

MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION

Finding Aid for Salem Manuscript Books Collection

Inclusive dates: 1770-1860

Bulk dates: 1800-1850

Finding Aid created by Nola Reed Knouse, March 28, 2019

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Creator: Salem Congregation, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Extent: 15 boxes, 21.3 linear feet

Abstract: The Salem Manuscript Books Collection contains 107 manuscript copy books, primarily prepared over time by students and teachers at Salem Female Academy (now Salem Academy and College) in North Carolina.

Call number: SMB – Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Language: About half of the material has no linguistic content. Of the other half, half is in English, one-third in German, and the remainder appear to be instrumental renditions of vocal works with no text included.

Acquisition Information: These materials are in the custody of the Moravian Music Foundation from the Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Access Restrictions: The record group is open to research. Use restricted by the terms of the Moravian Music Foundation Research Policies.

Copyright: Copyright is with the Moravian Music Foundation

Cite as: [item], Salem Manuscript Books Collection, Moravian Music Foundation.

History: Salem, North Carolina, was founded by Moravian settlers primarily from Germany by way of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This was the third intentional community established by the Moravians in North Carolina. The first, Bethabara, in the northwestern part of what is now Forsyth County, was founded in 1753; the second, Bethania, farther to the northwest, was established in 1759. The building of Salem was begun in 1766, and the Moravians' central North Carolina administration was moved to Salem in 1771.

Worship services structured life in Salem, as in all other Moravian settlement congregations in the eighteenth century. Devotional meetings for small groups or the whole community occurred several times daily. In smaller assemblies hymns might be sung without accompaniment. Three services involved music in special ways. Sunday morning preaching services included liturgies according to the Lutheran liturgical year, usually along with one or two anthems and congregational hymns.

The girls' school (formerly Salem Female Academy, now known as Salem Academy and College) marks its beginning when Elisabeth Oesterlein began looking after little girls in a "school room" of the Gemein Haus in Salem, in April of 1772. As early as 1762 neighbors had been asking to send their children to be taught by the Moravians, and in 1792 the Salem elders took notice of the urgent requests of neighbors for a boarding school for girls. The boarding school building was begun in 1803, and students were received and instruction was begun, temporarily in the Gemein Haus, in May of 1804. The boarding school building was completed in July of 1805, and received a total of 41 students from North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia. Over the years since then many prominent families brought their daughters to school. By 1812 the school had 83 boarding students and 26 day students, and by 1839 there were 174 boarders, with a significant number turned away. By 1859 total enrollment ran as high as 345 (including 68 from Salem).

Instruction at the school included academics as well as instruction in the Christian faith. Music was a part of the curriculum as well. Both teachers and students copied music as part of their instruction, and both sacred and secular pieces were copied. There was no music that the Moravians considered unsuitable for use in instruction; though they often omitted the texts (or wrote new ones) for operatic excerpts.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of 107 bound manuscript books of music, containing more than 2,200 pieces of music (with duplicates). More than two dozen composers are represented, but more than one-third of the pieces remain without composer attribution. Moravian composers most represented include John Gambold, Johann Christian Bechler, Christian Gregor, Amelia Adelaide Van Vleck, Lisetta Maria Van Vleck. Non-Moravian composers most widely represented include J. A. P. Schulz, W. A. Mozart, I. Pleyel, and J. H. Rolle. Manuscript book 34 is the most significant single source of music composed by two of the three Van Vleck sisters, Amelia Adelaide (1835-1929) and Lisetta Marie (1830-1914). The third sister, Louisa Cornelia (1826-1902), also played and wrote music; much of her music is contained in the archives of Salem Academy and College. Slightly more than half of the pieces have no linguistic content; of those that do, about $\frac{3}{4}$ are in English, with almost $\frac{1}{4}$ in German, and a few in French, Spanish, and Latin.

Title:

- Salem Manuscript Books Collection

Personal Names:

- Johann Christian Bechler, 1784-1857
- John Gambold, 1760-1795
- Christian Gregor, 1723-1801
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791
- J. A. P. (Johann Abraham Peter) Schulz, 1747-1800
- Ignaz Pleyel, 1757-1831
- Johann Heinrich Rolle, 1716-1785
- Amelia Adelaide Van Vleck, 1835-1929
- Lisetta Marie Van Vleck, 1830-1914
- Louisa Cornelia Van Vleck, 1826-1902

Corporate Names:

- Moravian Music Foundation
- Salem Congregation (Winston-Salem, North Carolina)

Subjects:

- Chorales -- Musical settings
- Choruses, secular, with piano
- Christmas music
- Concertos (Piano)
- Easter music
- Good Friday music
- Holy Saturday music
- Holy Week music
- Hymns
- Lenten music
- Music Copybooks
- Opera—Excerpts
- Organ music
- Palm Sunday music
- Piano music (4 hands)
- Quicksteps Scores
- Sacred songs with piano
- Songs with piano
- Variations
- Violin music (violins (2))
- Vocal duets with piano
- Waltzes

Related Materials:

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources:

The Music of the Moravian Church in America, edited by Nola Reed Knouse. Rochester, New York, The University of Rochester Press, © 2008.

Catalog of the Salem Congregation Collection, edited by Frances Cumnock. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, The University of North Carolina Press, © 1980.

Reflections on Moravian Music: A Study of Two Collections of Manuscript Books in Pennsylvania ca. 1800, by Pauline M. Fox. Ph.D. Dissertation, New York University, 1997.

GemeinKat, online catalog of the Moravian Music Foundation.

<https://moravianmusic.on.worldcat.org/discovery>

Search for the collection by title: ti=Salem Manuscript Books Collection. Closely related in provenance and contents are the Bethlehem Manuscript Books; search by title: ti=Bethlehem Manuscript Books Collection; and Lititz Manuscript Books collection; search by title: ti=Lititz Manuscript Books Collection.

Other materials in the Archives and Foundation holdings may relate to the topics in this archive. See the archivist for further research assistance.