

THE CHRONICLE

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Milton W. Loyer
editor

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

On behalf of the Historical Society of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church, I present volume XXVII of *The Chronicle*. For over 25 years, the society has produced an annual volume designed to be a mix of scholarly, entertaining, informative and inspiring stories of United Methodism – all united by a common theme. In this issue we present a series of articles on the theme **What Ever Happened to...**

The inspiration for this theme came from an ongoing project at the conference archives to compile an on-line data base of the records and personal information of pastors and missionaries who served in or were licensed by the present Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church or one of its predecessor bodies. The most challenging aspect of that project soon proved to be tracking persons who left to serve in another conference, another denomination, or another vocation. Not infrequently, the post-Susquehanna-Conference exploits of these persons involved fascinating and note-worthy incidents not generally known within this conference. This volume of *The Chronicle* seeks to bring to light some of those stories – which are presented chronologically by the date of the main incident that prompted the article.

In general, the stories chosen for inclusion in this volume are ones that move beyond individual biographies to touch upon incidents and issues affecting American society and the entire church – such as alcohol and prohibition, woman's suffrage, the Civil War, and denominational relations.

In addition, there have been individual congregations, entire charges, institutions, and assorted doctrines and policies within area United Methodism that are no longer. For variety and completeness, this issue concludes with some of those stories. A look into the former practice of church trials for settling various disputes gives insight into the changing role of the church in society. Consideration of United Methodism's evolving position on alcohol and prohibition continues that theme. Examining the disappearance of the Evangelical Association's Hanover Circuit gives insight into both the challenges of rural charges and the local effects of that body's infamous denominational split.

Finally, I thank those persons who recommended individuals and topics for this **What Ever Happened to...** volume that for one reason or another were not included herewith. The interest generated during the preparation of these articles suggests that building a future issue of *The Chronicle* around this same theme might be very appropriate. As always, the editor is open to comments, suggestions and articles from the readers.

May these **What Ever Happened to...** stories inspire and encourage each of us as we continue to live out and complete the stories of our own faith journeys.