



**Finding Aid
of the digitized records of
Correspondence and Estate Records
18th–20th cent.**

**Lanie Yaswinski
2025**

Reference Code

A (for Archives)

Title

Correspondence and Estate Records (digitized records)

Dates

18th - 20th cent.

Level of Description

Item level, organized chronologically

Extent and medium of the unit of description

25 folders found in four boxes (Box 6 Moravian Missions, Box 25 Letters from Various People, Box 28 English Documents, and Box 29 German Documents)

Name of Creator

This collection of correspondence and estate records was composed by a number of known authors, and assembled by the Moravian Historical Society.

Administrative/Biographical History

Moravians settled in Pennsylvania in 1740 and began establishing contacts and communities in the surrounding region and neighboring states. Copies of original 18th-cent. letters concern this early Moravian work in America. 19th- and 20th-cent. collected correspondence comprises a wide variety of unrelated Moravian topics, individuals and institutions, including Moravian genealogy. Estate records pertain to a family living in Nazareth and to an early Quaker family from Pennsylvania.

Archival History

The Correspondence and Estate Records record group is an artificial collection with unknown provenance assembled and organized to facilitate its management or use. At this time it is not clear how this material came to be deposited at MHS. In the past it seems that the collection was organized at the item level by staff or volunteers according to general subject matter, and then numbered sequentially and placed into boxes according to subject. The collection was digitized with its current numbering system over a number of years, with digitization completed in 2023. In order to improve accessibility and enhance descriptions, Lanie Yaswinski was hired in August 2023 to edit the database entries and create finding aids for these digitized collections.

Scope and Content

This collection is an assemblage of unrelated correspondence on a wide variety of Moravian topics. It includes letters written by Moravian individuals, or written to Moravian institutions. Records pertaining to two estates are included in the collection.

System of Arrangement

The records were previously organized at the item level according to general subject groups. Since the records were digitized with a sequential numbering system, the physical system of arrangement remains intact. To improve accessibility and establish intellectual control over the subject group, records are organized chronologically in the finding aid.

Conditions governing access

Unrestricted

Conditions governing reproduction

Researchers may access these records in person through appointment at MHS, or alternately may request digital reproductions. Contact MHS for pricing and policies regarding reproduction, copyright and permission to publish.

Language/Scripts of material

German, English

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Ink or pencil on paper

Finding aids

PDF on website and printed finding aid in reading room

Existence and location of originals

Original records stored in the Archives Room, the Moravian Historical Society

Related units of description

The original sources of these records and related material may be found in collections at the following institutions:

- Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, PA (MAB)
- Unity Archives, Herrnhut, Germany (UA)

Many original sources are unknown at this time.

Archivist's note

Finding aid created by Lanie Yaswinski, 2025

Rules or Conventions

DACS; ISAD (g)

Dates of description

Previously arranged and described by MHS staff or volunteer "A.K." in the past. Digital entries revised by Lanie Yaswinski, 2023-24.

CITATION INSTRUCTION:

Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth PA, Manuscripts and Notes + A(number) i.e. A123.

For shortened citations use MHS for the repository and the reference number, (i.e. MHS A###).

Object ID	Name/Title	Scope and Content
A65	Various letters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Richard Peters to Thomas Penn on the visit of Count Zinzendorf and the acquisition of land in Pennsylvania for the Moravians, December 4, 1741 [copy] 2. Richard Watson, Doylestown PA, to W.C. Reichel, November 25, 1875 3. W.W. Davis, Doylestown PA to W.C. Reichel, April 14, 1871 4. To Brother William from E.H. Reichel, Home School for Misses and Young Ladies, Nazareth PA, June 14th 1870 5. Extract from Ethan Allen Weaver's Letter concerning his life at the Weaver House then called Grunewald House, Nazareth PA
A63	Peter Boehler's response to being found guilty in the state of New York	The previous evening Boehler had been found guilty of an unnamed crime, this letter, addressed to the Judge, claims innocence. Bottom left of back page, a response was sent to Boehler by word of mouth and copied - the Judge could do nothing to help Boehler, and he still was forced to leave
A64	Copy of a letter from the Rev. Richard Peters to Thomas Penn	<p>January 15, 1743</p> <p>Letter describing a "great quarrel" between the Lutherans and Moravians relating to Pyrlaeus controversy</p>
A658	Copies of two Letters to William Henry from Thomas Wharton, Philadelphia, President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, 1777	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To William Henry, Esq. and other Justices of Lancaster County, August 7, 1777 2. To William Henry, Esq., September 6, 1777 <p>These letters are copies by Granville Henry; the originals are at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania</p>
A554	Letter from Nathaniel Seidel, Bethlehem to the President of the State Council of Pennsylvania	<p>March 7, 1780</p> <p>Re: passage of Moravians to Bethlehem</p>
A575	Letter from Sen. Martin Van Buren [later President], New York, to Rev. Charles Seidel	<p>December 23, 1822</p> <p>Regarding the care of his nieces, Ann and Margaret Limberger, at the Moravian Female Seminary</p>
A579	Letter from Owen Rice, Bethlehem, to J. F. Wolle	<p>May 23, 1824</p>
A674	Letter from Andrew Benade, Bethlehem, to Br. Rondthaler	<p>January 20, 1839</p>
A571	Two letters written by Cornelius Vanderbilt, New York	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. January 26, 1854 2. 1856
A580	Letter from Anna Mary Brunner, Nazareth	<p>June 3, 1860</p> <p>Addressed to an unidentified niece or nephew</p>
A574	Letter from M.C. Bloom to Rev. Francis Wolle	<p>December 17, 1862</p> <p>Includes two images:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Picture of Jedidiah Weiss's Clock and Watchmaker House in Bethlehem. Handwritten note at bottom reads "My old home on Main Street I was born there in 1824. Mama." 2. Photograph of buildings on Main Street. Handwritten note on back reads, "From Rev. Francis Wolle's paper - unidentified." (Suspected to be a view of Jedidiah Weiss' shop old Main Street, Bethlehem)"
A578	Letter from Francis Wolle reagrding donation of zinc mine photographs	<p>19th cent.</p>
A563	Letter from James Henry, Boulton, to his cousin, Ewing Jordan	<p>July 25, 1873</p>

A564	Letter to W.C. Reichel concerning attempted robbery at Geisinger property, June 1788	November 26, 1874
A553	Letter from B.E. Lehmann, Bethlehem, to E.M. Leibert re: Seidel letter (A554)	June 4, 1875
A572	Letter from F.R. Holland, Moravian Seminary for Young Ladies, Hope, Indiana, to William Henry and Mary Rice, Nazareth	February 5, 1877
A642	Letter from George Vaux, Philadelphia, to John W. Jordan regarding the Aubrey and Bevan families' relationship to William Henry and accompanying notes	January 23, 1891
A646	Collection of letters from "The Last Prophet", Philadelphia, to Rev. Charles A. Kreider, Philadelphia	April 6, 1919
A573	Two letters from William H. Vogler, Moravian Historical Society, Nazareth, to Pauline Luckenheimer in Philadelphia	1. February 7, 1927 2. February 11, 1927
A568	Letter from Otto Lohr, Deutsches Ausland-Institut Stuttgart, to Mrs. J. Upton Myers, Bethlehem	July 2, 1934
A567	Envelope Addressed to Mrs. J. Upton Myers from the Moravian Historical Society's Librarian, G.M. Shultz [MOVED TO A569]	
A569	Letter from G.M. Shultz, Librarian of the Moravian Historical Society, to Elizabeth Myers [Mrs. J. Upton Myers]	June 15, 1934 Combined with envelope [A567]
A570	Letter from H. Kloss, Deutsches Ausland-Institut, Stuttgart, to Mrs. Elizabeth [J. Upton] Myers, Bethlehem	May 17, 1934
A626	Beisel Family property records	1. Appraisal of goods of John P. Beisel estate (c. 1891) 2. Conditions of Sale for the estate of John P. Beisel, December 19, 1891 3. Lease between Jacob Eisenhower and Emma Beisel, Nazareth, February 1, 1881 4. Deed of sale of property from John G. and Augusta Hammer to John P. Beisel, April 5, 1864
A627	Copies of the Will and Value of Estate of Philip Taylor, along with accompanying letter	1. Newspaper clipping: Charitable Bequests. Large Benefactions of the Late William Warner, Jr. and William Man 2. Letter to John Jordan Jr. Esq. from Gregory B. Klein, the Secretary of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, January 28, 1889 3. Photograph of the Will of Philip Taylor of Oxford, Pennsylvania, August 6, 1709 4. Photograph of Philip Taylor's Estate, signed Peter Taylor, February 22, 1715