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Musselman Display Case

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Musselman Display Case

Description

The Gettysburg College campus without the influence of the Musselman family would be a very different place. The Musselman name is not one that can be easily overlooked on campus, as numerous buildings are named after the famous apple processing family located in Biglerville, Pa. Yet without the generosity of the Musselman and the Emma G. Musselman foundation, the college would not only be lacking Musselman Stadium, Musselman Hall, and Musselman Library, but also the Bream Wright Hauser Field House, and thousands of dollars in scholarships awarded to students over the past several years. The Musselmans have undoubtedly left a strong imprint on the college and the greater community, and their charity has touched a countless number of people. Within the Musselman Library there is a display case devoted to the family, without whom the library itself would cease to exist. Inside this display, there are several photographs exploring the history and legacy of this remarkable family, and paying tribute to those who have brought so much to Gettysburg College. [excerpt]

Course Information:

- Course Title: *HIST 300: Historical Method*
- Academic Term: Spring 2006
- Course Instructor: Dr. Michael J. Birkner '72

Hidden in Plain Sight is a collection of student papers on objects that are "hidden in plain sight" around the Gettysburg College campus. Topics range from the Glatfelter Hall gargoyles to the statue of Eisenhower and from historical markers to athletic accomplishments. You can download the paper in pdf format and click "View Photo" to see the image in greater detail.

Keywords

Gettysburg College, Hidden in Plain Sight, Musselman Library, C.H. Musselman, Musselman Stadium, Musselman Hall, Emma G. Musselman Foundation

Disciplines

Public History | United States History

Campus Location

Musselman Library

Gettysburg College

Hidden in Plain Sight:
Musselman Display Case

History 300

Historical Methods

Dr. Michael Birkner

By

Kara Sharkey

Spring 2006

The Gettysburg College campus without the influence of the Musselman family would be a very different place. The Musselman name is not one that can be easily overlooked on campus, as numerous buildings are named after the famous apple processing family located in Biglerville, Pa. Yet without the generosity of the Musselman and the Emma G. Musselman foundation, the college would not only be lacking Musselman Stadium, Musselman Hall, and Musselman Library, but also the Bream Wright Hauser Field House, and thousands of dollars in scholarships awarded to students over the past several years. The Musselmans have undoubtedly left a strong imprint on the college and the greater community, and their charity has touched a countless number of people. Within the Musselman Library there is a display case devoted to the family, without whom the library itself would cease to exist. Inside this display, there are several photographs exploring the history and legacy of this remarkable family, and paying tribute to those who have brought so much to Gettysburg College.

The main benefactors of Gettysburg College who are focused on in this display are Christian High Musselman, who founded the C.H. Musselman Canning Company and his wife, Emma Musselman. In addition, other key players in the story of the Musselman heritage are their daughter, Luella Musselman Arnold (later Luella Musselman Paul), as well as John Hauser, who was C.H. Musselman's colleague, the second president of the C.H. Musselman Company, as well a trustee of both the Musselman and the Emma G. Musselman Foundation. The hard work and dedication of these individuals, among others, has irrevocably shaped Gettysburg College as well as all of Adams County for the better.

Robin Wagner, the Director of Library services at the Musselman Library, explained what motivated college officials and the library staff to design and develop such a display case:

The case was put together in 1998 at the request of Lex McMillan who was then the Vice President for College Relations. Lex thought it would be a good idea to have something very visible in the building named after the Musselmans, that talked about their legacy. I think a side hope on his part was that the family members would see it, like it, and perhaps become more active supporters of the College.¹

The actual source of all of the photographs within the display is still unknown—even the librarians who set up the display case are unsure of where they came from. They are not the original photographs, but many have been traced to the pages of *The Processor*, a publication of the employees of the Musselman Company.² The photographs are of the apple processing plants and the workers there, Christian H. Musselman with his wife Emma, their daughter Luella Musselman Paul with her husband General Willard S. Paul, as well as a photograph of Emma G. Musselman and the second president of the company, John Hauser, celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the C.H. Musselman Company. These pictures provide a glimpse into the lives of the Musselman's and really only treads the surface of the Musselman family story.

The Musselmans are natives of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and can trace their heritage in Lancaster since the 1730's.³ They began their enterprise in apple processing in 1907, a year after they moved to Biglerville. Christian Musselman, along

¹ Robin Wagner, personal interview, February 16, 2006.

² Christine Ameduri, personal interview, February 14, 2006.

³ Emily Phelan, "Descendants of Christian Musselman (d.1734) of Lancaster Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 12 (January 1989): 16-24.

with his father John Sr, and his brother John Jr, purchased the failing Biglerville Canning Company sight unseen. Later Christian bought the interests of both his father and brother. Under his leadership the company took off, and soon another plant was constructed in Gardners, Pa in 1912.⁴ According to Dina Dorich, in a magazine article on the Musselmans,

During World War I, the two Musselman plants provided much needed food. Despite shortages of labor and materials, the Musselman plants succeeded. To get employees to and from work, the Musselmans provided trucks (as ‘car pools’) at their own expense. Their efforts paid off and in 1920 construction began on still a third plant, this one in Inwood, West Virginia.⁵

The C.H. Musselman Company continued to thrive even through WWII as well as the great depression, largely due to the strong work ethic of the Musselman family as well as the sense of unity they instilled in their employees. While workers’ wages were not high, C.H and Emma Musselman were generous to their employees in many other aspects. They paid for their employee doctor’s bills, and in times of flu epidemics Mrs. Musselman herself sprayed the throats and noses of her workers to prevent them from sickness.⁶ C.H. and Emma Musselman were both involved in the daily activities of their company, and it was not unusual for them to work in the fields or within the plant—oftentimes working longer hours than their employees. Dorich further elaborated, “they lived modestly and at the end of each season put most of their earnings back into the company to enlarge and improve the canning business.”⁷ It is for this reason the

⁴ “Christian H. Musselman,” *The Processor* (February 1944): 1-2.

⁵ Dina Dorich, “The Fruits of Their Success,” *Gettysburg College Bulletin* 72 (August 1981): 1-3.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

Musselman family was so respected and that the C.H. Musselman Company was able to become one of the largest apple processing plants in the world.⁸ Indeed “The Musselman enterprise is credited with providing the chief stimulation for the development of Adams County’s huge fruit growing industry.”⁹

C.H. Musselman died in 1944, and was succeeded in his business by his close associate John Hauser. Emma Musselman also continued to run the family business until her death in 1966. By the 1950’s the C.H. Musselman Company included its three plants as well as fifteen additional farms. Well before then the company had grown to become over a ten million dollar business, and they also expanded their enterprise to include canning cherries and producing tomato juice.¹⁰ “The plants alone cover 50 acres while the company owns nearly 1,000 acres of producing land, most if it in bearing fruit trees.”¹¹

Besides managing such a prolific and successful business, the Musselman family has left such an enduring legacy on Adams County on account of their substantial philanthropic endeavors. They have donated significant sums of money to Gettysburg College through the Musselman Foundation as well as the Emma G. Musselman Foundation. “During the late 1930’s C.H. Musselman decided to establish a foundation in order to share the fruits of his success...Musselman determined that the philanthropy of the Musselman Foundation would benefit primarily the communities where his plans

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ “C.H. Musselman, One of Largest U.S. Cannerymen, Succumbs,” *The Gettysburg Times*, January 7, 1944, 1.

¹⁰ Dorich, “The Fruits of Their Success,” 1-3.

¹¹ Ibid.

were located.”¹² Following the lead of her husband, Emma Musselman established her own foundation in 1955, “for the disbursement from a trust fund in the form of gifts for charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes.”¹³ Gettysburg College received their first gift from the Musselman family in 1964. The Emma G. Musselman foundation contributed \$250,000 to the college for the construction of a stadium. Although this had not been part of the original development plans developed by the board of trustees in 1983, the trustees gladly accepted this gift, and the Musselman Stadium was dedicated a year later.¹⁴

One of the primary reasons that Gettysburg College was the recipient of so many gifts from the Musselman family was Luella Musselman Paul. Luella was a 1931 graduate of Gettysburg College, and spent several years as the first lady of the college, as the wife as General Willard S. Paul, Gettysburg’s ninth president. After the death of her mother, Luella took over as a trustee of the foundation, and it was really under her leadership and guidance that that her alma mater benefited most from the philanthropy of the foundation.¹⁵

The Musselman foundation and the Emma G. Musselman Foundation contributed \$400,000 to the construction of the John A. Hauser field house, one of the priorities expressed by the trustees in their development plan. Hauser took over for C.H. Musselman after his death in both the company and in the charitable foundation, and

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Charles H. Glatfelter, *A Salutary Influence: Gettysburg College 1832-1985*, vol. 2 (Gettysburg, Pa: Gettysburg College, 1987), 845.

¹⁵ Dorich, “The Fruits of Their Success,” 1-3.

under his auspices as trustee Gettysburg College received many gifts. The Emma G. Musselman Foundation also contributed \$125,000 to the construction of a women's dormitory, officially named Musselman Hall in 1960.¹⁶

The most significant of all of the gifts of the Musselman family came in 1979. The college was struggling to raise sufficient funds for the building of a new library, and was falling short at about one third of the goal.¹⁷ "The Emma G. Musselman foundation contributed \$1,371,000 toward the five million dollar cost of this facility. That contribution represents the largest single gift the college has received in its nearly 150 years of existence."¹⁸ With the help of this foundation as well as others, the college was able to proceed with their building plans for the Musselman Library, named after one of the most generous benefactors the school has ever seen.¹⁹

The generosity of the Musselman family does not end there. The Musselman Foundation Scholarship fund was also established and the foundations supported the Willard S. Paul Scholarship fund. The Musselmans have donated over \$270,000 in scholarships.²⁰ Much of this philanthropy was coordinated by John Hauser. Hauser was a trustee of both foundations and received an honorary degree from the college.²¹ He worked extremely hard to keep the spirit of the Musselman family alive long after Christian and Emma were alive to do it themselves. "His friendship with the late Dr. John

¹⁶ Glatfelter, *Gettysburg College 1832-1985*, 839; Dorich, "The Fruits of Their Success," 1-3.

¹⁷ Glatfelter, *Gettysburg College 1832-1985*, 738.

¹⁸ Dorich, "The Fruits of Their Success," 1-3.

¹⁹ Glatfelter, *Gettysburg College 1832-1985*, 849-50.

²⁰ Dorich, "The Fruits of Their Success," 1-3.

²¹ Ibid.

B. Zinn, Professor of Chemistry and Chairman at Gettysburg College from 1924- 1959 resulted in the Musselman Endowment for Visiting Scientists. A gift of \$25,000 in 1977 and 1978 “in honor of Dr. Zinn” formed the Endowment, the income from which is used each year to support visits by well known chemists who share their expertise with faculty and students.”²² This scholarship, along with many others founded by and supported by the Musselman family is still awarded to this day.

Although the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at Gettysburg College is not able to share the exact amounts of money donated by the Musselman family throughout the years, as this is confidential information, the generosity of the Musselman and Emma G. Musselman Foundations is quite clear. The Musselman family’s name appears on the Benefactor’s wall, a granite wall in front of Glatfelter Lodge, indicating that over the years they have donated one million dollars or more.²³ Indeed they have donated more than a million dollars to the construction of just the library—thus it is easy to determine that they have given *well* over a million dollars in grants, donations, and endowments.

Beyond their contributions to the college, the Musselman family has had a tremendous impact on the greater community. They have donated over eight million dollars to various organizations throughout Adams County including Biglerville High School, the Annie M. Warner Hospital, Gettysburg YWCA, the Adams County Public

²² Gettysburg College, Chemistry Department Musselman Visiting Scientist Program, <http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/chemistry/events.html>.

²³ Jean LeGros, personal interview, January 17, 2006.

Library, Adams County Historical Society, and the Adams County chapters of the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Easter Seals, among others.²⁴

Although the C.H. Musselman Company has passed hands into the Pet Foods Inc, and later was purchased by Knouse Foods, and the Musselman and Emma G. Musselman Foundations are now in the hands of new trustees, the organizations continue to make a difference in the lives of the workers, and the residents of Adams County. It is particularly sad that the display case within the Musselman library is frequently overlooked by the students of Gettysburg College. After surveying several students as to whether they had ever stopped to look at the display case, the reply was overwhelmingly no. “I really only know the name from the applesauce and from the library,”²⁵ reported one student, who was not even aware that the stadium was named after the Musselman family. The legacy of the Musselman family—their generosity, hard work ethic, and strong spirit needs to be remembered and appreciated, especially by those who are lucky enough to share in the fruits of their success, and to benefit by the hard work of these outstanding individuals.

²⁴ Dorich, “The Fruits of Their Success,” 1-3.

²⁵ Leah Tarsitano, personal interview, 11 February, 2006.

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