

The Rev. Dr. Wallace Guy Smeltzer

Class of 1926



The Rev. Dr. W. Guy Smeltzer was pastor to nine different Methodist congregations in western Pennsylvania during his active ministry. In addition, he painstakingly researched and recorded the history of United Methodism in that region. His significant and enduring work can be found in several books.

Smeltzer served as historian of the Pittsburgh Conference and its successors since 1936. His books include *Methodism on the Headwaters of the Ohio*, 1950; *The Story of Methodism in the Pittsburgh Region*, 1958; and *The History of Johnstown*, 1973. His 436-page research volume, *The History of United Methodism in Western Pennsylvania*, was published as the 150th anniversary volume of the Western Pennsylvania Conference.

Although he relocated to Denver, Colo., in 1971, the awardee continued as historian of the Commission on Archives and History of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. He later authored the book, *Bishop Francis Asbury: Field Marshall of the Lord*.

In addition to ministering to nine congregations between 1925 and 1965, providing community leadership, and serving on numerous boards and committees within the United Methodist Church organization, Smeltzer was a Navy chaplain for two years, participating in the Guam and Okinawa campaigns of World War II as senior headquarters chaplain.

He passed away.

Additional degrees: Honorary Doctor of Divinity, Grove City College

Additional study: Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary