

## *Volume 2: slower than Christmas*

### Second in series coming — not soon enough

Waiting. That is what we are doing with volume 2 of *Records of the Moravians among the Cherokees*. Waiting.

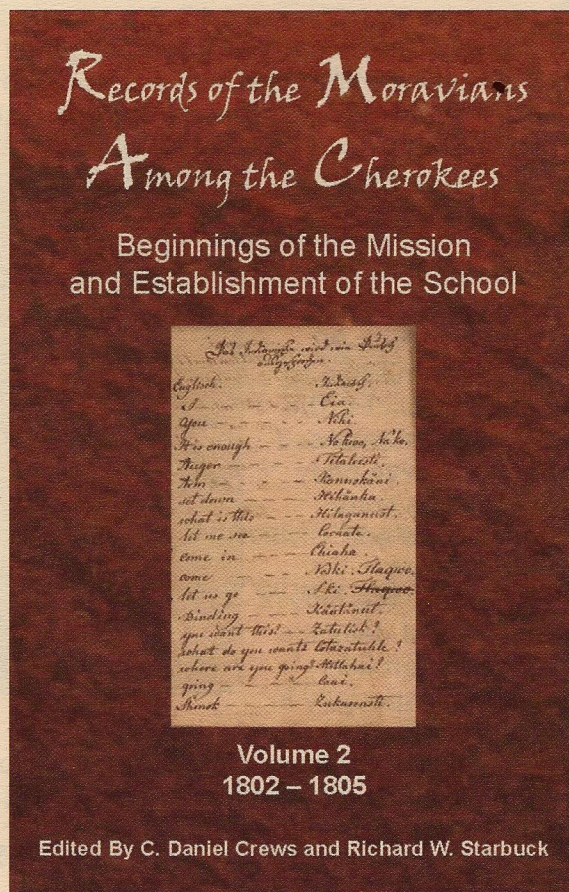
Our hope was to have volume 2 available for purchase well before Christmas, and we even delayed this newsletter to announce its arrival.

But that won't happen. It's at the printer/binder. Latest word is that after the proof is approved it will take 13 to 15 business days to get the job done. And then there is shipping.

That puts it well after Christmas. Anyone for celebrating "Old Christmas"? It's a great book for curling up on a cold January night and reading Abraham Steiner telling the Cherokee Nation: Oh, yes, you did agree to a mission — but as a compromise, we Moravians will open a small school for Cherokee scholars.

As with volume 1, University of Oklahoma Press will be marketing volume 2 nationally at \$50.00 plus shipping and handling, but for a limited time with a limited supply Moravian Archives is offering both volumes at \$40.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. Cash or check only (no credit card) can be made to Moravian Archives, 457 S. Church Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Delivery of volume 2 will be only after we receive it from the printer/binder, which will be well after Christmas.

For more on the *Records* series, please turn to page 2.





## Two volumes give *Records* series a huge start

The volumes 1 and 2 of *Records of the Moravians among the Cherokees* not only introduce a major publication series for the Moravian Archives, but also mark a significant contribution to an often overlooked chapter of American history.

The Moravians of the 18th and 19th centuries were renowned for their meticulous recordkeeping. Very little happened in their communities that was not noted in their church diaries, reports, minutes, and correspondence.

The same was true in their many far-flung mission stations throughout the world.

Over their 90 years of mission to the Cherokees, the Moravians amassed an extensive body of records comprising, as one scholar has observed, the only account of daily life in the Cherokee Nation, especially in the early years.

Volume 1 opens in 1752 with the Moravians' search for land to settle in North Carolina and also their careful note of opportunity to take the Gospel to the Cherokees, "a great Nation," as Bishop August Gottlieb Spangenberg put it.

Wars, including the American

Revolution, prevented the Moravians from establishing a mission until 1801, when Springplace in what is now northern Georgia was begun. Volume 1 closes in 1802 with missionaries Gottlieb and Dorothea Byhan alone at Springplace in the Cherokee Nation, pleading to the Moravians in Salem, North Carolina, for further support.

Volume 2 opens in 1802 with a second missionary couple sent to support the Byhans in Springplace. But the rugged life

in the Cherokee Nation is more than Jacob and Elisabeth Wohlfahrt can bear, and they plead for release. Meanwhile, Cherokee chiefs issue an ultimatum: start a school or "return." Who to send to work out a compromise? None other than Abraham Steiner, who first negotiated permission to establish a mission to "instruct" (bad word

to use there) the Cherokees in the Gospel. Besides, the Cherokees like Br. Steiner better than the upright Wohlfahrts. He drinks and talks politics with them.

But the perfect missionary couple have not yet been found, not until volume 2 ends in October 1805 when John Gambold and

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"My interest stems from the stories of my grandfather, who was born in [New] Spring Place and along with the son of Mr. Ward had to bury him after Indians attacked. My grandfather's name was Edwin Peter Bishop, and his father was Gilbert Bishop. The family's return to Bethlehem during the Civil War is an interesting story and makes me curious about the book offered by the Archives."

— Elizabeth Bishop Weinland  
Southbury, Connecticut

*Gilbert Bishop served in the Cherokee mission from 1841 until James Ward was murdered on September 2, 1862.*



*On the following day . . . [December 26, 1806] . . . a quite special pleasure was provided for us by Br. Byhan with his small organ, on which he has been working secretly in the evening for 3 years. . . . He accompanied our singing very sweetly, and that was very important for our children, "that Mr. Byhan make something that sing too like we" — as they expressed it. The Christmas hymns, which they had learned, they sang at the lovefeast and the following days with clear voices. . . . In general, we can testify of these days of celebration, they were days the Lord made for us in which we could rejoice in God our Savior and be happy in his name.*

*— Records of the Moravians among the Cherokees  
excerpted from the forthcoming volume 3*

Like the children at the Moravians' Springplace mission in the Cherokee Nation, may your days be of celebration in which you can rejoice and be happy in God our Savior.

— The Staff and Archives Commission of  
Moravian Archives  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina



## Two volumes open Cherokee series

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his Anna Rosel arrive at Springplace.

And that is where volume 3 will pick up to continue the account of the Moravian mission to the Cherokee Nation.

The vast majority of the documents in the series *Records of the Moravians among the Cherokees* are taken from the holdings of the Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. They are arranged chronologically, so that, for example, when a church board notes it has received a letter from the missionaries, the next document is the letter itself. Thus those who lived it tell their story in their own words. The result is practically novel quality of gripping reading and wondering what happens next. One reader has already asked why volume 1 ends with a cliffhanger. So you will buy volume 2, we shamelessly replied.

Volume 1 of *Records: Cherokees* is 426 pages hardbound, including three maps, document illustrations, glossary of Moravian and a few Cherokee terms, and index. Volume 2, also hardbound, is 435 pages with a site plan of Springplace, document illustrations, signatures of letter writers, and index. Specially featured are pages from Br. Steiner's "little vocabulary" of Cherokee and English words.

We hope soon to see our shipment of volume 2 of *Records of the Moravians among the Cherokees*. Meanwhile, please make use of the accompanying "pre-order" form to reserve your copy (and buy volume 1 too). And we will ship it to you or notify you as soon as it comes in.

457 S. Church Street  
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101  
Phone: 336- 722- 1742  
MoravianArchives.org

ANNOTATIONS

From Moravian Archives  
Winston-Salem, N.C.