

I Heard the Echo: Juniata College and Preparing for the First World War

“Suddenly somebody dropped a match into the powder magazine of Europe, and civilization broke down.” – Dr. George W. Nasmyth¹

I. Introduction

April 6, 2017 observes the centenary of the United States Congress’s declaration of war on Germany, marking the United State’s entry into the First World War.² This war would, eventually, demonstrate the clear emergence of the United States as a world power, but first the country spent years in diplomatic navigation to remain a neutral power, while still benefiting financially. From 1915 to April 1917, J. P. Morgan alone oversaw more than 4,000 contracts and purchased more than three billion dollars worth of goods on behalf of Allied governments.³ This transformative period had both national and local repercussions. For Juniata College, located in the small town of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, it was the first major conflict the school endured. While clearly defined as a secular institution, Juniata College was heavily intertwined with the Brethren faith, a traditional proponent for peace.⁴ Pacifistic values that would be challenged by a society already biased towards the United Kingdom and her allies. Through the monthly college paper, *The Juniata Echo* the thoughts and feelings of the campus community can be traced from the outbreak of war in Europe in August, 1914 to the entrance of the United States in April 1917. It is a viewpoint that did not fit the narrative of fighting German aggression; instead it was in line with views of Secretary of State William Jennings

¹ “Chapel Talks: Dr. G. Nasmyth,” *Juniata Echo* 25, no. 3 (March 1916): 42.

² Later known as the First World War or World War I (WWI).

³ Zieger, Robert H., *America’s Great War: World War I and the American Experience* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000), 29 – 30.

⁴ Earl C. Kaylor, Jr., *Juniata College: Uncommon Vision, Uncommon Loyalty* (Huntingdon: Juniata Press, 2001), 29 and 85.

Bryan.⁵ In many issues, *The Echo* saw Juniataans arguing for the respect and embrace of pacifist beliefs as well as assisting those in need.

II. The Brethren Faith

Founded in 1876, the Brethren Normal School and Collegiate Institute of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania had prominent ties to the Brethren faith. As stated by later college president, Charles Calvert Ellis, “The men who have built Juniata were so intimately connected with the work of the Church of the Brethren that the two cannot be divorced.”⁶ The Brethren faith originated in 1708 in Schwarzenau, Germany. Eight individuals, beginning with their leader Alexander Mack, were immersed three times in the river Eder, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”⁷ This new faith, relying upon God and the Bible, called themselves Schwarzenau Baptists and steadily gained members. They did not consider themselves a new Church; instead, they were a continuation of the Church first established by Jesus. The New Testament was given precedence “in matters of ethical or spiritual life, including ideals of no force in religion and non-participation of Christians in war.”⁸ The first doctrine or principle of the religion was that of peace, meaning “opposition to war, no force in religion and no litigation in pagan courts.”⁹ Membership grew steadily, but persecution followed growth, forcing the

⁵ Jennifer D. Keene, “United States of America: Neutrality” , in: 1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War, ed. by Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014-10-08. DOI: [10.15463/ie1418.10045](https://doi.org/10.15463/ie1418.10045). Bryan would resign due to differing from Wilson’s view of neutrality.

⁶ Charles Calvert Ellis, *Juniata College: The History of Seventy Years (1876-1946)* (Elgin, Ill.: Printed for Juniata College by the Brethren Pub. House, 1947), 152.

⁷Martin Grove Brumbaugh, *A History of the German Baptist Brethren in Europe and America*. (North Manchester, Ind: L.W. Shultz 1966), 29. Who Baptized Mack is lost to history, but Mack carried out the other seven Baptisms. Brumbaugh offers four different lists of the possible individuals who made up these eight.

⁸Alice Archer, “Alexander Mack: A Seeker of Scripture,” in *A Dunker Guide to Brethren History* (Elgin, Ill.: Brethren Press, 2010) 19.

⁹Rufus D. Bowman, *The Church of the Brethren and War: 1708 -1941*, (Elgin, Il: Brethren Publishing House, 1944), 30.

Brethren to relocate. Some members settled in Switzerland, while others went elsewhere in Germany. If they remained, they faced arrest, fines, prison, and torture.¹⁰ A group from Creyfelt (Krefeld) immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1719, while the Schwarzenau group, now numbering around 200 individuals, moved to Holland until financial realities forced them to travel to the New World.¹¹ The Schwarzenau group sailed on July 7, 1729, ultimately landing in Philadelphia.¹² While some Brethren practitioners followed their fellow Americans in westward expansion, most did not participate. Indeed, the majority of United States Brethren still live within a few hundred miles of the Atlantic Ocean.¹³ Perhaps as early as 1742, the Brethren were holding annual meetings in which everyone was given a voice in proceedings, with decisions reached by consensus. While care was taken to separate out matters for the individual to decide, these gatherings “became the guarantor of Brethren unity, the basis of Church discipline, and the final authority in all Church matters.”¹⁴ Despite these meetings, disagreements in beliefs and practices caused a three-way split, during of the years of 1881-1883, creating the Old German Baptist Brethren (Old Order), the German Baptist Brethren (known as the Church of the Brethren, or Conservatives), and the Brethren Church (Progressives).¹⁵ This separation fueled a zeal for the evangelical spirit. In 1876, the first Brethren foreign missionary

¹⁰John Ezra Miller, *The Story of Our Church: For Young People of the Church of the Brethren*. 2nd ed. (Elgin, Ill.: Brethren Pub. House, 1942), 25.

¹¹Archer, “Alexander Mack: A Seeker of Scripture” in *A Dunker Guide*, 19

¹²Brumbaugh. *A History of the German Baptist Brethren in Europe and America*, 45.

¹³James Benedict, “The Wolfes: Leading the Way West,” in *A Dunker Guide to Brethren History*, 56. Brethren would allow African American membership, but those members could not attend services. 59.

¹⁴Carl F Bowman, *Brethren Society: The Cultural Transformation of a “Peculiar People”* (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1995), 15.

¹⁵Donald F Durnbaugh, “Preface,” in *Meet the Brethren*. (Elgin, IL.: Brethren Press for the Brethren Encyclopedia, 1984), 8.

departed for Denmark.¹⁶ The movement expanded, and eventually there were Brethren missionaries in India, China, and throughout Africa.

III. Brethren and War

A traditionally pacifist Church would undoubtedly face challenges to their beliefs when their nation went to war. During the American Revolution, Brethren kept themselves apart, or refused involvement in the Revolution because of their beliefs in nonviolence. Together, the Brethren and Mennonite leaders issued a statement, *A Short and Sincere Declaration*, to the Pennsylvania Assembly explaining why they could not support or assist the revolution.¹⁷ It was ignored, with the Assembly demanding oaths of allegiance and military service or a financial contribution equal to the length of enlistment. Failure to comply with either of those two actions led to various penalties, including taxes or charges of treason.¹⁸ Many lost their property, and some were persecuted.¹⁹

This oppression spurred movement, with Brethren relocating to other states and to the frontiers. Still not very politically involved, the Brethren had come to be more agreeable to civil law, following James Quinter's interpretation that "the principle and necessity of civil government are ordained of God, but civil laws may or may not represent God's will." John Kline, a Brethren Elder from Virginia, interpreted patriotism "in its higher aspects as love for God, neighbor, family, friends and the whole human family." As a religious minority, the Brethren faced the Civil War with an unclear status

¹⁶ Bowman, *Brethren Society*, 134.

¹⁷ *A Short and Sincere Declaration*, (John Henry Miller, 1775), 1- 6. Available online through Elizabethtown College <http://digitalcollections.powerlibrary.org/cdm/ref/collection/aeliz-pp/id/393>.

¹⁸ Donald F Durnbaugh, "Preface" and "Brethren, 1708-1883," in *Meet the Brethren*. (Elgin, IL.: Brethren Press for the Brethren Encyclopedia, 1984), 8. 17-18.

¹⁹ Rufus D. Bowman, *The Church of the Brethren and War: 1708 -1941*, (Elgin, IL: Brethren Publishing House, 1994), 100.

under the law; while some states offered a paid military exemption, other states left the decision to the legislative powers.²⁰

The Brethren found themselves on both sides of the Civil War, but they opposed secession and the war. Any member who entered military service was no longer considered a constituent of the faith. They still abstained from voting because they felt it involved them in the war. However, the only method to abstain from service was still the payment of money to either hire an alternate or as a direct tax.²¹

IV. What It Meant to be Brethren at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century

Between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of the First World War, the Church gradually relaxed its severe discipline and grew more tolerant, an acceptance largely born from the 1880s split. Before 1905, typical Brethren did not vote or hold political office. Any new member was re-baptized, and the Brethren stayed out of Protestant reform organizations. There were no professional ministers, worship services were not held in churches, and plain dress was considered mandatory.²² These traditionally-held beliefs came under progressive re-evaluation, leading to the faith changing its name. In 1908, the official name of the Church became “Church of the Brethren,” because of concerns that the name “German Baptist Church” was “misleading and in many places detrimental to our church work.”²³ The Brethren attended public schools and colleges, and became deeply involved in their local communities. In general, citizenship was viewed more favorably, and the role of voting and influencing legislation

²⁰ Ibid, 113.

²¹ Bowman, *The Church of the Brethren and War*, 153-156.

²² , Bowman, Carl, *Brethren Society*, 212

²³ Bowman, Rufus, *The Church of the Brethren and War*, 23.

were both embraced.²⁴ The year 1911 saw the appointment of a Peace Committee, chaired by William J. Swigart, who was variously a teacher, principal, and treasurer at Juniata College.²⁵ This committee had the following duties:

First: to propagate and aid in the distribution of such literature as may be helpful to the better understanding as to the sinfulness and folly of resorting to arms in the settlement of differences;
Second: to use every lawful gospel means in bringing about peaceful settlements of difficulties when such may arise between government or societies;
Third: to keep the Brotherhood informed, from time to time through our publications, as to the true status of the peace movement.²⁶

V. The Origins of Juniata College

Located among the rural mountains and valleys of central Pennsylvania is the town of Huntingdon. In the 1910s, Huntingdon had a population of over six thousand, benefiting from its connection to the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the terminus of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad. With these advantageous travel routes, and public utilities in the forms of a waterworks and gas lighting, Huntingdon was viewed as a worthwhile location for the placement of an institution of higher learning.²⁷ Starting with three students in April 1876, Professor Jacob M. Zuck's the Brethren's Normal School and Collegiate Institute would grow to become a college for the area. In 1878, Huntingdon Township donated a tract of land to the college and by 1879 Founders Hall had been erected. The college continued to grow, and in 1896 was rechartered as Juniata College. By 1914, the campus had grown further. Founders Hall had become the administration building, chapel, recitation room, and dormitory. The other buildings

²⁴ Ibid, 167-168.

²⁵ Kaylor, *Juniata College* 47.

²⁶ *Annual Conference Minutes*, 1910, p15. As appeared in Rufus D. Bowman, *The Church of the Brethren and War: 1708 -1941*, (Elgin, IL: Brethren Publishing House, 1994),161.

²⁷ Kaylor, *Juniata College*, 11. It was, however, not the only possible location. If not for the poor health of Jacob Zuck the college would have been established in Berlin, PA. (See Kaylor, *Juniata College*, 11-14).

consisted of student dormitories, a library, the Stone Church, athletic amenities, as well as a heating plant and an infirmary.²⁸

The campus newspaper, *The Juniata Echo*, began publication in November 1890, replacing the prior paper, *The Advance*. *The Echo*'s editor was Dr. A. B. Brumbaugh, aiming more for a literary publication than just a summation of campus news and activities. By 1895, it had over three thousand subscribers. Brumbaugh remained editor until 1907, when the duties were transferred to other faculty members, before devolving directly into student hands in the Fall of 1914.²⁹

June 1914 saw another building project breaking ground with the beginning of construction on the science building. At the end of its summer 1914 session, planning was in place to further expand the campus, both in terms of student enrollment and physical footprint. The session officially ended on July 30, classes would not resume for the Fall Term until enrollment on Monday, September 21.³⁰

VI. The Coming of War

While the faculty and students of Juniata enjoyed their vacation, Europe's summer holiday was rapidly giving way to war. The heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated, alongside his wife, Sophie, by Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist in the streets of Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. After almost a month of diplomatic wrangling, Austria presented Serbia with an ultimatum on July 23, with a forty-eight hour time limit. Despite the harsh terms, Serbia acquiesced to

²⁸ Ladies Hall in 1890. Students Hall in 1895, and Oneida Hall in 1898. The Carnegie library was dedicated in 1907. The Stone Church was erected in 1910. An Athletic Field was added in 1899 and a Gymnasium was built in 1901. "Juniata College History, Location, Ground and Buildings." *Juniata College Bulletin*, Vol. XI, No. 3, July 1914: 7-10.

²⁹ Kaylor, *Juniata College*, 73-74 and 111. And "Juniata Echo," in *Alfarata: 1915*, (Columbus, Ohio: The Champlin Press, 1915), 99.

³⁰ "The Summer Session of 1914 June 22 To July 31." *Juniata College Bulletin*. Vol. XI, No. 1, January, 1914: 25.

the majority of Austria's demands, but without full acceptance. Austria responded with a declaration of war on July 28. Russia, an ally to Serbia, ordered partial mobilization. Germany warned Russia to cease the mobilization on July 31, and when this failed to happen, Germany declared war against Russia on August 1. The following day, Germany began implementation of its prewar plans by invading Luxemburg, then declared war against France on August 3. On August 4, Germany invaded Belgium to outflank the French Army; leading to the immediate declaration of war by the United Kingdom. The same day, the United States declared neutrality.

VII. Juniata's Reaction

The news of the assassination reached Huntingdon quickly. On the front page of *The Daily New Era*, the title "Heir to Austrian Throne and Wife Killed in Street" ran on June 29, 1914.³¹ Coverage of the events detailed in the paragraph above were noted with equal timeliness. While it was published a month after the event took place, *The Huntingdon Monitor* issued on July 31, 1914 included the below image. "Latest Tragedy in Austria's Royal Family" romanticizes the Archduke and his wife Sophie with their formal portraits imposed over a scenic view of one of Sarajevo's bridges.³²

³¹ "Heir to Austrian Throne and Wife Killed in Street," *The Daily New Era* (Huntingdon, PA), June 29, 1914.

³² "Latest Tragedy in Austria's Royal Family," *The Huntingdon Monitor*, (Huntingdon, PA), July 31, 1914. "Latest Tragedy" could refer to the suicide of Rudolf, Crown Prince of Austria in 1889 or the 1912-1913 Balkan wars.



The above image appeared in *The Huntingdon Monitor* on July 31, 1914.

Those students that returned, or arrived for the first time to Juniata in September, now had a chance to respond to the changed political situation. *The Juniata Echo* included in its first issue of the semester an editorial, titled "Armageddon." Its author declared that:

The war of nations is upon us. The diplomats have failed and must now give way to the generals. To the student of history, the war is not a mere quarrel of rulers, but a desperate struggle between the conflicting and irreconcilable races, interests and ideals. It is this that has made peace a mockery and Europe an armed camp for the last twenty years. Militarism brought on its own crisis. The competition for armaments between so terrific that trifle was sufficient to precipitate a conflict. The inevitable has come. The rulers have sent forth their troops in the name of the Most High. The best manhood of Europe has been taken from the arts of peace to learnt the arts of war and destruction. Now must civilization hide her face whole suffering, devastation and death reign supreme. Truly the spectacle is awful.³³

³³ Editorials: "Armageddon," *Juniata Echo* 23, no. 8 (October 1914): 113.

In this early declaration from the campus, we see both disappointment and praise. Its author decried Europe's failed diplomacy, making a specific point that the outbreak seemed a long time coming. *The Echo* was not alone in using this sort of rhetoric.³⁴ Here the assassination of Franz Ferdinand is the "trifle" to cause war. The editorial continued:

But there is another and nobler spectacle. The United States, free from entangling alliances, and secure in her principle of dealing justly with other nations, is giving the world an object lesson in peace. For the sake of peace and humanity, we abstained from war with Mexico. For the sake of a "scrap of paper" we are opening the Panama Canal to the ships of all nations, on an equal basis. If the fair flower of civilization and culture be trampled under foot in Europe, let America now nourish it all the more tenderly.³⁵

At the moment, America is able to take the moral high ground. The "scrap of paper" was the treaty signed to protect Belgium's borders by the major European powers.

VIII. The Remainder of 1914

President Woodrow Wilson declared in his *Message to Congress*, "The effect of the war upon the United States will depend upon what American citizens say and do. Every man who really loves America will act and speak in the true spirit of neutrality."³⁶ In other words, citizens should champion America. They should forsake the country of their ancestry, not favoring one side over the other. In this October issue, the editors of *The Echo* also began to apply the terms and language from the war to life on campus. Typically, "Items and Personals," where humor and brief jokes and asides were featured, was a section where such content could be found: "After the dum dum bullet question is

³⁴ Michael S. Neiberg, *The Path to War: How the First World War Created Modern America*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), 24. *North American Review*'s September 1914 issue also had an article that said "Europe stands today at Armageddon."

³⁵ Editorials: "Armageddon," *Juniata Echo* 23, no. 8 (October 1914): 113.

³⁶ Woodrow Wilson, *Message to Congress*, 63rd Congress, 2d Session., Senate Doc. No. 566 (Washington, 1914), p 3-4. As appeared on https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson's_Declaration_of_Neutrality

settled the dum dum student problem should receive attention.”³⁷ From this early in the war Juniata students had been exposed to the language and terminology used in the First World War and adapted it to their own environment.

November’s editorial focus shifted to the recent election of Martin G. Brumbaugh to the Governorship of Pennsylvania. References to the war did not appear until “Items and Personals” where, once again a jocular sentence was featured: “‘Why do the Germans call their guns by women’s names?’ ‘Because they are so hard to silence.’”³⁸

Two lectures related to the war also took place in October. First, Pastor D. N. Furnajieff described “the horrors of European war;” and a collection was taken for the Belgian Relief Fund. Belgium had been invaded by Germany on August 2 and by November, Germany controlled all but two small zones.³⁹ The second lecture was held on October 23, in which Robert E. Speer addressed an audience at the Presbyterian Church, under the title “Missions and Present Worldwide Conditions.” His pleas were for “Christians to redouble their efforts to win the world for Christ.”⁴⁰

In December, often a reflective month, discussion of the war returned to the front page of *The Echo*. “Christmas and War” discussed the hypocrisy of wishing fellow Christians “peace on earth, good will toward men” when “five of the great Christian nations engaged in a titanic death struggle,” before offering a debate on optimist and

³⁷ J. Allan Myers, “Items and Personals,” *Juniata Echo* 23, no. 8 (October 1914): 119. Dum dum bullets are also known as expanding bullets. These bullets are so named because they are designed to expand upon impact. These types of munitions were outlawed by the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. For more information see: Cornish, Paul: Expanding Bullets , in: 1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War, ed. by Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014-10-08. DOI: [10.15463/ie1418.10766](https://doi.org/10.15463/ie1418.10766).

³⁸ J. Allan Myers, “Items and Personals,” *Juniata Echo* 23, no. 9 (November 1914): 138.

³⁹ Larry Zukerman, *The Rape of Belgium: the Untold Story of World War I* (New York: NYU Press, 2004), 83-85. French forces controlled part of Namur province and Belgian forces were able to maintain possession of a portion of West Flanders. The cities of Nieuport and Ypres were in the latter region.

⁴⁰ Lectures: A Plea for Humanity,” *Juniata Echo* 23, no. 9 (November 1914): 145.

pessimist views of Christianity.⁴¹ “Items and Personals” featured three brief statements: one an endearment to “Remember suffering Belgium,” a second noting that “many brave boys will spend Christmas in the trenches,” while the third returned to humor, ending the year on a lighter note, asking “Who is it on ladies Hall that, reading ‘Germans take Offensive in Poland,’ spent a whole evening looking it up in her geography?”⁴²

IX. 1915

January arrived with a denunciation of Germany and Germanism in an editorial titled “The War Again: What Caused the war?”. The author stated “The Austrian says Servia [sic] was the cause; the German makes the Czar responsible; the Englishman and the Frenchman lay it all at the door of the Kaiser. Will not the future historian, writing with impartial pen, smile at such an explanation?”⁴³ Judging by the breadth of scholarship available about the beginning of the war, the consensus suggested that war was likely imminent for a variety of reasons, though German militarism was certainly part of it.

The 1915 Spring semester was sparing with commentary on the war. February was concerned mostly with campus events and with, former college president Martin G. Brumbaugh’s inauguration as governor of Pennsylvania. The war briefly made an appearance in the “Items and Personals” with “Here’s hoping ‘war price’ fever doesn’t strike the book room.”⁴⁴ Again, the language of war repurposed to humor. Likewise, March’s “Items and Personals” quipped, “It looks like Turkey in Europe will soon share

⁴¹ “Editorials.” *Juniata Echo* 23, no. 10 (December 1914): 149-150.

⁴² J. Allan Myers, “Items and Personals,” *Juniata Echo* 23, no. 10 (December 1914): 155-157. The downside to inside jokes is that once all the parties involved have lost touch, it is very difficult to determine about whom they’re referring.

⁴³ “Editorials, The War Again; Racial Antagonism and Militarism; Pan-Germanism; and What Does It All Mean?” *Juniata Echo* 24, no. 1 (January 1915): 1-3.

⁴⁴ J. Allan Myers, “Items and Personals,” *Juniata Echo* 24, no. 2 (February 1915): 23.

the fate of turkey in America.”⁴⁵ British forces had launched the Gallipoli campaign, with a Naval force bombarding the Turkish Dardanelle forts in February. The United States was making some preparations for war. Revealed in the March issue was the christening of the super-dreadnought *Pennsylvania*.⁴⁶ In April, the war received the barest of mention with an article about an oratorical contest opening “The dove of peace is not yet extinct.”⁴⁷

Juniatian Edgar G. Diehm placed second in that oratorical contest, which was hosted by the State Arbitration and Peace Society.⁴⁸ The May issue of *The Echo* included a transcript of his speech, “The Brotherhood of Man,” tracing the history and origins of “the spirit of peace... the settlement of disputes, not by the devil’s weapons of warfare, but by God’s weapons of love and righteousness.” Diehm spoke about European peace organizations, such as the two Hague conventions. Near the end of his speech, he wished that “the United States keep her hands unstained from this awful curse and set an example from which the rest of the world cannot turn away.”⁴⁹

June’s issue similarly featured the reproduction of a winning oration. Raymond A. Mickel’s “Our Nation’s Responsibility” won the first prize of twenty-five dollars in the Carney Oratorical Contest, held on May 11.⁵⁰ The Carney Oratorical was a competition founded by E. C. Carney ’00, for students enrolled in the Academy or Normal English programs. A first place award of twenty-five dollars and a second place prize of fifteen dollars were awarded to the two students who presented “an excellence in subject matter,

⁴⁵ J. Allan Myers, “Items and Personals,” *Juniata Echo* 24, no. 3 (March 1915): 39.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ J. Allan Myers, “Items and Personals,” *Juniata Echo* 23, no. 4 (April 1915):56.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ E. G. Diehm, “The Brotherhood of Man,” as appeared in *Juniata Echo* 24, no. 5 (May 1915): 69-72.

⁵⁰ “Oratorical Contests: Carney,” *Juniata Echo* 24, no. 6 (June 1915):97.

composition, and delivery.⁵¹ Mickel spoke of how the United States had become a world power and held an authoritative position “chiefly because she is the only large nation sufficiently civilized to be able to avert and resist the apparent temptation to war.”⁵² He was quite stark in his description of the results of war:

Never in the world has such chaos, such ruin, and such terrible horror been let loose on the earth. Countless numbers of the mangled corpses of men are lying on the field of battle. Thousands upon thousands of women are widowed and their lives are blighted. Homes everywhere are being darkened, broken up, and destroyed. Poverty is sweeping over all the land and staring into the faces of the peoples of all countries, while pestilence follows. Thousands of men who know not God and who have denied him, are sacrificing their lives and their all for they know not what. The Industry and progress of all countries engaged have ceased.⁵³

This bleak outlook for the European nations engaged in the war was lightened by Mickel’s view that the U.S. could use its power to promote peace. “Let us promote our domestic peace, which leads to national peace, and finally to world peace.”⁵⁴ Despite this attitude, the German navy’s unrestricted submarine campaign downed the luxury liner Lusitania on May 7, to international outrage. It cost the lives of 1,200 people, including 128 Americans. There appears to be no mention of this in *The Echo*.⁵⁵

Remarks about the war in articles of *The Echo* were nonexistent for several months. The first reference since June was a tangential mention in the November issue, where it was noted that alumnus Clarence A. White ,’15 “doing office work in the new powder mills at Mt. Union, Pa.”⁵⁶ Next, the December issue included a Christmas story

⁵¹ “Carney Oratorical Contest,” *Juniata Echo* 25, no. 3 (March 1916): 42-43

⁵² Raymond A. Mickel, “Our Nation’s Responsibility,” *Juniata Echo* 24, no. 6 (June 1915):85-87.

⁵³ *Ibid*, 86.

⁵⁴ *Ibid*.

⁵⁵ Neiberg, *The Path to War*, 66-67.

⁵⁶ “Alumni Notes,” *Juniata Echo* 24, no. 9 (November 1915): 150.

contest. The second place entry, “Jimmie’s Christmas Present,” by Paul Moyer, ’16 recounted a typical holiday morality story. Jimmie wants nothing more than a pair of skates, and works hard to earn the money for them. When a Polish refugee comes to speak about the terrors of being a civilian in a military conflict, the story makes an impression on Jimmie, who then has a nightmare that he himself is one of the child refugees. After awakening from his dream, Jimmie decides to send the funds he has raised to “the poor friends in war-stricken lands.” Even after this generosity, Jimmie stills finds skates below the tree on Christmas morning, “because he was a man.”⁵⁷ This view of male identify as one of sacrificing happiness to the benefit of others representing the Brethren commitment to helping others.

X. 1916

January 1916 opened with a plea for preparedness, however, the article’s author was not exactly emphasizing the importance of preparedness for war. “Let us keep in mind continually that there is as much patriotism shown often, in living for one’s country as in dying for it. So let us attempt to serve our country the best way we can by preparing to live for it.”⁸² The author cheekily argued this to be the cheaper and less resentment-causing option. As in earlier “Items and Personals,” the rhetoric of war is twisted to comment on the campus events. “Some few have been drilling for four years and are now about to go to the front for the big push in the spring of life.”⁸³ For soldiers, the big push was the launching of a large scale attack, what would a soon to be graduating student consider a “big push?”

⁵⁷ Paul Moyer, “Jimmie’s Christmas Present” *Juniata Echo* 24, no. 10 (December 1915): 154-156.

⁸² “Editorials: Preparedness,” *Juniata Echo* 25, no. 1 (January 1916): 1-3.

⁸³ *Ibid*, 2.

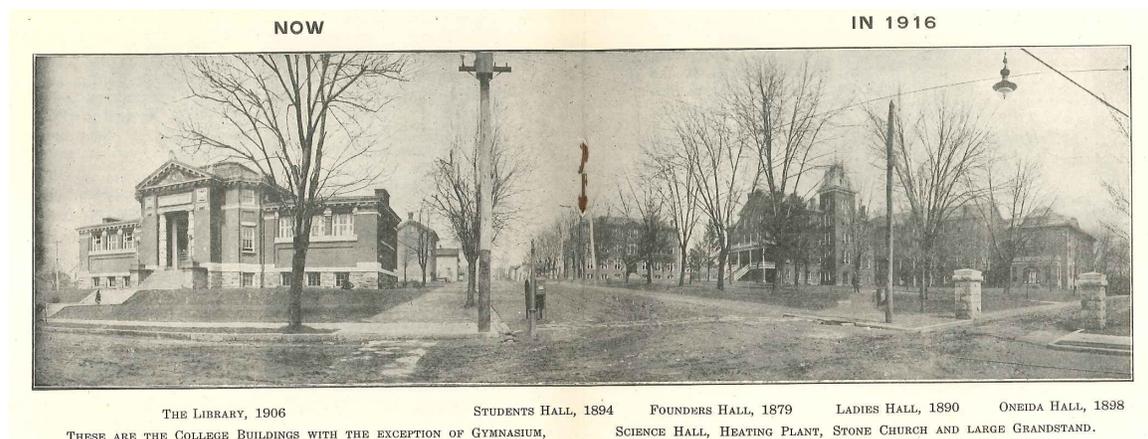
The following month, a more serious paper presentation, “The Sociological Aspects of War,” was given at the housewarming for the new Science Hall. Professor Myers Horner spoke of the causes of the war and argued that the greatest social problem was peaceable coexistence; a lively discussion followed.⁸⁴

Two February events recounted in the March issue indicate that, although perhaps not reflected in *The Echo* coverage, students were engaged in discussion of the war and its resolution. First, Dr. George W. Nasmyth, of the World Peace Foundation, gave a chapel talk on February 17 on arbitration and peace. “For some time the philosophy of force has been everywhere in evidence by the rapid increase of armaments.” Nasmyth would list four important steps to establishing a League of Peace. Those steps were: 1. For the U.S. take the initiative to set up a Supreme Court of Justice. 2. An international council of Investigation and Conciliation must be established. 3. The U.S. shall ask all other nations to join in signing a treaty not to declare war unless the above-mentioned council has heard the case. Arbitration would be compulsory. Aggressors who did not heed the treaty or arbitration would find themselves at war with all the other nations. 4. There must be International Legislation to develop international law.⁸⁵ Shortly thereafter, an energetic debate between Juniata and Swarthmore College under the question “Resolved, that an international police force should be established to enforce international treaties and agreements and preserve international peace” was held on February 25 at Swarthmore. Juniata was declared the victor.⁸⁶

⁸⁴ Earl Dubbel, “A House-Warming for Science Hall,” *Juniata Echo* 25, no. 2 (February 1916): 27-28.

⁸⁵ Chapel Talks: Dr. G. Nasmyth,” *Juniata Echo* 25, no. 3 (March 1916): 42-43.

⁸⁶ “College Events: Debates: Juniata—Swarthmore Debate,” *Juniata Echo* 25, no. 3 (March 1916): 39-40.



Juniata College in 1916 as appeared *The Juniata Echo* 25, no. 4 (April 1916): 60-61.

The May issue printed the first prize speech for the Bailey Oratorical Contest, “The Day and Its Essentials” by Harry Ankeney ’17, which spoke of the ideals and formation of America. “While Mars holds sway over one-half of earth, our Nation pursues her duties unmolested save by the ring of Vulcan’s anvil as he forges munitions and engines of war for raving maniacs across the sea.”⁸⁷ Speeches about the war were becoming commonly featured in campus debates and other public speaking events. Another speech given at the 1916 Carney Oratorical included “America’s Opportunity” by Guy Beach.⁸⁸ The war was being spoken about more on campus.

With the December 1916 issue came a return of the holiday story contest. Ruth Tiffany, ’17, wrote “A Gift,” a tale very reminiscent of “Jimmie’s Christmas Present.” It begins with Lucile attending a church service that continually mentions the soldiers that would be spending Christmas in the trenches. Although Lucile tries to avoid thinking of the sermon when deciding how to spend her money; she then recants and donates a dollar. The story then transitions to the trenches at Yser, where almost immediately a soldier dies of a bullet wound.

⁸⁷ Harry Ankeney, “The Day and Its Essentials” *Juniata Echo* 25, no. 5 (May 1916): 73-76.

⁸⁸ “Carney Oratorical Contests,” *Juniata Echo* 24, no. 6 (June 1915):97.

Before leaving he took a glance at the battle-field.
No living being was in sight, and all that broke the
brooding stillness was the rumbling of the hospital
wagon carrying away the wounded and dead. Along
the horizon he could see dimly outlined mounds of
dead bodies "Some mother's boys," he reflected,
"Thrown in a heap like garbage."

Tiffany's story clearly shows the horrors of war. A battlefield stripped of anything living with the dead soldiers, treasured by a mother at the home front, piled up for disposal, their wastage reaching its conclusion. A soldier witnessing this scene searches for a deceased comrade because he had promised to mail a letter left in the dead man's pocket. He fails to find the body and returns to camp depressed. The next morning is Christmas Day and the soldier's faith is restored when he is gifted a box of gifts, including a Bible. This box was the good work achieved in part by Lucile's dollar, who unlike Jimmie is not rewarded further; instead she imagines the happiness of the soldier receiving her contribution.⁸⁹ The December issue again showed the prevalence of war terms in everyday language with a temperance talk under the title "Two years in the Trenches."⁹⁰

The New Year, 1917 returned with humor. Under the column, "Smiles," a joke was made at the expense of American war preparedness. "Prof. Horner, in his class of Current Events. What has been the policy of America's military program? Manbeck – Not prepared, sir. Prof. Horner; -- Correct."⁹¹ On February 8, Dr. Wirt W. Barnitz gave a lecture course on the topic, "The World, the War and Germany." A war correspondent, Barnitz had recently traveled through the belligerent nations; he shared pictures and argued for the US to maintain its neutral status. Barnitz "prophesies that to declare war will end disastrously; the Germans with their determined natures will never be wiped out;

⁸⁹ Ruth Tiffany, "A Gift," *Juniata Echo* 25, no. 10 (December 1915): 160-1631.

⁹⁰ "Two Years in the Trenches," *Juniata Echo* 25, no. 10 (December 1915): 172.

⁹¹ Bill "That Man Was Lucky," *Juniata Echo* 27, no. 1 (January 1917): 13.

the U.S. will have German methods of warfare to meet and overcome.”⁹² This issue was also the first one in which *The Echo* discussed the threat of submarines. February 1917, was when Germany began an unrestricted submarine warfare campaign with the goal of starving Britain.

On February 21-22, J. H. Ehlers, the Y.M.C.A state intercollegiate secretary, visited the college campus to bring attention to prison camps in the warring nations. The goal of the talk was to raise funds to build shelters and provide care for some of the “six million boys now in the prison camps, languishing behind wire fences, with no protection whatever from the weather and undergoing every sort of misery.”⁹³

In the month before war was declared, the March 13th Bailey Oratorical was held in the College Chapel. Among the entries were “Our Duty to Mexico” by Raul H. Moyer, “The American Flag” by Charles B. Horner, “Preparedness for Peace” by Ruth Tiffany, and “Higher Patriotism” by Galen B. Horner.⁹⁴ Ruth Tiffany took first prize, with her speech appearing in the April issue. She opened her speech by asking, “After the war, what? Shall we rejoice with those who say that this war has been but a preparation for world peace and that man has before him the most perfect era in history?”⁹⁵ Akin to the “war to end all wars” slogan, Tiffany blended historical details with theological thought before concluding that “when individuals have enthroned the Prince of Peace in their hearts” they can be made into upright “citizens of their country, true citizens of the

⁹² “The World, The War and Germany,” *Juniata Echo* 27, no. 2 (February 1917): 29.

⁹³ “The Prison Camps,” *Juniata Echo* 27, no. 3 (March 1917): 50.

⁹⁴ “Bailey Oratorical Contest,” *Juniata Echo* 27, no. 3 (March 1917): 53. Unfortunately *The Echo* only lists the title and presenter of these speeches. Only the first and second place speeches were fully reproduced in the April Issue.

⁹⁵ Ruth Tiffany, “Preparedness for Peace,” *Juniata Echo* 27, no. 4 (April 1917): 62.

world.”⁹⁶ According to Tiffany, these people would—and should—be the ones to establish peace.

Despite the lofty ideals presented in the Tiffany’s speech, the “Smiles” section continued to offer the most, so far, about war. “German Ambition” described a brief exchange between a German officer and a wounded soldier. Upon hearing that the loss of both arms would have made him an officer, the soldier immediately cuts off his limbs, leaving the editor to ask, “The only question is, how did he do it?” In “Fun at the Front,” a sentry in guard cries, “Halt! Who goes there?” In reply, “Friend—with a bottle.” “Pass, friend. Halt, bottle.” Notable for a campus that still barred students from smoking. “We will have to see about that” results in the delay of a German commander’s reinforcements because “there are a couple of drunken Americans down the road and they won’t let it go by.”⁹⁷ This largess of humor was in the face of “Items and Personals,” where the great issue facing the nation was visible: “To go to war, or not to go to war, that is the question.”⁹⁸

By the time the May issue was published, that question had been decided. Upon President Woodrow Wilson’s urging, Congress to declared war on April 6, 1917. As in October 1914, *The Echo* responded in a lengthy editorial, “Our Call to Arms,” beginning: “These are the times which try men’s souls. The world is in the throes of hell – world war and world starvation stare us in the face. Our Nation bravely rallying to the standard.”⁹⁹ Its author recalled the Brethren values of peace and the ongoing work with Congress to make an exemption from the Draft, instituted on May 18, 1917. What students and

⁹⁶ Ibid, 64-65.

⁹⁷ Bill, “Smiles,” *Juniata Echo* 27, no. 4 (April 1917): 73.

⁹⁸ Raymond Mickel, “Items and Personals” *Juniata Echo* 27, no. 4 (April 1917):69.

⁹⁹ “Our Call to Arms,” *Juniata Echo* 27, no. 5 (May 1917): 81.

alumni could do was to plant and harvest crops, raise funds and join the Red Cross, and do their best to be less wasteful. For “The present emergency calls for emergency measures; we must act quickly, act wisely, and act NOW.¹⁰⁰ Despite this call for immediate action, there was a long battle with the government over the rights and service of conscripted conscientious objectors.

VIII. Conclusion

War had fully arrived for the United States; there was no more decrying the failure of Christian Europe. While the United States would claim to be making the world safe for democracy, it was more concerned with the protection of financial and territorial concerns. After years of neutrality, the United States had joined the war to fight German aggression. Through the materials published in *The Echo*, it is apparent that Juniata College’s embrace of a war footing was as drawn out as that of the wider nation. This is readily evident in the scarcity of articles about the war throughout most of 1915. Much like President Wilson, the contributors to *The Echo* espoused moral values and raged against the crimes of German aggression. Unlike Wilson’s rhetoric, *The Echo* balanced these ideals with levity in the form of “Smiles” and “Items and Personals.” What was yet to be seen was how an institution devoted to the Brethren faith, itself devoted to peace, would handle a nation at war. As is clear in the May 1917 editorial, there were those at the school who wanted to, in at least some capacity, assist the war effort.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid, 82.