PARTMENT OF CHLTURAL RESOURCES

ARLY MORAVIAN

s of the day. At 10 that sang "from the large ok hymns written in all ries concerning the night trist's nativity, deawing attention to one written unt Zinzendorf thirteen-ago. The service closed Loveleast a Loveleast, and evening ers. A deep snow fell ing the night:

This record of Christmas, 5, is among hundreds of ther events recorded by avians who settled in North lina in the mid-eighteenth

The chronicle continues: The next day, Thursday, was Christmas day. Trumpets awakened the people, and at 10 A.M. they gathered to hear "an earnest sermon" by Brother Christian Henrich. That afternoon a Christmas sermon of Count Zinzendorf was read

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people, "and so this day of great grace and blessing was happily and thankfully ended."

The diary of Bethabara for lively Christmas. "On Christmas Day the English children from the mill came to see our Christmas decoration, they were so poorly clad that it would have moved a stone to pity. We told them why we rejoiced like children and gave to each a piece of cake. In Bethania Br. Ettwein held a Lovefeast for the 24 children there, at the close of the service each received a pretty Christmas verse and a ginger cake, the first they had ever

Two years later an entry for Christmas Eve reported that a Lovefeast was held in Bethania for the children, "who at its close received lighted wax tapers, and then a Lovefeast for

Congregation." At Bethabara there was also a Lovefeast for the children, who "rejoiced over the birth of the little Jesus, and at its close they received as in Bethania for the first time lighted wax tapers." Later there was a Lovefeast for the congregation, and old German and English bymns were read and sung. On Christmas morning congregations in both Bethania and Bethabara were awakened with music, and services were again held.

Little honey cakes and verses were distributed during the Christmas Eve service held by the "Little Company on the Ens or South Fo..." in 1770. Hymns were sung, the Christmas story was told to the children, and during the Lovefeast more hymns were sung with violin accompaniment provided by Br. Volk. The service closed with prayer, and the "children were full of wonder and joy, it being the first time they had attended such a service."

In the following century, the

Moravians were still keeping records; and entries speak of Christmas. The dairy of the Bethania congregation for 1855 tells of the rain on Dec. 24. "It was remarkable how many people came through the deep mud to the Christmas vigil service. The children urge them on and almost all were here. The service was held at 5, and lateran English sermon on the young people. The choir music went fairly well, though in part it was too slow, as usual."





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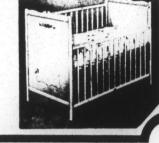
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