

# MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION

## Finding aid for Tannenberg Collection

Date range: 1780-1804

Bulk dates: 1798-1802

Finding Aid created by Nola Reed Knouse, October 9, 2019

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Creator: Moravian Music Foundation, Winston-Salem, NC

Extent: 7 boxes, 9.9 linear feet

Abstract: The Tannenberg Collection contains manuscript correspondence, sketches, and other materials related to the work of Moravian organ and clavier builder David Tannenberg. It also contains the 20<sup>th</sup>-century/21<sup>st</sup>-century records of the restoration of the 1799/1800 Tannenberg organ built for the Salem church (Winston-Salem, NC)

Call number: Tannenbergs – Archie Davis Center Vault

Language: The earlier material is in German, the later in English.

### **Access and Use:**

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

Access Restrictions: The record group is open to research.

Copyright: Copyright is with the Moravian Music Foundation

Cite as: [item], Tannenbergs Collection [number], Moravian Music Foundation.

History: David Tannenberg (1728-1804) was born in Berthelsdorf, Germany, the son of members of the *Unitas Fratrum* who came to Germany from Moravia. He had no formal training in organ building, but worked as a joiner and came to Bethlehem in 1749. Upon Johann Gottlob Klemm's move to Bethlehem in 1757, Tannenberg became his assistant. He moved to Lititz in 1765, where he set up a workshop. He built organs for Moravian, German Lutheran, Reformed, and Catholic churches, as well as for some individuals. In 1793, at Tannenberg's request, Philip Bachman, a Moravian trained in musical instrument manufacture, arrived from Germany to serve as his assistant; Bachman married Tannenberg's youngest daughter. Tannenberg died in 1804 after suffering a fall while tuning an organ. A partial list of his organs indicates that he and Klemm built five instruments working together; an additional forty-two Tannenberg instruments are documented, of which nine survive.

Tannenberg's largest surviving organ was built in 1799/1800 for the Moravian Church in Salem (now Winston-Salem), North Carolina. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> organ built for the Salem Moravians, the first in 1797 for the *Gemeinhaus*, or congregation house, where the community worshiped before the large church was built (consecrated 13 November 1800). The smaller organ was first restored in the 1960s, and re-restored in 2007 following later research. The larger organ was restored in the early 2000s. The files for the restoration of the larger organ and the re-restoration of the smaller organ were transferred to the Moravian Music Foundation by Paula Locklair, who as Vice President of Old Salem Museums and Gardens had overseen both projects.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of the following:

I. Tannenberg Correspondence to Friedrich William Marshall:

- a. Dec. 11, 1797
- b. April 18, 1797
- c. Oct. 19, 1800

II. Correspondence to Samuel Stotz:

- a. November 13, 1799
- b. June 11, 1800
- c. December 7, 1800
- d. June 18, 1801
- e. May 25 (August 4) 1802

III. Correspondence to Johann Phillip Bachmann October 20, 1800

IV. Correspondence about Tannenberg:

- a. Carl Gotthold Reichel to Marshall, January 16, 1798
- b. Johann Philipp Bachmann to Samuel Stotz, October 29, 1798
- c. J. A. Hübner to Stotz, June 11, 1800

V. Treatise on Organ Tuning, Lititz, May 1802

VI. Organ contract: Gnadenberg, February 15, 1783

VII. Organ sketches

- a. Nazareth, PA
- b. Lititz, PA
- c. Pipe placement

VIII. Clavier case sketch

**Files received from Paula Locklair, spring 2018: Restoration of 1799/1800 Tannenberg Organ**

IX. Overview and Preliminary Research Materials

- a. Organs in southern states, 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century
- b. Organists in Salem
- c. Wohlfahrt, Johann Jacob, cabinetmaker/joiner
- d. Tannenberg: some chronology; organ builder equipment inventory; letter from J. F. Peter acknowledging his death; estate inventory
- e. Tannenberg and Bachmann letters and translations

Box 1

Box 2

- f. Construction and renovations of the Salem Church
- g. Copies of images of interior, Home Moravian Church
- h. Salem Diacony, ledgers, bills and receipts, excerpts, ca. 1772-1870
- i. Congregation Council excerpts, 1794
- j. Elders Conference excerpts, 1796-98
- k. Aufesher Collegium excerpts, 1797
- l. Miscellaneous reports and correspondence, 1854-1954
- m. Organs in Salem: diary excerpts and diagram
- n. Records of the Moravians in N.C., excerpts (2 folders)
- o. Bellows Pushers, Salem, excerpts from records

X. Consultancy

- a. Barbara Owen consultancy reports, April 1989
- b. Barbara Owen correspondence, April 1989-October 1997

XI. 1990-1994 activities

- a. 1990-94 Correspondence with organbuilders Taylor & Boody; Fisk; and acoustical consultants Kirkegaard & Associates
- b. 1990-92 Formation of planning committee; plan for restoration
- c. February 1993 plan for restoring the organ
- d. Internal Old Salem memos regarding locating the instrument in the MESDA expansion, including P. Locklair recommendation to withdraw the organ restoration from the MESDA project

XII. The Festival Organ and Pipes, Pedals, Keys & Bellows: The Puzzle of Salem's Tannenberg Organ, exhibition 1998-1999

- a. Exhibition & symposium committee
- b. Budget
- c. Taylor & Boody contract, and curriculum vitae of their staff
- d. Exhibition development, images, and text: SEE ALSO Moravian Music Foundation photograph files
- e. Westfield Center "The Festival Organ" exhibit
- f. Installation of exhibits
- g. Public relations: Old Salem & MESDA publications, press release, media contacts
- h. Public relations: Organ periodicals
- i. Moravian publications
- j. Newspaper articles
- k. Museum publications
- l. Miscellaneous publications: newspaper articles
- m. Miscellaneous publications noting the exhibition

- n. Symposium: "A Voice in the Wilderness: David Tannenberg's Salem Legacy", November 12-14, 1989
- o. Symposium: Barbara Owens' lecture on Tannenberg
- p. Visitors' sign-in sheets, January – May 1999
- q. Paula Locklair reflections on restoration process, January 1999
- r. Organ Historical Society meeting in Winston-Salem, June 2001

XIII. Restoration Process

Box 3

- a. Miscellaneous correspondence, 1966-1998
- b. C. B. Fisk correspondence, 1989-1992
- c. Taylor & Boody correspondence, 1990-1994
- d. Tannenberg: Letters of appreciation for 1998/9 exhibit, and endorsement for restoration project
- e. Taylor & Boody correspondence, 1998-2001
- f. Correspondence, 2002-2003
- g. Day trip to Taylor & Boody, sponsored by Old Salem, September 13, 2003
- h. Correspondence, 2004
- i. Stop jamb lists (Bruce Shull)
- j. Metal analysis
- k. Pipe studies
- l. 1799/1800 Tannenberg paint analysis
- m. Taylor & Boody contract and correspondence
- n. Paper found in organ, 2002/2003
- o. Installation; Temperature & humidity concerns; projection screen concerns (February- March 2004)
- p. Press releases
- q. Bellows documentation and information in Home Church attic
- r. Saal organ restorations and maintenance, 1956-
- s. Saal organ paint analysis
- t. Saal organ rededication, May 19, 2007

XIV. 1799/1800 Dedication: Gala, Symposium: March 2004

Box 4

- a. Planning committee meetings and minutes
- b. Recital and symposium plans
- c. Symposium speaker biographies; attendees list
- d. Press coverage
- e. Mailing lists
- f. Gala, symposium, dedication - budget
- g. Gala: Brochure, invitation, programs
- h. Gala: Reception
- i. "Splendid Service" – book publication
- j. Armstrong, William, correspondence 2002-2006
- k. Peter Sykes recording, March 2004

- l. Organ maintenance, 2004-2005
- m. 2004: Charles McManis death
- n. 2004 miscellaneous correspondence (includes thank-yous)
- o. Information for recitalists
- p. UNC-TV "Our State" Tannenberg episode; NPR "Pipedreams" episode

XV. Programming, 2004-2016

- a. March 2004 noon recitals
- b. Piedmont Chamber Singers, April 24, 2004
- c. Kimberly Marshall concert May 21, 2004
- d. Organ recitals, June-July 2004
- e. Susan Moeser concert, October 6, 2004
- f. Bethlehem Conference on Moravian Music, October 2004:  
Locklair lecture
- g. Jack Mitchener concert, November 14, 2004
- h. December 2004 noon recitals
- i. 2005 programming
- j. March 2005 noon recitals
- k. Reviews: "Splendid Service" book and Peter Sykes recording,  
2005-2006
- l. Magnolia Baroque festival, 2005 and 2006
- m. 2006 programming
- n. 2007 and 2008 programming
- o. Later articles, lectures, symposia (2007 and later)
- p. Bachmann, Johann Philip – and restoration of his organ in  
Tacoma, WA
- q. 2015 and 2016 programs

Box 5

XVI. Images, Audio, and Video Media – IN PHOTO VAULT

Box 6

- a. David Tannenberg – image from Moravian Historical Society
- b. Home Church – original layout, after 1870 renovation, decorations on festival occasions
- c. Assembly in MESDA, 1998
- d. Restoration in progress, Taylor & Boody workshop  
Videocassette recordings: “Our State” magazine; CBS Sunday Morning segment  
CD’s of Photos:  
Kearging piano;  
11 discs from Bruce Shull at Taylor & Boody;  
CD of misc images;  
Slides (.tiff files);  
Dedication photos from Karen Hite Jacob

- e. Visit to Taylor & Boody workshop, September 13, 2003
- f. Restoration: slides
- g. Pipes
- h. Bellows: Home Church attic, 2003
- i. Installation, slides
- j. Completed installation

Audio recordings: compact discs:  
Rededication service, March 21, 2004 – 4:00 p.m.;  
CBS Sunday Morning and “Our State”;  
Peter Sykes Afternoon Recital, March 19 4PM (archival and finished copy; hand-blown);  
Peter Sykes Evening Recital, March 19 2004 (electric blower used);  
Seattle Baroque concert, April 14, 2005;  
Pipedreams program, September 20, 2004;  
Philip T. D. Cooper, July 11, 2006;  
Halloween; General; Easter; Lent and Holy Week; Christmas;  
Advent

Box 7

Title:

- Tannenberg Collection

Corporate Names:

- Moravian Music Foundation

Subjects:

- Tannenberg, David
- Organ (Musical instrument)
- Organ builders
- North Carolina Winston-salem
- Winston-Salem (N.C.)
- Moravians

**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.

*Splendid Service: The Restoration of David Tannenberg's Home Moravian Church Organ*, edited by Gary J. Albert. Winston-Salem: Old Salem, Inc., 2004.

*Organs for America: The Life and Work of David Tannenberg*, by William H. Armstrong. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1967.

“Georg Andreas Sorge’s Influence on David Tannenberg and Organ Building in America During the Eighteenth Century,” by Carl Otto Bleyele. Ph.D. diss., University of Minnesota, 1969.

“The Tannenberg Organ at Nazareth Moravian Church”, by Raymond J. Brunner. *The Dieffenbuch* 4/1. Publication of the Tannenberg Chapter of the Organ Historical Society (1981): 4-7.



*That Ingenious Business: Pennsylvania German Organ Builders*, by Raymond J. Brunner. Birdsboro: Pennsylvania German Society, 1990.

“A History of the Tannenberg Organ in York”, by Philip T. D. Cooper. *The Diapason* 85/12 (1994): 12-14.

“David Tannenberg’s Last Organ”, by Thomas S. Eader. *The Tracker* 4/3 (1960): 3-4.

“The Memoirs of David Tannenberg”, by Laurence Libin. *Journal of Moravian History* 2 (2007).

“Nazareth Piano May Be Among America’s First”, by Laurence Libin. *Moravian Music Journal* 33/1 (Spring 1988): 1-6.

“New Facts and Speculations on John Clemm”, by Laurence Libin. *The Tracker* 31/2 (1987): 18-24.

“New Insights to Tannenberg’s Clavichords” , by Laurence Libin. In *De Clavicordio VII: Proceedings of the VII International Clavichord Symposium, Magnano, 6-10 September 2005*.

“Organ History, with Strings Attached”, by Laurence Libin. *The Tracker* 49/3 (Summer 2005): 3-5.

McGeary, Thomas. “David Tannenberg and the Salem 1800 Organ.” *Moravian Music Journal* 31/2 (Fall 1986): 18-23.

----- . “David Tannenberg’s Directions for Organ Tuning.” *Organ Yearbook* 16 (1985): 78-79.

“David Tannenberg and the Old Salem Restoration”, by Charles W. McManis. *The American Organist* 48/5 (May 1965): 15-20.

“Restoration of Tannenberg Organ at Old Salem” , by Charles W. McManis. *The Diapason* 56/4 (March 1965): 36-37.

“Tannenberg Restoration: Presenting Two Interesting Views”, by Charles W. McManis and Frank P. Albright. *The Tracker* 9/2 (Winter 1965): 1-2, 7-8.

“McManis to Restore Tannenberg.” *Moravian Music Foundation Bulletin* 7/2-3 (Spring-Summer-Fall 1963): 1, 6.

“A Double Tannenberg Legacy: Restoration of the 1787 and 1793 Organs in Lititz, Pennsylvania”, by John L. Speller. *The Tracker* 31/3 (1987): 24-31.

*Pleasing for Our Use: David Tannenberg and the Organs of the Moravians*, edited by Carol A. Traupman-Carr. Bethlehem: Lehigh University Press, 2000.

<http://davidtannenberg.com/>, a website devoted to details of Tannenberg's life and work including pictures, stop lists and individual organ histories as well as information on those builders who were influenced by Tannenberg's work.

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