

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



John Zug (1866-1956)

John Zug was born in 1797 in Rapho Township Lancaster County, Pa. He was the oldest son of Elder Abraham and Susanna Royer Zug and worked for his father in the tannery and then on the farm until he was over the legal age.¹ John Zug was married to Eva Margaret Lehn and together they had eight children, five of those children being sons and three daughters.² The oldest son, Abraham, died before his father at age 44. One son and two daughters were left behind when Abraham died, one of whom would become the wife to Elder John Herr of Myerstown. The second son Israel moved to Illinois and united with the church, but then later left to join people called the Soul Sleepers, and his final resting place was at Franklin Grove. Nathan, the third son, went to the west on a visit and unfortunately took sick and died in 1854 at age 22. The fourth son, John, lived between Lebanon and Myerstown, where his son, Ephraim, lives on the pike. Additionally, the brother of John's son, Benjamin, now a minister, lives near Myerstown, and a daughter Lizzie lives where her father did before the pike farm was bought. The fifth son, Reuben, lived on his father's farm near Reistville. Reuben had a daughter named Lizzie; a son named Morris, who died single; and a daughter named Mary who married J.H. Gingrich and left several children behind when she died. His son Lane has his father's farm, while Aaron lives in Richland. One daughter Mary died single at age 24. Rebecca was married to Henry Bollinger and died at age 25, leaving two sons, Cyrus and Nathan, and Catherine married to David Yingst, died aged 29, leaving one daughter, Margaret, Married to Samuel Royer. Elder John Zug and his wife received baptism in 1826, and John was elected as a minister in the fall of 1841, shortly after his father's death. John was elected with the objective and view of forming a new organization out of parts of Conestoga, White Oak and Little Swatara territory. In 1842, Elders Jacob Pfautz Daniel Bollinger, William Price, John Price, and David Schallenberger met with members of the proposed new district and organized

¹ Church of the Brethren. *History of the church of the brethren of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania* (Lancaster: New Era Printing Company, 1915), 520.

² Church of the Brethren, 520-521.

them into a “separate congregation under the name Tulpehocken, and that they shall now keep house, with the counsel and assistance of the Conestoga Brethren.” Two years after the organization of the new church, many large in-gatherings would be held for the youth.³

Someone apparently heard Elder Zug say that it was never safe for him to go to a meeting without spare clothing, as there was always a demand for baptisms at the meetings. When the new church realized it needed more workers, Daniel Royer and William Hertzler were elected as ministers in 1847. Isaac Brubacher was also called due the ministry due to Brother Hertzler moving in 1851, but he soon died after, leading to George Bucher’s election in 1865 and Christian Bucher in 1861.

Elder John Zug was an alert housekeeping, ensuring the church was left in good condition, both spiritually and physically, to his successor, Elder Christian Bucher. The church has since been divided, and Midway formed, which is organized in association with the original church. Elder John Herr, whose wife is a granddaughter of Elder Zug, is currently in charge of both churches, which each house around 660 members. On July 19, 1873, Elder John Zug passed away at the age of 78 years, and his remains are kept by the side of his wife who passed away a few years earlier. They are located at the Heidelberg Cemetery.

In their nature, Elder John Zug and his father, Elder Abraham Zug, were very different. John’s father was very cautious when he spoke, regardless of whether he was in public or not. In cases where opposition was obstinately against his positions, he had the sound mind and forbearance to quote gospel rather than be angered. In one instance where he was supposedly censured for being “too easy,” Elder Abraham Zug quoted 2 Corinthians 5:11 in Dutch: “der weil wir denn wissen dasz der Herr zu fur.” Abraham was reserved, and it was usually hard to tell if he was happy or sad. On the other hand, John Zug could be described as somewhat the opposite of his father. John Zug would speak whether in public or private and would be very clear about what side he was on. When dealing with erring members, he would forgive them when necessary, but if they were obstinate and rebellious, John would lose his sympathy for them.⁴ Both men were very honest and sincere, but were clearly men of different nature, and therefore used different means to accomplish what needed to be done.⁵



Information from Find a Grave:

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid., 522.

⁵ Ibid., 523.

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Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/35181289/john-zug>: accessed June 28, 2024), memorial page for John Zug (14 May 1797–19 Jul 1873), Find a Grave Memorial ID 35181289, citing Heidelberg Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Myerstown, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, USA; Maintained by Bruce Speck (contributor 46873080).

John Zug

BIRTH: 14 May 1797

DEATH: 19 Jul 1873 (aged 76)

BURIAL: Heidelberg Church of the Brethren Cemetery Myerstown, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, USA

MEMORIAL ID: 35181289

Spouse: Margrettha Lehn Zug 1795–1871

Children: Maria Zug 1821–1842, Abraham Zug 1822–1866, Rebecca Zug Bollinger 1824–1849, John Lane Zug 1829–1907, Catherine Zug Yengst 1834–1863, and Reuben Zug 1837–1904



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