

THE RESURRECTION MURAL

Mural "Christ's Resurrection" painted in 1893 by Henry Kepple Beck.

Restoration Completed in February 2004 under the direction of Lancaster artist John David Wissler.

About the Artist

The nine by sixteen foot painting of the Resurrection above Trinity's pulpit was painted on plaster in 1893 by Henry Kepple Beck. Beck was born in Harrisburg in 1862. A prolific painter, he studied with his father, artist and sculptor, Julius Augustus Beck, and in 1889 traveled to Germany, Italy, Switzerland and France. In Paris he studied with Blanc, Curtois and Gerome. Studies at that time involved training in one of the Academies, large barn-like studio lofts where students painted and drew while the teacher circulated and gave criticism and demonstrations. Henry returned to Harrisburg and lived at home without marrying. In 1893, he painted our Resurrection mural for the sum of \$300.00. Charles L. Fry was our pastor at that time. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish a small landscape by Henry from that of his father. They often painted the same subject. Although Henry was a landscape painter by nature, he was a fine portrait painter as well. He spent quite a bit of time living in Elgin, Illinois, working as an illustrator for the David Cook Publishing Company. Henry was very successful, exhibiting work in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, the Watercolor Society of New York, and the Art Institute of Chicago. When Henry died of a heart attack at his Camp Hill home in 1937, his obituary carried the comment, "was Harrisburg's most eminent painter".



(Note: Some of the Beck family material was taken from a 1985 talk prepared by Donald Winer, Curator of Fine Arts at the State Museum of Pennsylvania.)

Lloyd E. Bull