

## Rural Pastors

Perhaps the least known but most significant members of the clergy are those who spent most of their careers laboring in rural settings. Some of these persons would, admittedly, have been out-of-place and/or ill-equipped to handle large urban or suburban congregations – but others deliberately turned down opportunities for “advancement” to labor in the rural areas where they felt called to serve. This section contains the stories of three such pastors who labored within the present Susquehanna Conference – one from each of the previous centuries, and each with interesting and unique back story.

Morris Howe began his ministry in the eighteenth century under Francis Asbury. He was twice married – each time into a prominent Methodist family within his appointment – and his son became a ministerial member of the Central Pennsylvania Conference. His service within the present Susquehanna Conference included rural appointments based in Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata and Luzerne counties. While his personal, physical and ecclesiastical struggles may seem daunting to the modern reader, they were not untypical of those faced by circuit riders of the period.

Royal Kellogg began his ministry in the nineteenth century. His ministry within the Susquehanna Conference included rural appointments based in Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties – as well as a missionary service in Africa. He also endured personal, physical and ecclesiastical hardships and sacrifices – as well as remarkable experiences and situations – that would be almost unthinkable today

Willis Willard began his ministry in the twentieth century. He not only labored in rural areas of the present Susquehanna Conference, but also gave considerable time and energy toward helping others to find and develop their calling to work among persons marginalized by factors of geography, economics and race.