

**UNCOMMON BONDS: LABRADOR INUIT AND MORAVIAN MISSIONARIES
PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEF**

MEETING #5: FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2022

1. WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.A – ATTENDANCE

Joan Andersen, Community Representative, Makkovik

Janet Bangma, Associate Dean of Libraries, Memorial University

Tom McCullough, Assistant Archivist, Moravian Archives Bethlehem

Paul Peucker, Archivist, Moravian Archives Bethlehem

Mark David Turner, Manager of Audio-Visual Archives & Media Literacy, OKâlaKatiget Society and Nunatsiavut Government

Regrets

Deirdre Elliott, Heritage Program Coordinator, Nunatsiavut Government

Caitlin Horall, Secretary for National Heritage Digitization Strategy (NHDS) and employee of Library & Archives Canada (observing member)

Sarah Jensen, Chair, Moravian Church in Newfoundland & Labrador

Lena Onalik, Archaeologist, Nunatsiavut Government

2. PROJECT UPDATES

1.A – NEW PROJECT TIMELINE

New project end date: June 30th, 2023

New final reporting deadline: September 30th, 2023

This means we need to plan our visit to Nunatsiavut *before* June 30th, 2023 *and* we need to plan the visit to the Moravian Archives Bethlehem by Labrador Inuit *before* June 30th, 2023.

From the MAB's perspective, because the German script course is scheduled for June 5-16, 2023, and because the synod is scheduled for after the course, the preference is to visit Nunatsiavut before the end of May.

1.B – WEBSITE UPDATES

To date we have had 196 unique visitors to the new uncommonbonds.org since the site went live on April 13th, 2022. We have had more visitors from the USA than Canada suggesting it is important to engage more Labrador Inuit, likely with more Inuit voices in the curation.

1.C – SUB-COMMITTEE FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATUS REVIEW

Sub-committee membership will be made up Mark, Janet and, we hope, one member of the MCNL who is TBD. Tom will also be copied on the correspondence of this sub-committee so he can review.

Discussion and confirmation of importance of various members organization reviewing the not-for-profit bylaws. All member organizations will have an opportunity to review these before anything is put in place.

3. PERSONNEL CHANGES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

3.A – ANITA'S DEPARTURE

We all acknowledge Anita's work on this committee and her work in Inuit archives, nationally. Her departure will be felt.

3.B – EXISTING PERSONNEL REVIEW

Discussion about making sure everyone involved in the Advisory Committee is represented on the website. We will develop a biography for Joan on the website.

3.C – NEED FOR NEW MEMBERS?

Discussion around restricting NG membership on the Advisory Committee to Lena and Deirdre and adding a university student from Makkovik or Hopedale to the committee. Some discussion of candidates which Mark and Joan will follow-up on.

Janet has indicated she will be going on administrative leave in 10 month and will be stepping down from the Committee. She suggests replacements from Memorial University Library's Centre for Newfoundland Studies and/or Archives and Special Collections.

4. DIGITIZATION AND ACCESS OF HISTORICAL GENEALOGICAL DATA

There is some interest from various quarters to have access to historical church books. A number of these exist at Memorial Libraries on microfilm and as they have been great allies in digitizing content, it seems logical to begin prioritizing some of this content for digitization.

Some discussion around the ownership of the church books as being the appropriate entity with which to discuss. Some of the content at the MAB is credited to the “Moravian House” in Labrador, which is not a recognized historical entity. Janet expressed the idea that Memorial Libraries should have rights to any content there on microfilm. Joan does not foresee any issues with the digitizing and making the historic content accessible. There is existing precedent for making data available that is earlier than four generations before present.

At the MAB, the church books generally cut off at 1919 (e.g. Okak and Hopedale).

5. DIGITIZATION AND DISSEMINATION REPORT, PRESENTED BY THOMAS McCULLOUGH

Tom McCullough and Jonathan Ennis, MAB digital archivist, have recently created PDFs of all individual items in the MissLabr record group for transmission to DAI (and ingest into their ContentDM system). Tom still has to break down some of the larger PDFs into smaller files before everything will be sent. The file name of each PDF will match with matchpoints in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, containing descriptive metadata, to be sent to DAI.

Kayla Cavanaugh, transcription manager, is currently looking to re-establish contact with Transkribus users/supporters Maxime Gohier and a graduate student at Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQaR). None of the 10,000 credits purchased for pilot use in the project have been used at this juncture. A goal is to factor in the training of Kayla and the UQaR team on the various German texts they have edited to ground truth (considered the point in time in which a manuscript has not only been transcribed by optical character recognition, but also human intervention to bring the error rate of that page to 0%; these corrections influence the decision-making of the future iteration of the optical character recognition).

Regarding dissemination, Kayla Cavanaugh, transcription manager, has prepared a blog post, which will be shared with the UBAC for review. Anyone with knowledge of photos showing flora or fauna are encouraged to share their photographs with Kayla for inclusion in the blog post (if approved).

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Update on discussion with Maxime Gohier (L'Université du Québec à Rimouski) and his work on [Nouvelle-France numérique](#).

Discussion of German-based university (possibly the [Saxon State and University Library](#)) that approached Memorial Libraries and the MAB about the Nachrichten aus der Brüdergemeine.

Update on Mark's interview with CBC Radio on the project that aired on the *St. John's Morning Show* and *Labrador Morning*.

Confirming Mark will be presenting on Uncommon Bonds at the Unitätsarchiv conference in Herrnhut in October.

7. ADJOURNMENT

PART II: ACTION ITEMS

1. Identify MCNL representative for the not-for-profit subcommittee.
2. Communicate with rest of committee about the timing of the Nunatsiavut visit in May 2023.
3. Mark will work with Joan to develop a bio for the website.
4. Joan will make inquiries about prospective new members.
5. Mark will connect with Janet about her replacement.
6. Joan will make inquiries about existing genealogical data cut-offs which Joan and Mark will present to the MCNL.
7. [The complete list of Labrador Moravian microfilm materials at Memorial Libraries](#). I hope this works!