Chapter X

DISTINCTIVE SERVICES PERFORMED

1. In Annual Conference Supervision

The brethren who performed the supervisory work of conference districts were at first called “Overseers.” In 1814, for the first time, the title, “Presiding Elder” appears in conference proceedings. For some years following, and until the Allegheny Conference area was detached from the Original Conference, there were as many as four presiding elders in a single year. When East Pennsylvania was organized, two presiding elders were elected to oversee its work. Later the number was increased to three. While East Pennsylvania and East German conferences existed contemporaneously, there were years when the combined area had five presiding elders. East Pennsylvania finally, in 1891, elected but one presiding elder. East German Conference adopted a similar policy in 1898. After the two conferences had been merged, two presiding elders were elected, over a period of four years. From 1904 to the present there has been but one presiding elder district. The name of the office was changed to “Conference Superintendent” in the year 1908. The services of some who held these offices have already been recorded; those of others, who had long and distinguished careers, follow.

Enck—Schuyler Colfax Enck, son of David S. and Sarah Yost Enck, was born at Hopeland, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, July 3, 1868. At the age of nineteen he received quarterly conference license and entered Lebanon Valley College. From the time of receiving this license until the time our record for this volume closes covers fifty-nine years: of which six years were given to preparation for the ministry and to student pastorates, twenty-six years in full-time pastorates, twenty-five years as conference superintendent, and four years as conference superintendent emeritus. It is impossible to confine to a few paragraphs the life-story of a man who has served his church so long and so well. Only some of the most significant services can be recited herein.

In his fourth annual report to conference as its superintendent, Dr. Enck states: "I was engaged every Sunday but one, during the year; preached 105 sermons; conducted 170 conferences; attended forty-one special committee or board meetings; conducted nine funerals; delivered seventy-five addresses; traveled by automobile 2,715 miles, by trolley 2,168 miles, by railroad 13,413 miles, total, 18,296 miles; sent out by mail 900 letters and cards." This is a fair example of one year's work in relation to his conference and to the denomination in general, which relationships covered a quarter of a century.

During his administration eighty quarterly conference licenses
were granted, fifty-eight ministers were admitted to annual conference membership, and fifty-six were ordained to elder's orders. He was a member of and chairman of most of the boards and committees set up by annual conference, was editor of the Conference Herald, trustee of Lebanon Valley College, president of the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Board, and spiritual director of three campmeetings.

East Pennsylvania Conference elected him as one of its representatives to nine General Conferences; first, to the session of 1901, then successively to those held over the period 1917 to 1945 inclusive. He, with all others elected to serve as delegates in the 1945 session, was a member of the 1946 special session and of the merging conference held the same year. He was a member of the following general church boards: Administration; Bonebrake Seminary; Sunday School, Brotherhood, and Young People's Work; Evangelism; Ministerial Pensions and Annuity; Quincy Orphanage and Home; The Otterbein Press; and the Commission on Church Merger. He also served on a number of committees created by General Conference.

The Rev. Enck was admitted to annual conference in the year 1888, was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1891, from Bonebrake Seminary in 1893, and was ordained in the latter year. He served Ruhl's Church two years and supplied Pottstown charge for part of a year during student days. Manheim-Ruhl's charge, 1893-96; Columbia Church, 1898-1912; and Philadelphia Second Church, 1912-17, were his full-time pastorates. In 1906 he completed work at Lebanon Valley for the Master of Arts degree, and in 1910 his Alma Mater honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

While pastor at Columbia, Dr. Enck took a four months' tour through Palestine, Egypt, Asia Minor, and Europe. In 1936, Dr. and Mrs. Enck, and Bishop and Mrs. Batdorf traveled around the globe, visiting our mission fields in Japan, China, the Philippines, and numerous other points of interest in many countries.

This record of activities and accomplishments speaks for itself. Extended comments would be appropriate and well deserved, but we must refrain from doing so. It is very evident that Dr. Enck gave himself without reserve to the denomination he loves so much. He always stood in great favor with the members and friends of his parishes. He was eminently successful in house to house evangelism. His sermons are practical, pointed, and inspiring. As conference superintendent he was a great leader. He insisted that the preacher stick to his charge and that lay people support their preacher in every way. Thus he succeeded to a large degree in disabusing the minds of both preachers and laymen that there ought to be a change every two or three years.

Because of his wise counsel and long years of experience, he was known throughout the denomination as the "dean of conference superintendents," his term in that office exceeding in time
that of any other superintendent in the denomination. As conference superintendent emeritus since 1942, this servant of God continues active in a number of church-controlled organizations and in filling numerous speaking engagements.

Young—David Edward Young, superintendent of East Pennsylvania Annual Conference since 1942, was born in Manheim, Pennsylvania, May 20, 1892, the son of A. Benton and Sarah C. Hongendobler Young. He is a graduate of the following educational institutions: Manheim High School, 1910; Lebanon Valley College, 1915; Bonebrake Theological Seminary, 1917; and University of Pennsylvania (M.A.), 1928. Lebanon Valley conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1929. He received quarterly conference license by recommendation of Salem Church, Manheim, in 1910; and was admitted to annual conference in 1912.

The Rev. Young served Jonestown Circuit, 1910-14, while a student in college. While attending Bonebrake Seminary, he supplied the church at Nappanee, Indiana, during the summer of 1917. In the fall of that year he was ordained at Butler, Indiana, and appointed to the church at South Bend, where he remained two years. He then returned to work in his home conference, served Philadelphia Third Church, seven years; and Harrisburg Sixth Street Church, sixteen years.

The parishes served by Dr. Young had large increases in membership and financial strength during his ministry. His wide experiences in Visitation Evangelism in various centers throughout the country in association with Dr. A. Earl Kernahan were of great
asset to him in his several local campaigns. In Harrisburg, he was chairman of the 1931 Gypsy Smith Evangelistic Campaign for Greater Harrisburg and Vicinity. He was an excellent organizer and promoter of Christian Education and of Missions in the local church. His fellow ministers elected him president of denominational and interdenominational city-ministerial associations.

In the annual conference, Dr. Young served as assistant secretary from 1917 to 1942, as chairman of the committee on Bonebrake Seminary, as a member of the Fourth Year Study Course Committee, as a member of the Publication Board. He has been a trustee of Lebanon Valley College since 1925. Since the time of election to the superintendency, he has been a member of the faculty and the executive committee of said institution, editor of the Conference Herald, general director of Christian Education, and a member of and chairman of most of the committees and boards of the annual conference organization. In General Conference circles, Dr. Young is a familiar figure. He has been representing East Pennsylvania as delegate since 1937, is now a member of the Ministerial Pensions and Annuity Plan, of the Board of Christian Education; and of the Board of Administration, currently serving as its recording secretary. In all of his relationships, his brethren hold him in high regard and are giving him hearty cooperation.

Baltzell—The ministry of Isaiah Baltzell was of a varied nature. He was born in Thurmont, Frederick County, Maryland, Nov. 26, 1832. At the age of twenty-two he was licensed by Virginia Conference, and served churches in Buchanan, Churchville, Winchester, Virginia; and Frederick and Baltimore, Maryland. In 1862 he transferred to Pennsylvania conference, by which he was appointed to Orrstown, and Shopp's. While a member of that conference he served New Holland circuit, 1866-67 and Mountville circuit, 1870-72, in East Pennsylvania. In 1872 he transferred to this conference—in which he performed the following services: first, as pastor: at Mountville circuit, 1872-73; Highspire Circuit, 1873-74; Harrisburg First, 1880-83, Reading Otterbein, 1889-92, Pottstown, 1892-93; and second, as presiding elder, 1874-80 and 1883-89. During the year 1878-79, he was General Sunday School Missionary of the conference. The Rev. Baltzell composed and published numerous Church and Sunday School hymns. East Pennsylvania conference elected him as delegate to the General Conferences of 1877, 1881, and 1889. He died while pastor of the Pottstown charge, Jan. 16, 1893.

Craumer—Lewis Wentz Craumer was born in Manheim Township, York County, Pennsylvania, September 16, 1827. He was converted at the age of eighteen and joined the United Brethren Church on Littlestown circuit. His first license was granted him at Jefferson, York Circuit. In 1850 he was granted license by East Pennsylvania Conference, and was ordained in 1853. He served as Junior preacher on Pinegrove Circuit in 1849-50. Then followed pastorates on Millheim and on Union County Circuits. In 1855 he went to Dayton, Ohio, and founded a German Church in that city.
During his stay there he edited the *Froeliche Botschafter* for three months. After a two year's stay at Dayton, of which he wrote: "I am not at home here, too much penned-up," he served as pastor at Circleville two years. After returning to East Pennsylvania he had pastorates at Pinegrove, Annville, Myerstown, Sinking Spring, Lebanon West, and Reading Otterbein. His period in the presiding eldership in the East German conference was from 1878 to 1882. One year he was financial agent for Reading Zion church, and one year for Lebanon Valley College. He represented East German conference in the General sessions of 1881 and 1885, and was a member of the Commission on Revision of the Confession of Faith.

**Daugherty**—Joseph B. Daugherty gave five years to the presiding eldership; one year, 1869-70 in East Pennsylvania, and four years in East German, 1870-71 and 1884-87. From 1856 to 1869 he served, in the order named, the following charges: Hummelstown Circuit, Union County Circuit, Amity Circuit, Highspire Circuit, Lancaster Circuit, Lebanon Salem Church, and Schuylkill Haven Church. Following the first period of his work as presiding elder he was pastor of Bethlehem Mission, Allentown Zion, Union Deposit Circuit, and Grantville Circuit. After the second period of supervisory work he was appointed to Oberlin, and to Lebanon Circuit. The Rev. Daugherty was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, December 18, 1826, and died near Lebanon, May 9, 1899. He began preaching at the age of twenty-one. He preached fluently in both English and German. From 1871 to 1888 he was a member of East German conference, otherwise his connection was with East Pennsylvania.

**Dohner**—Hiram B. Dohner, son of Peter and Elizabeth Dohner, was born in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County, December 28, 1847. Educationally, he prepared to be a school teacher, which profession he followed eight years in a proficient manner. Having entered Lebanon Valley College in 1875, he pursued the scientific course, and graduated with the class of 1878. During his active ministry he completed a course in the Chautauqua School of Theology, securing the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, and later received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from his Alma Mater. He also was a graduate of the Boston Correspondence School, the Chautauqua Normal School, and had completed the State Sunday School course. Because of these preparations his conference selected him to be conference instructor and supervisor of the Sunday School Normal Course for the years 1886-1888. From 1895 to 1897, he was solicitor for the Seminary at Dayton, Ohio, and from 1897 to 1901, field agent for Lebanon Valley College. From 1888 to 1893, he was presiding elder of his conference, becoming in 1891, the first to hold the office singly, since 1800. His pastoral charges were: Jacksonville and Schuylkill Haven Circuits, York Second Church, Mountville (Lancaster Co.), Philadelphia St. Paul's Church, Reading Memorial Church, and Landingville Circuit. On these charges he served a total of fourteen years. He was successful in every field of his endeavor. He spent a year in mak-
ing a tour around the world. He was congenial in fellowship, optimistic in temperament, and "fervent in spirit serving the Lord."

**Gelbach**—Henry H. Gelbach was born in Lancaster County, May 23, 1825. Early in his life his parents moved to Lebanon County. He was converted in his seventeenth year, joined the United Brethren Church, and soon thereafter was granted quarterly conference license at a session of Lebanon Circuit held at Jonestown. He was granted annual conference license in 1854. His active ministerial career began as junior preacher on Bellegrove Circuit in 1866, where he served one year. On November 20, 1866, he was commissioned Recorder of Deeds of Lebanon County, which office he held three years. He was ordained in 1869. In 1870 he became a member of East German conference. The Rev. Gelbach was pastor of Lebanon Salem Church three years, beginning with 1869. He served seven and one-half years as presiding elder, as follows: 1872-74, 1878-83; and the last half of the year 1883-84, completing the unexpired term of David Hoffman, deceased. Conference in 1883, had appointed him to Avon Circuit, which he resigned to do the work of the presiding elder. He served Lebanon Circuit 1874-77, Union Deposit, 1877-78. On account of failing health he was necessitated to cease active work in 1884. He died July 8, 1886.

**Graul**—Amos Graul was elected six successive times to the presiding eldership of East German conference. He was born in the city of Reading on October 31, 1831, and joined Zion Church at the age of twenty-two. He was a blacksmith by trade, then later engaged in the mercantile business. Brother Graul was very active in Zion Church as a layman. In 1870, East German conference appointed him Sunday School Missionary, and in that capacity he traveled over the conference territory to promote the Sunday School work. Having been granted annual license in 1871, he subsequently served nine conference charges until first elected presiding elder. After the years in the eldership, he again went into the active pastorate, in which he continued, missing but one year, until his death at Pinegrove, December 5, 1902. While not having the advantages of an extensive literary culture, yet he possessed excellent natural talents, which he improved by private reading and study. He ranked as an effective preacher in both the English and German languages, and possessed excellent social qualities.

**Hoffman**—David Hoffman became a member of East Pennsylvania conference in 1847 and was ordained in 1851. His first preaching by conference appointment was as junior preacher on Lebanon Circuit in 1850. Then followed appointment to the following charges: Dauphin Circuit, Reading Zion, Amity Circuit, Pinegrove Circuit, Lebanon Salem, Myerstown, Schuylkill Haven, Bethlehem Mission Circuit, and Allentown Zion.

He was presiding elder in said conference two years, 1861-63. In 1870 he elected to go into the East German conference, newly formed. In it he served Lehigh Circuit, Philadelphia German Mission, and Reading Zion, and had two terms in the office of pre-
DISTINCTIVE SERVICES PERFORMED

siding elder, 1871-73 and 1881 to Feb. 1884. He served a total of six and one-half years in that office. Death claimed him Feb. 5, 1884, at the age of sixty years, eight months, and seventeen days. The Rev. Hoffman opened a number of new missions in Schuylkill, Lehigh, and Northampton counties. He was a capable and esteemed leader.

Lowery—Daniel DeWitt Lowery was born at Annville, Pennsylvania, April 11, 1860. His father, John H. Lowery, joined East Pennsylvania Annual Conference in 1856, was an itinerant minister for many years, and remained a member of conference until his death in 1908. The son, Daniel, became a member of the United Brethren Church when eight years of age. From early youth he felt called to the gospel ministry. He received quarterly conference license at the age of sixteen and was voted annual license in 1879. In 1881 he transferred to Pennsylvania Conference, and in that year was ordained. In 1886 he came back to East Pennsylvania Conference. In preparation for his life work he attended courses at Lebanon Valley College, which institution honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in the year 1906. He served the following charges: Tamaqua; Camden Mission; West Fairview; Baltimore, George Street Church; Big Spring Circuit; Manheim; Mt. Joy; Annville; and Harrisburg, Derry Street Church. This ministry began in February, 1879 and concluded October 11, 1893. At the session of conference of the latter year he was elected presiding elder, in which capacity he served (conference superintendent from 1908 onward) until death, May 29, 1917.

During his term as presiding elder, East German and East Pennsylvania annual conferences were united by action of General Conference. Each of these conferences had sometime previously adopted the practice of having but one presiding elder. In order to bridge over the period of transition, the united conference went back to the earlier practice of electing two presiding elders. This continued nearly four years, until Dr. H. S. Gabel was elected Church Erection Secretary. At the ensuing session, annual conference reverted to its previous practice of having but one presiding elder, which practice it has continued with success and efficiency to the present.

Dr. Lowery held tenaciously to the accepted doctrines of the Christian faith and to the traditions and government of the denomination he served so well. He approached whatever problems arose with candor and directness and reached conclusions decisively. "He had a keen, analytical mind, and logical power of the highest order. He was an ideal conference superintendent and his equal is hard to find. He was fair and strictly impartial, always looking toward the interests of the charge and the man appointed. His life is an example of success and usefulness." 3

Mark—George Adam Mark Jr., the son of John A. Mark and Christiana Runkle, was born in Lebanon County, February 8, 1825. His father was converted under the influence of the Methodists and joined their church, probably at Union Church, Bellegrove,
North Annville Township. In 1840 he opened his house to the United Brethren German preachers, and the following year he received annual license by vote of our conference. He was ordained in 1848. His appointive service by conference was limited to two years on Myerstown Circuit, 1852-54.

George Adam Mark Jr. was licensed in 1852 and ordained in 1855. He had six years of service on circuits; one year at Annville Station; six years as presiding elder, two years as agent for Lebanon Valley College, and one year as steward of the college. The Rev. Mark Jr. had a great concern for young people and deeply sensed the need of advanced Christian education for youth. He was one of the founders of the college at Annville and supported it liberally.

Mumma—Martin J. Mumma was born near Highspire. An orphan at the age of three years, he had to make his own way in the world. He served his country as a soldier in the Civil War. The Highspire Class recommended him for quarterly license in 1869. He received annual license in 1870, and was ordained in 1872. He served the following conference charges: Annville Church; New Holland Circuit, Reading Otterbein, Mountville Church (Lancaster Co.), Lancaster Covenant, Harrisburg Circuit, Hummelstown Church, Elverson Circuit, Jacksonville Circuit, Ephrata Church, and Schuylkill Haven Church. At two different periods he was financial agent for Lebanon Valley College. He had two terms as presiding elder, 1878-81 and 1889-91. As a preacher he was strong, logical, and forceful. So direct was his presentation that some thought him blunt and harsh. He stood for the sure defense of the gospel and the trustworthy faith of the church fathers.
Noll—Simon Noll had a great passion for souls. It was this characteristic rather than his reputation as a great preacher that caused him to be greatly esteemed. In his nearly forty-three years of active service he received 1748 members into church membership. His work was nearly all on large circuits. He began preaching on Dauphin Circuit in 1842 and ended on Swatara Circuit in 1885. He served Dauphin Circuit during two periods; Lebanon Circuit, two periods; Union Deposit, two periods; and Pinegrove Circuit, three periods. He was appointed also to Berks County Circuit; Lancaster Circuit; Reading Zion, Highspire, Susquehanna Circuit; Sinking Spring Circuit; Lykens Circuit; Bellegrove Circuit; Lehigh Circuit; Myerstown; Valley View Circuit; Avon Circuit; Jonestown Circuit and Swatara Circuit. In 1857 he was selected to be soliciting agent for Reading Zion Church debt, but upon resignation of Henry Schropp who had been elected presiding elder, the Bishop appointed him in Schropp's place.

Brother Noll was born near Annville May 2, 1817, and died while living in retirement at Annville, November 8, 1899. His name is well remembered and highly revered to this day.

Peters—Lewis Peters was born near New Holland, Pennsylvania, July 12, 1836. His parents being poor, he was obliged to hire out with the farmers in the vicinity of his home. He was converted in the sixteenth year of his age, and received quarterly conference license at the age of twenty-one. While working at the carpenter trade he gave all spare time possible to study in order that he might prepare for the ministry. East Pennsylvania Annual Conference voted him license in 1859 and elder's orders in 1862. His active ministry began by serving the Lancaster Mission Church on East Chestnut Street in 1858. Subsequently, and until 1871, he preached on Amity, Columbia, Hummelstown, and Lancaster Circuits, and at Otterbein Church, Reading. The Rev. Peters was elected presiding elder at the age of 35. He continued in that office four years. From 1875 to 1880, he was pastor of Steelton, Lebanon Trinity, and Harrisburg First churches, respectively. He had three additional years, 1880-83, in presiding eldership. He had a second pastorate at Steelton, the years 1886-89. Next he served Pottstown, and then, in October, 1892, he was appointed to New Holland charge, on which work he died March 8, 1893. He had represented his conference at three quadrennial sessions of the General Conference.

Rigor—Of the ministers who had extended service in our conference, the Rev. G. W. Miles Rigor was the first, after Father Otterbein, to have the advantage of academic training. Even so, he did not complete his college course. For it was while he was a student at Mt. Pleasant college, in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, that he was induced to take work in Allegheny conference. This educational advantage is registered at several points in his rather versatile career.

His father and grandfather were of the state of Virginia; the latter was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, a member of the Light
Horse Harry Lee's cavalry, and was with Washington at Valley Forge during that winter of great suffering. Miles, as he was familiarly known, was born September 22, 1831, near Scottdale, Pennsylvania, grew up inured to the work upon his father's farm. In 1850 he was converted and joined the United Brethren Church. In 1852 he was licensed by the old Mt. Pleasant congregation of Abraham Troxel fame. He was licensed by Allegheny Conference in 1854 and in it served churches at Altoona, Tyrone, Johnstown, Springfield, Liverpool, and Pottsville.

By the earnest solicitation of Bishop Markwood he transferred to East Pennsylvania in 1862. The charges served by him were: Northumberland Circuit, Columbia Church, Lebanon Trinity Church, Harrisburg First Church, Highspire Circuit; Baltimore Scott Street, Philadelphia First Church, Camden, New Jersey, Pottstown Circuit, Halifax Circuit, Royalton, Elverson Circuit, and Coatesville, the total being twenty-seven years. His terms as presiding elder were: 1872-75; 1876-79; and 1885-88. The first year of the last term was but a partial year, he being appointed to complete the work of Ezekiel Light, who resigned to take up the work of editing our German literature. He served twenty-five years as recording secretary of East Pennsylvania Conference, and rendered similar service in Allegheny Conference three years. He was joint editor with Ezekiel Light of the United Brethren Tribune, and later was editor of the Weekly Itinerant. Three times he represented his conference as delegate to General Conference. For three years he was Conference Evangelist. He was one of the principal promoters of Lebanon Valley College, securing its first president, the Rev. Thomas R. Vickroy, was one of its first trustees, and served on its faculty, and later was its financial agent.

Roop—Father Jacob Roop, born March 1, 1782, reached the ripe old age of ninety-three years, nine months, and one day. He was born on the Roop homestead north of Highspire and resided there except for a few years during which he preached on circuits far removed from his home. He was well acquainted with the church fathers of the denomination. He was converted under the ministry of John Neidig in the year 1814. Though being powerfully moved to preach, he persistently refused to obey the call until on an occasion he heard Bishop Kumler Sr. preach from the words: "The Master is come and calleth for thee."

The seal to his call was a great revival held by him at John Shoop's house near Shiremanstown in 1819. John Shopp Jr. rode to Neidig's home to secure him to preach, but not finding him at home, he went to Jacob Roop's residence and engaged Mr. Roop. In one night five sons, three daughters, and some neighbors of John Shopp Sr. and wife found the Lord.

His first license, signed by Christian Newcomer, was granted at a quarterly conference held in Cumberland County in 1820. In 1833 he was ordained an elder and began his itinerant ministry which included Dauphin Circuit (three terms), Lancaster, Lebanon,
Halifax, Myerstown, Pinegrove, and Hummelstown circuits east of the Susquehanna. One year, 1847-48, he served as presiding elder of the Lebanon district. His work as a minister was by no means confined to the above conference assignments. At various times when not under conference appointment, he preached in Maryland, in Ohio, and at many points in his native state.

His works followed him—particularly in the lay service of his sons, Jacob and Christian, his grandson, Henry J. Roop, and his great grandchildren, among whom are Dr. H. U. Roop, Mrs. Walter G. Clippinger, and Mrs. Benjamin Daugherty. He dearly loved his spiritual brethren. Until within two years of his death he invariably wrote encouraging letters to annual conference.

**Runk**—Jacob Runk was born at Elizabethville, Dauphin County, July 20, 1835, and died at Berrysburg, same county, at the age of eighty years, one month, and nineteen days. When but a lad, his parents moved to Powell's Valley, where he spent his boyhood days assisting his father, Philip, in clearing and farming the land. He was converted at the age of fourteen, was elected class leader at the age of sixteen, received quarterly license at the age of nineteen, and annual license at the age of twenty-one. At that age he was appointed Junior pastor to Lebanon Circuit. Brother Runk served a total of twenty-eight years on the following charges: Lebanon, Hummelstown, Sinking Spring, and Middletown Circuits; Reading Zion Church; Bethlehem Circuit; Lebanon Salem Church; Jacksonville, Williams Valley, Lykens, and Grantville Circuits; Allentown Zion Church, Ebenezer Church (Lebanon County), Avon Church, Lebanon West, and Lebanon Pleasant Hill. He had a second term at Lebanon Salem for two years, 1899-1901. During the first term of this pastorate, his son, Irvin E., who became a member of the Conference in 1896 and was ordained in 1899, was his associate. A daughter, Cora, married the Rev. Charles Mutch.

The Rev. Runk was elected eight times to the office of presiding elder by East German conference—the terms were 1874-78, and 1887-91. Four times he represented said conference at General Conference sessions. He was a gifted pastor and a trusted leader.

**Sand**—John Adam Sand was born in Alsace, France, July 1, 1812. He came into the United Brethren fold through the Old Otterbein Church, Baltimore. He arrived in America in 1833, and sometime within the next two years was converted in the parsonage of said congregation. The annual conference of 1841 voted him license and appointed him to Lancaster Circuit, with Henry Stabley as his assistant. Subsequently, he was appointed to Dauphin, Halifax, Lebanon, and Pinegrove Circuits; and Lebanon Salem Church. He was presiding elder of the Susquehanna District 1851-53. Following this he had another year on Lebanon Circuit. In 1854 he transferred to Ohio German conference where he retained his membership until 1866 when he transferred to Pennsylvania conference. He was pastor of the Cincinnati German Church when the General Conference of 1857 was held there. His mother congregation, Old Otterbein,
Members of the East Penna. Conference of the United Brethren Church

Convened at Annville, Penna.
February 21st, 1867

Upper left-hand corner, Ex-Bishop J. Erb: Upper right-hand corner, Bishop Otterbein (Founder of the U. B. Church; Lower left-hand corner, Father Roop; Lower right-hand corner, Rev. Jno. A. Sand.

Center, Bishop J. J. Glossbrenner.

460
Ministers on Conference Picture

Outer Circle, beginning at top, and following around circle, clockwise:


(Nineteen Members of Conference, 1867, Missing)

called him to be its pastor in 1860. He served the congregation seven years, then Fulton Avenue in the same city, three years. In the year East German conference was organized, he was appointed to Allentown Zion Church, and remained two years. He was pastor of George Street Chapel, Baltimore, three years. He died in Baltimore September 15, 1880. He made a strong contribution to the work in the three conferences of which he was a member through his ardent evangelism.

Schropp—Henry Schropp served five years in the presiding eldership, being elected 1854, 1860, 1861, 1871, and 1873. His ministry began as assistant to Christian S. Crider at Lebanon Salem in 1846. He had seventeen years as pastor of the following charges: Lebanon Salem (Junior preacher), Halifax Circuit, Berks County Circuit, Lebanon Salem, Myerstown, Lebanon Circuit, Annville Church, Bellegrove Circuit, Mountville (Lancaster County), Jonestown Circuit, Bellegrove Circuit, Union Deposit Circuit, and Allentown Zion. He had been elected presiding elder in 1857, but resigned to accept the pastorate of Old Otterbein Church in Maryland, where he remained three years. Brother Schropp was born near Pinegrove March 7, 1811. In his thirtieth year he was converted at a meeting held in a schoolhouse at Pinegrove by Samuel Enterline. He was a widely known and most highly esteemed minister. He had a well-trained mind, was an excellent Bible student, and an extraordinarily strong expounder of the Word. His last years were spent in a superannuated relationship at his home on North Eleventh Street, Lebanon.

Shoop—From the time of receiving quarterly license in 1863 to the time of departure covered a span of seventy years in the ministerial life of James Shoop. That distinction is unmatched in the annals of our conference. He was born October 17, 1840, a son of George and Rachel Shoop, in Jackson Township, Dauphin County, and passed on at Elizabethville in the same county at the age of ninety-three years, seven months, and eight days. He was converted at the age of twenty and joined the United Brethren Church. In 1867 he was received into annual conference membership and
appointed to his first charge—Valley View (then Germanville) Circuit. The list of charges he served is as follows: Valley View Circuit (three terms); Sinking Spring Circuit; Pinegrove Circuit, Lebanon Salem Church, Williams Valley Circuit, Allentown Zion Church, Avon Circuit and Jacksonville Circuit.

His brethren elected him ten times to serve the conference as presiding elder, the terms being 1882-87 and 1889-94. He was one of the last of ministers who could use the German language with ease and impressiveness. The citizens of Elizabethville and the brethren throughout the conference held him in high esteem. He was the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic in his community.

**Strickler**—David Strickler was elected presiding elder in the years 1858, 1859, 1862, 1863, and 1864. He had a brief career as actual pastor, serving Harrisburg Front Street Church, 1856-57; Lancaster Circuit, 1857-58; English preacher Lebanon Salem, 1860-61; and Lancaster Mission, 1861-62; English preacher at Annville, 1869-70; and Halifax Circuit, 1881-82; Baltimore Scott Street, 1882-83. Brother Strickler was born near Mt. Joy, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, May 11, 1814. His younger years were spent in teaching school. From 1847 to 1851 he edited our German paper—The Busy Martha, forerunner of the Froelicher Botschafter. He joined East Pennsylvania conference in 1854, was ordained in 1857, went into the organization of East German Conference in 1870, and transferred to East Pennsylvania in 1881. From 1857 to and including 1862, he was English secretary for the conference. During the years when he was not regularly employed, he resided at Palmyra, then later at Lebanon. Locally, he took particular interest in Sunday School work.

**Uhler**—William H. Uhler was born on a farm near Lebanon, Pennsylvania, June 27, 1837. His parents, David and Julia Uhler, later moved to a farm near Pinegrove. He was converted in 1855, and received quarterly conference license the following year. For a period of twenty years he gave himself to local work in several of the classes on Pinegrove Circuit as church trustee, and as promoter of Sunday School work. He taught school several terms with efficiency. In 1876 he joined annual conference and began active service under its appointment. Pinegrove, Susquehanna, Avon, and Lehigh Circuits, Port Richmond Mission, Shamokin First, Lebanon Memorial, and Allentown Zion, were the charges he served from 1876 to 1891. Beginning with 1891 he was elected seven successive terms as district presiding elder in East German Conference. From 1898 to 1901 he was pastor of Reading Trinity, then of Williams- town. He served one term in the State Legislature as a representative from Schuylkill County. He was an independent thinker; had deep convictions and clung to them usually with great tenacity. He was most liberal in his benevolence, even to a fault, and did much to strengthen the church wherever he labored.
2. Representative Laymen

General Conference of the year 1877 authorized that annual conferences could decide, by a two-thirds vote, to adopt a plan for election of lay delegates to the annual conference sessions. Both East Pennsylvania and East German conferences exercised that prerogative in 1878, and the succeeding year lay delegates were seated in each. This provision remained optional until the general session made it mandatory in 1889. In this same year General Conference authorized the election of lay delegates by annual conferences to be seated in the general session of 1893.

It is somewhat difficult to realize that so long a time had elapsed before laymen had a voice in the high councils of our denomination. One can readily see, however, that lay representation has been a tremendously stimulating factor in the progress of our churches and institutions. The names of many laymen and lay women are upon the pages of this volume. The individual contributions made by some have already been recorded. Much more could have been written concerning a number of them, and if space had permitted, numerous others might have received mention.

There follow brief and concise statements having to do with the careers of those who may be said to be representative of the lay constituency of more recent years.

Baish—Henry Houston Baish, lately a resident of the city of Harrisburg, was one of the outstanding laymen of the United Brethren Church. His most important contribution to the denomination was in preparing and promoting our Ministerial Pension and Annuity Plan. The responsibility of preparing the plan was delegated to him in 1917. This plan was adopted, with slight modifications, by the General Conference of 1921. He was then selected its manager, which duty he performed without remuneration. He gave much time and energy in “selling” the plan and in stirring the denomination to raise one million dollars to provide the general church’s share in it. In this effort Dr. Baish had the benefit of experience in a similar effort—that of establishing the Pennsylvania State Teachers’ Retirement System, which also he headed until his retirement in 1944.

Mr. Baish had a career as an educator. He was a graduate of Shippensburg Normal School, 1895, and of Lebanon Valley College, 1901 (A.B.), and 1904 (A.M.). He took graduate work at Harvard and at the University of Pennsylvania. He was granted the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Lebanon Valley in 1929. He taught in the public schools of Altoona eleven years, and was superintendent of the schools of the same city, 1908-17.

Allegheny Conference elected him lay delegate to the 1917 session of General Conference; East Pennsylvania elected him to quadrennial sessions five times, 1925-1941. He was a member of the General Board of Education and of the Board of Administration. In the local church at Sixth Street, Harrisburg, he was a member.
of the trustee board, teacher of the Men's Bible Class, and lay representative to annual conference twenty-two years. For many years he was a trustee of Lebanon Valley College. In the college and the conference, he had important assignments on a number of committees. Dr. Baish was born at Aspers, Adams County, Pennsylvania, February 11, 1874, and died at Harrisburg, August 5, 1945.

**Billow**—Milton Oscar Billow was born in Shermansdale, Perry County, Pennsylvania. After attending country school he went to Shippensburg State Normal School and was graduated in 1902. He taught school in Falmouth, Lancaster County, and Middletown, Dauphin County, before entering Lebanon Valley College in September 1904 where he was graduated with the class of 1908. His Master's Degree was received from Lehigh University in 1921.

After spending four years as a District Sales Manager and in the Advertising business, he taught in the High School at Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, succeeding V. O. Weidler, late Bishop of the Church. In 1915 he became a teacher in Central High School at Harrisburg, and was transferred to the Technical High School in 1918. In 1922 he became Head Teacher for part of Central High School in the William Penn Building, and has taught American History in the William Penn High School from 1926 to his retirement in 1949.

In 1920 Mr. Billow organized the Masterleaf Record Book Company for the manufacture of teacher's record books; and was Manager and Treasurer of the Corporation until February 1950. He is
a member of Sixth Street Church, Harrisburg, where he has been teacher of the Men's Bible Class for thirty years. He is a member of the Committee on Publication of the Conference History.

**Coble**—E. W. Coble represented East Pennsylvania Conference as lay delegate to General Conference of 1941 and 1945, and the uniting conference of 1946. He is a member of Lancaster Covenant Church, in which he was the general superintendent of the Sunday School eighteen years. He serves as trustee since 1930 and church treasurer since 1936. Prior to moving to Lancaster in 1907, he was a member of West Fairview Church in Pennsylvania Conference. He attended West Fairview High School and Shippensburg Normal School. For six years he taught school in his native town. In the West Fairview Church he was active in numerous official capacities.

In the annual conference, Mr. Coble serves on the Finance Committee, the Council of Administration; and by said conference has been elected a trustee of Lebanon Valley College. He is a member of the Committee on Publication of the Conference History. He is owner of Coble's Tire Service, on Fulton Street, Lancaster, a concern which does a large volume of business in sales and reconditioning of rubber tires. He is a member of the boards of trustees of the Lancaster Y. M. C. A., and the Water Street Rescue Mission, respectively.

**Engle**—Samuel F. Engle was born in Dauphin County, February 23, 1858. In 1890 he moved to Palmyra and established a general mercantile trade which grew to considerable proportions. He with others organized the Lebanon Valley Trust Company in 1903. He served as president of the board of directors from the time of the instituting of the company until his death, February 12, 1916. From 1885 onward he took a leading part in the work of First Church, Palmyra, actively engaged, as Sunday School superintendent, church trustee, choir leader; and in many other phases of work.

In annual conference circles, Mr. Engle played an important role. The quarterly conferences, first of the circuit, then of the local church, elected him lay delegate from 1890 to 1915. The first annual session he attended elected him a trustee of Lebanon Valley College, an assignment he held as long as he lived. From 1904 onward he was treasurer of all conference funds. He gave many years of exacting service to the work of the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society. He represented his conference at the sessions of General Conference of the years 1909 and 1913.

John Raymond Engle, son of Samuel F. and Agnes Balsbaugh Engle, was born March 13, 1885 in Londonderry Township, Lebanon County. At the age of ten he became a member of Palmyra First Church. In the local church he was leader of the choir, instructor of Teacher Training Classes, teacher of a Bible Class, and member of the trustee board. He was a graduate of Yale University, 1906, and of the Law School of the University of Virginia, 1908, and had conferred upon him in 1925 the degree of Doctor of Laws by Leb-
Dr. Engle, upon the death of his renowned father, became active in the capacities of conference treasurer, member of the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society, member of the Finance Committee, member of the Conference Publication Board, and trustee of the Bishop’s parsonage at Harrisburg. In more recent years, he devoted most of his time to the interests of Lebanon Valley College, serving as president of the trustee board, chairman of the 1924 endowment campaign, and as investment officer of the Endowment Fund. He was acting president of the College from May to November 1932. He represented his conference at seven quadrennial sessions, beginning with 1917 and ending with 1941. That body elected him to serve on the Commission of Church Union and Federation, trustee of Bonebrake Seminary, member of the Board of Administration, and member of the Ministerial Pension and Annuity Plan. He conceived the financial plan by which Bonebrake Seminary was freed of debt. He died of a malignant disease, April 9, 1942.

Fegley—Park H. Fegley, one of a large number of active and consecrated young laymen of the conference, was born in Lykens, Dauphin County, August 31, 1906. He was a son of Daniel H. and Salome Lehman Fegley, whose eight children have been a blessing to the church in many ways—one son, D. LeRoy, is a minister of this conference, and two daughters are wives of ministers: Matilda

While quite a young man he began distinctive work in the Lykens Church, serving during about twenty-five years, respectively as Sunday School superintendent, class leader, secretary of the board of trustees, chairman of the board of Christian Education, and member of the choir. He represented his church as lay delegate to annual conference, which elected him to the trusteeship of Lebanon Valley College, and to membership of the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society. For some years he was director of recreation at the Mt. Gretna Summer Assembly. He was chairman of the Dauphin County Boy Scout Council, and a vice president of the County Council of Christian Education.

In civic life he was Clerk of the Dauphin County Courts since 1938. In June 1946 he was elected vice-chairman of the Dauphin County Republican Committee. He represented his conference at General Conference sessions of the years 1941 and 1945. This very useful and talented young man passed on to his eternal reward at the age of thirty-nine years, eleven months, and three days.

Garber—Roy K. Garber serving as conference treasurer since April 1942, is a member of Salome Church, Columbia, in which he has official membership on the board of trustees, is church treasurer, and for some years was general Sunday School superintendent. He has represented his church as lay delegate to annual conference for the past twenty-five years. He is a member of the Conference Board of Christian Education since its organization in 1930, and for eight years was its treasurer. Other official duties in annual conference are in connection with the Publication Board, Finance Committee, and trustee of the Bishop's Parsonage Board. He is a trustee of Lebanon Valley College.

Mr. Garber was born in Manor Township, Lancaster County. He attended the public schools of West Hempfield Township, Mountville High School, and Pennsylvania Business College at Lancaster. He is an active participant in civic affairs, serving as director and treasurer of the Columbia Hospital; director and secretary-treasurer of the Columbia Welfare Association; and is presently employed as Cost Accountant and Tester with United Throwing Company (Silk Mill), of Columbia.

Gipple—John E. Gipple, a native of the Powell’s Valley region of Dauphin County, resided at Harrisburg and was a member of Derry Street Church. He united with the congregation October 14, 1900. The present pastor writes of him thus: “This church must not forget that he gave a great portion of his life to its (Derry Street Church, sic.) program and in no small way was responsible for its growth.” His activity was in part channeled through the following official connections: Sunday School superintendent, more than thirty years; trustee, forty-five years; class leader about fifteen years; and annual conference delegate, twenty-six years.
In the annual conference, Mr. Gipple has been a member of the Missionary and Church Extension Society since 1934. Annual conference elected him to the trustee board of Lebanon Valley College in 1924, and from that time to the present he has been a member of its Finance Committee. He represented his conference as lay delegate at the 1937 and 1941 sessions of General Conference. The 1937 session elected him to membership on the Board of Home Missions. In public life, he was engaged in an extensive business in Real Estate and Insurance. Mr. Gipple died March 24, 1948, at the age of seventy-five years, one month, and fifteen days.

Good—Oscar E. Good was born at Progress, a suburb of Harrisburg, December 23, 1871. His parents, John and Elizabeth Good, had their spiritual roots deep in the best traditions of United Brethrenism. He attended the public schools of Progress, was graduated from Harrisburg Academy in 1890, from Lebanon Valley College in 1894; and attended a summer session of the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Good was an instructor in the Science Department of Lebanon Valley College, 1894-96, and gave the years 1897 to 1920 to the public schools of Swatara and Susquehanna townships, Dauphin County—nine of these years as Principal of the Penbrook Schools. From 1920 onward he was president of the Penbrook Trust Company, now Penbrook Banking Company.

Mr. Good was a member of Grace Church, Penbrook. He has made vital contributions to its progress through his services as Sunday School Superintendent for more than fifty years, as president of the board of trustees, president of the church choir, secre-
tary of the quarterly conference, and member of the Building Committee for the new church edifice. He was a trustee of his Alma Mater. The constituency of the conference elected him to three General Conferences; viz, 1933, 1937, and 1941, and in that body he served on the following committees: Bonebrake Seminary and the Ministry, Credentials and Rules of Order, and Social Justice and International Relations. He is secretary of the Committee on Publishing a Conference History. His knowledge of our denominational work in and about Harrisburg was a fertile source of information to the author of this volume.

(His life came to a close March 18, 1950.)

Horst—Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture, in the Governor's Cabinet of the State of Pennsylvania is one of the busiest men we know, and one of the best and most favorably-known men in the state. He is the son of Uriah B. and Emma L. Horst of Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Schaefferstown High School, Millersville State Teachers College, Pennsylvania State College, and Columbia University.

He united with the Schaefferstown Church, later transferred to the Avon Church, and is now a member of Palmyra First Church. He has been a teacher of Men's Bible Classes through all of his adult life; was church trustee at Avon, and presently serves as president of the trustee board at Palmyra. Because of his convincing, conversational manner in public speaking, with genuine sincerity, he has more calls to address Church and Sunday School audiences than he can accept.

For a time Mr. Horst represented his district as Assemblyman in the State Legislature at Harrisburg. He was Secretary of the Pennsylvania Council of Farm Organizations, 1928-43; and Associate Editor of The Pennsylvania Farmer, 1922-43. His official connection with farm organizations are numerous. He is a member of the trustee board of Lebanon Valley College and of the trustee board of Pennsylvania State College.

Mr. Horst was Governor Edward Martin’s choice, in 1943, to be Secretary of Agriculture, and Governor James Duff has continued him in that position. In addition to the functions of his office he has had the responsibility, for several years, of organizing the State Farm Show. He himself is a farm owner and manager. Mr. Horst is constantly traveling from one end of the state to the other giving attention to official duties and farm organizations’ interests, but when Sunday morning comes, his family and he go on their ten mile trip to attend Sunday School and Church.

Kreider—Aaron S. Kreider held an honored place in the councils of our denomination. His most important work was as trustee of the Printing Establishment at Dayton, Ohio, from 1917 until the time of his death in 1929. For one quadrennium he was a member at large of the Seminary Board. This conference elected him delegate to represent it at General Conference, 1917-1923. Locally, he was
Miles Horst Aaron S. Kreider

a staunch supporter of Lebanon Valley College. He gave liberally to its general needs, and established a ten-thousand dollar Ministerial Scholarship Fund. Beginning with 1909, he was a member of the board of trustees of the College, serving as its president from 1914 forward as long as he lived.

Mr. Kreider was a member of the board of trustees of the College Church at Annville, and was one of the men who had a large part in providing so magnificent a temple of worship for that congregation.

He was born in South Annville Township, Lebanon County, June 26, 1863. At the age of seventeen he was graduated from Allentown Business College. He established a grain and coal business at Lawn. Later he organized the A. S. Kreider Shoe Company. The interests of the company increased to the extent that large factories were in operation in five different centers.

The Republican Party elected him a delegate to the State Convention of 1910. He was elected by his district to the Sixty-Third and four succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1915 to March 3, 1923). While General Conference was in session at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he died May 19, 1929.

Rupp—Among the men prominent in the civil life of Dauphin County is the Honorable J. Paul Rupp, President Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas of Dauphin County located at Harrisburg. Mr. Rupp was graduated from Swatara High School, 1914; Steelton High, 1915; and Lebanon Valley College, 1919. He was engaged
in teaching in several High Schools from 1919 to 1922. He then
decided to enter the legal profession, and in preparation for the
same attended Dickinson College, graduating in 1925, receiving the
A.M. degree from the College and the LL.B. degree from the Law
School. The years 1925 to 1941 were spent in the practice of law.
He was commissioned Judge, January 5, 1942, and as Presiding
Judge, February 17, 1946.

Judge Rupp was born in Swatara Township, the son of Christian
F. and Laura Hocker Rupp. The parents are of old United Brethren
stock, members of the Chambers' Hill Church which J. Paul at-
tended in youth. At present he resides in Steelton, holds member-
ship in the Centenary United Brethren Church of that city and
is a member of its board of trustees. The constituency of this con-
ference elected him a delegate to the General Conference of 1945.
Pressure of public duties prevented his attending the 1946 merging
conference.

The Judge was a Lieutenant of Infantry in the First World War.
While practicing Law he was treasurer of Dauphin County, 1932-
36. He is a member of the Governor's Highway Planning Commis-
sion; member and Past President of Harris Ferry Chapter, Sons
of the Revolution; President of the Executive Club of Harrisburg;
member of the S. A. E. Fraternity; and member of the trustee board
of Lebanon Valley College, which institution conferred upon him
the degree of Doctor of Laws in 1947.

Sneath—Jacob Sneath, one of the very active laymen of the con-
ference, was born in Mountville, Lancaster County, November 11,
1828, the son of Robert and Mary Todd Sneath. He was converted
in his teens, joined the Mountville Church; there he assisted in
organizing the first Sunday School, served some time as one of
its teachers, and for about fourteen years was its general superin-
tendent. At the age of twenty-three he became a building contrac-
tor. In the year 1872 he moved to Columbia. There he served the
church in various capacities: superintendent of the Sunday School
for about thirty years, member of the trustee board of which he
was the president; and class leader. As a class leader he was at
his post of duty on the evening of October 2, 1906, and there ex-
pressed that he felt his time on earth would not long continue.

He became ill, suddenly, during the same night, and the next day
he was called to his eternal reward.

Brother Sneath was a progressive leader in his local church. He
believed that the first church building was not well located. A
new and more favorable location was selected mainly through his
aggressiveness. He advocated certain advances in church worship,
giving leadership to the installation of a pipe organ, and in hiring
an organist and a soprano soloist. This was at a time when such
matters were considered to be innovations. He was for many years
lay representative to annual conference, which body nominated
him to be one of its delegates to General Conference of the year
1901.
The one regret of his life was that he did not have the advantages of a more liberal education. His regard for education was realized by his sons, Isaiah W. and Israel H., both of whom were graduated from Lebanon Valley College and from Yale Divinity School. The former entered the ministry in this conference in 1881, and was Professor of Greek in Lebanon Valley 1885-87; the latter was a professor in Yale, teaching courses in Philosophy and Religion; and was author of various books.

Spangler—A. C. Spangler, a native of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania, is known throughout the conference and the denomination as a strong leader of laymen. Beginning with the year 1929, he has been elected to each succeeding General Conference. That body elected him to membership on the Board of Home Missions in 1933 and to the Board of Administration in 1937. In 1943 he was chosen to be a district vice-president of the National Otterbein Brotherhood. In the annual conference he has functioned through the Board of Christian Education since 1937, and through certain annually appointed committees. He is chairman of the Laymen’s Association of the annual conference. For many years he was adult Director under the Board of Christian Education.

Mr. Spangler was for a time engaged in teaching in the schools of Lebanon County, having been qualified by holding a Permanent State Teacher’s Certificate. At present he is employed in the Post Office at Lebanon. He is a member of the church at Campbelltown, an organization which in no small way owes its rapid growth to his energy and devotion. Presently, he is general superintendent
DISTINCTIVE SERVICES PERFORMED

of the Sunday School, teacher of the Men's Bible Class, and secretary of the church trustee board.

Through his willingness to go the second mile in Christian service, he is much in demand as a Rally Day speaker. He has appeared on these and other occasions in promoting different phases of Kingdom interests in many, if not in a majority, of the churches of the annual conference.

3. In General Denominational Work

Bishop Grant D. Batdorf—Seven bishops of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ were born in eastern Pennsylvania. Martin Boehm, Christian Newcomer, and Jacob Erb were born in Lancaster County, Andrew Zeller, Henry Kumler Sr., and Henry Kumler Jr. in Berks County and Grant D. Batdorf in Lebanon County.

Bishop Batdorf, son of William and Amelia Sattazahn Batdorf, was born near Lickdale, April 30, 1874. Only the barest outline of this distinguished bishop of the Church can be set down in this brief biography.

With the close of the period of which we are writing, fifty years of his effective ministry in the Gospel of Jesus Christ have become history. He received quarterly conference license in 1896, was received into membership in East Pennsylvania Annual Conference in 1897, and ordained in 1898. Churches served by him since ordination were: Allentown Zion, 1898-1901; Harrisburg First, 1901-06; Reading Zion, 1906-11; Lancaster Covenant, 1911-20; and First Church, Dayton, Ohio, 1920-29. From the time of the second year of his Dayton pastorate until 1929, he was a member of Miami Conference. In that year he transferred to East Pennsylvania.

Dr. Batdorf has always been a diligent and thorough student. The educational institutions from which he was graduated with degrees conferred are: Millersville State Teachers College, B. E., 1893; Bonebrake Theological Seminary, B. D., 1898; Illinois Wesleyan, Ph. B., 1902, and Ph. D., 1910. Otterbein College conferred upon him the Degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1921, and Lebanon Valley College the Degree of Doctor of Laws in 1936.

While in the pastorate at Dayton, Dr. Batdorf lectured in the Department of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology at Bonebrake Seminary, 1921-26, and for a brief period served ad interim as Business Manager of that institution. His abilities as pastor, educator, lecturer, and administrator became widely known, and universally accepted by his brethren throughout the denomination. When the General Conference of 1929 met in Covenant Church, Lancaster, he was first elected Bishop, and assigned to the Eastern Bishop's Area. He was thrice re-elected to the Episcopacy and continued in the same area. He had previously been a delegate to the general body for the sessions of 1917, 1921, and 1925.

The worth of the service of Bishop Batdorf has been generously recognized beyond the pale of his own denomination. He is a
member of the Federal Council of Churches since 1920, and of the World Council since 1941, serving in each with acceptability on important committees. For a number of years while occupying the Bishop's manse at Harrisburg, he was president of the Pennsylvania State Council of Churches, and of the Anti-Saloon League of Pennsylvania. From the time of his pastorate at Lancaster, Bishop Batdorf has had numerous calls to preach and lecture before a great variety of assemblies and convocations. His preaching tours have taken him to all but six of the forty-eight states of the Union. He has addressed audiences in twenty-five countries, and spoken on shipboard on the seven seas of the world. His world tour in 1936-37, accompanied by Mrs. Batdorf, and Dr. and Mrs. Enck, which had as its chief objective a visit to our own missions abroad, gave him opportunity to make observations of religious and social conditions in thirty countries.

Bishop Batdorf brought dignity and grace to the highest office the denomination has to offer. His mastery of parliamentary procedure, grasp of the import of subjects under discussion, and impartial and prompt decisions, flavored with a ready wit, always assured that the business before the General and annual conference sessions over which he presided would be conducted with dignity and dispatch. His sermons may well serve as models in content, structure, delivery, and inspiration.

Because of the rule on the age-limit of Bishops, he was not eligible for reelection in 1945. The session of that year, however, graciously voted him an emeritus relation. In that he maintains a keen interest in the general welfare of the denomination, and continues participation in the high council of administrative affairs. The demands made upon him for pulpit and platform appearances are more than he can honor.

Bishop J. Balmer Showers—At the General Conference held in May 1945 at Westerville, Ohio, Dr. J. Balmer Showers was elected to the bishopric and assigned to the Eastern Bishop's Area. Though not a member of East Pennsylvania Conference, we deem it appropriate to include in this record a few brief statements concerning the bishop who now presides over the annual sessions of our conference. Before coming to us as bishop, he was personally known by many of our people, and his services to the denomination were more widely known.

His heroic work as Publishing Agent of the Printing Establishment at Dayton, Ohio, during a crisis-hour of its history, brought him in close contact with certain of the laity and of the ministry of our conference, over the years 1933-45. He made a vital impact upon those ministerial students who sat under his instruction while he was a professor in Bonebrake Theological Seminary, 1910-27. His appearances at annual conference sessions, at the Mt. Gretna Summer Assembly, and on other special occasions within our conference bounds, also gave opportunity to our people to know Dr. Showers,
personally. In this brief period of a little more than a year of service among us as bishop, we have come to recognize his abilities as a competent administrator, a wise counselor, and a forceful preacher of the Word.

**Henry S. Gabel**—One of the spiritual sons of East Pennsylvania Conference was elected to the office of General Secretary of the Church Extension Society. Dr. Henry S. Gabel held this office two quadrenniums, being first elected in 1905. He had been in the presiding eldership of East German Conference seven years, 1894-1900, and in East Pennsylvania, after merger of the two conferences, three years, and a part of the fourth year, or until July 1905 when he moved to Dayton to take up the duties of his new office.

During his administration as secretary of the Society, total assets to the amount of $159,752.91 were secured. He strongly advocated coordinating the efforts of the General Society and the several conference societies, believing that better work could be accomplished in the field of home missions and church erection by a strong central agency.

The Reverend Gabel was converted in Lebanon Salem Church at about the age of twelve under the ministry of the Reverend H. H. Gelbach, and by him encouraged to enter the ministry. Quarterly license was voted him at the age of eighteen. In 1882 he was granted annual license, and he was ordained three years later. His pastorates were: Catawissa Circuit, 1881-84; Port Richmond Mission, 1884-85; Pinegrove Church, 1885-87; Lykens Valley Circuit, 1887-89; and Lebanon Salem Church, 1889-94. After returning from Dayton he served the Mt. Joy congregation from the fall of 1913 until his death, April 29, 1914. He was born at Lebanon, July 31, 1860.

The memoir by Dr. Albright states: “Brother Gabel was a good man, an able preacher of the Gospel, a kind husband and father, a wise counselor, a splendid leader, a loving brother and friend.”

**Solomon VonNieda**—Solomon VonNieda was a grandson of Johann VonNieda who migrated from the Platz, in Germany, and settled near Muddy Creek on the bounody line between Lancaster and Berks Counties, near Adamstown, in the year 1771. Philip VonNieda, son of Johann Jacob, and father of Solomon, was a miller. Solomon also was engaged in the milling trade. He was born March 24, 1809, and at the age of twenty-eight he married Miss Elizabeth Fry. Under the preaching of those ministers who served the Berks County Circuit he found pardon for his sins and answered the call to the Gospel Ministry. In December of the year 1844, he received quarterly conference license at the hands of Casper Light, presiding elder for the Lebanon District.

He was received into annual conference membership in 1845, and was ordained in 1848. At the session of that year he was appointed to Berks County Circuit. His subsequent appointments were: Dauphin Circuit, 1849-50; and Myerstown Circuit, 1850-52. At the 1852
and the 1853 sessions he was elected presiding elder. He served as
German secretary for the sessions of 1849, 51, 52, and 53.

The Rev. VonNieda was elected a delegate by East Pennsylvania
Conference to the General Conference which met at Miltonville,
Butler County, Ohio, in 1853. His reputation as an efficient busi-
nessman, as well as his ability as worker in the vineyard of Christ
led to his election as Publishing Agent. The same session of General
Conference ordered removal of the printing establishment from
Circleville, Ohio, to Dayton. In the month of August 1853 he arrived
at Dayton with the scanty equipment, which was taken from Circleville
to Columbus by canal boats, from Columbus to Xenia on two
freight cars, and then transported in wagons to Dayton. He was
head of the Publishing House two quadrenniums, having as his

His duties were further increased in 1859 by having been assigned
editorship of the Froeliche Botschafter and the Children’s Friend.
He continued as editor for the Botschafter until 1866, and of the
Friend until 1869. He had sympathy for and understanding of chil-
dren, and for ten years the readers of the Children’s Friend felt they
had an almost personal acquaintance with “Uncle Solomon.”

At the close of his second term as Publishing Agent he became
chief bookkeeper of the House until the time of his death, July 20,
1880. His death came through injuries received while driving from
Dayton to his home at Sulphur Grove. On approaching a crossing
of the C. H. & D. Railroad, his horse became frightened by a passing
train, veered suddenly, upsetting the carriage. He held on to the
reins and was dragged some distance.
Mr. John Dodds wrote of him after his demise, thus: “He was a Christian gentleman of the highest order. His attention to business was so regular and constant that his absence from his post for the briefest time excited wonder and inquiry as to its cause.”

Commodore I. B. Brane—The name of Dr. Brane became favorably known throughout the denomination by his writings as Associate Editor of the Religious Telescope, a position he held from July 1909 until his death April 7, 1920. His early life was saturated by the rich traditions which arose from the founding of the denomination about Frederick, Maryland. He was born in the neighborhood of the Peter Kemp home on Christmas Day in the year 1848, a son of Henry and Margaret Lauman Brane. The famous Kemp house passed into the possession of a daughter of Peter Kemp, Esther by name, who married Valentine Doub. The United Brethren continued to use the house as a place of worship until services were transferred to the Rocky Springs Schoolhouse which was located about a mile west of the Kemp-Doub residence.

Of this schoolhouse and his interest in it, Dr. Brane wrote: “Here the writer worshipped on Sunday and wrestled with the ‘three R’s’ during the week. . . . It is the embodiment of some of the sweetest memories of my life, secular, social, and religious. In that old schoolhouse I was converted. Within those walls, one bright Sunday morning, I was formally received into the Church.”

The Rev. Mr. Brane received quarterly conference license in 1870, was admitted to the Virginia Conference in 1873, and was ordained in 1876. The charges he served in that conference were: Potomac Mission, New Germany, Thurmont, Rockbridge, Berkeley Springs, and Dayton. In 1885-86 he was presiding elder of the Shenandoah District. He transferred to the Maryland Conference in 1887, and by its appointment served Hagerstown, St. Paul’s Church; and the Church in Washington, D. C., of which he was the founder. The General Conference of 1893 elected him Secretary of Church Erection, which office he held until September of 1894.

In the year 1896, the Rev. Mr. Brane transferred to East Pennsylvania Conference in which he retained membership to the time of his death. Very early in his ministerial career, he had served the church at Mt. Airy in this conference, then a suburb of Philadelphia—year of 1876-77. Before transferring to this conference he had a two-year pastorate on the Pequa Charge; after transfer he was pastor at Trinity Church, Lebanon, 1896-1906; and Otterbein Church, Reading, 1906-09.

Dr. Brane had a keen interest in historical matters. He wrote numerous short sketches of local church events. The Churches of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and of Frederick County, Maryland, are especially indebted to him for his work as co-author with Daniel Eberly and I. H. Albright of the “Landmark History of the United Brethren Church.”
Lyter, Joseph A.—When Joseph A. Lyter was a young minister (in fact it was the year of his ordination, at the age of twenty-five), he made a report to annual conference in the interests of Church Erection, in which he said:

In this age of the world we need more . . . and better churches—better and more imposing structures in our centers of population, for the building itself ought to carry with it, and produce feelings of awe and reverence. The site ought to be the best. The time is past when we should build churches in an alley or byway, simply because someone donates ground there, or it can be bought for less than elsewhere.

That statement proved to be prophetic of Dr. Lyter's later program in erection of churches. The imposing structure on the corner of Fifteenth and Derry, the well-constructed building on the corner of Twenty-ninth and Derry, and the location at Eighteenth and State streets, all in the city of Harrisburg, bear testimony that he was not beating the air with words when he advocated better sites and more stately buildings.

The element of constructiveness characterized all of Dr. Lyter's thoughts and actions. He was cultured and scholarly, yet withal exceedingly practical and genuinely sympathetic. His skill in repartee was the delight of all who had intimate contacts with him. His public utterances and his writings showed that he was a thorough student of the Scriptures.

The Rev. Lyter was born at Enders (Jacksonville), Dauphin County, January 22, 1865, the son of John H. and Sarah Davidson Lyter. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College (A.B.) 1885, and (A.M.) 1888. For several years following graduation in 1885, he was principal of the Berrysburg Academy. He received annual license in 1888 and was ordained in 1890. His pastorates were: Paxinos
DISTINCTIVE SERVICES PERFORMED

Joseph A. Lyter

John B. Lyter

Circuit; Mountville (Lancaster County), Port Richmond (Philadelphia), Mt. Joy, Hummelstown, Harrisburg Derry Street, and Annville Churches. The successes he had, particularly in Harrisburg, are stated in the earlier pages of this volume.

Dr. Lyter was elected to the office of Associate Editor of Sunday School Literature on October 27, 1925. He began active work in that Department the following January and continued therein until his demise, January 29, 1940. He was a member of General Conference four quadrenniums, 1913-1925, serving as its recording secretary for the sessions of 1917-21-25. At the first session attended, he was elected a trustee of the Printing Establishment Board of which he became secretary. Dr. Lyter was secretary of seventeen sessions of annual conference and was a member of many of its important boards and committees. He was a trustee of Lebanon Valley College, 1907-25, which institution conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1906. He served as Chaplain of the House of Representatives of his native state, 1901-1903.

Lyter, John B.—The union of Joseph A. Lyter and wife, Margaret A. Bowman Lyter, was blessed by the birth of two sons: John B. and Thomas B. The latter is minister of the Washington Presbyterian Church of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Son John was born while the father was pastor of the Mountville Church, Lancaster County. We claim him as a son of East Pennsylvania. On July 6, 1914, soon after graduation from Lebanon Valley College, he became an employee of the Otterbein Press. Except for the period from May 1918 to August 1919, during which he served overseas in World War I, he has been constantly "on the job" at the Press.

Currently, Mr. Lyter is serving in the capacity of Circulating
Manager. As such he supervises the circulation and mailing operations of Sunday School literature and religious periodicals. His particular qualifications have drawn him into other activities. His long experience in the publishing of church books, periodicals, and annual conference proceedings, have given him a reservoir of knowledge of these activities and procedures. He is frequently consulted in any work of church nature. Because of his experience in the Otterbein merchandise and Book Store activities, he now serves in an advisory capacity to these two departments.

Mr. Lyter has had great concern that the achievements of East Pennsylvania Conference get into print. To this end he made available to the writer source-materials lodging in the archives of the Otterbein Press, of which he is the custodian. Furthermore, he made invaluable suggestions having to do with the form of and the publishing of this volume. Through his influence a number of cuts, property of the Press, were loaned without charge, for use in setting up some of the pages of this book.

McLanachan—Miss Mary McLanachan joined the United Brethren Church of Elizabethville, Dauphin County, at the age of fourteen. She graduated from Lebanon Valley College with the class of 1927. Her devoted participation in local and conference Christian Endeavor organizations led to her being selected for a position in General Departmental work. Upon graduation from college she was called to Dayton, Ohio, to be superintendent of Junior and Intermediate work under the department of Christian Endeavor. After serving in that capacity for a little more than a year, she returned to Pennsylvania to engage in teaching.

In 1930 Miss McLanachan was again called to Dayton. She then served as Field Worker, later Secretary of Missionary Education, under the Women's Missionary Association. She continued in that capacity until August 1, 1945, when she was elected editor of the Evangel. During the early part of the period following 1930 she was also superintendent of Junior work under the direction of Dr. Deever, head of the department of Christian Education. Her secretarial work included preparation of most of the promotional material sent out by the Association. Miss McLanachan is the daughter of Samuel Boyce and Virginia B. Hackman McLanachan. The mother is a daughter of the Rev. Henry E. Hackman, late a minister of this conference.

Ranck—In November of 1945 the Rev. J. Allan Ranck was chosen to be Director of Young People's Work under the General Board of Christian Education. He assumed the duties of that office on January 1, 1946. At the time of his election he had just entered upon the eighth year of a fruitful ministry with Allentown Zion Church. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Ranck who reside near New Holland, Lancaster County. The father has been for many years an active layman of the Church which bears the name of his paternal ancestor, and is currently ministering to the spiritual needs of the Elverson congregation. Two sons of these parents have entered
the ministry: Ezra H. and J. Allan. The former is pastor of the Mt. Joy Church. He also carries heavy responsibilities in connection with the youth work of the Mt. Gretna Summer Assembly.

The Rev. J. Allan was granted quarterly conference license in 1933 by recommendation of the Ranck's Class. He was admitted to Annual Conference in 1934, and was ordained in 1937. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1934, and from Bonebrake Theological Seminary in 1937. While pastor at Allentown, he pursued graduate work in Temple University in theology and other subjects, graduating with the degree of Master of Theology in 1943.

4. In Mission Fields

The proper recording of the services of those persons who have gone into mission fields is a project in itself. Further research would have to be undertaken and more space made available in order to write a complete story of missionary endeavor. Only the listing of names of missionaries and places where they served is here attempted. Those appointed to West Africa are: the Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Lesher, the Rev. and Mrs. Ira E. Albert, Dr. and Mrs. John F. Musselman, the Rev. J. M. Richter, Miss Edith Fridy, Miss Grace Renn, Miss Estelle High, the Rev. Lloyd Bowman, Miss Mabel Beckerly, Miss June Hartranft, and Miss Florence Barnhart; to China, Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Shoop, the Rev. and Mrs. Clifford A. Funk, Miss Esther Schell, and the Rev. and Mrs. Calvin H. Reber Jr.; to the Philippines, the Rev. and Mrs. Clayton C. Witmer, the Rev. and Mrs. Chester E. Retnew, and Miss Lucile Esbenshade; to Home Mission stations, Miss Cora M. Horst, Mrs. Nelle M. Engle, Miss Helen Butterwick, Miss Eleanor Sheaffer, and Miss Edith Shelly. Two of the brethren had long and distinguished careers as superintendents of missions.
The Rev. John F. Musselman went to West Africa in 1908. Miss Alice Daugherty, a daughter of the Rev. Joseph B. Daugherty, pastor and presiding elder in this conference, became the wife of the Rev. Musselman during his first furlough. She had preceded him by one year as missionary to West Africa. Together they served in that field until 1947. He was stationed, successively, at Shenge, Rotifunk, and Freetown. From 1921 onward to 1947 he was superintendent of all work in the province of Sierra Leone.

Throughout his entire missionary career, Dr. Musselman was supported by Lancaster Covenant Church, which church recommended him for quarterly license in 1906. He was ordained in 1909. Indiana Central University honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1931. He was born in Florin, Lancaster County, became a member of the church there, and transferred membership to Covenant Church in 1898. He died on Sunday morning, September 7, 1947, while on a visit to his homeland, being on his way to conduct Holy Communion at Shirk's Church.

His congenial spirit won him many friends at home and abroad. Only eternity will reveal the glory of the kindly deeds of this tried and true apostle of Christ.

The Rev. Charles W. Shoop and wife, Kathryn Elizabeth Steffy Shoop, were consecrated as missionaries by Bishop G. M. Mathews at the 1912 session of annual conference. They were assigned to service in China, arriving at Canton in mid-November of the same year, and served in that great oriental city—except for two brief
DISTINCTIVE SERVICES PERFORMED

periods totalling less than two years, spent in Siu Lam—until April 1949. Dr. Shoop's primary interest has been in Christian Religious Education. He represented the United Brethren on the faculty—chair of Religious Education, on part-time basis, 1918 to 1938—of the Canton Union Theological College. During 1937-38, he was its acting president.

In 1917 the General Board at Dayton appointed him mission superintendent, which responsibility he held until 1949. As the Board's representative in South China, he worked in every way possible toward a truly Christian Church that would be also a truly indigenous Church. In cooperation with a small group of like-minded colleagues representing other Communions among the South China Missions, and the support of an earnest effort of the best Chinese Christian leadership, Dr. Shoop played no small role in effecting the Church of Christ in China, at the beginning of the second decade of the century. In that organization he held the position of Associate Executive Secretary; as also of secretary of Religious Education for the Kwangtung Synod, 1926-49. It is to be understood that these several services ran concurrently, and were coordinated.

The parents of Charles W. Shoop were William and Elizabeth Wise Shoop who lived in the vicinity of Union Church, Wayne Township, Dauphin County. Their son Charles was born August 10, 1879. He united with that Church at the age of twelve. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1908 and from Bonebrake Theological Seminary in 1912. His Alma Mater conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1929.

5. Services Relating to Historical Data

Though many precious written and printed sources of information relative to the history of East Pennsylvania Conference have no doubt been lost, we are fortunate in that the official minutes or proceedings of every conference session from 1800 to the present have been preserved. Fortunate indeed also that beginning with the year 1800, sixty-one years of proceedings are written in one book. This treasured volume, well-bound and well-preserved, is nine and one-half by seven inches in size and one and one-half inches in thickness.

The territory of the Original Conference having been divided in 1829, it became necessary to secure a new minute book. The following item, quoted from the proceedings of 1830, tells what course was followed.

Resolved that Hagerstown Conference shall retain the old "Protocol" and the Pennsylvania or Harrisburg Conference shall secure a new one.

Bro (Bishop) Kumler gave William Brown two dollars for this purpose and Brown shall buy a book and shall transcribe the conference proceedings out of the old into the new.

When the territory was further divided in 1846, the book which
the Rev. Brown purchased passed into possession of East Pennsyl-
vania Conference. Its possession is attested on the first page of
the book under the signature of the Rev. G. W. Miles Rigor, secre-
tary, year 1863. The secretaries of the newly formed conference con-
tinued to record its proceedings in the same book until 1846, and
those of East Pennsylvania Conference did likewise to and including
the year 1861.

A second written volume beginning with the session of the year
1862 and closing with that of 1870 also is preserved. From 1865
onward the proceedings appear in written form. Those of the
East German Conference are preserved as follows: in a written
volume, covering the years 1870 to 1881, (from 1870 to 1877 in Ger-
man script, 1878 to 1881 in English). Printed copies in our possession
are those of the years 1873, 1874, and 1879 to 1900.

The proceedings in the old Journal (1800-1861) are in German
script for the years 1800-1837, 1839, and 1848-50. In 1900-01, Dr. I. H.
Albright, while pastor of Shamokin First Church, completed the
work of translating these proceedings written in German into and
including the year 1839. He also collected from various sources
a considerable number of printed copies of proceedings of later
years. After his death, the Rev. N. L. Linebaugh secured from Mrs.
Albright the copies collected, and added later copies to the collec-
tion. Dr. Albright had also seventy-nine slides of historic subjects.
These the Rev. Linebaugh secured also. Furthermore, by the aid of
Joseph Lilienfield of Philadelphia, he translated, from German to
English, the proceedings of 1848-50; made a typewritten copy of
them, as well, as minutes in script from 1847 to 1865, and bound
them in chronological order in a single volume.

All these materials the Rev. Linebaugh turned over to the present
Conference Historian, in part to be held in his custody as property
of the conference, and in part to be disposed of as the historian
might choose.4

It is from the pages of conference proceedings that we learn of
efforts made through the years, and to whom credit is due, to
preserve and perpetuate knowledge of our heritage as a conference.
The Rev. G. W. Miles Rigor was the pioneer in this effort. On a	
tabular page in the journal of the year 1866 appears information,
relative to the Bishops of the Church, compiled by him. Two pages
with the heading, “A Retrospect of the Place of Meeting, Etc, of the
Conference, since the Year 1800, (Translated from the German [in
part] by E. Light, Compiled by G. W. Miles Rigor),” are appended
to the proceedings of 1867. He brought information on this subject
up to date in the year 1887, and caused it to be inserted in the pro-
ceedings of that year.

The conference of the year 1866 passed the following resolution:
Whereas, This Conference some years ago, directed its mem-
ers in charges of fields of labor, to write and preserve a
record of the history of their charges; therefore
Resolved, That they shall present copies of these records to the Conference at its next annual session, for such historical use as Conference may deem fit to make of them.

Further action was taken on this matter in 1869, as follows:

Resolved, That preachers in charge of fields of labor of which there has not been a written history, shall write such history, and present it to our next conference. (Histories of the following fields of labor have been received, viz: Salem and Trinity Churches of Lebanon, Zion's Church of Reading; Harrisburg, Susquehanna, Lyken's Valley, and Shamokin circuits, and Myerstown and Schuylkill Haven Stations.)

Here is at least one evidence of the existence of historical data which is now lost to us. Here is evidence too of the reluctance of men to write, or to properly evaluate that which is written.

Mr. Rigor was not one of those reluctant souls. The records show that he was the moving spirit back of the foregoing resolutions. Later, in 1873, at the time when he was Corresponding Secretary of the United Brethren Historical Society, he was granted the privilege of stating to the conference, "That according to a provision of the Constitution of the Society, the East Pennsylvania Conference could name the Board of Directors for the said Society." Conference thereupon proceeded to elect fifty-five persons who represented various sections of the denomination.

In 1886, conference began the practice of electing, annually, an
Historical Secretary. Those elected and serving for the years indicated were: E. W. S. Parthemore, 1886-1904; the Hon. E. Benjamin Bierman, 1904-06; I. H. Albright, 1906-19; N. L. Linebaugh, 1919-20; D. D. Buddinger, 1920-21; S. Edwin Rupp, 1921-24; O. G. Romig, 1924-37; and P. B. Gibble, 1937-46. In 1938 the designation for the office was charged to Conference Historian. The Revs. C. A. Mutch and C. E. Boughter were Corresponding Historical Secretaries in the East German Conference.

In addition to the work of Dr. Albright as recited above, was his contribution to the “Landmark History of the United Brethren Church,” pages 82-194, dealing in the main with churches and persons of Lancaster and York counties. He was born in West Fairview, Cumberland County, April 9, 1853, was graduated at the head of the class of 1876, Lebanon Valley College, was licensed in 1876, and ordained in 1879. In East Pennsylvania he served Manheim charge, Florin-Elizabethtown charge, Shamokin First, Lebanon Salem, Reading Zion, New Holland-Ranck's charge, Middletown, and Pleasant Hill-Cleona charge. While on the latter field of labor he died April 21, 1919. Over the years 1882-98, he was pastor at Mt. Wolf, York First, and Dallastown, and was presiding elder five years in Pennsylvania Conference, of which he was a member from 1887 to 1899.

The Rev. Oscar G. Romig revived the practice of including certain historical data in the annual printed proceedings. He, however, much enlarged on the original idea by adding a section on “Biographical Table of Ministerial Service,” and one on “Our Departed Ones.” While functioning as Historical Secretary, he at the same time was the official reporter for the conference. After his death, several scrapbooks filled with numerous clippings on personal and church matters, and other materials having research value, were passed on to his successor.

Once more we say we are fortunate, and this time for the reason, that so many quarterly conference proceedings have been preserved. Twelve books which in the total include quarterly records of twenty-two circuits, embracing approximately three-fourths of the conference classes and churches then existing were available to the author of this volume for research. Their value and importance lies in the fact that the proceedings therein recorded cover the period when there was the greatest increase in forming of classes and in building of churches where none existed before. The earliest of the twelve is that of the year 1846, three begin recordings as of the year 1848, and one of the year 1849.

Some of these books had not seen the light of day for many a year. Recognition is given to persons who located these books or gave information as to where they might be located. Their names are: the Revs. Harold Beamesderfer, W. E. Deibler, M. V. Fridinger, D. LeRoy Fegley, Harold Hollingsworth, O. L. Mease, H. E. Miller, Daniel L. Shearer, C. R. Swartz, and W. A. Wilt. Mr. A. M. Shissler of Lititz permitted use of a Church Record containing membership
lists of churches and classes of the several circuits of which the Brun­
nerville Church was a part, 1871-80. The Rev. Ira Funk released the
Church Record of the Florin Circuit. Mr. Jacob Sherk of Bellegrove
turned over to the Conference Historian two books of quarterly
records of Lebanon Circuit, later Bellegrove Circuit, for permanent
possession, and also granted use of the Bellegrove class roll book.

In more recent years, ministers and in a few instances laymen,
have written historical sketches of local churches. The conference
archives now contain printed sketches of sixty-six conference
churches. Some congregations have published more than one his-
tory.

The work of faithful and efficient recording secretaries of the
two conferences must not go unnoticed. The names of all who
served in that capacity are listed in Chapter XIII. Reference to that
list will show who among them had the longer years of service.
George A. Geeting is said to have been secretary from 1800 to 1812
inclusive, though his name is not always appended to the proceed-
ings. G. W. Miles Rigor served twenty-five years; Z. A. Weidler,
twelve years; Joseph A. Lyter, seventeen years; C. E. Boughter,
nine years (six in East Pennsylvania and three in East German);
D. S. Longenecker, ten years (in East German); and O. T. Ehrhart
gave eight years as assistant recording secretary, and twenty-four
years (including 1950), as secretary. C. R. Longenecker, in the year
1950, concludes twenty-nine years as statistical secretary, having
had as his assistant during the past fourteen years, A. G. Biely.

In the sketch of Covenant Church, Lancaster, it is intimated that
Dr. Ehrhart has had distinctive assignments. Among the organizations in which he takes an active part as a member are: Trustee Board of Lebanon Valley College, since 1931; Denominational Foreign Missionary Society, since 1933; Board for Christian Work in Santo Domingo, since 1936; and the Board of United Andean Mission, since 1945. Of the last named, he was one of its incorporators, and is a member of the Executive committee. The Rev. Ehrhart has been pastor of Covenant Church, Lancaster, since 1920. During his ministry his church has become the strongest church, numerically, in the conference, and one of the strongest in the denomination. Financially, Covenant Church has held also an enviable position among the churches of the denomination, having raised during the period of his pastorate a total of $833,537 for all purposes. Dr. Ehrhart was a member of four General Conferences and of the merging conference of 1946.

6. Two Outstanding Pastorates

Harry M. Mentzer—The Rev. Harry M. Mentzer was appointed to Valley View Circuit as his first charge in the fall of 1913, and in it he has served continuously to the present. This may be the longest pastorate of a rural parish in the denomination. We know it is an unmatched record so far as East Pennsylvania Annual Conference is concerned. The churches composing the circuit of which the Rev. Mentzer has been pastor for thirty-seven years are, Fearnot, Sacramento, Spring Glen, and Valley View. He reports to the conference session of 1946 a church membership for the entire circuit, of 577, a Sunday School enrollment of 571 with an average attendance of 411.

He is a man of unbounded enthusiasm, and of a friendly disposition. The members of his churches hold him in high esteem. A wide circle of constituents have the utmost confidence in his integrity and worth as a public servant. The Rev. Mentzer has numerous calls for ministerial service to persons who are not members of his parish. He has also carried many community responsibilities, leading out in some of the most important civic and industrial enterprises. During the depression years, when banks were closed and the nearby coal mines were not operating, the going was difficult. These conditions his congregation and he faced with courage and mastered successfully so that all the church houses are in an excellent state of repair and free of debt.

Harry E. Miller—The Rev. Harry Edwin Miller holds the distinction of the longest pastorate in the history of the conference; at the time of his retirement, the longest in the entire denomination. In the fall of 1904 he was appointed to Salem Church, Lebanon, of which he remained active pastor until the fall of 1945. He then became pastor emeritus, retaining that relation until death, February 4, 1947. During student days, the Rev. Miller served Milton-Sunbury Mission as part-time supply in the year 1896-97, and St. Paul's, West Lebanon, 1897-99. He served Elizabethville Church
one year, 1899-1900. After graduation from Bonebrake Theological Seminary in 1903, he was pastor of Myerstown Church one year.

The Rev. Miller was born at Orwin, Schuylkill County, June 5, 1873. His parents later moved to Lebanon, where, at the age of twelve, he was converted in a revival meeting held in Memorial Church. He transferred to Salem Church, which Church recommended him for quarterly license in 1893; and, in that church, his annual license certificate was handed him at the conference session of 1894. He was ordained in 1899. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College, (A. B.) 1899; (A. M.) 1912; and was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1916. He pursued special courses in the fields of Metaphysics and Philosophy at Temple University.

During the years of his membership in annual conference he served on many committees and boards, chief of which were: the Committee on Applications and Credentials, Elders' Orders, Home Missionary and Extension Society, Preachers' Aid Board, and Trustee of Lebanon Valley College. Beginning with 1909, he represented his annual conference as delegate to the General Conference at eight quadrennial sessions. Illness prevented him from attending a ninth session and the merging conference of 1946, to which he had been elected.

Dr. Miller lived vicariously for his flock and for his denomination. At Salem Church, he received 1,078 members on Confession of Faith. The number of baptisms run into the thousands. If one were to go through the pages of the public press and make clippings of weddings and funerals at which he officiated, they would form a con-
sizable bulk. His pulpit utterances were outstanding in preparation, arrangement and delivery. In exegetical and expository presentations he had few equals. His choice use of words, correctness of pronunciation, and careful phrasing, brought an awareness that one was listening to a master of the English language.

7. In the Chaplaincy

WORLD WAR I

Phares M. Holdeman
Training: Spring of 1918, (1) Fortress Monroe, Va., (2) Camp Meade, Md.
Duty: Embarked July 6, 1918. All service with 314th Inf., 79th Div.; in both phases of the Argonne Forest Offensive; at front on Armistice Day; when Reg. returned, remained in France as the only official chaplain to German prisoners of war.
Returned: July 31, 1919; discharged from Camp Dix, Aug. 12, 1919.

WORLD WAR II

Russell G. Beckel
Decorations: Am. Defense Service; World War II Victory; Am. Camp; European-African; Middle Eastern; Meritorious Unit Award.

Herbert R. Blouch
Training: Chap's School, Harvard Univ., April 14 to June 5, 1943.
Decorations: European-African; Middle Eastern, (Seven Star, Bronze); Am. Defense; Victory; Presidential Unit Cit., one oak

**Walter Evans Deibler**
Commissioned: July 8, 1943. Promoted, Oct. 3, 1945 from Lt. to Lt. CDR.
Training: Chap’s. School, College of William and Mary, Va., July-Sept. 1943.
Decorations: Victory; Sel. Service; European-Middle Eastern; Asiatic-Pacific.
Placed on Inactive Duty: April 1, 1947.

**John Henry Gable**
HISTORY OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

THOMAS W. GUINIVAN

Decorations: American Defense; Victory.
Separated from Active Service: At Carlisle Bks., July 24, 1947.

THOMAS WILLIAM GUINIVAN

Training: Chap's. School, College of William and Mary, Va., July-Sept. 1944.
Decorations: Asiatic-Pacific; American Defense; Victory.
Released: Sept. 20, 1946.
Present Mil. Status: Chap. Naval Reserve Base, Unit 4-3, Carlisle Bks.

JOHN WENGERT LUCKENS

Promoted: Capt., April 25, 1944.
Duty: Hdqrs. AAFWTTO, 4th Dist., Denver, Colo., May 11, 1943;
DISTINCTIVE SERVICES PERFORMED

John W. Luckens

Paul A. Miller


Decorations: American Defense; Victory.


Paul Alfred Miller


Training: Chap's. School, Harvard Univ.


Decorations: Distinguished Unit Citation; EAME Campaign, (Six Bronze Stars.)


Melvin E. Patrick

Commissioned: Lieut., June 23, 1944.

Training: Chap's. School, College of William and Mary, Va.

Duty: San Diego Naval Tr. Center, Calif.; USS Knox, Pacific.

Melvin E. Patrick

William H. Quaid

**William Henry Quaid**


Decorations: Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star; Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with three stars; Victory.


**Edwin M. Rhoad**

Commissioned: 1st Lieut., April 1, 1943. Promoted, Captain.


Released: Dec. 8, 1945.
Russell L. Shay
Present service: XIX AF Service Command, Special (Command Chaplain).
Decorations: World War I Victory; Army Commendation Ribbon; American Defense; American Theater Service Ribbon; Victory.

G. Jay Umberger
Training: Chap's. School, College of William and Mary, Va., Nov. 1943-Jan. 1944.
U. S. Naval Const. Bn., official visits to Yokahoma, Tokyo, and Hiroshima; USS Percidio (APA 88); 4th Reg. US Naval Tr. School, Bainbridge, Md.

Decorations: American Defense; Asiatic-Pacific (one bronze star); Victory; Atlantic-European; and USN NR CR.

Separated from active duty: Aug. 21, 1946.

Earl E. Wolf


Decorations: American Defense; American Theater; Pacific (three stars); Victory; Philippine Liberation (one star); and Philippine Independence.

Recent Mil. Status: Active Chaplain, Tilton General Hospital, Fort Dix, N. J. 1949; Hdqrs. Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

(Notes on Chapter X are given on page 569)