

A HISTORY

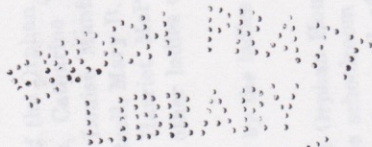
OF
THE ORPHAN HOUSE
AND EPISCOPAL
FREE SCHOOL
SOCIETY
OF
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
FREDERICKTOWN
MARYLAND
1838-1915



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THE EARLY HISTORY OF THIS HOME, that has sheltered so many little children, is best given by one, who, in the days of long ago, was deeply interested in the work and who was then Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Richard Potts. In his report to the Board of Managers and adopted by them, at their meeting February 11th, 1856, he writes as follows:

“The season for soliciting contributions in aid of the permanent fund of the Orphan House and Episcopal Free School Society of All Saints’ Church, Fredericktown, being at hand, it is deemed appropriate to submit a succinct history of its past and present condition.

“As far back as the year 1837, the ladies of the Church having combined by means of a Sewing Society, to attempt this work of charity, applied to the Legislature and procured an Act of Incorporation more effectually to realize their object. In May 1838, a constitution in strict accordance with Legislative authority was adopted, setting forth as its object, ‘Charitable aid to destitute female orphans and a free school for the education of females.’

“Whilst the government and regulation of the institution and disposal of the funds are in the absolute control of the ladies, the title of all their property is vested in a Board of Trustees for conservation and improvement.

“The earliest and most prominent fruit of their labor of love, was the acquirement of an eligible lot and the improvement of it by a chaste and convenient Orphan edifice, creditable to their taste and an ornament to the city. The lot was a generous gift of a pious and much beloved lady of the Congregation, Mrs. Eleanor Potts, at the cost of One thousand dollars; and the structure accomplished by the proceeds of the Sewing Society, aided by liberal contributions of the members of All Saints’ at a cost between Three and Four thousand dollars.

"The first patron and president and three of the first Board of Managers have left the scene of their earthly labors for another of higher and nobler enjoyment.

"The Orphans admitted to the present time are sixteen, of whom six, after suitable training in religion, morals and usefulness, have been judiciously placed in respectable families and ten now form a happy group, who modestly appeal to and gratefully thank their benefactors every recurring season of worship in the Church.

"In 1844 a plan for a permanent fund was adopted and successfully conducted by the ladies until 1848, when the fund then amounting to Three thousand, two hundred and ninety-seven dollars, was placed with the Board of Trustees, by whom subsequent annual collections have been invested, raising the fund on the first day of January, 1856, to the sum of Five thousand, three hundred and fifty-one dollars, fifty cents, including a legacy of Two hundred dollars from Mr. Andrew McCleery and four shares of Central Bank Stock from Mrs. Dill, a respected member of the Church. The investments are Four thousand, six hundred and fifty-one dollars and fifty cents in the Savings Institution, and Seven hundred dollars in the Central Bank. The increase last year from all sources was Five hundred dollars, including Mrs. Dill's legacy and one donation of One hundred dollars. By liberal collections for a few years it is hoped this humane Institution may become self supporting.

"The Congregation being in a prosperous condition, a new and beautiful Church having been erected, in a short time will be ready for consecration, but whatever gratulation may be allowable upon this result, the most sparkling gem in their diadem will ever be this hopeful nursery and home of the little ones who were eminently the delight of the Saviour upon earth.

"The founding of Scholarships has proved a valuable auxiliary in Colleges and might be available in this Institution by individual responsibility for an Orphan, at an annual cost of Fifty dollars, which will entitle the selection of an orphan as long as the contribution is continued.

"May this suggestion commend itself to the hearts of

our people and the sweet remembrance of duty be their abiding pleasure."

In the year 1833, before the incorporation of the Orphan House, the ladies established a free-school, known as The School of Industry, and it was opened on July 11th of that year with eight scholars. This School was continued many years in connection with the Orphan House, and January 2, 1843, was reported to be full and in good condition.

The charter members of the Orphan House and first managers were: Eleanor Potts, Catharine W. Ross, Ann Potts, Phillipina (Philissia) Dill, Louisa Mantz, Elizabeth Richardson, Maria Tyler, Ruth Baltzell, Mary B. Tyler, Ruth D. Swearingen, Fanny McPherson, Harriet McPherson, Maria Birely and Susan B. Hanson and other ladies of All Saints' Church, in Fredericktown.

The first meeting held by the ladies to adopt the Constitution, is as follows :

"The members of the Orphan House and Episcopal Free School Society, met in the schoolroom on Monday the 7th of May, 1838, pursuant to notice, and after adopting the foregoing constitution, proceeded to elect a Board of Managers for the present year, having first appointed Mrs. Marshall, Miss McGowan and Miss T. Ross, judges of election; the ballots being counted, the following ladies were elected :

"Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. C. W. Ross, Mrs. Baltzell, Mrs. Mary B. Tyler, Mrs. Fanny McPherson, Miss L. Mantz, Mrs. R. Potts, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Trapnell, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Hanson and Miss R. Swearingen.

"The Board of Managers immediately assembled and elected as Officers the following ladies :

"Mrs. Eleanor Potts, President; Mrs. Davis Richardson, Vice-President; Miss Louisa Mantz, Treasurer; Miss Eliza McGowan, Secretary.

"Mrs. Eleanor Potts having declined, Mrs. Catharine W. Ross was elected in her place, and Miss McGowan also declining, Miss L. Mantz was elected."

Mrs. Catharine W. Ross

MRS. CATHARINE WORTHINGTON ROSS, wife of William Ross and daughter of Colonel Baker Johnson and Catharine Worthington, his wife, was born at "Summer Hill," near Annapolis, Md., September 21, 1785. She was the first President of the Orphan House; was elected May 7, 1838 and continued to fill that office until her death. After a long life of usefulness, she passed away May 1, 1864, at her home in Frederick, Md. The Secretary of the Board of Managers, Miss Eleanor M. Potts, at that time says, "The Managers also expressed a grateful remembrance of the untiring industry of their President during the eight years previous to the opening of the Orphan House, in devising and executing plans to procure funds by work made and sold for the benefit of the Institution, which labor of love only ceased with her well spent life. To her efforts in this way we are mainly indebted for the building our orphans now occupy. But for her strong faith our hearts would sometimes have failed. Ever bright and cheerful, she cheered those who might have yielded to discouragement."

During the years 1837-1838 the ladies realized by a Fair, Three hundred and seventy dollars and from private sale of articles made by them, Six hundred and seventy-two dollars and forty-two cents.

By deed bearing date April 13, 1838, Mrs. Eleanor Potts conveyed the lot of ground on which the Orphan House now stands to "The Trustees of the Orphan House and Episcopal Free School Society of All Saints' Church, Fredericktown," and the building was erected in 1839 by a carpenter named George A. Cole. The lot fronts on Church Street sixty-two feet and is one hundred and eighty-one feet in depth. It was bought from "The Vestry and Council of the Lutheran Church, Fredericktown," the deed bearing date April 2, 1838.

At the second meeting of the Board of Managers, held on July 10, 1838, there were present: Mrs. Catharine W. Ross,

President; Mrs. Davis Richardson, Vice-President; Miss Louisa Mantz, Treasurer; Miss Matilda Ross, Secretary; Mrs. Daniel Hughes, Mrs. John Baltzell, Mrs. William Tyler, Mrs. Wm. B. Tyler, Mrs. John McPherson, Jr., and Mrs. Richard Potts.

On motion the following resolution was passed, "Resolved, that the funds of the Society, denominated the Orphan House and Free School Society of All Saints' Church, be placed in the hands of the trustees for the erection of an Orphan House and School Room."

The original trustees of the Orphan House were: Richard Potts, Davis Richardson, Basil Norris, Richard H. Marshall and William J. Ross.

The Scholarships mentioned in the report given by Mr. Potts, in 1856, were that each person agreeing to pay Fifty dollars per year for an orphan should have the right to place an orphan in the house during the time that such subscription should be continued. Until an orphan was selected, the annual sum was to be added to the permanent fund, the Scholarship to be recorded in the Subscriber's name.

At the quarterly meeting of the Board of Managers held November 6, 1838, Miss Matilda Ross having declined serving as Secretary, Mrs. Richard Potts was elected in her place. "It was resolved at the meeting that the School shall be kept in the upper lecture room of the Episcopal Church until the completion of the Orphan House."

In January 1847, Rev. Joshua Peterkin, rector of All Saints' Church, made a strong appeal to the members of the congregation in behalf of the Orphan House. He said in part:

"This very week the Managers have been applied to to receive three orphans into the Asylum. A family of eleven children have been left without father, without mother, without friends who have means sufficient to provide for their wants. Three of these children are girls, from four to eight years of age. The Managers, though not altogether prepared, have determined to receive them forthwith—so, that with

Mrs. Ann Graham Ross

MRRS. ANN GRAHAM ROSS, wife of Worthington Ross and daughter of Colonel John McPherson, Junior, and Frances Russell Johnson, his wife, was born May 17, 1827, in Frederick, Md. She was the daughter-in-law of Mrs. Catharine W. Ross and like her was deeply interested in the Institution and for many years gave her energies and talents to the management of it. On account of ill health she resigned as President in May 1894, but continued as a member of the Board until her death, which occurred November 17, 1896, at her home in Frederick, Md. She was prominent in good works, deeply interested in everything pertaining thereto and left the bright memory of a Christian life, worthy of emulation.

At a meeting of the Board April 1, 1867, the Managers decided from that date to provide everything needed for the house, feeling that arrangement would be more satisfactory to Matron and Managers, than the former plan of boarding the orphans with the Matron at a fixed price. Two managers to attend to the duties of providing everything required for one month, pay the bills and present them at the monthly meetings. The first two managers appointed were Mrs. Ann G. Ross and Miss Eleanor M. Potts, and this arrangement has continued to the present time.

A large portion of the wall on the alley was washed down by the flood of July 24, 1868.

In the latter part of the year 1887, the addition to the house was completed and the ladies expressed their appreciation of the personal supervision given the matter by Dr. William Crawford Johnson. In 1888 the new vestibule and steps were finished under the direction of Mr. Cyrus Helfenstein and Dr. William Crawford Johnson, and the appearance of the house much improved by the change. In 1892 the property of Mrs. George W. Delaplaine was purchased and a portion of that lot taken into the Orphan House enclosure.

The following legacies have been left for the support of the home by those interested in its welfare :

Mrs. Phillipina Dill, 4 shares of Bank Stock, \$50 per share.

Mr. Andrew McCleery, \$200.

Mr. Richard Potts, \$700.

Mrs. Matilda Dorsey, \$500. Net proceeds \$470.

Mr. George Murdoch, \$2000.

Miss Eleanor M. Potts, \$1800. Net proceeds \$1755.

Mr. Richard H. Marshall, \$500.

Miss Eliza Pettingall, \$50.

Miss Ann P. Marshall, \$5000. She also provided for the care of the lot in Mount Olivet Cemetery, belonging to the Orphan House.

Mr. John C. Englebrecht, \$2000. Net proceeds, \$1950.

Mr. Charles S. Nichols, net proceeds \$1333.34.

Miss Virginia Brunner, \$3000.

The following gentlemen have served as Treasurers of the Board of Trustees: Mr. Basil Norris, the first Treasurer, was followed by Mr. Richard Potts, who held the office until his death in 1865. Mr. Francis Markell was then elected and served for eighteen years until his death in May, 1883. Mr. Cyrus G. Helfenstein took charge of the funds for a few months and then they passed into the hands of Dr. William Crawford Johnson, who held the office from December, 1883, until December, 1895. Mr. F. Columbus Knott served for the following year and in 1897 Mr. Edwin C. Markell became Treasurer and has been faithfully carrying on the work to the present time.

The name of Mr. Basil Norris appears upon some of the first bills of the Orphan House, but he probably held the office of Treasurer for a short time, as Mrs. Ann G. Ross, writing to the Board of Managers, June 5, 1882, speaks of "the only two Treasurers we have ever had, Mr. Richard Potts and Mr. Francis Markell."

There was also a Sewing Society held at the Orphan House on Saturday afternoons where the children of the town met together with their mothers.

Mrs. Charles W. Ross

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Board of Managers, held May 7, 1894, Mrs. Charles W. Ross was elected the third President of the Orphan House. Mrs. Cornelia R. Ross, wife of Charles Worthington Ross and daughter of George M. Potts and Cornelia Ringgold, his wife, was born May 7, 1839, at "Fountain Rock" near Frederick, Md. She married the grandson of Mrs. Catharine W. Ross, and it is interesting to note that her election occurred on the anniversary of her birth and just fifty-six years after the election of the first President, May 7, 1838. Mrs. Ross is now surrounded by children and grandchildren who can rise up and "call her blessed"; she being a faithful and devoted mother. She has also endeared herself, by her loving thoughtfulness, to those who have come in close touch with her and enjoyed her loyal friendship. She has been a Manager of the Orphan House for thirty-one years and is now completing her twenty-first year as its President, bearing with her the best wishes of her co-workers for her health and happiness.

Under the Divine Blessing, during all these years the Angel of Death has entered but once into the home, claiming one of the brightest and most attractive of our little ones, Bertha V. Clary, who died June 16, 1898. Services were held in All Saints' Church, Saturday morning, June 18, and when the hymn "Safely, safely gathered in," was sung, it was felt she was indeed "Far from sorrow, far from sin."

The first physicians of the home are not known, but later Dr. George Johnson took the children under his care and when he retired from practice in 1890, his son, Dr. William Crawford Johnson, took up the good work, in which he had been assisting his father for some years, and he is still the faithful physician of the home. In 1910 a heating plant was placed in the house. Until that year stoves had been used.

It is with sorrow that we record the death of one of our efficient managers, Mrs. John U. Markell, who passed away February 6th of this year, and who will be greatly missed by the Board.

The present Board of Managers are: Mrs. Charles W. Ross, President; Mrs. William P. Maulsby, Vice-President; Miss M. Louise Johnson, Secretary; Miss Anna S. Thomas, Treasurer; Miss Eleanor M. Johnson, Registrar; Mrs. William Crawford Johnson, Mrs. Joseph D. Baker, Miss Mary Catharine Johnston, Mrs. Henry Williams, Miss Mollie M. Kemp, Mrs. Charles B. Trail and Mrs. Thomas B. Hayward.

It is pleasant to note that Mrs. Charles W. Ross is a granddaughter, Miss Eleanor M. Johnson, a great-granddaughter and Mrs. Henry Williams a great-niece of Mrs. Eleanor Potts, who gave the ground for the Orphan House, and Mrs. Joseph D. Baker and Miss Mary Catharine Johnston are great-nieces of Miss Louisa Mantz, who was the first Treasurer of the Board and for many years held that office.

There are two ladies, Miss Hester A. Posey and Miss Rosa Fearhake, who are now passing the evening of their lives in the Home for the Aged and who recall with pleasure, the happy hours spent in the Orphan House. Miss Posey with her sister, Mrs. Courtois, and two children, Clementine and Theodore went there in 1847, taking charge of the house. Miss Posey resigned her position in 1854 and the following is recorded in the minutes of the Board, February 6, 1854: "This day the Board was notified of the resignation of Miss Posey, the Matron, to take effect April 1st. Nearly seven years have passed since Miss Posey took charge of the Orphan House. The managers have had great reason to be thankful for the prosperous condition of the Institution during the first seven years of its existence and hope they may be as greatly favored in the choice they shall make of one to fill the place of the present very efficient Matron." Miss Posey returned to the home in 1869 and continued as teacher until 1874, when on account of her health she again resigned.

There was also a Sewing Society held at the Orphan House on Saturday afternoons, where the children of the town met together and were taught to sew and knit. Miss Rosa Fearhake was one of these children and she too shares with Miss Posey, "the light of other days," the happy days of the past.

In this world and today there are many women whose early childhood was passed in this home and upon reaching womanhood went out to take their places in the world, but who still retain bright memories of the days of long ago.

It is with affection that we think of the little band of faithful women, who started and carried on for a number of years this noble work. They have passed to their eternal rest and we have entered into the full realization of their long cherished plans. We acknowledge with deep gratitude the bountiful blessings of our Heavenly Father in the past and go forward in faith and hope, praying for His Divine Blessing upon our future work, that we may be instrumental in guiding many little feet into the paths of right and duty.

*"O little feet! that such long years
Must wander on through hopes and fears."*

Constitution

of the

Orphan House and Episcopal Free School Society

of

All Saints' Church, Fredericktown.

1838

1.—The object of this Society shall be to render charitable aid, as far as may be in their power, to destitute female Orphans, and to establish a free school for the education of Females.

2.—All contributions, donations, gifts, grants, devises and bequests of all kind of property, estate and effects shall be held and vested in the Trustees of the Society, incorporated by Act of Assembly, and their successors in office elected in the manner provided by said act, subject to the control and direction of the Managers as to disposition and application thereof.

3.—The Officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary and such other officers as may be deemed necessary to be elected by the Managers, from their own number or other members of the Society.

4.—There shall be an election for twelve Managers on the first Monday of May in every year, who shall have power to fill all vacancies in their own board, and in the board of Trustees of the Society, and to elect all officers of said Society, to provide for and regulate the election or admission of Members, the condition and evidence of Membership, the right and manner of voting at election of Managers, to appoint judges of such election, and the time, place and manner of holding them, and generally to do all such lawful acts and pass all such by-laws, as shall be necessary to the exercise of all the powers vested in them by the Act of Assembly, incorporating the Society, and to effect the benevolent object of their association.

By-Laws

of the

Orphan House and Episcopal Free School Society of All Saints'

of Fredericktown. Adopted by the Board

of Managers in 1838

MEMBERS

Ladies of All Saints' Church, Frederick, who shall subscribe not less than One dollar annually shall be enrolled as Members of the Society, but no member shall be entitled to vote for Managers who shall be in arrear, for her subscription at the annual election. Such as shall contribute Fifty dollars at one time, or Seventy-five dollars in three installments, shall be members for life. All persons, male or female, who shall pay One hundred dollars or more, shall be enrolled as Patrons of the Society.

ELECTIONS

Elections for Managers, as prescribed by the Act of Incorporation, shall be held in the schoolroom on the first Monday of May annually, and shall be by ballot. The elections, held by the Managers, for the officers, teachers or trustees, shall also be by ballot, unless there be but one nomination before the board, when the ballot may be dispensed with and the nomination confirmed or rejected by an ordinary vote of the Board.

Three judges of election shall be appointed by the Board of Managers during the first week of April in each year, to hold the annual election for managers, who shall count the ballots and report the result to the Society; which shall be recorded by the Secretary, among the proceedings of the Society. Any one or two, in the absence of the other, may hold said elections.

PRESIDENT

The President shall direct the time and place of meeting of the members of the Society, who shall engage in the same duties and labors heretofore pursued by the members of the Female Benevolent Association of All Saints' Church.

The President shall quarterly nominate three persons as an Executive Committee, one of whom at least shall be a Manager, to be approved by the Board to manage the general concerns of the Society, to admit or dismiss any pupil, to prescribe the discipline of the school and to regulate and supply the necessary expenses. The Executive Committee shall visit the School once a week or oftener, examine the scholars, and shall at every monthly meeting of the managers, make a particular and detailed report of their proceedings and of the number and condition of the school.

VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall in the absence of the President, in all cases, act as President.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall keep the funds of the Society in some Bank or Savings Institution and shall pay no drafts or orders, except those signed by the President, or directed by order of the Board, and shall report quarterly and whenever required, by the President, furnish a minute report of the state of the Treasury.

SECRETARY

The Secretary, shall in a book transcribe the Act of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws, elections of managers, and all the proceedings of the Society and Board of Managers, and shall attend all the meetings of the Board and enter the proceedings in a journal and read the journal of the last meeting at each succeeding meeting.

BOARD OF MANAGERS .

Whenever the Board of Managers shall determine to erect a building on the lot for an Orphan House and Free School, they shall by resolution, passed by the Board and certified by the Secretary, authorize the Trustees to contract for the same and place in their hands the funds of the Society, and authorize the Trustees to pledge the property of the Society, as a security for the performance of the contract made by them, provided that the plan and contract, made by the trustees, shall be submitted to the Board and approved by them.

The Board of Managers shall have a stated meeting for business on the first Monday of every month, at four o'clock in the afternoon, and such special meetings as may be called by the President.

The Board of Managers shall appoint a Committee to solicit subscriptions and donations and shall commence the creation of a "permanent fund," the interest of which alone shall be used for the ordinary expenses of the Society.