

# THE CHRONICLE

Journal of the Historical Society  
of the  
Susquehanna Conference  
of the  
United Methodist Church

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 XXXI of *The Chronicle*. For over thirty years, the society has produced a mix of scholarly, entertaining, informative and inspiring stories of United Methodism – all united by a common theme. This volume continues that tradition with the uniting theme of **little-known, but significant in various ways, pieces of our heritage**. The articles are grouped into four sections, each section with its own editorial introduction: notable ancestors, rural pastors, families, and other little-known stories.

The first section on notable ancestors consists of two articles about Methodist clergymen with local ties who played important roles in national church and secular projects, but whose stories have never been fully told or appreciated at the local level. Each article was formulated by a direct descendant of the person involved, and brought into print through conversations with the editor. *The Chronicle* thanks descendants Robert Gould of Morton PA and Joel Clary of Oak Island NC for their roles in bringing to light the stories of their notable ancestors Rev. P. Gordon Gould and Rev. E.L. Enslinger.

Rural churches have long been the backbone of the area covered by the Susquehanna Conference, and the second section of this issue lifts up three particular rural pastors, one from each of the eighteenth and nineteenth and twentieth centuries, whose influence and dedication to rural ministry have impacted Methodism in ways that reached far beyond their appointments of record. Taken in sequence, the stories of Morris Howe, Royal Kellogg and Willis Willard also show the development of rural ministry over the centuries.

The third section tells the stories of three extended families, one from each of our United Methodist traditions (Evangelical, Methodist and United Brethren), that have made major contributions to their respective predecessor denominations and whose influences have extended beyond our conference, state and even national borders. Involved with the founding fathers of each of their denominations, the Klinefelter, Beyer and Mower families both witnessed and aided the spread of United Methodism from its very beginnings to new frontiers and new generations.

The concluding section on other little-known stories consists of two articles submitted by persons with particular interests in exploring aspects of our heritage that have aroused their curiosity and inspired them to do further research on their own. Clergyman Glenn Mower shares what he has discovered about early American Methodism and slavery, and layman Thomas Morgan shares what he has learned about a congregation that strangely appeared and disappeared within Scranton Methodism.