

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



K. Ezra Bucher (1909 – 1986)

K. Ezra Bucher was part of the original enlarged Board of Trustees at the time it was reorganized on January 2, 1939, and was nominated by the Alumni.¹ Ezra Bucher succeeded Jacob Z Herr as the Treasurer of Elizabethtown College in 1946.²

The Candles was an honorary club recognized by the Board of trustees in 1930. On November 6, 1931, the Club presented a one act play *The valiant* in the Alumni Auditorium Gymnasium. Among those that that chief roles in the play, K. Ezra Bucher was one of them.³

When Treasurer J.Z. Herr of Elizabethtown College resigned from his position in October 1945, the Board of Trustees had a replacement in mind who was a member on the Equipment and Finance Committees, K. Ezra Bucher.⁴ K. Ezra Bucher was selected as Treasurer and Business manager, as well as part-time Assistant Professor of Business Education, for the year 1945-46. In 1955 Bucher then became an Associate Professor in Business Education and taught classes until 1957. Additionally, during 1956-57, Ezra Bucher's time as treasurer involved taking up the directorship of a Ten-Year Development Program to raise \$1,000,000. To free up some of Ezra Bucher's workload, Wilbur E. Weaver was appointed as Business Manager for the 1955-56 year and allowed Bucher to be relieved from the duty. K. Ezra Bucher held his position as Treasurer until his resignation in 1957.⁵

Ezra Bucher was well prepared for his position as Treasurer. He received a B.S. degree from Elizabethtown College in 1932 and also attended Lebanon Valley College. As a teacher, Ezra

¹ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 128.

² Schlosser, 132.

³ Ibid., 156.

⁴ Jean-Paul Benowitz, Peter J. DePuydt, "Elizabethtown College" (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 23.

⁵ Ibid., 182.

Bucher had a bubbly personality and strong business principles guiding any industrial relationships he may have. In the South Whitehall Township High School, he taught commercial subjects for four years. Additionally, he taught the same subjects in Mechanicsburg Highschool for eight years. For a two-year period, Ezra Bucher served as chief accountant for the D. Wilcox Manufacturing Company of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Bucher was then elected to the Elizabethtown College Board of Trustees by the Alumni Association in 1942 and served two terms. As a member of the Board of Trustees, Bucher was appointed to several committees within it and was Treasurer of the Board from 1946 to 1957. In 1946 additional dormitories were needed, so Treasurer Ezra Bucher was asked to contact the United States Government authorities regarding surplus government buildings to supply the housing shortage at the College. Ezra Bucher was successful, having two army dormitory buildings from Camp Reynolds, Pennsylvania, to Elizabethtown College, which would each hold around thirty students. These two-army barracks were designated North and South Hall, are used for offices and classrooms in the current day, and find themselves located south of the Baugher Student Center.⁶ Ezra Bucher was also successful in securing a 40 x 100 feet building with furniture and other equipment. This was named the Business Education Building and located south of Alpha Hall.



Ezra Bucher was a member of the Equipment Committee of the Board of Trustees and worked to enhance the appearance of dormitory and administrative offices within Alpha Hall, also making notable improvements to the landscaping on campus. Ezra Bucher was also appointed to a committee for visiting college libraries, with the goal to plan for a library building on Elizabethtown College. Additionally, Bucher was on an Alumni Memorial Committee for investigating the practicability of erecting an Alumni Memorial Gymnasium on Campus.

K Ezra Bucher also played a heavy role in the dramatics and theatrics of Elizabethtown College, as he took great interest in them. Bucher was a Director and Business Manager of The All College Players, an organization of Faculty and advanced students who would produce plays. Some of the Plays are *One Foot in Heaven*, *House of Rimmon*, *Barter*, *The Rock*, *Joan of Lorraine* and others. Ezra Bucher, aside from being Director and Business Manager, also was a leading member of the cast for several plays. All of the proceeds from these plays were spent on purchasing library equipment.

Even with his heavy load of work from being Treasurer, Business Manager, and Professor of Business Education, Ezra Bucher organized several community courses for the non-college public. A woman name Miss Martha Marin taught these classes two nights a week in Bible subjects with

⁶ Ibid., 183.

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an enrollment of forty to fifty students. Particularly, a class in Modern Retail Store Operation attracted merchants from a wide area. Courses such as this led to membership in the Tri-County National Office Management Association (NOMA). Due to this relationship with NOMA, seminars would be conducted at Elizabethtown College by prominent business executives. Additionally, banquets of NOMA frequently appeared on campus, which K. Ezra Bucher was a popular toastmaster for.

At the time Bucher was relieved of his position as Business Manager of the College, the Board of Trustees then appointed him as Director of the Ten-year Development Program, with his office being located in the Brethren Historical Records Room in the Zug Memorial Library. Ezra Bucher led a successful first phase for this program. On June, 1957, Ezra Bucher's resignation from the position of Treasurer and Director of Development to the College was to become effective.⁷ Despite leaving during the Development Program early, Bucher led a successful first phase to the project, which allowed the goal of the Program to be raised by \$500,000

After resigning from his positions at Elizabethtown College, Ezra Bucher continued involvement with projects outside of the College, such as accepting an appointment to the Elizabethtown High School District Board in 1950 for a period of two years. Bucher was then elected for a six-year term on the Board and was even President for one year. The Churches of the Brethren around Elizabethtown then employed Bucher to assist them in fund raising campaigns. He took up work in the following congregations: Elizabethtown, Gettysburg, Mechanicsburg, Palmyra, Ridgeway Community, Annville, Myerstown, and Lebanon. K. Ezra Bucher is also an ordained minister of the Church of the Brethren. Ezra Bucher essentially continued his position as Treasurer, this time for the Eastern District of the Church of the brethren from 1956-1970. Ezra Bucher was valuable to the church for his clear and concise explanations of the financial status of the District. His great civic work also shows through his involvement in Elizabethtown's Lions Club, in which he served as the Secretary. Additionally, from the point of Ezra Bucher's resignation as Treasurer from the College, Bucher is the Vice President in charge of Production at the Continental Press in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.⁸ When K. Ezra Bucher was asked to be Director of the Ten-Year Development Program, Wilbur E. Weaver was selected to serve as the new Business Manager of the College to lighten Bucher's workload. Ezra Bucher's duties as treasurer were also reduced to a minimum, and Robert S. Young, the Assistant to the President of the College, was asked to assist him in the campaign, which had a goal of \$1,000,000. On April 30, 1955, K. Ezra Bucher and Robert S. Young continued pushing forward the work of the first three years.⁹ At the end of the first phase of the program, on June 30, 1957, the amount of money solicited was \$438,197, and by the next year \$520,000. After this first phase was complete, K Ezra Bucher resigned from his position as Director of the Development Program and the Board of Trustees employed J. Albert Seldomridge as his replacement on May 1, 1958.¹⁰

⁷ Ralph Schlosser. *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 – 1970*. (Elizabethtown College, 1971), 184.

⁸ Ibid., 185.

⁹ Ibid., 211.

¹⁰ Ibid., 212.

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K Ezra Bucher was one of the prime movers for the Alumni Giving Fund, which was created due to much sentiment within Alumni circles for a way they could contribute to the College. The following table shows the total Alumni contributions to this fund from the year 1958-1965:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Giving</i>
1958-59	\$169,453.24
1959-60	132,041.04
1960-61	154,777.32
1961-62	201,349.95
1962-63	187,484.14
1963-64	113,220.29
1964-65	93,274.31
	<hr/>
Total	\$1,051,600.29

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Find a grave information:

Find a Grave, database and images

(https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141107347/kurtz_ezra-bucher: accessed July 1, 2024), memorial page for Kurtz Ezra Bucher (14 May 1909–24 Sep 1986), Find a Grave Memorial ID 141107347, citing Mount Tunnel Cemetery, Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA; Maintained by Arigeni (contributor 47104610).

Kurtz Ezra Bucher

BIRTH: 14 May 1909 Pennsylvania, USA

DEATH: 24 Sep 1986 (aged 77)

BURIAL: Mount Tunnel Cemetery Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA

¹¹ Ibid., 262.

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MEMORIAL ID: 141107347

Parents: Leonard Ezra Bucher

1873–1947 and Cora S Kurtz Bucher 1878–1916

Spouse: Esther M "Anna" Markley Bucher 1911–2010

Siblings: Mabel I Bucher Bucher, 1901–1983, Ira L Bucher 1902–1937, Alton P Bucher 1904–1977, Abraham C Bucher 1906–1997, Harvey Caleb Bucher 1908–1909, and Mary Emma Bucher Smith 1911–1976

Children: Glenn Richard Bucher unknown–2019



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