



**Finding Aid  
of digitized**

**Manuscripts and Notes  
c. 1750–1900**

**Lanie Yaswinski  
2025**

**Reference Code**

A (for Archives)

**Title**

Manuscripts and Notes (digitized records)

**Dates**

c. 1750-1900

**Level of Description**

Item level, organized chronologically

**Extent and medium of the unit of description**

30 folders found in various boxes

**Name of Creator**

This collection of manuscripts and notes was composed by a number of unknown and known authors, including William C. Reichel, and assembled by the Moravian Historical Society.

**Administrative/Biographical History**

Dating from the 18th- and early 19th-centuries the original manuscripts in this collection include travel diaries and documents regarding the local Moravian communities of Nazareth and Bethlehem founded in the 1740s. Notes and copies generally include excerpts taken from original Moravian community diaries or congregational accounts [Gemeinnachrichten] by anonymous authors. Several folders of notes were created by the Moravian minister and historian, William C. Reichel (1824-1876), and may have been used in preparation for the publication of a wide variety of articles and books he authored on Moravian topics. Letters included in this collection concern Moravian family genealogy.

**Archival History**

The Manuscripts and Notes 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 original manuscripts, notes regarding a wide variety of Moravian topics, excerpts copied from original Moravian manuscripts and periodicals, and some letters regarding Moravian family genealogy.

**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	Date/Notes
<b>Original Manuscripts</b>		
A647	Handwritten note concerning the arrival of people from Barby, Saxony, wishing to come to Bethlehem	18th cent.
A687	Benedictions	18th cent.
A614	Copy of text for the first spinners' lovefeast held in Nazareth, October 27, 1745, composed by Spangenberg	Copy from the original, probably early 19th cent.
A615	Translated excerpts of the Christian Springs diary	1757-1760
A625	Zinzendorf's History of the True Church of Christ, [Maenner und Oeconomien Gottes]	c. 1766 Zinzendorf's genealogy tracing the true church of Christian believers
A665	Travel diary including observations regarding natural history in and around Nazareth by Garve	January 2, 1801 First part, continues in A666
A666	Travel diary including observations regarding natural history in and around Nazareth by Garve	April-May 1801 Second part follows A665
A741	Register of the Moravian Gemeinnachrichten	1791-1804 Marked "A."
<b>Notes and Copies</b>		
A613	Notes regarding early mission work in America, including biographical notes regarding Spangenberg and Henry Antes	Notes taken from unknown source. Author unknown, probably late 19th cent - early 20th cent. I. 1742 II. Spangenberg in Georgia, March 1735 - March 1736 III. Spangenberg among Schwenkfelder, April 1736 - August 1736 IV. Spangenberg in West Indies, August 1736 - October 1736 V. Spangenberg in Pennsylvania, November 1736 - May 1737 VI. Spangenberg Second time in Georgia, July 28 1737 - October 1737 VII. Spangenberg in Pennsylvania a Third Time, November 4, 1737 - Late in 1739
A747	Notes from 1747 diary	Contemporary notes [19th cent.] made from original document
A748	Notes from 1752-1755 diary	Contemporary notes [19th cent.] from original document

A634	Handwritten notes on various Moravian topics, n.d.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. June 1758, Martin dispensed of 10 pounds for benefit of the Indian people - October 1758 in Lovefeast Jim Watt (?) remembered a deep interest in welfare for Native American Indians.</li> <li>2. 1760: February - Schmick spends few days at Nain April 18, 20, 23; June 20, 1761; 1763</li> <li>3. Journal of Martin Mack and Bernhard Grube to the North and West Branch of Susquehannah, August 21-September 6, 1753</li> <li>4. Beginning of Gnadenhutzen May 3, 1745 - September 1, 1746</li> <li>5. Account of the damages done by the troops to homes, belong to the Army of the U.S., Bethlehem, March 1, 1778</li> <li>6. Post-Rider in Allen Township. October 1775</li> <li>7. Marshall's Statements about Indian War of 1763. From Autobiography of Frederic W. de Marshall - "Nachrichten aus der Bruder-Gemeine 1834"</li> <li>8. Healing Waters: Excerpts from Diary of Gnadenthal, July 15, 1747</li> <li>9. Rose Inn, February 21, 1761 The Bethlehem Store, December 11, 1766 Grist-Mill at Bethlehem, August 1767</li> <li>10. List of names in nursery, July 18, 1757</li> <li>11. Robert Livingston's Offer of 20,000 A of the Hardenhip Patent (?). December 1754</li> <li>12. From Anthology of John George Jungman. April 19, 1720</li> <li>13. Indian War, 1755-1756. Items relating to Mahny Map (?) and Indian War of 1755-1756</li> <li>14. ...with the deputies of the 5 nations at Philadelphia (James Hamilton lt. governor) July 1749</li> <li>15. A paper concerning the beginning of schools, 1752-1759</li> <li>16. Nain, George Geisinger farm, etc., November 11, 1874</li> <li>17. Envelope in which all of the above were contained</li> </ol>
A677	Excerpts from the congregational accounts [Gemeinnachrichten] 1807, covering news from German congregations, 1806	Includes the following: No. 5 Neusalz, 1806 No. 6 Gnadenberg, 1806 No. 7 Gnadenfrei, 1806 No. 8 Gnadenfeld, 1806 No. 9 Kleinwelke, 1806
A678	Excerpts from the congregational accounts [Gemeinnachrichten], including mission news and memoirs	1806, 1814, 1815, 1835
A635	Excerpts from the Gemeinnachrichten	1815-1816 Includes envelopes (A633)
A676	Notes on various Moravian settlements and topics, including the Bethlehem lumberyard	Late 19th cent.
A645	Notes on various Moravian topics composed by William C. Reichel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note, "1743 Sun. August 22"</li> <li>2. Newspaper clipping from the Detroit Free Press, 1897. "Grand Trunk Changes. Retirement of Chief Engineer George Masson. He Has Had a Remarkable Railroad Career. Built the Big D. &amp; M. Bridge at Grand Rapids"</li> <li>3. Article of Agreement between Abraham Royer and Isaac Goshen, lease of property in Lancaster. February 2, 1827 [ORIGINAL]</li> <li>4. Short biographical information on Charles Scranton</li> <li>5. Receipt of payment from William Henry to David Jordan, December 14, 1778</li> <li>6. From the "Diarium der Gemeine in Lititz, 1777"</li> <li>7. Extracts from Saint John de Crevecoeur la vie es ses Owrages (1735-1813)"</li> <li>8. Penciled notes</li> </ol>

A644	Notes on various Moravian topics composed by William C. Reichel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Personal Notices, extracted from Church Book, Bethlehem</li> <li>2. Single Brethren, Bethlehem and Indian Names of Creeks and Rivers on Reverse Side.</li> <li>3. of Farming Matters, concerning harvesting, harvest feasts, teams, work, mode of agriculture, and stock.</li> <li>4. Diary of Gnadenthal 1761-1764</li> <li>5. Memoirs of George Frederick Boeckel, died in Bethlehem, October 21, 1780 on one side. Abraham Reinke, died Lititz February 16, 1833 on the other side.</li> <li>6. Gnadenthal - 1747 - 1764</li> <li>7. "Varieties" - February 22, 1747 - November 15, 1748</li> <li>8. Concerning the old Geisinger Farm, Salisbury Township, Lehigh County</li> <li>9. Diary from Lawunakhannuck on Allegheny (Venango County) to Bear River</li> <li>10. Recorded Occurrences among Brethren in Forks of Delaware about time of building of Bethlehem, January 1741 - January 7, 1742</li> <li>11. Single Sisters</li> <li>12. Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, 1742-1755</li> <li>13. Further facts concerning other Ministers</li> <li>14. List of Nationalities, births, deaths, etc.</li> <li>15. Unknown papers</li> </ol>
A643	Notes on various Moravian topics composed by William C. Reichel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scrap with Notes concerning Matthew Krause</li> <li>2. Items concerning Behringer, Schaus, Nyberg, and School in the Swamps. December 1745. Leger of Diaconate, Bethlehem</li> <li>3. Scrap of paper, 1749, seemingly giving data on visions of angels</li> <li>4. Data on mill at Friedensthal Dated 1763-1752 and Obituary of Michael Muches and sons, 1786, 1837, 1871 - Gnadenthal, Plainfield, Easton</li> <li>5. Scrap of paper - Indian facts on one side, Joseph Powell's brief report on the other</li> <li>6. Fragments</li> </ol>
A637	Notes on various Moravian topics composed by William C. Reichel	Includes notes on iron works, sketch of pipes and index.

A638	Notes regarding the Revolutionary War and William Henry, composed by William C. Reichel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request for division of township of Bethlehem and erection of new township of Nazareth, 1787</li> <li>2. Request for advertisements in Lancaster Journal, addressed to Mr. Bradford, signed William Henry, July 17, 1766</li> <li>3. Brief note to William Henry, subscribers for relief of poor inhabitants of Boston, 1774</li> <li>4. Requested writing (much of it) concerning safety and places in Bethlehem, after Shay's Rebellion and Whiskey Rebellion to President Washington, 1794-1825</li> <li>5. Letter - In Council, Philadelphia, concerning war expenses, by Jos. Reed, President, to William Henry, May 21, 1781</li> <li>6. Letter - In Council, Philadelphia, concerning the enlistment and draft of soldiers, by Jos. Reed, President, to William Henry, January 27, 1781</li> <li>7. Letter - from the War Office, ordering muskets, signed by Richard Peters, May 24, 1779</li> <li>8. Letter - In Council, Philadelphia, concerning a meeting to be held at Lancaster, from Jos. Reed, President, September 22, 1780</li> <li>9. Short letter from the War Office to William Henry, asking him to come to York Town. Signed by Horatio Gates, April 13, 1778</li> <li>10. Short letter from the War Office, York, to William Henry. Signed Richard Peters, October 1, 1777</li> <li>11. Penciled Copy of Pennsylvania Journal, July 31, 1766</li> <li>12. Extract letter from York to Nessin (?) in Philadelphia, May 5, 1782</li> <li>13. Letter to William Henry from Moses Haren in Pompton, February 23, 1783</li> <li>14. Letter to William Henry from Chas Lukens in Carlisle, requesting muskets, July 31, 1778</li> <li>15. Penciled note, to William Henry, from the War Office, signed by Tim Pickering, expressing request of General Washington for cartridge boxes, June 8, 1778</li> <li>16. Short letter to William Henry, from the War Office, signed by Horatio Gates, requesting William Henry to come to York Town, April 13, 1778</li> <li>17. Order signed by General Washington, September 27, 1777</li> <li>18. Letter from Anthony Wayne in Camp Mount Joy to William Henry, giving orders from General Washington concerning military supplies, May 14, 1778</li> <li>19. Letter from the War Office, signed by Richard Peters, ordering rifles, May 17, 1778</li> <li>20. List - Michigan Pioneer Colletions, 1799-1809</li> <li>21. Articles of Agreement between Governor Thomas Mifflin and William Henry, Nazareth, Northampton County, December 13, 1797</li> <li>22. Letter - War Office in York, signed Richard Peters to William Henry concerning troops from Lancaster, October 1, 1777</li> <li>23. Letter to William Henry from William Bradford in Philadelphia concerning John Musser in Lancaster, to seize British goods smuggled in, July 8, 1782</li> <li>24. Note, "William Henry. Member of the Committee of Citizens of Lancaster who on June 19, 1770 drew up a non ...act, a copy of which ... to the merchants of Philadelphia"</li> <li>25. Letter to Simon and Henry from John Morton in Philadelphia concerning a financial transaction, December 5, 1874</li> <li>26. Receipt for William Henry's passage money and stores in Friendship now bound to London, signed Nathaniel Falconer, December 17, 1760</li> <li>27. Letter to William Henry from Richard H. Lee in Charleston, requesting Henry to join the army, July 8, 1778</li> </ol>
A624	Notes and Letter regarding Coat of Arms of Nicholas Lewis Count of Zinzendorf	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notes regarding the coat of arms</li> <li>2. Letter from Charles J. Lukens to Rev. William C. Reichel, Philadelphia, June 27, 1870, regarding coat of arms</li> </ol>
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



A688	Notebook owned by F.F. Hagen, containing copies of discourses 39-55 held by Count Zinzendorf (Part II), August 27 - December 31, 1747	July 7, 1899 Discourses hand-copied and translated from unknown original source, perhaps the Gemeinnachrichten
A628	Notes on various Moravian topics taken from original sources	19th cent.
A68	The Printing Press and Moravian Missions	Notes on the history of the printing press as it relates to the Moravians
A629	Excerpts copied from magazines	1. Extracts from the Gentleman's Universal Magazine, 1757-1770 2. Recipes for Various Disorders in Man and Animals, Observations and Experiments in Philosophy Etc. from the Universal Magazine
A639	Speech to Moravian Historical Society members and corresponding newspaper article regarding the establishment of the Pennsylvania Historical Society	n.d.
A633	Empty envelopes which once held copies of the Gemeinnachrichten, 1815-16 [MOVED TO A635]	
A636	Empty Envelope with list of previous contents, 20th cent.	