

## Tales of My United Methodist Ancestors

It is a distinct pleasure to introduce this section of three articles written by persons inspired by their United Methodist ancestors. I have never personally met any of these authors, but there have been many other contacts at various levels over the years between *The Chronicle*, the conference archives, and the authors of the articles that follow.

Barbara Rivas lives in Norman, Oklahoma. She first contacted the archives several years ago when she determined that her ancestor John S. Gingerich had been licensed in Pennsylvania as a United Brethren preacher. A check of the records indicated only that a J.S. Gingerich had been licensed by the Allegheny Conference in the mid 1850's and then dropped from its rolls a few years later without having served any Pennsylvania churches. But the persistent research of Ms. Rivas was able to reconstruct the saga of a remarkable United Brethren preacher from Pennsylvania whose story might otherwise have fallen through the cracks. We are grateful to the author for choosing *The Chronicle* as the vehicle to share with a wider audience the results of her research.

Franklin K. Wilson lives in Wylie, Texas. Impressed by the written documents and oral tradition in his family relating to his ministerial ancestor Franklin E. Hewitt, he used that material as a basis to publish a family history in 2009 titled *Further on and Deeper*. Since that time, he has learned more about his ancestor's Pennsylvania roots and the beginnings of his ministerial journey. Because Franklin Hewitt was never a full member of any Pennsylvania conference, local information about him is limited. We are grateful to the author for allowing *The Chronicle* to share for the first time both the Pennsylvania beginnings and the later career of his ministerial ancestor – and we look forward to an updated version of his published history that will include the new material from Pennsylvania.

Dr. Elizabeth Bucke Miller lived in retirement in Buffalo Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania. In 1981, she and her husband Dr. Edgar Miller received the Conference's D. Frederick Wertz Award for distinguished service. The article presented in this series was written in 1976 in connection with the Buffalo Township Bicentennial Celebration – a fact that the reader should keep in mind. A few death dates have been inserted in brackets by *The Chronicle*, but otherwise the material is presented as prepared by Dr. Bucke. The Bucke's noted ashram on Mount Patrick, referred to in the article, is now accessible only on foot and maintained by the township.