



MHS 

MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2022-2023 | **ANNUAL REPORT**

Our Mission

The Moravian Historical Society museum and historic site preserves, interprets, and celebrates the rich culture of the Moravians.

Our Vision

The Moravian Historical Society is recognized broadly for its significant collection and historically important 18th century site. Intellectually vibrant, we commit to sharing stories of the Moravians and their remarkable contributions to history that continue to shape our culture.

About Us

For 166 years, the Moravian Historical Society (MHS) has been a leader in preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the rich culture of the Moravians. Founded in 1857, we share the fascinating contributions of the Moravians to worldwide culture, through public programs, guided tours, and engaging museum exhibits. The collection consists of more than 20,000 objects including paintings, musical instruments, textiles, decorative arts, photographs, a rare book library, and archives. Highlights of the collection include paintings by John Valentine Haidt (1700-1780), whose

biblical scenes are among the earliest known to be painted in colonial America. MHS has a significant collection of early musical instruments, many of which represent the first of their kind made in America, including the 1759 Antes violin, the circa 1745–1765 upright piano, and the 1761 Tannenbergs clavichord. These instruments demonstrate the inception and development of musical instrument making in America. Our historic site includes two 18th century structures: the 1740-1743 Whitefield House and the 1740 Gray Cottage, the oldest surviving Moravian structure in North America.

The Museum welcomes visitors seven days a week, year round. MHS maintains an ambitious schedule of educational programs, including music, lectures, tours, and a summer camp.

MHS is committed to supporting the principles of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion throughout the Museum as an institution where people work, volunteer, and gather. We aim to expand access and create a welcoming environment for everyone.

Board of Directors

David Roth, President

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth,
Vice-President

Anne Reid, Treasurer

Linda Wickmann, Secretary

Craig Atwood

Stephen Bajan II

David Bennett, interim member

Christopher Crook

John Stocker

C. Riddick Weber

Noah Woodruff

Staff

Susan Ellis, Executive Director

Madeline Gambino, Assistant
Director

Farrar Lannon, Curator
of Collections and
Exhibitions

Daniel Stocker, Operations
Assistant

Lanie Yaswinski, Archivist

Abigail Hrichak, Docent

Sarah Hriniaik, Docent

Gerald Kroboth, Docent



A Message from the President



This is my final “Letter from the President” in the MHS Annual Report. It has been a privilege to serve this fine organization for the past four years as President and eight years as a Board member. I’ve met some wonderful volunteers, Board members, and staff over that period of time. After all, it’s people that allow this organization to fulfill its mission, a mission that includes the preservation of the Gray Cottage, the Whitefield House, and the amazing artifacts that rest within their walls. The organization is on sound financial footing and is working diligently to serve our community. The cataloging and digitization of the collection will allow scholars from around the world to be able to access it.

During my tenure as Board President, the organization adopted an updated Mission Statement. It focused our intention and area of responsibility. We then updated our organizational documents. This activity turned out to almost be a total rewrite of the bylaws and related documents. The rewrite led to new committee charters for MHS, including the formation of a new Governance Committee. The Governance Committee has been given the responsibility of seeking out interested and competent Board members.

All the above actions are important to MHS. But perhaps the most lasting impact of all the activities of the Board is the creation and work of the Strategic Planning Committee. This Committee is charting out the future of the organization. It is evaluating the possibilities and constraints of managing the mission of MHS and also striving to answer the question of growth and how to fund that growth. You will be hearing a lot more from this committee as time proceeds.

I wish to thank all current and former Board members with whom I have worked to advance the organization. Their donations of time and talent are incredibly meaningful. I wish to thank all the volunteers and staff for their energy and passion. But most of all, I wish to thank the members and donors who supply the financial support that allows MHS to succeed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Roth". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David M. Roth, President



Executive Director's Message



Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that visitors have returned in greater numbers drawn by vibrant programs, including Hands-on History Camp, Free Summer Sundays, and our special exhibition, *Heartstrings: John Antes, America's First Luthier*. These programs are wonderful examples of our mission to preserve, interpret, and celebrate the rich culture of the Moravians.

This year, we are especially pleased with the creation of our new website for archival resources. A large digitization project was completed with support from the American Historical Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The website features virtual exhibitions and more than 1,000 items in the online collection that are now accessible to researchers and the public. I encourage you to take a look at the ever growing collection. You can find it through our website: MoravianHistory.org.

We also completed a multi-year collections inventory project that brought all of our catalog records into one comprehensive searchable database. The next step in this process is to create finding aids to help researchers better understand our collections and to help connect our holdings to other related collections. With support from a Pennsylvania Historical & Archival Records Care Grant, we were able to hire an archivist to research and write these aids. These efforts are allowing our collections to become more accessible to researchers and to the public.



The Moravian Historical Society recently underwent a Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) project, which was an important step forward for our organization. The CAP grant, funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is designed to help small and mid-sized museums better care for their collections. The three-day assessment included thorough reviews of our buildings, collections, and organizational documents. The expert assessors presented their findings in a 86-page report that provides priorities, recommendations, and resources. The detailed report is extremely helpful for our current Strategic Planning Committee as we set priorities for the preservation of our site and collections. We are excited to meet the challenges this report details as we look to the future with fresh ideas, incorporating new voices and deepening the stories of the Moravians that we tell.

None of these achievements would have been possible without an extraordinary staff and board, as well as the generous support from our members and donors. In particular, we want to acknowledge the incredible leadership of our outgoing board president, David Roth. His guidance, wisdom, and perspective have made a lasting impact on our organization.

Thanks to the involvement and the continued support of our members, our future looks bright!

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ellis".

Susan Ellis
Executive Director



Collections

Acquisition Highlights:

The Moravian Historical Society received 151 donations this year from nine donors that enrich and expand our collections, including objects related to the Moravian school Nazareth Hall, the missionary Kate Hettasch, the Morris family of Bethlehem, and trades in the early history of Nazareth, such as silversmithing, gunsmithing, and tinsmithing.

Norma Lopresti donated a remarkable collection of ninety-five copperplates, four books, and a scrapbook related to Nazareth Hall. She made the donation in memory of her mother, Mary A. Hartzell, who, with an aunt who raised her, worked as a teenager in the laundry at Nazareth Hall. The copper plates illustrate all aspects of school life from athletics to individual student portraits.

MHS also received a pristine set of Nazareth Hall uniforms from Bruce Knecht. The uniforms belonged to his grandfather, Wilhelm Henry Knecht.

In 1998, when Kay Ward was elected Bishop of the Moravian Church, the ordained women of the Moravian Church made her a quilt. The king-sized “Bishop’s Quilt” was presented to her before the service of consecration in Lititz. In addition to the quilt, Bishop Ward donated a scrapbook which documents each artist, along with letters and photographs. In a letter in the “Bishop’s Quilt” scrapbook, one woman remarked, “We discussed all of those symbols and how they relate to our lives of faith, and what they might mean for the new bishop, and what they have meant to the church.”



Digitized Collections

Important historical archival documents have been digitized thanks to a grant from the American Historical Association’s Grants to Sustain and Advance the Work of Historical Organizations Program with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. As part of the project, MHS discovered a nearly complete run of the “The Hall Boy,” a monthly school periodical that Nazareth Hall published between 1877 and 1929. There are 295 issues in our collection that are now digitized and accessible. In addition, a collection of correspondence from Nazareth Hall principals includes more than 200 letters and postcards. At the end of March 2023, 4,814 items had been digitized resulting in 51,363 unique images. This work continues and the new searchable website is ever-growing.



151

New objects & documents accessioned
into the collection this year

5,949

Visitors to the Digitized
Collections Website

1,086

Items on the Digitized
Collections Website

Exhibitions

Special Exhibitions

The exhibition *Heartstrings: John Antes, America's First Luthier* brought together three American firsts—a violin (1759), cello (1763), and viola (1764)—all made by the Pennsylvania-born John Antes (1740-1811). Visitors learned about the fascinating life of John Antes and discovered how the trio of Antes instruments came to be reunited. The exhibition explored how stringed instruments are made and the legacy of lutherie in the Lehigh Valley from Antes to C.F. Martin.

The community enjoyed visiting the annual putz display in the 1740 Gray Cottage this past December. This exhibition featured objects from the 1850s Morris putz and the 20th century Sullivan putz, accompanied by lights and narration of the Nativity story.

Permanent Exhibition

Over the last 18 months, a master plan was developed for the reinterpretation of the permanent exhibition. Visitors to the museum will now see new displays, interpretive panels, and labels.



Museum and Site

The Moravian Historical Society undertook emergency repairs to the plumbing and heating systems of the Whitefield House. A new gas line was installed and a leaking sewer pipe was replaced. An archaeologist monitored the digging that was required. Several items from the 18th century were found and identified: a buckle (likely from a shoe) and pieces of pottery, including a hand painted shard from a teacup and pieces of redware with slip trailing. As a historic site, the grounds of the Moravian Historical Society have as much of a story to tell as its collections inside the Museum. We engage the services of an archeologist whenever we need to disturb the ground. This archaeological work provides valuable information about the past. The objects that are found are important, but only within their archaeological context—where they were found and what was with them—which all contribute to a better understanding of our historic site.

When the sewer pipe was repaired, a large hole in the foundation was discovered. Fortunately, Buildings and Grounds committee member, John Egerton, was able to repair the masonry. We are grateful to John and the many people who helped with this work, including UGI Utilities for installing a new gas line at no cost to our organization and to Trach Heating and Plumbing for their attention to detail.



80

Interpretive labels updated in the 2nd Floor Galleries

47

New objects on display in 2nd Floor Galleries

561

Guided Museum Tours



Education

Our educational programs allow young learners to explore everyday life in early America. High-quality educational experiences this year included class field trips to the Museum, the Colonial Days partnership with the Nazareth Area School District, two weeks of Hands-on History camp, and a month of Free Summer Sunday programs. These programs connect students with resources not available anywhere else and with the unique opportunity to learn from the primary sources in our museum collection. Students are engaged in learning and build knowledge by doing.



Events

The 45th annual Arts & Crafts Festival was held on Saturday, June 3, 2023. This year marked a record 135 artist, food, and beverage vendors. The day was filled with live music and activities for kids.

2022-2023 events included musical performances, lectures, Historic Nazareth walking tours, Christmas in Nazareth, and Passport to History—an annual event where museums and historic sites around our region open to the public with free admission, tours, activities, and programs for visitors of all ages.



708

Students and young children participated in education programs

165

People took a Walking Tour

6,258

Visitors

8

Countries Represented

Committees

Executive

David Roth, President

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth, Vice-President

Anne Reid, Treasurer

Linda Wickmann, Secretary

Buildings and Grounds

- Monitor buildings and site and recommend repairs and restoration

David Roth, President

John Egerton

Susan Ellis, Executive Director

John Stocker

Noah Woodruff, Chair

Curatorial

- Plan new exhibitions
- Accession and deaccession collection items

David Roth, President

Barbara Dietterich

Susan Ellis, Executive Director

Jack Hommer

Farrar Lannon, Curator

Traci Stocker, Chair

Linda Wickmann, Board Liaison

Development

- Help plan events, programs, and fundraisers

David Roth, President

Steven Bajan, Chair

Dave Bennett

Chris Crook, Board Liaison

Susan Ellis, Executive Director

Kaitlin O'Connor

Linda Zimmerman

Governance

- Provides guidance on organizational governing documents
- Identify and invite individuals to serve on the board or its committees

David Roth, President

Craig Atwood

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth, Chair

Susan Ellis, Executive Director

Finance

- Monitor endowment performance by regularly meeting with investment firms
- Support the work of the treasurer and the finance manager

David Roth, President

Stephen Bajan, II

Linda Crook

Susan Ellis, Executive Director

Anne Reid, Chair, Treasurer, Board Liaison

John Stocker

Publications

- Produced two issues of the Society's newsletter, *Abundant Heritage*.
- Selected and invited the speaker for the annual meeting

David Roth, President

Craig Atwood

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth

Barbara Dietterich

Susan Ellis, Executive Director

Scott Paul Gordon, Chair

Traci Stocker

Riddick Weber, Board Liaison

Volunteer of the Year

John Egerton, a member of our Buildings and Grounds Committee, has used his skills as a contractor to repair the front steps railing, the stone foundation wall, the Museum Store floorboards, and our second floor galleries. John eagerly shares his time and talents and we are grateful for his help!



Financials

The Society is recovering well from effects of the pandemic. Total income for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 was approximately 105% of what was budgeted. Significant capital improvements have been made, including a new furnace, installation of a gas line, and the replacement of the main sewer pipe.

The Balance Sheet remains strong with \$3.3 million in assets of which 87% is cash and investments.

Assets

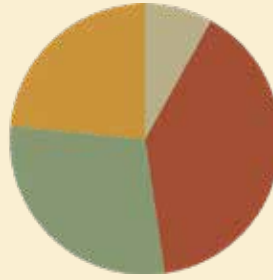
Bank Accounts	\$2,459,993
Other Current Assets	\$397,275
Fixed Assets	<u>\$434,872</u>
	\$3,292,140

Liabilities

\$9,493

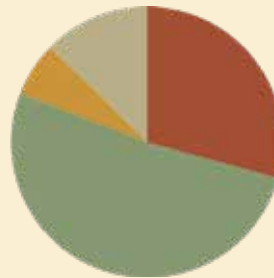
Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,780,389
With Donor Restrictions	<u>\$1,502,258</u>
	\$3,282,647



PRELIMINARY RESULTS INCOME 2022-23

Museum & Program	\$25,174
Grants	\$123,229
Fundraising	\$89,951
Investment Income	\$72,952
TOTAL	\$311,306



PRELIMINARY RESULTS EXPENSES 2022-23

Museum & Program	\$91,133
General & Administrative	\$160,695
Fundraising	\$20,164
Property	\$39,412
TOTAL	\$311,404



Thank you!

Donors

Craig and Julie Atwood
Stephen Bajan II
John Beitel
Susan Ellis and Dick Boak
Lisa Brand
Jen Brooks
Debbie Bross
MaryAnn Campana
Richard and Lyn Trodahl
Chynoweth
Conrad Clennon
Christopher and Rebecca
Crook
Darrell and Linda Crook
Tom Demshock
Barbara Dietterich
Carol Drago
John and Barbara Egerton
Chris & Tina Giesler
Scott Gordon
Jennifer and Marvin Granda
Nancy Kostas
Margaret and Steven Krawiec
Ashley Lilly
Stephen Link
Jasper Ludewig
Gwyneth Michel
Karen and Hank Naisby
Kaitlin O'Connor
Ed and Lucy Perusse
Judy Reed
Anne and James Reid
Carol Ressler
Dave and Kathy Roth
Gordon and Susan Sommers
John and Traci Stocker
James E. Trach, Jr.

Riddick and Jane Weber
Dave and Linda Wickmann
Kenneth and Lois Wildrick
Linda and Tom Zimmerman
—————
Adventure Aquarium
AM Luxe Apparel
America on Wheels Museum
Apollo Grill
Banko Beverage
Barley Creek Brewing
Company
Barre3
Bear Creek Mountain Resort
Blue Ridge Estate Winery
Boston Tea Party Ships &
Museum
Bridals By Sandra
Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits
Cape May MAC
Casa Toro Mexican Grill
CF Martin & Co.
Christmas City Studios
Cigars International
Civic Theater of Allentown
Colebrookdale Railroad
Cornerstone Independent
Asset Management
Dan's Camera City
Diana's Café
Donegal Square
Dotta Auction Co.
Edward Jones Investments,
Stephen Bajan II
Franklin Hill Vineyards
Friendship Framing

George Washington's Mount
Vernon
Ghost Tours of New Hope
Greater Valley YMCA-
Nazareth
Green Pond Country Club
Grim's Orchard
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
Hyatt Place Bethlehem
James E. Trach, Jr. Plumbing &
Heating
Joseph F. Reichel Funeral
Home, Inc
Kalahari Resort and
Conventions
Keystone Farms Cheese
Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays
Lehigh Valley Zoo
Liven Up Fitness
Lost River Caverns
McCoole's at the Historic Red
Lion Inn
Mi Havana
Mike Robinson Productions
Moravian Development Corp.
Moravian Theological
Seminary
Moravian University
Moravian University Sports
Mountain View Drive In
Museum of the American
Revolution
Mutter Museum
Mycalyn Florals
National Canal Museum
National Museum of Industrial
History

Nazareth Rotary Club
Nello's Speciality Meats
New Hope Ghost Tours
Northampton Community
College
P. J. W. Restaurant Group
Pearl S. Buck House
Peddler's Village
Penn's Peak
Pennsylvania Shakespeare
Festival
PPL Foundation
Putt U
Reading Rocks
Rodale Institute
Sayre Mansion
Sellersville Theater
Shady Brook Farm
Skirmish Paintball
Steel City Beards & Shears
The Steelers
The Sweet Spot Bar & Grill
Threebirds Coffee House
UGI Utilities
Washington House
Woodrow Wilson House
Woolverton Inn
Working Dog
Zoellner Arts Center



Annual Appeal

Soyoung Ahn
Gundars Aperans
Diane Batemarco
Robert Blanche, Jr.
Thomas and Carolyn Boak
Glenn and Virginia Boerstler
Timothy and Karen Brady
Donald and Mary Brown
Jason Brown
Richard Bruckart
Veronica and Kirk Burley
Judy Burton
Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth
Robert and Susan Clewell

Katie Collis
Blair Couch and Warren
Gericke
Christopher Crook
Linda and Darrell Crook
Barbara Dietterich
Otto and Susan Dreydoppel
Susan Ellis and Richard Boak
Marian Gaumer
Gilman's Mineral & Lapidary
Supply and Lost River
Caverns
Graceham Moravian Church
Bruce and JoAnn Haines

Christiansbrunn Hermitage
Jack Hommer
Robert and Barbara Huth
Roger Huth
Johnson and Johnson
Ken Kirst
Nancy Kostas and Renee
Roberts
Ella Jane Kunkle
Beatrice Leh
Bob Lienemann
Christopher Moore
Peter Murray
Karen and Hank Naisby, Jr.

Rose Nehring
Ronald and Eleanor Nemeth
Edward Perusse
David and Kathy Roth
Doris Schattschneider
Linda Shay Gardner
Julia Simmons
Gordon and Susan Sommers
Roberta Targonski
Jim Trach
Wachovia Historical Society
Helen Woodbridge
Lanie Yaswinski
Linda and Tom Zimmerman

Membership

INDIVIDUAL

Craig Atwood
Diane Batemarco
Nancy Bergere
Eileen Bocich
David Boyer
Karen Bunning
Veronica Burley
Barbara Dietterich
Angela Dincher
Ronald W. Doyle
Dale Eck
James Ettwein
Michael Farmer
Lou Carol Fix
John Gallagher
Sandra Gaspar
Scott Gordon
Martha Hartley
Judy Hosking
Harold Hudson
Nola Knouse
Joseph Kunsman
Thomas Lannon
Stephen Link
Carol Messina
Rory Morgan
H. Lester Morris
Richard Musselman
William Ramsden
Jay Reinfeld
George Rupp
Gayle Searock
Jason Searock
Richard Spittel
Katie Trach

Frances Vogler Groves
Monica Werkheiser
Barbara Wright
Cynthia Wunderly

STUDENT

Daniel Geyer

FAMILY/MANOR

Bob and Jaqueline Adams
Gail Belytschko
Thomas and Carolyn Boak
Timothy and Karen Brady
Thomas and Debbie Bross
Donald and Mary Brown
W. Chris and Krista Carson
Hopeton and Shelia Clennon
Robert and Susan Clewell
Marian and Paul Couch
Tom and Laraine Demshock
John and Barbara Egerton
Margarette Erdman
Tony Ettwein
John Fisher
Marsha Fritz and Larry Monte
Jeffrey and Sherry Gehris
Linda Heindel
Casey Hoch
Roger Huth
Claire Kleppinger
Beatrice and Andrew Leh
Katrina Lehman and Derek French
Heikki Lempa
Rosi McIlwain

Jacqueline Mock
Ronald and Cathy Mordosky
Alice and Craig Mosebach
Peter Murray
Karen and Hank Naisby, Jr.
Susan Orr
Barry Pell
Paul Peucker and Jeffrey Long
Bill and Gail Remo
Loraine and Conrad Rice
Karen Samuels
Rick and Mollie Santee
Arthur Schleinkofer
Julia and Sam Simmons
Frederick and Marcia Squire
Mary Catherine and Harry Tachovsky
Jennifer and Nicholas Ward
Riddick and Jane Weber
James and MaryBeth West
Linda and David Wickmann
Lanie Yaswinski
Anne Zug

1740 CLUB

Bartholomew-Schisler Funeral Home
Stephen and Janis Bajan
David and Connie Bennett
Susan Ellis and Dick Boak
Christopher & Rebecca Crook
Ellen Dorsey
Jack Hommer
Stephanie McCormick-Goodhart

Charles and Gwen Peischl
Edward and Lucy Perusse
Anne Reid
Aaron Schisler
Gordon and Susan Sommers
John and Traci Stocker
Jim Trach
Barry Trumbauer

GRAY COTTAGE CLUB

Christopher Roth
David and Kathy Roth

WHITEFIELD CLUB

Richard and Lyn Trodahl
Chynoweth
Nancy Kostas and Renee Roberts
Linda and Tom Zimmerman

SPANGENBERG CLUB

Margaret and Steven Krawiec

LIFE

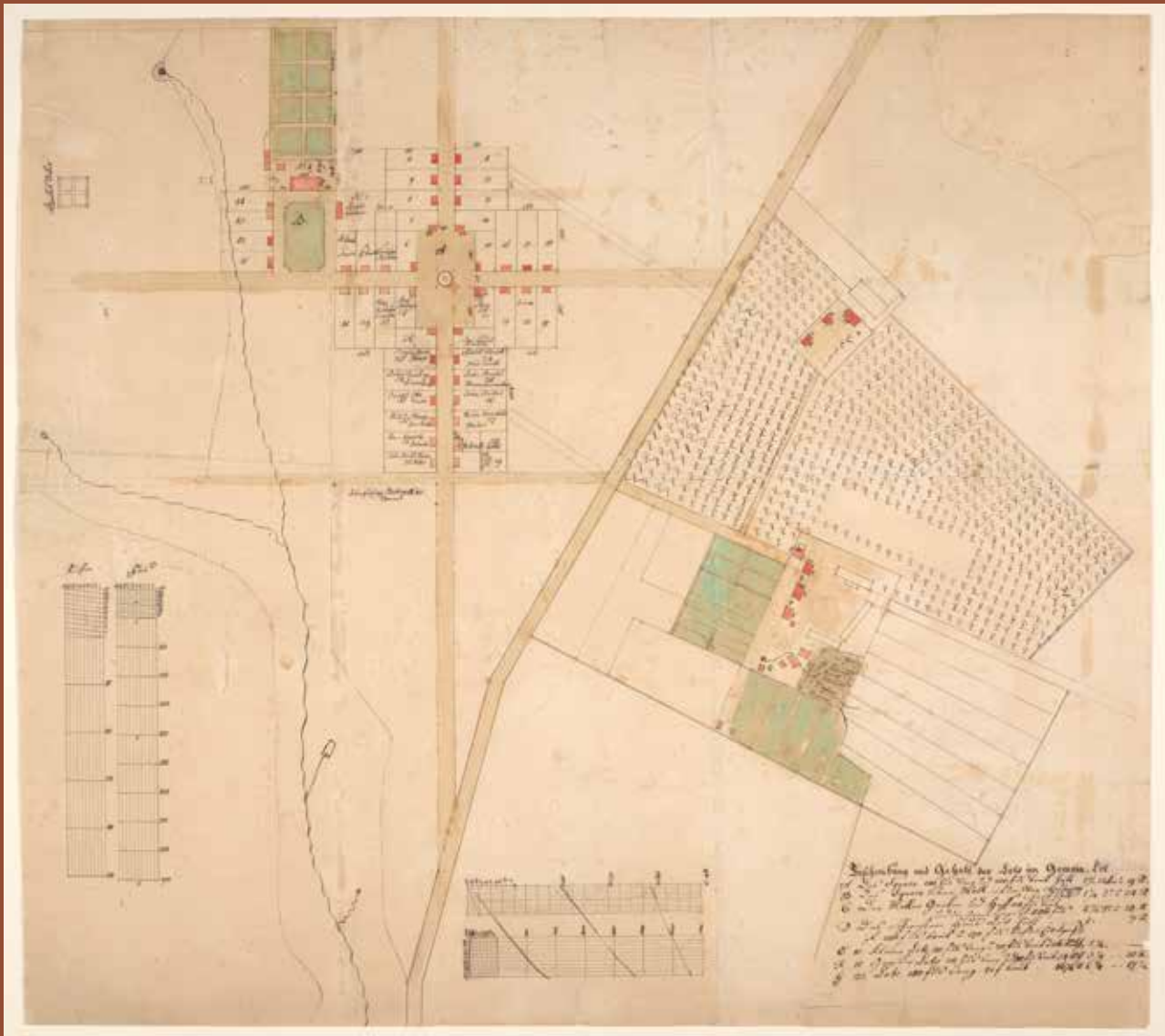
Karen Albert
John Beitel
Glenn and Virginia Boerstler
Otto and Susan Dreydoppel
Darryl Jeffries
Rose Nehring
Doris Schattschneider
Linda Shay & Neville Gardner
George Weisel VI
Helen Woodbridge

Grants

- The Martin Guitar Charitable Foundation
- Northampton County Hotel Tax Grant
- Northampton County GrowNORCO
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Cultural and Historical Support Grant
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Historical and Archival Records Care grant
- American Historical Association's Grants to Sustain and Advance the Work of Historical Organizations Program with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Institute of Museum and Library Services, Collections Assessment for Preservation Program
- The Larger Life Foundation



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Moravian Historical Society

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610-759-5070

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