

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

On behalf of the Historical Society of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, I present volume XI of THE CHRONICLE. For only the second time in its history, the Society has chosen to produce an expanded 144 page journal. I trust our readers will agree that the material within these pages is worthy of the extra effort and expense.

Rev. Joseph Clemens (1862-1936) was admitted to the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1894 and transferred to the Philippine Islands Conference in 1927. His service record during those years reads as follows.

1894-1897 Mont Alto  
1897-1899 Airville  
1899-1900 Audenreid-Jeanesville  
1900-1901 Nescopeck  
1901-1927 Chaplain, US Army

The diaries of this unique individual are housed in the archives of Dickinson College, and they have been carefully transcribed by Nelda Ikenberry of McPherson, KS. We are grateful to Mrs. Ikenberry, whose husband Gilford is a great-nephew of Joseph Clemens, for her labor of love in transcribing the diaries and for her permission to publish in THE CHRONICLE the years of diaries that pertain to Rev. Clemens' ministry within the Central PA Conference.

It is our sincere hope that the entirety of the diaries may one day be available in print, so that perhaps the spirit and dedication of Joseph and Mary Clemens might inspire others to (in the words of John Wesley)

*Do all the good that you can, By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can, In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can, To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.*

So that the reader may more appreciate the life and ministry of Joseph Clemens and his wife Mary, we have prevailed upon Mrs. Ikenberry to prepare a summary of the diaries written before and after their labors in Central PA Conference pastorates. This narrative begins on page 7 and is subtitled *From England to New Guinea via Central Pennsylvania*.

Following this stirring overview, we present in their entirety the three years of journals surviving from Rev. Clemens' conference pastorates:

the 1895 calendar year - Rouzerville charge  
the 1896 calendar year - Rouzerville charge  
the March 1898 to March 1899 conference year - Airville charge

Having the privilege to inspect and refer to these particular volumes for several

months, we appreciate the difficulties Mrs. Ikenberry faced deciphering the handwriting, abbreviations, and nineteenth century idioms of Rev. Clemens.

The volume closes with five appendices which attempt to identify every capitalized reference (person, place, book, organization, etc.) appearing in the above 3 diaries.

As a Central PA Conference minister, Joseph Clemens is representative of legions of late nineteenth men of humble means who answered God's call to labor in the fields that were "white unto harvest." His commitment to finish his own basic education and the Conference Course of Study, while dealing with difficult personal and family situations, presents a gripping story.

As a US Army chaplain, Joseph Clemens faced indifference (if not open opposition) to religion, pressures to conform and compromise, opportunities to minister to young men in their times of deepest needs, and cultures and conditions far different from those in central PA.

As internationally acclaimed pioneering botanists, Joseph Clemens and his wife Mary entered regions where no Caucasians had ever gone, identified previously unknown plants, and left a legacy of specimens that are still prized and studied at institutions around the globe.

Finally, Joseph and Mary Clemens demonstrated tremendous sacrifice and dedication as they literally lived in caves and shunned the advantages of civilization while giving all their income to educational institutions (mainly Dickinson College and Williamsport Dickinson Seminary, now Lycoming College) for scholarships. Although taken relatively early in their botanical career, the picture selected for the cover presents Joseph and Mary in the unassuming manner that typified the entire lives of this unique couple.

As we continue the tradition begun in 1993 of dedicating the journal to an individual whose life has reflected Jesus Christ and inspired others to live for Him, there was one name that rose to the top. This year's dedicatee Malcolm V. Mussina, for 21 years the Executive Director of the Conference Board of Education, was another who believed in the importance of Christ-centered education and Christ-centered service. To present these two dedicated Methodist educators in a single volume is a distinct honor.

It is with special privilege, therefore, and through the generosity of his children, that this volume of THE CHRONICLE is dedicated to the Reverend Dr. Malcolm V. Mussina.

## MALCOLM V. MUSSINA

A native of Williamsport, Malcolm Vivian Mussina appears in both the 1952 edition of *Who's Who in Methodism* and the 1966 *Who's Who in the Methodist Church*. One of twin sons born to Margaret M. and Vivian E. Mussina in 1902, he graduated from Williamsport High School in 1920, Bucknell University in 1924, and Drew Theological Seminary in 1928.

By God's providence, Malcolm's path into the Central Pennsylvania Conference ministry included varied experiences that would equip him for his ultimate calling. While working for the YMCA in Pittsburgh PA, Newark NJ and Wilmington DE, he deepened his life-long commitment to the ordained ministry and higher education. He was ordained in the Wilmington Conference (reorganized in the 1939 Methodist union as the Peninsula Conference) in 1930 and received an MA from NYU in 1931. He returned to his roots to become a full member of the Central PA Conference in 1934, and his service record there reads as follows:

1934-37	Fairview charge (Bethel, Fairview, Fairfield, Limestone)
1937-40	Mercersburg
1940-41	Watsontown
1941-42	Weatherly
1942-47	State College Wesley Foundation
1947-48	Altoona Llyswen
1948-69	Executive Secretary, Conference Board of Education

In addition, he received a PhD in religious education from Drew in 1936.

It is for his service heading the Board of Education, a position similar to today's Council Director, that most remember Dr. Mussina today. Many current pastors testify to his influence and encouragement in their decision to enter the ministry. One of the best marks of leadership is the ability to train others to carry on the work. When Dr. Mussina retired in 1969, his two full-time assistants for last several years had been coordinator of adult work and camping Victor Meredith and coordinator of youth work Bruce Fisher. The leadership of Vic and Bruce over the years in the new structure provided by the Conference Council on Ministries is ample testimony to Malcolm's ability to train others.

Finally, the influence of Malcolm V. Mussina extended beyond the Central PA Conference into both ecumenical and secular arenas. Dr. Mussina held leadership positions in the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association, the education committees of both the Pennsylvania Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches, and the Williamsport Area School Board.

THE CHRONICLE is pleased to honor Dr. Malcolm V. Mussina by presenting its 2000 volume in his memory.