

Emancipation Day, 1865, Salem, North Carolina

A very important 150th anniversary occurred on May 21, 2015, at the 1861 African Church in Salem, North Carolina. Two orders of Union General John Schofield were read to the church full of listeners that day, May 21, 1865. "In the first order," the Church Diary states, "it was made known that according to the proclamation of the President of the United States the slave population of this state was now free. The second contained a number of regulations establishing temporarily the relations of this freed population."

This then marks Emancipation Day for North Carolina as recorded in the St. Philips Moravian Church Diary, which concludes: "May this great change turn out to the eventual wellbeing of these people, and the furtherance of the kingdom of God among them."

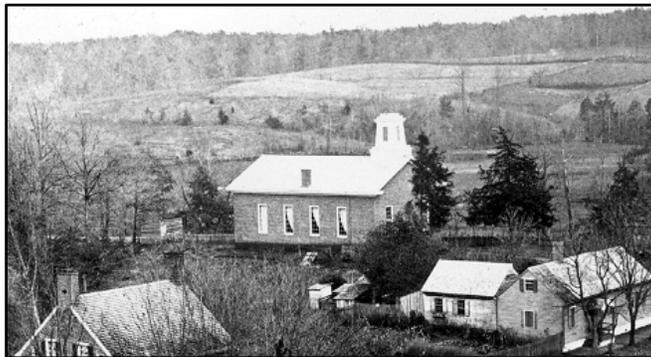
And we might add for all of us today as we strive toward acceptance and mutual respect these 150 years later.

Here is the Moravian Archives' "Lunchtime Lecture" on the event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-I3Mb5fxLWo>.

Here is the African Church Diary entry as recorded by the attending minister on Emancipation Day in Salem, North Carolina.

Sun., May 21, 1865. 5th after Easter. The church was crowded with colored people, and a few whites, it having become known that the Rev. Mr. Clark, chaplain of the 10th Regt. Ohio Cavalry, would speak. The services were opened with singing, whereupon Br. Grunert offered prayer. Mr. Clark then read his Text, 1 Cor. 7:21¹ and after a few remarks on the circumstances of the church at Corinth, proceeded to read two general orders from Genl. Schofield, dated Headquarters of the Army of the Ohio, Raleigh, N.C., etc., which the Provost Marshal had desired him to communicate to this congregation. In the first it was made known that according to the proclamation of the President of the United States the slave population of this state was now free. The second contained a number of regulations establishing temporarily the relations of this freed population. He then proceeded to give them good advice, told them that now they would have greater responsibilities, and encouraged them to industry, honesty, and piety, etc. Br. Bahnson closed with a few remarks, the Lord's Prayer and singing. May this great change turn out to the eventual wellbeing of these people, and the furtherance of the kingdom of God among them.



*St. Philips Moravian Church, Salem, North Carolina
1861 structure*

¹ Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.