These projects will keep us busy for a while

Last fall we saw the publication of *With Courage for the Future*, our massive 950-page four-pound history of the Moravian Church, Southern Province. With our eight years of work on *With Courage* now a memory, the Moravian Archives has turned to several other major projects.

Early this year assistant archivist Nicole Blum set to work on the project of removing maps from our old map chest, unrolling those that could be unrolled, placing them in acid-free folders, filing them in wide-drawer metal map chests, and inventorying each one.

Her project was made all the more challenging when Salem Congregation brought literally hundreds of maps to the Archives for safekeeping, so that on several occasions it seemed that the entire vault floor was taken up by tables loaded with maps.

A second project deals with some of our most frequently used records — the memoirs of our memoir collection. Taken together, our more than 12,000 memoirs are a unique treasure of information not only for genealogists but also for historians studying life in Salem and surrounding Wachovia dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Last March assistant archivist Richard Starbuck began the task of scanning each memoir into the computer so that the original can be "retired" to the vault and researchers can avail themselves of the electronic "copies" on the screen.

Archivist Daniel Crews has embarked on the most complex of our projects. Translations our Aeltesten Conferenz and Helfer Conferenz have left a few gaps in these precursors of the Provincial Elders Conference. His task is to bring together these earlier translations and fill in the gaps to form a complete translation of these highest boards of early Wachovia.

To bring them to completion, all three of these projects have called upon the financial support of our Friends of the Archives. When they are finished, we won't have another *With Courage for the Future*, but the Archives will definitely be a research center where records are better kept and where they can be gotten to with ease.
'Tis the Moravian way

On Great Sabbath last, a few brave musicians
Climbed our Davis Center — O, what a vision —
To play, you see, for folks below gathered
Decking graves for Easter in Salem God’s Acre.
Ardmore, Trinity, Home, and Konnoak that day
Were each represented as forth they did play.
Quoth Archivist Crews in Moravian fashion,
Yes, what we have is a new church tradition!

About volume 13...

The following conversation is purely imaginary, but the underlying facts are true. Volume 12 of Records of the Moravians in North Carolina covers the Moravian Church in the Civil War. The State Archives published volume 12 three years ago. Volume 13 will cover the Reconstruction years of 1867 through 1876.

Moravian Archives: So, State Archives, how is editing going on volume 13 of Records of the Moravians in North Carolina?
State Archives: Slowly, very slowly. Our editor is swamped with work, but at every opportunity she works on volume 13.
MA: Will it be out by Christmas? That’s what we have been telling everybody.
SA: Oh, don’t tell anybody that. We can’t possibly have it out by then.
MA: Well, then, how about Christmas the next year?
SA: Ah, well, we’re working on it the best we can, given our staff limitations.
MA: So what should we tell people, especially those who wanted to have volume 13 for Christmas presents this year?
SA: We’re sorry. That just won’t be. And we can’t promise next year either. In these bad times with our budget so restricted, everybody here is just so overworked.
MA: Perhaps we should tell people that volume 13 will come out in due season at the normal governmental pace.
SA: That’s it. We’re doing our best with what we have. Say, you could help expedite matters.
MA: Oh? How?
SA: Ask your people to tell the state legislature to raise taxes to increase our budget so we can hire people so we can get things done.
MA: Er, ah, thank you. We’ll wait for normal governmental pace.
Most of all, our Friends are truly generous

Our 2002 Friends of the Archives campaign held up very well despite a declining economy and uncertain times. We confess it worried us so much we did not announce a goal, and yet you all came through splendidly with a true spirit of generosity that easily laid our fears to rest.

Last year’s campaign topped $15,900 from 164 individuals and families. That compares well, given the economy, with $17,332.95 given by 166 contributors the previous year. Each one of you deserves a pat on the back and a grateful “thank you.”

Normally we explain here what our Friends Fund does, that it supports such projects as translations and conservation of records that go beyond the operating budget, as well as our web site (moravianarchives.org) and extraordinary purchases.

But this time we want to focus on you, our supporters.

Who are you? The great majority of you — 112 — are from Winston-Salem and surrounding communities of Clemmons (6), Advance (2), East Bend, Walkertown, Pfafftown (2), Bethania, Rural Hall, Kernersville, and King. You are from other North Carolina communities, from the mountains to the coast: Asheville, Wilmington, Charlotte (2), Greenville, Raleigh (7), Kannapolis, Chapel Hill (3), Lexington, Wentworth, Vilas (thank you, sister), and Wilson. You also span America, from Florida (3) to California, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania (2), Illinois, Alabama, and Virginia.

You are doctors, lawyers, school presidents, deans, and teachers, bankers, insurers and actuaries, editors and publishers, historians and students, genealogists, housewives, coffee merchants, architectural historians, CPAs, musicians, ministers, and missionaries.

Some 30 of you are relative newcomers as Friends of the Archives, having joined since 2000. Welcome aboard. A surprising 48 of you have been steady supporters since the beginning of the Friends Fund in 1985. You have seen such projects as translations of the Aeltesten Conferenz minutes and the diary and correspondence of our Springplace mission to the Cherokee, conservation of the Great Map of Wachovia, and the purchase of our first computers which launched our growing list of publications.

Over the years since 1985 you have raised more than $250,000. That’s a remarkable sum. It leaves us truly thankful for all you have done and all you will do in the future.

For those who have not yet given to our Friends Fund, there is room for you too. Come join us as we explore the history that makes up the Moravian Archives. Contributions can be made to Moravian Archives, Box L, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108. All donations are fully tax deductible.

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