

# ANNOTATIONS

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

## *Unexpected Delights*

On Wednesday, November 8, 2006, the Archives had a delightful visit from John Butner from Bethania. It is always a pleasure to see Br. Butner, but this time he came bearing gifts.

Earlier he had contacted the Moravian Music Foundation about donating the music his father (also John Butner) had used in a U.S. military band in World War I. This seemed to be a fitting continuation of the collections from the Civil War era, so his offer had been cheerfully accepted.

Upon Br. Butner's arrival, however, the Archives was excited to see that not only had he brought in the music, but some closely related artifacts as well, like his father's "Doughboy" helmet, forage cap and insignia, his "parlez-vous" French dictionary (suitably inscribed Easter 1918), etc. Best of all was the very E-flat tuba the elder Butner had played in France (Bart Collins properly declared "dibbs" on that for the Music Foundation). Also included were a number of photographs showing life behind the lines in 1918. A couple of these depict the debonair Bethania boy being looked up to adoringly by some charming "mademoiselles."

John related that like many other young Americans in 1917-18 his father had been called up for military service. While in basic training he had seen a notice on the bulletin board declaring "Auditions for Unit Band." Br. Butner had played with the Bethania Moravian band since his younger years, and figured he had a good chance of getting in. He also seems to have shared the sentiments of those intrepid Moravian heroes of the Civil War who thought along these lines: "If we have to go to the war, we're less likely to



*Assistant Archivist Richard Starbuck gives John Butner's tuba and helmet a try.*

*See WWI donation, page 6*



# Three gifts give a personal touch to the late war

Three recent gifts to the Moravian Archives have significantly added to our Civil War collections.

Through the good offices of Civil War historian Lee Sherrill, Caroline Amalia Pfohl Carter presented the Archives with two letters. One, dated February 6, 1862, is from William Jacob Pfohl of the 21st North Carolina Regiment to E.T. Blum, Salem's Union-leaning newspaperman. "We receive," Pfohl writes, "very grave statements from those of our boys who return from furlough of the Union sentiment in our County. . . . I hope the number who entertain such sentiments is small, but we know from experience, that a few in a bad cause make a great deal more noise than a large body in the right."

The second letter given by Mrs. Carter is dated November 27, 1864, from "Camp 4th Regt. H.G. [Home Guards], near Kinston, N.C." The writer tells "Dear Maggie" that a battle will ensue if the Confederate gunboat can navigate down the shallow Neuse River to shell Union-held New Bern. The last page of this letter with its signature is lost, but the writer seems to be Christian Thomas Pfohl, who is writing to his fiancée, Margaret "Maggie" Siewers — the grandparents of donor Carolina Amalia Pfohl Carter and her cousin Katherine (Katie) Pfohl of Home Moravian Church.

A deficiency at the Archives has been records of the 33rd North Carolina Regiment, the Bethania boys. And so we were delighted with a gift from Victoria Hall Davis of 37 letters of Augustin E. Shore and his relatives. Shore had moved away to Tennessee, but returned to Bethania to enlist in Company I of the North Carolina 33rd. Many of the letters are from him to his wife, Anna E. m.n. Kiger Shore. In addition to war scenes, the letters form a treasure trove of genealogical informa-

tion for descendants of Augustin and Anna Shore.

The third Civil War gift to the Moravian Archives, from James and Robert Witherington, was the smallest, and yet it sent us on a detective adventure that involved two other archival institutions. It is a small envelope, 3x5¼ inches, postmarked Sandusky, O[hio], Nov. 2, and is carefully addressed "Mrs. D.M. Clewell, Salem, Forsythe County, North Carolina." The return address reads: "For Flag of Truce via Fortress Monroe, Va." Scrawled on the front is "Due 10," evidently postage due in addition to the three-cent federal stamp, and on the back is stamped: "Prisoners Letter, Johnsons Island, O., examiner 100."

The Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison kindly provided the information that Frank C. Clewell, 1st Lt., 1st Missouri, arrived at the prison on Lake Erie on July 8, 1863, and was transferred out on December 9, 1864, for exchange at Point Lookout, Maryland.

Prisoner of war Frank Clewell addressed his envelope to his mother, Dorothea Matilda Clewell, recent widow of Salem's bookbinder David Clewell, and perhaps she read portions of the letter to Frank's little brother John Henry Clewell, who years later would become president of Salem Academy and College.

But where is the letter? The papers of Francis C. Clewell happen to reside at the Office of Archives and History (the State Archives) in Raleigh, and among them is a letter he wrote to his mother from Johnson's Island, dated September 15, 1864. He cautions her not to get her hopes up by "*accursed rumors of exchange*, for you will only be subject to *disappointment*."

We want to thank our three donors for these very touching, personal gifts that give added life to the late war.



# Here's a great big 'Thank you!' to our Friends

One of the greatest resources of this Archives is its Friends. That means YOU. It is YOU through your generous support who have made so much possible over the years.

We were recently asked what Friends of the Archives have done. A number of our most valuable maps, including the Great Map of Wachovia, and the 1751 Fry-Jefferson map of Virginia, have been carefully conserved. More will be on the way such as surveyor Christian Gottlieb Reuter's last map of Salem, done in 1777, the year he died.

Scholars are flocking to the Archives nowadays to study the Moravians' mission to the Cherokee. Why? "Because the documents are in English now," replied one scholar. And that is thanks to our Friends' long-standing support to translate the German-language documents. This project is nearing an end, and already we have begun the next step of readying them for publication through the Cherokee Moravian Historical Association. Why are these documents so valuable? "Because," another scholar observed, "they are the *only* record of daily life in the Cherokee Nation."

Every computer at the Archives was bought by our Friends, and every printer, plus the solitary scanner that scanned 37,500 times to put our memoir collection in computer.

Without our Friends' purchase of computers, we would not be publishing. So far, we have 26 titles to our credit including e-books available free on our web site, [www.MoravianArchives.org](http://www.MoravianArchives.org), which also is funded entirely by our Friends of the Archives.

It is hard to imagine what the Archives would be like without YOU our Friends. Certainly we would be less well-known — no web site, no publications. Definitely we would be far less accessible — all those documents would still be trapped in ancient German script, and maps left untouched for fear of damaging them.

Last year 257 individuals and families (some giving twice — thank you!) helped continue the work of the Moravian Archives by contributing \$30,280. This compares with \$21,452.05 from 206 contributors in 2005. We thank all of YOU for your generous support, and we invite all who aren't yet Friends to join in this work together and become one of our greatest resources too.

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See One of our greatest, page 4



# One of our greatest resources — our Friends

*Continued from page 3*

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## *Here's another answer to that old question*

Okay, gang, one more time: How many archivists does it take to change a light bulb? The last time we asked that question, the overwhelming reply was "CHANGE?!?" though we much preferred the answer: "Let Nola Knouse do it." She is Moravian Music Foundation, and she can't stand to see the Archives sit in resplendent darkness. (They're like that at the Music Foundation — weird.) But when half of our recessed lights in the Davis Center research room burned out, she declined to do a Tarzan and swing from the chandeliers. So to get at our lights 25 feet up we called on someone likely to have sufficient scaffolding, Harold Day, the paint guy. Then we recruited (drafted) one of Salem Congregation's finest, Tracy Ward (he's the one on the left up there), to scale new heights and get the job done. Hey, Trace, change out all the lights so we won't have to go through this for another five years (he did). And while you're up there, could you dust any cobwebs off our chandeliers (did that too). So now we have a new

answer to the question, How many archivists does it take to change a light bulb: None, but there sure are a gaggle of 'em giving instructions left, right, and center — and with feet firmly planted on the floor.





## WWI donation

Continued from page 1

get shot playing in the band."

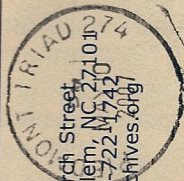
In any case, John Butner Sr. sailed through the audition and performed valuable service as a musician for the rest of the Great War. One difference from the earlier band members though: in their non-band duties the Civil War bandsmen assisted in the field hospitals. Br. Butner's unit drove ammunition trucks from the railheads to the forward munitions dumps. But he and his tuba came through unscathed.

Another unexpected treasure in this collection was an earlier photo of the Bethania band in 1909 assembled for the congregation's 150th anniversary. Br. Butner Sr. is in the photo, and so is Oliver Lehman, then of advanced age. It was Br. Lehman who organized and led the 33rd North Carolina Regiment band in the Civil War, a band made up largely of Bethania Moravians. He also taught Br. Butner Sr. to play, and our John learned from his father. So the generations go on. . . .

And what about the music itself? This consists of several band books (tuba parts only, of course) about the size we are used to, mostly printed, but with a few manuscript additions glued in.

And what about the tunes included? They cover a wide variety, and of course the expected “Over There” and “Long Way to Tipperary” are prominent. There are also several not so well-known tunes, including Music Foundation Director Nola Knouse’s favorite: “If He Can Fight Like He Can Love, then Good-night Germany!”

Just another quiet day at the Moravian Archives. . . .



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