

Michael Lewis

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My time spent in the Moravian Archives was an amazing experience. I learned so much from my work and felt really valued by their team of historians and archivists. There is only so much be taught in the classroom, so going out into the field to learn all I could about the work of an historian was a must. Working in the archives gave me the skills and experience I will need in the future once I leave school. I learned about formatting documents, archiving old manuscripts, and gained a general knowledge about the world of archivists. I didn't just learn the history of the Moravian people, but how we get that history, and what that means to society. I would see people come in, day after day, doing genealogy research, and noticed how important institutions like this one are to the people who visit them.

During my time here I worked on a few major projects. Here and there I would answer private researchers questions through email, or take over the front desk to help visitors, but I mainly worked on two things. One of these projects was transcribing the minutes to the Elder's Conference, which took place in 1747, less than a decade after the Moravians came to the Lehigh Valley. These minutes, which dealt with everything from mundane, everyday complaints, to infant mortality and disease, were a priceless look into the average life of an early Moravian. Seeing as these minutes were written in old German script, something equivalent to English cursive, and that very few people can read this script, I spent my days taking the words from German script into Roman script. I typed every meeting's notes onto our online database, juxtaeditions. Doing this I learned a good amount on archiving and entering data into online databanks.

Another one of my jobs was to catalogue an old archive collection put together in the early 20th century. These documents were put into scrapbooks by an old archivist and shelved for years, completely uncatalogued until I worked on them. Some of these papers were insignificant bills or letters, but some of them were very important memoirs, letters, and manuscripts. It was amazing to find these things all thrown together into one collection. It is very fulfilling and gratifying to know that, without my help, the archives would not have found a lot of these important documents. Through this I learned a lot about cataloging and creating a finding aid in an online setting, not to mention the research I was required to do to accurately document some of the papers.

It is so rewarding to look back and acknowledge all that I have learned over the past few months. It is also satisfying to know all that I have done for the archives, and all that they have done for me. I've learned so much through Tom, the assistant archivist, and Paul, the head archivist, that it's almost hard to keep track. I'll always value the time I've spent at the Moravian archives, as I am confident I will be using what I've learned here for a long while.