

The Page and the Epistle

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A LOOK BACK: HOW AN ORPHANAGE BECAME HOME TO MANY: A BRIEF HISTORY OF SPSG

MAY 28, 2020 | CHARLEY MITCHELL | 3 COMMENTS

By. Meghan Young '20

This past year, St. Paul's School for Girls celebrated 60 years educating hearts and minds in Brooklandville. However, the school's rich history extends beyond the opening of the Brooklandville campus in 1959. Though what became SPSG was founded in 1799, well before our brother school, St. Paul's, in 1849, we have not continuously operated since that time.

In 1799, Eleanor Buchanan Rogers, along with fellow parishioners from St. Paul's Church, established the Benevolent Society of the City and County of Baltimore. Rogers, the wife of Revolutionary War hero Colonel Nicholas Rogers IV, was particularly interested in educating young girls. The Benevolent Society was particularly progressive as hardly any institutions educated girls at the time. In fact, only 72 years earlier, in 1727, Ursuline Academy was founded as the first school for girls, leading the way for others like Rogers to follow.

It was not until 1826 when public high schools began admitting women in the United States. What would become St. Paul's School for Girls continued to educate and support poor and orphaned girls in many different ways. The Orphanage of the Benevolent Society moved to "Evergreen" and became known as "St. Paul's Girls' School" in 1929, though it was a place of residence because the girls attended Baltimore public schools, which had recently opened to women. .

SPSG moved yet again thirty years later, to the campus we know now in Brooklandville. The Girls' School joined the St. Paul's School, which had occupied the campus in 1952 after educating boys in the city since 1849. When SP had moved to Brooklandville, the lower school began admitting girls to protect the level of enrollment after the transition from a crowded city to the rural Greenspring area, where few buses ran.

St. Paul's School for Girls officially opened its doors in Brooklandville to 86 students in September of 1959. While we still inhabit the same campus sixty years later, our school has experienced immense

growth and change since that fall in 1959. Notably, coordination between the three schools—St. Paul's Pre & Lower, School for Girls, and School for Boys—on our campus has increased. While we officially unified our schools in 2019, coordination dates to 1976, when three seniors from SPSG walked up the hill to attend an AP Biology course. Since then, coordinated classes have become a common practice with the phrase, "I have class up the hill," becoming part of the St. Paul's vernacular.

Encouraging the unique coordination St. Paul's offers, the Ward Center for the Arts opened in the 1990's, creating a space for students to participate in the arts or just grab some lunch with friends. Another notable change in the Brooklandville landscape is the reconstruction of SPSG's main building in the early 2000's. With a growing population of students came the demand for new, innovative spaces offering what the girls needed to thrive in their educational pursuits. Beginning in 2000, SPSG underwent major reconstruction, adding to the existing building a two-story academic wing, the Benevolent Chapel, a new library, and the Commons. The new building officially opened in April of 2002.

SPSG has a rich history filled with many beloved traditions. Last spring, the Women's History class at SPSG created a living history exhibit which still stands in the lobby of SPSG today. There you will find scaled, 3D models of the school throughout the years, Gator memorabilia, and more history of our school.

Further Reading: Mary H. Bready, "Through All Our Days: A History of St. Paul's School for Girls" (St. Paul's School for Girls, 1999). **Author's Note:** Mrs. Bready served on the SPSG faculty from 1961 to 1987 and later served as the school's archivist.



3 THOUGHTS ON “A LOOK BACK: HOW AN ORPHANAGE BECAME HOME TO MANY: A BRIEF HISTORY OF SPSG”



Thelma

MAY 21, 2022 AT 8:23 AM

That's a great point



Josephine

MAY 24, 2022 AT 8:47 AM

That's very good point



샌즈카지노

AUGUST 15, 2022 AT 5:08 PM

I really enjoy the blog post. Really thank you! Really Cool.