

130th WHS Annual Meeting

**Sunday
October 26, 2025**

Old Salem Visitor Center
Gray Auditorium
900 Old Salem Road
Enter on the Marshall Street Side

1:00 pm
Doors Open for Moravian Market

1:30 pm
Atkins High School
Chamber Music Players

2:00 pm
Sarah & Michael Wood

2:30 pm
Annual Meeting

Casual dress

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Wachovia Historical Society will be held Sunday, October 26, at 2:30pm in the James A. Gray Auditorium, Old Salem Visitor Center. Doors open at 1:00pm for attendees to shop at our Moravian Market and enjoy special musical performances.

At 1:30pm in the lobby, the Atkins High School Chamber Music Players will perform; a special reminder that Moravians composed and performed some of the earliest chamber music in America.

At 2:00pm on the Gray Auditorium stage, Sarah & Michael Wood will captivate us with their unique interpretations of traditional music, performed on the flute and violin.

The meeting will begin at 2:30pm, chaired by WHS President Karl Kapp. Our keynote speakers, former WHS President Michelle DeLapp and WHS Vice President Jimmie Snyder, will guide us through the earliest history of the Adam and Maria Spach Historic Park to its current status as a gem of historic preservation. Our annual session closes with the presentation of the Archie K. Davis Award. And this year's recipient is...?

Please join us and your fellow WHS members for an afternoon of Moravian music, history, and fellowship. Oh, and bring a friend! This event is open to the public.



Mr. Tom Gray accepting the 2023 Davis Award.

INSIDE SUMMER 2025

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From the President

This year, the Wachovia Historical Society welcomed Karl Kapp as its new president. Karl's passion for Wachovia's history is rooted in his family's deep ties to the area's early settlement at Bethabara. In 2021, Twin City Talk featured an article about Johann Jacob Kapp (Karl's fifth great-grandfather) recognizing his pivotal role in the development of the region. Karl has shared this piece with The Wachovia Tract as a reflection of his enduring interest in local history and his dedication to the mission of WHS.



Karl Kapp, President
Wachovia Historical Society

History Maker: Johann Jacob Kapp

Born: Dec. 30, 1729 in Münchenstein, near Basel, Switzerland.
Died: Dec. 6, 1807

Known for: Effective management of vital food resources and security in Bethabara during the French and Indian War

Johann Jacob Kapp, a carpenter and mechanic, joined the Moravian Church as a young adult.

He was a key player in organizing settlements including Bethabara, where he was part of the team that chose the best site for the town's mill, the first gristmill in northwestern North Carolina.

During the French & Indian War and the Cherokee Uprisings that more directly impacted this region, he oversaw the construction of cabins for the hundreds of refugees who sought the relative safety the town offered. He had a stockade built around the mill and houses, and managed the food stores ensuring the people of the region had food throughout the uncertain times when weather and relationships caused widespread crop loss.

Later, with Johann and Judith Kapp left Europe for Pennsylvania in 1744, part of a Moravian migration that brought an estimated 30,000 Swiss and German religious and economic refugees to that state between 1730 and 1756.

By the time they arrived in Philadelphia, only Jacob, a younger brother and their father survived. Young Jacob was attracted to the teachings of the Moravians in Pennsylvania and their communal

lifestyle. He helped establish the Moravian settlement of Christiansbrunn a few miles north of Bethlehem in 1749.

In September 1754, he was part of the second group of Single Brethren sent to the Wachovia tract, just as the French & Indian War was ramping up.

The Moravian community diaries are filled with references to the work Kapp supervised and the constant stream of visitors from the isolated farms throughout the region; they sought not only safety but such amenities as medical and church services.

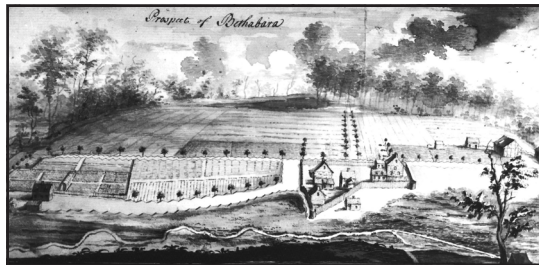
The mill was completed in 1756, just two growing seasons before the severe crop failures of 1759 when bread became a scarce commodity.

That same year, he helped establish the settlement of Bethania nearby to help ease the still constant influx of new people arriving in the region.

Kapp's official position for years was assistant, then head miller. His son Henry, two grandsons, and several other descendants followed him into the millers' trade in Forsyth and Surry counties.

The Bethabara diaries noted what is likely Kapp's greatest legacy: in 1758 "Bethabara stands in good order with people all well. It is widely known as the Dutch fort where there are good people and much bread."

— Kate Rauhauser-Smith



Prospect of Bethabara

Rauhauser-Smith, Kate. "History Maker: Johann Jacob Kapp." TwinCity Talk, July 2021, 9. Courtesy of the Winston Salem Journal.

The Women of Wachovia Arbor 1889–1989

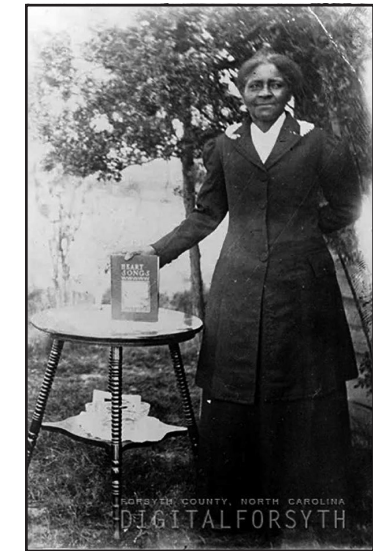
As a part of a commemorative series on the Wachovia Arbor congregation, this article offers some glimpses of Moravian women's lives at Wachovia Arbor during the tumultuous century of its existence.¹ From 1889 to 1989, church congregants witnessed the Reconstruction era and the rise of Jim Crow, industrialization and urbanization, two world wars, the Civil Rights and Women's movements, and more. The archives tell us little about these monumental changes as they affected Wachovia Arbor's women and girls, but we catch sight of their individual lives in other ways.



Unidentified Woman at a God's Acre. No date.
Frank Jones Collection. Digital Forsyth.

Women have always been the backbone of the Moravian Church, beginning with English dissenter Jane Leade (1624-1704), whose writings shaped Count Zinzendorf's Philadelphian theology. Eighteen of the twenty-seven Wachovia Arbor charter members were women, and one of three original founders of the Sunday School which laid the congregational foundation was a woman, Mary Brown Evans (1855-1914). Sunday Schools offered a prominent platform for female leadership in all Moravian congregations, including St. Philips. Inaugurating the Sunday School movement was perhaps the greatest achievement of Salem's first postmaster Gottlieb Schober (1756-1838).

Later educational opportunities for Wachovia Arbor's girls included Katherine Reynolds' school for white children in what is today Reynolda Village. Betty Louise Fansler (1909-1999)



Moravian Sunday School
Teacher Betty Scott Freeman,
ca. 1910. Frank Jones Collection.
Digital Forsyth.

attended the school for a few years and played the role of a firefly in the school's outdoor performance of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1855 poem "The Song of Hiawatha".

While Moravian women lost public leadership roles after Count Zinzendorf's death in 1760, the Moravian liturgical calendar persisted in honoring women's life cycle from girlhood through old age. With pride of their female Moravian ancestors who were commemorated in liturgical celebrations, Wachovia Arbor women organized a split bonnet contest in 1974. The author discovered a historical example of an expertly woven split bonnet in Pennsylvania, and updated versions can still be admired on the streets of Salem today.



Reynolda School Children Dressed as Fireflies in Hiawatha Play, 1921. Courtesy of Reynolda House Museum of American Art Archives.

...continued on page 7

WHS's Moravian Market on Main Street December 6th • 10:am – 4:pm Across from the Candle Tea

Join your WHS fellows for a unique Christmas shopping experience. Local craftsmen specializing in items honoring Moravian customs and traditions will be on Main Street in Old Salem, just across from the Single Brothers workshops on the Square. Lot 63 will also be available for your favorite Moravian treats. What a happy way to start the holiday festivities!

Who's at the Market?

Philosopher's Corner with handmade wax Christmas figurines from Old Salem Beeswax. Contact: Tracy Loundsbury, tlounsb@msn.com

Wachovia Gardeners with Moravian Crafts from the Garden. Contact: Barbara Strauss, bstrauss07@gmail.com

Old Salem Residence Association with pyramid trees. Contact: Douglas Williams, lampemo58@gmail.com

Unity Women handcrafted Christmas decorations from Moravian Missions around the world. Contact: Julie Tomberlin, julie.unitywomen@gmail.com

Moravian Music Foundation with CDs of Moravian Brass ensembles, Moravian Archives hand-made paper diaries, and books. Contact: Sabrina Garity, sGarity@mcsp.org

Candle Tea Kiosk with information about Candle Tea. Contact: Christine Kearns, Catjive1908@yahoo.com

Wachovia Historical Society with Advent Wreaths. Contact: Betsy Overton Hill, queenbei@gmail.com

Moravian Mercantile
Contact: Lauren Hatfield, moraviangifts@gmail.com

Moravian Linens
Contact: Jennifer Maddrey, jmmaddrey@gmail.com

Moravian Pottery
Contact: Demmie Stewart, demste1992@gmail.com

Salem Candle Works Beeswax candles and tinware. Contact: William Seippel, Bill@salemcandleworks.com; 336.760.1585



Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends of the Wachovia Historical Society,

As I look back on three years as editor of *The Wachovia Tract*, I am filled with gratitude and pride. What began as the challenge of “filling big shoes” after our previous editor, Paul Knouse, quickly became a labor of love, an opportunity to continue this treasured platform for storytelling, scholarship, and community. Each issue has been guided by one simple aim: to celebrate and safeguard the stories, traditions, and legacies that have shaped the Wachovia Tract and the wider history of North Carolina.

Over more than a dozen issues, we have explored everything from early Moravian leadership to the restoration of historic homes, from family genealogies to rediscovered artifacts. Each contribution, whether from a seasoned historian or a member sharing a personal story, adds another thread to the tapestry of Wachovia's history. It has been deeply rewarding to see how *The Wachovia Tract* has sparked conversation and strengthened our shared connection to the past.

During these past three years, I've been fortunate to receive tremendous support from members of the Wachovia Historical Society and friends throughout our community. Together, we've introduced new ideas while continuing beloved features such as *From the Collection*. I am deeply grateful to all our writers and contributors whose words have brought history to life in these pages.

A special word of thanks goes to **Johanna Brown**, whose insightful articles have highlighted so many wonderful artifacts in the WHS collection. I also extend sincere appreciation to our recent presidents, **Karl Kapp** and **Michelle DeLapp**, for their steady leadership and encouragement. Under **Victoria Remishofsky's** direction, The Guild has become one of WHS's great successes in recent years, and I've been delighted to feature their engaging monthly events. Finally, my thanks to **Crystal Nelson** and her team at Allegra Printing for

their professionalism and partnership throughout the publishing process.

Beyond the pages of *The Wachovia Tract*, the Wachovia Historical Society continues to thrive as a guardian of our collective story. Founded in 1895, the oldest historical society in North Carolina, it remains steadfast in its mission. The Society's ongoing efforts, from the Adam Spach Park initiative to the preservation of rare Moravian artifacts, remind us that history can be both preserved and experienced.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, board members, and supporters. Their steady work, maintaining collections, organizing events, and fostering connections, ensures that Wachovia's legacy remains vibrant and accessible. They remind us that history is not static; it is a living narrative that grows richer every time we engage with it.

Looking ahead, I hope *The Wachovia Tract* continues to evolve alongside our organization. Themed issues, collaborative projects, and expanded digital storytelling can further connect our readers to Wachovia's remarkable past.

To our contributors and readers, thank you. Your enthusiasm has sustained this publication and strengthened our shared purpose. May *The Wachovia Tract* continue to illuminate the past, enrich the present, and inspire the future.

With sincere appreciation,
Zach Routh
Editor, *The Wachovia Tract*



Zach Routh
Editor,
The Wachovia Tract

Wachovia Historical Society
Treasurer’s Report Submitted by Barry Johnson
Fall 2025 Newsletter – October 2025

Hello Fellow Members,

As of August 31, 2025 , funds held by the Society were as follows:

General Fund Unrestricted – Wells Fargo Checking	\$ 13,948
General Fund Unrestricted – Wells Fargo Business High Yield Savings	15,033
General Fund Unrestricted – Moravian Ministries Foundation in America	47,292
General Fund Designated – Direct Care of Collection Curated by Old Salem	6,248
General Fund Designated – Wells Fargo Checking – Rock House	10,869
Rock House Restricted – Moravian Ministries Foundation in America	48,433
NC Grant – Rock House Restricted – Moravian Ministries Foundation in America	188,681
Total	\$ 330,504

The \$250,000 grant for the Adam Spach Rock House Historical Project included in the State of North Carolina 2023 Appropriations Act passed by the Senate and House on September 22, 2023 was received on April 19, 2024.

Current total for Rock House Historical Project funds available are \$247,983 consisting of \$188,681 remaining available from NC grant invested with Moravian Ministries Foundation Stable Fund, \$48,433 invested with Moravian Ministries Foundation Growth Fund, and \$10,869 deposited in General Fund Designated.

NC Grant funds disbursed on February 10, 2025 for \$38,136 was paid to Environmental Research Group, Inc. for Ground Truthing Survey work.

Membership donations for the period January 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 totaled \$6,530. As always, many thanks for your membership giving and support. I continue to believe we have been excellent stewards of your interest. As always, many thanks for your membership giving and support. I continue to believe we have been excellent stewards of your interest.

Your help in getting us back on track to giving and support in the \$20,000 range during 2025 is greatly appreciated.

Honorariums and memorials from members made January 1st to September 15th were as follows:

- H. Lester Morris – In memory of Gail Morris – \$100
- H. Lester Morris – In honor of Nancy Perryman – \$100
- Old Salem Garden Club – In honor of Eric Elliott – \$50
- Tom Sears – in memory of Sara Sears – \$250

Designated gifts made January 1st to September 15th were as follows:

- Beverly Hartgrove – For Adam and Maria Spach Historical Park fund – \$100



The Women of Wachovia Arbor continued from page 3...

Highly unusual among Protestant denominations, Moravian single women since the Zinzendorf era continued to be valued on an equal footing with married women. Notable unmarried women in the Southern Province during the Wachovia Arbor era include the historian Adelaide Fries (1871-1949) and the globe-trotting missionary educator Elisabeth Marx (1908-1996). Wachovia Arbor’s God Acre with its egalitarian order of graves still pays a silent tribute to this tradition.



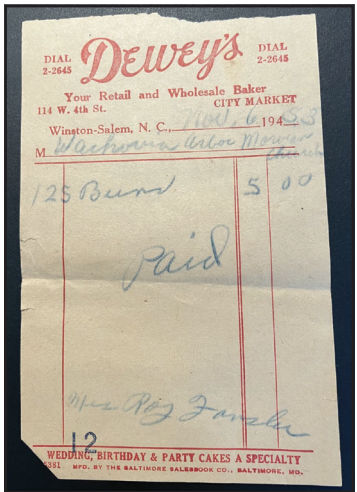
19th Century Split Bonnet. Ephrata Historical Society. Photo by Author.

In the 19th century, women’s leadership in the girls’ and women’s choir system transitioned to church-based female societies and groups. New women’s societies and clubs paved the way for legislation to abolish child labor, support suffrage and strengthen the temperance and Civil Rights movements. The Female Missionary Society, predecessor of today’s Unity Women’s Desk, was founded by Salem women years before the Young Men’s Missionary Society. It was originally led by a female president, Anna Elisabeth van Vleck (1764-1829) with the commitment to reaching out to Black Moravians. Later, women’s auxiliary groups became active in individual congregations, including Wachovia Arbor. Moravian women also networked outside their congregations in women’s clubs and social movements, for example in the still active philanthropic NC Federation of Women’s Clubs, which was inaugurated at Salem College in 1902. Courageously, women of the St. Philips congregation joined the Civil Rights movement.

Other examples of impactful women’s leadership included the many performances of liturgical music and annual liturgical festivals, including love feasts, for girls and women. All these activities were vigorously pursued by Wachovia Arbor women. [Photo 6: Dewey’s order]

Long after the WAC church building had burned down in 1989, it was women who were entrusted with guarding the sacred nature of Wachovia Arbor’s location. The four last graves consecrated at its God’s Acre (1999-2006) were those of beloved congregational women elders.

— Ulrike Wiethaus



Mrs. Roy Fansler. Wachovia Arbor Moravian Church receipt for Dewey’s buns purchase, November 6, 1953, Wachovia Arbor Moravian Church Records, Archives, Moravian Church in America, Southern Province. Photo by author.

1 The author thanks Nicole Crabbe (Museum of Southern Decorative Arts), Bari Helm (Reynolda House Museum of American Art), Megan Mulder (Wake Forest University), Meaghan O’Riordan, Sabrina Garity, and especially Samantha Tullis (Archives, Moravian Church in America, Southern Province) as well as the Ephrata Historical Society and the Wachovia Historical Society’s Research and Publications Committee for their assistance.

♦ Guild Events

November Raffle ♦ December 6 ♦ Moravian Market on the Square



Picture yourself as the lucky winner of this exquisite 21-inch Christmas Carousel! With candles (included) to make it spin, this is a prize that will surely add a touch of magic to your holiday season. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity. Tickets are only \$10 and can be purchased during the Annual Event, through Zeffy blasts to WHS members, on our website, and at the Moravian Market on December 6 at Salem Square, where the drawing will be held at 4 PM. **You do not have to be present to win.**

Join Moravian Artisans on Salem Square, 10:00 AM until 4 PM. Lovely handcrafted items expressing Moravian customs and traditions will get your holiday shopping off to a warm start.



2025 – 2026 ♦

2026 EVENTS

January 4, Moravian Recipes Exchange: bring your best and share with the rest.

February 1, immerse yourself in Moravian culture by participating in this slip-trial plate workshop using age-old methods. Demmie Stewart promises a unique and engaging experience.

March 1, In the Footsteps of Moravians: Herrnhaag, the Abandoned Moravian Settlement, with presenter Craig Atwood.

April 3, Cleaning and placing flowers on the gravesites at the lost church, Wachovia Arbor.

May 3, Remembering Wachovia Arbor, the Lost Church, with presenter Ulrike Wiethaus.

June 8 - 19, In Moravian Footsteps: From Prague to Amsterdam, an extraordinary journey through Europe's heartland following the footsteps of early Moravians. Beginning in the historic streets of Prague, this trip traces the legacy of the Moravians throughout Central Europe. Led by Craig Atwood of Home Moravian Church and Betsy Hill of Wachovia Historical Society, every day of this tour combines vibrant culture and inspiring history. A few spaces may still be available—contact Tour Director Samantha Mandel, (617) 564-1003 or samantha@samanthatrips.com.

July 4, join us for 'A Celebration of Peace', a re-creation of the first July Fourth Celebration ever held in America, on Salem Square. This event is not just a celebration, but a journey back in time to our Moravian roots.

August 16, join us for the Moravian Children's Festival, a modern-day continuation of the original festival from the 1700s. Coordinated by Peggy Dobson, this event celebrates our rich Moravian heritage.

September 6, Exploring Salem's Southern End with presenter Abrea Armstrong

October 25, The Annual Event

November, The Raffle,

December 5, The Moravian Market on the Square



Wachovia Historical Society 2025 Donors List

for January 1st to September 15th

Contributing Life Members

Bob & Sarah Hunter
Phillip W. Johnson &
Emily Fearnbach
Gwynne & Dan Taylor

Life Members

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis R. Ayers
Mrs. Marjorie Beardsley
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Mr. James D. Fishel, Jr.
Mrs. Elisabeth B. Felts
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Dr. Julianne Still Thrift
Gwynne & Dan Taylor
Mr. Charles Timothy Via
Winston-Salem Journal
Mrs. Lynn Ziglar

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(\$1,000 and up)
Nola & Paul Knouse

Herrnhut Associates

(\$500-\$999)
Linda & Bill Griffin

Bethabara Associates

(\$250-\$499)
Joan Cotterill
Kathy & Bill Ewalt
Linda & Ed Kelly
Judy & Jay Lester
Tom Sears
Piper & David Shannon

Committee of 1895

Year of the Society's Inception
(\$100-\$249)
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Betty & Tommy Cole
Brenda Dalton
Michelle & Sim DeLapp
Mary Jane & John Dewees
Peggy & Wayne Dodson
Debbie Ferguson

Patty & Hal Garner
Mr. & Mrs. William K. Hoyt
Allison Hudson
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Mary Anna & Johnnie Pearson
Robertta & Jim Pettit
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Carol & IB Southerland
Thomas W. Williams, Jr.
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(formerly the Salem Guild)
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Martha & Jim Baucom
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Phyllis Dunning
Stephen Ello
Martha & Mo Hartley
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Sally McLeod
James Newsome
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Family (\$35), Individual (\$25), Student (\$15), and Senior (\$15)

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Mary Comer
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Terry Taylor
Karen Wayne
Carol Westmoreland
Ulrike Wiethaus

Non-Profit, Commercial, & Professional

Allen County Public Library,
Fort Wayne, IN
Town of Bethania
Old Salem Garden Club

Brick Paver Donor List for the Adam and Maria Historic Park

for January 1st to September 15th

Wayne Bailey & Family – In memory of Nelle Marsh Bailey,
my wonderful grandmother, who I miss every day – \$130

Mary Lois Bynum, Laura Beasley, Lesley Swartz, Lisa Bynum
& Richard Bynum, Jr. – In memory of Richard T. Bynum, Sr.,
1928-2014,
7th Generation, Winston-Salem, U.S. Navy – Korean War –
\$130

Carol Fouts-Johnson – In memory of Howard Cadle Johnson –
\$130

Karen Wayne – In memory of Elsie Winterbottom – \$75

Claire Welborn – In honor of Cecelia Ruth Spach Welborn – \$75



Adam and Maria Historic Park

Rock House Photos Courtesy of Old Salem



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!

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Chamber Music Players

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Sarah & Michael Wood

2:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting

Casual dress

Wachovia Historical Society
P.O. Box 20803
Winston-Salem, NC 27120-0803
www.wachoviahistoricalociety.org

