

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP
Ava Barton Class of 2027 and Shawn Gipe Class of 2027
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies



Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm (1859-1950)

At the sixth board meeting of the trustees on April 12, 1900, a motion was passed for Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm to be elected as Principal of the College. At this point, a head of the College had been elected before the planning for the building was even complete.¹ Following the dismissal of the seventh board meeting, I.N.H. Beahm's financial arrangements were discussed for his position as Principal, however, nothing was agreed upon since not enough members were present to vote.² Instead, three others and Beahm met at Joseph Doster's house at six o'clock that evening and agreed upon terms employing I.N.H. Beahm, still awaiting board approval. It was established that if Beahm couldn't teach then he would be given \$300 for organizing and managing the school, but if he could teach then an appropriate pay arrangement would be set up. Around this time a meeting was set up among several trustees and I.N.H. Beahm to make arrangements due to his deteriorating health. In the *Early History of The College* G.N Falkenstein wrote about Beahm's health: "It should be noted that I.N.H. Beahm was an invalid at this time, and for some months, from a serious nervous breakdown. It was the hope of his family that he would be able to recuperate some as to assist in the organization and even do some teaching. But much to the regret of all of us he was bedfast long before the opening of the school and was bedridden for the most part for several years. He was not able to do a day's work during the years of my administration. Some references will appear from time to time in regard to his heroic struggle for his health, and to our great gratification after some four years he won his battle." At the eighth board meeting, the Trustees met at S.H. Hertzler's house in the morning of June 11, 1900, at eight o'clock to discuss

¹ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 32.

² Schlosser, 32-33.

the position offered to I.N.H. Beahm. Beahm stated he would not take less than \$300 and not more than \$350.³ During this meeting, Beahm was also asked to prepare a four-page folder announcing the opening of the College.⁴ During the ninth board meeting, a committee was created for catalogs, textbooks, and printing and stationery, with I.N.H. Beahm's and three others being appointed.⁵ On



August 20, 1900, G.N. Falkenstein spent the day with Jesse C. Ziegler compiling the first catalog of Elizabethtown college. Regarding this day, Falkenstein claimed that "It was one of the hardest days of my life. I.N.H. Beahm, a member of the committee on catalog, could give us no service whatever. He seems to have settled down to the conviction that he is an invalid. He is still almost helpless. He walks with much difficulty on two canes. When the Principal should be the embodiment of tremendous energy, I pity him and the principalship. I hope the lord will direct him. I had intended that I.N.H. Beahm and Elizabeth Meyer should complete the work done by the committee on catalog at the home of S.H. Hertzler, but I found it was useless to think of getting any such work out of I.N.H. Beahm at this time. He was not able to do anything."⁶ An adjourned session of the Board was held in the Lancaster Church of the Brethren in the afternoon of October 3, 1900, and I.N.H. Beahm plus two others were appointed for the committee on Furniture.⁷ Now that a Principal and Faculty of three had been selected, the college was set to open on November 13,

1900, however, due to Beahm's illness, G.N. Falkenstein was given the responsibility of preparing for the opening day.⁸

The first college catalog was published in August, 1900, with I.N.H. Beahm being listed in the faculty roster as the Principal and teacher of Bible, Psychology, and Pedagogy courses.⁹ For the year of 1900-1901, I.N.H. Beahm served as the Principal and Teacher of Bible, Psychology, and Pedagogy at a salary of \$300 for organizing the school and an additional salary for teaching. Due to a nervous breakdown, Beahm was unable to perform his duties as Principal and G.N. Falkenstein essentially became the Acting Principal for the first year of the College.¹⁰ For the year of 1904-1905, I.N.H. Beahm was President and Teacher of Psychology and Ethics. This is the first year the head of the college became designated as "president." The years of 1905-1907 remained the same, but for the years of 1908-1910, I.N.H. Beahm was the President and Lecturer on Bible.

³ Ibid., 33.

⁴ Ibid., 34.

⁵ Ibid., 35.

⁶ Ibid., 35-36.

⁷ Ibid., 37.

⁸ Ibid., 39.

⁹ Ibid., 41.

¹⁰ Ibid., 44.

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The minutes of the Board of Trustees that for the years of 1908-1910, Beahm “was elected as nominal President,” mostly spending is time lecturing, preaching, and soliciting funds and students for Elizabethtown College.

I.N.H. Beahm was first elected Principal of Elizabethtown College on April 12, 1900, but did not assume his full duties until 1904-1905 when he was elected President of the College. Beahm served as President for three years and was then elected as the Nominal President from 1908-1910. Beahm was a graduate of Bridgewater College in the class of 1887 and then taught there, eventually founding the Botetourt Normal School in 1897.¹¹ Additionally, Beahm accepted the position of President in Lordsburg College in California, which today is known as Laverne College, but found himself ill and unable to continue the work a few months later.¹²

During the first commencement of Elizabethtown College in College Chapel (Alpha Hall) on June 13, 1903, I.N.H. Beahm started the program by giving the invocation.¹³ On March 15, 1904, a committee of the faculty comprised of I.N.H. Beahm and two others submitted a proposal to the Board of Trustees on the management of the College by an Administrative Committee of the Faculty. One of the main points of this proposal was that I.N.H. Beahm and two others would organize themselves into a committee known as the Administrative Committee, with Beahm as the President and each member being paid \$700 per annum by the Board of Trustees.¹⁴ On January 8, 1901, the Board of Trustees voted to institute a Bible term, with one of the earliest teachers hired being I.N.H. Beahm. This term was very successful, and enrollment was around 115 for the first year, reaching 356 students for the year 1909.¹⁵ On May 4 of 1904, the first issue of *Our College Times* released, and the editorial staff included I.N.H. Beahm as the Editor-in-Chief.¹⁶ On June 15 of 1904, Beahm wrote, and the board adopted, a paper setting forth the policy of Elizabethtown College on intercollegiate sports: “First, That modern match games of baseball and football are not in accord with Christian virtue and true education. Second, that we favor physical education in every aspect. Third, That we especially commend Manager J.M. Miller, Captain J.Z. Herr, and all others assisting in having called off a math game which had been arranged for. Fourth, that we plated with the spirit of conciliation shown by the two boys. Fifth, That we gladly reiterate our purpose to Elizabethtown College excel in moral virtue. Sixth, That cordially invite parents and all friends of Christian education to assist in the reformation of College life along these lines as headed already by leading education of our day.”¹⁷

By the end of the fifth year of the College, the student body growth called for additional buildings. A committee was then formed, comprised of I.N.H. Beahm and S.H. Hertzler, to determine the costs of a second building. Drawings of the building submitted to the Board of Trustees were approved on April 7, 1905, and by April 26, 1905, over twelve thousand dollars was

¹¹ Ibid., 45.

¹² Ibid., 47.

¹³ Ibid., 49.

¹⁴ Ibid., 52.

¹⁵ Ibid., 53.

¹⁶ Ibid., 57.

¹⁷ Ibid., 58-59.

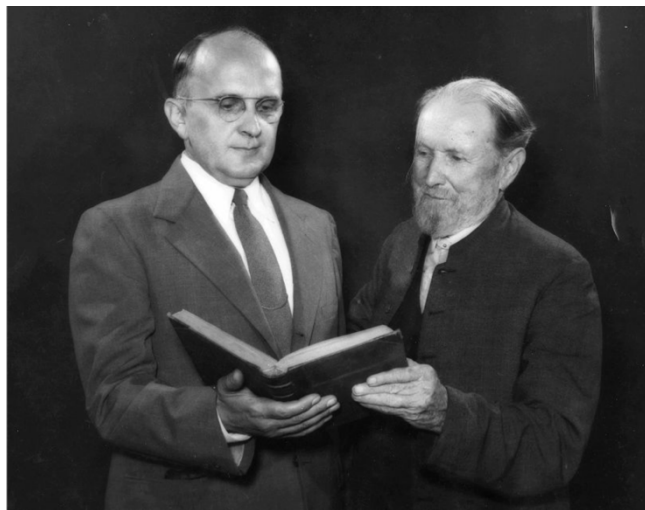
solicited in cash and pledges. A building committee was then appointed with I.N.H. Beahm and two others, with the total cost of construction being \$14,347.45.¹⁸

When I.N.H. Beahm resigned his presidency on June 30, 1909, the Board of Trustees quickly found a successor in D.C. Reber at the beginning of the 1902-1903 school year.¹⁹ Dedicatory services for the Zug Memorial Library were held on October 20, 1950, while also celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the college. I.N.H. Beahm, the First President of Elizabethtown College, gave the invocation to start the services.²⁰ Less than two months after giving the invocation at the Zug Memorial Library dedicatory services, President I.N.H. Beahm was tragically killed in a car accident on November 11, 1950, in Virginia.²¹

In May of 1904, the first issue of Our College Times was published as a booklet of twelve pages, containing short articles by Elizabeth Meyer and D.C. Reber. Additionally, this issue included an editorial by the editor-in-chief of the paper, President I.N.H. Beahm.²²

G.N. Falkenstein served as the Principal of Elizabethtown College for the first two years when I.N.H. Beahm was ill.²³

Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm, also known as Brother Beahm in the Church of the Brethren, was chosen by the Board of Trustees on April 12, 1900, to serve as Principal of Elizabethtown College. Beahm was born at Good's Mill in Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, on May 14, 1859. Illness initially prevented Beahm from serving as Principal to Elizabethtown College, but in four years Beahm had greatly recovered, allowing him to be elected by the Board of Trustees once again for the school year of 1904-1905. Beahm continued serving as President for Elizabethtown College until the end of the 1909-1910 school year. In his early years, academic opportunities were limited for Beahm, but he was nonetheless able to attend Bridgewater College, Virginia, and graduated from the Normal English course with an A.B. degree in 1887. After teaching for a short time, Beahm was requested to teach courses in elocution and rhetoric for the Alma Mater of his Faculty. Beahm founded the Botetourt Normal School and Prince William Normal School in 1897, both located in Virginia. Beahm was elected to be President of Lordsburg College (known



¹⁸ Ibid., 60.

¹⁹ Ibid., 65.

²⁰ Ibid., 195.

²¹ Ibid., 197.

²² Ibid., 207.

²³ Ibid., 226.

as La Verne College today), California, but was too ill and physically incapable of working at the time. Beahm was also called to serve at Elizabethtown College as President in 1900 but was unable to take up the position initially for three years, however, recovering from his illness allowed him to start serving again in the school year of 1904-1905. In 1908, President Beahm was asked to organize a new school at Nokesville due to the Prince William Normal School closing down. The school was named Hebron Seminary, and Beahm took up residency in Nokesville with his family for many years. On July 23 of 1881, Beahm was elected to the Christian ministry and ordained on November 23, 1889. Beahm was away from home for much of his life while he was lecturing and doing evangelical work within the Church of the Brethren. In 1906-1907, Beahm conducted a tour to the Holy Land and preached to a large audience in Jerusalem, which he based many of his future lectures on.²⁴ Beahm was also a participant in the Fiftieth Anniversary Program of the founding of Elizabethtown College. The history of the Church of the Brethren of Eastern Pennsylvania, 1915-1965, contains information on the career of I.N.H. Beahm, much of which has been used to create biographical sketches of his life: "But apart from service within college walls, I. N. H. Beahm was eager all the while to further Christian Education in general as eager educator-at-large and an ambassador of good will... To sit and be neutral was not his way. Rather he spoke out again and again the did not become sour or vindictive or violent when opposed or ignored... Brother Beahm had an inexhaustible fund of native wit... B.M. Mow reports that he remarked about it once to his father-in-law. With a twinkle I. N. H. replied: "Yes, I have it pretty well mastered, except for two points." "What points?" asked Brother Mow. "First, what to say; second how to say it." Said I. N. H., Thus his ministry has been especially sought after by the conservative and lowly. Home missions, new churches, evangelism, and trouble shooting carried him into the far corners of his state and nation. He did not spare himself. ... There was his famous feat of preaching twenty different sermons in a two hundred mile dash across his state in one day, July 26, 1931, to celebrate his fifty years in the ministry." Beahm met an unfortunate and tragic death on November 11, 1950, when he was instantly killed in a car accident at age ninety-one. Beahm had just attended a communion service at the Jones Chapel Church of the Brethren and was on his way to an appointment with W.C. Sweitzer in North Carolina. As he had always wished, Beahm had supposedly met his death with "his boots on". Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm's funeral services were conducted at Nokesville, Virginia, by his brother-in-law, Rufus P. Bucher of Quarryville, Pennsylvania.²⁵

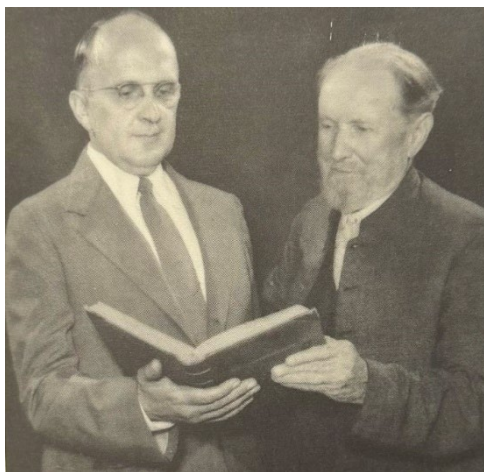
Information from Uniting Work and Spirit:

At the time when Elizabethtown College was discussing potential teachers, forty-year-old pioneer, Isaac Newton Beahm's name came up. Beahm was born in 1859 to an itinerant Virginia preacher and schoolteacher who had married one of his students. Beahm was the fifth out of fourteen children in a religious family. Beahm also found interest in religion and was elected to

²⁴ Ibid., 228.

²⁵ Ibid., 229.

the German Brethren Baptist ministry in 1881. The Beahm family lived a few miles west of Bridgewater, where the Brethren Bridgewater College was located, in which Isaac Beahm enrolled in 1884 and received his bachelor's degree as valedictorian in 1887. Brethren schools such as Bridgewater attempted to get their best students into teaching and this proved true with Beahm, as he taught nine subjects at the school, including elocution and rhetoric. Like his father, Beahm married one of his students in 1890. Later in 1890, Brethren families around the Daleville, Virginia, area wanted to start their own school, and Beahm helped them found the Botetourt Normal College. Beahm managed Botetourt Normal College and taught classes for four years, then travelling as an evangelist for two years, which surprisingly helped lessen his workload and returned his body to health. While on the road Beahm came upon another Virginian town known as Brentsville, and Beahm helped in founding the Prince William Normal School in 1897 and staying there until 1899 when he was requested to a Californian College. At this time Beahm's health started to deteriorate again and he thought taking up Presidency in Lordsburg (La Verne) College, located in California with dry weather, might help his health, though, it did not.²⁶ At the April 1900 Board meeting for Elizabethtown College, Beahm was elected to be Principal of the College as he had already helped founding two other Church of the Brethren schools, though, it would be found that Beahm was physically and mentally incapable of serving as Elizabethtown College's Principal.²⁷ Even though Beahm was ill, the Board of Trustees kept the offer on the table with the added contingency that if he was unable to teach then he would still receive \$300 for organizing and managing the school. There was no contingency in place if Beahm was unable to manage and organize even the College, but this inevitably ended up happening.²⁸



When G.N. Falkenstein was offered a position on the Elizabethtown College Faculty and needed to take 10 days to decide, I.N.H. Beahm wrote a persuasive letter to Falkenstein informing him of how beneficial he would be to the faculty. On the day of the August 16 Board meeting, Falkenstein accepted the faculty position and agreed to help Beahm manage and organize the college.²⁹ With Beahm's illness continuing to progress, most of the work ended up falling on Falkenstein.³⁰ Even with his illness, Beahm was appointed to the committee for the school's catalogue, textbooks, printing, and stationery, and though Falkenstein and Ziegler would end up doing the entirety of the work, the first catalogue was completed on August

²⁶ Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 28.

²⁷ Williamson, 29.

²⁸ Ibid., 29-30.

²⁹ Ibid., 32.

³⁰ Ibid., 39.

21. Additionally, on I.N.H. Beahm's recommendation, J.A. Seese was hired as a teacher at a salary of thirty dollars a month. The Board of Trustees also decided to hire Mrs. Beahm as matron of the College, her reimbursement being free room and board for the Beahm family of six. They would live in one of the large recitation rooms and Beahm's sister-in-law was also hired to cook at a salary of two dollars per week.³¹ After the chapel exercises on the opening day of the College, four of the "Faithful Six," students who were enrolled to the College, had their meals at I.N.H. Beahm's home.³² During the interim classes finally started, however, Principal Beahm was unable to attend due to his health.³³ While Falkenstein continued carrying on the duties of Principal Beahm, he also gave Beahm massage treatments for his health. On November 28, Falkenstein describes an attempt to use experimental treatment for Beahm's health: "Gave Brother Beahm magnetic treatment (by clasping his ankles in my hands) hoping to be rejuvenated (sic) by my overflow of vital fluid...I had no faith in it, but I was interested in him and was anxious to help him if I could, even though it seemed utterly useless." Elizabeth Meyer mentioned the circumstances of these initial days of the College in her "History of Elizabethtown College": "It might be well to say right here that at the time of the opening, the Principal, Prof. I. N. H. Beahm, now President of our College, was confined to his bed with nervous prostration, and Prof. G. N. Falkenstein was obliged to perform the duties of Principal and teach besides. Those of you who have been pioneers in any kind of work can imagine the arduous duties and discouraging conditions which Prof. Falkenstein and his corps of workers were obliged to meet perseveringly."³⁴ For the school year of 1903-1904, D.C. Reber served another term as Principal while Beahm was ill, however, Beahm became well enough to become Business Manager of the College. This was an extremely difficult period in Beahm's life and at the time he had spent a year in a sanitarium.³⁵ During this year, Beahm's wife used their home as a boarding house and charged 50 cents a day for room and board. Finally, by 1903, Beahm had "recovered his youthful resiliency, in the main; and he learned to stay clear of the danger line," living to the health age of 91. On March 14, 1904, Beahm, Reber, and Ober proposed putting management of the College into the hands of an "Administrative Committee of the Faculty." During the 1904-1905 school year, Beahm's health had mostly recovered, and he took up presidency of Elizabethtown College while also teaching psychology and ethics.³⁶ At the start of the 1906-07 school year, Beahm once again resigned from his position of president, but this time not due to his health. Due to Beahm's knowledge of the bible and classical lore, he was named a "cultural attaché" to take American travelers on a tour to the Holy Land. I.N.H. Beahm's expenses were completely paid for this trip, and he accompanied the group from Damascus to Egypt. Beahm also sent letters back to Elizabethtown and were published in *Our College Times*. During this time Reber served as "acting" president and managed the college while Beahm was away.³⁷ After this,

³¹ Ibid., 33.

³² Ibid., 40.

³³ Ibid., 41.

³⁴ Ibid., 43.

³⁵ Ibid., 47.

³⁶ Ibid., 48.

³⁷ Ibid., 49.

Beahm only taught during the annual Bible term and devoted most of his time to preaching, representing the school, and essentially serving as a goodwill ambassador, recruitment officer, and fund raiser. Despite Beahm's ill health and bad investments in his early years, Beahm was a man who was tirelessly persistent, incredibly kind, and had much literary knowledge. At the slightest provocation, Beahm would apparently quote Shakespeare and the Bible. A church history described Beahm's want for unity over old tradition: "It is more important to keep the church united than old fashioned." Beahm acted as the warm public face of Elizabethtown College.³⁸ In 1904 when students requested to play against teams from different schools, Beahm wrote a policy statement published by the Board of Trustees: "the modern match games of baseball, football, etc. with outside teams are not in accord with Christian virtue and true education."³⁹ In 1904 *Our College Times*, a monthly college magazine, was started and first used as a platform for administrative agencies with I.N.H. Beahm as their editor-in-chief.⁴⁰ I.N.H. Beahm was also part of a temperance committee, specifically being chosen to speak before a legislature in Harrisburg to encourage banning alcohol locally through a "Local Option Law, thought the law was defeated. In the *Our College Times* magazine, students might find Beahm addressing topics like smoking, swearing, the need for sleep, and health. For example, Beahm wrote things such as, "Do not use language that you would not use in the presence of your mother," "If they are able to buy a five or ten cent cigar and hold it up at an angle of 45 degrees while they puff, they think that it is manly, that is a farce," "If I were starting to go to College now, I would have my time to go to bed – ten o'clock," and "Take care of your stomachs, the stomach is a very important organ."⁴¹

On June 30 of 1909, I.N.H. Beahm resigned from his presidency and the position was filled by D.C. Reber. Back in 1908, Beahm had helped in founding the Hebron Seminary school in Nokesville, Pennsylvania and had a house nearby. At the time of Beahm's retirement, Nokesville became his new home and he decided to put his effort into the Hebron Seminary.⁴²

I.N.H. Beahm, the College's first Principal, died on November 11, 1950, in a head-on car collision, a year after G.N. Falkenstein's death in 1949.⁴³

Two years after the construction of Founder's Hall was complete, the four wings of the hall were named after people who were instrumental in founding the College, one of which was I.N.H. Beahm.⁴⁴

In 1998 a centennial steering committee was formed and a centennial kickoff was announced at a special press conference in Leffler Chapel on February 10, 1999. A man named David Eller portrayed I.N.H. Beahm and discussed the college history during this event.⁴⁵

³⁸ Ibid., 51.

³⁹ Ibid., 51-52.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 53.

⁴¹ Ibid., 56.

⁴² Ibid., 63.

⁴³ Ibid., 186.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 262.; Jean-Paul Benowitz, Peter J. DePuydt, "Elizabethtown College" (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 76.x

⁴⁵ Ibid., 332.

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College Principals and Presidents: I.N.H. Beahm, Principal, 1900-01; President, 1904-08.⁴⁶
Information from the first three centuries:

When Alpha Hall was still under construction, the Board of trustees at Elizabethtown College hired the first members of the faculty, one of whom was I.N.H. Beam from California.⁴⁷

In 1904, Elder Zug from the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren resigned and called I.N.H. Beahm to the ministry.⁴⁸

Information from find a grave:

Find a Grave, database and images

(https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23655629/isaac_newton_harvey-beahm: accessed June 7, 2024), memorial page for Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm (14 May 1859–11 Nov 1950), Find a Grave Memorial ID 23655629, citing Valley View Cemetery, Nokesville, Prince William County, Virginia, USA; Maintained by MVC (contributor 46923575).

Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm

Birth: 14 May 1859

Death: 11 Nov 1950 (aged 91)

Burial: Valley View Cemetery Nokesville, Prince William County, Virginia, USA

MEMORIAL ID: 23655629

Parents: Henry Abraham Beahm 1822–1899 Ann Elizabeth Showalter Beahm 1833–1891

Spouse: Mary Bucher Beahm 1867–1947

Siblings: Samuel Peter Beahm 1853–1929, John Henry Beahm 1856–1930, Rev William Edward Beahm 1861–1938, Rev Joseph Charles Beahm 1864–1957, Benjamin Christly Beahm 1869–1906, Elizabeth Susan "Betty" Beahm Sours 1869–1950, Rev George Wiley Beahm 1874–1960, and Adria Cline Beahm Varner 1878–1909

⁴⁶ Ibid., 341.

⁴⁷ Richard Kerwin MacMaster, *Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries* (Morgantown, PA: Mastof Press, 1999), 164.

⁴⁸ MacMaster, 201.

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Children Mary Beahm Baber 1904–1989, Lois Beahm Kintner 1909–2005, Lois Beahm Eyles 1909–2005, Child Beahm unknown–1891



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History of the Church of the Brethren of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania: By The Committee Appointed by District Conference. Lancaster: PA: Press of the New Era Printing Company, 1915.

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Jesse C. Ziegler (1856-1918)

Reverend Jesse C. Ziegler was born in 1856. "He began preaching at the Mingo Church of the Brethren in May of 1889 and was ordained Elder in 1900, and continued as Elder until his death in 1918." His parents were Daniel Peiffer Ziegler (1823-1908) and Mary Ann (Conner) Ziegler (1832-1911). Jesse Ziegler was married to Hannah (Horning) Ziegler, (1856-1947).¹

Jessie Ziegler served as the first chair of the Elizabethtown College Board of Trustees from 1900 until 1918. Early in the creation of the College, Ziegler was on the locating committee which was authorized to "select the site, and directed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the new college."² This time J.G. Francis was a member. The others were H.E. Light, S.H. Hertzler, George Bucher, Jesse C. Ziegler, Samuel R. Zug, Abram H. Royer, Benjamin Hottel, and William H. Oberholtzer.³ At the May 24th 1899, meeting, "the committee then appointed a subcommittee of Falkenstein, Ziegler, and Francis to write the constitution and by-laws of the new college.

In selecting a name for the College, there was much debate. Below is an excerpt from Chet Williamson's account of the College's history in *Uniting Work and Spirit*:

¹ "Rev Jesse Ziegler," Find a Grave, accessed June 27, 2024.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27473919/jesse-ziegler>.

² The Committee, *History of the Church of the Brethren of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania*. (Lancaster, PA: Press of the New Era Printing Company, 1915) 626.

³ Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 14-19.

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"The next area of contention was the school's name. Falkenstein, Ziegler, and Francis had come up with one, but no one else liked it, not even Francis, who suggested naming the school Mack College after Alexander Mack, the pioneer of the Anabaptist movement. George Bucher objected to naming the college after a single man, no matter how important to their faith, and suggested Conestoga College. But H.E. Light felt that Conestoga gave the school too local an appellation. This was, after all, a school for the entire Eastern Pennsylvania district. Jesse Ziegler, in logical reaction, offered East Penn College⁴, and the reaction was positive enough that it was brought to a vote, but it didn't pass, and it was finally decided to go with "Conestoga College" after all. That name, however, remained for only one night....After much discussion, a large majority of the assembled Brethren decided that "Elizabethtown College" was the right choice, and the college now had a name."⁵

The first board meeting was held on June 16, 1899. They held elections for president of the college board and it resulted in a tie. "The matter was settled by casting lots, Ziegler was elected president."⁶

A commonly mentioned memory in the founding of the college was one with Falkenstein and Ziegler. George Falkenstein had spent the night at Jessie Ziegler's house. The two had slept in the same room and talked until after midnight. Suddenly, a herd of cows broke out of Ziegler's pasture field and they had to herd them back. Falkenstein was quoted as saying, "College trustees, should make good on any emergency." In his diary, Falkenstein writes the following entry:

"During that night we herded cows in the night. They broke out of the pasture field and we returned them. College trustees should make good in any emergency. Talking until after midnight and herding cattle afterward should make good trustees, or at least show what they are made of."⁷

In a similarly strange event, G.N. Falkenstein also recorded his experience of walking six miles from Parkerford to Royerford, to the home of Jesse Ziegler for the night. Through this walk he went through slush, mud, and snow drifts.⁸

In the early days of the creation of the college Falkenstein receives a letter from J.G Francis which reads as follows:

"Dear Bro., -- An invitation is herewith extended to you to attend the school meeting in Mentzer's Hall, Ephrata Pa., 10 A.M., Tuesday, Sept. 12. Before leaving home inflate yourself well, so as to impress the meeting with a due sense of your great importance. Also,

⁴ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 17.

⁵ Williamson, 14-19.

⁶ Williamson, 21.

⁷ Schlosser, 28.

⁸ Ibid., 6.

for a pretense be ready to make a long prayer to the effect that we may not be self-seeking.
It might also be well to oil your lying machinery. Fraternally, Jay G. Francis
P.S. It might be well to extend an invitation to your congregation."

"Three days later, Falkenstein visited Jesse Ziegler, who had also been invited to the same meeting, in Ephrata to discuss the proposed "Mack College." Although Ziegler wanted Falkenstein to join him, possibly as another dissenting voice, he declined, possibly telling Ziegler what he states in his diary: "It is a bold, audacious, shameful, malicious move to crush Elizabethtown College."⁹

On January 2, 1919, a campaign called the Jesse C. Ziegler Endowment Campaign was launched to raise \$500,000 for the accreditation of the college by the Pennsylvania State Department of Public Instruction.¹⁰

Jessie C. Ziegler died on September 28, 1918, at age 62. He died in Limerick, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and was buried at Providence Church of the Brethren Cemetery.¹¹



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⁹ Williamson, 23.

¹⁰ Jean-Paul Benowitz, and Peter J DePuydt, *Elizabethtown College*. (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 58.

¹¹ "Rev Jesse Ziegler," Find a Grave, accessed June 27, 2024.
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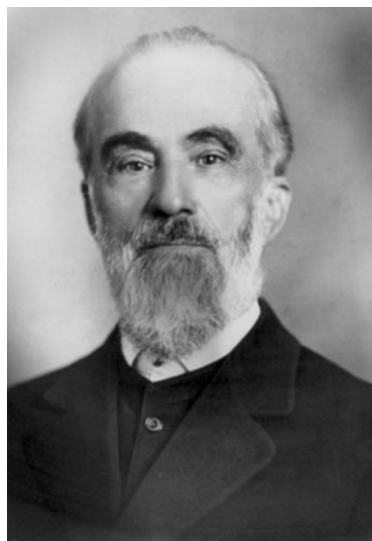
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George N. Falkenstein (1859-1948)

George Ness Falkenstein was recorded to have been born near Loganville, York County, on July 16, 1859.¹ His parents were David Falkenstein (1816–1866) & Mary Anna Ness (1835–1874). He married Eva S Shellenberger Falkenstein (1864–1958) and eventually had one child named Lilian Falkenstein Willoughby (1892–1973).² Falkenstein worked in a grain mill from an early age following his father's death. The strenuous work at the grain mill resulted in a permanent back injury and left him with limited abilities. His work at the mill also left him with limited time for a formal education. Falkenstein decided to work long enough to earn the money necessary to attend school.³ Falkenstein graduated from Juniata College in 1882 and did coursework at colleges like Oberlin (1882), Mount Morris College (1883), and the University of Michigan.⁴

Upon graduating from Oberlin College, he moved west to teach in Kansas and Illinois, where he also worked as a wheat farmer and harvester in between teaching jobs. He moved back east after his short period of time teaching, at which point he married Eva Shellenberger. Together

¹ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 225.

² "George Ness Falkenstein," Find a Grave, accessed May 2, 2024.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101909136/george_ness-falkenstein.

³ Emmett Ferree, "George Ness Falkenstein" (Landmarks and Legends essay, Elizabethtown College, 2017), 1; *George Falkenstein Obituary*, 1950.

⁴ Schlosser, 47; Richard Kerwin MacMaster. *Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries* (Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 1999), 169.

they opened a business, but it faired unsuccessfully.⁵ Falkenstein and his wife moved back to Kansas to give their business one last shot, only to have it die quickly in the new community. After officially giving up on the business, Falkenstein accepted a job teaching at a local school. This job came to an end when a blizzard shut the school down in 1888 and left his family temporarily stranded. His streak of misfortune persisted when his house was hit by a tornado two months after the blizzard, and his first child died within the following few days.⁶



After taking the advanced courses at the University of Michigan, Falkenstein was invited to become a pastor at the Church of the Brethren in Germantown, Pennsylvania, during 1893, which is where he stayed until his employment as a faculty member for Elizabethtown College.⁷ During this time was when Falkenstein wrote a book called the *History of the German Baptist Brethren Church*, an eagerly sought book with three editions, sought by libraries and those researching church history in the current day.⁸ Falkenstein then finally moved from Germantown, Pennsylvania, to Elizabethtown to assist with the founding of Elizabethtown College and eventually join the college as a staff member.⁹ From his house, he operated a printing press, a lending library, and a store, from which he sold items such as college textbooks, school supplies, and stationery until 1915, at which time he sold his store to

L.A. Shiffer in October of that year, who was a publisher and editor of the *Herald* newspaper (one of the only weekly newspapers in Elizabethtown).¹⁰

Additionally, Falkenstein sold postcards of Elizabethtown. Falkenstein was known to have photographed everything in town and used his photographs to both preserve history and create attractive postcards to sell to visitors.¹¹ It was during this same period that Falkenstein became involved with the founding of Elizabethtown College, as he was invited by Reverend Jay G. Francis to attend a meeting in Reading, Pennsylvania, which would discuss the possibility of placing a Brethren school in the eastern district of Pennsylvania.¹² Falkenstein was involved in the

⁵ Schlosser, 47; Emmett Ferree, 1.

⁶ Emmett Ferree, 1; Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.; MacMaster, 169.

⁸ Schlosser, 225.

⁹ MacMaster, 169; Emmett Ferree, 1.

¹⁰ Jean-Paul Benowitz, *Images of America: Elizabethtown*, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2015), 82; Ibid.; Ibid.

¹¹ Benowitz, *Historic Elizabethtown*, 65; Emmett Ferree, 1.

¹² Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 2; Ibid.

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entire process of founding the college, from searching for a plausible location to designing the first building, Alpha Hall, alongside architect A.A. Richter.¹³ On 13 November 1900, Falkenstein – Elizabethtown College’s acting Principal at the time – delivered the opening exercises for Elizabethtown College at the Heisey Building, since the construction of Alpha Hall had not yet been complete.¹⁴

The school opened in 1901 after Alpha Hall’s construction, at which point Falkenstein served as Elizabethtown College’s Acting Principal from 1901-1902 when I.N.H. Beahm was invalid. Falkenstein had been secretary during the meetings before the college’s existence and then served as the first Secretary of the Board of Trustees, greatly contributing to the beginning years of Elizabethtown College until 1903.¹⁵ After resigning from his Principalship on September 30, 1902, Falkenstein stated to the Board of Trustees, “In severing my connection with Elizabethtown College, I feel keenly that I leave a work that was close to my heart, and I earnestly must pray its future greater success under God’s blessing.”¹⁶ Additionally, On November 20, 1948, during the closing session of the forty-ninth annual Bible Institute, President A.C. Baugher gave ninety-year-old G.N. Falkenstein the title and honorary degree of “Doctor of Divinity” to honor all his contributions to the founding of the college. With respect to Falkenstein, Baugher stated, “In recognition of his pioneer work in education and in pastoral work of the church and in appreciation of his untiring services in the founding of Elizabethtown College, in recognition of his achievements in writing and preaching, he is indeed a most worthy recipient of the degree.” Falkenstein passed away on August 17, 1949, at age 90, less than a year after receiving this degree.¹⁷ To give sympathy to his family and honor G.N. Falkenstein at the time of his death, the Board of Trustees and Faculty wrote the following: “The homegoing of Elder G. N. Falkenstein brings to an earthly close the activities of a beloved father among college and church leaders. We, the Trustees and Faculty of Elizabethtown College, rejoice in the many-sided ministry of the one who led the academic work of the College during its first years. He kept in helpful contact with the work of the College for nearly half a century. We recognize the sterling worth of Elder Falkenstein's strong, stable, Christlike character ripened into attractive usefulness through ninety years. His friendly, considerate, and wholesome attitude was a help to many people whom he served. His preaching was clear and forceful. His writing of *The History of the German Baptist Brethren Church*, published in 1901, was a valuable historical contribution to his church.”¹⁸

The following information from *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 – 1970* details Falkenstein’s great mission of founding the College:

¹³ Jean-Paul Benowitz, *Historic Elizabethtown Pennsylvania: A Walking Tour*. 2015, 38; *Ibid.*; Jean-Paul Benowitz, Peter J. DePuydt, “Elizabethtown College” (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 13.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*; *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Schlosser, 225-226; *Ibid.*, 47; *Ibid.*, 2.

¹⁶ Schlosser, 44.

¹⁷ Williamson, 172; Emmett Ferree, 2.

¹⁸ Schlosser, 225-226.

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A book written by Falkenstein, known as *The Organization and Early History of Elizabethtown College*, revealed that John Herr, Elder of the Reading Church, had supposedly approved a meeting to be held and the consideration of starting a school for the Church of the Brethren in Eastern Pennsylvania. This meeting was first found out through Jay G. Francis informing Elder Jacob G. Gotwals about the meeting and asking him to come.¹⁹ G.N. Falkenstein sent a letter to Jay G. Francis after hearing news of the meeting which read, "Dear Brother: Your rather startling announcement on a postal card received this day. Give me a few particulars. I am anxious to know more about the matter. By whose authority is the meeting called I should be glad to attend but cannot promise at this time. Is there hope of a profitable meeting? I am interested in the matter. We are well. I received catalog of Lordsburg College. Yours sincerely, G. N. Falkenstein." The meeting took place at 10 a.m. on Tuesday November 29, 1898, in the church of the Brethren at Reading, Pennsylvania. Falkenstein was the secretary during this meeting and read letters from brothers who were in favor of the school's creation. J.G. Francis moved for them to go forward with the school's creation in Eastern Pennsylvania, but Falkenstein suggested postponing the motion so there could be more discussion on the important matter.²⁰ After the discussion continued into the afternoon, the motion was again brought up, and G.N. Falkenstein moved that a school be built. He stated that the school should have a great character to represent them and should include Bible, academic, and collegiate departments. A school that would feel like both a home and a church. With this, the motion for the school's creation passed.²¹ Falkenstein wrote about this meeting in his *Early History* book and claimed, "There was a free rostrum for inquiry, suggestion, and discussion. There was little use for parliamentary ruling. Speeches were not limited. Thus by a single motion the first public meeting was not only a deliberative conference but a working organization. It should be noted that in this meeting brethren and sisters voted in the election and that no decision as to the location of the school was made." G.N. Falkenstein's *Early History of Elizabethtown College* details his experiences after the meeting took place. Falkenstein apparently went through harsh conditions such as slush, mud, and snow drifts after the meeting in a six-mile walk from Parkerford to Royersford to make it to the house of Jesse Ziegler for the night.²²

The work started on November 29, 1898, and finished April 4, 1899. Five men were chosen to primarily take on the school's creation, one of those men being G.N. Falkenstein, who was chosen as Secretary of the Committee. Falkenstein carried out his duties by attempting to interest towns people in the idea of a Church of the Brethren and through arranging various visits. G.N. Falkenstein found one person interested in the college's location, J. Howard Ellis. On January 11, 1899, Ellis took Falkenstein to see John W. Lock and determine if the building he owned, the

¹⁹ Ibid., 3.

²⁰ Ibid., 4.

²¹ Ibid., 5.

²² Ibid., 6.

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Tremont Seminary, would be a suitable college location.²³ A second visit happened on February 22, 1899, in Norristown to consider the site, however, no offer was decided on. A third visit took place on March 7, 1899, to investigate the Tremont site and to meet with directors of the Norristown People's Bank about a proposed site. A committee made up of J. Howard Ellis and others offered 12 acres of land owned by the Norristown People's Bank for \$8,000 - 10,000\$ in cash and a donation or balance in stock. Additionally, the offer for Tremont Seminary was \$25,000 and the owner would donate \$1,000 to the school. The Committee on Location previously visited Mountville on March 6, 1899, with Falkenstein once again coming along. Six acres on a hill at the east of Mountville was offered for free by Samuel Matt Fridy and John Fraelich, though there is no record of the reactions to this offer. A visit once again took place on March 6, 1899, to a tract of land owned by the East Columbia Land Company, which offered about four to five acres of land. Additionally, B.G. Musser offered another site east of Columbia to the committee. After this, the Committee on Location visited a site on the edge of Ephrata which was about 5 acres and was deemed a great location for the college. However, on the way home from Ephrata, G.N. Falkenstein met Nathan C. Shaeffer on a train, who expressed much interest in the location of the college being within Eastern Pennsylvania. Further discussion was sparked about a location for the college in Eastern Pennsylvania, which led Ephrata supporters to start championing for the college location to be in Ephrata rather than Eastern PA.²⁴ Falkenstein and other members on the committee then visited sites in Pottstown on March 7, 1899, with the meeting being postponed to the next day due to heavy snow. *The Pottstown Daily News* wrote about the committee on March 9, 1899, "The committee are a congenial company of men with broad judgement, and they will decide in favor of the most advantageous site." Sites around both Kenilworth and Saratoga in the morning and afternoon, respectively, with several others touring with the committee such as A.K Shaner, J.G. Francis, F.F. Holsopple. And J.J Shaeffer. The committee noted three benefits to the Pottstown site location, that being the centrality of the location, the generous donation of cash to pay for about 10% of the building costs, and the scenic surroundings in the town. Following these visits, G.N. Falkenstein left Philadelphia on a train on April 4, 1899, at 6:05 am, to arrive in Elizabethtown at 10:20 am and participate in the visit. He was joined by H.E. Light in Lancaster.²⁵ An offer was made for the location to be set in Elizabethtown by Royer S. Bush, the owner of the A. Bush Sons company, who proposed to pay for 1/3 of the college's construction costs. Additionally, Addison Busch (Royer's father) along with Benjamin G. Groff also each offered to pay 1/3 of the costs. On September 25, 1900, Benjamin G. Groff and his wife gained the deed to a thirteen-acre tract of land in Elizabethtown for \$2,059.50.²⁶

²³ Ibid., 6-7.

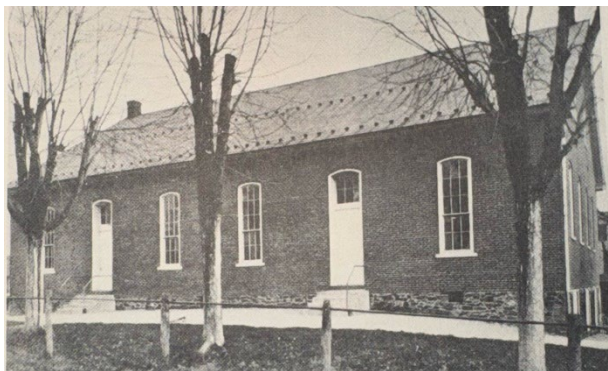
²⁴ Ibid., 8.

²⁵ Ibid., 11.

²⁶ Ibid., 12.

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As the Secretary of the Committee on Location, G.N. Falkenstein held the second public meeting in Elizabethtown, first sending out notices to all churches within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and then calling for the meeting to be held in Elizabethtown's Church of the Brethren on April 5, 1899. An appointment was held to create a new committee of five members present at the meeting, with Falkenstein's nomination as Secretary being ratified and declared.²⁷ Falkenstein contended for the training of the youth under Christian influences and championed for higher education even though there was much opposition and anti-school sentiment. S.R. Zug then opened the meeting discussion to address questions like "Shall we have a school?" and "What kind of school do we want." Answers to these questions were all recorded in Falkenstein's book, the *Early History of Elizabethtown College*.²⁸ After the meeting, another committee, this time being comprised of ten people, was appointed to finalize the college location, which included G.N. Falkenstein. The committee of ten was asked to draft a constitution and by-laws for the new school, while also presenting their report at a meeting in the future.²⁹ The committee gathered at the District Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania on April 20, 1899, and Falkenstein was elected as secretary of the committee once again. Falkenstein had some words to say about these meetings in his book, the *Early History of Elizabethtown College*: "Was it a courageous bravery because of things already accomplished, or was it a desperate determination to do the things that should be done? I will not say. That there were some who had courage, I do well know, and visions also. ... Courage, did I say Yes, it did require courage, for this young and new educational institution had to face the three largest normal schools in the state (now State Colleges), several large church colleges well endowed, and two universities-all in the eastern part of the state." Falkenstein continued speaking on these meetings and listed some issues that appeared during them, "First, it has always been a matter of deep regret that a number of our teaching ministers were not at the first public meeting in Reading to help when helping was needful. Second, the Committee on Location lost two of its most important members by resignation. Third, then there were persons who for reasons best known to themselves did everything possible against this educational movement, some from without and some from within. Of the two, I think, the force from within is most to be feared." The ten members that comprised the Locating Committee eventually became the Executive Committee of the public meeting,



²⁷ Ibid., 12-13.

²⁸ Ibid., 14.

²⁹ Ibid., 14-15.

making various decisions until a Board of Trustees was elected at the next public meeting.³⁰ The Locating Committee met again at the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Virginia, on May 24, 1899, in order to finalize the location of the college. G.N. Falkenstein attended this meeting, and a motion was also made requiring most of the committee to be part of the vote for the location. On the fourth ballot, Elizabethtown was unanimously approved for the college's location. At this meeting, a subcommittee comprised of G.N. Falkenstein and two others was created for the by-laws and constitution of the new college to be finalized. The committee met at Jesse C. Ziegler's house on June 1, 1899, and G.N. Falkenstein reported in his diary, "It was a hard day's work." However, Falkenstein and the rest of the committee also met in the home of S.H. Hertzler in Elizabethtown on June 6, 1899, to address two protests received from Pottstown and Ephrata. The grievance listed by these protests was based on three members of the Locating Committee being absent at the time of the May 24, 1899, vote. The vote for the college was revisited, but Elizabethtown college was determined as the location again.³¹ Additionally, Falkenstein and the others comprising the subcommittee presented the by-laws and constitution they drafted for the school, with few revisions being made. A new debate began regarding the college's name, and "Conestoga College" was initially decided as the college name through a vote proposed by the subcommittee. However, the next morning on June 7, 1899, the Locating Committee revoked the decision regarding the name of the college, instead presenting "Elizabethtown College" for consideration. The subcommittee also revised the by-laws and constitution they drafted for the college, resubmitting them during the meeting. In afternoon of June 7, 1899, the third and final public meeting was held in the Church of the Brethren in Elizabethtown. G.N. Falkenstein stated this in his diary regarding the final selection of the college's name: "The name Conestoga College, however, was completely knocked out, but not until Elizabethtown College had been almost unanimously voted down and then brought up again for reconsideration and adopted by a large majority." Additionally, during this final public meeting 17 men were presented as nominees for the office of trustee of Elizabethtown College, with G.N. Falkenstein being voted to receive a three-year term in the office.³² According to G.N. Falkenstein in his book, *Early History of Elizabethtown College*, "The Locating Committee and the subcommittee on constitution and by-laws were formally discharged and the meeting closed with devotional services and adjourned at five o'clock." In total, it had been six months and nine days since the first public meeting was held, and now finally the name and location of Elizabethtown College had been determined.³³

The first board meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the house of Nathan Hoffman, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, on June 16, 1899, with G.N Falkenstein in attendance as the

³⁰ Ibid., 15.

³¹ Ibid., 16.

³² Ibid., 17.

³³ Ibid., 20.

secretary.³⁴ Falkenstein summarized this meeting in his *Early History of Elizabethtown College* and states, “I think I can say, and without undue prejudice for my fellow members that the board for their day and times and their experience did a good job on the difficult task assigned to them. Their work reflects high ideals and a proper estimate of spiritual values in higher education. The Board stood for open, free, and frank discussion, and the decisions were usually unanimous. As a member of the board, I pay them high tribute for their devotion and loyalty.”³⁵ Additionally, Falkenstein made mention of the stay at Jesse C. Ziegler’s house after the meeting and says, “During that night we herded cows in the night. They broke out of the pasture field and we returned them. College trustees should make good in any emergency. Talking until after midnight and herding cattle afterward should make good trustees, or at least show what they are made of.” On January 29, 1899, G.N Falkenstein received a letter from George Bucher turning down an invitation to join the Trusteeship of Elizabethtown College. However, Falkenstein sent a letter back to Bucher imploring him to accept, resulting in years of service by Bucher as a trustee of Elizabethtown College. On August 15 and 16 of 1899, the second board meeting of the trustees was held in connection with the Church of the Brethren at Ridgley, Maryland. The board of trustees met in Mr. Replogle’s house near Ridgley at 6 o’clock, with 7 attendees. During this meeting, Falkenstein was of the trustees delegated with the role of suggesting revisions to a charter drafted by attorneys for the college, which was presented by S.H. Hertzler during the meeting.³⁶ The third Board meeting was held when the trustees finalized the charter and received it. Hosted in John H. Rider’s house on October 3, 1899, in Elizabethtown, Falkenstein reported J.G. Francis was petitioning for the creation of Mack college in Ephrata.³⁷ Falkenstein wrote about this petition and J.G. Francis in his diary, stating, “J.G. Francis had even prepared for this meeting a constitution and by-laws for an institution to be named Mack College. He had also corresponded with prospective teachers for this proposed school. But the Ephrata meeting of the petitioners was a failure and Mack College was ‘still born.’” In the latter half of the meeting, it was questioned what type of building should be used for the college, and G.N. Falkenstein moved for steps to build the college to be taken immediately. After unanimously deciding the cost of the building shouldn’t exceed \$10,000, Falkenstein presented a sketch he had made of a potential building. It was eighty-four by forty-eight feet and had three stories, including a basement. This design was infact mainly followed by the architect hired for the building’s construction. The fourth board meeting was held on October 18, 1899, at John Herr’s house in Salunga, Pennsylvania.³⁸ According to Falkenstein’s Diary, the Chairman of the Board had discussed the presidency of the new college and had said to Falkenstein, “I am willing to be led as the Lord seems to director lead. The Lord will direct in due

³⁴ Ibid., 25.

³⁵ Ibid., 27-28.

³⁶ Ibid., 28.

³⁷ Ibid., 29.

³⁸ Ibid., 30.

time.” The fifth board meeting took place at the home of S.H. Hertzler on December 14, 1899 and the sixth took place at Joseph H. Rider’s house in Elizabethtown on April 12, 1900.³⁹ The seventh board meeting was several short sessions held at the Middle Creek House of the West Conestoga Church on May 2, 1900, with Falkenstein in attendance. Later in the evening around 6 o’clock, Falkenstein and other board members met at Joseph Doster’s and found agreeable terms for hiring I. N. H. Beahm as president, though it had to be approved by the board. Beahm soon became ill, and Falkenstein, writing in his *Early History of the College*, stated, “It should be noted that I. N. H. Beahm was an invalid at this time, and for some months, from a serious nervous breakdown. It was the hope of his family that he would be able to recuperate some so as to assist in the organization and even do some teaching. But much to the regret of all of us he was bedfast long before the opening of the school and was bedridden for the most part for several years. He was not able to do a day’s work during the years of my administration. Some references will appear from time to time in regard to his heroic struggle for his health, and to our great gratification after some four years he won his battle.”⁴⁰ In the seventh board meeting, Falkenstein was elected as a teacher and claimed he would accept the job for no less than \$600 for a school year. The Board of Trustees agreed to the offer and Falkenstein accepted the offer 10 days later.⁴¹ The ninth board meeting was held at Joseph H. Rider’s house in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, on August 16, 1900, and was described as a long and hard meeting. During this meeting, Falkenstein was appointed into a committee with 3 others for catalogs, textbooks, printing and stationery, with the additional role of setting the times for the first days of classes and preparing the program for the first day. Staying at Jesse C. Ziegler’s house on August 20, 1900, the very first catalog of the college was created. Falkenstein wrote about this day in his diary, claiming, “It was one of the hardest days of my life. I. N. H. Beahm, a member of the committee on catalog, could give us no service whatever. He seems to have settled down to the conviction that he is an invalid. He is still almost helpless. He walks with much difficulty on two canes. When the Principal should be the embodiment of tremendous energy, I pity him and the principalship. I hope the Lord will direct him. I had intended that I. N. H. Beahm and Elizabeth Myer should complete the work begun by the committee on catalog at the home of S. H. Hertzler, but I found it was useless to think of getting any such work out of I. N. H. Beahm at this time. He was not able to do anything.” Falkenstein had arrived at Jesse’s farm and house while she was threshing grain, and following his arrival they had began working on the catalog. While Falkenstein and Ziegler worked until around ten o’clock, Jesse’s son, Samuel H. Ziegler, recopied their work as they produced it. Even while working most of the day, the work was not finished on that day, but was continued the following day several hours into the afternoon. Finally, Falkenstein and Ziegler had completed the 16 page catalogue for

³⁹ Ibid., 31.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 33.

⁴¹ Ibid., 34.

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Elizabethtown College. ⁴² Following the tenth board meeting on October 2, 1900, an adjourned session of the board was held in Lancaster Church of the Brethren during the afternoon of October 3, 1900. During this session, Falkenstein was appointed to another committee, this time the Committee on Furniture. As Secretary of the Board, Falkenstein recorded the ongoings of the first ten meetings within the Minutes of The Board. ⁴³

It was announced that Elizabethtown college would be opening on November 13, 1900, now that there was a Principal and Faculty of three in place. However, due to Principal Beahm's illness, G.N. Falkenstein, an elected faculty member, was given the responsibility of preparing for the opening of Elizabethtown College.⁴⁴ On the college's opening day, Falkenstein gave an address representing its faculty. Later in the evening of the opening day, Falkenstein wrote this in his diary: "We went to out lodging place in the evening: J.A. Seese, teacher, Warren Ziegler, Walter Kittinger, Rufus Bucher, Kurwin henry, my nephew, and I; all room at the same place, in the home of W.A. Withers. We all board at Mrs. Beahm's." On November 14, 1900, class recitations began in Heisey Hall. G.N. started the day with a chapel exercise, reading the twenty-third Psalm. Falkenstein wrote in his diary regarding the opening day, "This is the beginning of the actual work – small and yet auspicious. The Lord knows the end from the beginning. We do not. But I desire seventy-five students enrolled before the close of the school year – Bible and all, and I ask the Lord for same here and now. Lord Grant it."⁴⁵ The first college catalog was published in August 1900, a blue booklet eight inches by five and one-half inches and sixteen pages. Falkenstein was listed in the catalog with the members of the Board of Trustees and faculty as the Teacher of Sciences, Civil Government, History, and Classics.⁴⁶ Additionally, A dedication service to Alpha Hall was held in the afternoon of March 4, 1901, with Falkenstein reading an address detailing Elizabethtown College's education in relation to the work of the church. ⁴⁷ Through 1901-1902, Falkenstein was the Principal and teacher of Bible, Pedagogy, and Psychology at a salary of \$600 for the school year. Through the years of 1902-1903, Falkenstein was the Principal and Teacher of History, Science, Psychology and Bible. Unfortunately, due to growing health issues, Falkenstein resigned on September 30, 1902. In his resignation to the Board of Trustees, Falkenstein stated, "In severing my connection with Elizabethtown College, I feel keenly that I leave a work that was close to my heart, and I earnestly must pray its future greater success under God's blessing."⁴⁸ Though, even with his failing health, Falkenstein continued serving as Secretary for the Board of Trustees until March 13, 1903.⁴⁹

⁴² Ibid., 36.

⁴³ Ibid., 37.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 39.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 40.

⁴⁶ Ibid., 41.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 43.

⁴⁸ Ibid., 44.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 45.

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G.N. Falkenstein was going to become the Principal of Elizabethtown College for a second term, but as previously mentioned, Falkenstein's failing health prompted his resignation on September 30, 1902. Falkenstein was once a student in the York County Academy and was a graduate in a course on education at Juniata college in 1882. He was also a student at Oberlin College in 1882 and a student at Mount Morris College in Illinois during 1883. Falkenstein taught at various public schools for several years when he was called to teach at Mount Morris College. Also, he took advanced courses at the University of Michigan while teaching classes at Mount Morris College. After taking the advanced courses at the University of Michigan, Falkenstein was invited to become a pastor at the Church of the Brethren in Germantown, Pennsylvania, which is where he stayed until his employment as a faculty member for Elizabethtown College. Overall, Falkenstein's work as Secretary for the meetings before the college was created, and his time as Secretary of the Board of trustees, was invaluable to the creation and success of Elizabethtown College.⁵⁰

A Bible Term was voted to be instituted at Elizabethtown College by the Board of Trustees on January 8, 1901, as in accordance with the wishes of the founders of the college. This term was to be annually held in the College Chapel and would initially last about four weeks, with G.N. Falkenstein chosen as one of the "special teachers" for this purpose. According to the records, these Bible Terms were very successful, having good sized day classes and especially drawing in an exceptional amount of people for the evening classes, which were open to the public. From the year the Bible Terms were put in place to 1909, enrollment grew from 115 to 356 people⁵¹. In September of 1901, there was talk of creating a model school to better help with the preparation of teachers, with three of the initial student's enrolled being G.N. Falkenstein's children. However, the Model School was discontinued in 1904-1905.⁵² A celebration was held on Thursday, December 22, 1921, at the special Chapel exercises, for the new administration of President J.G. Myer, with G.N. Falkenstein addressing and speaking on the standardization of the college during the program.⁵³ The Anniversary of the Thirtieth Milestone was celebrated at College Chapel on November 13, 1930, and Falkenstein, as the past principal of Elizabethtown College, gave the Anniversary Address during the program.⁵⁴

The following information from *Uniting Work and Spirit* also details Falkenstein's founding of the College:

⁵⁰ Ibid., 47.

⁵¹ Ibid., 53.

⁵² Ibid., 54.

⁵³ Ibid., 104.

⁵⁴ Ibid., 116.

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Chet Williamson's *Uniting work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College*, is dedicated to the memory of G.N. Falkenstein.⁵⁵ Additionally, the book's content is heavily relied on by the writings of G.N. Falkenstein and other founders of Elizabethtown College.⁵⁶

On the day that planning began for the new college, G.N. Falkenstein was displeased with the dreary atmosphere, preferring that the undertaking of a new institution such as a college should happen on a sunny day instead. The night before, there had been cold rain that had melted much of the snow from a storm three days earlier, however, this only made Falkenstein's journey to Reading more miserable. Falkenstein had taken a trolley from Germantown to Wayne Junction, then had to take a steam car to Columbia Avenue, and finally, a train to Reading, arriving at the church just 12 minutes before the meeting would start to discuss the practicability of creating a new college for the Church of the Brethren.⁵⁷ When J.G. Francis sent a letter informing the elders of the church regarding this meeting, Falkenstein was somewhat skeptical and very aware of the obstacles they would end up facing but had great faith in the Church of the Brethren, and believed the creation of a brethren college was necessary.⁵⁸ G.N. was a pastor for the Germantown, Pennsylvania, Church of the Brethren. At the time of the 1898 meeting in Reading, Pennsylvania, the Germantown Church of the Brethren was the largest of the three major Brethren Churches that descended from the original Anabaptist movement.⁵⁹ During the meeting at Reading, Falkenstein was given the role of Secretary, and much of what is known from this particular meeting is attributed to his recordings both during and after the meeting. These are not stenographic reports, but they are full of detail and complete to a great degree.⁶⁰ Falkenstein's recordings give the impression that J.G. Francis wanted both approval for the college and its location in Ephrata to be solidified immediately, however, the elders of the church were not willing to decide without meticulous planning and decision making.⁶¹ Falkenstein compared the nature of this meeting to a "New England Town Meeting" over again – a conference effort to get the view of the people. Additionally, according to the proceedings at the meeting from Falkenstein, "There was no power of decision, as a school, or where to locate it," and "The meeting instructed the Committee to decide upon a time and place for the next Public Meeting and report." Among four others, Falkenstein was elected to be part of the aforementioned committee. Forty years later regarding the meeting, Falkenstein stated that "The Public Meeting transformed itself from a conference of deliberation to a working organization."

Almost all of the work had now fallen to the Committee on Location and G.N. Falkenstein as its secretary. Falkenstein's job as secretary involved writing any necessary letters, planning

⁵⁵ Williamson, ii.

⁵⁶ Ibid., iv.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 1.

⁵⁸ Ibid., 2.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 3.

⁶⁰ Ibid., 7.

⁶¹ Ibid., 7-8.

notices, and visiting all locations under consideration for the college site. Falkenstein had apparently dreaded going to the first site for visitation in Norristown on January 11, 1899, the coldest day in winter. After no decision being made, Falkenstein and the Committee visited the sites of Mountville, Columbia, and Ephrata, on March 6, 1899. In reference to this work, Falkenstein mentioned how “the terrific grind of these days was beginning to tell.” On a train ride back to Reading from the visit at Ephrata, Falkenstein chatted with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. N.C. Shaeffer, for most of the trip about the school’s potential creation. Falkenstein’s long chat with him on this train ride is a potential source of Shaeffer’s interest and friendliness toward Elizabethtown College.⁶² Next the committee visited Pottstown, however, the freezing cold weather apparently stood out more to Falkenstein than any of the proposed sites.⁶³ After Falkenstein’s visit at Pottstown was done, he got back to writing, printing, and mailing postcards to announce the second public meeting, which was chosen to be on April fifth. Falkenstein had apparently invited people from all across the district and printed out cards on a “simplex” printing machine he owned. On April fourth, the day before the public meeting, Falkenstein and the committee had visited Elizabethtown to visit two potential sites, one being owned by Benjamin G. Groff. In Falkenstein’s book discussing the college’s founding, he titled the section of the book covering April fourth as “THE LAST DAY * A CLIMAX, AND SO ENDETH A CRISIS.” Falkenstein’s reference to a “climax” is thought to be related to the arrival at Elizabethtown. Additionally, the mention of a “crisis” is touched on in Falkenstein’s writings, but not entirely described. Falkenstein stated, “I must not close this [section] without saying a few things that are apparent to anyone who will read between the lines, but I think in justice to myself and those interested in the cause of education at that time the matter requires a brief recital here.”⁶⁴ He continued, “In referring to some of the elements that I feel constituted this Crisis, I want it distinctly understood that I am not complaining or criticizing nor apologizing for lack of accomplishment. I am writing the stern facts of history and history is nothing if not facts.”⁶⁵ Falkenstein then made another reference to the “crisis,” however, it’s still unclear the true nature of the conflict. Falkenstein wrote, “First, it has always been a matter of deep regret that a number of our teaching ministers were not at that “Educational Meeting” at Reading to help when helping was needful. Second, The Committee on Location lost two of its most important members by resignation.” The reason for J.H. Longenecker’s resignation is unknown, but John Herr’s resignation was purportedly due to ill health. However, Falkenstein placed “ill health” in quotation marks which raises some questions as to the actual reason for resignation. Falkenstein made another note which reads, “Third, The “Committee” saw fit (maybe of necessity) to hand the major part of the work over into the hands of the Secretary who was already overloaded with multiplied

⁶² Ibid., 9.

⁶³ Ibid., 9-10.

⁶⁴ Ibid., 10.

⁶⁵ Ibid., 10-11.

duties of pastoral responsibilities and much other church work. I have no doubt this overloading in time and strength was a distinct handicap to the progress and development of the work for the time being, and led to my ultimate breakdown.”⁶⁶ The breakdown mentioned in these notes would not happen until the fall of 1902, Falkenstein enduring 3 years of committee work and visitations while teaching at Elizabethtown during the weekdays, followed by working through the weekends as a pastor for the Germantown pastorate. Falkenstein also writes about other obstacles when creating Elizabethtown College, “Fourth, then there were those persons, who, for reasons best known to themselves, did everything possible against this educational movement, some from within, some from without. Of the two, I think, the force from within is most to be feared. Well, perhaps, in the end, this opposition, within and without, had but little permanent effect, but for the time being it added to the burden of the secretary in his tremendous, single-handed struggle?” Falkenstein did not record who the people mentioned above were nor what their actions against the educational movement was. However, apparently these people eventually changed their views on the college as Falkenstein claimed, “Even if there were those discouragements, there was a measure of success, for the effects of my struggles were cumulative and when such results became apparent some were anxious to scramble into the bus when it was ready to go.” As evidence from the conflicts mentioned above, the process for creating a college was no easy process, and Falkenstein claimed the next part of the process “the hardest struggle of all.”⁶⁷

On April 5th, a meeting was held, and the Committee on Location was disbanded while plans for the new college continued. The meeting was held in Elizabethtown German Baptist Brethren Church on Washington street, which is the current day location of the parochial school of St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church. Falkenstein had sent notices of the meeting to every Brethren Church in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, with the meeting starting at 9:30 am. During this time, officers of the meeting were chosen, with Falkenstein as Secretary once again. The remainder of the meeting was spent listening to reports on possible sites for the college, while the afternoon session solidified the decision to proceed with the college’s creation.⁶⁸ Falkenstein then made a motion: “That we establish a school of such character that compares favorably with any of our school, including Bible, academic, and collegiate departments - a school to be at the same time a home and a church.” Falkenstein’s motion was passed and a committee of ten was created with authorization to decide on the college’s location, draft a constitution and write by-laws for the college. Falkenstein was once again chosen as Secretary on this committee.⁶⁹ Writing about this meeting, Falkenstein stated, “...altogether in a different spirit. It was not cautious in the approach to the tremendous problems involved and it was not conservative in deciding things that must concern generations to come. Was it courageous bravery because of things already

⁶⁶ Ibid., 11.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 12.

⁶⁸ Ibid., 13.

⁶⁹ Ibid., 14

accomplished, or was it a desperate determination to do the things that should be done. I will not say. That there were some who had courage, I do well know, and visions also. Neutrals counted with the majority. The unanimity in decisions was striking, and that impression has lasted forty years.”⁷⁰ Falkenstein’s observation of most people being neutral and votes being unanimous makes sense when remembering the united front that the Church of The Brethren wanted to present. At the sign of any disagreement or haste in judgement, conflicts were carefully considered before voting. This was also shown on May 24th during the church’s annual conference in Roanoke, Virginia, in which the location of the college was being decided on, but votes were split. While the first three ballots were split between Elizabethtown, Pottstown, and Mountville, the fourth ballot showed the unanimity of the Brethren when all seven committee members voted for Elizabethtown. After the location was chosen, a sub committee was created to write the constitution and by laws of the college, which Falkenstein found himself a member of. During this time the stress of continually working on the founding of the college was finally getting to Falkenstein as he stated, “I was not only tired, but at times bilious and dull and disinclined to work and disqualified for work.”⁷¹ Despite Falkenstein tiring, he started preparing for the next public meeting and met on June 1st at Ziegler’s house in Collegeville, where the meeting was spent preparing drafts of the college’s constitution and by-laws. The public meeting was set for June 7th and during the time between these meetings, Falkenstein makes more mention of “tremendous problems” due to “unexpected opposition from within,” which “did make the going more difficult.” Some of these issues could be seen on June 6th, the day before the next public meeting, in which disagreements and protests were once again expressed about the location of the college, despite it already being decided in the previous meeting.⁷² Elizabethtown was again unanimously chosen as the location, but it was still necessary to decide on either of the two sites in Elizabethtown for the college. Additionally, it was necessary to choose a name for the college, which was another contentious decision that needed to be made. The tract of land owned by Benjamin G. Groff in Elizabethtown was chosen for the location of the college and the name was deemed “Conestoga College.” However, the name was soon changed at the third and last public meeting. Falkenstein claimed the name was “completely knocked out” and a large majority of the Brethren decided “Elizabethtown College” was best. The by-laws and constitution drafted by Falkenstein and the subcommittee were discussed and analyzed, but only minor changes were made.⁷³ Trustees of the college were selected next, and the Locating Committee nominated 17 men for the Board of Trustees, with George Falkenstein being given a three-year term as secretary. With the meeting adjourning, the college, constitution, and by-laws were all finally set in stone.⁷⁴

⁷⁰ Ibid., 14-15.

⁷¹ Ibid., 15.

⁷² Ibid., 16.

⁷³ Ibid., 17.

⁷⁴ Ibid., 18.

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After appointing members of the board, members were sent to solicit funds for the college from churches. At the August 6th board meeting it was found that they had a total of \$4815 raised for the college, most of it being from Elizabethtown. Apparently, Falkenstein had little luck soliciting funds in Philadelphia as he was faced with opposition to the school's creation.⁷⁵ On September eighth Falkenstein wrote in his diary, "I received a shameful letter from J.G. Francis. He is bitterly envious and jealous at my activity with Elizabethtown College work and he is working to start a second movement to establish a College, viz: 'Mack College.' I should call it 'Beissel College' because it is the spirit of Beissel and not Mack."⁷⁶ Falkenstein makes reference above to Conrad Beissel, who split from Alexander Mack and his followers to founded the Ephrata Cloister. Three days after receiving an invitation from Francis to attend the meeting in Ephrata to discuss "Mack College," Falkenstein declined attending the meeting with Ziegler and wrote in his diary, "It is a bold, audacious, shameful, malicious move to crush Elizabethtown College."⁷⁷ The following days were tense and apprehensive in nature for Elizabethtown College and Falkenstein until he received a letter from Samuel H. Hertzler, who essentially stated the meeting was 9/10 Francis's doing and other Elder's had little idea about it. Francis claimed that the meeting's purpose was to once again reconsider Elizabethtown College's location, but it was a move made due to brooding over the matter and claims he was wrong to make it. Falkenstein received Hertzler's letter detailing the Ephrata meeting and wrote in his diary, "Mack College 'failed' (I suppose it might be said it was 'still born.') Well, it is best it did not live, for it had very poor generation."⁷⁸ Fifty years later J.G. Francis still seemed to be bitter from the way things went, but equally bitter about Francis's movements from forty years ago was Falkenstein, who still called Francis's attempts to circumvent Elizabethtown College's plans as "mischief-making trickery." On October third Francis made one last attempt to petition the location of Elizabethtown College, but the petition was quickly discarded by the Elizabethtown College Board of Trustees.⁷⁹

With Francis's petition discarded, work of the Board of Trustees continued working. On October 3, 1899, a trustee meeting was held discussing plans for the college building. It was stated the building should not exceed \$10,000, with Falkenstein then displaying a drawing and his first attempt at architecture he had made for the proposed building. The building displayed a front elevation and was referred to as a "twin building" by Falkenstein due to the two front entrances. The trustees decided the building would be 48 by 84 feet, the first and second story being nine feet high, and the basement and third floor at eight feet. The appointment for the president of the college was also considered on October 10, with Board member Jesse Ziegler discussing the probability of Falkenstein taking the position.⁸⁰ Regarding leadership, Falkenstein stated, "I am willing to be

⁷⁵ Ibid., 22.

⁷⁶ Ibid., 22-23.

⁷⁷ Ibid., 23.

⁷⁸ Ibid., 24.

⁷⁹ Ibid., 25.

⁸⁰ Ibid., 26.

led, as the lord seems to direct, or lead. The Lord will direct in due time.” Several months passed and money was continually solicited, meanwhile Falkenstein and his wife were in suspense, unknowing as to whether or not Falkenstein would gain the position of president. Falkenstein wrote about this time stating, “Brother Ziegler told me he hadn’t any doubt that I would be called upon to organize the school and take charge of it. He would have presented the matter [at the December 14th trustee meeting] if there had been any time.” Falkenstein had notable credentials and the fact he had already done so much work for College’s creation made him a suitable candidate for the position of president. However, the obstacles that come with the position are also notable, which Falkenstein clearly understood as he wrote, “the winding ways through which we must yet pass, we little dreamed of, and the severe tests of faith left many by the wayside.”⁸¹ However, at the April 19th board meeting I.N.H. Beahm was elected principal of Elizabethtown College. There are no recorded discussions from Falkenstein regarding this motion. Falkenstein had the better education, but Beahm was likely chosen due to his experience and previous roles as a midwife to two brethren colleges, currently being president of the third, and teaching at four in total. Falkenstein was ostensibly disappointed at not being chosen, especially with Ziegler heavily purporting he would/should be chosen. Falkenstein commented on the minutes of the meeting: “We often lacked time when our meetings were secondary to some other meeting, and sometimes we passed on big questions without due consideration in order to rush business while we had a quorum. I often much regretted this whole matter and what I regret most of all that we did business sometimes when we were not ready, but someone wanted to get things off hand.” Another meeting was held on May second and a concern of Beahm’s health was addressed. There are also supposedly writings of Beahm’s health in his official correspondence to Falkenstein.⁸² Attending the June 11 board meeting, Falkenstein left at 2:15 am from his house to arrive at Board Street Station in Philadelphia at 8 am. Falkenstein’s early starting hour for this meeting shows that many issues were likely to be discussed.⁸³ On this day an offer was made to Falkenstein with a chance to finally get compensation for his incredible effort founding the college. After a discussion comprised of the trustees with Falkenstein outside of the room, he was asked to return and found he was elected to the teaching faculty. Falkenstein stated he would accept the position for no less than \$600 dollars a year, which the trustees found to be an agreeable offer. However, Falkenstein did not immediately accept, writing in his diary: “The matter came as a complete surprise and therefore could not accept, desiring to consult Eva (who is visiting her mother in Ohio).” Falkenstein was given ten days to accept the offer and was pressured by the trustees to do so sooner rather than later. I.N.H Beahm also wrote Falkenstein a letter acknowledging how beneficial he

⁸¹ Ibid., 27.

⁸² het Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 29.

⁸³ het Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 30.

would be as part of the college's faculty. During the interim of the August 16th board meeting, Falkenstein accepted his position on the teaching faculty and agreed to help Beahm organize the college.⁸⁴ Beahm was present for his acceptance of the position, but Falkenstein wrote something worrying in his diary stating, "I am almost discouraged with him. He seemed to have settled down to the conviction that he is an invalid. He is almost helpless. He walks with much difficulty on two canes. When the principal should be the embodiment of energy, I pity him and the principalship." However, despite Beahm's health, he was appointed along with Falkenstein to a committee for planning the school's catalogue, textbooks, printing, and stationary. Ziegler was also on this committee and spent the whole day working with Falkenstein on the College catalogue, which would require two full additional days of work in total.⁸⁵ The final document was sixteen pages with blue covers and very concise in nature, completed on August 21. Among the faculty who were listed in the catalogue, Falkenstein was noted for teaching sciences, civil government, history and classics. The part of the catalogue that supposedly took the longest for Falkenstein and Ziegler to complete were the educational departments and the courses of study that would be offered.⁸⁶ With the catalogue finally being created, Falkenstein and other trustees set about to distribute it. In the following weeks Falkenstein traveled the surrounding counties while advertising the College and giving the catalogue to parents who had students around college age. The goal was to raise funds for the Elizabethtown College and also bring it some recognition. Difficulties continued when it came to raising funds for the college, with Falkenstein writing in his diary, "So many things to do and think about. I am struggling somewhat as a man who is beyond his depths. I hope I may soon be able to wade again."⁸⁷

The weeks before the College's opening involved Falkenstein writing letters, choosing textbooks and furniture for the students, planning and gathering books for the library, and several other tasks. Additionally, because of I.N.H. Beahm's deteriorating health, most of his responsibilities fell to Falkenstein. Falkenstein wrote the necessary letters, committee reports, and program for the opening day, while keeping the school's records and dealing with the Germantown Church affairs. He did all this in a small back room of his house, only lit by a window in the daytime and a coal lamp at night. During this time he was even writing his book, *History of the German Baptist Brethren*. On Saturday, November 3, 1900, Falkenstein made various visits, one of them to Beahm in order to arrange a place to hold opening day exercises for the college.⁸⁸ Additionally, he went to Lancaster to have programs for the college printed and visited the *New Era* office to discuss his upcoming book. The day before the college opened, on November 12th, it was seeming likely that the opening would have to be delayed since the building wasn't finished

⁸⁴ Ibid., 32.

⁸⁵ Ibid., 33.

⁸⁶ Ibid., 34.

⁸⁷ Ibid., 36.

⁸⁸ Ibid., 39.

and there were no other places available. Fortunately, Falkenstein quickly arranged for classes to be held in the same place as the opening exercises, the A. Heisey building on the South Market and Bainbridge Streets. Six students that were enrolled at the college attended the opening exercises came to be known as the “The Faithful Six,” one of which was Falkenstein’s nephew, Kurwin D. Henry, and came to be known as the “First Gentleman student of the College.”⁸⁹ The opening exercises were to see how proficient students already were in the subject matters and due to I.N.H. Beahm’s illness, Falkenstein took on the role as principal for the opening day. When classes ended Falkenstein wrote in his diary: “This is the beginning of the actual work – small and yet very auspicious. The Lord knows the end from the beginning. We do not, but I desire 75 students enrolled before the close of the school year, - Bible and all, and I ask the Lord for the same here and now! Grant it!” In the spring session of 1904, Falkenstein’s prayer would finally be answered with 75 students enrolled. By the time the second College catalogue was released, 27 students were enrolled and Falkenstein stated, “Things are getting in fair shape in our schoolwork. It begins to look like school and feel like it. Sister Myer is proving herself to be an excellent teacher. The boys are settling down to good work, and most of them are going to be good students, in conduct and work. Apparently Falkenstein had been trying to help I.N.H. Beahm with his health on the side, administering massage and surface rubbing treatments. According to Falkenstein’s diary, he was tired most days due to tending to the College’s needs and Beahm’s health.⁹⁰ Tending to his pastoral duties at the Germantown Church of the Brethren the following Sunday, Falkenstein claimed he “...preached twice, as usual and people would not have suspected I organized a College during the week, 87 miles away.” On Monday, November 19th, the Rider house was finally ready to accommodate students. After classes were finished in the Heisey building, the time was spent making three different trips on a two-horse hardware wagon, moving furniture and books to Washington Street. Falkenstein ended the day by giving I.N.H. Beahm his massage treatment. Falkenstein also apparently had interactions with a Janitor and student of the Rider house named Walter Kittinger. Falkenstein supervised Kittinger and talked to him about giving up smoking, which Kittinger promised he would. While the Rider house was sufficient for now, Falkenstein and Hertzler became fearful of the delays in completing the actual college building. For this reason, they asked Groff about adding additional plasterers to the job. Groff claimed that plasterers were hard to come by, however, Falkenstein speculated the actual reason was due to the heating cost that would need to be covered for each worker. It seemed that Falkenstein and Hertzler pressured Groff, as he agreed to adding ten more plasterer’s to the job.⁹¹ As the building process continued, Falkenstein and Hertzler viewed the rooms as they were completed, measured them for carpet, furniture, and equipment. In the meantime, Falkenstein continued teaching, running the college, treating Beahm with massages, and experimenting with other medical treatment. Falkenstein wrote

⁸⁹ Ibid., 40.

⁹⁰ Ibid., 41.

⁹¹ Ibid., 42.

about this treatment stating he “Gave Brother Beahm magnetic treatment (by clasping his ankles in my hands) hoping to be rejuvenated (sic) by my overflow of vital fluid... I had no faith in it, but I was interested in him and was anxious to help him if I could, even though it seemed utterly useless.”⁹² Shortly after College Hill building was finished, known today as Alpha Hall, a dedication service was held on March 4th in which Falkenstein among others gave sermon and addresses.⁹³ Additionally, a model school opened on September 9th to put future teachers in a classroom setting, with three of the enrolled students being Falkenstein's children. Falkenstein was hired as Acting Principal before, but for the 1901-1902 school year he was elected as the official College Principal. Falkenstein and his wife lived in two recitation rooms at Alpha Hall with their four children, likely to make his work more convenient, and eating their meals in the College dining room. Falkenstein also added to his workload by opening a small bookstore early in the year 1902. With work piling up between his arduous teaching schedule, administrative work for the college, and church duties at the Germantown Church, Falkenstein inevitably caved into the pressure and fell ill at the beginning of the 1902 fall term.⁹⁴ Falkenstein resigned as both a principal and then stated to the Board of Trustees: “In severing my connection with Elizabethtown College, I feel keenly that I leave a work that was close to my heart and I earnestly must pray for its future greater success under God’s blessing.” Falkenstein did serve as secretary of the board of trustees for five more months until he turned his full attention to his bookstore in which he sold books and stationery, in addition to music, candy, wallpaper, and dress patterns. However, Falkenstein’s main source of profit was from selling picture postcards, which was a very popular fad. Unfortunately, by the mid 1910s the fad had begun to fade, and by 1915 Falkenstein had to close his bookstore. Falkenstein’s resignation left the position of Principal open and he would also not be seen at Elizabethtown College for many years.⁹⁵ Daniel Reber followed in the footsteps of Falkenstein when receiving the position of Principal, taking on both his workload and administrative responsibilities for the college.⁹⁶

In 1908 the Church of the Brethren was fighting against alcohol usage and Elizabethtown’s Church of the Brethren already had a “temperance committee” with G.N. Falkenstein included on its board. The committee requested the Eastern Pennsylvania District to create a “Local Option Law” that would allow local municipalities to ban the sale and manufacturing of alcohol. However, the petition did not pass.⁹⁷

⁹² Ibid., 43.

⁹³ Ibid., 44.

⁹⁴ Ibid., 45.

⁹⁵ Ibid., 46.

⁹⁶ het Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 47.

⁹⁷ het Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 55.

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In January of 1920, a red colored and used Model T-Ford was purchased to help trustees with solicitation trips. Falkenstein and other trustee members drove house to house asking for money and pledges from members within Church of the Brethren congregations.⁹⁸

Around 1939 Elizabethtown was faced with a absence of newspapers due to them being said to possibly contaminate the “virgin-pure minds” of students. G.N. Falkenstein’s grandson, William Willoughby, published a letter speaking on the elimination of their daily papers: “..you [the editor] have not taken the pains to investigate the problem, of which the lack of newspaper is but a minor indication. As long as the choice of periodicals reflects a partisan attitude, which few will deny, Elizabethtown is not conducive to good citizenship, the primary requisite of which is a thorough knowledge of the issues of the day, and the ability to evaluate that knowledge. So far as I can ascertain, there are no magazines in the library which are in sympathy with the present administration... Another fundamental weakness of the library is the lack of many worthwhile books...The NEA gives in its journal for January a list of 100 books which everyone should read, chosen by prominent Americans. Of the books listed, only fifty-eight are in our library.”⁹⁹



George N. Falkenstein, right, who is credited with the survival of the College in its early years. He is pictured here on the Henry Hess farm near Aberdeen with Daniel Miller, left, and Samuel R. Zug.¹⁰⁰

With Elizabethtown College entering its second fifty years, the college dealt with the losses of G.N. Falkenstein in 1949, and then a year later with the loss of the College’s first Principal, I.N.H Beahm, on November 11, 1950, during a car accident. Additionally, a few months later, the President of Elizabethtown in the early 1920s died in Seattle.¹⁰¹

Among Falkenstein and other founding members of the college, J.G. Francis outlived the rest of the founders and died in Lebanon, Pennsylvania on August 27, 1958, at age 88.¹⁰²

In 1972, two years after the completion of Founders Hall, the four wings within it were named after those who were instrumental in the College’s founding, one of those wings being named after G.N. Falkenstein.¹⁰³

⁹⁸ het Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 86.

⁹⁹ het Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 147.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid., 175.

¹⁰¹ Ibid., 186.

¹⁰² Ibid., 206.

¹⁰³ Ibid., 262.

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Geoge N. Falkenstein, Principal, 1901-02.¹⁰⁴

Information from online sources:

Find a Grave, database and images

(https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101909136/george_ness-falkenstein: accessed May 28, 2024), memorial page for George Ness Falkenstein (16 Jul 1859–17 Aug 1949), Find a Grave Memorial ID 101909136, citing Bupps Union Cemetery, Seven Valleys, York County, Pennsylvania, USA; Maintained by Flinsbach (contributor 49222948).

Falkenstein was born 16 July 1859, In York County, Pennsylvania, USA

Falkenstein died on 17 August 1949 (aged 90), In York County, Pennsylvania, USA

Falkenstein ws buried in the Bupps Union Cemetery at Seven Valleys, York County, Pennsylvania, USA

Parents: David Falkenstein 1816–1866 & Mary Anna Ness Ness 1835–1874

Spouse: Eva S Shellenberger Falkenstein 1864–1958

Children: Lilian Falkenstein Willoughby 1892–1973

Siblings: Jacob Ness Falkenstein 1855–1947, Barbara Falkenstine Henry 1857–1935, David Falkenstein 1861–1862, Elizabeth Falkenstine Stambaugh 1863–1953, and Dr Andrew Ness Falkenstein 1865–1917

Half siblings: Annie Mary Ness 1872–1906 & William Henry Ness 1874–1917

Memorial ID: 101909136

Longitude and latitude of burial: 39°51'50.2"N 76°43'55.6"W

“George Ness Falkenstein -Taught Bible, psychology and pedagogy at the College—served as the acting principal, filling in for Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm during the 1900 – 1901 academic year.”



¹⁰⁴ Ibid., 341.

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Samuel Hertzler (1853-1936)

Samuel Hoffer Hertzler was known by most as “Uncle Sam.” He was born on September 24, 1853, on a farm near Elizabethtown.¹ He attended both Palatinate College, now Albright College, and Millersville State Normal School.² At twenty-eight he became a member of the Spring Creek Congregation and was ordained by the Chiques Congregation in 1904.³ He was married to Annie Shank and together they had a son who died at twelve years old. Later he married Mary Ziegler, the sister of the first chairman of the Board of Trustees, Jesse C. Ziegler. “In 1884, his brothers, Aaron and Isaac, opened a department store.⁴ In 1891, he joined his brothers in owning and running Hertzler Brothers on the corner of North Market Street and East High Street where they sold clothing, dry goods, groceries, queensware, boots, and shoes, and ready-to-wear clothing.”⁵ The building that was once the Hertzler Brothers’ Department Store now houses the store Folklore, which is a local coffee shop.⁶

Relating to the creation of Elizabethtown College, Hertzler was passionate about creating a place to educate the youth of the Church of the Brethren and was often selected by the Board of

¹ Gina Bongiovanni et al., “Samuel H. Hertzler” (Landmarks and Legends Essay, Elizabethtown College, 2017) 1.

² Ibid.

³ Richard Kerwin MacMaster. *Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries* (Morgantown, PA: Mastof Press, 1999), 133.

⁴ Jean-Paul Benowitz, *Images of America: Elizabethtown* (Charleston SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2015), 32; Bongiovanni, “Samuel H. Hertzler,” 1.

⁵ MacMaster, 133.

⁶ Zach Gibbons, “Hertzler Brothers’ Department Store,” (Hon 107 Essay, Elizabethtown College, 2017) 1.

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Trustees to present the cause of the College at district conferences.⁷ As President Schlosser writes in the *Etownian* on March 12, 1936, shortly after Hertzler's passing:

“First, he would in his pleasant way create an atmosphere of good fellowship and bring out a smile from all present except the most sombre. Then in a spirit of optimism he would lay the facts before his audience and challenge all to do the right.”⁸

Samuel Hertzler was involved with Elizabethtown College from the start. At the first public meeting for the creation of Elizabethtown College, which met on Tuesday November 29, 1898, several people gave their views relating to founding a college. Samuel Hertzler of Elizabethtown Pennsylvania voiced his perspective: “we need a school that is properly managed.”⁹

A group called the Committee on Location was formed on November 29, 1898. It was a group of five men who were in charge of working with interested persons and towns to survey and evaluate various locations for the College.¹⁰ Before the first meeting of the Committee on Location, John Herr resigned from his position due to ill health and the committee elected S.H. Hertzler in his place.¹¹ The Committee on Location made a visit to Mountville on March 6, 1899, to look at it as a possible site for the College. The members on the tour were: H.E. Light, S.H. Hertzler, G.N. Falkenstein, and E.B. Lefever.



The offer was a site of six acres on a high hill east of Mountville but no reaction to this offer is recorded.¹² On April 4, 1899, the Committee on Location paid a visit to Elizabethtown to see several sites including one east of the town on the farmland of Benjamin G. Groff. The committee met at the home of S.H. Hertzler that morning to discuss proposals for the college location.¹³ The

⁷ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 171-173.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., 6.

¹⁰ Ibid.; Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 14.

¹¹ Schlosser, 6.; The Committee, *History of the Church of the Brethren of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania*. (Lancaster, PA: Press of the New Era Printing Company, 1915) 624.

¹² Ibid., 7.

¹³ Ibid., 11-12.

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Committee on Location completed its duties in a period of four months and five days; from November 29, 1899, to April 4, 1899.

S.H. Hertzler was elected treasurer of the second public meeting of Elizabethtown College on April 5, 1899.¹⁴ It was during this meeting that the findings from the Committee on Location were presented and discussed. At the end of the meeting, it was voted to create a new committee of ten people that will be fully authorized to select the final site of the College. The new Locating



Committee was comprised of H.E. Light, G.N. Falkenstein, S.H. Hertzler, George Bucher, Jesse C. Ziegler, S.R. Zug, J.G. Francis, Abram H. Royer, Benjamin Hottel, and William H. Oberholtzer. This committee also had the responsibility of drafting a constitution and by-laws for the future school. For the coming meeting at the District Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania on April 20, 1899, the committee elected H.E.

Light as Chairman, G.N. Falkenstein as Secretary, and S.H. Hertzler as Treasurer.¹⁵ The following meeting for the Locating Committee was at the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Virginia on May 24, 1899. Seven of the ten members of the Locating Committee were present, including Hertzler.¹⁶ The ten members of the locating committee became the “Executive Committee of the public meeting and carried out their decisions until a Board of Trustees was elected at the next public meeting.”¹⁷

At the third public meeting on June 7, 1899, at the Church of the Brethren in Elizabethtown, the site of the college in Elizabethtown was confirmed and the first board of trustees was elected. S.H. Hertzler was elected for a three-year term as treasurer along with G.N. Falkenstein as chairman, and Jesse C. Ziegler as secretary.¹⁸ S.H. Hertzler was among the people who signed the original charter of the college on September 16th, 1899.¹⁹ The first meeting of the Board of Trustees was in the home of Nathan Hoffman on June 16, 1899. The officers were elected by the names of the trustees listed in the last public meeting. The officers elected were Jesse C. Ziegler as Chairman, T.F. Imler as Vice Chairman, G. N. Falkenstein as Secretary, and S.H. Hertzler as

¹⁴ Ibid., 13.

¹⁵ Ibid., 15.

¹⁶ Ibid., 16.

¹⁷ Ibid., 15.

¹⁸ Ibid., 17.; Williamson, 18.; MacMaster, 164.

¹⁹ Schlosser, 21-22.

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Treasurer.²⁰ A committee of three was also appointed; comprised of Joseph H. Rider, S.H. Hertzler, and T.F. Imler, to create a charter for the college as well as design a seal for Elizabethtown College.²¹

To raise funds for Elizabethtown College, the Board divided up the churches of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania among the members of the Board of Trustees. Hertzler and Joseph Rider were tasked with raising funds from the churches in the Chicques, Mountville, White Oak, West Conestoga, and Tulpehocken areas. The two were also appointed to get articles of agreement from B.G. Groff for the purchase of the land for the College.²²

The second meeting of the board of trustees was held on August 15-16 of 1899. It was during this meeting that S.H. Hertzler presented a draft of the charter which was prepared by several attorneys. After a discussion among the trustees, Hertzler and Falkenstein were appointed to suggest revisions in the charter to the attorneys. Hertzler and Rider were able to get B.G. Groff to consent to the agreement of twelve acres of his farm for the location of the College.²³ The board decided to purchase an additional four acres to give the plot a better shape.²⁴

During the third board meeting on October 3, 1899, G.N. Falkenstein moved that steps needed to be taken to erect a college building. S.H. Hertzler seconded that motion. T.F. Imler and S.H. Hertzler were appointed as a committee to work with an architect on the plans and specifications of the college building.²⁵ Shortly after the fourth meeting, S.H. Hertzler met with Jesse C. Ziegler and G.N. Falkenstein to discuss the type of building the college needed. They discussed location, ventilating and heating systems, and the need for a fire-proof vault.²⁶ At the sixth board meeting on April 12, 1900, T.F. Imler and S.H. Hertzler reported that they had “lost sight of W.W. Bretherick.” Because Bretherick failed to live up to his contract, the board voted to relieve the committee of all responsibility of him. They instead arranged for the architect, A. A. Richter, from Lebanon to be at the Board meeting.²⁷ During the sixth meeting, the board also discussed when the school should open. In a motion made by T.F. Imler and seconded by S.H. Hertzler, the motion passed to open the school in the coming fall in 1899.²⁸ T.F. Imler also moved and was seconded by S.H. Hertzler to make I.N.H Beahm the elected Principal of the College. The motion passed.²⁹ At the seventh board meeting on May 2, 1900, Jesse C. Ziegler, S.H. Hertzler, and G.N. Falkenstein met and agreed on the terms of employing I.N.H Beahm. “The agreement was that in case he should not teach, he was to receive \$300 for organizing and managing the

²⁰ Ibid., 25-26.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ MacMaster, 169.

²⁴ Schlosser, 28.

²⁵ Ibid., 30

²⁶ Ibid., 31

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid., 32

²⁹ Ibid.; Williamson, 29.

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school and that when he would be able to teach, the Board should arrange for paying such services.” Because of I.N.H Beahm’s illness at the time, S.H. Hertzler, T.F. Imler, and George Bucher were asked to speak with him.³⁰ Beahm would often suffer from nervous breakdowns and would end up being bedridden before the College even opened.³¹ The eighth board meeting was on June 11, 1900, at the home of S.H. Hertzler. T.F. Imler resigned from the committee on securing an architect and was replaced by Joseph H. Heisey.³² The ninth board meeting was a long and arduous one, held on August 16, 1900. The board attempted to deal with the problem of I.N.H Beahm’s worsening illness. Beahm could provide them with almost no assistance.³³ During the tenth board meeting on October 2, 1900, Joseph G. Heisey and S.H. Hertzler were assigned to look into getting a loan to complete the payment of the College building. During this meeting, G.N. Falkenstein, S.H. Hertzler, and I.N.H Beahm were appointed as a Committee on Furniture.³⁴

On the opening day of the College, November 13, 1900, Hertzler was among the people who spoke to the new students enrolled. He gave an address titled “Our Needs.”³⁵ The dedication of Alpha Hall, the first building on the Elizabethtown College campus, was held at 2 PM on Monday, March 4, 1901. Hertzler did the scripture reading and prayer along with speaking on the financial status during the dedication.³⁶

By the end of the college’s fifth year the student body had grown tremendously. The college now



needed an additional building, so they composed a committee of S.H. Hertzler and I.N.H. Beahm to look into the cost of a second building. This second building would be Rider Memorial Hall which was dedicated on March 4, 1906. Hertzler was also on the committee which selected the name for the building.³⁷ Pictured to the left is Rider Memorial Hall.³⁸ In 1913, the board wanted to transfer ownership and management of the College to the church. S.H. Hertzler and J.H. Keller represented the board at the District Meeting of Southern Pennsylvania. Afterward, Hertzler and Keller stated that the Southern District of Pennsylvania

³⁰ Schlosser., 33

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid., 35.

³⁴ Ibid., 36-37.

³⁵ Ibid., 40.

³⁶ Ibid., 43.

³⁷ Ibid., 53.

³⁸ Ibid., 61.

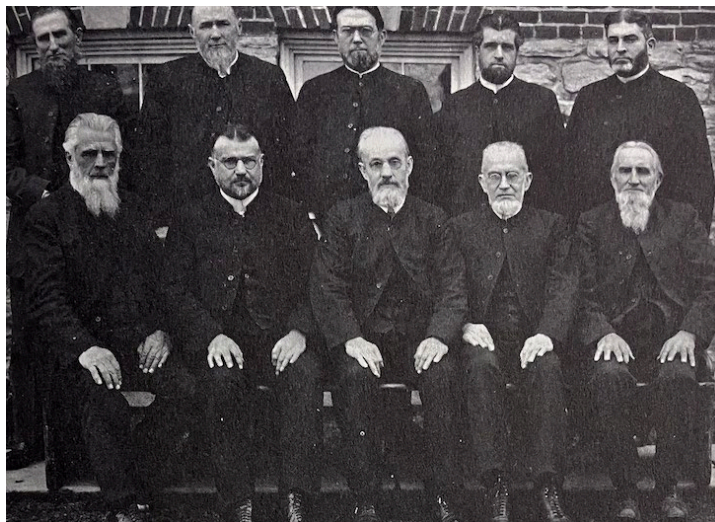
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was “very favorable to the proposition.”³⁹ “After several years of deliberation and debate, the transfer of the College to the Church was effected.”⁴⁰

Pictured to the right is the Elizabethtown College Board of Trustees, 1923. Hertzler is pictured in the front row in the middle.⁴¹

On January 26, 1924, H.K. Ober was elected as President of Elizabethtown College, but he declined. A committee with Hertzler, J.W.H Hershey, and I.W. Taylor conferred with Ober to convince him to accept the presidency. At the next board meeting on March 28, 1924 he accepted.⁴²

The ownership of the College was transferred to the Eastern and Southern Districts of the Church of the Brethren who elected a new Board of Trustees. S.H.



Hertzler was elected for a two year term from 1919-1921. On January 2, 1919 the new Board organized with S.H. Hertzler as Chairman.⁴³ “On January 13, 1922, S.H. Hertzler, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, surprised the members of the Board as he read the following telegram from Thomas E. Finegan, President of the State Council of Education:

“Harrisburg, PA.

December 21, 1921

Favorable action has been taken on your application for a charter to grant degrees. Announce it thus to your student body.

Thomas E. Finegan⁴⁴”

Elizabethtown College was now accredited by the State Department of Public Instruction.⁴⁵

In 1930, the nation was going through the throes of the Great Depression and students were struggling to finance their education. Faculty salaries could barely be paid and in a meeting with the Board, several members gave pessimistic speeches in favor of closing the College. S.H. Hertzler “saved the day.” He gave a speech to the board that portrayed a hopeful rather than pessimistic picture and ended by saying “Brethren, we did not start this College with a view of

³⁹ Ibid., 67-69.; Williamson, 65.

⁴⁰ Schlosser, 71.

⁴¹ Ibid., 73.

⁴² Ibid., 90.

⁴³ Ibid., 95.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 104.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

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quitting.⁴⁶” The board ended up voting to go forward with the institution.⁴⁷ On March 17, 1936, S.H. Hertzler died after serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for eighteen years.⁴⁸

Samuel Hoffer Hertzler died at age 82 on March 7, 1936, in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He is buried at the Mount Tunnel Cemetery in Elizabethtown Pennsylvania with his wife and son. His father is William Hertzler (unknown-1896) and his mother is Mary Ann Hoffer Hertzler (1825-1909).⁴⁹



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⁴⁶ Ibid., 124.; Williamson, 127.

⁴⁷ Schlosser, 124.

⁴⁸ Ibid., 126.

⁴⁹ “Samuel Hoffer Hertzler (1853-1936),” Find a Grave, accessed May 24, 2024.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/194751168/samuel-hoffer-hertzler>; Williamson, 133.

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Horace E. Raffensperger (1901 - 1977)

Elizabeth Raffensperger (1901-2003)

On August 31, 1958, the Board of Trustees appointed Horace E. Raffensperger as the Chairman and advisor to the Development Program.¹ At the time of President Baugher's retirement, H.E. Raffensperger was part of the committee for planning proper ceremonies for the President.² During a testimonial dinner at the Penn Harris Hotel in Harrisburg on May 1, 1961, for recognizing President Baugher, Horace Raffensperger was the toastmaster at the event and announced the establishment at Elizabethtown College of the A.C. Baugher Lectureship in Science. Additionally, Baugher was given a lump sum of money from the Board of Trustees.³

A convocation was held on April 10, 11, and 13, 1964, for the launch of the Pathway to Fulfillment program. At this program, Horace E. Raffensperger acted as a Leadership Gifts Chairman.⁴ During the inauguration of President Mays, Horace Raffensperger, at the time Secretary to the Board of Trustees, gave the "Charge to President Mays" section of the service. Additionally, during this service Raffensperger was in charge of the Presentation of Medallion to President Mays.⁵ For the Board of Trustees in the year 1986, H.E. Raffensperger served as the

Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 212.

² Schlosser, 221.

³ Ibid., 222.

⁴ Ibid., 245.

⁵ Ibid., 286.

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Secretary.⁶ H.E. Raffensperger's time on the Board of Trustees expired in 1971.⁷

When President Mays took up his duties on October 1, 1966, he appointed a committee to "review the basic commitment of Elizabethtown College and to suggest the future direction of the College along with major lines of its future development." This program was called EPIC-Elizabethtown Plots Its Course, and involved various

individuals and organizations concerned with the future of Elizabethtown College. As a member of the committee, H.E. Raffensperger acted as a trustee to the EPIC Co-ordinating Committee.⁸ At the groundbreaking ceremonies of the new Alumni Physical Education Center on September 13, 1968, Horace E. Raffensperger, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, participated in the program.⁹ Elizabethtown College: The First Three Centuries:

"College and community representatives developing the Five-Year Plan for Elizabethtown College; back row (left to right): Sam Parrett, Jack Hornafius, James L.M. Yeingst, Richard Berg, Lester Hitz, and Jacob Hershman; middle row (left to right): J.W. (Jap) Heisey, and Earl Kurtz; front row (left to right): Walter Dupes, Roy Cover, Horace Raffensperger, Roy McAuley (college president), and Vere Bishop."¹⁰ The Continental Press's new firm and offices were behind Horace E. Raffensperger's House and employed six people in 1939. Additionally, Raffensperger expanded his own editorial offices into a modern industrial complex and employed between 90 and 100 people in 1968.¹¹



In 1954, the congregation of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren broke ground for a new church building on South Mount Joy Street. Horace Raffensperger, chair of the building committee. The building was a Colonial-style architecture and the cornerstone was laid in 1955. H.E. Raffensperger was part of the building committee for this building and it was expected to

⁶ Ibid., 294.

⁷ Ibid., 296.

⁸ Ibid., 308.

⁹ Ibid., 315.

¹⁰ Ibid., 248.

¹¹ Ibid., 256.

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cost \$325,000.¹² Two years after the construction of the “Living Learning Center,” it was named Founder’s Hall, and the four wings were dedicated to men who had been instrumental in founding the College. The central lounge within founder’s is dedicated to Dr. And Mrs. Horace E. Raffensperger, as well as the alumni and founders of the Continental press.¹³

Find a Grave Information:

Find a Grave, database and images (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/195581632/horace_e-raffensperger: accessed June 28, 2024), memorial page for Horace E. Raffensperger (1901–1977), Find a Grave Memorial ID 195581632, citing Mount Tunnel Cemetery, Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA; Maintained by Etta Lyons Buchwald (contributor 48374005).

Horace E. Raffensperger

BIRTH: 1901

DEATH: 1977 (aged 75–76)

BURIAL: Mount Tunnel Cemetery

Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA

MEMORIAL ID: 195581632

Parents: William Andrew "W. A." Raffensperger 1874–1947 and Elsie May Hoover Raffensperger 1882–1963

Spouse: Elizabeth Trimmer Raffensperger 1900–2003

Siblings: Evalyn Gertrude Raffensperger Eshelman 1908–1991

Children: Carl T. Raffensperger 1926–2006 and Joan Louise Raffensperger

1936–1937

¹² Ibid., 260.

¹³ Ibid., 262.

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Elizabeth Trimmer Raffensperger

Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/195581643/elizabeth-raffensperger>: accessed July 1, 2024), memorial page for Elizabeth Trimmer Raffensperger (1900–2003), Find a Grave Memorial ID 195581643, citing Mount Tunnel Cemetery, Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA; Maintained by Etta Lyons Buchwald (contributor 48374005).

BIRTH: 1900

DEATH: 2003 (aged 102–103)

BURIAL: Mount Tunnel Cemetery Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA
MEMORIAL ID: 195581643

Parents: Noah A. Trimmer 1875–1961 and Fannie V. Powell Trimmer 1876–1936

Spouse: Horace E. Raffensperger 1901–1977

Siblings: Morris A. Trimmer 1899–1990, Alfred Powell Trimmer 1902–1940 and Daniel Jacob Trimmer 1909–1909

Children: Carl T. Raffensperger 1926–2006 and Joan Louise Raffensperger 1936–1937

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Wayne L. Miller (1925-2016)

Wayne L. Miller was born in 1925 and was a native of Indiana. He sadly passed away quite recently in 2016. Miller was granted the following degrees in his lifetime: an A.B. degree from Manchester College in 1948, M.S. degree from Purdue University in 1950, B.D. degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in 1954, and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in 1961.¹ Miller was a Professor of Speech at Manchester College in from 1949-52, Instructor of Speech at Los Angeles College in 1960-51, a graduate assistant at Purdue University, and a graduate assistant at the University of Southern California.² Additionally, Wayne Miller was married to Gwendolyn Studebaker, and they had four children in total.³

Wayne L. Miller was named dean of the College Faculty on January 9, 1967, and his duties began on July 1.⁴ A committee representing the Faculty, the administration, the alumni, and the Church of the Brethren of Eastern and Southern Pennsylvania, had been looking for a successor upon the resignation of Dean Jacob E. Hershman. Miller had ultimately been employed and chosen due to the recommendation of President Mays of Elizabethtown College.⁵

¹ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 287.

² Schlosser, 288.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 228.

⁵ Schlosser, 287.

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When recommending Wayne Miller to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees on January 9, 1967, for the position of Dean of the Faculty for a period from July 1, 1967, to August 31, 1968, President Mays made the following comment:

*"We feel that Wayne L. Miller has the high degree of educational insight we are seeking in the man who will be principally responsible for directing the academic program... I know him and find him to be sagacious in his approach to academic planning. He has a sound concept of what Christian higher education's objectives should be, and he has ideas on how these objectives may be realized."*⁶

Responding to his appointment of Dean of the Faculty, Wayne Miller stated:

*"I look forward to working with the Faculty in a co-operative approach to developing the academic program. I will seek Faculty involvement in all phases of academic planning."*⁷

Then, upon taking office as Dean of the Faculty, Wayne L. Miller outlined his objectives and purpose for the College in an EPIC (Elizabethtown College Plots Its Course) report:

"The purpose of Elizabethtown College is personal. Its program is intended to free the student of his limitations of experience and ignorance, and to broaden the span of his interests. It seeks to develop in him critical and constructive habits of thought, a desire and capacity to know, clear and coherent means of self-expression, and an understanding of the world about him, natural, social and cultural....

In order to achieve these ends Elizabethtown College expects each member of the academic community to face the basic issues of his personhood, to be involved in a creative relationship with others in an academic community, and to pursue excellence in an atmosphere of responsible freedom. Within this context of general personal development Elizabethtown College expects each student to acquire the skills and knowledge of a specialization.

*The College is private, its student body coeducational, its academic program undergraduate. Its facilities are open, without discrimination, to all students who seek an education of the quality and kind which will prepare them for service in a free and democratic society. It seeks to offer this preparation in a setting of opportunity which will be exciting and challenging, exciting and rewarding."*⁸

Regarding these reports, Wayne L. Miller actually was part of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Elizabethtown College Plots Its Course program.⁹

At the time the Living Learning Center was being erected, Wayne L. Miller commented on how the plan for the center embodies the new "living learning" approach to College education:

⁶ Ibid., 288-289.

⁷ Ibid., 289.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., 308.

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“The approach would emphasize the common learning experiences inherent in small group relationships. Students would spend half their time in block education with a single professor and take other courses in tradition classroom settings.”¹⁰

The first two wings of the center were occupied by women in September 1970, a third wing was occupied by women, and the fourth wing contained men from the closed Fairview Hall dormitory. For this reason, Wayne Miller claimed that the new Living Learning Center was a “strictly residence hall.”¹¹

Additionally, on May 5, 1970, twenty-five students presented a list of eighteen demands from black students on campus. Wayne L. Miller met the students the next morning, however, stated that any actions or opinions on the demands should come from President Mays, who was absent at the time of the demands.¹²

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¹⁰ Ibid., 317.

¹¹ Ibid., 318.

¹² Ibid., 319.

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