

## **Final Report for the Ohio Archives Grant**

**Organization:** Brethren Church Archives

**Project Title:** Reestablishing the Past Perfect Online Database for the Brethren Church Archives, Ashland, Ohio.

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### **Summary of Project and Accomplishments:**

The Brethren Church Archives uses the museum software program Past Perfect to catalog and access their many collections. Prior to 2019 the online database was a shared project with the Ashland University Archives. Changes at the university led to a decision to no longer host items related to the history of the Brethren Church on the university's online database. It therefore became necessary for the Brethren Church Archives to establish its own Past Perfect account.

Access to the archives' digital resources is once again available. Additionally, the grant and matching gift from the Brethren Church's National Office have allowed the archives to purchase a much-needed new computer and printer/scanner. Public notice of these developments has been made to the Executive Board of the Brethren Church through quarterly reports and, more recently, to the wider denomination through the National Office's online newsletter. Public searches for information housed digitally in our databases will also be possible now.

The volunteer staff of the archives continues to make more artifacts housed at the archives available to the public digitally. These artifacts include photos, slides, videos, periodicals, and various documents associated with the denomination's ministers, churches, camps, auxiliaries, and international ministries. We often receive requests from people seeking genealogical information about Brethren ancestors. Though it is too early to assess the results of reestablishing access to our digital resources through PastPerfect, we believe that interest in the many artifacts in our collection will increase due to greater accessibility.

The link for the online database is: <https://brethrenchurch.pastperfectonline.com/Search>

### **Project Expenses**

The following items were purchased through the grant and the matching gifts:

Past Perfect Online software and website setup: \$622.00

XPS desktop computer with printer/scanner: \$854.94

Total: \$1476.94

In addition, at least 15 hours of staff and volunteer time were contributed. (Much of this time related to wiring for internet service. When the archives moved into a new location in 2019, it did not have internet or phone service. The pandemic interfered with resolving this problem, but the push to reestablish PastPerfect accessibility provided an impetus to obtain these essential services.) Since the Ohio Archives Grant was \$750.00, the funding beyond this amount as well as the donated time well exceed the expected match of \$750.00.

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