

## The Buildings of Bethany

This will be our second installment looking at the buildings of Bethany, for July we will look at Santee Hall - 1891, Leinbach Cottage – 1907, and Dietrich Cottage – 1919.

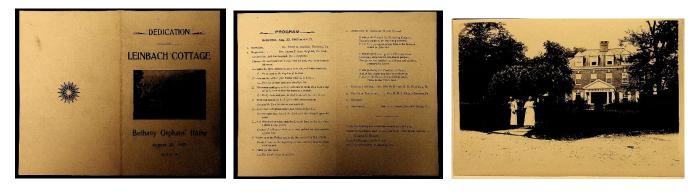
## SANTEE HALL 1891

On July 29, 1915, the Reading Times reported, "Largest Bequest to Bethany Home" when \$10,000 was given to the Bethany Orphans' Home by one Dr. Santee of Philadelphia. The father had previously given\$2,000 and now the son followed with the additional bequeath. According to the article, "The Santee name is also honorably represented among the contributors to the hospital, the Bausman Memorial church and other generous gifts at different times." (1915)



## LEINBACH COTTAGE 1907

In 1906 after a "liberal" contribution from the widow and daughter of George A. Leinbach, of Reading, PA of \$2,000 to put towards a cottage for 20-24 boys and girls ages 6-10. According to our records Mr. Leinbach willed the \$2,000 but died within 30 days of writing such, thus an invalid bequest for charity. The family then waived the technicalities and honored the memory of their father. Leinbach Cottage was completed and formally dedicated at the 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day on August 1907. Total costs without furnishings was \$12,587.80.







## DIETRICH COTTAGE 1919

Out of the Vandevere Book we learn about the formation of Dietrich Cottage on the Bethany Campus; the main Administration building built in 1882 housed more than 60 boys after the girls moved into Santee Hall in 1891. The range in age was from 8 to 18 – not conducive to good discipline nor healthy standard of living. The older boys kept different hours working on the farm and other early AM chores. The very youngest of children were housed at Frick Cottage.

Supt. More brought this fact to the Board and a decision was made to build a home for the older boys in a separate cottage in the western side of the campus, nearer the farm. This construction was financed by Mr. Welington Dietrich of Reading, PA, as a memorial to his parents.

This new cottage was dedicated on Sunday, September 12, 1919. The first house parents were none other than Mr. & Mrs. Ray S. Vandevere, who eventually became our 9<sup>th</sup> Superintendent in 1944.





