

# Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

News

## Moravian Archives Reopens after Renovations

Bethlehem, PA—On August 20, 2013, more than 100 people gathered at the Moravian Archives to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the renovations of the archives building. Among the attendees were US Congressman Charlie Dent and Bethlehem Mayor John B. Callahan. During the preceding months, new movable shelving had been installed in the main vault of the Moravian Archives, doubling the storing capacity of the archives.

The Moravian Archives holds the records of the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province. In addition, the archives has a collection of 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century art by Moravian artists, as well as a library of 20,000 titles, including 12 incunabula. Funding for this project came from a matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of a program called Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections. A statement from the NEH that was read at the event said



*The Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, PA*

The experts who evaluated the application recognized the national and even international significance of the archives' holdings. One reviewer was surprised by the richness and depth of the materials and by the Moravians' attention to recording their activities. Evaluators characterized the Moravian Archives as a "very professionally run operation" with a powerful commitment to research and publication. They agreed that the collection was endangered by inadequate storage space and that the proposed improvements would help ensure the preservation of these items for years to come.

The Moravian Archives is now open again to the public for research. You can learn more about the archives at [www.moravianchurcharchives.org](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org).

*Submitted by Paul Peucker, archivist of the Moravian Church, Northern Province*