

A. C. Baugher

On 8 September 1893 in York, Charles Abba Baugher was born to Aaron Sweitzer and Lydia Buser Baugher.¹ Interestingly, in the 1900 U.S. Census, Baugher is identified as being born in Pennsylvania, and not in Maryland, which he himself listed on his 1942 WWII draft card. This is most likely due to his family's farm straddling the Mason-Dixon line.² As a child, he loved to learn, read, and write, always practicing his penmanship and reversing his initials whenever he wrote his name.³ In 1913, he graduated from Glenville High School with top honors and then taught for a while until his love of learning called him to continue his education.⁴ Reverend Doctor Abba Charles Baugher began as a late student at Elizabethtown College in 1914 and graduated in 1917.⁵ Both his brother, J.I. Baugher, and his future wife, Ella Booz, also attended, graduated from, taught at, and received the "Alumni Chair" from Elizabethtown.⁶ He was a member of the college's faculty quartet and his group was the first to sing the college's Alma Mater after it was made.⁷ Five years later in 1922, he received his A.B. degree from the college even though he had already completed his education years prior.⁸ That same year, he became a professor of four different chemistry courses for the college, while also teaching Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis.⁹ For a long while, he was the president of the Chemistry department at Elizabethtown.¹⁰ Baugher also later earned his B.S. in chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College, his Master's in that field from the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1937, he received his Ph.D. from New York University.¹¹ Later in his life, Franklin and Marshall also bestowed to him the honorary degree LL.D.¹² In 1930, he was elected vice president of the Faculty Club, which was created for the faculty and their spouses to stimulate socialness.¹³ During Baugher's presidency, the college oversaw a growth in building operations. He was on the building committee for the Gible Science Hall when plans for its construction were first under way and was also the one to recommend the creation of Elizabeth Myer Hall and Ober Hall.¹⁴ Early in his presidency, the college, "in its development found it necessary to provide additional buildings for the Faculty, the students, and classrooms," and, "on October 17, 1942, the Trustees voted to purchase the home owned by J.I. Baugher, and on March 20, 1946, bought the home of Howard Fryer." Other homes bought by the college and buildings allocated by the government include North and South Halls, a government building given to the college by the Federal Works Agency in December, 1946, which was "located to the rear of Alpha Hall," and the Grubb home, purchased in 1960, which the Trustees voted in December, 1960 to remodel and make the President's Home—which it has

¹ Ralph W. Schlosser, History of Elizabethtown College, 1899-1970 (Lebanon: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 226, 278.

² "Charles A Baugher in the 1900 United States Federal Census," ancestry.com, accessed November 6, 2017, https://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=CNP8&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&gss=angs-g&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsfn=Charles%20Abba&gsfn_x=0&gsln=Baugher&gsln_x=0&msypnftp=Pennsylvania,%20USA&msypn=41&msypn_PInfo=5-%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C0%7C41%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C&msbdy=1893&catbucket=rstp&MSAV=0&uidh=2vm&pcat=ROOT_CATEGORY&h=42850508&dbid=7602&indiv=1&ml_rpos=3

³ Chet Williamson, Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown: Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 62.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid., 61.

⁶ Schlosser, 202, 203, 226, 227, 278.

⁷ Williamson, 93.

⁸ Ibid., 107.

⁹ Ibid., 130.

¹⁰ Schlosser, 126.

¹¹ Williamson, 152

¹² Schlosser, 278.

¹³ Ibid., 136.

¹⁴ Ibid., 154, 197

been since 1 January, 1961 and continues to be to this day.¹⁵ He held the office of dean at Elizabethtown College from 1928 until 1941, when he became the president of the college.¹⁶ He served in this role for twenty years and during which time, not only was he was the first president honored as emeritus,¹⁷ but he also submitted a report to the Middle States Association for the accreditation of the college and in March of 1948, it was fully accredited.¹⁸ Baugher was the first chairman of the board for the Harrisburg Area College Center, providing college level classes to adults.¹⁹ He was also the chair of Pennsylvania Commission for Displaced Persons, and in this role, he helped many eastern European refugees settle in the United States.²⁰ Baugher was a trustee on the board for the Japan International Christian University in the early 1950s.²¹ In 1961, he retired from his position as president of Elizabethtown College but continued to be a part of the college and work part-time there.²² That same year, the Baugher Lectureship in Science was made at Elizabethtown College, to honor²³ his work in the Chemistry Department. In his retirement, he made the decision to start teaching chemistry again, but he did so at Messiah College.²⁴ He was also the director of the Teachers for West Africa Program, a program where the college helped to send schoolteachers to Ghana and Nigeria.²⁵ Sadly on 2 November 1962, Baugher died unexpectedly of a heart attack.²⁶ Throughout his entire life, he had been a kind, helpful, and religious man. He was greatly involved in the Church of the Brethren, acted as the moderator for the 1957 Richmond Conference, and so much more.²⁷ Baugher served as Reading Clerk, congregational delegate, Moderator for the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, and was even chair of the very committee that later published History of the Church of the Brethren in Eastern Pennsylvania, 1915 to 1965.²⁸ Shortly after his death, the relatively recently constructed Student Center on the Elizabethtown campus was dedicated in his honor as the A.C. Baugher Student Center, and a portrait of him was hung in the lounge as a memorial to his services.²⁹

¹⁵ Ibid., 194.

¹⁶ Jean-Paul Benowitz, and Peter J. Depuydt, Elizabethtown College, (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 74.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Williamson, 164, 165.

¹⁹ Ibid., 191.

²⁰ Richard K. MacMaster, Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries, (Morgantown: Masthof Press, 1999), 249.

²¹ Williamson, 198.

²² Ibid., 207.

²³ Benowitz, 74.

²⁴ Williamson, 213.

²⁵ MacMaster, 249.

²⁶ Williamson, 213.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Schlosser, 278, 279.

²⁹ Ibid., 252.