Entry type: Person
Entry ID: PR00089

Archdall, Martha Caroline Christine

(1851 - 1949)

Born	18511226, Stettin Germany
Died	19491231, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Founder, Teacher

Summary

With her husband, clergyman Mervyn Archdall, Martha pushed for the establishment of a deaconess institution at Balmain, New South Wales, in 1885. *Bethany* was opened in 1891 with Canon Archdall as director. It was Martha who opened a parish school, and by 1900 *Bethany* had schools at Balmain, Lewisham, Dapto and Bega.

Details

Martha Kaasow was born at Stettin, Germany – now Szcenin, Poland – and married Mervyn Archdall in 1882. The pair moved to Balmain, New South Wales, where they instigated the building of a deaconess institution. Mervyn Archdall was rector at Balmain, and became director of the deaconess institution, ‘Bethany’, when it opened in 1891. Martha opened the parish school, with school fees and one quarter of her husband’s stipend supporting Bethany. By 1900, new schools in Lewisham, Lawson, Dapto and Bega were also supporting the institution.

Martha Archdall ran an employment agency in Darlinghurst and developed another in Balmain for women and children from the Bethany Homes. She moved to Melbourne after the death of her husband in 1917.

Published resources

Edited Book
The Australian Dictionary of Evangelical Biography, Dickey, Brian, 1994

Journal Article
Attitudes to the ministry of women in the diocese of Sydney: an historical study 1884-1893, Rodgers, M., 1980

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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