

JEN-977
BOX 7
PACKET 3

RAHBECK, NIELS MARIUS NIELSEN
1871-1897

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: Niels Marius Nielsen Rahbeck

Born when: Feb. 19, 1871 where: Egvad, Sdr. Jylland, Danmark

Baptized when and where: same place

Confirmed when and where: same place by whom:

If immigrant, date of arrival in America: 1891 located where: Elk Horn, Iowa

Date of ordination: Oct. 24. 1896 where: Cedar Falls, Iowa by whom: G.B. Christiansen
the first ^{where:} ordinant in the synod

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 29, 1897 where: Cedar Falls, Ia. cause: Tubercolosa

Buried where: From Nazareth Church, Cedar Falls, Ia. date June 4, 1897

Marriage: (1) to whom date and place:

planned with Miss Eline Arildsen May 1, 1897 but his demise cancelled it
Wife's birthdate and place: She then trained for the foreign mission work and was the
first sent out by the Synod accompanied by Miss Anna B. Madsen

Her parents: location:

If wife is dead, give date

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

Children (give names and other information of interest, as occupation, spouse, and present address):

.....

Biographical Record of Minister

.....

(Provide A Testimony If Not Given Below for the Guidance of the Church)

.....

Other information on family of historical interest, i.e., members in the ministry, missionary work, teaching and medical professions, etc.:

.....

No vita with information on parents..... available.....

His was a private arranged ordination at Cedar Falls, Ia.
and the first in the new Synod.

Likewise his death was the first though he was the youngest in the
Synod.

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Educational Training: Give name of institution, location, and when attended.

High Schools: No information whether or not he had advanced schooling
in Denmark

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Over here he studied at the Danish Highschool in Elk Horn, Iowa
from his arrival in 1871 -74 winter terms

Colleges (Give also degrees attained):

.....

Theological Schools: Studied Theology at the seminary department established
by the Danish Ev. Luth. Church of North America in 1894 at the high-
school in Elk Horn, Iowa 1894-86.

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

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.

Bethany Danish Ev. Luth. Congregation at Arcola, Texas Oct. 1896.....
(* newly organized by some danish settlers there April 1897
and not continued by synod after his death.....

Offices held in Synod and Districts, and when:

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

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

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Additional information of interest:

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.....
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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

Blair, Nebr. MArtch 26, 1971

Dear Friend and Fellow-Pastor, MATHias G.Christensen:

Received you letter yesterday regarding some information about Pastor N. Marius Rahbeck. For data I looked for such in my Chronological Data

List of all member pastors in our UDELChurch, where he is the 64th to join Sýnod; that is the first ordained and adopted after ~~the~~ all the 63, that joined at the Unionion Meeting Sept 30 - Oct. 2, 1896 at Minneapolis. He was ordained Oct 24, 1896 at Cedar Falls, Ia. by synodical president G.B.Christiansen, assisted by A.L.J.Søholm, Niels Lang, and P.L.C.Hansen upon a call from the Danish Lutheran Congregation near Arcola, Texas. (Arb. 1897 page 30). He was born ~~on~~ Febr. 19, 1871, immigrated in 1891 from Denmark, and died May 29, 1897. names of his parents are not given.

The next mention of him in the Year Books ia in the 1897 issue, where on page 236 in the ministerial report on the congregations, he has reported Bethania d.ev.1 mgh., Arcola, Texas, 12 Gudsstjester, 30 konf. Mdl., 5 døbt, 19 nadvergæster, 2 par viede. 2 optaget, 1 død; 3 SS Larere og 20 SS børn.

Side 62 meddeles til Aarsmødet, afholdt 27. Maj osv., af Pastor P.L.C.Hansen, Cedar Falls, at han bragte en hjertelig hilsen fra vor broder, Pastor N.M.N.Rahbeck, som laa dødssyg i C.F.. Hvorpaas Forsamlingen forenedes i Bøn for ham, at Herren vilde styrke ham og holde hans haand, medens han gik gennem Dødens mørke vande. Hvorpaas en telegrafisk Hilsen blev sendt fra Mødet Næste dag bragte Mr.J.Clausen fra C.F., der var lige kommen, en hjertelig fra Pastor Radbeck for den telegrafiske hilsen. Denne lød: "Vær tro indtil Døden, saa vil jeg give dig Livsens Krone".

I have not been able to find in Aarsberetninger Radbeck's vita nor a mention of his death. However he must have died before the first convention in 1897 closed, which sent him above greeting.

Well, I don't give-up for that. Down in our spacious basement I have piles of papers and magazines from years gone-by, and some up-to-date too. There is "Dansk Luth.Kirkeblad" from its beginning until it was swallowed by L.U. in 1920 And a collection of Indre Missions Tidende going back a century, and I am still getting it from Denmark, and much more. Dana and A.L.C. Archives at Wartburg will soon get of it what they want, and maybe other colleges can be supplied. The Norwegians are interested. Hope it can be cleared out this year - My "Better-Half" share this hope!!! Hm. She has not been so well this year - coronary trouble caused evidently by hardening of the viens - is her ailment and gets medicare right along. My trouble bodily is arthritis in the lower back, so I dont jump much around anymore. Frank Nielsen, my dear old chum here, is afflicted with blood-bleeding in his stomach, and is hospitalized off-and-on. He got a transfusion yesterday, when I was up to see him; will be there a week.

Well, I was broken off in my report on Rahbeck, when my COOK called for supper. It's 7.30 pm now so I better get that Vita copied of in a hurry, if I want to read todays news and join Katie watching T.V.. Our war over in Viet Nam is going backward on our good President Nixon. Too bad!

Sincerely yours in Christ and church interest

from Dr. Kbd. some items there

P.C.Jensen

P.S. Will copy ~~the vita~~ on a seperate sheet. Want to file a copy myself, as I have the habit of doing of all my historic and poetic items,

* * * * *

Well, WELL! I see ~~the~~ item in large print on first page of D.L.Kbd Nr. 11. 1897 dated JunelOth; it's just an Announcement by I.M.Hansen:

PASTOR M. N. M. RAHBECK

af "Den Forende danske ev.-luth.Kirke" døde i Cedar Falls, Iowa, d. 29. Maj og blev begravet dersteds d. 4. Juni. Han blev ordineret d. 24 Okt. 1896 og virkede som Præst mellem Danske i den nydannede danske Koloni ved Arcola, Texas. Han fyldte sit 26. År d. 19. Febr. 1897. Mere om ham i næste Nummer af Kbd.

PASTOR NIELS MARIUS NIELSEN RAHBECK

Born Feb.19,1891, at Egvad, So.Jutland, Denmark.

Immigrated to USA in 1891. Ordained pastor in the UDELChurch 1896.

Died May 29,1897 at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and buried there.

Following sketch of his life by Rev.I.M.Hansen appeared in "Dansk Lutherisk Kirkeblad" Nr.18 June 20,1897, Copied by P.C.Jensen,Archivist.

Pastor N.M.N.Rahbeck, hvis billede er paa Forsiden af dette nummer af vort Samfundsblad, henslumrede i Døden i Cedar Falls, Ia. medens vi holdt Samfundets første Aarsmøde i Blair, Nebr.. Han var født d.19.Febr.1871 i Egvad, Sdr.Jylland. I 1891 Rejste han til Amerika. Han var ikke noget omvendt menneske den gang, men ved Guds blev han det. Naar og hvorledes hans omvendelse skete er mig ikke bekendt, men jeg troer nok at det foregik under hans ophold i Elk Horn, Iowa. Dertil kom han nemlig straks efter hand ankomst her til landet. Han begyndte med at studere der paa ene den danske højskole; og da senere en præsteskole blev begyndt der, kom han ind i dens teologiske afdeling. Straks efter at han havde begyndt at studere teologi blev han syg, og maatte for sit helbrede skyld gøre en rejse til Danmark. Det skete i foraaret 1895 og fra den stammer vort bekendtskab. Jeg besøgte nemlig fædrelandet samme sommer, og Student Radbeck og jeg mødtes i Brooklyn, N.Y. hvorfra vi fulgtes ad over Atlanterhavet. For mig er det et kært minde at tænke paa de mange timer vi gik Side om Side frem og tilbage paa "Islands" dansk og talte sammen. Jeg lærte at kende ham som et fromt, stille og ydmygt Guds barn, der kunde sige som Sangeren, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus sigter alt mit hjertes øske til". Jeg mindes ogsaa, hvor beredvillig den afdøde var, naar jeg skulde afholde møder paa skibet, til at faa møderne bekendtgjort og faa andet ordnet.

Radbeck fandt ikke helbredelse i Danmark for den tæringssyge eller brystsige, som gnavede paa hans livsrod; men han fandt dog lindring og vandt en del kræfter, saa han samme efteraar kunne vende tilbage og opnage sine studier paa Elk Horn skole. Han tog sin eksamen næste foraar og med kald fra den nye dansk ev-luth.menighed i Arcola, Texas, blev han ordineret til Præst d.24.Okt.1896 i vor kirke i Cedar Falls, Ia. af den Forenede Danske Kirkes Formand. Han rejste saa til sit Kald i Texas og arbejdede der sidste vinter. Han var glad i sin gerning, særlig udtalte han sin glæde over konfirmandklassen og sit arbejde med den.

Men kræfterne svandt, svagheden tiltog, og sidste foraar rejste han til Cedar Falls, hvor hans trolovede Brud, Elise Arildsen, bor. Bestemmelsen var, om Herren gav Liv og helbred, at de skulde have holdt bryllup og været med til Aarsmødet i Blair, og saa have rejst til Arcola i Juni. Men Gud vilde det anderledes. Samme dag, som de efter bestemmelsen skulde have rejst til Texas, fulgte vi Pastor Rahbecks Støv til hvile.

Pastor P.L.C.Hansen (den gang præst ved Nazaret kirke i Cedar Falls) var ved Pastors dødsleje sidste gang kort før sin afrejse til mødet i Blair og uddelte Herrens Nadvere til den syge. Han læste Davids 32te salme, og især følte Pastor Radbeck sig trøstet ord deri: "Komme store vandskyl, skulde de ikke naa ham". Hans sidste ord til Pastor Hansen var: "Paa Gensyn!"

Pastor Hansen bragte en hilsen fra den syge og døende broder. Aarsmødet telegraferede tilbage til ham: "Vår tro indtil døden, saa vil jeg give dig livsens krone." Da han modtog den svarede ham: Saa tænker de dog paa mig!"

Dagen før sin død forekom det ham som om han havde en del mennesker om sig. Han talte til folkene i Arcola om Jesus i Gethsemene og formandede dem til at holde fast ved troen paa Kristus, da skulde de atter mødes i Himmelten. Han talte til Menighederne i Elk Horn og Cedar Falls om Jesu ord til Peter: "Elsker du mig?" Og med særlig hensyn til sin Søndagsskole-klasse i Elk Horn sagde han: "Vogt mine Lam!"

En af dem, som stod om hans dødsleje, søgte at sige nogle beroligende ord til den døende; men han svarede med fuld bevissthed: "Bort med alt andet end Guds Ord; kun Guds Ord kan hjælpe, det alene holder. I den

sidste stund klamrede han sig især til ordet: "Jesu Kristi, Guds Søns blod renser fra al synd". Han blev ved at nævne Jesu navn til det sidste, og saaledes lukkede han sine øne i døden Lørdag d. 29. Maj.

Hans begravelse foregik Fredag d. 4. Juni. Under aarsmødet i Blair blev skreven en sang, som blev oplæst paa selve Mødet og sendt som en afskedshilsen derfra. Den blev sunget i Kirken. Fra Samfundets præster blev sendt en smuk sølvkrans, som inde i Kirken blev lagt paa hans kiste. Til Kransen skulde Pauli ord knyttés; "Retfærdighedens Krone er henlagt til mig" (2.Tim.4,8).

Ved Sørgegudstjenesten i Kirken i Cedar Falls talete Præsterne G.B. Christiansen, H. Hansen, Stedets præst og undertegnede, og Pastor L. Pedersen oplæste nogle skriftafsnit og holdt bøn.

Dagen hældede før den store ligskare naaede ud paa Byens kirkegaard. Solen daledede i Vest, da vor broders støv nedsænkedes i Graven. Pastor P.L.C. Hansen forretede jordpaakastelsen. Stille var Broder Radbecks vandrin imellem os, stille henvor han i troen med Herrens fred, og da vi bød hans grav farvel var det som om "den liflige aftenrøde" hviskede til os: "Han sov hen, som sol i høst gaar ned".

I.M. Hansen

med Rahbeck datoer
for brylluppet var sat,
alt var rede — og så
døde han af tøring?
Begravet her i C. Falls.

Ja jeg kommer til
vort gamle samfunds
historiker, så nu må
du hjelpe! Please!

Spring is dragging
its feet in our area;
this winter seems ex-
tra long, perhaps we
haven't been home the
last 2-3 winters but
in warmer climates!

Ned Lilsen & Tæk
Math

More information
and 3/29/11



The Rev. P. C. Hansen,
115 50. 18th St.,
Blair, Neb. 68008

M. G. CHRISTENSEN
1227 Catherine
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

REV. M. G. CHRISTENSEN
1227 Catherine
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Cedar Falls, Iowa
March 24. 1971

Kære P.C. Jensen!

Hvor meget ved du om
Marienius & Rahbeck?

Kender du nogen som
ved mere end vi fin-
der i Samfundsels '25

År? Han synes at være
ordineret i 1896 som
den første i den foren-
de Kirke. Hvor blev
han ordineret? Hans
skolegang ud over
Elk Horn? & Bentzen,
L H Kjær, J A Lund synes
at være ordineret sam-
me år, men hvor?

Rahbecks navn synes
at være stavet på flere
måder - den rette?

Før vor Centennial er
jeg ved at skrive dor
vore 2 første missions-
rer - Elsie Arildsen og
Anna B Madsen.

Elsie A. var jo forlovet