



Bethany Children's Home Archive Newsletter

Excitement... is what we feel when we are able to learn something new about a subject related to the history of our campus; this month's newsletter will be dedicated to that discovery and the information we will now add to our historical archive. We return to the auspicious life and times of Reverend Benjamin Bausman D.D., LL.D, the first Manager of Bethany's Board.

The Grand Old Man of The Reformed Church (1824-1909)

January 28, 1824 would be the birth date of future Reverend Benjamin Bausman, he was the last child born during his parents union, "During a period of eighteen years, nine children were born to them, eight sons and one daughter. I came last, the Benjamin of the tribe. All grew up to adult years. One died at nearly forty years of age. The rest reaching greater ages." (Ranck, p. 18) The family lived in what today is possibly the oldest house standing in Lancaster, 121-123 East King Street. It is nearly impossible to do justice to the life of Rev. Bausman in our short newsletter and if you are interested in learning more, we have available for review in the Archives library: *The Life of the Reverend Benjamin Bausman D.D., LL.D. By, Rev. Henry H. Ranck, 1912.*

We will focus on our relationship with Rev. Bausman, to give you an idea of his life and service:

1846 – 1851 Marshall College

1853 – 1856 Reformed Church, Lewisburg

1856 – 1857 Europe and the Holy Land

1857 – 1859 Lewisburg

1859 – 1866 Editor of the Messenger

1859 – 1863 Zion's Reformed Church, Chambersburg

1863 – 1872 First Reformed Church, Reading

1873 – 1900 St. Paul's Memorial Reformed Church, Reading

Married Miss Amelia Bingaman on April 6, 1875, they had no children during their marriage.

1884 & 1886 Travels in Europe and California

1867 – 1881 Editor of the Guardian

1867 – 1903 Editor of the Hausfreund

1865 – 1909 Board Manager Bethany Orphan's Home

1900 – 1909 The Associate Pastorate St. Paul's, Church

Reverend Bausman would find his eternal peace on May 9, 1909

What's in a Name: Rev. Benjamin Bausman and Bethany Orphans' Home – 1865 until his death in 1909; Why are we named Bethany? Did you know there are two reasons?

Of all the memorable things that he did in his life one that was closest to his heart was the Home, elected as the first Board Manager in 1865, he would hold this position for over forty-four years. This commission was the longest he held in his lifetime with unending dedication and passion.

Reading letters and diary entries regarding his time as the Board Manager, shows just how deeply moved he was by the mission of the Home, and it is in these musings we learn more about our first name change. We had been known as, "The Orphans' Home of the Shepherd of the Lambs," (a mouthful as noted by him) he suggested a shorter inspirational name after recalling a visit to a German Orphans' asylum called Bethany. In his diary he notes, "I named the baby." (Ranck, p. 287) Here is where we learn that not only are there touching biblical associations for our name, but also that Rev. Bausman had a large hand in the renaming of the institution to a shorter moniker.

Distressing Event: Home of the Bethany Orphan's burns in a fire...Rev. Bausman's call to action is immediate.

On the 11th of November 1881, Reverend Bausman received a telegram from Superintendent Albright, "Our home burned down soon after midnight. Children are safe. Bring up Executive Committee." (Ranck, p. 294) He quickly composed himself and got several of the Board of Managers to the site and several days later he published this in the Messenger:

I take the liberty to say that we will begin the erection of the new building as soon as expedient. For this purpose, we shall need from \$8, 000 to \$10,000 more than the insurance will amount to. The ordinary collections in congregations are needed to meet current expenses. The bulk of the building fund will have to be raised in sums of from \$100 to \$1,000. As in the first purchase of this property so now again, we go forward, prayerfully trusting for the necessary help in God and in the good people in whose name and behalf, we act. We are perplexed, but not in despair; cast down, but not destroyed.

The full Board soon met, and a week later he wrote again in the Messenger:

I could heartily wish that all these dear friends could have my place for the last Ten days, if for no other reason than to taste the sweetness of kindly, practical sympathy in passing through such an ordeal. Telegrams and letters came pouring sympathy into my heart and that of the Superintendent of the Home.

Loss of a Dear Friend: The dear Reverend's dedication right up until the end is evident...

During his forty-four years as the Manager of Bethany's Board they would record that in those years he missed only nine quarterly meetings due to illness or unavoidable previous engagements. He was so loved by the Board that when in 1905 he begged to retire, due to his advanced age, they wouldn't hear of

it. He continued in his faith and dedication right up until his last breath, his last meeting with the Board of Managers was one short month before he left this earth to reside in his heavenly home.

“Dr. Bausman was Bethany’s friend. Yea, he was more than a friend. Of George Washington it was beautifully said that Providence had left him childless that his country might call him father. So, we may say of the departed: Providence had left him childless so that Bethany and her children might call him father. Dr. Bausman was in very truth as a father to Bethany. Though he did not bring her to being, he became greatly attached to her in her helpless infancy, and he it was who gave the child its name, that name so beautiful and so full of suggestive inspiration to Christlike service. With fondest devotion he planned for Bethany, watched over her, labored in her, and the furtherance of her interests was the burden of his prayers.” (Ranck, p. 312)

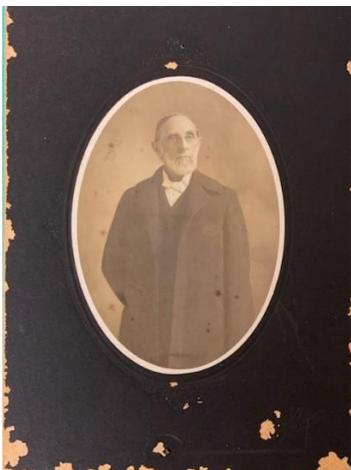
After his passing his Will and the intentions for his estate were made public and, in his benevolence, and love he left \$1000.00 to the home upon his passing. Later, his wife Amelia would follow suit and leave a significant amount to the Home.

A Fitting Tribute: 1913 would bring the 50th Anniversary of the Home and the erection of Bausman Memorial Chapel.

In 1913 a fitting tribute to the man who made it his lifes work to serve the children of Bethany received a fitting tribute in the Bausman Memorial Chapel, sadly due to a defective flue the building would burn to the ground in 1915, only to be completely rebuilt and rededicated in his name in 1916, as a memorial to the “Sainted Man of the Reformed Church.” (Vandevere, P. 80)

What we learned about Bausman Memorial this week is that each Stained-Glass window in the church is dedicated to an achievement in Reverend Bausman’s life and gives you a glimpse into what he accomplished during his time among us on this earthly plain as well as the sincere appreciation and devotion to his memory that the Bethany family and community had for him.

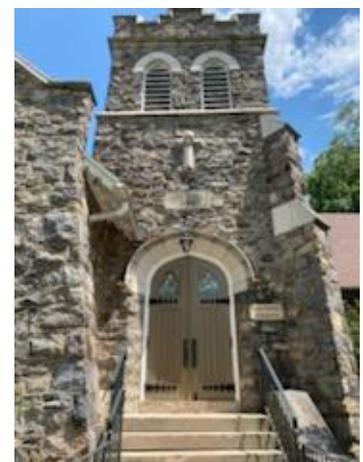
Please enjoy pictures of the stained-glass windows in Bausman Memorial and of Reverend Benjamin Bausman and his wife Amelia.



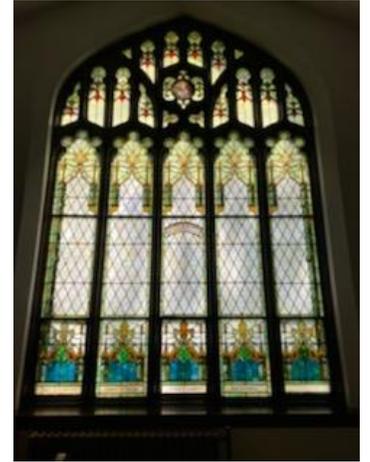
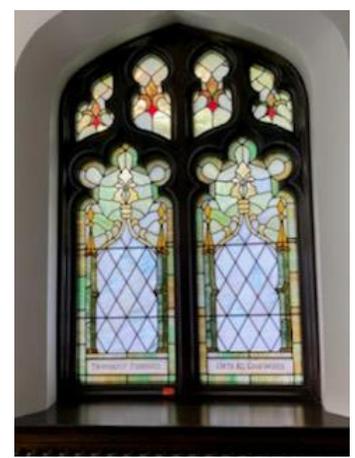
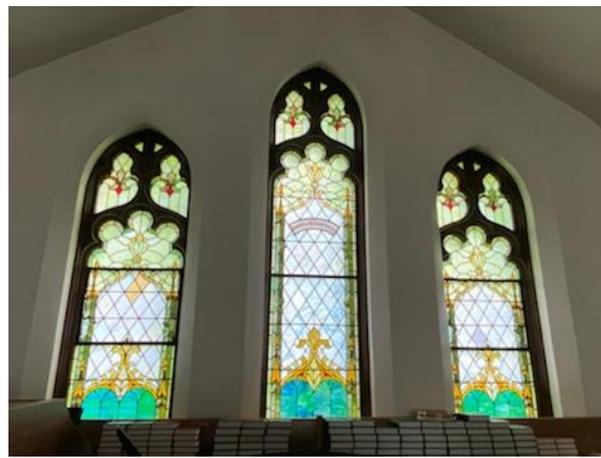
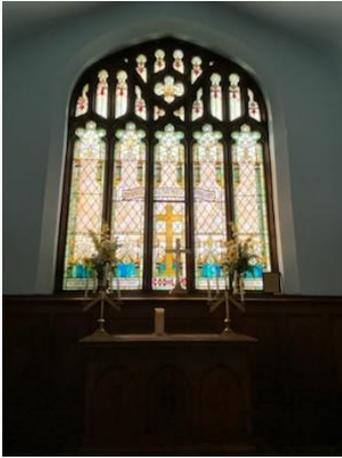
Reverend Benjamin Bausman



Mrs. Amelia Bausman



Exterior Bausman Memorial



Save The Date:

Alumni Appreciation Day, Saturday September 25th beginning at 11:00 A.M. in conjunction with our final Summer Concert Series to begin at 1:00 P.M., please reach out to get your personal invitation! JKoch@bethanyhome.org

Next Month's Subject: Himmelreich's Grove, please forward your memories to the archivist. October will be campus ghost stories, please forward your stories, we love to read them.