EDITOR'S PREFACE

On behalf of the Historical Society of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, I am pleased to introduce volume IV of THE CHRONICLE. The volume begins with the story of Rev. John Snyder, a pioneer United Brethren preacher of importance to both the Pennsylvania Conference and the entire denomination. In recognition of Rev. Snyder's significant contributions to the United Brethren Church, the Conference Commission on Archives and History has designated the land which he deeded to the local congregation in 1812, and which now provides a resting place for his earthly remains, as a Conference Historical Site. We are especially pleased that John Snyder's great-great-granddaughter Francis Dunlap Heron, a retired member of the editorial staff of the Methodist Christian Advocate and the author of two Abingdon Press books on religious education, has chosen THE CHRONICLE as the journal in which to tell her story.

Continuing the tradition of presenting a series of articles on a single topic, volume IV includes four papers on Methodist Campmeetings and Central Pennsylvania. The series, which is introduced more formally on page 26, contains this year's cover story and lead scholarly article, Up at Mountain Grove (1872-1901), by Craig A. Newton. Other articles in the series have been gleaned from previously unpublished papers prepared by former Methodist historians of the conference. The series weaves together the various periods and perspectives of the campmeeting into a complete and captivating picture of central Pennsylvania Methodism's romance with this American phenomenon.

In a sense, the story presented in the campmeeting articles is continued in the final paper of volume IV. While the former detail the rise and decline of the campmeeting movement, the latter documents the life cycle of Camp Loyalsock (1938-1984). Although parallels in the church's experiences with the campmeeting and the small residential camp are not specifically mentioned, the reader will notice the similarities. THE CHRONICLE concludes with brief memorials of the 1992 recipients of the gravemarkers awarded by the Historical Society and the Commission on Archives and History.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: The preachers' stand at the Mountain Grove Camp Meeting. Reproduced from an original glass slide. Courtesy of Craig A. Newton.