The Life of Jacob Albright

1759  Jacob is born on May 1st just three miles northwest of Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

1782  Jacob serves with the 4th Battalion of the Philadelphia Militia guarding prisoners at the “Hessian Camp” in Reading, Pennsylvania.

1785  At age 26, Jacob marries Catherine Cope and settles on a 63-acre farm in northeastern Lancaster County.
The Life of Jacob Albright

1791  In July of this year Albright experiences what he calls a “genuine conversion experience” and begins preaching the Gospel.

1803  The Evangelical Association is officially organized. Jacob Albright is elected the first leader.

1808  On May 18, at the age of 49, Jacob succumbs to tuberculosis.
The farm of George Becker in Kleinfeltersville, Pennsylvania. It is here that Jacob Albright died and was buried.
Jacob Albright’s church in Kleinfeltersville, Pennsylvania
ALBRIGHT COLLEGE’S FOUNDING INSTITUTIONS

Union Seminary
Central Pennsylvania College
Albright Collegiate Institute
Albright College at Myerstown
Schuylkill Seminary
Schuylkill College
Genealogy of Albright College
Union Seminary

1856 Union Seminary Established

1887 Union Seminary Becomes Central Pennsylvania College

1902 Central Pennsylvania College merges into Albright College at Myerstown
Schuylkill Seminary

1881  Schuylkill Seminary Established

1902  Schuylkill Seminary moves to Reading campus, in what is today Selwyn Hall

1923  Schuylkill Seminary becomes Schuylkill College

1928  Schuylkill College and Albright College at Myerstown merge to become Albright College at Reading.
Albright Collegiate Institute

1895 Albright Collegiate Institute Established

1898 Albright Collegiate Institute becomes Albright College at Myerstown
Union Seminary opened its doors in New Berlin, Pennsylvania in 1856. It was renamed Central Pennsylvania College in 1887.
Union Seminary teachers and students in 1874.
An 1880s era classroom at Central Pennsylvania College.
Dr. Harry N. Conser, professor of natural sciences & German, Central Pennsylvania College, 1893.
Two students in their dormitory at Central Pennsylvania College, 1899.
Physics lab, Central Pennsylvania College, 1899.
Central Pennsylvania College Class of 1899.
The faculty of
Central Pennsylvania College, 1900-1901.
The Central Pennsylvania College baseball team.
Schuylkill Seminary was founded in 1881. It was located at 6th & Washington Streets in downtown Reading.
The interior of the gymnasium, Schuylkill Seminary in Reading.
Schuylkill Seminary moved to Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, in 1887.
In 1902 Schuylkill Seminary returned to Reading. It was located in Selwyn Hall on the current Albright campus.
Selwyn Hall was built in 1836 as Linden Hall, a private home. Since then it has been a public resort, a war college, a beer garden and an Episcopal boys’ school.
The building had been abandoned in 1895 by the Episcopal Boys School.
Schuylkill Seminary 1906
Women’s Basketball Champions
Shirk Stadium was built in 1909 as Circus Maximus. It was acquired by Schuylkill Seminary in 1923 and renovated in 1925.
The stadium was completely reconstructed in 2005.
Schuylkill Seminary Class of 1913.
Masters Hall

Built in 1920, dorm rooms were on the 3rd floor, classrooms on the 2nd and the entire college administration was once comfortably housed on the first floor of this building.
Named after Albright’s ninth president, Harry V. Masters, it now houses five academic departments.
Students, faculty and administration gather inside White Chapel in the late 1920’s, shortly after Schuylkill Seminary became Schuylkill College.
Built in 1882, White Chapel has burned and been repaired three times. Albright hopes to renovate it as a student space.
Albright Collegiate Institute became Albright College at Myerstown in 1895.
Old Main
Albright College at Myerstown
The Albright College Band on the steps of Mohn Hall, Myerstown, Pennsylvania.
Albright College at Myerstown baseball team, 1899.
Albright College at Myerstown, football team, 1904. Charles “Pop” Kelchner, professor of Latin, French & Spanish, director of physical culture and baseball coach, was appointed in 1898.
The first Albright May Queen was crowned in 1922 and the last in 1962.
Albright College in Reading
1929 - 2006
Consolidation Day, 1929
President Warren Teel welds two chains together symbolizing the merger of Schuylkill College and Albright College.
Reading celebrates the merger with a parade down Penn Street.
Sylvan Chapel

Built in 1773, Sylvan Chapel was once the spring house for the farm located here.
The pulpit and benches were brought from the Jacob Albright Memorial Church in Kleinfeltersville.
Merner-Pfeiffer Hall of Science was constructed in anticipation of the merger of Schuylkill and Albright Colleges.
Teel Hall

Built in 1929, Teel Hall is better known to many alumni as "the angel factory," it housed the Evangelical School of Theology from 1929 to 1954.
Teel Hall’s Kachel Chapel has seen many Albrightians become husbands and wives.
The World War I Monument in the 1930s. Masters Hall is in the background.
Kappa Upsilon Phi brothers in 1935. The fraternity was the first at Albright College, established in 1900.
A 1935 performance of *Oedipus Rex* on the steps of Science Hall. During the Depression Albright often staged productions for the entertainment of the community.
Alumni Memorial Hall
Built in 1907, Alumni Memorial Hall served as a gymnasium for 44 years and in 1936 became the College's third library.
700 students formed a human chain in 1963 to move the books to their new home in the current Gingrich Library.
Today Alumni Memorial Hall houses classrooms and faculty offices.
1937 May Queen Amy Leitner (right) with Maid of Honor Mildred Newkirk.
Albright Lake in 1937. This is where the May King wound up after he was crowned.
The May King tradition may have been the beginning of “ponding” at Albright.
A rarely seen 1937 view of the Memer-Pfeiffer Hall of Science.
Albright Lake has been reduced through the years to the current Sylvan Pond.
The 1936 Albright football team held a record of 6 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie.
In 1937, William “Lone Star” Dietz became the new Albright football coach.
This 1937 team became the first undefeated team in Albright College history.
The Albright Marching Band performs at a 1937 home football game.
The Class of 1937 graduates on the lawn of Selwyn Hall. Notice only 48 stars on the U.S. flag.
Faculty and students pose for a photo on December 5, 1941, just two days before the attack on Pearl Harbor.
During World War II Albright served as a training site for the Army Air Force.
Albright College sent care packages to its students serving in the military during the 1940s.
Football was just one of many programs that were temporarily discontinued from 1942-1945.
Albright students re-create the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima.
Fundraising to build the Bollman Center began very quietly during World War II. Once the war ended, open campaigning led to its completion in 1952.
In 1961 the building was named Bollman Center in honor of late Trustee George C. Bollman ’21. It was renovated in 1999.
A Life Sports Center and Natatorium were also added to the facility.
The Albright Campus in the 1940s.
The Albright Campus in 2006.
Pi Alpha Tau members in the late 1940s. PAT was the first sorority on the Albright campus, established in 1926.
The Class of 1948 included Joseph E. Coleman, the first African-American graduate of Albright College.
Mr. Coleman later went on to become a research chemist, patent attorney, author and Philadelphia City Council president from 1980-1992.
Fans await the start of an Albright football game in the early 1950s.
Professor Marcus Green, D.Sc. was known to terrify pre-med students with his extremely high expectations.
Green, and the skeleton that hung in his classroom, taught at Albright for 40 years before retiring in 1971.
On August 19, 1953, John Potsklan was hired as head coach of the Albright football team. Potsklan led the lions to their second undefeated season in 1960.
Dr. Harry Masters led Albright College into the 1960s. Dr. Masters held the office of president longer than anyone in the history of Albright College.
Faculty and administrators pose in front of Merner-Pfeiffer Klein Memorial Chapel, October 1962.
1962-1967 saw the construction of “the quad”, four new dormitories on campus.
WXAC recorded its first broadcast on September 8, 1965, from a small studio in White Chapel.
The Rev. William R. Marlow ’49 served as chaplain and professor of religious studies until his retirement in 1992.
The snack area in the Campus Center, 1967. This was replaced by Jake’s Place in 1977.
John Scholl ’69 set the College’s single-game scoring record in basketball with 54 points against Lycoming College in 1969. This record still stands today.
700 students took over the library in 1969 for a student sit-in to support greater diversity among the student body.
Songfest, a popular Homecoming Weekend tradition, started in the 1960s.
Songfest was a competition among fraternities, sororities and other campus organizations.
Faculty, administrators and trustees lead an academic procession into Memorial Chapel in 1978.
The Woods Apartments in 1980 and the construction of North Hall in 1989 gave Albright students the opportunity to live in a group living environment.
John Hall, Ph.D., professor of biology works in the field with students during the early 1990s.
Ellen S. Hurwitz, Ph.D., Albright's 12th president, addresses the Class of 1994 at Commencement on Science Field.
Dennis Colon celebrates being one of the first graduates of the Accelerated Degree Completion Program in 2000.
In 2004, Robin Gruber, Cindy Sharp and Catarina Baez were the first to receive degrees from Albright’s new graduate division.
Preparing for the next 150 years
The New Science Center
Plans are underway for a new Science Center to be built along North 13th Street across from Exeter Street.
Albright received its largest donation ever from Margaret Schumo in October of 2005. These funds will create the new Schumo Center for Fitness & Well-Being attached to the Bollman Center.