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Photo Credit:

Shop Sign by Gottfried Aust  
Salem, North Carolina (1773)

Slip-decorated earthenware

Collection of Wachovia Historical Society

Courtesy of Old Salem Museums & Gardens

**OLD SALEM TO OPEN DIANNE H. FURR MORAVIAN DECORATIVE ARTS GALLERY  
New Self-Guided Gallery to Open as Part of 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Salem, NC Celebration**

Winston-Salem, NC (AUGUST 8, 2016) — Old Salem Museums & Gardens is delighted to announce the opening this fall of a new self-guided gallery, the Dianne H. Furr Moravian Decorative Arts Gallery. The gallery will open to the public on October 22, 2016.

The Dianne H. Furr Moravian Decorative Arts Gallery will include nearly 2,500 square feet in the Frank L. Horton Museum Center at 924 S. Main Street. It will be dedicated to the rich material culture created by the Moravians of North Carolina. Over 150 objects made by Moravian settlers living in the Wachovia tract between 1753 and 1850 will be displayed, including furniture, paintings, textiles, ceramics, metals, musical instruments, and more.

Old Salem Museums & Gardens has the premier collection of Moravian decorative arts in the country. The new gallery will display masterworks from its collection, including important holdings from the Wachovia Historical Society. Many of these objects have been in storage for decades while others have been exhibited only periodically.

“This gallery will provide Old Salem visitors with a gateway into the material world of the Moravians who settled North Carolina in the 18th century,” said Johanna Brown, Curator of Moravian Decorative Arts at Old Salem. “Situated just across the bridge from the Old Salem Visitor Center, the gallery is going to be a wonderful way for visitors to begin their visit to Old Salem.” Brown added, “Opening the gallery in 2016 is a perfect way to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Salem and its impact as a commercial and artistic center in North Carolina.”

The new gallery will be the first time these objects have been displayed and interpreted together. In addition, it offers the opportunity to tell the important story of the Salem Girls Boarding School, now operating as Salem Academy, a highly regarded educational institution for Moravian and non-Moravian girls that drew students from across the South. The gallery will include outstanding examples of fine needlework and watercolor paintings by students who attended the school from its founding in 1804 to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Moravian Decorative Arts Gallery has been made possible by a lead gift in memory of the late Dianne H. Furr, a former Old Salem resident and fifteen-year guide at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) at Old Salem. Additional donors to the gallery include Thomas A. Gray and family, David and Martha Rowe, and Barry and Sybille Sidden, all of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The Moravian Decorative Arts Gallery will be the third self-guided gallery to open at Old Salem in the past year. In October 2015, the William C. and Susan S. Mariner Southern Ceramics Gallery and the Carolyn and Mike McNamara Southern Masterworks Gallery opened at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), and are also conveniently located in the Frank L. Horton Museum Center. These three self-guided galleries can be toured with an All-in-One Ticket or a Two-Stop Ticket to MESDA and Old Salem. For more information on ticket prices and hours visit [oldsalem.org/tickets](http://oldsalem.org/tickets).

### **About MESDA**

The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) is the preeminent center for researching, collecting, and exhibiting decorative arts made and used by those living and working in the early South. MESDA is one of three museums at Old Salem Museums & Gardens. The web site address is [MESDA.org](http://MESDA.org).

### **About Old Salem**

Old Salem Museums & Gardens is one of America's most comprehensive history attractions. Its museums—the Historic Town of Salem, the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), and the Gardens at Old Salem—engage visitors in an educational and memorable historical experience about those who lived and worked in the early South. Old Salem Museums & Gardens is located at 600 South Main Street in Winston-Salem. For more information call 336-721-7300 or visit [oldsalem.org](http://oldsalem.org).

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