

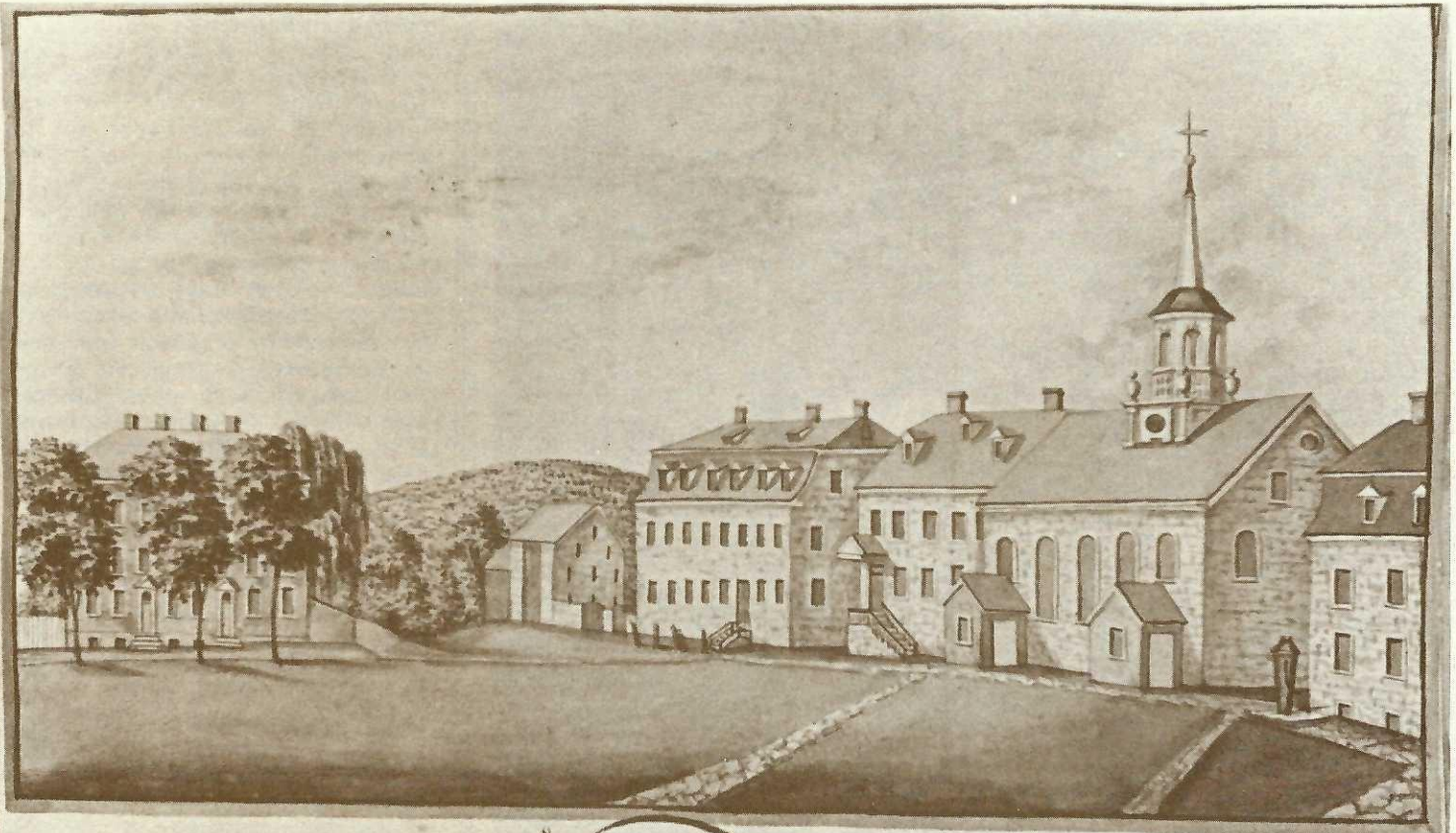
# THE CHURCH SQUARE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED SPRING AND FALL BY THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE OF THE LITITZ MORAVIAN CONGREGATION

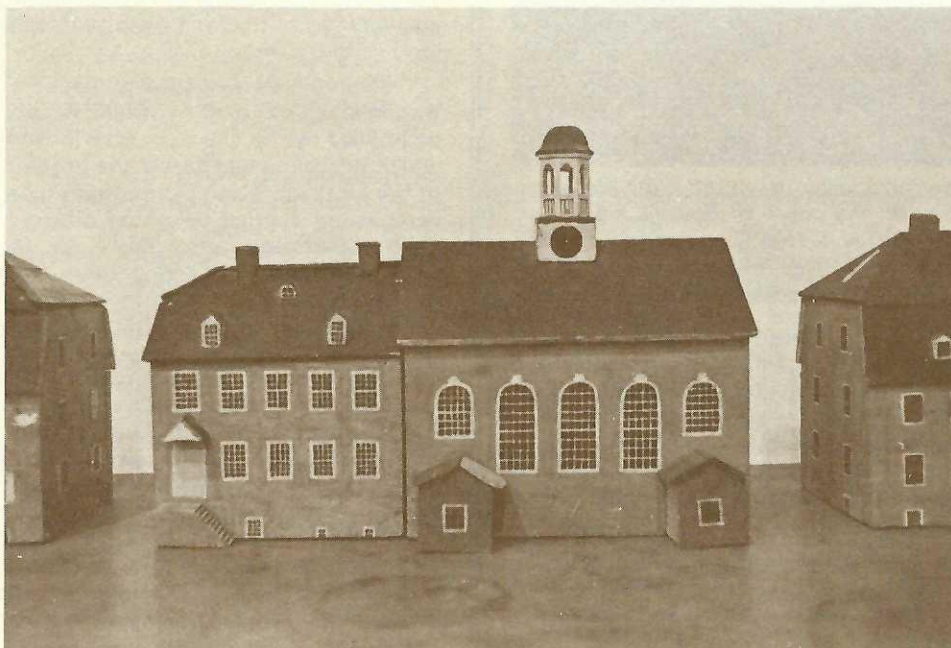
VOLUME 5

CHURCH SQUARE, LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

AUTUMN, 1978



Lititz



From the Wolle Scrapbook in the collection of the Moravian Museum in Bethlehem: an artist's view, above, of the Lititz Moravian Church Square as it appeared in the early 19th century. Between the Female Seminary, left, and the Single Sisters House, center, is the Single Sisters' barn, now long gone. The Sisters kept cows which provided milk for the kitchen of the Female Seminary. What was once stable and barnyard area is now Linden Hall's formal gardens.

Another representation of the Square in the same era is pictured in part (left). These wooden miniatures were constructed in 1845 by the church pastor, Bishop Peter Wolle, and his son-in-law, Ferdinand Rickert, for a Christmas Putz in the Gemeinhaus-Parsonage. Seen here are the Church (spire is missing from the belfry), Gemeinhaus, Sisters and Brothers Houses. The entire set, of particular charm, is on display in our Museum.

Photo: Jack Alvarez





On Christmas Eve afternoon, Brother Wayne LeFevre, organist of the Lititz Moravian Congregation, visits God's Acre, placing greens on the grave of Francis Florentine Hagen, composer of *Morning Star*.

Photo: Brother Carl Shuman

## MORNING STAR'S COMPOSER BURIED IN LITITZ

On the far eastern edge of God's Acre is the forgotten, neglected grave of one who has contributed so much to the loveliness and charm of the Moravian Christmas Eve service, and not only here in the Lititz church, for the antiphonal hymn, *Morning Star*, is cherished and sung throughout Moraviandom on this side of the Atlantic, from Labrador to Antigua.

Franz Florentin Hagen wrote the music to that folk-like piece, the solo passage for which qualified children vie each year, it being considered a distinct honor to be chosen. And how our elderly parishioners love to reminisce about the Christmas of their childhood when they sang *Morning Star*!

Franz's father, Johann Joachim Hagen, emigrated from Prussia to Lititz in 1804. We are not told why he came to Lititz. We do know that, after a period of

missionary work among the Indians in Ohio and Canada, he moved to the Moravian community of Salem in North Carolina where he became a tailor. In 1816, when little Franz was one year old, the Hagen family moved into their newly-built little house on what is now Salt Street in restored Old Salem. Today, one may walk by this residence where Franz spent the years from infancy to adolescence. He was educated in the Moravian Boys' School on Salem Square, then sent here to Pennsylvania to Nazareth Hall and the Moravian Seminary, preparing for the ministry. Returning to Salem, Franz taught in the Boys' School, later marrying Clara Reichel, a teacher in the Salem Academy for girls. In 1836, at age 21, Franz wrote the music to *Morning Star* for the little girls' Christmas entertainment in Salem. (Twenty years later, along with Edmund de Schweinitz and Lewis F. Kampmann, Hagen founded *The Moravian* which continues to arrive monthly in our homes.)

Research has not revealed when or why *Morning Star* so endeared itself to the brethren that it became an integral ingredient of the Christmas Eve services in the Moravian churches. Bishop Peter Wolle's diaries, dating to 1871, make no mention of the work's performance here in Lititz or in Bethlehem. Nevertheless, today the composition is such an inseparable part of our Christmas that, should it be eliminated, rebellion would undoubtedly ensue!

Franz Florentin Hagen (later anglicized to Francis Florentine) lived his last years in our Lititz Gemeinhaus-Parsonage — where Bishop and Mrs. Hughes reside — with his son, Ernest, who was pastor of the congregation and principal of Linden Hall. In 1907, he died "of a gradual breaking up of the system" and was buried in God's Acre next to the Linden Hall campus.

Strongly sensing the presence of Hagen's spirit each Christmas and distressed by the apparent oblivion into which the man has passed, the organist of the Lititz Moravian Congregation has established a ritual which he observes each Christmas Eve. Early in the morning, Brother LeFevre gathers, from the family garden, branches of spruce, cedar and boxwood, fashioning them into a red-ribboned spray. Arriving midafternoon at the church for the approaching Christmas Eve services, the organ is first set up and the evening's music receives a final polish. Then, a walk to God's Acre where the greens are placed on Hagen's gravestone, adding a small touch of color and loveliness to the final resting place of the man who, through his gentle little hymn, has brought so much of simple joy and tenderness to our hearts.





A lone figure walks through the avenue of cedars in snow-covered God's Acre. This mood-filled scene was filmed by Brother Carl Shuman. The figure: his wife, Sister Harriett Shuman.

**1978 GIFTS TO LITITZ MORAVIAN MUSEUM**

- From the late Brother Francis Grosh  
An album of early picture-postcards of the Lititz Moravian Church, the Springs and the Lititz community.  
A Daily Text Book with early postcards inserted.
- From Sister Martha Huber  
A Moravian bell from the collection of Mrs. Huber's daughter, the late Sister Margaret Huber.  
Parchment deed from Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, granting Warwick acreage to Woolrich Hoover; dated August 17, 1749; displaying the Great Seal of Pennsylvania and the signature of James Hamilton, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania.  
Letter written in Lititz by General John Sutter in 1875, at age 72, to John S. Hoover of Warwick.
- From Sister Mary Rice  
Bushel basket of peeled willow, added to the furnishings of the love-feast kitchen.
- From Brother Byron K. Horne  
Three pairs of hand-knit stockings, one from merchandise of the store owned and operated by Martha (Greider) Huebener at 66 East Main Street. Typical of early Lititz home industries.
- From Mrs. Elizabeth Kiefaber of the Third Moravian Congregation, Philadelphia  
Baptismal certificate of Susan Henderson; from Lititz Moravian Church, dated 1884.

**NEW MEMBERS**

In March, Mr. and Mrs. George Keehn attended the Archives Committee's monthly meeting as guests of Sister Phyllis Wagner, returning home as the committee's newest members. Brother Keehn is retired from Tasty Baking Company of Philadelphia and has been a trombonist in the Trombone Choir for much of his life. Sister Julia Keehn is retired from Wilbur Chocolate, was long-time director of our senior choir and is a trustee of the Moravian Music Foundation.

The wax candles and white cakes, the bunches and wreaths of laurel and ground pine and holly, with red berries gay in the glitter of the many lights, make the Christmas festival in a Moravian Church something to remember with delight. The Bach you surely will hear there is not exactly gay, but the Mozart they may give you may be.

— *The Red Hills*, Cornelius Weygandt  
(Chapter X: *The Gay and Beautiful*)

**BOMBERGER FAMILY GIFT**

The Museum's library room has recently been furnished with two large wooden bookcases. Fitted with glass doors, the cases will accommodate the congregation's vast collection of old books and documents. One of the bookcases has been presented in memory of the late Brother Guy D. Bomberger and his wife, the late Sister Mabelle Long Bomberger. This timely gift has been underwritten by the

Bomberger Memorial Fund, contributed to by many family friends and administered by the Bomberger children: Sister Beatrice Bomberger Posey (Mrs. Robert), Brother Robert Bomberger and Mrs. Samuel (Nancy Bomberger) Altdoeffer. The second case was commissioned by the Archives Committee. We are grateful to the Bomberger family and their friends for their generous provision of this desperately-needed accouterment for our Museum library.

*Everyone goes to the forest, but some go for a walk, to be inspired; others go to cut down the trees.*

— Russian (?) proverb, a favorite of concert pianist Vladimir Horowitz

The Moravian Christmas Eve service at Lititz was begun in 1759, and although later features have been added from time to time, the general outline has remained much the same. The trombone choir (originally French horns); the singing of stately old music. Mozart, Haydn, and the ancient chorales, with the beautiful "Morning Star," beloved of Moravians everywhere; the "Liebesmahl" (those delicious sugared buns and coffee); and the trays of lighted candles passed by the "diener" to each one present. The touching beauty of this service has reached the hearts of many people outside the Moravian brotherhood, and has become one of the dearest features of our local Christmas.

— *Xmas Customs of Lancaster County*, E. C. Kieffer



## CANDLE TIPPING

### A Little-Known Moravian Christmas Ritual

Were one asked to select an object to symbolize the Moravian Christmas Eve service, might the choice not be the little beeswax candle with its paper trim? Somehow, that tiny taper captures the essence of that beautiful service celebrating the birth of the Holy Child, the Child Divine, the Light come into a world of darkness.

All of us anticipate that moment when the lighted candles are carried into the darkened church, filling the room with their soft radiance. But how many of us are fully aware of all the unseen activity in motion months in advance, activity necessary to the realization of that little candle? Unlike the Central Moravian Congregation in Bethlehem and many other congregations, too, we at Lititz do not make our own candles but have them done for us by a Moravian sister in Nazareth. Using pure beeswax, Sister Lillian Beitel does them by hand in tin molds in her home — a cottage industry.

Then, of course, we recall that an early December Friday finds the women of our congregation gathered at the church, busily trimming each taper with a ruff of finely-cut white paper.

But how many of you know that on the day before the first Vigil services, sisters of the Dieners Corps pay yet another visit to the church, this time to tip the wick of each of the thousands of candles with turpentine? This procedure ensures their prompt and efficient lighting so that at the precise moment of the service — when the room is darkened, the choir and organ and orchestra begin the majestic chorus, *Mache dich auf werde licht*, and the east door swings wide — the trays of burning candles are fully prepared for their glorious procession into the church.

What a sheer delight it is, on that very special morning, to take the stair down into the old, stone-paved lovefeast kitchen with its gray, panelled cupboards, its oak-beamed fireplace sheltering that fat, copper coffee kettle glinting in the pale light of a gray December forenoon — a wan light that seems reluctant to enter the kitchen's east windows and, perhaps, speaks of a gathering storm, a white Christmas. A low hum of conversation rises from a bevy of Moravian sisters bending over the tables, their long-stemmed brushes dabbing industriously at that sea of tawny, golden candles spread before them. And then, one's anticipation of that wondrous Eve really begins to mount — that indescribable moment when, candles in hand, we raise our



In the old lovefeast kitchen, Single Sisters Darlene Bucher and Martha Sturgis, Head and Assistant Head Female Sacristans, tip the Xmas beeswax candles with turpentine.

Photo: Brother Carl Shuman

voices in the stately hymn, *Behold a great, a Heavenly light from Bethlehem's manger shining bright!*

—Wayne B. LeFevre, editor

Mr. Moravian says, "Don't be windmills, — that go with a rush, by fits and starts, — impulsively and irregularly, — but persevere in well-doing, and the less noise the better."

—from *The Moravian*, 1869;  
a clipping found in Bishop Peter Wolle's  
1869 diary

## IT HAPPENED AT LITITZ MORAVIAN

**December 31, 1846 (New Year's Eve)**

During preaching, 4 girls sat alone on the gallery and behaved offensively, — but they received a good setting down after service.

**September 13, 1850**

At 2 p.m. was Sister Micksch's funeral. The Posaun [Trombone] blowing on the graveyard very horrid; our good Bechler was the chief sinner. Much better none at all.

—From the diaries of the church pastor,  
Peter Wolle



## DE PERROT

The Swiss Influence  
on Church Square

After nightfall at Christmas time, the Lititz Moravian Church Square presents a breathtakingly exquisite greeting-card scene, particularly if snow covers the ground and weighs down the evergreens. Candlelit windows line the Square's four sides. Illuminated Moravian stars light doorways and porches, while the church belfry, bathed in light, soars overhead.

The southwest corner of the Square is especially enchanting and charms all of us whose eyes are open to its magic. Here, next-door to the Single Brothers House, stands the dePerrot House, an elegant Victorian structure without any of those high-camp architectural whisker-doodles which we usually associate with that era. Built in 1882 by Nathaniel Wolle, the house has been home to Brother Willy dePerrot and his wife, Sister Blanche deMuller dePerrot, since 1941. The dePerrots came here from Switzerland to extend the family's chocolate empire. Naturally, they brought with them many lovely Swiss customs which continue to be cherished and observed in this corner of Church Square.

One of those customs centers around the Christmas tree. Sister dePerrot speaks nostalgically of her girlhood in Bern where homes were decked with balsam fir trees glittering from tip to toe with burning wax candles!

So now, at Christmas time, in the bay window looking out onto the Square, the dePerrots place a balsam fir, hung with apples and straw stars and lighted with tiny wax tapers. Leaving the church after the Christmas Lovefeast, one always steps over to the dePerrot House, pausing outside to savor that marvellous old-world atmosphere which the dePerrots so graciously share with all of us.

For this issue of the *Journal*, photographer Carl Shuman has taken us inside the dePerrot House for an extraordinarily beautiful encounter. The dePerrots hang their Moravian star in their dining room window — that tall, floor-to-ceiling window which looks out onto the Square, rewarding fortunate dePerrot dinner guests with an exceptional view of the broad green and the old Moravian buildings. Here, we see the star and its reflection in the glass behind it, with the church belfry looming in the background. Another Christmas-card scene, no?

For many of us, the name *dePerrot* is synonymous with a very special corner of Church Square, a tall-treed



*In the dePerrot home on Church Square, the dining room window frames the church belfry and mirrors a Moravian Advent star.*

Photo: Brother Carl Shuman

corner breathing gracious elegance, dignity and refinement — a center, as it were, of art and learning, replacing that earlier center which once stood just next-door: John Beck's famous Young Gentlemen's Academy. For Brother and Sister dePerrot's presence among us, for their having touched and enriched our lives in so many ways, for their having awakened within us a greater awareness of all that is lovely and true and beautiful, we are grateful. Thank you, Blanche and Willy.

—WBL

*A distinguished guest of our congregation at the Christmas Eve Lovefeast last year was artist Ursula Arndt, noted illustrator of childrens' books and designer of Christmas greeting cards for George Caspari. Miss Arndt, whose studio is on Long Island, New York, was a Christmas house-guest of Brother Willy and Sister Blanche dePerrot. Miss Arndt was so moved by the scene on Church Square — the candles in the windows, the golden gleam of the trombone choir, the lighted belfry — that she may design a greeting card based on that which so charmed and inspired her here that evening.*



**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

**December, 1977 to October, 1978**

- The return, to the congregation's collection, of musical instruments long on loan to musicians in the congregation: three rotary valve cornets, one Eb alto horn, one alto valve trombone, one alto slide trombone and one baritone horn.
- Establishment of policy requiring an annual check-in of all church instruments yet on loan to parishioners.
- Repair and painting of tall 18th-century cupboard, originally in the cellar of the Gemeinhaus-Parsonage.
- Installation, in the Museum's library room, of two large, specially designed bookcases in birch, stained walnut and fitted with glass-paned sliding doors.★ The congregation's collection of early books will be placed on these shelves with the Doctors Peter and Irene Seadle doing the arranging and cataloguing.  
★ See article elsewhere in this issue.
- Approval of the Board of Trustees, permitting a second-floor room in the Parish House to be furnished as a study/research/work room in consultation with the Museum collections.
- Old Bible, on liturgist's table (or lower pulpit) in church, expertly re-sewn and repaired by J. Anthony Haverstick, bookbinder.
- Congregation's antique furnishings in the Parsonage photographed, for insurance purposes, by Brother Carl Shuman.
- Museum's alarm system placed on annual check-up schedule.
- Repair and restoration, by Brother Richard Rader, of large softwood table found in lower attic of Single Brothers House. Table will be used in library room of Museum.
- Framing and hanging, in Museum, of four drawings:
  - A. Two Richard G. Hess pen-and-ink drawings of Church Square: one showing the Square as it appeared in the early 19th century; another picturing it as we see it today. These are the originals of the jacket cover illustrations of our choir's first two recordings, made in 1963 and 1964.
  - B. A photographic copy of Elias Vogler's early 19th-century drawing of the buildings lining our Church Square. The original hangs in the artist's parental



*Sister Dorothea Fortier is shown with the handsome old cupboard which the Archives Committee rescued from its long exile in the cellar of the Gemeinhaus-Parsonage. After minor repairs, the cupboard was painted a soft old blue by Sister Fortier, donating her time and skill. The Cupboard's new home is the library room of the congregation's Museum, where it stores old books and papers.*

Photo: Jack Alvarez

home, the restored John Vogler House in Old Salem, North Carolina.

- C. A photographic copy of, supposedly, an architect's drawing of the Lititz Moravian Church and Gemeinhaus before the alterations of 1857. The original is on file in the Archives of the *Brüdergemeine Unität* in Herrnhut, East Germany.
- Sponsorship of a candlelight Lantern Tour, open to the public, of the old Moravian buildings on the Square. This biennial event, held this year on Saturday evening, October 21, will be reported in the next *Journal*; this issue was already at press at the time of the tour.

**January 4, 1917**

**PARSON CROSLAND DINED ON 'POSSUM**

Parson E. S. Crosland and family dined on 'possum on two occasions recently. A few weeks ago, Rev. Crosland [pastor of the Lititz Moravian Congregation] received a 'possum all ready for the oven from a friend in North Carolina, where he resided before coming to Lititz. About a week later, another 'possum, a real live one, was received. Butcher B. F. Lutz slaughtered it and prepared it for the oven. Parson Crosland and his family heartily enjoyed the rare dish, which is a popular one in the south.

—From a scrapbook of news clippings compiled by the late Brother Benjamin F. Lutz, now in possession of his granddaughter, our soprano soloist, Sister Thelma Lutz Keath. Parson Edward S. Crosland was pastor of the Lititz congregation 1916-1932.