

These **Frequently Asked Questions** address specifically the **Archives**, and do not include questions for other departments of Bethany.

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1. What can you tell us about the first orphanage in Philadelphia?

Returning from the Civil War conflict while doing missionary work in the South, Rev. Emanuel Boehringer witnessed so many soldiers dying but wondering about “what of the children”? He set up his own “plan for founding an orphans’ home” and looked for assistance through his Church Synod. Rev. Boehringer and his family did not wait on his Church’s decision to assist him but opened the doors of his own home at 402 Morris Street in Philadelphia. Caroline Engle, age 6, was the first child to be accepted on 21 September in 1863 – added to the 6 children of the Boehringers . This was actually at least a year before the State of Pennsylvania took official steps to create their Soldier’s Orphans School Program.

The family of 12 grew rapidly, expanding to more than 30, requiring the use of a nearby school on McIlvain Street. But early in the summer of 1864, a new, larger home was needed, was found and purchased in Bridesburg. A building lot 200 x 300 with an older house (Giltbach Mansion, as it was called) and a new small frame building soon expanded with plans to add other buildings. (See photo next) But the unexpected passing of first, Rev. Boehringer’s wife, Christiana, and then Rev. Boehringer, himself, near the 1st Anniversary of the Home, forced the institution to consider a new location.

The Bridesburg quarters were much too limiting for so rapid a growth of now about 96 children. There was little room to expand; the location was unhealthy, with many children and employees sick from the local environment; it was decided to move the family to a more desirable place. The Board of Managers visited numerous sites offered before choosing the Womelsdorf site of Manderbach’s Spring.

2. Who was the founder of Bethany?

Emanuel Boehringer and his wife, Christiana, came to America from Germany in the late 1850’s, but prior to the Civil War. He became ordained as a minister in the German Reformed Church, performed missionary work in the southern states of Maryland and Virginia at the start of the war. He witnessed the viral effects of war, increasingly becoming aware of the dying soldier’s concerns – “What about the children?” Rev. Boehringer came back home in 1862 and created an orphanage in his own household, before the Church came to his assistance. Encouraged by his wife and family, Rev. Boehringer admitted their first orphan child, Caroline Engle, on 21 September 1863.

An elaborate genealogy and history has been created for the Archives about the life and times of Rev. Boehringer and his wife, Christiana. The Archives holds such a binder for each of the succeeding Superintendents who served to lead the Home. These binders include photographs, letters, news articles and other documents to highlight each person’s involvement at Bethany.

In 1864, the untimely deaths of first, Christiana, and then Rev. Boehringer, shook the orphanage. This all happened about the time of the 1st Anniversary. They are both honored and buried in Emanuel United Church of Christ cemetery in Bridesburg, PA. They were survived by her mother and 4 children and became wards of Bethany. Later, Mrs. Boehringer moved to Virginia to be with one of her children, before she passed away in 1872. The Church Synod eventually approved and supported the project of creating an orphanage.

The Board of Directors approved a project in 2012 to create a memorial to honor Rev. Boehringer and his wife. The memorial is hanging in the lobby of the Administration building.

3. How and why did our name change so often?

Rev. Boehringer, the founder, was a writer of a Reformed Church Sunday School magazine called the “Laemmerhirte” (Shepherd of the Lambs). With the establishment of an orphanage in his own home, it was never given a name! But, in time, it was decided to name this place, “The Orphans Home of the shepherd of the Lamb.” Under this name, the orphanage was recognized by the Pennsylvania Soldiers Orphans School Program. In its original charter and the

purchase of the Manderbach's Spring Resort, we were known as: THE ORPHANS' HOME OF THE SHEPHERD OF THE LAMBS.

With such a cumbersome name and a general lack of appeal for such a name, Rev. Bausman and the Board of Managers petitioned the state to change its name. BETHANY was chosen as "place Jesus loved to be," the home of Mary and Martha, located on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho. So, in 1873, the name change became BETHANY ORPHANS' HOME, reflecting that most of the children were orphans or half-orphans.

By the close of the first century, Bethany was confronted by the State Department of Welfare to change the name of ORPHANS' to CHILDREN'S, especially since children being admitted from broken families far outnumbered "orphans of the church". In 1985, the Church Synod approved and petitioned the Courts to authorize the name change to BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME. By this time, more than 2500 children had been cared for at Bethany.

THE ORPHANS HOME OF THE SHEPHERD OF THE LAMBS

BETHANY ORPHANS' HOME

BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME

4. When and why did the orphanage move to Womelsdorf?

Our history records the beginnings of the "Shepherd of the Lambs Orphans Home" from the modest home of Rev. Boehringer on Morris Street in Philadelphia and then to Bridesburg. The passing of the founder and his wife, the unsanitary conditions of the area, and a growing population – all contributed to the Board of Managers wanting new quarters.

Quite a few locations were offered and examined but the best was found at the Manderbach Springs Resort in Womelsdorf, PA. Here were found all the basic necessities – a large 3-story brick building being used as a hotel, space to expand, a rich country and wooded surrounding, clean air and especially the well-known crystal clear spring water of the old INDIAN SAND SPRINGS.

Negotiations and sales of the Manderbach Springs property took place in mid-1867 and it was bought for \$33,000 and included about 26 acres. The children moved here on 1 October 1867, being greeted by the community with their band. Rev. Heisler recorded his own memories later of this grand and glorious event. (See Manderbach Springs Resort Booklet for pictures and details)

The official dedication of the Home at Womelsdorf was held on 29 October 1867 with Rev. C. Z. Weiser delivering an address which identified the property as belonging to part of the original Conrad Weiser tract. (This entire address can be found in the above booklet also.)

We have grown to more than 285 acres of profitable farmland and woods since those small beginnings back in 1863.

5. What is a Superintendent?

Today, we no longer have a Superintendent at Bethany, but rather a corporate structure of 3 managers – a Chief Relations Officer (CRO), a Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and a Chief Programs Officer (CPO), who manage to affairs of Bethany. Each has its own designated responsibilities and functions within a tiered chain of command. This was not always the structure of Bethany.

Under the original “plan for establishing an Orphan’s Home” in 1863, a Committee or Board of Managers, consisting of ministers and laymen of the Reformed church, would be the overseers of such an institution. A Superintendent was to be a minister of this Reformed Church. There was centrality of a family emphasized

A Superintendent is the person who does the daily supervision of the institution (a nitty-gritty supervisor). Reverend Boehringer, the founder, accepted the role of the first Superintendent. As a poor clergyman, he was also the pastor of the Bridesburg Emanuel Reformed Church from the area where the “Shepherd of the Lambs Orphanage” began in his own homestead. Upon his death in 1864, a new Superintendent was elected by the Board of Managers. (The succession of all 11 of the Superintendents of Bethany is recorded in separate binders in the Archives).

The official charter of 1865 further defines the election and qualifications process of the Superintendent, and then designates the power and responsibilities of the Superintendent of Bethany.

The wife of the Superintendent was often defined as the **Matron of Bethany** and sometimes succeeded to the position upon the death of her husband until a new Superintendent was elected by the Board of Managers.

Superintendents have been elected until 1957, when a Director of Home Life worked and became the 2nd in command. Reorganization of the Bethany structure in 1986 created an Executive Director in charge, instead of the usably Superintendent. Still another structural reorganization in 2006 created a Chief Executive Official (CEO), a Chief Financial Official (CFO), and a Chief Program Official (CPO). The Chief Executive Official title was changed to Chief Relations Official (CRO). In 2013 Bethany again restructured leadership and chose one Chief Executive Officer. The current Board of Directors has the responsibility of managing the institution through a structural “chain of command”. There is a chart showing this structural change.

6. WHO IS THE HEAD MATRON AT BETHANY?

Very little has ever been said about the Head Matron at Bethany except as noted by Rev. Vandevere (p. 101). A MATRON by definition is “a woman superintendent or manager of domestic arrangements of a hospital, prison or other institution.” The name is also often given to a married woman or widow. Ever since Mrs. Christiane Boehringer worked laboriously at the side of her husband for the care of the children under her care, ALL WIVES of the Superintendent became “the mother of the flock...”

With the hand of a mother, the Head Matron assumed the responsibilities of the internal affairs of Bethany. Working quietly, often not recognized, she managed the HOUSEHOLD side – the day to day needs of the institution. She was the manager of all the other matrons and later the houseparents of the cottages as they expanded.

Often, if the Superintendent passed away, his wife (the Head Matron) was asked to assume her husband’s responsibilities as Acting Superintendent, until a successor could be elected. In 1957, a Director of Home Life, assumed the responsibilities of working extremely closely with all the cottage groups and with the houseparents. This Director also acted as Superintendent, when the Superintendent was absent from Bethany.

7. WHAT IS THE BOARD OF MANAGERS?

According to the original “Plan for establishing an Orphans Home” in 1863:

“There shall be a committee or Board of managers of the Orphans Home. It shall consist of ministers and layman of the Reformed Church.”

The earliest members in 1865 were William Gross as Treasurer; Rev. Bausman; and Mr. Nicholas Wetzel.

The Charter of 1865 incorporating the institution states “The affairs of the Home shall be conducted by a Board of Managers, composed of not more than 7 members.” By 1867, this rule was amended to increase the membership to 13. Membership shall be “male communicants of the German Reformed Church and shall speak and read the German language.” They had the power to appoint a Superintendent and the Officers of the Board. The charter further delineated the other powers and duties of this Board.

Board Minutes have systematically been recorded in book format and are preserved and stored in the safe. There have been many members of the Board over the years – some received special recognition in the written histories of Bethany. Another change to the Board took place in 1954; another with the organizational restructuring in 1986 and again in 2006 – each time creating a new means of looking into the affairs of Bethany.

The Board of Managers is now called the Board of Directors and meets quarterly at Bethany.

8. WHAT IS THE LADIES COMMITTEE?

In 1886, the Board of Managers unanimously approved the formation of a visiting and advisory committee of 15 ladies, “who will meet with the Superintendent and Matron to report on the condition of the Home – acting in an auxiliary capacity to the Board.” They were to meet at least 4 times a year.

This LADIES COMMITTEE consistently made recommendations to the Superintendent and the Board of Managers; even raising funds to support many of their suggestions to create safe, comfortable and efficient living and working condition at Bethany. (Read many of these works in Supt. Raymond Vandevere’s book, Chapter 9, pages 38 – 45) Minutes, notes and a Progress Report record their dedication over the years and are preserved in the Archives.

This group was known under various names such as the LADIES COMMITTEE; THE LADIES AUXILLIARY; THE LADIES VISITING COMMITTEE and even THE WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION. Several notable names include Mrs. Matilda Chidsey (1st president), Mrs. C. W. Hess, Mrs. Harvey Miller, Mrs. Charles Shafer, Mrs. Charles Wolfretz and Mrs. Edward Fretz. Further work will be completed to recognize those individuals who have served.

9. Just how big is Bethany?

From a small home at 742 Morris Street in Southwark, Philadelphia, expansion to larger quarters was almost inevitable. As the orphan population grew, The Shepherd of the Lambs Orphanage moved to a 2 and ½ acre mansion area in Bridesburg. Illness and more growth forced the final move to Manderbach Springs in Womelsdorf, PA in 1867.

From here, it is like a jigsaw puzzle, adding little pieces here and there to form our current campus of more than 285 acres. Bethany has also acquired property in various locations around the state and more from wills, estates, and mortgages. These are managed by Bethany outside the sphere of campus expansion through the Estates and Trust Funds. One example is the Tubman Center, managed by Bethany, in Philadelphia in 1978.

Although the Manderbach Springs property was originally listed as 11 acres, we were sold 26 + acres in 1867 – our beginning! (We keep a Property Development Binder with copies of all the deeds – showing specifically our growth and expansion.)

Briefly: The Manderbach farm of 60 acres was purchased in 1873. Another 7 + acres were added in 1891. The Bricker property near the gateway was bought in 1905. The hotel property near the railroad was sold to us in 1928 as well as our Wilhelm purchase of mountain woodland above the reservoir. In 1932, the Lebo Farm widened our farming capacity by 60 acres. Dr. Horne donated and we also bought some from him in 1940. We decided against the Strauss farmland on the other side of the railroad bought but accepted some woodland instead. The Livingood property in 1953 expanded

our area adjacent but above the barn. Other smaller pieces have been left out of this puzzle, but it has been fascinating to construct.

We have copies of the surveys made during our expansion. Quite a large chunk has been preserved from future development by reserving the farming areas of more than 120 acres, as part of an Agricultural District.

10. What was MANDERBACH'S SPRING RESORT of Womelsdorf?

In 1847, the first of many South Mountain resorts was being planned near Cushion Peak south of Wernersville. This place eventually became known as the GRANDVIEW – the grandest of all the resorts, before it closed in 1927 and was gradually sold off in piecemeal bits.

This was as far as the railroad came from Reading. But as the Lebanon Valley Railroad expanded westward through Womelsdorf and Newmanstown by 1858, JOHN MANDERBACH, who was a well-known high sheriff of Berks County and a local miller and distiller of Womelsdorf, decided to build his hotel. We lack many details of life here during this time period. We do know that Mr. Manderbach maintained “a summer resort” called “Manderbach’s Spring”. He hosted several Democratic Party rallies there on the 4th of July in the early 1860’s. We learned more about this resort when Mr. Manderbach died intestate, forcing a sale of this establishment for probate purposes. It was bought by his son David and then immediately resold to his older brother Henry H. Manderbach, who succeeded his father into the High Sheriff role. Henry then operated this place as SOUTH MOUNTAIN HOUSE, until it was sold to the Reformed Church in 1867.

This site was widely celebrated for its Mineral Spring – known originally as the INDIAN SAND SPRING, a natural flowing spring about 60 feet in circumference. The building was a three-story brick structure, 120 feet by 30 feet, exclusive of a basement. It had a large-frame kitchen attached, a bathhouse, an ice house, a bowling alley, stabling, and other out-buildings on 11 acres, although the Reformed Church bought 26 acres. (see photo next) At the highest point of the mountain above this structure was EAGLE’S PEAK, which commanded quite a view of the entire valley all the way to the Blue Mountains.

One last thought, this property was once a portion of the original Conrad Weiser land grant from William Penn for services rendered.

11. Does the water we drink come from our own spring?

Yes; one of the main reasons for the move here from Bridesburg in Philadelphia was because of the crystal clear, clean water. With just one or two buildings, the water was pumped into huge tanks in the attic of the main buildings. Water was also provided to the Manderbach farm area and to the Railroad Station, the hotel and several Ryeland Road residents (based on original contract in sale).

The Manderbach Springs Hotel was historically famous for its mineral spring, also known as the INDIAN SAND SPRING, which was about 60 feet in circumference. A Springhouse was added (under the Pavilion) as our first refrigerator service. The spring area has undergone several changes over the years due to Department of Health requirements, especially the covering of the spring. The Alumni had the present surrounding structure built to preserve the original source.

With the addition of other cottages, a water works and reservoir were built in 1897, which provided gravity feed supply of water. This system was expanded by 1914 to a reservoir of 80,000 gallons. With certain minerals present, water softening became a necessity. A pump house housed the softener and later a chlorinator as required by the State Department of Health.

A secondary source of water was found on the Bethany property, which is currently providing high quality water to a bottling company. (It should be noted that water from this spring provided water to early Womelsdorf.)

12. What is known about the big fire at Bethany that burned the original home?

There have been several fires recorded on the Bethany campus. 1st: In 1881, the original Manderbach Spring Resort Hotel burned. (An entire booklet records events around this event.) Newspaper records are probably the best representation of what happened and what is known. The cause was never fully established. Rev. Albright wrote in his records immediately after the incident a full account, and a special thanks to the Womelsdorf public and the Fire Department for assistance rendered. Children were housed in the old Manderbach farmhouse and mill until the structure was rebuilt.

The older ADM and Santee Hall were built on the identical site in 1882. (Records again tell the story of the rebuilding after the fire.)

These buildings, in turn, were demolished in 1973 and the newer Santee/ Butkovsky/ Dieffenderfer Halls were built. (A booklet records this demolition and rebuilding.)

The Bausman Memorial Church was burned in 1915. The Church was rebuilt the following year. (Another booklet records, pictures and the events surrounding that fire.)

The third farm/ or barn burned in 1968 and was rebuilt the following year. (The Farm booklet records the fire, newspaper article per same, photographs before and the rebuilding of that barn.)

There was a fire set in Dubb's Cottage by a disgruntled resident. Fire was limited but needed extensive repairs.

Fire hydrants, fire escapes and safety measures were always applied, as recognized or required by law. Fire equipment was at one time housed under the portico of the original ADM building.

13. Did Bethany have its own fire company?

Would you believe it – but a tentative, yes! With that huge fire in 1881 that burned the main Manderbach's Spring building, it was found that Womelsdorf lacked the real adequate means to stop a fire. The Womelsdorf Fire Companies reorganized into one over a period of time and was called on quite a few times to help us.

So, Bethany had its own fire crew. In the basement of the old ADM building, under the portico, was enough space to house a water pumper and hoses, plus additional buckets. (We have photos of these bare-footed boys pulling out the water pumper and practicing.) The ADM and Santee Hall both had many fireplaces for wood, then coal, until down the line we converted to oil and gas, and in turn more electivity. The fireplaces and stacks were taken down once they were not needed. Eventually chemical fire extinguishers and the requirement for fire escapes for 2nd and third floors were introduced for the safety of the children.

As the cottage system expanded, a water distribution system also placed fire hydrants at specific locations around the campus to provide water in time of need. Agreements were made with the local fire company and contributions made for services as needed. At one time there was even a discussion of transferring a used fire engine with a pumper from Womelsdorf. The mill pond provided a source of a large quantity of water and much noted in the chemical plant fire in Ryeland in 1940.

14. Did children always have an allowance?

No, but there is not much in the available written records and we have to rely on oral histories. Allowances are a common expectation in families of today, but a long time ago each person had to do their own fair share with no compensation for doing so. I guess, at Bethany, it began as kind of experiment. It started in July of 1935 with giving the older children in Dietrich and Moyer Cottages ten cents a week, to somewhat raise the spirits of the children during

those harsh times. This wouldn't go far. There was a "candy store" created on campus where children could splurge this amount.

Children were expected to work for their keep – no remuneration for work done except that it benefited the empire Bethany family. Everyone had an assigned chore to accomplish before they could go out to play or participate in any other activity. Rewards came through various recreational activities, which gradually expanded through a socialization program of sports, movies, dancing and summer trips to Hershey or Carsonia Park.

With most children being confirmed and joining the campus Bausman Memorial Church, the importance of contributing to the benevolent projects of the Church was often emphasized. So free-will offerings came directly from the children and employees. How could children learn to give freely unless they had some meager fund to contribute? One learned to "tithes" from what they received from their families, from Bethany or what they might eventually earn for various means.

There was no real means to "earn" money – independent money – except from odd chores such as extra work beyond the normal time frames, selling hand-made items on Anniversary Day, or trapping animals for their pelts. With the institution of a campus self-government in the late 1940s, there was a need to re-evaluate some of the social problems developing and the needs of the children attending school off campus.

In school we were taught how to deal with banking, checking, savings and each child had a "bank account" with Bethany. This bank account was managed by Bethany for each child – we were not allowed to carry cash! The amount of allowance was adjusted over the years (as reflected in the Board of Managers Minutes) as the overall budget allowed. Monies given to children were to be deposited into their account and was reimbursed when the child left Bethany.

With the independent living skills being taught today, many of the children are permitted to manage an off-campus paying job even while living at Bethany.

15. When did the Bethany Alumni Association form?

There is a marble plaque in the Archives Room – a remnant from the Chapel in the ADM Building – which reminds us of the formation of the Alumni Association. It was not always called the Alumni Association but rather the "Former Inmates of Bethany" (Yes, all institutionalized persons were called inmates at one time!) or the "Former Children of Bethany" – but from which a formal organization evolved.

Many people felt a need to gather together the former boys and girls, when they returned to Bethany for the annual Anniversary Day. This marble plaque dates to 1888, the first remembered gathering of former children, which reflects the love, the interest, and the loyalty of many of those who spent their youth at Bethany.

A similar group known as the "Sixteeners" was formed state wide among the graduates of the Pennsylvania Soldier's Orphans School program, which paralleled our early growth. We do not know exactly how many, or if any from Bethany participated, but we do know that more than 129 children from Bethany were soldiers orphans in that program.

As the Alumni Association expanded in numbers, they met twice a year: in June for a Homecoming Day celebration and again on Anniversary Day in August. The concern of this organization was shown through projects they undertook on behalf of Bethany: financial responsibility was assumed for definite projects such as the Yundt Memorial Gateway, the Spring covering and improvements, beautification of the swimming pool area, the planting of Memorial trees throughout the campus, the planning of the Centennial celebration and the support of the Archives Project.

A Steering Committee meets for planning every other month at Bethany. Other fund raises in the past included: Golf Tournament; dinner dance; and the recognition of alumni through their Alumni Award Program.

16. When were the first African-American children admitted to Bethany?

Original plans for the formation of an orphanage never addressed racial issue. But rather included Civil War soldier's orphans and the children of ministers in the German Reformed Church. Admittance policies changed from time to time but there were NO specific policies denying admittance to anyone.

Records, especially the Board of Managers Minutes, eventually only allowed use of initials to identify children being admitted, specific information about such admittance was kept by the social workers. So, there never a racial ID available and the archivist has a hard time identifying individuals. Census records may eventually record such because the race of an individual HAD TO BE indicated, but does not do so through the 1940's census records available at present.

Surveying several knowledgeable individuals over multiple generations of Bethany Alumni was focused on the late 1960's and early 1970's. We have identified one person: Edward Samuel Cobb who was admitted in 1968/ picture in 1969 Fall Echo/ was supposed to have graduated in 1970 but no pictures of such or listings that he graduated. A year later, Ollie Pleasant came to Bethany/ picture in 1970 Echo/ graduated from CWHS in 1970. Another person identified was Darlene Bledsoe came in 1969/ Ron Larkins came in 1972 and graduated in 1972. Others were to follow.

Information, here, was retrieved from "The Book of Life"; once again no recognition of any racial identification.

17. What is the oldest photograph in the Archives?

Not quite sure, but... photography was in its infancy during the Civil War, made famous by one Matthew Brady. The photographic method helps to identify the time period of the photograph. The first groupings are cased images

Daguerreotypes were the first photographic images – still life's taking more than 3 minutes to make. Most often each encased photograph had a metal image, with a mat frame, a cover glass, and a case. Most often were used between 1840 to 1844. I have not found any of these in the collection.

Ambrotypes appeared in the mid-1850s to about 1865. Instead of a metal surface, they had a piece of glass, coated with a photographic surface. They were backed with black velvet, paper or sometimes even a coating of black varnish.

Tintypes consisted of an iron plate, coated with a photographic medium, more durable and lighter than the previous ones. These were used from the 1860s into the mid-1930s.

Most of the oldest photographs that fit into paper prints group were Talbotypes – made from a paper negative but lacking a sharpness of the following prints, using a glass negative. The most popular type of paper print was the Card Photograph – a paper print on cardboard stock. We have lots of these, from "cartes de viste" to the "cabinet cars". We even have Stereographs, composed of 2 nearly identical images mounted side by side. I had to buy a viewer to see these.

We have an original photograph of Rev. Boehringer, the founder, who died in 1864, as well as his wife's mother, who died in 1872. Since these are paper photographs, I must assume they were copied from another type at some time in the past.

We have original photographs of Manderbach Springs Hotel, line with adults, which would date it to before 1867 when the Hotel was purchased for Bethany. There is another with many children in the scene which would pre-date the burning in 1881. We have card stock photos of the Manderbach Farm which was purchased in 1873. And we have portraits of many of the Board Members and our Superintendents.

The best we have are a series of STEREOGRAPHS of early life at Bethany. We have an extensive collection of photos dating to about 1899. (Look for the Nostalgia Booklet)

Most of the photographs which were stored in filing cabinets and boxes have been preserved in Mylar sleeves and plastic binders, and then grouped by subjects. (List is available)

18. Why is a bell displayed in our lobby?

George Gelbach was one of the original founding Board of Mangers members. With his passing in 1886, this bell was purchased by his daughter, Sophie, in his memory. It hung in the highest point of the original administration building since 1893, calling Bethany children to meals, worship, school, play and work.

This bell was later supplemented with a Seth Thomas clock, presented by the Hain's Church BOH, which chimed the hour and half-hour.

With the demolition of this building in 1973 and the construction of a new Administration Building, the Bethany Alumni placed the bell in the lobby, as a bridge between the old and the new. In May, 1975, George Barnhardt, the Bethany carpenter, constructed the frame for the bell, using wood from a walnut tree that grew on Bethany property.

19. What is the oldest building on the Bethany campus?

The original ADM and Santee Hall Buildings were the oldest on campus until they were demolished in 1973. The ADM Building was constructed in 1882; the 2nd barn was built in 1885 only to be superseded by another in 1939; Santee hall was built in 1891.

At present, FRICK COTTAGE, built in 1896, is the oldest structure on campus. This was known as the Frick Memorial Cottage built by Mrs. H. M. Housekeeper for a sum of \$6,000.00.

Leinbach Cottage is the oldest structure on campus still used to house residents.

The reservoir and water works were constructed the following year, 1897, with the Springhouse and pavilion following by 1900. The schoolhouse came in 1901 but has since been demolished. Next possible building was Leinbach Cottage built in 1907.

(We keep a printed timetable of building and events about Bethany as well as detailed booklets about each of the building, even though they may no longer exist.)

20. Did Bethany always have its own school on campus?

One of the premises of the founding of an orphanage was to try to create a normal family setting, which included the education of a child and, in turn, conduct a school in connection with the orphanage. Boys were expected to learn mostly industrial or farming skills while girls were prepared for marriage and running a household.

Records indicate that teachers were held in high regard and were always on the payroll. Although the original plans called for German as the language of choice (spoken and written), both English and German were used on an equal basis. Being a member of the Pennsylvania Soldiers' Orphans School Program affected the structure of the school program itself.

The move to Womelsdorf offered greater opportunities for education. Daily life shows a regime of 6 school hours in a day, divided into 4 periods. (3 for school and 1 for chores and work) The year 1901 brought about a real schoolhouse to the campus and made very specific courses of instruction. (Details can be found in Rev. Vandevere's book and also the

School binder in the Archives) Bethany provided an education up to a 2 year High School or until the age of 16 (later expanded to age 18).

Being at a social disadvantage by isolating its school, the Board of Managers agreed to abandon its 2 year HS and join the Pennsylvania Public School System in 1929 – children could now attend high school classes in Womelsdorf. In 1933, Bethany provided the state model for teaching children with special needs. (Details in the School binder, again) The merger of the Heidelberg Township School District with others to become the Conrad Weiser School District in 1954 brought about major changes. Eventually all classes moved off campus until arrangements could be made with the Conrad Weiser SD to provide special education classrooms at Bethany. Today a variety of alternative approaches are being used in conjunction with CWSD.

The schoolhouse stopped being used as a school in 1964 and was demolished in 1978, to make way for a new cottage (Keck). In 2000, a new Education Wing to the Adams Brumbaugh Center was dedicated. The ABC Child Care Program was begun in 1996 and continues still.

21. Did Bethany pay for a resident's college education?

Bethany has always place a high value on a general education – preparing a child for everyday life experiences. (See Rev. Vandevere's Book – Romance of Education, p. 61-72) In the original plans for creating an orphanage, Rev. Boehringer says – “a school shall be conducted in connected to the Home...industrial education for the boys...household duties for the girls.” Earliest records show that a teacher was always in employment at the Home.

The Pennsylvania Soldier's Orphans Schools were also designed to educate at least a minimum age of 16. Most children were released at age 16, until compulsory education expanded the time to 18 years. Children from State schools had an easier admission process to the State Normal Schools to become teachers – and this was continued into later years.

Classes and a classroom were a vital part of the Bethany educational program. In 1901, Bethany built its own schoolhouse. Daily life was focused around a specific amount of time in school, and another block for doing work – chores.

There has never been a doubt about the quality of education provided by Bethany. Gradual changes included changing school for an entire day; then sending children to Womelsdorf for a full high school education, as well as its social values; the joining of the Public School System in 1929; providing the first special education classes in the state in 1933; the joining with the Conrad Weiser School System – combining facilities and services offered.

An extremely large proportion of children from Bethany continued their education after leaving Bethany, both in academic schools, industrial schools or business education schools. An assistance program was initially provided through a no interest “demand note” loan – but not an outright gift. Later a former Bethanyite contributed \$50,000 to provide a Higher Education Program as a 50% gift/ 50% loan. A later contribution provided full grants for higher education, if one met the application and grade requirements. Still later, post graduate assistance was provided to both residents and employees of Bethany. (Details are available by request)

22. What musical opportunities have been offered at Bethany?

Rev. Yundt and Rev. More, both – along with Womelsdorf physician, Dr. Franklin Massey, seem to have played their record players out on campus to large gatherings – sharing their love of music and the classics. Anniversary Day programs, May Day, and holiday programs reflected many a musical presentation often planned in concert with everyday schooling.

In 1901, the school curriculum included music and art. A music teacher was hired. Opening exercises always included the singing of a wide variety of songs. Formal instruction extended to a tonette (like a small black pipe), piano and organ lessons. Other musical instruments provided a wide opportunity to advance to the band. The Bethany Band (no known time of origin) at first was only with boys under Homer Landis of Womelsdorf. They were called to play at Sunday School picnics and other summer events. A Bethany Glee Club for girls would eventually lead to the variety of choral groups at Bethany. The band discontinued with the merging with the Conrad Weiser School System but the campus choral groups have been maintained. There was even a full bell choir at one time.

Anyone who had an interest and desire to pursue a musical talent was offered the opportunity to learn and participate. The availability of a particular instrument for practice determined what someone might choose. Under the tutelage of Mrs. Mary Wallace Baum and later Gretchen Patti, musical participation reached a zenith no one anticipated. These programs, of course, would lead to further participation at Conrad Weiser schools, with many a participant reaching the County, District or state levels of performance.

Today a music therapy department is housed on campus.

23. What is More Memorial Park and why is someone buried there?

Located between the Bausman Church and Applegate Lodge, was at one time a grove of trees known as "Shady Nook." This was a quiet place for relaxation during the hot summer days when Rev. More was Superintendent.

In 1925, the Board of Managers permitted the burial of Rev. More, alongside his deceased wife, here on the Bethany grounds in recognition for their faithful services to Bethany. Mrs. More passed away during the influenza epidemic in 1919, while Rev. More died in 1930.

In 1950, Superintendent Rev. Vandevere undertook the creation of the MORE MEMORIAL PARK. Shady Nook was transformed into a park site, stone retaining walls, a fountain, and still later a water drinking fountain. Many children worked laboriously beside Rev. Vandevere to create this memorial to the More family.

In 2003, still more renovations were completed at the Memorial Park.

24. How did the cottages get their names?

(We have several Cottages Binders with details and pictures of the cottages. Most of them have been remodel/renovated or changed from the original structure.)

Let's review them in basic order of building:

SANTEE HALL: 1892; named for Charles Santee of Philadelphia in memory of his son, Joseph H. Santee. Cost \$18,000.

FRICK COTTAGE: 1896; a gift of Mrs. H. M. Housekeeper of Philadelphia as a memorial to her "sainted" parents. Cost \$6,000. (Oldest building still standing!)

LEINBACH COTTAGE: 1907; from the family of George A. Leinbach of Reading. Cost \$12,587.

DIETRICH COTTAGE: 1919; by D. Wellington Dietrich of Reading for his parents. Cost \$23,000.

MOYER COTTAGE: 1922; by Walter W. Moyer for his mother, Catherine. Cost \$23,000.

KNERR COTTAGE: 1926; by D. Frank Knerr to honor his parents. Cost \$40,000.

REED COTTAGE: 1932; a gift from Ira S. Reed.

BROBST COTTAGE: 1956; by Mrs. Francis H. Brobst of Reading for her daughter, Adel Naomi. Cost \$108,000.

ECK COTTAGE: 1959; by John B. Knorr & KNORR COTTAGE: 1959; by Dr. Wm. H. & Anna Bertha Eck. Special bequests; cost \$240,000 for both.

HESS COTTAGE: 1965; Cost \$137,000.

DUBBS COTTAGE: 1967; Cost \$140,000.

KECK COTTAGE: 1980;

There were other structures or building (not cottages) named for specific persons. (See Superintendent's Binders and Cottages Binder for details)

YUNDT MEMORIAL GATEWAY: 1910; to recognize Supt. Rev. Thomas M. Yundt,

APPLEGATE LODGE: 1911; to house the Superintendent; by Mrs. W. F. More, for her parents, George & Esther Applegate.

REBER'S COTTAGE (also known as the HOSPITAL or INFIRMARY): 1912; named for James T. Reber, Board President during time of epidemic.

BAUSMAN MEMORIAL CHURCH: 1913; named for Rev. Bausman, President of the Board and service of 44 years to Bethany. (Burned and rebuilt following year)

PUMPHOUSE: by Albert R. Laubach and children.

LEBO'S FARM: 1932; farm of 60 acres purchased from Calvin Lebo.

MORE MEMORIAL PARK: 1950; gravesite and Shady Nook Grove for Supt. Rev. More and his wife (by special permission of the Board).

PETERS LODGE: 1959; by Jennie Peters estate from Bethlehem/ ZARTMAN LODGE: 1959; by Francis Zartman of Shamokin Farmer's Lodges.

DUBBS SWIMMING POOL: 1960; by T. W Dubbs of Lancaster.

VANDEVERE DRIVE: 1964; named for Supt. Rev. Raymond Vandevere who helped build the original roadway.

SMITH LODGE: 1968; The new lodging for the Superintendent.

BUTKOVSKY-WAGNER-SANTEE HALL: 1975; to replace the ADM & ordinal Santee Hall. Rev. Dr. Edward O. Butkovsky, former resident & Board Member 20 years/ Judge Wagner.

ADAMS-BRUMBAUGH CENTER: 1988 EDUCATION WING: 2000/ Supt. Rev. Garnet Adams & Rev. Leroy Brumbaugh, Board Member.

DEIFENDERFER (extension to Main building): 1999; for Dr. Paul & Minnie Diefenderfer.

HENNING CENTER: 1999; for Supt. Rev. Harold Henning.

DESEREE TELLADO MEMORIAL GARDEN: 2005.

25. Why Did Bethany Build its own Hospital (Infirmary)?

A major diphtheria epidemic in 1911 showed that Bethany didn't know how to deal with such a problem. The result was that two children died. (We have written records in the Archives showing what it was like to live through this epidemic through notes written by a nurse in charge!) (We also have a special binder acknowledging children who died in Bethany's care – some being buried in Zion's Church Cemetery in Womelsdorf.)

The Board of Managers decided the problem of isolating children in one cottage or building or another was not an adequate solution – so they decided to erect a special building on campus– an infirmary or hospital – to deal with those problems. In 1912, the Infirmary was dedicated to the many doctors and nurses of the Reformed Church, who assisted in time of trials. A full-time nurse was hired and a local doctor was always on call. (Dr. Harry Good, of Womelsdorf, was one such doctor.)

This structure was not always a hospital – being used as a cottage – it was known as Reber's Cottage, after James Reber, a member of the Board of Managers during this time of the epidemic crisis. Later, the dentist office was also relocated from the schoolhouse to the Infirmary.

26. TELL ME ABOUT THE STONE GATEWAY AT THE OTHER ENTRANCE?

When Bethany was first founded here at Womelsdorf, most people traveled by railroad. The road from Womelsdorf was only a dirt path. Known as Womelsdorf Station, there was a hotel at the railroad and people would have to walk up a gravel road to get to the Main Building.

By 1910, the Association of Former Children (now known as the Bethany Alumni Association) passed a resolution to erect an imposing gateway entrance to Bethany to honor the memory of Superintendent Rev. Yundt. It was originally to be built about 100 feet west of the existing entrance, the sidewings and pillars created from stones from the Bethany mountains. A better roadway was expected to be completed at this time also. The cost was more than anticipated so family and friends made a united effort to meet the demand.

The gateway was dedicated as the Yundt Memorial Gateway in 1910. There is a memorial plaque located on one of the pillars.

In 1928, the improved cement highway from Womelsdorf to the railroad and Ryeland required a relocation of the Gateway. At this same time, the hotel and an adjacent piece of property were bought by Bethany. The hotel was eventually demolished by 1931 and eventually the railroad station also. (Details are found in a special album about the railroad, the entrance and the hotel)

Today, most people come to Bethany from Womelsdorf through the tunnel under the railroad. At this location another imposing sign greets the newcomer to Bethany as 1863 Bethany Road. Recently improvements were made to widen the Ryeland Road portion.

Under Rev. Vandevere, the main road from the Gateway was widened, improved and landscaped with an avenue of oaks and was renamed VANDEVERE DRIVE to honor him.

