

EDITOR'S PREFACE

On behalf of the Historical Society of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, I am pleased to introduce volume II of THE CHRONICLE. The Living Bible version of Isaiah 51:1b reads, "Consider the quarry from which you were mined, the rock from which you were cut!" We in the Central Pennsylvania Conference can trace our origins to five denominational quarries: those of the Evangelical Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the Methodist Protestant Church, and the United Brethren Church. In anticipation of 1993 and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the United Methodist Church, THE CHRONICLE devotes its current volume to celebrating this diversity.

The volume begins with brief treatments of each of these five strands of United Methodism. The papers come deliberately from different perspectives, writing styles and time periods. Having thus set the stage, THE CHRONICLE presents a detailed chronology of every church from each of these five traditions -- as given in the conference journals from the time of the 1968 union until the present. The volume concludes with a letter from the past, a letter representative of those little-known laborers within each predecessor denomination that have sacrificed to keep the fires of United Methodism burning in central Pennsylvania.

Andrew D. Gramley
(1873-1958)

The Rev. Andrew David Gramley, whose picture appears on the cover, is the author of this volume's first article, "The Evangelical Church: Our Beginnings and Some Conference Landmarks." The Evangelical pedigree and commitment of A.D. Gramley stand alone. His great-uncle Adam Hennig was sent by the historic 1816 conference at Eyer's Barn as the first Evangelical missionary outside the bounds of Pennsylvania. His great-grandfather was John Adam Hennig, in whose Penns Valley, Centre County, home the fourth General Conference was held in 1830. He was born and raised in Clinton County's Sugar Valley, the only area of the Conference able to sustain multiple Evangelical Association and United Evangelical churches during the 1894-1922 denominational split.

Brother Gramley was converted in 1891 as the result of reading an article by Bishop Rudolph Dubs. He graduated that same year from Lock Haven High School, where he excelled academically and became the first student to deliver his commencement oration in the German language. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from the denomination's Central Pennsylvania College at New Berlin, the successor to that town's Union Seminary and the forerunner of the present Albright College, in 1894 and 1897 respectively.

Licensed to preach in 1894 and ordained an elder in 1899, he enjoyed successful ministries in a list of appointments that reads like a conference atlas. As he celebrated his fiftieth year in the ministry, he gave this report: "By the grace of God, I was permitted to preach 6,669 times; made 35,950 pastoral calls; 662 couples were united in marriage by me; 945 were baptized. I attended 3,000 prayer meetings; had 1,304 conversions and 1,214 accessions to the church. I am glad that God allowed me to be in the pulpit so long."

A lifelong scholar, A.D. Gramley served on faculties and boards of conference training schools and as a trustee of Albright College; it is no mere coincidence that his two children entered careers in higher education. Respected by his peers, he was elected delegate to General Conferences.

Finally, but by no means least of all, brother Gramley maintained a lifelong interest in the history of the church he loved. He arranged the program for the Joint Centennial Celebration of 1916, held in New Berlin

by the Evangelical Association and United Evangelical churches. He co-authored the 1939 Centennial History of the Central Pennsylvania Conference, from which his article in this volume of THE CHRONICLE is taken. His work on behalf of the Historical Society, as longtime secretary and in whatever other capacity he was needed, was unflinching.

It is with great appreciation that we present Rev. A.D. Gramley on the cover of THE CHRONICLE and reprint his comments on the history of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Church.