

THE CHURCH SQUARE JOURNAL

Published Spring and Fall by the Archives Committee of the Lititz Moravian Congregation

Volume 10

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Photo by C. Shuman

Announcing a New Beginning

In years gone by, whether in Lititz, Bethlehem or Salem, North Carolina, the trombone choir would climb to the church belfry to announce, with appropriate chorales, a congregational festival day, the death of a parishioner, the arrival or departure of a leading personage of the Church. When *The Church Square Journal* made its first appearance in the autumn of 1976, its front page featured a photo, dated 1905, of the Lititz trombone choir in the belfry, symbolically heralding the periodical's birth. Now, with the *Journal's* reappearance after a hiatus of 27 years, it is deemed appropriate to announce this event in a similar manner. And so, Brother Carl Schuman's photo of today's trombone choir, taken on March 25, 2006, appears above, symbolically celebrating the *Journal's* restoration.

WBL

Cemetery Lantern Tour recalls Lititz folk of an earlier time

Reminiscent of the Lantern Tours that were so popular in the 1970s, the Archives Committee has scheduled the first Cemetery Lantern Tour for Sunday evening, October 26. Those interested in taking the tour – all are welcome – are invited to gather in the Church sanctuary at 5:45 or 6:30 p.m. where there will be a brief introduction to the tour program before groups are formed and exit the sanctuary's side door.

Upon exiting the sanctuary, tour groups will almost immediately be confronted by the open doors of the Leichen Kappelchen, the Corpse House, that stands on the edge of the driveway between the Church and the Brothers' House. Here the tour group will be informed that the building is evidence of a former custom, a special place to house the remains of the dead of the congregation from the time of death until burial. They will learn it was built in 1786 and is considered one of the architectural gems of Lancaster County

Leaving the Corpse House, the tour guests will proceed to God's Acre as the Trombone Choir plays the appropriate chorale for the deceased.

Approaching the arched entrance to the cemetery, the tour group will see the German words on the arch, "Selig sind die Todten die in dem Herrn sterben," translated, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." On the opposite side of the arch is written, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

Once through the arch, the tour enters God's Acre, where the gravestones lie flat. This is the section where burials were by "Choir" (categories of membership in the early Moravian Church), four in number; Married People including Widows and Widowers; Single Brethren; Single Sisters; and Children. The tour group will circle God's Acre visiting eleven different gravesites where scripted characters will briefly tell about the life and death of the deceased.



Photo by B. Sweger

Moravian Cemetery Gates
"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord"

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Cemetery Lantern Tour continued

Included are the graves of Anna Maria Tannenberg, the Yerger twins, Albert Frailey, Christian Bressner, Jacob Weitzel, John Beck, Andrew Albrecht, John Baumgartner, Martha the Mohican, and George Mueller. The last gravesite will be that of General John Augustus Sutter and his wife, Anna. Although they were not church members, the Moravian Congregation honored the General with burial in the cemetery.



Photo by B. Sweger
Leichen Kappelchen, the Corpse House

Where is it?

If you need some help identifying this photo, turn to page 5 for the answer.

Leaving General Sutter's grave, the tour group will be led to the parking area, where they will be greeted by the personage of Count Ludwig Von Zinzendorf, who will thank them for coming and bid them to enter the Fellowship Hall for a repast of cider and ginger snaps.

Archives Committee members Dale Shelley and Charlene VanBrookhoven are the principal planners and script writers for the tour. Archives Committee Chair Clarence Martin says, "If this event is well received, we will plan to do it again, perhaps visiting other gravesites to remember more of our forebears in faith."

Archives Committee Revives The Church Square Journal

Members of the Archives Committee are pleased that Brother Wayne LeFevre, the initial editor of *The Church Square Journal*, has teamed up with Brother Bob Sandercox, one of our newest members, to revive the Journal that received so much attention and praise when it was first published 32 years ago. There were only 10 issues, from autumn of 1976 to the spring of 1981, but many a Lititz Moravian treasures those issues that were so full of information about our Brothers and Sisters who pioneered in creating this community designed to enhance the Christian life.

We are much indebted to Brother Wayne LeFevre for creating the publication; he even gave the periodical its name. Wayne always gives the credit to Brother "Bill" York, a church trustee and a member of the Archives Committee, for first suggesting the possibility of publishing an historical paper. But, it was Brother LeFevre, who at that time was our church organist and a member of our Committee, who took charge and actually edited those first issues.

Wayne is, indeed, one of the most knowledgeable persons about our Church's history. Brother Sandercox is very wise to insist that Wayne be the Editor of Historical Features for the revived publication. Bob will continue to report the news. His many stories in local papers have greatly enhanced the visibility of our church. Now, he will have a publication in which to tell of the work and plans of the Archives Committee. We are most grateful to both of these gentlemen. We know that our readers will be just as enthusiastic as were those first readers in 1976.

Clarence Martin, Chair of the Archives Committee

Museum building on Church Square marks 100 years

by Wayne B. LeFevre

This rather staid and sober building, standing on the west flank of Church Square, is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. Since 1908, it has kept stern watch over the comings and goings of Lititz Moravians as well as those of the girls across the Square at Linden Hall. The building has fulfilled assorted roles, some of them simultaneously. Established as a home for elderly Moravian women, both single and widowed... but let the published histories of the Lititz Moravian Congregation tell the story.

On April 12, 1908 the cornerstone was laid for the building on the west side of Church Square that now houses the Lititz Moravian

Archives and Museum. The building was built by the Moravian Home Association that had been formed in 1896 by 13 women of the Church for the purpose of providing a residence for aged women of the Moravian Church.

Previously the site had been the location of John Beck's Lyceum. The property was sold to the Home Association for a nominal one-dollar by action of the Church Trustees. This was shortly after the closing of the Single Sisters' House where some older Moravian women had lived in the 19th Century. Impetus for the development of the home was a bequest by Julia Schoenlein, one of the last residents of the Single Sisters' House that is now a part of Linden Hall, the Nation's oldest boarding school for girls.

The first residents moved into the Home in September 1908. For nearly 70 years the Home housed, fed, and otherwise cared for up to 25 senior women. With the development of Moravian Manor, which opened in 1975, the Home was vacated. Much of the leadership for the development of Moravian Manor, a denominational related institution, came from the Lititz Congregation.

When the Home on Church Square was closed, the Trustees of the Church offered the Archives Committee the use of the building as a museum. The Committee accepted the offer. By 1979 the first major display, that of old musical instruments belonging to the Congregation, was formally opened in two rooms on the second floor. Since that time thousands of archival documents have been collected along with furniture, pictures and other art objects from earlier Lititz times. In 1992 the old kitchen at the rear of the house became the home of the Moravian Mission Gift Shop.

Remembered with pleasure and nostalgia is the sight of the ladies of the Home sitting, in summertime, on their rocking chairs on the front porch, enjoying their unparalleled view of Church Square with its tall old trees and sweeping green lawns and storied buildings. One elderly diminutive resident (was it Sister Ethel Zook?) exclaimed, in her Pennsylvania Dutch accent: "We liff in a wutz here!" i.e., "We live in a woods here!"



Photo by B. Sweger

Museum and Archives Building in Spring of 2008
Formerly Moravian Home for Aged Women

Museum Building 100 Years Old - continued

Still more memories come to mind:

- **Sister Julia Keehn, choir director, who described the scene of the ladies descending the staircase from their upstairs rooms for evening dinner, all nicely attired in their voile dresses.**
- **One dare not forget to mention the choir after a Wednesday evening rehearsal during Advent, walking over to the Home, stepping inside, and singing Christmas carols for the enjoyment of the ladies gathered together for the occasion. Brother Ben Forrest, father of Sisters Dorothy Earhart and Dianne Zimmerman, always led the caroling with his signature gusto.**
- **Claire dePerrot, who resides in the dePerrot House next to the museum, recently shared one of her memories: she, her parents and her brother moved into the house in 1941. Claire was approaching her teens then and, with the self-consciousness and insecurity of adolescence, felt that the watchful elderly ladies on their porch rockers disapprovingly tabulated and critiqued her every move, her goings out and her comings in.**
- **Sister Helen Kendig, whose mother was a resident of the Home, sharing her words to her mother who was lamenting her situation: “But mother, you live in the most beautiful spot in town!” And it was (and still is, despite the traffic) a remarkably serene oasis of peace. The building’s position provides an enviable view of the tranquil beauty of the Square in all seasons, especially after dark at Christmas-time when the venerable centuries-old structures lining the Square glisten with candlelit windows. (Note: the Kendigs, Brother John and Sister Helen, gave, from their tree nursery on the west edge of town, the many evergreen and dogwood trees that border the access driveway which curves into the church campus from the Cedar Street/Lemon Street intersection.)**

After the Home closed in the 1970s, the building became available to the Archives Committee for the display of the congregation’s museum collections. Portions of the building were altered for this purpose while the northern half of the second floor was converted into an apartment. One of the



Photo by B. Sweger
Cornerstone laid April 12, 1908

apartment’s occupants was Brother Reinhold (Rian) Manning Shank, then retired from his position as assistant manager of the Union Station, the famous former railroad station in Washington, D.C. Brother Rian, a member of the congregation, was Vice President and, later, President of the Archives Committee. It was he who chaired the Art Committee responsible for the acquisition of the art collection housed at Moravian Manor, the Home’s successor. Today he rests in the Single Brothers section of God’s Acre. A later occupant of the apartment was the widowed Brother Paul Seaber who served

Continued on Page 5

Museum Building 100 Years Old - continued

long, faithfully, and well as the congregation's sexton, living with his wife and family in the c. 1885 sexton's house now occupied by the present sexton, Brother John Deen, and his wife, Sister Deanna.

The kitchen in the rear of the building became the quarters of the Ladies Sewing Society, today's quilting group, which now meets elsewhere on the church campus, having, in 1992, vacated the room so that it could accommodate the highly successful Moravian Mission Gift Shop.

Eventually, the entire building became the Lititz Moravian Archives and Museum.

The late Sister Herma Losensky was the last surviving charter member of the original Archives Committee formed 68 years ago. On February 4, 2007, Sister Herma left us to enter into the more immediate presence of her Savior, as the early Moravians were wont to say. Recently, with permission of Sister Herma's daughter, Carol Messina, plants from Sister Herma's farmhouse garden on East Lexington Road, including a Moravian peony, were added to the Museum's rear garden, an area now unofficially but affectionately dubbed "Herma's Garden."

Today the building's front porch, where once the resident ladies rocked away the hours on lazy summer afternoons, provides, on occasion, a sheltered open-air elevation for the Trombone Choir, notably at Christmas. Myriad worshipers streaming out of the church after the Christmas Vigil-Lovefeasts, reluctant to leave Church Square, linger to enjoy the robust carols of the Trombone Choir massed on the porch, and to admire the candlelit tree in the bay window of the dePerrot House next door.

And so, this century-old edifice continues to faithfully and adequately serve the Lititz Moravian Congregation, "doffing one hat and donning another," all in the service of God and to His Glory. WBL



Lititz post card, circa 1910, from Lititz Moravian Archives

Where is it?

The picture on page 2 is the **portal vent hole** high on the south wall of the Corpse House. The cooler air from the north windows is drawn across the floor. The vaulted ceiling concentrates the rising warmer air and helps to funnel it to the vent hole where a vacuum is created outside by the rising warmer air creating a venturi effect (18th-century air conditioning).

"Where is it?" will be a regular feature of the CSJ, thanks to Bill Sweger who enjoys picturing our church's architectural features.

Archives Committee always needs help!

If you like to preserve the story of our forebears and actively share it with visitors as a witness of faith, then consider this Committee as ministry.

Current members are **Clarence Martin, chair; Dorothy Earhart, Pat Hartzell, Wayne LeFevre, John Morman, Ed and Jeanne Preisendanz, Bob and Nancy Sandercox, Cyndy Scibal, Cindy Seaton, Dale Shelley, Charlene VanBrookhoven and Tom Wentzel.**

Interested? Speak to a member, or call the Church Office, 626-8515.

“Early Artists of Lititz” initiates quarterly programs



Photo by B. Sweger

The Rev. John F. Morman, former Headmaster of Linden Hall, artist, sculptor, historian

(1856 Chadsbury, PA – 1931 Wilmington, DE) “Violin and Bow;” The Rt. Rev. Levin Theophilus Reichel (1812 Bethlehem, PA - 1878 Berthlesdorf, Germany) “Linden Hall, 1857,” (a lithograph), and “Manor House in Nazareth,” (a sepia); John Valentine Haidt (1700 Germany – 1780 Bethlehem,



Photo by B. Sweger

“Married Woman”

by John Valentine Haidt, 1700-1780

Morman of Waud’s pencil sketch.

Morman will provide information on the artists as well as showing some of their works. The works of art exhibited in this show are a part of John and Marie Morman’s private collection. Following the lecture, the pictures can be examined and the nearby Museum will

Eleven Lititz related paintings will be introduced at an exhibit in the Fellowship Hall of the Lititz Moravian Church at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening, November 11, 2008, by Lititz resident and former Headmaster of the Linden Hall School, The Rev. John F. Morman. The show is the first in a series of quarterly programs to be sponsored by the Archives Committee of the Church attempting to better share with the community the unique resources of its Museum and the expertise of members of the Committee.

Among the artists whose work will be shown is Charles Henry Buckius Demuth (1883 Lancaster, PA – 1935 Lancaster, PA) “Trinity with its Tannenberg Tower;” Jefferson David Chalfant

(1856 Chadsbury, PA – 1931 Wilmington, DE) “Violin and Bow;” The Rt. Rev. Levin Theophilus Reichel (1812 Bethlehem, PA - 1878 Berthlesdorf, Germany) “Linden Hall, 1857,” (a lithograph), and “Manor House in Nazareth,” (a sepia); John Valentine Haidt (1700 Germany – 1780 Bethlehem, PA) “Married Woman;” Rufus A. Grider (1817 Lititz, PA – 1900 Canajaharrie, NY) “South Bethlehem, PA 1857;” Emil Gelhaar (1861 Sweden – 1934 Honolulu, HI) “Bethlehem” from his window in West Bethlehem; Julius Augustus Beck, (1831 Lititz, PA – 1917 Harrisburg, PA) “Designed his own monument, 1850;” The Rt. Rev. Johann Christ Jacobson, (1795 Denmark – 1870 Bethlehem, PA) three sepia, “Friedberg,” “Friedland,” and “Bethabara;” Gustavus Grunewald (1804 Poland – 1878 Dresden, Germany) engraving of “First House at Female Seminary;” The Rt. Rev. Samuel Reinke (1791 Lititz, PA – 1875 Bethlehem, PA) “Brasilian Humming Bird and Tolling-bell Bird” 1858; and Alfred Rudolph Waud (1882 London, England – 1898 Marietta, GA)

“Burial in God’s Acre, Bethlehem,” a painting by John



Photo by B. Sweger

“Bethabara” 1826-1834 sepia

by The Rt. Rev. Johann Christ Jacobson

“Early Artists of Lititz” continued

be open for tours.

Morman, who has been painting and sculpting most of his life, came to Lititz in 1966 as assistant headmaster at Linden Hall. He succeeded Dr. Byron Horne as Headmaster in 1969. He is a graduate of Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem. He has always had a special interest in art, architecture and historical restoration. He did graduate work in sculpture at the Cleveland (OH) Institute of Art. He is a member of the Archives Committee of the Lititz Moravian Congregation.

Morman has written articles for *Pennsylvania History*, journal of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, *Pennsylvania Folklife*, *The Britannica Encyclopedia of American Art* as well as articles on art and architecture for Moravian publications. He served as chairman of the Board of Architecture for the Moravian Church.

After the lecture all in attendance are invited to attend an Open House at the nearby Moravian Museum on Church Square. Morman, who is an active member of the Archives Committee, says “The Museum is a repository for the community, and it has by this very nature inherited a vast collection of art and artifacts. Recently we have felt a responsibility to share our historical treasures with everyone in the area and those who visit Lititz.” According to Morman, the Museum has a large collection of the works of John Valentine Haidt. “From a family of Royal goldsmiths, Haidt became America’s first master-artist whose religious paintings are extant.”



Photo by B. Sweger

“Manor House in Nazareth” a sepia by The Rt. Rev. Levin Theophilus Reichel, 1812-1878



Photo by B. Sweger

“Burial in God’s Acre, Bethlehem” 1877 by Alfred Rudolph Waud, reproduced in color here by John F. Morman

Henry & David Diener give Museum two early 19th-century instruments



Photo by B. Sweger

Dale Shelley displays the piccolo and flute used at John Beck's school more than 100 years ago – gifts of Henry and David Diener

Both brothers, Henry and David Diener, recently gave to the Archives Committee of the Lititz Moravian Congregation two early 19th-century musical instruments, a wooden piccolo and a wooden flute. When making the presentation on September 9 to the Committee, Diener reported that the two instruments were first used at John Beck's school, the Lititz Academy, that once stood on the Museum site.

Diener, a descendant of John Beck, thought the revered schoolmaster would be pleased that these instruments are now a part of the extensive collection of the Lititz Moravian Museum. Clarence Martin, Chair of the Committee, thanked Henry and David for their generous gift, noting that these instruments remind us of the important

Herma's Room opens in Museum

Herma Losensky's Room at the Lititz Moravian Archives and Museum was officially opened on Sunday, September 14, following the outdoor service on Church Square. Dale Shelley, a member of the Archives Committee, reported that the room on the second floor, at the top of the stairs, was a bedroom when the Museum was the Moravian Home for Aged Women. In fact, he says, the room has one of the original beds from the Home. While Herma Losensky never lived at the Home, the room is now used to display many of her belongings that have been provided by her family for display.

One item that is prominently displayed, is the redware plate crafted by Ned Foltz and presented by the Archives Committee in 2006 in appreciation for Herma's years of service to the Archives Committee and the Church she so loved.



With her daughter, Carol Messina, Herma Losensky holds her "redware" plate with the sign of the "Conquering Lamb."

Prior to her death in early 2007, she was the sole surviving charter member of the original Archives Committee organized in 1940. Therefore, we close this first issue of the revived Journal with excerpts from her letter to the Editor 32 years ago. Sister Herma wrote:

"What a wonderful surprise ... Thank you for saying all those things that have needed saying for so long. It is my prayer that all ... will read, digest - and appreciate our wonderful heritage ... the simplicity of our faith, the soul stirring beauty of our music, the feeling of equality with our fellow Moravians world wide. "

The Church Square Journal is available as a PDF online at www.LititzMoravian.org