A Season for Friends

It's been a full, lively few months at the Archives with much to celebrate with our Friends. Here's some of the news from our Facebook feed as things happened.

October 11 – Cherokee Nation visits. Guests filled the Archives' reading room to welcome an official visit by two leaders from the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Cherokee Nation Secretary of State Chuck Hoskin, Jr., and the Honorable Jack D. Baker presented the Archives with a check for $25,000 to support the publication of additional volumes of Records of the Moravians.

Volume Seven of Records: Cherokees, covering 1825-1827, was published in September, and is now available for holiday giving from our Web site.

Among the Cherokees. Salem College alumna Anna Smith, a descendant of Chief Renatus Hicks, an early convert at the Springplace mission, later hosted a reception for our guests at her home. Smith and Baker founded the Cherokee Moravian Historical Association in 2005 in part to spur the translation of the missionary records behind Records: Cherokees. Since 2008, the Archives' Cherokee Fund has received more than $360,000 in gifts to create the series.

Winston-Salem City Councilman John Larson brings official welcome, flanked at left by Wake Forest University’s Kenneth W. Robinson and Home Church’s I. B. Southerland, and, at right, by Daniel Crews. (photo by Mary Elen Kollman)
October 12 – Wake Professor Lunchtime Lecture. Dr. Grant McAllister, professor in the Department of German and Russian at Wake Forest University, was our guest lecturer on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. McAllister’s talk focused on October 31, 1817, a day in the life of the Salem congregation. His complete transcription of the Salem diary of 1817 will be the nexus of future studies from the Archives.

Eric Elliott, Tom Bross, Assistant Archivist Nicole Crabbe, Archives Commission Chair Mike Sloan during Bross’ August visit (photo by Erik Salzwedel).

August 22 and November 13-15 - Northern and Southern Province Archives exchange visits. Tom Bross, board chair of the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, visited Salem as part of vacation travels in late summer. A few months later Eric Elliott traveled north to visit the Bethlehem Archives and its affiliate Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth. Archivist Paul Peucker was a wonderful tour guide and mentor, and with husband Jeff Long a gracious dinner host. Assistant Archivist Tom McCullough shared their processing procedures and hints for what’s worked and where to reach out. MHS Director Megan van Ravenswaay told how she has been finding friends to celebrate the treasures she has in Whitefield House and Gray Cottage. And Tom Bross kindly fed Eric breakfast at a Moravian College favorite eatery before shuttling him to see Burnside Plantation.

September 9 – Duke and Guilford students visit. Thomas Robisheaux of Duke University and Timothy Kircher of Guilford College brought to the Archives a group of students from their schools who are studying the Protestant and Catholic Reformations. Here they learned the Moravian story and what resources they might find in doing research on future church history projects. If your group would like a tour of the Archives, contact us.

Moravian Archives and Moravian Historical Society staff enjoying a birthday lunch for MHS Director Megan van Ravenswaay. L to R: Docent Christopher Malone, Office Manager Kelly Gwens, Curator Susan Orr, Assistant Archivist Thomas McCullough, Megan, Project Manager Jeffrey Long, Archivist and Director Paul Peucker.
August 17 – Archives attends opening of Old Salem "Hidden Town" project. Although we have not been directly involved in the effort to date, Old Salem staff has used Archives' records to "reveal the history of a hidden town of African enslaved and freedman people living in Salem—where they lived, worked, and who they were as human beings." One of the first sites being developed is Davy's house, adjacent to Cedarhyrst and the Archives.

Wayfinding brochures about the Archives and its programs are being produced - the "About our Archives" brochure is available online at our Web site now. The Web site is currently being updated and made more mobile friendly.

October 9 - New Hours, New Brochure. The Archives will be closed on Fridays for accession processing. But we are now open from noon-1:30pm during lunch on other weekdays for those who make an appointment.

Gail Morris addresses Home Church about her passion for and commitment to the Archives' work.

September 17 – Supporting Your Archives. Gail Morris, a long-time Archives Commission member, shared experiences working with the Archives with her congregation this day. You can hear the talk as part of the "Love, Live, Serve" series at Home Church's video channel on You Tube. Eric Elliott gave talks about the Archives and its work to Friedland and Konnoak Hills churches this fall, as well as in his November Lunchtime Lecture.

Clara "Cackie" Rollins with Nicole Crabbe.

July 28 – Celebrating Clara "Cackie" Rollins. Cackie has been a Moravian for 40 years, and a volunteer at our Archives for more than 10 years. She has done great work for us in proofreading and creating graveyard lists. Her good cheer and talents for finding and sharing information are a blessing for staff and visitors.
November 14 - Children's Festival at the Archives. The Children and Family Task Force reminds us that the Archives documents and celebrates all of church life with their presentation of commemorative pieces from the first Festivals. The scroll, made by Hilda McKnight, is from the first Children's Festival and Lovefeast in 2014. The quilt, constructed by the Bethania Quilters, is from the second event. The pottery, designed by Mike Fox, was made for the third Festival; and the canvas art, designed by the Rev. Christy Clore, was from the event held this last August.

Be among the first to know the latest happenings at the Archives

Join our monthly e-mail listserv to see the top three archives stories of the month – special events, visits, displays. If we’ve got an e-mail for you, you’ll get the first monthly news flash in early January.

If you’d like to be on the list, just e-mail us at: moravianarchives@mcsp.org