Assessing the Central Pennsylvania Conference: 1900-1965
by J. Edgar Skillington, 1965

Editor’s Introduction

Society in general is finally beginning to recognize the importance of oral histories and the reminiscences so-called “old-timers.” Nationally, the EUB heritage center in Dayton OH is currently making a concerted effort to obtain interviews from pastors and laypersons with insights into the former Evangelical United Brethren denomination. At each session of our annual conference, the Commission on Archives and History schedules and records interviews with retirees who have served for more than 20 years. Local congregations are videotaping the stories of their older members.

In 1965, conference historian Dr. Charles F. Berkheimer was a man ahead of his times. Recognizing the historical value of the insights of persons with long and significant service, he asked retired pastor J. Edgar Skillington to respond to a list of 10 open-ended questions. While we do not have a copy of Dr. Berkheimer’s original letter, the 10 questions may be reconstructed from the meticulous written responses of Rev. Skillington.

James Edgar Skillington (1878-1965) was born in Breezewood. Listed in the 1945 Prominent Personalities in American Methodism, he represented the Central Pennsylvania Conference at every Methodist General Conference from 1924 to 1952. He served what were then the conference’s largest and most prestigious congregations (including Hazleton St. Paul’s, Carlisle Allison, Altoona First, Bloomsburg Wesley, and York First [Asbury]) and as superintendent of the Altoona District. He retired in 1951, supplied the Martinsburg charge until 1956, and died at the age of 86 – just two months after responding to Dr. Berkheimer’s request.

It is not clear whether Rev. Skillington was the only person asked to respond to the 10 questions, or if his correspondence was part of a larger survey. While Rev. Skillington’s closing comments at the end of his 10 responses indicate that he imagined himself to be but one of many giving input, no other responses have been discovered – and none of Dr. Berkheimer’s notes make reference to a larger survey. And so it appears the material represents a unique exchange between the conference historian and one of its older members.

Finally, the responses of Rev. Skillington are very sobering in one respect. Questions #1 and #2 ask him to identify, from his long experience in the Central Pennsylvania Conference, his selections for the conference’s ten most influential ministers and laypersons. While the persons he named in 1965 certainly had sterling qualifications to be considered for their respective lists, and their selections needed no justifications, very few readers will recognize a single name on either list! Truly, the praise and credit for all that has been accomplished in the Central Pennsylvania Conference belongs to God alone and not to even the most gifted and influential ministers or laypersons.
Since many of the people, places and events noted by Rev. Skillington are no longer familiar, footnotes have been added to aid the modern reader. Otherwise, the responses given are those of Dr. Skillington just as they were penned from his home at 206 W. Allegheny Street in Martinsburg on February 27, 1965. He prefaces his answers with the following comments:

I received your letter of the 25th yesterday evening, and so you see I am taking seriously your pleas for prompt action. Your assignment is not an easy one. The best I can do will be to “make a stab” at it. Much of what I shall write will be in the nature of a report of my impressions. Categorical or statistical answers will generally be out of the question.

1. Who would you consider the ten most influential ministerial members of the Central Pennsylvania Conference?

“Influential” is a very relative term. Influence is difficult to measure or even appraise. Here especially I am limited to report of impressions. My first conference was 1901. The only name I recall hearing of as identifying a very influential member earlier than that was Spottswood—and you’ll know of his influence much better than I.

Edward J. Gray I more often heard spoken of as wielding influence in the conference in those early days than any other man. And sometimes I heard him complained of, especially by those who might have been suspected of wishing to compete with him more successfully than they had been able to do. Influence then related chiefly to appointment making—for we had no conference institutions or organizations of any consequence except the Seminary, and the conference as such exercised little authority in relation to it. It was preeminently

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1 In specifying the Central Pennsylvania Conference, Dr. Berkheimer is excluding persons like Jacob Gruber (1778-1850) who served the area while it was still part of the Baltimore Conference. The Central Pennsylvania Conference was formed in 1869. Although J. Edgar Skillington didn’t enter the Conference until 1901, his knowledge of conference persons and affairs may be assumed to extend back to 1869. It is likely that Charles Berkheimer was hoping to produce a 1969 centennial assessment of the most influential persons in the first 100 years of the Central Pennsylvania Conference, but his 1968 death came before such a project could be completed. At any rate, Rev. Skillington appears willing to assess the influence of those only with whom he had direct contact and/or knowledge.

2 Wilson Lee Spottswood (1822-1892) was a delegate to the General Conference of 1868 that created the Central Pennsylvania Conference. He served as a pastor, district superintendent, and president of Williamsport Dickinson Seminary. His 351 page autobiography *Brief Annals* published in 1888 is an invaluable source of information about early circuits in the conference. His wife Lucy A. Minshall Spottswood was the author of religious novels.

3 Edward James Gray (1832-1905) was born in Centre County, a member of the pioneer family who gave their name to Gray’s UM Church in Half Moon Valley. He was a delegate to every General Conference from 1884 to 1904. After 15 years of pastoral ministry, he served as president of Williamsport Dickinson Seminary from 1874 until his death in 1905. A biographical sketch of Dr. Gray is given in the 1974 *Encyclopedia of World Methodism.*
E.J. Gray’s school. He was a wonderful man, a great churchman, and an exemplary Christian.

Now of course you do not expect me to write a biography or character sketch of each of the ten I name. I’ll leave Spottswood off my list – knowing that you, having at hand adequate historical data, will see that he’s dutifully recognized. Now for the ten.

Edward J. Gray  Silas C. Swallow  William W. Evans  Milton K. Foster  James H. Morgan
Silas C. Swallow  W. Perry Eveland  Horace L. Jacobs  Morris E. Swartz
Emory M. Stevens  Edgar R. Heckman  William W. Evans  Edgar R. Heckman  Morris E. Swartz

Now there are the ten, all of whom have gone to their reward. But one must also consider some who yet serve. Lester A. Welliver has been very active

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4 Silas Comfort Swallow (1839-1930) might also qualify as the most controversial member of the Central Pennsylvania Conference. In addition to serving as a pastor and presiding elder, he was editor of *The Central Pennsylvania Methodist*. In 1904 he was the Prohibition Party candidate for President of the United States. His 432 page autobiography *III Score and X* was published in 1909. Two articles about Dr. Swallow appear in the 2001 volume of *The Chronicle*. A biographical sketch of Dr. Swallow is given in the 1974 *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*.

5 Emory Miller Stevens (1858-1937) was the namesake for the former Stevens Memorial UM Church in Harrisburg. He was a delegate to every General Conference from 1908 to 1924 and served as a district superintendent in four different districts for a total of 24 years.

6 William Wilson Evans (1840-1916) was a delegate to four General Conferences and served as district superintendent in 3 different districts, some more than once, for a total of 23 years.

7 William Perry Eveland (1864-1916) served as a pastor and the president of Williamsport Dickinson Seminary before being elected to the episcopacy in 1913. A biographical sketch of Dr. Eveland is given in the 1974 *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*.

8 Edgar Rohrer Heckman (1875-1948) was a delegate to six General Conferences. In addition to serving as a pastor and district superintendent, he was superintendent of the Home for the Aged in Tyrone 1936-1947. Superintendent of a conference institution, whether an institution of learning or a benevolent institution, was a valued position. A biographical sketch of Dr. Heckman is given in the 1974 *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*.

9 Milton Kirk Foster (1838-1938) served as a delegate to General Conference and as the district superintendent of 3 different districts for a total of 15 years.

10 Horace Lincoln Jacobs (1863-1936) was a delegate to every General Conference form 1900 to 1932, and chairman of the denomination’s Committee on Rules for two quadrenniums. He was noted as a parliamentarian, a speaker, and a writer – as well as an extremely effective pastor. A biographical sketch of Dr. Jacobs is given in the 1974 *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*.

11 Morris Emory Swartz (1868-1944) was a three-time district superintendent, editor of the *Washington Christian Advocate*, and a member of the committee that drafted the Plan of Union for 1939. A biographical sketch of Dr. Swartz is given in the 1974 *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*.

12 James Henry Morgan (1857-1939), although a ministerial member of conference, spent his entire career in academia – all at Dickinson in Carlisle. He was principal of the Preparatory School 1882-84, a college professor, and president of Dickinson College from 1915 until his retirement in 1928. He served two additional brief terms as president in the 1930’s. A biographical sketch of Dr. Morgan is given in the 1974 *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*.

13 Lester Allen Welliver (1896-1973), in addition to his ministerial appointments, served two terms as district superintendent and as president of Westminster Seminary 1943-55, now relocated
and has brought recognition to the conference by his service on the Judicial Council. He has championed many lost causes, but has been very influential in his day. And few men at any time in my purview have exerted more influence in the conference than Charles F. Berkheimer\textsuperscript{14} – from the time he became chairman of the Conference Commission on World Service and Finance until his retirement. LaMont Henninger\textsuperscript{15} has been a great activist, but perhaps he has made his presence felt more as a source of information than in other more personal ways.

And there are others. Alvin S. Williams\textsuperscript{16} was very influential in his day. More than many, he aimed to be influential and was spurred by his personal ambitions – but his integrity and commitment to the Church and his Lord were beyond question. So you see I am having a hard time to list just ten. I could name others and support their respective claims to a place on this list perhaps more persuasively than some I have placed on it.

[The following two paragraphs, added at the end of the responses to all 10 questions, are inserted here to preserve the continuity of the paper. – editor]

Reviewing what I have written, I must say that Welliver should be in that ten – but whom to leave out? Swallow made a great stir in the conference, but in my judgment contributed little that was positive and constructive. Swartz made little stir but had a significant quiet influence; he carried much weight – especially with Bishop McDowell, and through him. He was a member of the committee that negotiated the 1939 unification.

Suggesting the ten most influential men is so difficult I just cannot feel satisfied with what I have done. Of course, you’ll set my selections over against others. You see I did not include D.S. Monroe.\textsuperscript{17} In my judgment his influence was somewhat of the character of a useful machine. What he did, I think, was chiefly what he was told to do – he did not tell the conference.

\textsuperscript{14}Charles Franklin Berkheimer (1896-1968) was a delegate to every General Conference from 1948 to 1960 and served as a district superintendent. He was the conference historian, and the main room at the conference archives is officially named the “Charles F. Berkheimer Archives and Library.” A biographical sketch of Dr. Berkheimer is given in the 1974 \textit{Encyclopedia of World Methodism}.

\textsuperscript{15}Frank LaMont Henninger (1900-1975) was a delegate to 3 General Conferences, a two-term district superintendent, and the executive secretary of the Interboard Council (roughly equivalent to the present conference council director) 1959-69.

\textsuperscript{16}Alvin Samuel Williams (1868-1936) was a four-time delegate to General Conference and a district superintendent.

\textsuperscript{17}David Solomon Monroe (1833-1910) was the first secretary of the Central Pennsylvania Conference, serving in that office from the formation of the conference in 1869 until 1894. He was a delegate to 7 consecutive General Conferences from 1876 to 1900, and he served as secretary of the General Conference for 23 years, from 1881 to 1904. He was an active itinerant preacher and/or district superintendent for 57 years.
2. Who would you consider the ten most influential laymen of the Central Pennsylvania Conference?\textsuperscript{18}

In 1901 laymen were not members of the annual conference. They operated behind the scenes, if at all, and through ministers – or by contacts with the bishops and presiding elders (i.e., district superintendents). This would be my list.

- Thomas H. Murray\textsuperscript{19}
- Herbert T. Ames\textsuperscript{20}
- Michael B. Rich\textsuperscript{21}
- Sterling Dickson\textsuperscript{22}
- V. Max Frey\textsuperscript{23}
- C.V. Adams\textsuperscript{24}
- R.W. Campbell\textsuperscript{25}
- Robert F. Rich\textsuperscript{26}
- Bradford O. McIntire\textsuperscript{27}

\textsuperscript{18} It’s unfortunate that Dr. Berkheimer apparently specified laymen, for even in 1965 a case could have been made for naming some female lay persons as being influential.
\textsuperscript{19} Thomas Holt Murray (1845-c1917) of Clearfield was one of Pennsylvania’s most prominent and successful trial lawyers. He was an orator of note and his speeches have been published in three volumes – which are included in the collections at the conference archives. He was a delegate to eight consecutive General Conference from 1888 to 1916.
\textsuperscript{20} Herbert Thomas Ames (1844-1936) of Williamsport was a prominent lawyer and a leader in the temperance movement. He was a delegate to 9 General Conferences – in 1884, and then to every conference from 1900 to 1928. He served one term as the mayor of Williamsport (1928 – at the age of 83!) and was a Prohibition Party candidate for US senator (1916) and governor of PA (1934 – at the age of 90!). He wrote the report to the 1908 General Conference that resulted in the creation of the Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals. At the 1919 General Conference he sponsored the original motion for full representation of laymen in the annual conferences, and he is regarded as the father of that movement. A biographical sketch of Mr. Ames is given in the 1974 *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*.
\textsuperscript{21} Michael Bond Rich of Woolrich was the first president of the Board of Directors of the Methodist Home for Aged in Tyrone, serving from 1919 until his death in 1930. He was a delegate to the General Conferences of 1920 and 1924. Michael Bond Rich is the father of Robert Fleming Rich, also on this list.
\textsuperscript{22} Sterling W. Dickson was a delegate (1912) or reserve (1920,1924,1928) to four General Conferences. He helped to make Central Pennsylvania Conference history in 1924 when he was called home to attend a funeral while seated as a reserve delegate. This opened the way for our second reserve delegate, Mrs. W.L. Woodcock, to become the first female from our conference to be seated at a General Conference.
\textsuperscript{23} V. Max Frey of York First (now Asbury) was a member of the denominational uniting conference of 1939, a delegate to the next three (1940,1944,1948) General Conferences, and a reserve delegate to the 1952 Jurisdictional Conference.
\textsuperscript{24} Charles V. Adams of Montoursville was a member of ten consecutive General Conferences from 1928 to 1964, and the denominational uniting conference of 1939. He became the first conference lay leader when that office was established in 1939 and held that position until 1948. A biographical sketch of Mr. Adams is given in the 1974 *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*.
\textsuperscript{25} Richard W. Campbell of Altoona was a delegate to seven consecutive Jurisdictional Conferences from 1940 to 1964, and a delegate to each corresponding General Conference except 1944 and 1964. He was the conference lay leader for three quadrenniums from 1948 to 1960.
\textsuperscript{26} Robert Fleming Rich (1883-1968) of Woolrich was a delegate or reserve to 6 consecutive General Conferences from 1944 to 1964. He was a benefactor to Williamsport Dickinson Seminary, where he served on the board of trustees, and the Methodist Children’s Home in Mechanicsburg. He served in the US House of Representatives 1930-43 and 1945-51. Robert Fleming Rich is the son of Michael Bond Rich, also on this list.
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This last man I cannot name now. He was cashier of the Clearfield County Bank. His successor in that position has been very useful, if not so influential. Both are or were modest and retiring men. John Patton\(^29\) of Curwensville was very influential, but perhaps chiefly because of his financial support. Perhaps this may be said also of Michael B. Rich, whose influence was chiefly in and through Williamsport Dickinson Seminary and its successor (i.e., Lycoming College). But maybe Patton should be on the list instead of M.B. Rich. C.V. Adams has not really exerted a great influence in the conference, but he has ably represented it in the General Conference and on the Board of Missions.

3. What are some distinctives of the Central Pennsylvania Conference?

The conference is distinctively rural, having no large cities – but we may not be unique in that respect. Perhaps largely for that same reason its membership is relatively less sophisticated – that is, more of the “common man” variety. But this makes us less guileful, and characterized beyond most conferences by a simple and unaffected spirit of brotherhood among its members – both ministerial and lay.

4. Would you characterize the Central Pennsylvania Conference as provincial?

Of course it is provincial, though that is surely a relative term. Such a charge against it is hard to prove, but I for one would admit it without shame or embarrassment.

Yet – consider the cosmopolitan character of many of its representatives in the General Conference and of the service they have rendered. A case in point is the election of W. Perry Eveland as a Missionary Bishop at the first General Conference he attended as a member – the conference acting spontaneously, to the surprise of both Eveland and his delegation. Consider the service of C.V. Adams on the Board of Missions and of R.W. Campbell on the Board of Lay Activities.

\(^27\) Bradford Oliver McIntire (1856-1938) of Carlisle was a professor of English at Dickinson College and taught evening Sunday School classes at Allison Church for 25 years. He was twice president of the conference Laymen’s Association and a delegate to the 1904 General Conference.

\(^28\) This is believed to be Harry B. Powell, a delegate to the 1924 General Conference.

\(^29\) General John Patton (1823-97) of Curwensville made considerable money in merchandise and lumber, and was president of the First National Bank of Curwensville. He was a delegate (1872,1880,1896) or reserve (1884) to four General Conferences, a director of Williamsport Dickinson Seminary, and a trustee of both Dickinson College and Drew Seminary. He was elected to the US Congress in 1860. A generous giver, in 1895 he pledged $10,000 to a Dickinson College building campaign – which was in addition to an equal amount he had already contributed over the previous four years.
H.L. Jacobs for several qudrenniums was one of the two or three most generally recognized leaders of the General Conference. And if I may be permitted to say it, no other conference has had a ministerial (or any other) representative on the General Council of World Service and Finance for an unbroken period of 40 years. Is that not right? My stretch was 28 years and yours was 12, as limited by law. Of course my tenure was unique – unmatched by any other and unlimited by law. So what does provincial mean?

5. What role does connectionalism play in the Central Pennsylvania Conference?

I am not sure anything special is to be said about “connectionalism” in relation to our conference – unless it means that not being “high hat” as a conference, we more readily than some other conferences acknowledge ourselves a subordinate part of a larger whole. And we are grateful to be a part, and not touchy about being reminded (if ever necessary) that we are subject to the authority of that whole. We have been willing to take orders from “above” – not meaning from God. But I can tell you an interesting story of how I made one of my bishops an enemy for life by insisting that he, though a bishop, must be subject to such orders.

6. How would you characterize the influence of Silas Comfort Swallow?

For quite some time he had a considerable influence. Was it all for good? Was it even mostly for good? I’d have to reply in the negative, but I may have been prejudiced.

But why should I have been prejudiced? I was at that time an ardent Prohibitionist, a member of the national convention of the party that nominated him for President of the United States. In the convention I opposed his nomination until put under great pressure to suppress my opposition. I never was embroiled in any of his feuds, nor were any of my intimates. Maybe I escaped narrowly. He came to hear me speak once at the Harrisburg YMCA and told somebody he was there to check out my orthodoxy. This I learned later. Evidently I gave him no occasion for offense that day.

Personally our relations were always friendly. He undoubtedly did much good. Many in the conference were devoted to him for a considerable period. He was kind and generous to many in more or less need if they did not happen to “cross” him. Such men as H.W. Hartsock and H.R. Bender who never had

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30 Henry Willis Hartsock (1877-1964) graduated from Drew Seminary in 1901, one of the few early conference ministers to have such training. Although Swallow was well-educated, he was not a seminary graduate and opposed “educating people into the ministry.” This may have been one source of the friction between the two.

31 Henry R. Bender (1847-1932) was born in Bendersville and was in the audience as a 16 year old boy when President Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address. He was recognized as a
trouble with anyone else, reported that he treated them in a most unchristian manner.

His fame acquired by his exposure of graft at the state capital – and just fame it was – apparently went to his head. His arch enemy Hartzell\textsuperscript{32} was, I suspect, not an easy man to get along with – and in this I speak in part from experience. Eveland was “paddy for him.” I remember one of their debates. It was good entertainment, but also more and better than that. Mrs. Swallow was by ALL accounts a very fine character and a lovely woman.

7. What comments would you care to make about the influence of the two colleges of our conference – Dickinson and Lycoming?

Of course both of these institutions have greatly influenced our conference. At the beginning of my ministry, the Williamsport school’s influence was much the greater of the two. It was more distinctly OUR school. It had never been anything else. Its presidents were members of our conference – in the earliest days, of course, that was the Baltimore Conference. A college diploma was not considered by most of our ministers at all necessary, or even worth the time and money required to get it. President Gray not only advised me not to seek a college education – he urged me! He was himself a graduate of the seminary only. There was a distinct rivalry between the two institutions which decreased steadily as more ministerial candidates attended both. But at the beginning of my ministry the number of ministers who had attended any college was an inconsiderable minority.

So far as I can recall, or as far as I know, Augustus Fasick\textsuperscript{33} was the first college man to be a presiding elder (or district superintendent) in our conference. College men were supposed to be somewhat uppity, but their number was steadily increasing. The Williamsport Seminary conferred degrees – the bachelor’s degree in arts, science, and (as I recall) education. Such men as J.M.M. Gray, H.W. Hartsock, A.L. Miller and J. McKendree Reily passed college by and went

good preacher and the author of four books. The title of his book *Twentieth Century Interpretation of Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians* and the fact the he quoted such contemporary philosophers as Henri Bergson and Rudolf Christoph Eucken suggest that he may have been too modern for his decidedly conservative fellow-writer Silas Swallow.

\textsuperscript{32} Charles Vinton Hartzell (1856-1927) never held any positions of power in the conference. The story behind his being the “arch enemy” of Silas Swallow is given Swallow’s *III Score and X*, in which he devotes three chapters to “Rev. Mr. Wetzell’s Treachery” – a thinly veiled reference (and word play on wet-dry issue) to Charles Hartzell. The narrative begins on page 241 with this sentence: “A member of the Central Pennsylvania Conference, who, to save the feelings of his most excellent wife and family shall in this account be known as Rev. Mr. Wetzell, was pastor of one of the smaller Methodist churches in Harrisburg.” Dr. Swallow’s one-sided account of the affair makes for most interesting reading.

\textsuperscript{33} Augustus Sayford Fasick (1867-1953) graduated from Dickinson College in 1892 and was appointed superintendent of the Harrisburg District in 1911. While Dickinson awarded him an honorary D.D. degree in 1911, he never attended seminary. It would still be a while before the conference had a district superintendent who was a seminary graduate.
directly to a theological seminary. Reily graduated from the Baltimore City College (as I recall the name), which was about equivalent to the most advanced course at the Williamsport Seminary – where graduation from the classical course enabled one to complete college in two years. I elected to take three additional years to complete college, as did most, for I was also taking the conference course of study.

I have sought to indicate that the larger role of the Williamsport Seminary in our conference was not by any means mainly due to the fact that our conference owned the school – however, that did figure in it. Early in my ministry when Dickinson was seeking to get outside aid to establish a pension fund for her faculty, it became known that its charter (even at the beginning under the Presbyterians) made it an undenominational school and only church “related” – a very elastic term. When the conference had money or proposed to raise it for schools, therefore, the Seminary (or, later, Lycoming College) ALWAYS got the lion’s share.

In my judgment, the attitude of Dickinson College toward the Williamsport school was more tolerant, and even friendly, than was that of the Williamsport school toward the college. When graduates of Dickinson one after another became president in Williamsport, however, the atmosphere changed noticeably.

Indisputably, in the early days the Williamsport Seminary served the conference MOST helpfully. Of course in those days perhaps most of the members of conference attended neither school. And many attended no school except the public schools – or a so-called “local normal school” for some weeks, as I did before going to the Seminary.

8. How does the Central Pennsylvania Conference compare with others regarding formal college or seminary ministerial training?

The proportion of ministers in our conference who were college and/or seminary graduates, say 40 years ago, as compared with other conferences? I can only guess from my limited knowledge. My guess is that our proportion was distinctly lower than that of most of the eastern conferences – and perhaps even the middle west, where colleges sprang up like mushrooms. My impression relating to the middle west I got from students I knew at Drew.

9. Should more of our young men have been encouraged to attend college and/or seminary, even though it was not a requirement?

BY ALL MEANS, YES.

10. How does the Central Pennsylvania Conference compare with others regarding transfers in from and out to other conferences?

The loss of young men to other conferences, as compared with such losses for other conferences? I do not know. But I am inclined strongly to think we did
lose more than almost any other conference – partly to do natural westward migration – though some of the mid-western conferences lost heavily because of students going east for seminary training.

**Closing Comments of the Writer**

I most heartily commend you and your associates for what you are doing, and the way you are doing it, so far as I understand your purpose and procedure. I wish I could help you more than I think I have done or can do. Of course I am a witness who has been longer deeply involved in the life of our conference than anyone else you can find alive. Some older were not so involved. So if there is for the foregoing reasons anything in me that you can get out that is worthwhile to your undertaking, you should do just what you are trying to do.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Skillington

Editor’s Closing Note: The fact that an entire question was devoted to Silas Comfort Swallow indicates what a controversial and dominating personality he was. But he was also generous – as illustrated by the 1916 gift to the Conference of his house in Camp Hill as a “Superannuates’ Cottage Home.” He had a vision of multiple single-family retirement homes for preachers, rather than placing several retirees and/or their spouses in a single large facility. The dream never materialized – and the Conference eventually sold the property, now occupied by the large ManorCare facility.