

JEN-977
Box 7
PACKET 11

ROMER, JOHN CHRISTEN
1886-1947

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178 John Romer

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: John Christen Romer
Born when: Feb. 9, 1886 where: Skjorping, Jutland, Denmark
Baptized when and where: Same Year - Same Place
Confirmed when and where: 1900 Trinity L. Church Albert Lea by whom: J.J. Kildsig
If immigrant, date of arrival in America: 1890 located where: Freeborn Co. Minn.
Date of ordination: June 6, 1920 where: Hutchinson - Minn. by whom: G. B. Christiansen
Retired from active ministry when: - why: -
Located where: - occupation: -
If dead, what date: Oct 17, 1947 where: Oaks, Okla. cause: cancer
Buried where: Fredricksburg, Minden, Neb date: Oct 20, 1947

Marriage: (1) to whom Agnes Larsen date and place: May 29, 1920, Sioux City, Ia
Wife's birthdate and place: Sept. 28, 1894 Mitchell, S. Dak
Her parents: Fred and Anna Larsen location: ~~Iowa~~ Sioux City, Ia.
If wife is dead, give date April 22, 1932
(2) Second wife (if any; give same information about her) Helen Sagen -

Birthdate and place - Nov. 14, 1895, Fertile, Iowa
Parents: Halvor and Anna Sagen, Fertile, Iowa

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

Dorothy Ann Romer - Nurse - Minneapolis, Minn.
 John Carlton Romer - Employee with Harvey Co - Torrence, Cal
 Robert Fred Romer ^(married) - Assistant Credit Manager
 International Harvester Co, Sweetwater, Texas
 Harold Luther Romer - ~~(married)~~ Entering Dental School
 this fall Lincoln, Nebr.
 Howard Philip Romer - (married) Position in the Engineering
 Dept, Douglas Aircraft, Tulsa, Okla

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

A brother, Einer Romer is pastor of Lutheran
 Church, Aroca, Iowa.
 A sister, Marie, married to Rev. ~~A. J.~~ Larsen
 now in Herning, Denmark. J.A.

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

High Schools: Academy, Dana College, Blair, Neb 1913

Colleges (Give also degrees attained): Rec'd Bachelor of Arts degree from U. of Nebraska in 1917

Theological Schools: Trinity Seminary at Blair, Nebr., completing course in 1920

Honorary Degrees received (give name of institution and date)

Parents: Father (give name, birthplace, occupation, residence, etc.)

J. Christian Romer
born on Island of Bornholm, Denmark - 1857-Oct. 10
- farmer - near Albert Lea, Minn.

Mother (give her maiden name, birthplace, home before marriage, etc.)

Petrea Christensen Romer born in Jutland 1854
Apr. 26

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

U. Danish Ev. Luth Church, Duluth, Minn. and
West Superior, Wisc. 1920-1925
Fredricksburg Luth. Church, Minden, Nebr. 1925-1938
Missionary Pastor of the Cherokee Indian Mission,
Oaks, Okla. 1938-1947

NOTE: Our previous biographical records were lost in the tragic fire that destroyed the office building of the Lutheran Historical Society in 1955. Where the synodical historian also had his office. This accounts for the missing data in the records of their family for correct data. Be assured 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. and we may either have it or borrow it, please send it along. All our collection of cuts was also ruined in the fire.

Return this report as soon as possible to

REV. F. C. LARSEN
STENOGRAPHY & PRINTING
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
DULUTH, MINN.

Offices held in Synod and Districts, and when:

Member of the Board of Directors of
Dana College and Trinity Seminary
Member of the Board of Examiners of
Trinity Seminary
Committee member of the Estes Park Bible
School of the Denver area.

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

~~A~~

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

One of the editors of "The Home Altar"
devotional book - pub. in 1936. Wrote devotions
for "Wells of Salvation" pub. in 1944.

Additional information of interest: His biography is given in
the "Nebraskana" pub. in 1932. He was elected
to life membership in "The Nebraskana Society"
in recognition of outstanding achievements
toward the social and economic progress of
The State of Nebraska.

Date

July 12, 1954

Signed

Mrs. Helen S. Romer

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

REV. P. C. JENSEN
STATISTICIAN & HISTORIAN
UNITED EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
BLAIR, NEBRASKA

BETHANY HOME MESSENGER

Published monthly by the

Bethany Old People's Home, Minden, Nebr.

Editor: Rev. A. Hofgaard

Subscription price 25 cents a year

Entered as second-class matter April 14, 1927, at the post office at Minden, Nebraska, under act of March 3, 1879.

Mr. Jens Christensen has just arrived from Sherburn, Minnesota. He is of the same age as the lady just mentioned. So we again experience that as some go others come and take their place.

As we receive inquiries and applications, it continues to remind us of the fact that it is often difficult for old folks to enter a home when they need it because arrangements were not made in time, and when they wished to enter there was no room. We believe it would be a good policy for those who contemplate entering a home to make arrangements early. Thereby we mean years in advance. Make a deposit with the home for the years when you become old and helpless. If you should not live until such a time, let your deposit be made so it then becomes a gift to the home. You are then helping some other old person to care in old age. If anyone should be interested in making such arrangements to enter the home here we would be glad to correspond with you. We all know from experience that some are unfortunate in the investment of their savings and often all is lost and then there is nothing for old age.

We are pleased to hear that

Bethel Home at Selma, Calif., is building the first unit of a larger building which will be connected to the present building. May God bless their work that it may be a haven of rest for many in their declining years.

We are not progressing very fast with our building fund. We have in view about \$1,000 and believe we can get some more here in Minden. But unless some person with means and a willing heart gives a larger gift we will not be able to build this year. But even if we do not build this summer, we hope some will help us so we do not lose the \$10,000 gift.

Our general fund is also very low. At times we must ask our workers and others to wait a while for their pay. By making some small loans we have managed until today. Our Lord has taught us to pray: "Give us this day our daily bread."

All have been quite well of late with the exception of Mrs. Hans Nielsen who continues to be about the same as last we wrote. She improves at times and then some other ailment comes and sets her back. She continues to need constant care.

Missionary Activity

By missionary activity we have in mind not all missionary activity but only that which was committed to the Christian Church by its Lord.

The thought of carrying on this activity did not originate in man. It is God's way of offering to mankind the salvation which He prepared for all through Jesus Christ. It rests squarely on His commands which say, "Go and make disciples of all nations," and, "Ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." These commands applied not only to the disciples then assembled with Jesus but to the Christian Church to the end of time. Again, these commands apply to individual Christians and to groups of Christians.

Every Christian should have a part in this work. Much fine missionary work has been carried out down through the ages to the present time. Let us thank God for all that has been done. Let us remember in gratitude those who labored, sacrificed and died in the service. Yet, much more is to be done. If every Christian clearly sees his responsibility and privilege much more will be accomplished.

There are home missions and there are foreign missions. Comparatively few Christians can go out to foreign fields but every one can have a part in giving the Gospel its rightful place in his own home and in his own community. And every Christian can

The map of the early Christian world is the tracings of the missionary journeys of the apostles.

The problems which arose in the early Church were largely questions of missionary procedure.

Of the twelve apostles chosen by the Lord Jesus every apostle except one became a missionary.

The only man among the twelve apostles who did not become a missionary became a traitor.

So far The Expositor. From the teachings of the New Testament, direct and implied, and from the history of the Christian Church in the days of the Apostles and ever since there is abundant proof that true Christianity expresses itself in missionary activity. Christian friend, what part are you taking in this activity?

John C. Romer.

Doktorer, gjorde jeg ikke noget godt. Jeg prædiker i Stedet for paa det enfoldigste for de ulærde, og det passer alle. Kan jeg Græsk eller Hebraisk, sparer jeg det, til vi lærde kommer sammen. Der er vi saa mærkværdige, at vor Herre storlig maa forundre sig.

Vil nogen være en Prædikant, maa han sige: „Dette er Sandhed; dette er Løgn.” Og staar han fast ved, at Paven har løjet og forført Verden, saa faar han Ære fra Tilhørernes Side, nemlig de gudfrygtiges Omdømme, at en saadan Prædikant lærer ret og kristeligt og har Sandheden for sig.

I mine Prædikener beflitter jeg mig paa at tage et Ord for mig og holde fast ved det med Undervisning og Udlægning. Saa kan Folket sige: „Om dette handlede Prædikenen.”

MRS. REV. JOHN C. ROMER

It was unexpected to all to learn of the rather sudden death of Mrs. Romer the evening of April 22nd. Funeral services were held from the Fredericksburg church, of which her husband is pastor, Tuesday, April 26th. Thirteen pastors had come and all wore their pastoral robes and all took some part in the service in some way except J. Chr. Pedersen of Dannebrog, pastor emeritus, whose health is poor. Rev. M. Th. Jensen of Hampton, president of the Nebraska district, was in charge throughout. The Fredericksburg choir sang several songs in the home and in the church.

Interment was in the Fredericksburg cemetery.

Agnes (Larsen) Romer was born September 28, 1894, at Mitchell, So. Dak. Shortly after the family moved to Vermillion, So. Dak., and about three years later to Sioux City, Iowa. Here Agnes lived with her parents until she was married to John C. Romer on May 29, 1920. Immediately after the wedding they went to the annual convention of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran church in America, held in Hutchinson, Minn. Here he was ordained to the ministry. After the convention they went to Duluth, Minn., to serve St. Luke's Lutheran church of that place and Immanuel Lutheran church of Superior, Wis. After serving there five and one-half years they moved to their present charge at Fredericksburg. Five children, all of whom are living, were born.

She leaves to mourn her loss her husband, Rev. John C. Romer, the five children, her mother, Mrs. Fred Larsen, besides many other relatives and friends.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Two new members have been added to the Home family the past month. Mrs. Ellen Tyson came April 15th from a home in Sutton. The county commissioners of Harlan county, who care for her, desired to make the change. She is quite well advanced in years, being 84.

pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers. He can also support the work with his prayers and with his means.

Whenever any cause is to be carried out on a large scale organization is necessary. Organization is good. It may be improved from time to time. Today the Christian Church is organized. Our greatest need, however, is not more organization but a greater measure of the Spirit and love of Christ.

Sometimes church members complain about all the money that is spent on foreign missions. Such persons need to open their hearts and minds to the Light from on High. Hitler, no doubt, thought he was practicing a wise economy when he ordered that no money must be sent out of Germany for missions on foreign fields. Christians in Germany were cut off from sending support to the missionaries they had sent out. When German military forces occupied other countries Hitler added this sin to his many others that Christians of these countries likewise were cut off from supporting their missionaries on foreign fields. The end is not yet. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools," says Paul.

Missionaries must be sent. They must be sent by the Christian Church. "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?" (Rom. 10:14-15.)

Past history shows that persecution did not destroy the Church. Rather, persecutions tended to purify the Church and spread the Gospel. After three hundred years of persecution in the old Roman Empire the number of Christians had greatly increased. After the martyrdom of Stephen in the days

Jerusalem. The Christians except the Apostles were scattered abroad in Judea and Samaria. Philip preached Christ in Samaria. Great missionary activity resulted at that place.

Personal evangelism is the cheapest, easiest and most natural way of spreading the Gospel. Results bear this out. Jesus found Philip and he in turn brought in Nathanael. Andrew brought Peter, and Peter won three thousand souls in one day. These in turn were scattered and brought in many others. There were added to the Church day by day those that were saved. Jesus wins a woman at a well. She goes and wins many more from her native city. Some one wins Aquila and Priscilla. In their house they assemble Christians and seekers after God. Paul refers to this place as a church. Here also they expounded more accurately the way to the gifted Apollos. And so, in spite of human frailty and error, the work has gone on down to the present time.

Under the caption, The Bible Is a Missionary Book, the 1936 Concordia Pulpit in its chapter on Missions quotes the following statements from The Expositor:

Every book in the New Testament was written by a missionary.

Every epistle in the New Testament that was written to a church was written to a foreign-mission church.

Every letter in the New Testament that was written to an individual was written to a convert of a foreign missionary.

The one book of prophecy in the New Testament was written to seven foreign-mission churches in Asia.

The disciples were called Christians first in a foreign-mission community.

The language of the books of the New