

# ANNOTATIONS

FROM  
THE MORAVIAN ARCHIVES  
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

## *Get your keepsake of the 250th*

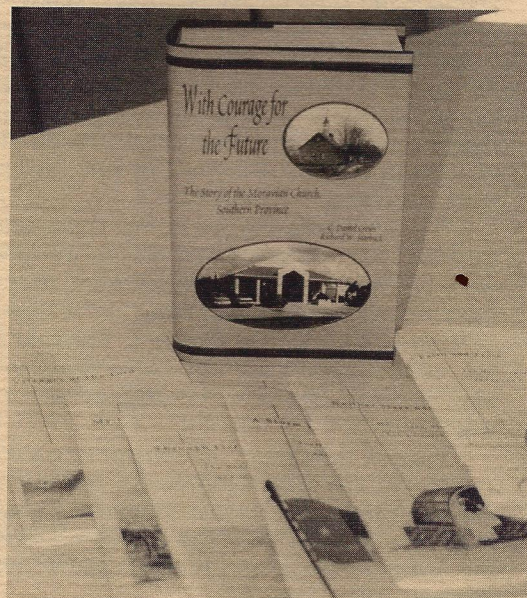
As the Southern Province of the Moravian Church winds up its 250th anniversary celebrations this month let's recall all that has gone on.

Remember the grand "birthday party"? It took place more than a year ago on September 28, 2002, at Historic Bethabara Park. The "birthday cakes" made by the various churches were tremendous — and very inventive in design. Did you get a little green 250th button?

Bethabara Church — it's Bethabara after all where the Southern Province began on November 17, 1753 — had a large wall hanging made showing the 1788 Gemein Haus and listing all the churches of the Province. (A few of those wall hangings are still available from the church.)

There were lectures and concerts through the year-long celebration, a band fest and a handbell fest, the worldwide Moravian Women's Conference and the 20th Moravian Music Festival.

And then there are the 250th anniversary publications of the Moravian Archives — keepsakes that can be read and reread and referred to for many years to come.



*Our collection of publications for the 250th.*

Chief among them is *With Courage for the Future: The Story of the Moravian Church, Southern Province*. Or the "four pounder," as we familiarly call it. Just because it's the size of *Gone with the Wind* or a Harry Potter novel shouldn't scare you off. *With Courage* is a great read, for after all, it has a great story to tell. Buy it for enjoyment (open it anywhere and just start reading; like as not, you'll be hooked). Buy it for reference to names, dates, pastorates (the appendix is 113 pages long). Buy it as a precious memento of the Southern Province's 250th anniversary.

*With Courage*, 950 pages (including preface materials) with pictures and  
*See 250th publications, page 4*



## *A memorial gift that keeps on giving*

Often at the Moravian Archives a tiny question leads to a wonderful story. We want to share this one with you.

Last September, Kenneth M. Pruitt, retired professor of biochemistry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, wrote to ask about a musical instrument. "From 1949 to 1956," Dr. Pruitt wrote, "I was a member of the Ardmore Moravian Church Band. I was recruited into the Band by my Reynolds High School Band Director, Mr. Robert A Mayer, who was also the Director of the Church Band. Playing with that Church Band was a marvelous experience for me. One of the things that made it so memorable was the fact that the Church had a brand new E-flat sousaphone which I was privileged to play. It was a beautiful instrument and a real delight to play. There was an inscription on the backside of the bell which was directly in my line of sight as I played. The inscription read, 'Donated in memory of \_\_\_\_\_'."

"I don't remember the name of the soldier who was honored by this donation. He was killed during World War II. When his remains were brought back to Winston-Salem, they were interred in God's Acre. I played that sousaphone in the Church Band at his graveside ceremony. As you may imagine, it was an unforgettable experience for me to play that horn at that ceremony. I would be grateful to the Moravian Archives if you could provide for me the name of that soldier. . . ."

A quick telephone call to Ardmore solved the mystery. It took secretary Carol Obenchain only a few minutes to walk to the church's band room, locate the instrument — a sousaphone is hard to miss even in its case — and read off the precise inscription: "Presented to the Ardmore Moravian Church Band in Loving Memory of William B. Mitchell, 1924-1945."

Mitchell's memoir, on file at the Moravian Archives, gives further details. William Mitchell was born in Winston-Salem on September 21, 1924, to James Leslie and Beatrice Longworth Mitchell. He was baptized at Ardmore Moravian Church on Palm Sunday, April 5, 1936, and was active in the Sunday school, church band, and choir.

Mitchell graduated from Reynolds High School in 1942 and worked at Salem Steel before entering military service in April 1943. He sailed from New York in May 1944 with the 258th Quartermaster Railhead Company, and on July 11 "his outfit started its hard journey across France, Belgium, and Luxembourg, into Germany, with the Third Army" — Patton's Army. Nine months later, on April 9, 1945, Mitchell "lost his life, along with four others of his company, in some kind of airplane accident, the exact details of which," his memoir states, "are still unknown." The October 1951 *Wachovia Moravian* completes the story by saying that William Mitchell was interred in the Salem God's Acre on August 18, 1951.

On learning of the above, Professor Pruitt wrote to secretary Obenchain last September: "During my years with the Marching and Concert Bands at the University of North Carolina and Penn State, I played many different tubas and sousaphones. Most of them were battered and dented from their long service. I never played a horn as magnificent as the one that bore the dedication to 'William B. Mitchell, 1924-1945.' It was a beautiful horn. It was brand new when I played it — no dents and no scratches. It was well made and had a marvelous, full, rich tone quality. I have vivid memories of the afternoon on August 18, 1951, when I played that horn in the Church Band at the interment of Mr. Mitchell's remains at God's Acre."

Carol Obenchain awaits this article to forward it to Mitchell's surviving relatives in Tennessee.

The sousaphone now carries dents and scratches that attest to its well more than 50 years of age, but it sits in the Ardmore Church Band room awaiting the next eager young musician to take it up and let the world hear its "marvelous, full, rich tone quality."



*Carol Obenchain holds the sousaphone dedicated to William B. Mitchell*



# Our Friends are our partners in history

A few days ago a visitor to the Moravian Archives asked, "But what do you *do* with all those documents?"

Well, we write histories from them and publish them (see page 1). We field numerous inquiries from churches that range from locating blueprints of buildings to finding the Daily Text for the day a member was born. We piece together genealogy trees for family members eager to know. And yes, we just "keep" records for such scholars as students to reporters to Old Salem, Inc., to study and write their own histories.

Helping us in this grand adventure in history that stretches back to colonial times before the American Revolution are our Friends of the Archives. Much that has been made accessible for us in our research, and for scholars in theirs, has been made possible by the generosity of our Friends.

Translating from ancient German to English, conserving unique maps, buying equipment to make publishing possible — all this and much more is done through Friends of the Archives.

Have you joined the adventure yet? If so, we thank you for your support and look forward to your continued generosity. If not, be assured there's ample opportunity for you to join us. Come, be a partner with us in this adventure through history that is the Moravian Archives.

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## About Volume 13 . . .

"I'm very embarrassed we have not yet gotten it out," said Donna Kelly.

Donna Kelly is administrator of the Historical Publications Section of the Office of Archives and History in Raleigh, and she was referring to the eagerly awaited volume 13 of *Records of the Moravians in North Carolina*.

Volume 12 of *Records of the Moravians*, which covers the Civil War years, sailed through to publication in 2000. But that was before the economic downturn and severe budget cuts that left the Historical Publications Section with fewer employees to do the same or even more work. ♦

Like volume 12, volume 13 of *Records* will consist of excerpts of church diaries, board minutes, and other documents held by the Moravian Archives. The years covered by volume 13 will be 1867-1876, the years of Reconstruction in the South.

We look forward to the debut of volume 13. It WILL get out. We just can't say when. "We're hoping," said Donna Kelly, perhaps optimistically, "to get it published in 2005."

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*Yes! I want to help the special projects of the Moravian Archives. Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ for the Friends Fund.*

*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Apt./Street* \_\_\_\_\_

*City* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ *Zip* \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to Moravian Archives. Mail to Moravian Archives, Box L, Winston-Salem, NC 27108. All contributions are fully tax deductible.*



## 250th anniversary

*Continued from page 1*  
maps, retails at \$34.95 (a real steal)  
plus tax.

Then there are our 250th anniversary series of booklets that feature the first three chapters, chapter 12, and special-interest excerpts from *With Courage*:

- *Villages of the Lord: The Moravians Come to Carolina* (44 pages).
- *My Name Shall Be There: The Founding of Salem* (58 pages).
- *Through Fiery Trials The Revolutionary War and the Moravians* (60 pages).
- *A Storm in the Land: Southern Moravians and the Civil War* (40 pages).
- *Neither Slave nor Free: Moravians, Slavery, and a Church That Endures* (57 pages).
- *Faith and Tears: The Moravian Mission among the Cherokee* (60 pages).

Each booklet retails for \$4.95 plus tax.

All publications of the Moravian Archives are available at the Moravian Book & Gift Shop, 614 S. Church Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101, telephone 336-723-6262, or from the Archives itself at 457 S. Church Street (behind Cedarhyrst, the castle in Salem), Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101.

The 250th anniversary may fade, but these publications will keep alive the reason for the celebration for many years to come.

Box L  
Winston-Salem  
NC 27108  
Phone: 336-722-1742  
MoravianArchives.org

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