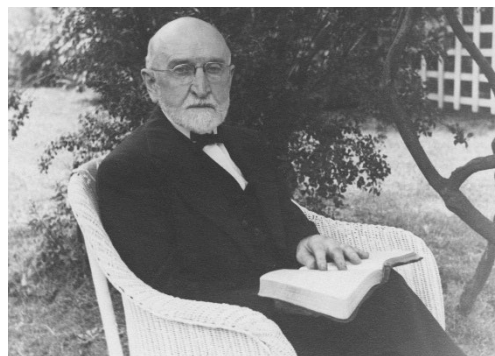


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Daniel C. Reber (1872-1962)

After a motion was passed for the College to open during the sixth board meeting, January 11, 1900, D.C. Reber was among the prospective teachers for Elizabethtown College.¹ For the year 1902-1903, Reber served as Elizabethtown's Acting Principal and Teacher of Foreign Languages, Mathematics, and Pedagogy.² G.N. Falkenstein's failing health forced him to resign on September 30, 1902. D.C. Reber, who had been Vice Principal at the time, was asked to serve as Acting Principal on October 30, 1902.³ D.C. Reber served as the Principal during the year 1903-1904, in addition to being the Teacher of Psychology, Mathematics, and Pedagogy. I.N.H. Beahm was elected as President for the year of 1904-1905, causing Reber to once again serve as Vice President during this year and as the Teacher of Mathematics, Pedagogy, and German.⁴ D.C. Reber was described as a man with a noble character, sound scholarship, and ability to teach. Due to this, Reber was elected by the Board of Trustees as Vice-Principal for the year 1902-1903. With Falkenstein's failing health, D.C. Reber was shoved onto the duties of a principal. Reber was then elected in 1903-1904 as the actual principal of Elizabethtown College. D.C. Reber was the first student to receive a baccalaureate degree at Juniata College. Additionally, Reber was granted a Master's degree from Ursinus College, and then even gained a Doctor's degree in Pedagogy from

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

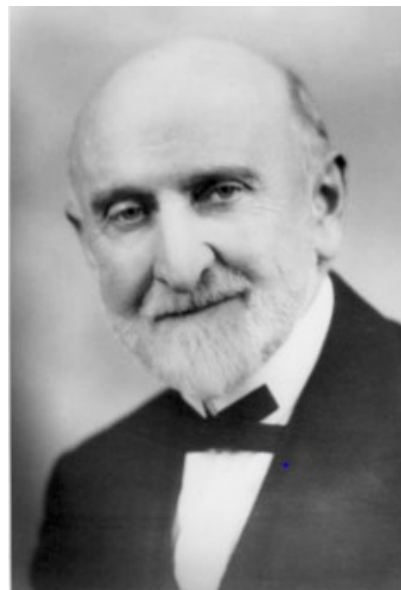
² Jean-Paul Benowitz, Peter J. DePuydt, "Elizabethtown College" (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 69.

³ Schlosser, 44.

⁴ Ibid., 45.

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New York University during 1902.⁵ Apparently university authorities had warned Reber to stay away from privately church owned colleges, however, he decided that Elizabethtown College was worth giving the chance nonetheless and is responsible for much of the College's academic standing.⁶ D.C. Reber was part of the committee that submitted a proposal to the Board of Trustees on March 15, 1904, for management of the college to be handled by an Administrative Committee of the Faculty.⁷ The Board of Trustees accepted this proposal and D.C. Reber was added onto the Administrative Committee as the Vice President with pay of \$700 per annum.⁸ The first issue of our college times came out on May 4, 1904, and D.C. Reber was an Associate Editor on the Editorial Staff.⁹ Additionally, Reber was appointed to a committee for receiving plans and estimates for the cost of an additional wing to Alpha Hall on November 27, 1908, however, the committee was discharged when they themselves recommended not adding the extra wing.¹⁰



I.N.H. Beahm resigned on June 30, 1909, allowing for D.C. Reber to become the Acting Principal of Elizabethtown during the 1902-1903 year. Then during 1903-1904, Reber was elected as the Principal of the College, however, the coming three years would see him serving as the Vice-President. Reber would once again serve as the head of the College, this time as the Acting Principal, during the years 1908-1910. From 1910-1918, Reber was once again the President of the College with H.K. Ober as his Vice-President. As a President, Reber had the ability to organize a curriculum for both professors and students during their 4 years at the college. In addition to having great administrative ability, Reber was also an inspiring teacher in many of the courses he taught. When dealing with students, Reber had much integrity and understanding for those younger than him, which won trust and respect in him from the youth. With these prospects, the Board of Trustees was unanimous in choosing D.C. Reber as the President of Elizabethtown College. During his administration, many important events within the college took place and were a testament to his greatness as President.¹¹

One of the most significant events led by D.C. Reber's administration was the transfer of ownership and management of Elizabethtown College from the contributors of funds for the establishment of the College, to the Church of the Brethren of the Eastern and Southern Districts of Pennsylvania. Elizabethtown College was started with the idea of promoting the faith and

⁵ Ibid., 47.

⁶ Ibid., 47-48.

⁷ Ibid., 52.

⁸ Ibid., 52-53

⁹ Ibid., 56-57

¹⁰ Ibid., 62

¹¹ Ibid., 65.

practices of Church of the Brethren. Many of the conservative leaders of the church thought Elizabethtown should not have intercollegiate sports, should prohibit the use of tobacco and alcohol, and hazing. In order to preserve views such as these, the Trustees of the College felt it necessary to have the College owned by the church. On April 9, 1913, the following request was proposed at the District Conference in Ephrata, Pennsylvania: "The Ephrata Church asks District Meeting of 1913 of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to consider the advisability of taking over Elizabethtown College as the property of the church, and to appoint a committee to consult with the present owners or their representatives, Said committee to report to the District Meeting of 1914." This request was unanimously passed and people were elected to represent the district in discussions with representatives from Elizabethtown College.¹² On July 22, 1913, during a Board meeting of the Trustees, D.C. Reber was one of the men elected to a committee for conferring with the district's committee. During a Board meeting on January 11, 1916, a committee five, with D.C. Reber as one of its members, were appointed "to outline a proposition to transfer the college to the state districts of Eastern and Southern Pennsylvania and to submit it to a later meeting of the Board."¹³ On January 16, 1916, this committee reported their draft to the Board of Trustees: "We the Trustees of Elizabethtown College acting for the contributors have unanimously agreed to transfer the said institution to the state district, or districts, that are willing to share in its ownership on the following conditions: First, That the indebtedness of the College shall be fully provided for at the time of such transfer. Second, That the several state districts shall assume control through a Board of Trustees, twelve in number, on the first day of January following the election of the full Board. Third, That the Board of Trustees shall consist of eight members from the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, at least two of whom shall be from the Church in which the College is located; and four from the Southern District of Pennsylvania. However in the event of the Southeastern District of Pennsylvania participating in the management and control of the College then the distribution shall be as follows: Eastern Pennsylvania seven, two from the Church in which the College is located; Southern Pennsylvania, four; and Southeastern Pennsylvania, One. Fourth, All the trustees shall be elected by the several state districts in which they are to serve by the delegates at District Meeting from nominations made by the elders in Elders' Meeting, and they shall serve three years except those first elected whose time of service shall be arranged so as to bring about above rotation as regularly as possible. Fifth, The duties of this Board shall be the same as those now outlined in the constitution of the College. Sixth, While the Trustees have entire control of the College financially and otherwise, yet they shall not have the authority to levy or assess any taxes upon the churches without the consent of District Meetings." This draft was then vote to be sent to the next District Meetings.¹⁴ Much deliberation on this plan would be had, but the transfer of the College to the church would eventually come to fruition, and a resolution was appointed by the Board of Trustees on January 2, 1919, "in case it is needed": "Whereas, the contributors of Elizabethtown College, who elected the trustees of the College, have by their vote at a meeting held at the College on February 16, 1916, transferred and given over to the Eastern and Southern

¹² Ibid., 67.

¹³ Ibid., 69.

¹⁴ Ibid., 70.

Districts of the Church of the Brethren said College and Whereas, said Districts have in pursuance to such action elected a new Board of Trustees, Now therefore, Be It Resolved, That the President and Secretary of Elizabethtown College execute and deliver to the Trustees representing the Eastern and Southern Districts of the Church of the Brethren a deed for all real estate now held by them for said College.”

D.C. Reber also continued the annual Bible terms at Elizabethtown College during his administration. Spiritual men and women, especially leaders from the Church of the Brethren, came to campus and spoke at these terms in Leffler to Chapel. These sessions encouraged the churches to work harder for Elizabethtown College through the sentiment they created among these leaders. Additionally, these Bible terms were popular not only to students, but also to those



in the surrounding areas of Elizabethtown College that could attend the evening sessions. Though, through the years 1904-1916, the Bible term was gradually reduced by the Board of Trustees from an original four weeks to only seven days.¹⁵ Sometimes Bible Institutes of one to two days would be held in the Eastern and Southern Pennsylvania churches by D.C. Reber and other faculty members. Ultimately, these Bible Institutes were successful in uniting the College and Church.

When D.C. Reber first became President during 1910-1911, there were sixteen faculty members in total. By the end of his presidency, there would be many more added to the faculty in order to meet Reber’s curriculum.¹⁶ This curriculum was created at the start of his administration and included an Academic Department with a general Preparatory Course, an English Scientific Course, and a College Preparatory Course. A Pedagogical Department was also put in place with a course that would gain those who completed it a Bachelor degree of Pedagogy. Additionally, an Industrial Department offered four courses in Agriculture, a Music Department gave courses in Voice culture and Piano, and a Bible department offered two courses. Lastly, the Board of Trustees authorized a course in sewing to be offered in 1910 and an art course in 1915. The English Scientific Course and Commercial Courses had the largest enrollments during the early years Reber’s administration. However, the Pedagogical course and Business courses gained the largest enrollments by the end of the administration.¹⁷

On July 29, 1915, the Board of Trustees voted for a motto to be placed on Alpha Hall and on a rostrum in the Chapel within Rider Memorial Hall. However, no motto was ever placed on

¹⁵ Ibid., 73

¹⁶ Ibid., 74.

¹⁷ Ibid., 75.

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Alpha Hall. These mottos were entrusted to D.C. Reber and H.K. Ober. One motto was placed on the arch above the pulpit in Rider Memorial Hall stating, “MAKE JESUS KING.”¹⁸ A second motto was on a slate panel in chalk: “EDUCATE FOR SERVICE.”¹⁹

The first literary society session was held on June 10, 1911, after being approved by the Board of Trustees on January 31, 1911. D.C. Reber served as the Critic of the program.²⁰ The following is found in all of the catalogs from 1907-1908 of the college and those of D.C. Reber’s administration: “Elizabethtown College stands for the education of the whole man. Moral character and Christian manhood and womanhood are esteemed more important results in education than physical soundness or thorough scholarship. Hence abundant religious exercises are afforded and the high moral and religious tone of the school furnishes a favorable environment for the moral welfare and the spiritual growth of the students. All regular students are required to attend the chapel services held each morning of the school week. Students whose parents have conscientious scruples against their attendance at these services may be excused upon written application to the Faculty.”²¹

Additionally, D.C. Reber’s work as President with the Board of Trustees was outlined in a resolution passed by the Board on July 3, 1918: “The Trustees of Elizabethtown College wish to use this opportunity to give public expression of their appreciation of the invaluable services of President D. C. Reber during his incumbency. Never was a request of the Board of Trustees refused or slighted; the most diligent and painstaking effort was made on his part to carry out in every detail the decisions of the Board. His recommendations to the Board were always presented in the most courteous manner and in all these years there never was a strained relation between him and the Board. While his decision to change his field of labor was reluctantly accepted, it is a source of satisfaction that only the kindest feelings and good wishes of the Board go with him and his family to their new home. Our prayer is that his untiring devotion to any cause that he espouses and the very close study and attention he gives to every detail of his work will find a hearty response at Manchester College.”²² Also, faculty members wrote a tribute to D.C. Reber: We regret losing you as a leader. Some of us have been associated with you in the work here but a short time and others for many years; but the longer we have been with you the more we respected you, the more fully we gave you our confidence. But you will be glad to know that we appreciated your thoroughness, your executive ability, your absolute dependableness and your sterling character which has stood the test of time. No one has for a moment doubted your full devotion to the cause for which Elizabethtown College stands. You are going to a new field of activity where you will prove yourself all that you have been here. You will be a blessing to every young man and woman

¹⁸ Benowitz et al., 37.

¹⁹ Ibid., 78.

²⁰ Ibid., 81.

²¹ Ibid., 82-83.

²² Ibid., 83.

whom you will meet. We wish you all the happiness and success possible for any one to have through all the coming years. With our farewell words we blend our prayers that the God of all grace may comfort and bless you in the discharge of your duties and crown you as one of the faithful.” Following Reber’s announcement of resignation to the student body, the following three resolutions were passed: That we express our sincere appreciation of his efforts on our behalf. That we thus express our heartfelt regret in losing so devoted a friend, so able a teacher, and so worthy a President. That we appreciate the expression of his future interest in Elizabeth-town College and in return we wish him a career of equal or greater success in the future, and also extend to his family our best wishes.”²³ Lastly, the Alumni Association gave a tribute to D.C. Reber: “We the Alumni Association of Elizabethtown College wish to express our deepest appreciation to President D. C. Reber for the service he rendered to our Alma Mater during the past sixteen years. We have been inspired by him as an instructor, we have been cheered by him as a friend, and our lives have been enriched by his association with us.... We have appreciated his administrative ability, his teaching power, and his unselfish devotion to duty, Although we regret our loss, we are glad that he is leaving with a continued interest in our Alma Mater. We extend to him our best wishes in his future educational career. May his life touch and influence many more young lives to the realization of the highest and noblest manhood and womanhood. The influence of his life shall remain in our memories and we shall always endeavor to promote the interests to which he consecrated his life.”²⁴ When D.C. Reber accepted a professorship at Manchester College, Indiana, which would begin in the fall semester of 1918, H.K. Ober was unanimously elected as the next President of Elizabethtown College by the Board of Trustees.²⁵ Before 1928 the College had many great professors, but only D.C. Reber had a doctors degree.²⁶

The first issue of Elizabethtown’s *Our College Times* was sent out to students and friends of the college on May 1904, with D.C. Reber on the editorial staff as the I.E. Shoop.²⁷ D.C. Reber also wrote short articles in the college publication.²⁸

D.C. Reber reached 90 years of age in his lifetime. His full name is Daniel Conrad Reber and was born around Bernville, Berks County, on February 20, 1872. As a child he was a farmer and then attended a select school for three years. Reber decided to enroll at Juniata college after a student canvasser convinced him. When he arrived at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station in Huntingdon and there was no taxi service, he started making the one-mile trek with a topped trunk in tow. Fortunately for Reber, someone saw his predicament and helped carry his trunk to his dorm. However, Reber became homesick and returned home, then coming back to Juniata College the following fall term. Reber was a diligent student in various courses of study and was the first

²³ Ibid., 84.

²⁴ Ibid., 84-85.

²⁵ Ibid., 87.

²⁶ Ibid., 129.

²⁷ Ibid., 166.

²⁸ Ibid., 207.

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student to receive an A.B. Degree from Juniata College. D.C. Reber's roommate, Charles C. Ellis, was the second to receive a degree. Reber served on the Faculty of Juniata College for three years. Then, after becoming married, D.C. Reber and his wife moved to the top flat of the Brooklyn Church of the Brethren. Reber stayed at this location until he completed his graduate work at New York University, gaining the degree Doctor of Pedagogy in 1902. During his studies at New York University, Reber was called the ministry in the Church of the Brethren. During Reber's return to his childhood farm with his wife, they both organized a Sunday school in Maiden Creek Church of the Brethren in Berks County. D.C. Reber was then eventually called to the Faculty of Elizabethtown College, he was initially advised by university officials not to accept a position at the new institution. However, he wanted to teach in the religious college and even built a house on the edge of the College campus.²⁹ The History of the Church of the Brethren of Eastern Pennsylvania, 1915-1965, gave notes on Reber's home life: "There were no telephone bills, no garage bills, as the home had no telephone and no family car. The living was plain, but the friendships were warm, and the enthusiasm for fine books, good concerts, stirring lectures, even a Chautauqua experience were vital things... Seven o'clock in the morning was the usual hour of his departure for the campus across the street, and often the ten o'clock retiring bell for students rang before the lights in his office were turned out." In 1918, the Reber family moved to Manchester College, Indiana. D.C. Reber served as a Professor of Languages and Mathematics. During the last twenty years of Reber's retirement, he was still active in the Sunday School and the choir of North Manchester Church of the Brethren. Elizabethtown College granted Reber with an honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) on June, 1957. After his wife's passing, Reber continued living in North Manchester alone. D.C. Reber died on July 10, 1962.³⁰

Information from *Uniting Work and Spirit*:

During the time there was Committee on Location to determine where Elizabethtown College should be located, Elder J.H. Longenecker had attempted to resign. Though, this resignation was never accepted and D.C. Reber wrote in his 1912 essay on the college's founding, "the reason seemed insufficient to grant it."³¹ When Elizabethtown College was finally opening, D.C. Reber, the first graduate from Juniata College with an A.B. degree, was considered for the teaching faculty.

Daniel Conrad Reber was born on February 20, 1872, on a family farm in Berks County. Reber was the first of three brothers that would attend Juniata College and the College was brought to his attention due to a professor canvassing for students. Reber was sixteen when enrolling at Juniata but left six months later due to terrible homesickness. He then taught through the winter at

²⁹ Ibid., 275.

³⁰ Ibid., 276.

³¹ Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 11.

a one room schoolhouse. Reber gained confidence to once again enroll at Juniata College for the following fall term through his teaching and studying during his time away. While at Juniata, Reber's friends referred to him as "D.C." and he earned a baccalaureate degree. He was then hired to teach as a faculty member at Juniata. Reber eventually met his wife, Anna Kauffman, and married her in June 1900. After marrying, the couple took up living in Brooklyn N.Y., where his wife stayed in a flat above the Brooklyn Mission. In the meantime, Reber studied to get his doctorate at Manhattan's New York University through a scholarship. Rather than using public transportation, Reber would walk across the Brooklyn Bridge each morning and evening until he eventually received his doctorate in 1902.³² Reber also eventually became ordained as a minister in the German Baptist Church in Brooklyn. When Reber was finishing his doctorate work, he was invited to join the faculty of Elizabethtown College. Despite being warned that small liberal arts colleges associated with churches would die out, Reber still decided to take the offer from Elizabethtown College, which would start his nearly two-decade relationship with the College. Reber built a house for his family at the edge of the Elizabethtown College campus, where he would have four children. Most of the housework and family care fell to Anna Kauffman as D.C. Reber took on Falkenstein's duties teaching courses and managing the College. Reber apparently left his house at seven each morning and his lights in his office would go out around ten o'clock when the bell rang for students. The College's economy was strict at the time and resulted in Mrs. Reber using funds, initially for a dress she was making, using it to instead purchase fifteen chairs with writing arms. This saved students the trouble of carrying chairs back and forth between the dining room and classroom. Toward the end of D.C. Reber's first year was when the first commencement of the College took place, which only ended up having three graduating students, all who were in the Commercial course. The graduates were Bessie M. Rider Lizzie M. Eby, and Luella G. Fogelsanger.³³ At the start of the 1906-07 term, I.N.H. Beahm withdrew from the activities of President, allowing for D.C. Reber, the vice president, to temporarily take over Beahm's duties. The next year in 1908, Reber became the acting president of the college and managed it during Beahm's absence.³⁴ During this time, Beahm was responsible for being the warm face of the College while D.C. Reber handled the academic reputation of the College. S.Z. Sharp stated in his book, *The Educational History of the Church of the Brethren*, "It was the policy of the president to make this school a college in fact as well as its name." To his credit, a classical course of study started being offered in 1907. Additionally in 1907, Elizabethtown students could attend the summer term at Ursinus College, which was the College Reber received a Master of Arts degree at in 1909. Ursinus College was the first to accept Elizabethtown's work, but in the coming years, universities such as Lebanon Valley, Penn state, Oberlin, Franklin & Marshall, and the University of Pennsylvania would come to accept students from Elizabethtown without

³² Williamson, 46.

³³ Ibid., 47.

³⁴ Ibid., 49.

entrance exams. The music department also grew under Reber's administration, with four pianos being present on campus by 1908 despite the College's stance against instruments and intercollegiate sports.³⁵ Students could also write for the Our College Times monthly magazine on campus, which D.C. Reber was an associate editor to.³⁶ under Reber's administration, the quality of education greatly improved and provided much intellectual growth for students at Elizabethtown College.³⁷ As acting president of the College, Reber had created a curriculum that was more enticing to both professors teaching classes and those taking them. Naturally, when Beahm resigned on June 30, 1909, D.C. Reber became president of the College during the 1910-1911 School year. Reber would hold the position for eight years and would increase the intellectual prowess of the College regarding the students, courses, and professors. The transfer of ownership of the College to the Church is the most notable mark of Reber's administration, which took place over four years.³⁸

Jacob Gible Meyer was part of the regular teaching faculty during Reber's administration.³⁹

D.C. Reber was somewhat fortunate to resign when he did, as he didn't have to deal with the influenza epidemic breaking out at Elizabethtown College at the time. Reber was offered a teaching position at Manchester College in Indiana and his position as President at Elizabethtown College was filled by H.K. Ober.⁴⁰ Though, two and a half years after filling Reber's position, H.K. Ober would request a leave of absence to earn an A.M. degree from Columbia University.⁴¹

Daniel C. Reber, Acting Principal, 1902-03; Principal, 1903-04; President, 1908-18.⁴²



Information from Find a Grave:

³⁵ Ibid., 50.

³⁶ Ibid., 53.

³⁷ Ibid., 58.

³⁸ Ibid., 63.

³⁹ Ibid., 68.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 84.

⁴¹ Ibid., 92.

⁴² Ibid., 341.

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Find a Grave, database and images (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45840863/daniel_c-reber: accessed June 20, 2024), memorial page for Daniel C. Reber (1872–1962), Find a Grave Memorial ID 45840863, citing Oaklawn Cemetery, North Manchester, Wabash County, Indiana, USA; Maintained by OPPSheryl (contributor 47070645).

Daniel C. Reber

BIRTH: 1872

DEATH: 1962 (aged 89–90)

BURIAL: Oaklawn Cemetery North Manchester, Wabash County, Indiana, USA

Family Members

Parents: Daniel H Reber 1836–1912 & Elizabeth Smith Reber 1835–1901

Spouse: Anna Blanche Kauffman Reber 1879–1957

Siblings: Frank L Reber 1873–1914, Aaron Calvin Reber 1876–1967, George W Reber 1877–1943

Half Siblings: Sallie A Reber 1860–1930, Elder Jonathan Glicker Reber 1863–1947, Elias G. Reber 1864–1907, Catharina Rebecca Reber 1866–1867

Children: Ruth Elizabeth Reber Paetz 1901–1981, A Mabel Reber 1903–1904, Horace Daniel Reber 1906–1929, Paul L. Reber 1909–1973, James Quinter Reber 1911–2003

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