

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



## Jacob Z. Herr (1848 - 1931)

The following information about Jacob Zugg Herr is found on Find a Grave:

*"Jacob Z. Herr, 92, Brethren Village, Neffsville, formerly of Elizabethtown, died Tuesday morning at the home. He and his late wife, Lillie Wolgemuth Herr, had resided at the home since 1959. She had died on February 6 of this year. He was born in South Jackson Township, Lebanon County, the son of the late Elder John Herr and Anna Zug Herr. He had been a member of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren since 1904. He had attended Millersville Normal School, and was a graduate of Lebanon Business College, Zanerian College, Columbus, Ohio; and Elizabethtown College, class of 1905. He did post-graduate work at Ohio State University, Columbia University and New York Biblical Seminary. He served as clerk, stenographer and bookkeeper in industries at Myerstown and Lebanon, and also served as industrial office manager in Elizabethtown, Lititz and Lancaster. Having been employed by Elizabethtown College for 35 years as teacher, business manager and treasurer, Professor Herr served during the administrations of eight college presidents. Following his retirement, he became interested in real estate and housing, and developed the plot in West Donegal Township known as Herlandia Heights. Surviving are two sons, J. Emmert, this borough; and Galen W., Langhorne, Pa.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Funeral*

*services will be held Friday, October 10, from the Frank S. Miller funeral home, 130 North Market Street, here, at 7:30 p.m., with the Rev. W. Frank Lantz, the Rev. K. Ezra Bucher and the Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Schlosser officiating. Interment will be in Mount Tunnel Cemetery at the convenience of the family. Friends may call at the funeral home from 6:30 p.m. Friday until the time of the service.”<sup>1</sup>*



The year 1905 marked the beginning of J.Z. Herr’s professorship at Elizabethtown for commercial subjects, who served twenty-nine years as Elizabethtown College’s Treasurer and Business Manager.<sup>2</sup> When the Board of Trustees was requested to allow intercollegiate sports, I.N.H. Beahm gave this report on June 15, 1904, and makes mention of J.Z. Herr: “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 true aspect. Third, That we especially commend Manager J. M. Miller, Captain J. Z. Herr, and all others assisting in having called off a match game which had been arranged for. Fourth, That we are pleased with the spirit of conciliation shown by the town boys. Fifth, That we gladly reiterate our purpose to have Elizabethtown College excel in moral virtue. Sixth, That we 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 educators of our day.”<sup>3</sup> Jacob Z. Herr was on Elizabethtown’s baseball team in 1905 as the right field.<sup>4</sup> From 1910-1919 Elizabethtown was presented with various new instructors taking up new departments, such as J.Z. Herr becoming the Principal of the commercial department and retaining his position as Treasurer of the College.<sup>5</sup> The motto “EDUCATE FOR SERVICE,” which was placed on the front wall of the College Chapel, was refurbished by J.Z. Herr and Isaac Hackman.<sup>6</sup> In order to create sentiment for the College, secure more students, and gain financial support, President Schlosser was asked by the Board of Trustees to do field work for the year 1936-1937. During this time, J.Z. Herr and A.C. Baugher each handled Schlosser’s administrative work while he was out in the field.<sup>7</sup> J.Z. Herr was part of the Department of Commercial Education

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<sup>1</sup> “Jacob Zug Herr,” Find a Grave, accessed June 27, 2024.

[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/194034543/jacob\\_zug-herr](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/194034543/jacob_zug-herr).

<sup>2</sup> Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 48.; Jean-Paul Benowitz, Peter J. DePuydt, “Elizabethtown College” (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 14.

<sup>3</sup> Schlosser, 58.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 60.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 74.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 78.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 124.

from 1905-1945, a total of 40 years of service for Elizabethtown College.<sup>8</sup> Herr began teaching in 1905 as a professor in Commercial Subjects, Penmanship, and drawing. Jacob Herr graduated from Elizabethtown College in the Scientific Course during 1905. In September of that year, Herr was elected principal of the College's Commercial Department. He also taught Penmanship and Commercial Law for three years. For the next seven years, Herr was an accountant for the Stiefel and Freeman Company of Lancaster and office manager for the Sanitary Milk Company. Though he had a successful business career, Herr decided to leave his home in Lititz, moved to Elizabethtown, and became the Director of the School of Finance at Elizabethtown College, which was a considerable financial sacrifice. For the next twenty-nine years, he served as Treasurer and Business Manager of the College while having almost a full teaching load within the commercial department.<sup>9</sup>

Jacob Herr was succeeded by K. Ezra Bucher as Treasurer of Elizabethtown College in 1946. It was impressive how Jacob Herr guided the financial program during the College's Depression years. While salaries of teachers were withheld, their loyalty and dedication to the college kept them teaching without pay, even setting up a Loyalty fund so that the College could survive. Additionally, when the College was attempting to become accredited, Herr was asked to make a complete appraisal of assets and liabilities of the College, which were to be presented to the State Council of Education in connection with the application for the state accreditation of the College. Jacob Herr was also responsible for arranging the College's courses in Business Administration and Commercial Education. At a time when there was no four-year college course for preparing commercial teachers for teaching high school, Herr talked with Dr. Kaylor of the State Department of Public Instruction, after the College became accredited, and worked together to prepare a four-year course for teachers of commercial subjects to appear in the Elizabethtown Catalog of 1923-1924. This course went through slight revisions but set a standard for the State Normal Schools offering a course for teachers of Commercial Subjects in Highschool. He also planned a course in Business Administration on the cumulative method as administered by institutions like Antioch College in Ohio. The plan was initially a success, but too few students enrolled into the course to make it practical. However, two students did complete this course in 1903. Wayne Keller, who later became Comptroller of the Armstrong Linoleum Company, and Harold I. Ebersole also associated with this company.

J.Z. Herr was also one of the main men responsible for moving forward with the building of Lake Placida on the College Campus, the grading of the old athletic field, and the beautiful landscaping of the campus. During the erection of the Student Alumni Gymnasium, Herr was Chairman of the Building Committee. Also, during 1936-1937, Herr was a Director of Camp Conewago, a camp for young people on the institution's grounds. It was also mostly from J.Z. Herr's suggestion that the Board of Trustees purchase additional tracts of ground, adjacent to the College, to provide for future expansion of the College.<sup>10</sup> For one term J.Z. Herr was elected Chairman of the Commercial Section of the Southern District of Pennsylvania Education

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 130.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 131.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 132.

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Association. His academic record is as follows: B. E.-Elizabethtown College, 1905. Graduate of Lebanon Business College, Graduate of Zanerian Art College, Two years at Millersville Normal School, Student-Bennet School of Higher Accounting, Student-Ohio State University, Student-Columbia University, 1921. His professional record is as follows: Ten years-Public Accountant, Auditor, Office and Sales Manager; 1921-1945-Treasurer of Board of Trustees; 1916-1945-Treasurer and Business Manager, Elizabethtown College. There was also a Dedication from Etonian for 1931 to J.Z. Herr: "To JACOB ZUG HERR. Advisor of the Class of 1931, whose respected, cheerful disposition, friendly counsel and advice, and energetic, efficient efforts for the growth of Elizabethtown College, have won for him a place of esteem in the hearts of the entire student body, this volume of the Etonian is respectfully dedicated." Men like Jacob Z. Herr should undoubtedly be honored for their sacrifice, devotion, and integrity.<sup>11</sup>

J.Z. Herr was the Faculty Representative of the first organized Athletic Council at Elizabethtown College.<sup>12</sup> Also, when the College realized the insufficiency of the current gymnasium, Treasurer J.Z. Herr and President Schlosser were asked to secure plans for the new building, which would cost around \$60,000. J.Z. Herr was then elected with two others on April 30, 1926, by the Alumni Association, to contact a fund raising agency to secure the money needed.<sup>13</sup> Then, when H.K. Ober asked to be relieved of his duties as Manager of the Auditorium-Gymnasium Campaign, Treasurer Herr was appointed to fill his position on November 19, 1926. Even with J.Z. Herr's honest attempts to raise funds, and with the size of the building being reduced for financial reasons, there was still insufficient funds for the auditorium's erection. Eventually, when the building was ready to proceed, J.Z. Herr and other faculty members were appointed to the building committee by the Board of Trustees. By the end of 1928 the Student Alumni Auditorium-Gymnasium was finished being built.<sup>14</sup> A dedicatory service was then held on May 25, 1929, with J.Z. Herr giving a presentation during the service.<sup>15</sup> J.Z. Herr was also a prominent figure in moving the creation of the Gible Science Building, as he was appointed to a committee, approved by the Board of Trustees on October 26, 1926, consisting of Gible clan members and faculty to bring tentative plans for the building. The Gible Science Building was then dedicated on May 26, 1928.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, around this time the location of the baseball diamond near College Avenue was unsatisfactory, so J.Z. Herr made the suggestion to the Alumni Council that a full sized Athletic Field should be graded to the east of the Alumni Gymnasium-Auditorium. Due to this suggestion, the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association voted to employ a steam shovel at \$50 a day to grade the Athletic Field on June 1, 1926. Then, by August 5, 1926, the work was completed at a cost of \$1,291.75. This contributed to the beauty of the campus, with Lake Placida being just northeast of the field. To the east of the new field there were also 2,900 trees from the Department of Forestry, which were secured by J.Z. Herr, once again adding to the

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 133.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 149.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 151.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 152.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 153.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 154.

scenery of the campus.<sup>17</sup> Additionally, the need for a new social room for students was evident when the Women's Student Council brought up the idea in 1934. J.Z. Herr and other faculty members were then appointed by President Schlosser to a committee for consummating the project. The work was completed in March, 1935, and the New Social Room was dedicated on March 3, 1935. The *Etownian* of March 27, 1935, expressed its thoughts on the building: "It is the general opinion on the campus that this room shall add new dignity to our College social life and shall eliminate the use of classrooms as meeting places for congenial chats. Besides, it is hoped that this room shall be so esteemed that all music played and conversation participated in shall be carried on in a manner befitting a college circle." All of J.Z. Herr's contributions to the New Social Room and aforementioned buildings undoubtedly contributed to the student life on campus and the overall growth of Elizabethtown College.<sup>18</sup>



During the beginning of President Baugher's administration, there were fourteen members on the Board of Trustees, one of whom was J.Z. Herr as Treasurer to Elizabethtown College.<sup>19</sup> At the time of J.Z. Herr's resignation in October 1945, K. Ezra Bucher took up his post as Treasurer of the College.<sup>20</sup> On October 20, 1945, he told the Board of Trustees that he had prepared his resignation on May 20, 1945, and for it to be effective as of September 1, 1945, but was urged by the

Board to take a week for reconsideration.<sup>21</sup> However, on November 2, 1945, J.Z. Herr went through with his resignation during the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees in the following letter: "Dear Brother Baugher: I called at your office this morning at eleven o'clock to turn in my keys to the office, the office vault, and the bank vault respectively. Also a list of work in process which should be attended to. I am severing my connections with the College as per my resignation of May 20, 1945, which was effective September 1, 1945, but I gladly served the two extra months of grace to November 1, 1945, until the organization for the present year was completed. My withdrawal at this time is in accordance with our understanding

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 202.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 164.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 177.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 182.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 189.

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of a few days ago. Respectfully yours, J. Z. Herr.”<sup>22</sup> The Board of Trustees accepted his resignation on November 2, 1945, and adopted the following resolution of his services to the College: “Every institution is characterized by individuals who identify themselves with the institution over a number of years until both the institution and the individuals bear similar ideals and philosophies. This may be just another way of saying that an individual leaves his personality stamped upon the institution. Elizabethtown College has been fortunate to have had the long term services of J. Z. Herr as teacher, business manager, and treasurer. He has made outstanding contributions to the College in all these fields. Men and women now holding important positions in business and the professions bear the testimony to his inspiration as a teacher. One of the state's most beautiful college campuses speaks for his foresight and planning. In recognition of these facts the Board of Trustees wishes to record its deep appreciation for his contributions to Elizabethtown College by placing this resolution upon the Minutes of the Board and by sending a copy to Professor Herr and earnestly prays for his continued interest in Elizabethtown College.”<sup>23</sup> Student appreciation for J.Z. Herr was also expressed in a dedicatory note within the *Etonian*, 1931: “To Professor J. Z. Herr. Respected adviser of the Class of 1931, whose cheerful disposition, friendly counsel and advice, and energetic and efficient efforts for the growth of Elizabethtown College have won for him a place of esteem in the hearts of the entire student body, this volume of the *Etonian* is respectfully dedicated.” A motion was then passed by the Board of Trustees for the President to prepare a citation covering J.Z Herr’s services as a professor to Elizabethtown College, in addition to recommending him to the General Brotherhood Board of the Church of the Brethren for the Certificate of Award for Distinguished Service in the field of higher education in the Church of the Brethren. Additionally, the Board of Trustees voted to designate Professor Herr as Treasurer and Business Manager Emeritus on the Minutes of the Board, school catalog, and other publications. J.Z. Herr was succeeded by the Professor of Business Education, K. Ezra Bucher.<sup>24</sup>

Uniting Work and Spirit:

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 189-190.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 190.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 191.

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Through the time of the Great Depression, much credit for the College's financial survival was due to Treasurer and Business Manager J.Z. Herr. Jacob Herr is the son of John Herr, moderator of the first district meeting that led to the founding of Elizabethtown College in 1905. Jacob Herr became principal of the commercial department for three years, then left the College to become a bookkeeper for two years, and came back to the College for another three years.<sup>25</sup>



Elizabethtown Chronicle, Elizabethtown, PA  
Thursday, October 9, 1975; Page 1

## J. Z. Herr, Former Resident, Dies at 92

Jacob Z. Herr, 92, Brethren Village, Neffsville, formerly of Elizabethtown, died Tuesday morning at the home. He and his late wife, Lillie Wolgemuth Herr, had resided at the home since 1959. She had died on February 6 of this year.

He was born in South Jackson Township, Lebanon County, the son of the late Elder John Herr and Anna Zug Herr. He had been a member of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren since 1904.

He had attended Millersville Normal School, and was a graduate of Lebanon Business College, Zanerian College, Columbus, Ohio; and Elizabethtown College, class of 1905. He did post-graduate work at Ohio State University.

He served as clerk, stenographer and bookkeeper in industries at Myerstown and Lebanon, and also served as industrial office manager in Elizabethtown, Lititz and Lancaster.

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October 9, 1975

### J. Z. Herr

(Continued From Page One)

Having been employed by Elizabethtown College for 35 years as teacher, business manager and treasurer, Professor Herr served during the administrations of eight college presidents. Following his retirement, he became interested in real estate and housing, and developed the plot in West Donegal Township known as Herlandia Heights.

Surviving are two sons, J. Emmert, this borough; and Galen W. Langhorne, Pa.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday, October 10, from the Frank S. Miller funeral home, 130 North Market Street, here, at 7:30 p.m., with the Rev. W. Frank Lantz, the Rev. K. Ezra Bucher and the Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Schlosser officiating. Interment will be in Mount Tunnel Cemetery at the convenience of the family. Friends may call at the funeral home from 6:30 p.m. Friday until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions are to be made in his name to the building fund of the Brethren Village, Neffsville, Pa. 17556.

Herr then left the college once again for seven years to work as an accountant and office manager. Finally, Jacob Herr once again came back to the Elizabethtown College faculty and stayed there teaching commercial courses and serving as the schools treasurer and business manager from 1916-1945. Other than ensuring the College's survival during the Great Depression, J.Z. Herr is also credited by President Schlosser with being the person who most often persuaded the Board of Trustees to continue buying land adjacent to the college, therefore allowing further expansion of the College in the future. Without this foresight, the College might not be as big as it is today.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 128.

<sup>26</sup> Williamson, 129.

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