

JEN-977
Box 5
PACKET 10

LAURSEN, L. A.
1865-1929

L A Laursen

123 L. A. Laursen

Individual Questionnaire for

Biographical Record of Ministers

of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (in America) and its parent synods:
The United Danish Ev. Luth. Church, The Danish Ev. Luth. Church Association
in America and The Danish Ev. Luth. Church in North America.

(Compiled for the Synodical Historical Archives)

Personal Data: (Please give all information you can)

Full name: L A Laursen

Born when: Nov. 25, 1865 where: Intrup, Lejby parish (Sogn), Viborg Amt, Jutland, Denmark

Parents: Gaardejer Anders Laursen & wife, Inger Espersen, Thordahl

Baptized when and where: as infant at local parish church

Confirmed when and where: confirmed at same place by whom:

If immigrant, date of arrival in America: May 1892 located where: at Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Date of ordination: June 14, 1908 where: synodical convention at Waupace, Wis. by whom: G. B. Christiansen

If not in above synods, when and where accepted as member pastor of our synod:

Retired from active ministry when: why:

Located where: occupation:

If dead, what date: May 21, 1929 where: Omaha, Nebr. cause: Stomack ailment (Cancer)

Buried where: Atlantic, Iowa date: May 23, 1929

Marriage: (1) to whom Anna Marie Jensen Vangsgaard date and place: Oct. 28, 1898

Wife's birthdate and place: 1875 at Sonderhaae, Jutland, Denmark

Her parents: ? location: "immigrated in 1893 to Racine, Wis. head of brother there"

If wife is dead, give date: June 24, 1941 at Immanuel Hospital, Omaha where she died

(2) Second wife (if any; give same information about her):

Studied privately under Prof. P. S. Vig a year 1907 - 08 and then graduated or was examined at Trinity Seminary, Blair, Nebr. and accepted for ordination.

L. O. Laurson

Honorary Degrees received (give name of institution and date):

Biographical Record of Ministers

Other specific training:

Additional comment on above:

Ministerial Service. Please give in chronological order the names of congregations or charges served, and period of each.

- Our Savior's, ~~Luxemburg~~ ^{and} First English, Luck, Wis.; St. Pauli, Bone Lake, Wis. and Danish luth., Cushing, Wis. Aug. 1907 - Sept. 1909
- Danish Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, Iowa, at the high school - 1912 (Aug.) Pella, Omaha, Nebr. Aug. 1912 - May 1915
- President Trin. Sem. & Dana College June 1915 - Sept. 1919
- Danish Lutheran, Laurel, Nebr. Oct. 1919 - Aug. 1925
- Pella, Omaha, Nebr. Aug. 1925 - April 1929

NOTE: Our previous biographical records were lost in the tragic fire that destroyed the office building of the Lutheran Publishing House, Nebr. Feb. 15, 1933, where the synodical historian also had his office. This accounts for the fact that the records are incomplete. Be assured all cooperation in gathering this historically important data will be highly appreciated. Please fill in what you can, perhaps with the assistance of others acquainted with subject. If you can refer us to any person, book or paper that can inform us further, we shall be very much obliged to you. All our collection of cuts was also ruined in the fire. Return this report as soon as possible to

Offices held in Synod and Districts, and when:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

In Denmark:

Other activities and official services-at-large (teaching, chaplaincy, editorial, etc., and period of each):

Assisting teacher in public school at his hometown in Denmark ab.1890

..... Friskolelærer (private school teacher) on Mors Island 1891 - 92

In America:

..... Taught parochial school at Elk Horn, Ia. 1895

Teacher in a ~~xxx~~ parochial school of Emmaus Church, Racine, Wis
June 1897 - 1903

..... Principal of public school in Delafield, Wis. 1904 - 05

Literary production (books and pamphlets): Give titles and when published.

..... Teacher at Our Savior's Parochial School, Perth Amboy, New Jersey
1905 - May 1907

Additional information of interest:

Mr. Laursen's parents were devout christians and industrious farmers. Passed his childhood schooling by an unfit teacher without proper induction to serious religious commitment until his 12th year, then under the influence of a better schoolteacher and the local pastor's confirmation preparation course his conception of Christianity cleared.....

Howetter he did not find rest and assurance of peace with God before he heard a sermon of Rev. P.S. Vig during the ~~convention~~ convention in Elk Horn, Iowa, in June 1894, when the Danish Ev. Luth. Church of North America was organized by a group of pastors and congregations who segregated from old Danish Ev. Luth. Church in America, founded in the early 70ties. From then he aspired to the call of a minister.

..... He found peace and assurance during a year he worked for farmers and through contact with his friend and teacher, P.S. Vig and other pastors.

Date Signed

NOTE: Our previous biographical records were lost in the tragic fire that destroyed the office building of the Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr., Febr. 15, 1953, where the synodical historian also had his office. This accounts for the detailed questionnaire now. In the case of deceased members of our clergy we are largely dependent upon living members of their family for correct data. Be assured all cooperation in gathering this historically important data will be highly appreciated. Please fill in what you can, perhaps with the assistance of others acquainted with subject. Furthermore, if you have clippings or other material about the person concerned, especially a photo or picture of him, and we may either have it or borrow it, please send it along. All our collection of cuts was also ruined in the fire. If you can refer us to any person, book or paper that can inform us further, we shall be very much obliged to you.

Return this report as soon as possible to

Cordova, Neb.
Aug 6, 1970.

Rev. P. C. Jensen,
Blair, Neb.

Dear Rev Jensen:

Do you happen to have a copy of the "Carsberetning for 1915". If you do, I believe you can give me the information that I am after.

As I recall it, it Rev S. A. Laurson took office as president of Dana College in the fall of 1915. The book "A History of the Nebraska District of the N. E. L. C. 1897-1960" by Herbert A. Hjortsvang confirms this, as under the title of "Pella" Evangelical Lutheran Church of Omaha, Neb. it states that Laurson was pastor of "Pella" from 1912-1915.

However, the Book "Saga of the Tower" by William A. Christensen gives the impression that Laurson became president of Dana in 1914.

I also have a clipping of a list of presidents of Dana from A. M. Andersen to C. C. Madsen, stating the years that they served. In this clipping Laurson is listed

as president of Dana 1914-1919 (I cannot recall from what source I took this clipping)

This has somewhat confused me, although I still feel that my recollection is correct.

Now, the "Aarsberetning" of 1915 should contain this information and that should be authentic.

If you can clear this point for me, I shall appreciate it very much.

I was at Dana from fall of 1913 to spring 1916.

The reason that I am asking for this information is, that I am working on a manuscript on Elk Horn College and I need this information in my sketch on Laurssen.

I was at Elk Horn College 1909-1910, 1915-1916, Laurssen was president at this time. Then I was back in 1912-13 and Laurssen was not president at that time. Laurssen was one of my instructors both at Elk Horn and at Dana College in 1915-16.

With greetings

Paul Falck

Reply sent 8/15/70

Elair, Nebr. Aug. 9.1970

My dear friend from Dana Days in yester-years: Paul Falck:

So glad to hear from you and thus know you are still among the living of the old Dana-its. Furthermore that you are still interested in the history of our old Alma Mater and its personnel and leaders a half century ago, to the extent of devoting time to review some of its leaders, an interest I share with you, tho I am mainly concerned with the records of our old Synod whose educational center it was. Have you been here in the later years and seen the wonderful development on the old campus on the hill? Now to your query in regard to Rev. L.A. Laursen as president of the institution a few years some 50 years ago.

Yes, I have several copies of "Aarberetning" 1915 and of several years from that time. I'll send you a couple, as they would be thrown away after I hide in mother earth, I have a complete collection of all years since they first were published in 1891, and have supplied several church libraries or archives with same. Likewise of our synodical papers and annuals, as "Dansk Almanak", and "Christmas Chimes" All my collection of books, papers, annuals, magazines and clippings and personal writings, is donated to Dana College historical archive in the large new Library.

Your question aroused my interest in the matter of Laursen's time of service as head of Dana and Trinity. The first mention of him starts in A.B. 1914 page 93, where the School Board presents to the annual convention the motion to establish a special office as president of the institution (college and seminary) while Vig and C.X. Hansen remain "Deans". On Page ~~133~~ 133 the convention approves this; pp.136 Laursen is elected, but does not accept pp.139, and Henry Bondo is elected; if he refuse the Board is authorized to call another.

In Yearbook 1915 pp.84 report a board meeting June 17-18, 1914, issued again the call to Laursen; he requested time to consider it after he first said no. He finally agreed to accept and a board meeting held Dec 11, 15, 1914 reports he had resigned his membership on the Schoolboard and his pastorate at Omaha, leaving it May 1915 according to a record I have of the service time of all our UELC ministers in various charges. But I cannot find anywhere what date he tookover the charge at the school; same record which gives the months as well as years a pastor served each charge, states Laursen was at Dana from June 1915 - Sept, 1919 (The record was made out for me as synodical historian by Rev. A. Hofgaard from his files of pastors, as secretary of the Pension Fund, and should be reliable). In Yearbook 1916, pp 95, H.P. Jensen in his report to the convention in June states "This has been the first year of Pastor Laursen as "Forstander" of the School" As it was my last year in the seminary it agrees with my recollection, as well as with yours. As Herb Hjortsvang depended on my historical information when we prepared the "History of the Nebraska District" he has the correct year. I did not collaborate near as much with Bill Christensen in preparing the data for his "Saga of the Tower" but often consulted me and my historical literature.

Well, Paul, it's bedtime for an octogenarian (83rd year) so I must close. My "better half", Kirsten Schmidt, if you remember her from her year, 1913-14, at Dana, has already hit the hay about an hour ago. We are both quiet well yet, have our good home right in the heart of this old "Heart of the Synod" and three of our four married daughters living here with their families, all well-to-do in good jobs and healthy, which we praise the Lord for every day. Only C.B. Larsen, Frank Nielsen & I are left above sod of the 10 pastors of the old Synod who retired here. But we still have a $\frac{1}{2}$ dusin "Præstefruer" here. One suddenly left us last year, Mrs. Marius Jørgensen, who without any warning went to Cedar Rapids and married Rev. John M. Jensen. A news item recently informed they are now residing at the Good Samaritan Village at Hastings.

How are you getting along by now - and the family?

May we by the grace of Jesus Christ meet at His feet up yonder!

B. C. Jensen