

Princeton “Scenes from the Past” St. John’s Evangelical Church and School

The purpose of these articles is to gather information on individuals buried in the City Cemetery. The articles are wrote by those connected with the City Cemetery Restoration project through the City of Princeton and City Hall. Information can be dropped off at City Hall and will be photocopied and added to the files. Readers can stop at City Hall during regular hours to view the information we have compiled to date. There will be a Cemetery Walking Tour on August 26th which will be feature many interesting stories of individuals from our communities earlier days.

Following the previous article we were able to gather a few more names from the St. John’s Ladies Aid photo. If you missed the article and photo, or have information to share, the story can be found on the city website www.cityofprincetonwi.com or can be accessed by the link on the City of Princeton Facebook page.

The St. John’s Evangelical story continues following the completion of the church in 1909 and the focus on Christian education was being considered by the congregation. During the 40 years prior to the 1920’s various German schools were conducted in the different districts. Teachers noted in these country schools were Siehenhaar, Glamm, Maager, and Ottjahn (no first names listed). The City Cemetery has Gottlieb & Johanna Siebenhaar buried here (son Ernest buried in the Huckleberry Cemetery), and Adele and Emil Maager as well. It has been stated at one time there were at least four parochial schools in the area, three of them in the country with a school term of two to three months, and one in the city with a full school term year. Another early teacher noted was Theodore Voss (1880-1883) and (1890-1904) who is buried in the City Cemetery. If the readers have any information they can share on any of these individuals buried in the City Cemetery, we will add it to our Cemetery records.

Prior to the 1920’s the school was financed by a Schulverein – School Association with parents paying \$1 per month per child. One of the primary purposes was to teach the children German. Early education took place in the Lutheran parsonage, where Pastor A J Hoyer conducted classes. The church parlors continued to be used for school rooms until the early 1950’s when the new school was completed.

Being the German language was so prominent in the Church, it was used exclusively in all the services before 1925. English was then used occasionally, until 1939 when the congregation voted to have English services every other Sunday. In 1964, the German language was discontinued entirely.

The following early confirmation class picture was with Rev. Adoph Hoyer. Although the pictures do not list the class members in order, it is believed that in addition to Rev. Hoyer, students Edwin Clewien and Elmer Krueger, who are part of this confirmation class, are buried in the City Cemetery. (As with any pictures of youth, girl’s maiden names are listed so finding their burial information is challenging)



Confirmation Class 1927 –German Class

(Alphabetic Order): Viola Berger, Edwin Clewien, Otto Golz, Rev Adolph Hoyer, Elmer Keetke, Norma Knaack, Elmer Krueger, Louis Lichtenberg, Alfred Proechel, Elmer Proechel, Irene Proechel, Ema Reetz, Emma Renn, Olga Schultz, Reinhard Zimmermann, Arnold Zuehls

The “Scenes from the Past” articles are published the second and fourth week in the Berlin Journal Newspapers. The next story will be in the May 11th edition and will be about a prominent former business in the City. Information for this story came from the 1964 St. John’s Centennial Jubilee Book. The Princeton Cemetery Walking Tour is planned for Saturday, August 26, 2017 (1:30 and 4:00) highlighting several of our forefathers who helped form Princeton’s History.

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