

Notable Ancestors

The editor of *The Chronicle* is privileged not only to have access to the resources of the conference archives but also to have direct contact with many of the persons whose stories are preserved in those archives. The two articles in this section result from the intersection of these two privileges. In each case the story line for the article has come directly from a knowledgeable family member, and the editorial organization and footnotes and appendices have been supplied by the editor using the resources at the conference archives.

The article on Rev. P. Gordon Gould, Williamsport's Missionary from and to Alaska, was made possible by Robert Gould, the only surviving child of Rev. Gould, sharing his family memories and memorabilia. This is a remarkable story, of an orphaned Aleut boy from Alaska's Aleutian Islands who was raised in a Methodist orphanage and educated in Methodist institutions. That boy went on to become the first native Alaskan to be ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church and to found Alaska Methodist University, now named Alaska Pacific University.

It is also a story about Williamsport Dickinson Seminary, now Lycoming College, and the important role that institution has played over the generations – not only in educating men and women for Christian ministry, but also in providing the like-minded spouses necessary for successful ministry. The number of persons involved in Christian ministry that have met their spouses at Williamsport Dickinson Seminary or at Lycoming College or within the general Williamsport community is astounding. While this article touches on that happening three times over two generations in one particular family, a compilation of such stories could easily fill an entire book.

The article on Rev. Edwin Lincoln Eslinger, Dillsburg's Quiet Ambassador, was made possible by N. Joel Clary, great-grandson of Rev. Eslinger, sharing the material he and other descendants of this remarkable pastor have now placed in the archives of the Susquehanna Conference. The persons mentioned in E.L. Eslinger's story form an impressive list of nineteenth century Americans – many of them nationally known, some locally prominent, and others with no particular claim to fame other than having crossed paths with Rev. Eslinger. While detailed comments on every person mentioned would make for an interesting volume of Americana, we choose to give two one-page appendices – Appendix B for selected national figures, and Appendix C for selected local personalities.