: Shop Small Saturday & Reception for Annual Putz Display
- 11/30-1/13, 1-4 p.m.: Silent Night: Variations on the Traditional Moravian Putz exhibition
- 12/14: 12-4 p.m.: Christmas in Nazareth
- 12/15, 4 p.m.: Concert in the Saal with Gwyneth Michel on the Tannenberg organ

... please check www.moravianhistory.org for more upcoming events!





Established in 1857, the Moravian Historical Society is the third oldest historical society in Pennsylvania. Our mission is to present the story of the Moravian Church and its contributions to American history and culture.

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope you enjoy this issue of our semi-annual newsletter with news from around the world and from close to home. I am grateful for the many people who contributed their time and talent this year to help preserve and present Moravian history. Some of this work is highlighted in these pages.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our 162nd Annual Meeting, Lecture, and Reception on Saturday, October 5, 2019. This year’s event will take place at the Lititz Moravian Congregation and it is our hope that you will enjoy the day with time to explore the beautiful Moravian town of Lititz. As a special treat, this year’s lecture by Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell will be followed by the Collegium Musicum concert. The meeting, lecture, and reception are free and the concert tickets are \$15 for the public or \$10 for MHS members. A bus has been chartered if you would like to relax and let someone else do the driving! Please contact us for more details by email at info@moravianhistory.org or by phone at 610-759-5070.

Our latest exhibition, *Hall Boys: Student Life at Nazareth Hall*, opened on Sunday, August 25, and will run through Sunday, November 10. The exhibition explores daily life at Nazareth Hall through various documents, photographs, and objects from students who lived and worked there. The reception for *Hall Boys* is on Sunday, September 15 at 4:00 p.m. and will feature a lecture by architect Benjamin L. Walbert, who will speak about his research on Nazareth Hall. Tickets are \$5 per person. MHS members are free. We hope to see you there.

MHS will hold our popular spooky walking tours on October 18-19 and October 25-26 at 7:00 p.m. Finally, make sure to mark your calendars for a special concert with Gwyneth Michel on the 1776 Tannenberg Organ on Sunday, December 15, at 4:00 p.m. As always, you can find the full lineup of events on our new website: www.moravianhistory.org.

WHAT’S NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP?

This year we’re pleased to feature stunning ornaments made by local artist Linda C. Spooner. Each ornament is intricately hand-painted and depicts either the 1740-43 Whitefield House or the 1740 Gray Cottage during the summer or winter season. They are \$30.00; MHS members receive a 10% discount (more dependent upon the level of membership).

Join us on Saturday, November 30, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. for Shop Small Saturday. MHS has a wonderful selection of ornaments and holiday items in stock. Visitors will receive special discounts in the gift shop and can also have a first peak at our annual Putz display.



NEWS
from
ELSEWHERE

1740 Gray Cottage Rehabilitation

The Phase I Rehabilitation of the 1740 Gray Cottage is complete. The historic structure has been repurposed from its long service as a residential rental unit to a 2000 square foot multi-purpose administrative and program support space that will benefit the mission of MHS.



The entire building can now be heated and cooled for year round comfort. The first floor, which disabled visitors can now access via a ramp, includes a reception area and newly lighted flex space suitable for small group assembly, gallery-type exhibits, or a work area for special projects. The second floor includes two newly lighted office spaces.

Stirling Painting and Renovation carried out the project with the highest respect for the integrity of this

historic resource. During the excavation for the entry ramp, Hunter Research, Inc. conducted archaeological monitoring that recovered 300 artifacts. The vast majority of these objects are ceramics and glass, many of eighteenth-century Moravian origin, including roof tile and stove tile fragments.

The successful completion of this project marks only the first step in an ambitious plan to revitalize the entire Ephrata Tract.



Genadendal photos courtesy of Professor Greg Clingham

Genadendal

In 1743 the redoubtable Georg Schmidt established a Moravian mission at Baviaanskloof, renamed Genadendal in 1806, about 100 miles east of Cape Town, South Africa. Initially thought to be a hopeless undertaking, given the resistance of the local Khoi-khoi to missionary work, the Moravians made an impact on the quality of life, teaching the Khoi to farm and to read against the wishes of the Dutch settler-farmers, who sought to keep them enslaved.

The industriousness and educational enterprise of three Herrnhuter clergymen who arrived in 1792—Christian Kühnel, Daniel Schwinn, and Henrik Maarsveld—were memorialized by Lady Anne Barnard when she and her husband visited Genadendal in 1798 as representatives of the British colonial government. The clergymen helped build a church, a forge, a mill, and a school, still standing at the center of a magnificent Living History site created by the curatorial genius and dedication of Dr. Isaac Balie (pictured, far left), who remains after 50 years a welcoming resource for historical and cultural information.

Visitors to Genadendal will find a lovely church (pictured, left), neatly-tended graves of the three clergymen, the cottage in which Lady Anne stayed in 1792, and a remarkable museum that contains, among other items, Lady Anne’s beautiful watercolor of Maarsveld. For Historic Genadendal’s website, see <https://www.genadendal.info/genadendal-mission-museum/>



Road Trip! MHS Travels to Lititz to Explore Moravian Music

(continued from page 1)

“history you can hear!” reflects the mission of this professional chamber orchestra to perform newly-edited scores of period-specific repertoire that are preserved in the vaults of the Moravian Music Foundation. The Lititz Moravian Senior Choir and the Millersville University Chorale will join the orchestra to bring selected “Lititz anthems” to life. As in previous LMCM programs, the concert following the annual lecture will feature a vast array of instrumental music by Moravians and non-Moravians alike, including Luigi Boccherini, W. A. Mozart, J. Christian Bechler, L. van Beethoven, Christian Latrobe, and others. The historic 1787 Tannenberg organ will be featured as a solo instrument and to accompany hymns and anthems.



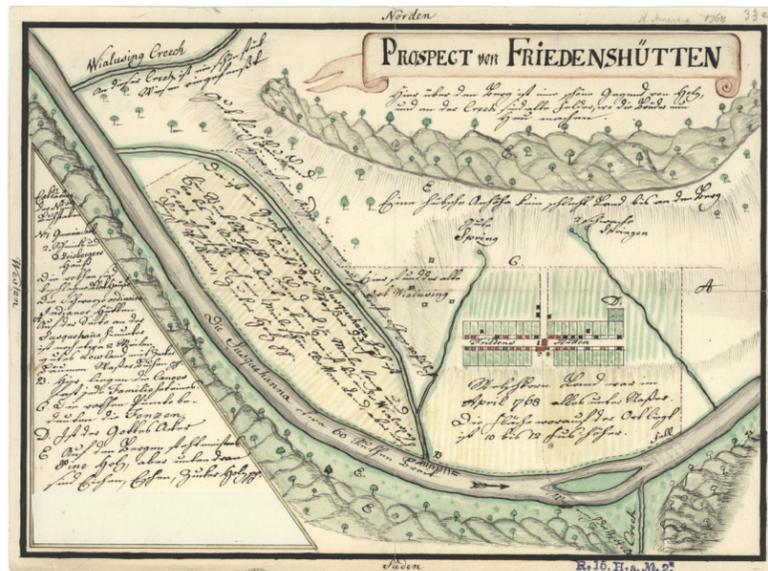
The 2:30 pm public lecture is free and open to the public; the concerts at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm are \$10.00 for MHS members, \$5.00 with student I.D. More information can be found on the church website (lititzmoravian.org) or at gemmell-posts.com. The Lititz Congregation Museum/Archives and Mission Gift Shop will be open for visitors after each concert.

Developments at Friedenshütten

(continued from page 1)

Recently the field on which this obelisk sits—in today’s Browntown, just off Route 6 near Wyalusing, PA—was sold to the New Fortress Energy, which plans to establish a Liquid Natural Gas plant there. As Professor Katherine Faull (Bucknell University) writes (in a blog entry on which this article is based): “this glorious landscape will be overshadowed by the steam (and other less pleasant) gas emissions, truck traffic, and profile of a huge LNG plant.” A water drainage ditch will be dug straight through the site of the village of Friedenshütten itself. (See Professor Faull’s blog at: <https://katiefaull.com/2019/05/15/selling-history-in-browntown-pa-lng-plant-plans-to-cut-through-the-jewel-of-the-susquehanna/>)

Concerned citizens expressed dismay not only about the environmental impact of the LNG plant but also about the destruction of an historic site important to Native Americans and others. Indeed, an archaeologist’s report published in May 2019 details at length the deep historical and archaeological importance of this site. Yet local citizens were frustrated by what Faull calls the “unwillingness on the part of Fortress Energy to discuss openly these issues” and the company has moved forward with its plans. Fortress Energy has promised to preserve the MHS Friedenshütten monument. But those who visit this monument on its 150th anniversary in 2021 will (as Faull says) likely “see, hear, smell, and feel” the Fortress Energy plant nearby.



COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: Nazareth Hall Bed

The Exhibitions Committee is pleased to share an artifact from its newest exhibition, *Hall Boys: Student Life at Nazareth Hall*, which will feature an opening reception and lecture on September 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. and runs through November 10, 2019.

This bedstead (or bedframe) is a low, pegged-joined frame, with scalloped-design sideboards, designed to use slats. These slats distinguish it from “English” beds, which used rope. The Nazareth Diary mentions bedsteads as early as August 29-30, 1750. On these days, the bedsteads in the boys’ and girls’ institutes were cleaned.



Traveling through Lititz in 1777, the congressman William Ellery described how this bed would have been dressed: “A straw bed was at the bottom, a feather bed on that, sheets, a thin soft feather bed supplied the place of blankets, and a neat calico coverlid covered all” (*Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society* 2 [1886]: 128).

Benjamin L. Walbert purchased this bedstead from Unger’s Auction House in 1980, after he had seen it in the attic at Nazareth Hall while doing graduate work in the 1970s. He then donated it to the Moravian Historical Society.

MHS Putz travels to Glencairn Museum

We are pleased to announce that the historic Jennie Trein putz from the Moravian Historical Society’s collection will be featured in the World Nativities exhibition at the Glencairn Museum in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania. The annual exhibition presents dozens of Nativity scenes collected from around the world. Nativities on loan from the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, Connecticut, and outstanding examples from Glencairn’s own growing collection will also be on display.

The tradition of the Moravian putz, an elaborate miniature display illustrating the Christmas story, began in the eighteenth century. Folk artist Jennie Trein (1879-1977) first created a Christmas putz in her living room in 1908, and for the next six decades she built a new display each year—complete with lights, sound effects, and narration. The Trein putz, which grew to include nearly 500 pieces, was part of the Advent season for generations of Nazareth residents.

The exhibition will run from Friday, November 29, through Sunday, January 5, and is open daily from 12:00 to 4:30 pm (except December 9-10 and 24-25). More details can be found at www.glencairnmuseum.org.



Staff Spotlight Christopher Malone

Christopher Malone recently began a prestigious fellowship at the Winterthur Museum that will lead to an MA in American Material Culture. Christopher brought the MHS collection to life these past two years with the social media posts he developed while serving as operations manager. He created “This Day in Moravian History,” a daily post featuring text from congregational diaries and historic photographs. He also teased virtual visitors with his “What is it Wednesday?” posts, which offered a mysterious detail of a photograph of an object from the collection. The following day, Christopher revealed the full object and described its history and significance. Christopher also writes *The Daily Antiquarian*, a blog about the history and architecture of the Mid-Atlantic region.

While at Winterthur, Christopher will study 18th- and 19th-century communal societies, comparing how doctrine and outside forces affected the design choices and consumption of groups such as the Shakers, Moravians, and Harmonists.

Chris will be a great ambassador for the Moravian Historical Society and we wish him best of luck!



Share the Heritage dinner and auction celebrated our musical treasures

Our 13th annual gala took place on Friday, May 3, 2019, at the Historic Hotel Bethlehem. Everyone enjoyed the musical entertainment by Craig Thatcher and Nyke Van Wyk; by Unitas Chorale, with Gwyneth Michel as conductor; and by the Moravian Trombone Choir. Special thanks to development committee chair Linda Zimmerman, event chair Katie Trach, and all of our members and friends who helped make this a fun and successful event!



Hands on History Camp

This year's expert presenters helped campers explore "Science Through History" through a variety of topics. Rebecca Short explained the many medicinal uses for herbs in a colonial garden. George Steele enlightened us about the Eastern Native Americans' total use of the Whitetail deer, and he also entertained us with our first-ever campfire program. Campers had a tour of the Vigilance Hose Company No. 1. Lehigh University professor Gary DeLeo led a fun electrical circuit making and solar power activity and Catherine Stewart from the Nazareth Library guided students in an Indian Tower construction project.

Linda Zimmerman, camp coordinator, and her volunteer team planned this year's camp. The team guided the students in felt-making, museum activities, and journaling. Sarah Hrinik directed the campers' final presentation—a play that the students wrote and performed.

Camp was made possible this year by our wonderful sponsors: we thank Just Born Quality Confections and the County of Northampton's Hotel Tax Grant program, run through the Department of Community and Economic Development, for their generous support.



The MHS programs are supported, in part, by the Northampton County Hotel Tax Grant.

