



Sam Lemon, Ed.D., stands at the corner of Olive and Third Streets in Media by the Campbell AME Church which his ancestors helped establish. Across Olive Street stood the original home purchased in 1872 by his great-grandparents, Cornelius and Martha Jane Ridley. (Photo: Susan L. Serbin)

GO STAND UPON THE ROCK (2012)

“This is a book I’ve wanted to write since high school. Telling the story of my ancestors is a debt that I owe them, because they’re an important part of me; what they endured enable me to have the kind of life and opportunities I enjoy today. It was one of the reasons I wanted to earn a doctorate first, so that I could provide the scholastic and historical research as the foundation for this book, to give it — and me as the author — greater authenticity.

It’s not a documentary, and I had to create some characters, conversation and situations for the sake of continuity. But this is primarily a story based on real people and historical events.”

Lemon said the seed of his genealogical interest began with stories his grandmother shared and the wealth of photographs of the family.

“I was intensely fascinated and fell in love with these people. From all the stories and research, including the skills I learned while at Penn, I was able to weave together the novel,” said Lemon.