

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

MEETING #7: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH 2023

1. WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Joan Andersen, Member, Moravian Church in Newfoundland & Labrador

Janet Bangma, Associate Dean of Libraries, Memorial University

Joanthan Ennis, Digital Archivist, Moravian Archives Bethlehem

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

Dianne Keeping, Dean of Libraries, Memorial University

Jodie Lane, Director of Education, Nunatsiavut Government

Lena Onalik, Archaeologist, Nunatsiavut Government

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

Sarah Jensen, Chair, Moravian Church in Newfoundland & Labrador

Megan Dicker Nochasak, Youth Representative

2. DISCUSSION OF FINAL REPORT

The final report shared with the committee was not a summary final report but the last report in a succession of reports. Paul explained that the previous interim report was filed in April. The final report was filed on September 30 and only covered activity in the intervening period. The final report mostly concerns the May tour to Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Nain, Hopedale and Makkovik.

Mark gave a recap of attendance numbers:

- Happy Valley-Goose Bay: 25 in-person + unknown # watching via Facebook livestream

- Nain: 33 in-person
- Hopedale: 30 in-person
- Makkovik: 22 in-person + Facebook livestream for the public event
- Makkovik: 17 in-person for the school event
- Makkovik: 5 in-person for a Nunatsiavut Government event

Grand total: 132 in-person

No issues identified in the general discussion of the final report. Paul also indicated that the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) did not come back with any follow-up questions. He described how this project was different for CLIR because of the visit to Labrador for the public engagement sessions.

Janet raised the issue of summarizing the impact and accomplishments of the project at a high level as an information sheet. Mark suggested this could take the form of a blog post in the first instance, and a journal article or two, possibly in forums like *The Journal of Moravian History*. He also wondered if this could be written up in an archives-focussed journal. Janet suggested this was a good idea and to explore multiple outlets. Tom also described an archival colleague's interest in the project and suggested a Canadian archival publication or *Archival Outlook* (published by the Society of American Archivists). Mark has committed to developing these publications. Dianne also suggested that Archives and Special Collections Archivists can help to craft the journal articles.

3. DIGITIZATION AND DISSEMINATION REPORT, PRESENTED BY THOMAS MCCULLOUGH

Tom flagged a blog post written by Jonathan Ennis around the time of the May tour, available here: <https://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/digital-access/digital-collection-spotlight-40-labrador/>. More blog posts like this are possible, especially to showcase more visually interesting content.

Digitization work is finished but not the work of making things available across all our specified dissemination platforms. We continue to build the content on Memorial's Digital Archives Initiative (DAI) here: <https://dai.mun.ca/digital/uncommonbonds/> and are using Library of Congress headings to classify the material. Tom is sending another batch of content to the DAI today. Approximately 250 pdf documents remain. These are being uploaded at 600dpi and all pdfs are downloadable.

Mark explained that the main reason for delay in getting the content onto the DAI is because we as a committee opted to run some material through optical character recognition, a second phase of processing after digitization. Tom described the work of the project's Transcription Manager with Transkribus and the digitization model they created.

Janet asked Tom about the remaining resources coming to the DAI to plan for the appropriate amount of disk space. Tom suggested after today's batch, approximately 40GB of material remained.

Mark explained links to both the Moravian Archives digital collection and the DAI are going to be available on uncommonbonds.org (they are now at <https://uncommonbonds.org/records/misslabr-labrador-mission-stations/>) and that copies are going to Nunatsiavut Government repositories. He also identified the digital material accessible on the website that was *not* digitized as part of the

project, like material digitized during Tradition and Tradition Among the Labrador Inuit, recent material like *Labrador Moravian | Moraviamit Labradorime* and other material digitized by organizations not associated with the project, including a page of digitized books: <https://uncommonbonds.org/records/books/>

4. PROJECT STATUS POST-CLIR FUNDING

Mark described phase two of Uncommon Bonds as being focussed on (1) digitizing more records (especially those outside the region); and (2) making the records that are digitized more accessible to users. There is an opportunity to expand the research community to achieve both these objectives.

Mark and Tom spent time looking at the Digital Library of the Caribbean as a model which was involved in another CLIR-funded project with the Moravian Archives called Archiving Antigua. They drew from those by-laws to develop a draft set of by-laws for a post-CLIR Uncommon Bonds, structured as a partnership. Dianne has reviewed these and shared them with Memorial's legal team for review.

Mark will convene a separate meeting in the new year with new by-laws in hand.

5. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

Mark expressed gratitude to all project partners for their work on the project.

6. ADJOURNMENT