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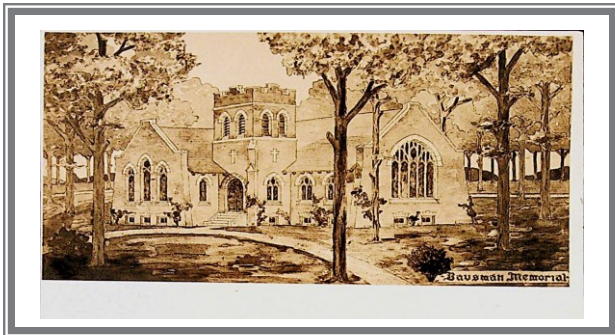
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BETHANY ARCHIVES NEWS

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JOHN SCHICK Connections to Bethany Orphans' Home

I am constantly amazed that the more we think we know, the less we actually do know! Little bits of trivia uncover still more amazing adventures. While watching the McCain funeral at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. I recalled a story back in time worthwhile explaining weird coincidences in Bethany's past. Stay with me! In the early 1860's of the Civil War, our founder Rev. Emanuel Boehringer was creating a missionary church in Richmond VA among northern sympathizers. While forming this church his 1st confirmation is listed as one John M. Schick.



This same John Schick's family were among many northern sympathizers and Rev. Boehringer who migrated north with the onslaught of the Civil War. But John Schick had other important things to do with his life, including dedication as a minister in the "Dutch" Reformed Church. Here at a small (Grace) Reformed Church in Washington, D.C., he became the "personal" pastor and friend of Theodore Roosevelt during his Presidency and Vice-Presidency. But the Rev. John Schick died following an auto accident on 11 Sept. 1914. (All this has been documented

by the Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University.

Rev. John Schick was the guest of Bethany during the 1906 Anniversary Day. There is no record of what he said or might have said except the acknowledgment of the confirmation by our founder Rev. Boehringer. (This event is confirmed in the biography of Rev. Benjamin Bausman, President of the Bethany Board of Managers.)

Back to the National Cathedral: chartered through the Episcopal Church in 1893; the foundations were dedicated by Teddy Roosevelt in 1902; Roosevelt spoke at its formal dedication in 1903; but the Cathedral has taken years to complete – finally in 1990. If you have never seen this magnificent structure, get to it in D.C.

NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER

While rummaging amongst the treasures in our Bethany safe, a paper fell out – old, yellowed and written in German. While taking this item to the Berks History Center and enlisting the assistance of the librarian Lisa, Mr. John Printz was identified and able to translate the document; it becomes one of the oldest documents in our collection which relates to our founding. This letter was a summary, by Rev. Helffrich, of the meetings in Fogelsville, to discuss a potential orphanage. The letter then details discussions of a Superintendent and a Board of Directors and the initial costs to begin such a venture. Our history discusses such events but with no proof? We now have the documentation for our history. This item is available for inspection, at your pleasure! History and our work never ceases to amaze me!

JENNIFER'S CORNER...OF THE ARCHIVES AT BETHANY

Buddy the Raccoon

Recently I had the sincere pleasure of meeting with Robert Klinger (1954-1966) to talk about his time at Bethany and to learn more about his adorable friend Buddy the Raccoon. Buddy came to live on the Bethany Campus in 1961 as a rescue who was taken in by Robert and the family of boys living in Eck Cottage.

Working with Bethany's Carpenter an outside hutch was created for him to live in. It was large enough for Robert to sit inside and visit with Buddy daily. Buddy lived on the campus for approximately two and a half years that is until he was ready to find his mate; prompting Robert to release him.

In speaking to Robert I was very pleased to learn how the campus embraced this lonely abandoned creature and made him one of their own. Reverend Adams was said to be cautious but felt it would ultimately be a good experience for the children.

WHAT HAVE I BEEN UP TO AT BETHANY...

I have always had an interest in less fortunate children, it started at a young age when I became obsessed with Milton S. and Catherine Hershey and the Hershey Industrial School (okay I just really love chocolate) and then continued with research on the Carlisle School; it seemed a natural fit that I would find a home at Bethany Children's home working with the history and finding ways for it to be preserved while continuing to tell your stories.

My time began with learning about the facility and deciding where to dive in; one of the first things we had to do was to improve our storage of the artifacts. To do that we identified our Post Card and Newsletter collections in their entirety and began to digitize and accession them into our archival software program, PastPerfect. As of my reporting to you today both collections mentioned are completely digitized and are available for viewing should you come to visit our little corner of the world.

In addition to digitizing the Bethany Echo/Echo collection, I have begun really diving into the meat of each newsletter earning vital information about the community that has thrived here on the Bethany Campus and how over the years it has evolved. I look forward to learning and reporting much more to all of you!

WHAT ABOUT YOU...

Is there anything you would like to know more about and would enjoy seeing in our newsletter?

Do you remember Robert and Buddy taking walks around campus? I have it on very good authority that he was quite the attraction when families visited on Sundays.

If you have any memories or stories, please reach out to share with me, I cannot wait to hear them!
Archives@bethanyhome.org



Bethany's pet raccoon "Bud" is pictured here with his owner Bob Klinger and an admirer from Frick Cottage, Ralph Long.

In the wise words of Theodore Roosevelt, "The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future."