



**Finding Aid
of the digitized records of**

**Moravian Missions
1742–1910**

**Lanie Yaswinski
2025**

Reference Code

A (for Archives)

Title

Moravian Missions (digitized records)

Dates

1742-1910

Level of Description

Item level, organized chronologically

Extent and medium of the unit of description

38 folders found in four boxes (Box 6 Moravian Missions, Box 9 Indian Missions, Box 25 Letters from Various People, and Box 29 German Documents)

Name of Creator

Mission records created under the oversight of the Moravian Congregation of Bethlehem, Provincial Helpers' Conference (PHC) and Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) in North America.

Administrative/Biographical History

Moravians first arrived in Colonial America (Savannah, Georgia) in 1735 with one of their major initiatives to establish a mission to Native Americans living in the vicinity of Savannah. After Moravians resettled in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley in the early 1740s, missionary activities ultimately ensued among the Delaware and other Native American groups. Moravian missionaries followed the Delaware in particular westward from Pennsylvania to Ohio, to Canada, Indiana, and finally to Kansas. Moravian missionaries also worked among Mahicans in New York and Connecticut, and among the Cherokee in modern-day Georgia and Oklahoma. Mission work lasted until the year 1900.

In 1732, Moravians established a mission among enslaved Africans on the Caribbean island of St. Thomas. Soon Moravian missions began on other islands: St. Croix (1740), St. John (1754), Jamaica (1754), Antigua (1756), Barbados (1765), St. Kitts (1777), Tobago (1790/1827), Trinidad (1890), and the Dominican Republic (1907).

In 1879, the General Synod in Herrnhut declared the Moravian work in the West Indies a mission province, with its own administration and less dependent on financial contributions from the Mission Board in Herrnhut. Soon, this large province was split into two: Jamaica was to be its own mission province, while the other islands formed the

province of the Eastern West Indies (EWI). In 1963, EWI became an independent province of the Moravian Church.

Archival History

The Moravian Missions record group is an artificial collection, a collection of materials with unknown provenance assembled and organized to facilitate its management or use. At this time, it is not clear how and when these materials 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 bulk of this collection contains materials related to various Moravian missions among the American Indians, including community member catalogs, diaries, correspondence with missionaries, financial records, cultural notes, and translations of liturgical texts into the Delaware language. In addition, there is some correspondence and regulations related to the Moravian missions to Jamaica and the West Indies.

System of Arrangement

The records were previously organized at the item level according to general subject groups, however, during the current project, some records pertinent to the subject group were found in other boxes in the collection. 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 from various boxes are combined in the finding aid and organized chronologically.

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, Delaware

Handwritten Latin and German script

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Ink or pencil on loose and bound sheets of paper or notebooks

Finding aids

PDF on website and printed finding aid in reading room

Existence and location of originals

Original records stored in Archives Room, the Moravian Historical Society

Related units of description

Related records are found in collections at the following institutions:

- Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, PA (MAB) in the following collections: Records of the Moravian Missions to the American Indians (MissInd); Records of the Moravian Church in the Eastern West Indies (MissEWI); Bethlehem Congregation records (Beth Cong) in terms of minutes of various American Indian church councils or conferences
- Unity Archives, Herrnhut, Germany (UA)
- Moravian Archives - Southern Province, Winston-Salem, NC, regarding the missions among the Cherokee

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." Digital entries revised by Lanie Yaswinski, 2023-24.

CITATION INSTRUCTION:

Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth PA, Moravian Missions + 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	Dates/Notes
A649	Explanation of various Native American tribes, persons and practices, by Christoph Pyrlaeus	1742 - 1748
A95	History of the Moravian Mission on the Muskingum	ca. 1755 - 1796
A653	Catalogue of Baptized Persons in Friedenshuetten	1765-69
A654	Catalogue of the adult baptized Native Americans in 1. Friedenshuetten and Scheschequanink and 2. Beaver Creek on the Allegheny and Muskingum, taken from the church book from the middle of October 1765 - beginning of January 1814	1765 - 1814 Divided into lists of those who have died and those who are still living
A97	A Day Book for the Indian Account at Longuntotonunk [Lagundo Utenünk] and some white at Goschgoschünk, February 8, 1769 - May 30, 1772	1769 - 1772 Original daybook of Indian settlements, includes map
A93	Statutes and Rules agreed upon by the Christian Indian Congregation on Beaver Creek and Muskingum [Lagundo Utenünk (Friedensstadt PA)]	c. 1770
A686	Letters from John Ettwein, Bethlehem, to David Zeisberger and other Moravian missionaries	1. To David Zeisberger, Huron River above Detroit, June 18, 1786 2. To David Zeisberger, Gottlob Sensemann, William Edward and Michael Jung, Fairfield on Thames River, Upper Canada, February 25, 1797, includes translation 3. To David Zeisberger, Gottlob Sensemann, William Edward and Michael Jung, Fairfield on Thames River, Upper Canada, no date, received March 14, 1798 4. To David Zeisberger, Gottlob Sensemann, William Edward and Michael Jung, Fairfield on Thames River, Upper Canada, April 25, 1798, includes typed translation 5. To David Zeisberger, Goshen, Muskingum, April 11, 1799 6. To David Zeisberger, Goshen, Muskingum, August 30, 1800 7a. To David Zeisberger, Goshen, Muskingum, December 6, 1800 7b. Christian Friedrich Schaaf to David Zeisberger, December 7, 1800
A659	Excerpts from John Heckewelder and Abraham Steiner's journey from Bethlehem to Pettquotting on the Huron River near Lake Erie and return	1789
A663	Letters from Brethren in Salem, North Carolina, to David Zeisberger, Goshen, Muskingum	1. Christian Ludwig Benzien, August 14, 1799 2. Carl Gotthold Reichel, October 4, 1804 3. C. Forestier, February 6, 1807
A664	Catalogue of the Indian congregation in Fairfield on the Thames River	January 1, 1800
A556	Letter from Joseph Zaeslein, Nazareth Hall, to an unknown missionary in Muskingum	April 11, 1802 1. Envelope 2. Above stated letter
A555	Letter asking for safe passage for Moravian missionary, Christian Friedrich Denke, written by George Henry Loskiel, Bethlehem	September 10, 1803
A671	Letters from David Zeisberger, Goshen, to other Moravian missionaries	1. Letter to John Heckewelder, Gnadenhuetten, December 27, 1803 2. Letter to Loskiel, June 26, 1806 3. Letter to Hagen, June 26, 1806
A98	Acts Chapter 2. Pentecost, verses 1-47 in Delaware by David Zeisberger	Translation of Acts 2:1-47 Pentecost into Delaware language by David Zeisberger, Goshen on Muskingum, May 23, 1806
A668	Church register of the Native American congregation in Pettquottink	1804-09 This time period encompasses the congregation's move to a second location "Pettquottink II" on the Huron River. Includes brief remarks about the history of the congregation.
A669	Diary of the Fairfield mission on the Thames River in Ontario, compiled by Johannes Schnall	1808 Probable copy of diary of the same time period at the Moravian Archives Bethlehem (MissInd163.1)
A670	Letter from John Schnall, Fairfield, Ontario to Matthew Dolson, Dover, Ohio	July 23, 1808

A96	Extract of a Letter from Brother Christian Friedrich Denke to Brother Jacob VanVleck	c. 1810 Letter describing the baptism and death of Br. Leonard, Fairfield, Ontario
A558	Correspondence regarding Ann Conger and the Gambolds, Springplace, Georgia	1. Letter from John Gambold, Springplace, to Ann J. Conger, Brainerd, following the death of his wife, March 11, 1821 2. Letter from Ann Conger, Springplace to her parents, April 20, 1820 3. Letter from the Gambolds, Springplace, to Ann Conger, Brainerd, October 13, 1820 4. Letter from the Gambolds, Springplace, to Ann Conger, Brainerd, October 7, 1820 5. Letter from John Gambold, Oochgelogy, to Ann Conger, November 3, 1821
A559	Letter from Adam Haman, New Fairfield, to Lewis de Schweinitz, Bethlehem	November 24, 1823
A685	Records pertaining to Native American missions	1. Excerpts of Fairfield diary, July-December 1835 2. Explanation of Delaware language and grammar, undated 3. Notes from Heckewelder's book on Native Americans, undated
A557	Early 19th-century correspondence	1. Letter from Joseph Prince, Indian Agent, Dayton, to Lewis de Schweinitz, Director of the Society of the United Brethren in North Carolina, December 11, 1816 2. Letter from Jonathon Jennings near Charleston, Indiana, to Lewis de Schweinitz, January 17, 1817 3. Letter from A. Layman in Baltimore, to Rev. M. Hammer, October 19, 1849
A577	Letter from Joseph H. Kummer, New Carmel, Jamaica	August 29, 1853 Regarding the deaths of missionaries George Weiss and his wife and Br. Kremser at Nisky of yellow fever
A94	Names of the Indian Converts massacred at Gnadenhutten in Ohio	Copied by Eugene Leibert on July 6, 1857 for the Moravian Historical Society from the original by John Heckewelder in possession of M. Heckewelder, Bethlehem
A565	Letter from Alfred de Groot, Port Richmond, Staten Island, NY, to William Lennert, Nazareth, re: donation of Gambold correspondence (A558)	Moved to folder A558 September 21, 1882
A71	Records pertaining to Jamaica and the West Indies	1. Letter from G.H. Lapp, Bethany, Jamaica to the Rev. C.A. Haehnle in Nazareth asking for a gift for church roofing at Zorn Memorial Church, July 28, 1900 2. Regulations regarding marriage of Moravian converts in the West Indies, n.d. [early 19th cent. ?]
A622	Moraviantown Delaware Mission Diary, New Fairfield, Ontario	1900-1902
A92	Extracts of Mack and Zeisberger's Journal up the West and North Branches of Susquehanna	July 9-30, 1748
A90	Translation of Christian Henry Rauch's Journal to the Mohawks	January - February 1743 Translation by Henry Jacobson. Account of Rauch's journey to the Indians in order to see if any were Christian and/or to learn their language
A91	Translation of a short account of Brother John Martin Mack's and Christian Froelich's journey to Wayomick [Wyoming] and Halobank	April 6-20, 1745 Translation of the original MAB MissInd 217.12.2-3
A89	Translation of Brothers Cammerhoff and Gotthold Pezold's Diary of their journey to Wechquatnach and Pachgatgoch	Translation of travel diary, letter by Cammerhoff, February 23 - March 11, 1749 [MAB MissInd 211.7] by Henry Jacobson, September 1878
A70	Notes on Moravian Mission to the Indians: The Shekomeko Indians at Bethlehem	Notes copied from 1743-1754
A69	Various letters	1. Dialogue spoken by the children of Newfield School at the Examination, October 1856 2. Letter to Br. Brennecke, March 31, 1910, Utica NY from Reinke, Kingston, Jamaica 3. Three letters from Herrnhut, 1910: a. Hettasch to Br. Feldmann, July 7, 1910 b. Feldmann to Brennecke, August 7, 1910 c. Feldmann to Brennecke, September 20, 1919 4. Account of the Moravian Mission at Labrador

A67	Extracts from Various Diaries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List of names and corresponding town, a few marked as Indians 2. Journal page/Indians 3. Adjoining Christianspring a track of 200 acres, lying South of the Nazareth tract. Survey papers, 1751. Map drawn on back. [MISSING] 4. Notes from obituary at Nazareth beginning February 14, 1756 5. Notes regarding Langundo-utenink on the Big Beaver, including map of the settlement, first marked date August 2, 1772 6. Notes from Grube's Diary, August 16, 1760 - February 28, 1762 7. Short biography of George Schober (b. May 26 1814, d. June 3, 1871), last of landlords from the Sun Inn, from Frederick Schober, Philadelphia PA [original] 8. From "The Levering Family" by Horatio (?) Gates Jones, Philadelphia 1858
A66	Extracts from Various Diaries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extracts from de Watteville's Journal, recording his 2nd journey to the Indians December 1748. En route for Shekemeko via Nazareth, Menilogomekah, Quequachtank, Dansbury, Water Gap - over Robinson's Ferry to Paulin's Kill, [copy related to MAB MissInd 225.3] 2. Extracts from de Watteville's Journal from Bethlehem to Wyoming, October 1748. Via Irish settlement, Lehigh Gap to Gnadenhütten on Mahony, [copy related to MAB MissInd 225.2] 3. Sundries Wapwallopin, Nescopock, Allummapes, Shikellimy, Skehantowaro, Shikellemly's Sons, Nanticokes, [copy of Notes on Various Indian Tribes taken from de Watteville's diary extracts, 1748, MAB MissInd 225.2] 4. Two letters from Edmund Ricksecker, Nazareth PA, to W. Reichel, dated April 12 and April 16, 1871 re: Indian Grave at Nazareth, near Schoeneck, including map
A60	Copies of Letters from Moravians to the Cherokees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Envelope addressed to Rev. G.M. Shultz, Librarian of the Moravian Historical Society 2. Cover letter addressed to Rev. Shultz describing how the copies of the letters were come by. Signed Grant Foreman of Muskogee, OK, Oct. 26, 1930 3. "Communications from the Missionary Board of the Moravian Society at Salem NC, August 16, 1839," [William Henry VanVleck, Theodore Schultz, Christian Frederick Schaaf] Addressed "To the Principal Chiefs, Headmen, and Council of the Cherokee Nation in Arkansas" 4. "Communication from the Principle Chief (Missions), John Ross, Talequah OK, September 27, 1839" Addressed "To The National Council" 5. Letter To Mr. John Ross, Principle Chief of the Cherokee Nation, dated from Bethlehem July 31, 1841, signed Maurice C. Jones, corresponding secretary of the Young Men's Missionary Society, Bethlehem PA
A61	Proposals from the Mission Board for cost-saving reductions in mission work	Reproduction of handwritten document, n.d.