

From: Edward A. Hansen <edwardhansen@worldnet.att.net>  
Date: Sat Jun 18, 2005 11:52:33 AM US/Central  
To: "James Iversen" <iversenji@qwest.net>  
Subject: Re: P.S. Vig's Trinity History

Dear Jim,

Thanks for the copy of Vig's book on Trinity Seminary after 25 years. I am excited about your fine translation. A few writers of the UELC have gleaned some facts from Vig's original book in the past -- John M. Jensen, Paul Nyholm, etc. But there is nothing quite comparable to being able to read the entire original book in English, to get the sense of Vig's original writing.

Before you get around to a final editing, I would like to discuss how one best translates the word "Skolen" in Vig's book.

You and I know the hill in Blair, of course, as DANA COLLEGE. In the years we were there, Trinity Seminary was only a small part of the campus. In 1935 I came to Blair to enroll at DANA COLLEGE. Certainly 'college' is one appropriate translation of 'Skole' -- but at a later period.

At the beginning, however, THE SCHOOL was spoken of as "our training school for pastors". Those who had taken studies in Minneapolis were at Augsburg Seminary. Seminary is a good word -- "seed plot". But in American parlance, that word was often taken over by schools other than theological training. So, for example, some budding teachers received an education at "\_\_\_\_\_ Seminary for Young Women."

My contention is that Vig used the word "Skolen" in the earlier parts of this book to refer to what the young church saw as its greatest need: A Training School for Pastors. --Not really only a School of Theology, although theological studies were conducted. Really, what they started to build was A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR PASTORS. Some theology, along with some practical knowledge of how to serve as ministers for the new immigrants from Denmark.

It seems to me that Vig is saying that A. M. Andersen was responding to the mandate of the church convention when he initiated Trinitatis Seminarium. It was a training school for pastors. Later it assumed the fuller name Trinity Theological Seminary. Still later, a need was seen for some curricular courses of higher education, and Dana College was added. The latter grew with the years, and then the title for the buildings on the hill in Blair was DANA COLLEGE AND TRINITY SEMINARY.

If I were producing this MSS in book form, I think I would try to make this clear for readers who know only English. Maybe a translator's footnote would help.

Thanks again for all your efforts to make this book available in English. I know what a time-consuming job it is!

Ed

On Saturday, June 18, 2005, at 08:05 AM, James Iversen wrote:

Hi Ed

Here it is:

**Trinity Seminary**  
The First Danish School of Theology in America

**Twenty Five Years**

A contribution to the History of the Lutheran Church and the Danish People in America  
By

**P.S. Vig**  
President of Trinity Seminary

**Blair, Nebraska**  
Danish Lutheran Publishing House  
1911

**Trinity Seminary - 25 Years**  
A look back

"Trinity Seminary" -- the holy Trinity nursery, -- a suitable name of a school for those intending to serve the Word, who shall sow the seeds in order to bear fruit to an eternal life in the World of the dead and corrupted! Twenty Five years is not only one fourth of a century, the best third part of a person's long life, but according to old church rules and accounting it is the age which a man should have reached before he can be ordained to be a pastor, serve in a sanctuary, just as 25 years in civil life is one of the conditions

to be selected for a higher position.

Twenty Five years is a long time, not least of the days in this young country, where we live. The restlessness has made many men and women old, when they are 25 years, if they still are counted among the living. Much can be accomplished -- and very much can be neglected or forgotten in the first 25 years of a person's life, which can later be felt and noticed until the end.

But now we should fix our attention on the school, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary and especially on that period which lies between the 21st of October, 1886 and the 21st of October, 1911.

But to correctly understand this period of time it is necessary to fix attention on a good many things which happened before the 21st of October, 1886. These things we can best picture under the title of ---

### I. PREHISTORY,

and this prehistory can be divided into several periods. But since we do not have that much space here, we will be satisfied just to name some main points. And among these one of the first and foremost is

#### Augsburg Seminary

In Minneapolis, Minnesota. This school, which began in Marshall, Wisconsin in 1869, and in 1872 found its home in Minneapolis, must especially be named here, because the pastors who founded Trinity Seminary all received their theological training at Augsburg, and this school's teachers and leaders, the Professors Weenaas, Sverdrup, Oftedal and for a time Gunnerson had with love comprised the mission among the Danes in America. Most of the faculty at Trinity Seminary until 1896 had been students at Augsburg Seminary, and this school has in the whole provided the pattern for the school in Blair. There were Danes among the students at the Norwegian seminary at both Marshall and Minneapolis, and they were especially among those who were influenced by "Inner Mission" in Denmark. The man by which the "Conference" was formed, Pastor Claus Lauridsen Clausen, was Danish and from his youth knew the revival era from which "Inner Mission" appeared.

#### The Danish Pastors in the Conference.

The young Danish men who had received their education at Augsburg, wished to become employed as pastors in Danish congregations or as missionaries in large Danish settlements, especially in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska. Often they had to interrupt their education at the school, before they wished, because the mission among their countrymen called to them. As pioneers among these pastors one can especially name H. Hansen from Sjælland and A.M. Andersen from the "Strong Jutlander" (*Stærk Jyder*) country between Vejle and Horsens. -- it was especially because of these two that the Danes in the Conference did not become "Norwegian". The literary vehicle which contributed more than anything else to this was

#### "Dansk Luthersk Kirkeblad" (Danish Lutheran Church Paper)

published by the Danish pastors in the Conference for the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Edited by A.M. Andersen, Racine, Wisconsin.

The first issue of this periodical came out in August 1877 and from the first the 16-page monthly paper diligently brought the message from Denmark obtained from "*Indre Missions-Tidende*" (Inner Mission Times), "*Almindelig Kirketidende*" (The Normal Church Times), and from correspondents among the Danes in America. Especially from the beginning of 1882 this paper began to publicize the

#### College Issue

Already in 1881 it can be read that this matter had been discussed at meetings, which the Danish pastors held in their associations, but especially in 1882 both laymen and pastors talked about this issue of starting a college both at meetings and in the little church paper's columns. And one notices through these contributions that the matter was discussed with lively interest. So it is thus quite remarkable, that through the year 1883, nothing was written about this matter. The reason for that is that it was in that year discussion arose about employing a Danish professor at Augsburg Seminary, without however, that coming to fruition. However, it is also probably true, that the thought about a college for a time was left in the background, because the thought among the Danes in the Conference was taken up by a greater thought, namely,

#### The Danish Separation from the Conference.

And this thought became reality in the beginning of 1884, after it had already been debated at meetings in the two preceding years. At an area meeting in Omaha from 28 February to 2 March in 1884, which in all involved 28 participants, 5 of whom were pastors, it was agreed unanimously to withdraw from the Conference. Next it was agreed to send a man to Denmark to do business with the Inner Mission, to create a committee to consider seeking a merger with the Danish Church in America, or to found their own organization, and in the last instance to publish a proposed constitution for a meeting to take place in the fall, which would be held at Argo, Burt County, Nebraska, Pastor A.M. Andersen's congregation.

#### The Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Association in America

Was founded at the meeting in St. Johannes Congregation in Argo from 11 to 14 September, 1884, where a constitution was accepted, and the directors of the Synod were elected. For us in this connection the most important decision that the newly founded little Synod agreed upon was that the Synod should, as soon as possible, build a theological seminary. At the meeting a committee of five members was elected (Pastors A.M. Andersen, Chairman, H.P. Bertelsen, G.B. Christiansen, and laymen G.A. Bøje and P.T. Jacobsen) to take up the seminary matter and ordered the committee to send a letter of call to Pastor H. Steffensen in Smidstrup, Denmark, as Professor at the seminary.

Photograph - THE HOUSE WHERE THE SCHOOL STARTED.

#### The School in Blair

But both the new school and the new professor were far away. There were other matters to consider which were more immediately at hand, the large mission work and the few workers. Of the 10 young men who were educated to be pastors at Marshall and Minneapolis, there were only 6 along at the formation of the new synod. Two others were ordained and one other joined at the meeting in Argo. Thus there were 9 pastors. But they quickly got to work to educate more. The new Synod's elected committee requested

(in agreement with the decision made at the founding meeting) Pastor A.M. Andersen to begin a new school for those intending to become pastors, and despite the fact that he was already overloaded with work as Secretary for the Synod and Pastor of 5 or 6 congregations, he quickly started the work as Professor. He had moved to Blair in 1883 with his family and there had built his own house. The first Danish Seminary in Blair consisted of 1 professor and 4 students who shared the house with a big family. But an honest effort can pull a large load. It is justifiable that a photograph of this house, which thus contained the first Danish seminary in Blair, is presented in our Jubilee history

Photograph - THE FIRST SCHOOL

## II. TRINITY SEMINARY

The young synod's leading men both among pastors and lay people, were agreed that the Church Association should have not just a school, but a theological seminary, and that it should have its own home in its own building. As one of the pastors stated, "We must have a college, or our Association's days will soon be numbered." Those words stated the normal thought on the issue. But, where should the school be built? What should it be; only a theological school or should there also be room for others? And -- where should the funds for building it come from? The hogs were dying of cholera in 1884-5, and that was not just a pain for the farmers, but also for the school, both the one which was already in session in Blair, and also that which should be built. One can feel the enthusiasm for the issue in what was written and spoken about it in 1885.

### The Meeting in Hastings, Nebraska -- The offer from Blair

"The first shall be last and the last shall be first." That can pertain to the offer which came before before the meeting. The school committee's chairman, Pastor A.M. Andersen, who in addition was Pastor and Professor in Blair, had received the quotation that a building with space for 40 students, for one family and the necessary space for school and dining would cost \$6,000, and that the town of Blair, where the school would be, would possibly contribute \$3,000 to such a facility, if the Synod would secure a like sum. Two men in the Blair area had promised to each give the value of one horse to the school, and now Andersen thought that there should be enough resources in the Synod so that the value of 30 horses could be obtained, and thus the school could be built. Those were the possibilities for which the school could be in Blair. Others wished it to be built somewhere else. In the meantime the school committee decided to hold a meeting in Hastings, Nebraska, on the 19th and 20th of May, 1885, to make the decision as to where the school should be built.

By a hanging hair at the beginning of the meeting, it was decided that the school should be built in Hamilton County, Nebraska, where the Synod's largest congregation was located (at Hampton). The committee's chairman came to the meeting a bit late. But he had with him the certain offer from Blair, that they would be happy to give \$3000 and the grounds to the school, if only the Synod gave a like sum and built the school in Blair. They then changed their decision and agreed to accept the offer from Blair, and so then they began to work to secure the subscription of \$3,000 from the Synod. Now it was clear, that there should be "sacrifice and pain", as it is written in the minutes from the meeting in Hastings. Also at this meeting, it was decided that the name of the school should be "Trinity Seminary". A couple of months before the meeting in Hastings a letter had finally come from Pastor Steffensen in Denmark, that because of poor health he would not be able to accept the call. That would have been a great advantage for the Danish Lutheran Church in America, if Pastor Herman Richard Steffensen (born 1853) could have been able to accept the young synod's call. On the other hand, he was not the only Danish Theologian to which the Synod issued a call with the result, that suitable men must do the work, when others could not or would not.

### The Work in Blair - The Annual Meeting in Council Bluffs, Iowa

After the meeting in Hastings the work toward the school began in earnest. On the first of July 1885 the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Association's School Committee called for an assembly of "a number of Christian men" in the Danish Church in Blair, consisting of 5 pastors, 2 students, and 9 laymen. They agreed to organize as the "Trinity School Society for the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Association in America", adopted articles of incorporation, which were undersigned by the assembled persons, as well as Trustees, Pastor A.M. Andersen (President), L. Nyboe, Blair (Secretary), M. Beck, Blair (Treasurer), N.J. Petersen, Kennard, Nebraska, Andrew Larsen, Argo, Nebraska, Pastor G.B. Christiansen, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Pastor J. Risdall, Fremont, Nebraska.

The trustees were authorized to build a school to cost \$6,000. The president was ordered to inform the citizens of Blair that "there will be much instruction in the English language so there will be opportunity for English speaking students."

Trustees for the Trinity School Society assembled in Blair the 15th of July, 1885. From the city of Blair they received the information through Mr. F.W. Kenny that \$2,300 of the promised \$3,000 had been subscribed. At the suggestion of A.M. Andersen, it was decided to accept from Mr. H.B. Dexter and W. Cline the offered land for the building. Then they decide on a building committee, consisting of Pastor A.M. Andersen, Marcus Beck, and L. Nyboe and agreed that the School Building should be "built under contract", that the ground floor should have walls of brick, the second and third floors would have a "brick veneer", and the fourth floor should be a so-called "French Attic", that was after the suggestion of M. Beck. The meeting concluded by handing over to the building committee the responsibility to work further with the matter, only that the building should not cost more than \$6,000.

The building committee entered into a contract to construct the school building, and on the first of September "*Dansk Luthersk Kirkeblad*" informs the members that the work on the school in all probability would begin about the same time as they received that issue of the paper. Before we hear more about that however, let's take a little trip to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where the Synod held its second annual meeting from the 26th to the 30th of August, and where among others, Pastor P.C. Trandberg was in attendance and preached.

Considering the matter of the school, the minutes of the meeting show that there was \$119.80 income towards the salary of the teachers. The chair of the school committee presented his report on the work at the school and could then relate that the necessary subscription had been reached, all preparations concluded, the plan for the building was ready, and so work could begin.

The Synod recognized the committee's work and agreed that the building committee should not be held to the \$6,000, provided that the building could be completed without debt. That enabled the Board of Trustees to search for the necessary inventory materials for the building -- as well as the money for them. Consequently, it was just at that moment that the contract for construction could be completed, as mentioned above.

On the 22nd of September the building committee held a meeting in Blair and agreed that the building would be completed, except for the top floor, because the \$6,000 would not be enough for the entire building. They agreed to ask F.W. Kenny to become a member of the building committee, which he accepted. In November "*Kirkebladet*" could reveal that "It took a long time to get started, but once construction began, it has gone quickly. If God is willing and as so far lets the weather be kind to us, it is expected that the bricklaying will be just about finished by the time the readers receive this issue. There is still hope that, in any case, part of the building will be ready for occupancy this winter." Of the subscription money there was \$1,700 collected in November.

But on the 4th of December, it seemed as though the whole place would blow down. That day there was a powerful storm over the area, so several buildings which were under construction, blew down. "But in spite of the storm our school building stood proudly on the hill, God be praised."

This short report closes thusly: "In December the school term begins with 5 students, More are expected."

The School of Theology thus consequently didn't get into the new building in 1885 but it was well on its way.

### 1886 - The School Building's Completion and Dedication

With the beginning of that year, which we now at the 25 years Jubilee look back to especially, namely 1886, we acquaint ourselves with a fund, which had not previously been mentioned in the Synod, namely, "for needy students". The first contributors to this fund presumably deserve recognition: L. Eskildsen, Hampton, Nebraska, \$5.00; P. Andreasen, Luck, Wisconsin, \$1.00.

The 15th of February issue of "*Kirkebladet*" informs us that the work on the school building was again in full swing. But the building committee needed money. And in the same article the question was asked of Synodical friends, who had not been heard from in this matter, "Is it your desire, that we should stand and watch, while others do the work? Or what?"

In the directors' minutes of the meeting on the 13th of March, it is stated that an architect Driscoll from Omaha has sent the building committee a statement of account for "Plans and Specifications" for the school, while the committee's understanding had been that Mr. Dexter had promised to pay the architect. It was decided to take a photograph of the new school, and that income from the sale of the photograph should go into the school account. The trustees held another meeting on the 15th of July. The \$6,000 had been spent, and they needed yet an additional \$1,000 to get the building into usable condition. It was agreed to borrow \$1,000 with the property as security, and also to insure the building for \$4,000. In April Pastor H. Hansen, Synodical President, visited the little school in Blair and saw the new school building, which was ready for "plastering". He expressed great appreciation of both in "*Kirkebladet*".

Below the Photograph - PASTOR A.M. ANDERSEN

In the minutes from the Synod's third annual meeting, which was held in Hampton, Hamilton County, Nebraska, the 26th to the 29th of August, 1886, we see that the school in the preceding winter had been attended by 9 students, who were separated into two classes, and that there were in all 35 hours of instruction given per week. The treasury showed that the income for the instructor's salary was \$364.78. But the Synod quickly took a collection at the meeting, which amounted to \$328, a sum which took only a half hour to collect.

The results of the meeting were that the school committee was ordered to contact student A.J. Dahm and consider whether he could be employed as a teacher for the school. In addition the trustees should "consider the introduction of a girls school in the coming summer, assuming that such a session would pay for itself", along with the suggestion that an academic course in English at the school should be presented at the next annual meeting.

In "*Kirkebladet*" for the first of October, 1886, it is announced that the dedication of the school after the wishes of many should take place on Thursday, the 21st of October. Originally, it had been the thought that it would have taken place at the beginning of the school term, the first of October.

The 21st of October arrived with beautiful weather, and a large group of people assembled for the festival at the new school in Blair. Of the Synod's pastors, present were H. Hansen, M.C. Hansen Rohe, A. Rasmussen, G.B. Christiansen, A.M. Andersen and H.P. Bertelsen. Two English-Lutheran pastors of the general synod attended, namely Rev. J.S. Detweiler of Omaha and J.N. Lenker of Grand Island, Nebraska and they also participated in the festivities. Pastor Rohe began the ceremony by remembering the Danish students at Augsburg Seminary, who used to have their meeting place in Room Number 8. But now today they were all assembled at our very own Theological Seminary. Pastor Rasmussen reminded them of Isaiah's words, "Lord, send me!", as the correct motivation for students, who sought entrance to this school. Pastor Christiansen mentioned God's goodness, which had granted them this school. In the afternoon the people from Blair gathered at the school by special invitation. Rev. Detweiler from Omaha talked about the subject: The Evangelical Lutheran Church. The synodical president, Pastor H. Hansen held the dedicatory service using Luke 9:28-35. Next, Rev. Lenker spoke from Gal. 6:10, whereafter Pastor Andersen read the list of contributors to the school from the town and thanked the donors on behalf of the Synod. After a short talk by Pastor Christiansen, Pastor Andersen pronounced the benediction over the assembly, and the dedication came to an close.

Trinity Seminary, however, was not the only Danish school which was dedicated in Nebraska in the year 1886.

In "*Kirkebladet*", Nr. 24, 1886, can be read: "Dannebrog College, Pastor Hansens school in Dannebrog, Nebraska, was dedicated on Sunday, the fifth. The particulars about this are unknown."

### III. OF THE SCHOOL'S LATER HISTORY

To relate the history of the school from 1886 to 1911 would be both too detailed and tiresome, so we shall not do that. Instead, it will behoove us to call attention to certain high points. And as the first of these we shall name

#### 1. The School's contemplated teachers, Pastor P.C. Trandberg and others.

For completeness perhaps it is best to first name those who were called by the Synod to be the school's teachers but for some reason did not respond to the call. We have already mentioned Pastor H. Steffensen, who the Synod called at its first annual meeting. The next in this row became Pastor P.C. Trandberg. This remarkable man came to America in 1882 without any certain external call. As stated earlier, he attended the Association's second annual meeting in Council Bluffs. At the annual meeting in Hampton in 1886, he did not attend, but sent a letter of greeting. At the fourth annual meeting, in Albert Lea, Minnesota, from the 7th to the 13th of September, 1887, Trandberg was there and spoke several times. He had been professor at the Congregationalists' Theological Seminary in Chicago since 1885. At the suggestion of the Report Committee, the delegates voted unanimously to call Trandberg to be Professor of Theology at the school in Blair with a special salary of \$600 and free housing. Trandberg, however, could not accept for at least a year, so there was discussion on closing the school in Blair during that time, and letting the theology students go to Chicago to study with Trandberg and the others to Pastor Hansen's school in Dannebrog. As is known now, Pastor Trandberg eventually turned down the call which was issued to him (a way out of his connection with the Congregationalists was shown to him). On the other hand, the invitation to him had a paralyzing influence on the school in Blair, because only the preparatory student department could function in 1887-88 -- and the theology students were offered the chance to study at the Seminary in Chicago, a chance which only one of them followed.

The feeling which was rampant in the Synod concerning the calling of Pastor Trandberg in Albert Lea in 1887 - and this call was again made at the annual meeting in Fremont

in 1888 - is stated quite correctly in the minutes of the meeting in Council Bluffs, Iowa, 21-28 August 1887, when Trandberg was in attendance. It is so stated in the minutes of that meeting: "We are forced, personally speaking, to a Father among us, an older and experienced man, who can speak the enlightened word, when difficulties threaten from within and without. And the Lord now shows Trandberg, after several bitter disappointments about this matter, which he has so many years striven for, to serve in an orderly church association with a free church materialism.

But we will as well name the other men, which the Synod either called or inquired to, whether they would be willing to receive the call to the post of instructor of theology at Trinity Seminary.

The first of February, 1893: "Decided, that the Board of Trustees write to Pastor Chr. Holt and Pastor O. Olesen with the enquiry, if one of them would come and take over the post of Professor of Theology at our school." Holt answered no.

The second of May, 1893: "Decided to recommend Pastor P.S. Vig to the Synod's annual meeting as Professor of Theology at Trinity Seminary." Vig answered no to the call, because he had then promised the "Mission Society" to be at the school in Elk Horn.

At a combined meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Synodical Board in Blair the 5th and 6th of December, 1894: "Decided, that the committee order Pastor I.M. Hansen to speak with Pastor H. Steffensen, whether he would accept a call to be Professor of Theology at the school."

At the same meeting it was agreed: "that a letter should be sent with Pastor I.M. Hansen to Pastor Vilhelm Beck, Prof. Westergaard and Pastor Hansen of Nørre Nissum, to ask for assistance to find a man, who would be qualified to be Professor of Theology at the school." The salary was set at from 600 to 800 dollars per year.

Among the decisions taken at the annual meeting in Hutchinson, Minnesota in 1895 is found the following: "that the Synod at this year's annual meeting on Pastor H. Matthiesen's and Missionary Kjær's recommendation place a call to Pastor Hindhede of Bording, as Professor of Theology at Trinity Seminary from the beginning of the school year 1896 at a salary of \$800. The Synod offers \$200 travel overseas. The annual meeting requests Pastor Matthiesen and Missionary Kjær to bring over the call to Pastor Hindhede." Pastor N.B. Hindhede also answered with a no.

Under photograph - PASTOR G.B. CHRISTIANSEN

## 2. The School's Presidents from 1886 to 1911.

First among these we must name the indefatigable Pastor A.M. Andersen, about whose work for the school and the school building construction we have already heard so much in the foregoing. In an outline, he himself wrote of his career, he says "It has been a difficult and tiring task to serve several congregations and also found a school at the same time. It was over my ability." In the mean time he held his post until 1889. In 1895 he was again called as a teacher of theology at the school, but resigned again in 1897. Since then he has, as well as earlier, had a seat on the School board of directors several times. Pastor Andersen has entered his name as one of the Lutheran Church's untiring workers in America, who in painful days held unwaveringly fast in God's Word and the Lutheran doctrine and did not lose courage, when everything seemed so doubtful. Pastor Andersen, who was born 8 March, 1847, came to America in 1872 and was ordained as a pastor on 11 October, 1874.

Pastor G.B. Christiansen became Andersen's successor in 1889 and held this difficult position as president until 1896, when he finally received permission to resign. In his time the school's enrolment increased, which came also to include young women, for which there was held school for a couple of months in the summer. Likewise, the school facilities were enlarged, but more on that later.

With the unification of the two synods "The Danish Evangelical Lutheran church Association in America" and "The Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America", in the fall of the year 1896 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Pastor P.S. Vig came to be called to be Professor of Theology and President of Trinity Seminary, with permission to let the school continue in Elk Horn, Iowa, to the fall of 1897. Pastor Vig resigned from his Post in 1899, when, because of his wife's ill health, he decided it was best to move away from the school, and became pastor of the congregation in Elk Horn as well as Director of the College there.

At the annual meeting in Hutchinson in 1899 the College Department at Elk Horn moved to Blair, and Pastor Kr. Anker was elected as President of Blair College. He was President until 1905, when he handed in his resignation.

In 1902 Pastor Vig was called back to Blair as President of Trinity Seminary, but resigned from his post in the summer of 1905 and accepted a call as pastor in Luck, Wisconsin.

In Pastor Anker's time as President the school meaningfully developed meaningfully, both in numbers of students and course options, as well as in buildings. Both the "Ladies Hall" and the south side building were constructed in Anker's time. The school was "coeducational" from 1899 and both "business" and "normal" courses were offered so the original seminary nearly disappeared as a department among the many others. The school was supplied with "steam heat" etc., etc.

Pastor Anker's tenure as President was marked by the fact that the school progressed from the remarkable 19th to the 20th century with its many questions and problems.

From 1905 until his death on the 8th of April, 1909, Pastor J.P. Jensen, who graduated from Trinity Seminary in 1900, served as President of Dana College and Trinity Seminary. He was certainly a man who worked in the service of the school until his death.

In 1908 Prof. C.X. Hansen was elected President of Dana College and Prof. C.S. Eriksen as Director of the Theology Department (Trinity Seminary).

In 1909 Professor S.C. Eriksen resigned as Director and Theology Professor, and Pastor P.S. Vig was named to this post for the third time.

Prof. C.X. Hansen, was among the first team of students at Trinity Seminary in 1886-87, and had since graduated from Midland College, Atchison, Kansas. Already for many years he has been professor with the preparation department at Trinity Seminary and Professor at Dana College. The school has obtained a new stadium, and is led by a Danish American born in this country, which is a good sign, when consideration is taken to the school's purpose as well as to the time, place and conditions under which it works. Prof. Hansen has the honor to be one of the first American born among the school's students, professors, and directors. Likewise he has, since 1908, been the first resident of the President's home. This beautiful home was provided by the Bondo family. In his time as President the school's "Normal" department as well as the Academic department has obtained recognition by the state.

## 3. The School's Professors From 1886 to 1911

Although it would have some interest for people in general to know in which subjects the individual professors had taught, especially regarding the theological courses, we will

not present these concerning the Theological Professors, and concerning the other teachers we will state only their primary expertise.

Next it should be remarked that the Theological Professors continue to have to teach in the other departments in the school, just as, especially before 1896, some of the Professors in the Preparatory Department have taught in some of the theological areas, who are designated as assistant teachers (*hjælpe lærer*).

#### A. The Professors of Theology

Pastor A.M. Andersen (1884-1889; 1895-1897)  
Pastor G.B. Christiansen (1889-1896)  
Pastor A.S. Nielsen (1894-1895)  
Cand. Phil. Svend Juel (Assistant Teacher 1893-1894)  
Cand. Theol. A.J. Dahm (Assistant Teacher 1890-1893)  
Pastor P.S. Vig (1896-1899; 1902-1905; 1909)  
Cand. Theol. V.C. Mengers (1897-1899)  
Pastor H.O. Frimodt-Møller (1898-1902)  
Dr. Theol. J.N. Lenker (1899-1903)  
Pastor Harald Jensen (1899-1902)  
Pastor Kr. Anker (1899-1905)  
Pastor J.P. Jensen (1903-1908)  
Pastor S.C. Eriksen (1905-1909)  
Pastor V.W. Johansen (1908-1909)  
Pastor N.P. Lang (1909- )  
Pastor A.Th. Schultz (Assistant Teacher 1906-1907)  
Pastor C. Kloth (Assistant Teacher 1905-1906)

It should be noted that Frimodt-Møller, H. Jensen, Eriksen, and Johansen have the degree Cand. Theol. from the University of Copenhagen; Mengers from Lake View Lutheran Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, and Lenker from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio.

#### B. The other teachers at the school

With the enumeration of these it is worth stating that the school until 1899 was essentially a theological seminary.

Not a few of the students of theology have been instructors in several courses in the "Proseminary". That is the situation with most of them, which in the list are named as "Stud. Theol.". Likewise, it should be remembered that, as stated earlier, the theology professors have all taught in the Proseminary.

Stud. Theol. N.S. Nielsen (1884-1887)  
Stud. Theol. and Pastor A.S. Nielsen (1884-1895)  
Cand. Theol. A.J. Dahm (1889-1893; 1896-1899)  
Stud. Theol. C.H. Schmidt (1890-1891)  
Stud. Theol. P. Rasmussen (1892-1893)  
Stud. Theol. L. Pedersen (1892-1894)  
Stud. Theol. A.W. Lund (1892-1896)  
C.X. Hansen, B.A. (1894-1896; 1897- )  
Harold W. Foght, B.A.B.Sc. (1899-1902)  
Miss Mathilda Berg (1899-1903)  
Sigurd Anker, B.A. (1902-1905)  
Miss Hilda Herfordt (1903-1905)  
N.Th. Lund, B.A. (1905- )  
Miss Caroline Johnson, B.A. (1906- )  
A. Peitersen (1909-1910)  
Andrew Sinnamark (1910- )  
Miss Petra Jensen (1909- )

#### Teachers in the Business Department

Edward Stephensen (1899-1900)  
Miss Fanny Gates (1900-1901)  
Miss Myrtle Fuller (1901-1902)  
Miss Louis Langstaff (1902-1904)  
Chas. E. Gaydou (1904-1905, 1910- )  
H.L. Johns (1906-1907)  
N.H. Debel (1907-1910)

#### Teachers in Music and Singing

Mrs. Alice M. Foght (1899-1901)  
Miss Emma C. Larsen (1900-1901)  
Miss Anna Nielsen (1902-1903)  
Miss Gertrude Mead (1904-1905)  
Miss Amanda Hansen (1905- )  
Ray French, Violin (1904-1905)  
J.H. Swihart, Violin (1908- )

In addition to those named the following have been instructors in individual courses at the school: Miss Anna Jørgensen, Miss Ingeborg Anker, Miss Anna I. Hansen, Mr. George Cramer, Mr. E.S. Rosenberg. Consequently, if our accounting is correct, there have since 1884 been 49 teachers at the school.

Under Photograph - PASTOR P.S. VIG

#### 4. The School's Students from 1884 to 1911.

It has not been possible for us to say how many people have been students at the school since its beginning in 1884. On the other hand, we have had the good fortune to find the number of students for each individual year since 1884. But when one remembers that the same people have been students for perhaps several years, it is easy to see that there is a significant difference between the annual enrolment and the total number of people who have been students at the school. To determine the actual difference between these two is not now possible, so therefore we shall not try. It would have been possible, if we had the names of all the students, - which we do not have, and only then it would have taken considerable effort.

But even though we can only give the number of students enrolled, we believe that a lot can be said about the significance of the school for the Lutheran Church and the Danish people in America.

Of special interest, it has been possible to find the names of the students for the years 1884, 1885, and 1886, consequently the 4, 9, and 12 first on the list. They are the only ones that could be found.

The first 4 from 1884 were Pastors, N.S. Nielsen, A.S. Nielsen, P.M. Petersen and Joh. P. Naarup, three from Jutland and one from Funen. The next 9 were those plus Pastors I.M. Hansen and N. Hansen plus R. Petersen, P. Gylling and ---- Jessen.

Among the next 12 were all of the above plus current Professor C.X. Hansen, and R.P.A. Rasmussen and Hans Aagaard.

The names of the 184 students from the school year 1910-1911 can be found in the next years catalog.

And so we go to the list from the 27 school years from 1884 to 1911.  
In the School Year 1884-85 there were at the School in Blair 4 students.  
In the School Year 1885-86 there were at the School in Blair 9 students.  
In the School Year 1886-87 there were at Trinity Seminary 12 students.  
In the School Year 1887-88 there were at Trinity Seminary 14 students.  
In the School Year 1888-89 there were at Trinity Seminary 15 students.  
In the School Year 1889-90 there were at Trinity Seminary 21 students.  
In the School Year 1890-91 there were at Trinity Seminary 32 students.  
In the School Year 1891-92 there were at Trinity Seminary 39 students.  
In the School Year 1892-93 there were at Trinity Seminary 50\*) students.  
In the School Year 1893-94 there were at Trinity Seminary 72\*\*) students.  
In the School Year 1894-95 there were at Trinity Seminary 55 students.  
In the School Year 1895-96 there were at Trinity Seminary 48\*\*\*) students.  
In the School Year 1896-97 there were at the School in Elk Horn and Trinity Seminary, Blair, 142\*\*\*\*) students.  
In the School Year 1897-98 there were at Trinity Seminary 25 students.  
In the School Year 1898-99 there were at Trinity Seminary 15 students.  
In the School Year 1899-1900 there were at Trinity Seminary 98\*\*\*\*\*) students.  
In the School Year 1900-01 there were at Trinity Seminary 107 students.  
In the School Year 1901-02 there were at Trinity Seminary 96 students.  
In the School Year 1902-03 there were at the College and Seminary 129 students.  
In the School Year 1903-04 there were at the College and Seminary 130 students.  
In the School Year 1904-05 there were at the College and Seminary 135 students.  
In the School Year 1905-06 there were at the College and Seminary 113 students.  
In the School Year 1906-07 there were at the College and Seminary 108 students.  
In the School Year 1907-08 there were at the College and Seminary 99 students.  
In the School Year 1908-09 there were at the College and Seminary 144 students.  
In the School Year 1909-10 there were at the College and Seminary 158 students.  
In the School Year 1910-11 there were at the College and Seminary 182 students.

\*) Of these 17 were women

\*\*\*) Of these 7 were women

\*\*\*\*\*) Of these some were women

\*\*\*\*\*) Since 1899-1900 the School is co-educational.

Consequently there have been a total of 2051 students in the 27 School years.

To grow from 4 to 184 in 27 years is not so bad. Now one must remember, that among the students since 1900 there have been a number of young Americans, both men and women. But by far the greatest portion of the School's students have been Danish youth, of whom some have come directly from Denmark. But in the latest years most of the students have been children of Danish parents, and born in this country. As a result of this development the language of instruction in most of the School's classes has been in English, and that is quite natural.

#### 5. Theological Students from Trinity Seminary, Who Have been Ordained as Pastors Since 1887.

A list of names of the theological students who have been at the school since the beginning until now we cannot produce, since such is not available. We can only say that the

difference between the number of theological students and those who have been ordained is not large. There are some who gave up their studies of theology after a short time, partly because of poor health, poor ability, or for other reasons. I can say that from my time as a teacher in Elk Horn and Blair I can name only a few, from 2 to 4 persons, who because of the reasons named gave up their studies in theology after one or two years. And the difference between the theological candidates and those who were ordained is even smaller. I remember from my time as an instructor only a couple of those. As far as I know, there have been no theological students or candidates from Trinity Seminary, who have gone over to another synod, either Lutheran or Reformed, and also I know of no examples of any who have fallen from the Christian faith.

In the list of those ordained, which is presented here, I have included all who have for a shorter or longer period studied theology at the school in Blair, those who received there preparatory education here, or completed their theological studies, here or at another place. I have perhaps included some who should not have been, and excluded some who should have been included, and likewise it is possible, that I have forgotten some, even though I have tried to get the list as complete as possible.

And let me remark here that among the first who were ordained are those who were among the first students and the first teachers at the little school in Blair, in 1884.

#### Ordinations:

1887 in Hampton, Nebraska. Niels S. Nielsen  
 1888 in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Anders S. Nielsen  
 1888 in Watsonville, California. Niels Hansen  
 1889 in Watsonville, California. Joh. Petersen Naarup  
 1889 in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Louis Johnson, Ivar Marius Hansen  
 1891 in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Peter Petersen, Johannes Simonsen, Johannes Markussen  
 1892 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Iver Gertsen, Anders Chr. Weismann, Jens Chr. Petersen  
 1894 in Omaha, Nebraska. Frits Andersen, Gudmund E.S. Grill, Niels L. Nielsen, Laurits Pedersen, Peter Rasmussen  
 1895 in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Jens J. Dalbo, Niels Damskov, Andreas M. Nielsen  
 1896 in Albert Lea, Minnesota. Lars H. Kjær, Jørgen H. Lund  
 1896 in Racine, Wisconsin. Niels Bentsen  
 1896 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Marinus N. Rahbeck, (deceased).  
 1897 in Blair, Nebraska. Jens Kr. Jensen, Niels P.N. Lang, Hans Nielsen,  
 Christian W. Nielsen  
 1898 in Greenville, Michigan. Rudolph P. Bennesen (deceased), Christoffer H.M. Krogh, August With. Lund, Carl M. Olsen, Jens M. Th. Winther,  
 1899 in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Erik Hansen, Martin Th. Jensen, Laurits H. Kjølter,  
 Jens Møller (deceased).  
 1900 in Blair, Nebraska. Christian Hansen (deceased), Jens P. Jensen,  
 1901 in Albert Lea, Minnesota. Lars Jensen, Olaf R. Olsen  
 1902 in Racine, Wisconsin. Niels P. Sørensen, Jens S. H. Scott  
 1903 in Elk Horn, Iowa. Theodor P. Beck, Henry W. Bondo, Julius A. Larsen  
 1903 in Potter, Nebraska. Jens Madsen  
 1904 in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Frederik Petersen, Niels P.J. Nielsen, Niels Chr. Petersen, Christen Christensen, Edward M. Nielsen, Hans M. Hansen  
 1905 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Jørgen P. Nielsen, Julius G.V. Magnussen  
 1906 in Kenmare, North Dakota. Jens P. Christiansen, Edward Andersen  
 1908 in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Viggo W. Bondo, Arthur Hofgaard, Jens Chr. Christensen  
 1909 in Elk Horn, Iowa. Herman L. Jensen  
 1909 in Plainview, Nebraska. Karl M. Hansen  
 1910 in Racine, Wisconsin. Niels C. Carlsen, Hans P.K. Hansen, Jens Knudsen,  
 Jens P. Jensen, Axel Christiansen

As can be seen, there is certainly a significant number of Pastors who have received their education at the school in Blair.

The United Danish Church started with 63 pastors. It is the hope, that the additional ones who later came from Blair, may always stay with the United Church, until they all reach the place where four of them have already gone.

Of the 67, 60 were born in Denmark, one in Norway, and 6 in America, 5 of Danish parents and one of Norwegian.

With respect to the places where they were ordained, the lead is taken by Hutchinson, Minnesota, with 15, Racine follows with 7, Waupaca 6, Omaha, Blair and Greenville each with 5, Elk Horn and Albert Lea each with 4 and Cedar Falls and Council Bluffs with 3 each.

Of the 58 who were born in Denmark, the majority are Jutlanders, namely 30; 12 are from Funen, 10 from Sjælland, 3 from Lolland, 2 from Møn, and 1 from Bornholm. It is interesting to note that among the 67 there are none who are sons of pastors, either from Denmark or America. However, there are two who will graduate this year from the seminary who are pastors' sons, and of these one is a pastor's son here in America and born here. Of the 65, there are three pairs of brothers.

#### 6. About the School's Buildings

Now that we have become acquainted with the School's teachers and students since 1884, it is in good order, that we hear something about the School's Buildings. Considering the buildings we don't need to say an awful lot, since most who have been in Blair, have certainly noticed them. They do not lay hidden, but are in place "on the mountain", which cannot be hidden. I am inclined to believe that the school as far as its placement and appearance are concerned, can compete with any other school in this part of the West. Those who have visited the college, have been perhaps a little tired in the legs, before they managed to get up the hill where it sits, but the beautiful and broad vista, to which they are treated -- over the town of Blair and the broad, beautiful Missouri River Valley with the river like a silver ribbon in the middle and the high-crested hills on the far Iowa side of the valley -- well more than pays them for the exertion to reach the top. The school has not only a beautiful, but in addition a worthwhile location. Those who on a humid summer day come up here from Blair, which lays down in the valley of the Missouri, will soon notice that we have higher, cleaner air than down in the town. But now those who rest themselves under the shady trees on the School's campus and see the school as the Center of a little town, which frames 16-17 Danish families, will hardly be able to recognize that it was just 25 years ago, when the school lay quite alone out here on the naked hills. And so it is.

Under Photograph - PASTOR KR. ANKER

In the meantime, we must not forget, that the school did not have its first home on the hill, but instead down in that part of the town of Blair, which is now known as "Dexterville", in Pastor A.M. Andersen's house. This house, of which a picture is found in this book, was the first of those which since have been built in that part of town, and consequently the house has seen that entire part of town grow around it, which now connects the school to the older part of Blair. "Dexterville" got its name after Mr. H.B. Dexter, one of the men who especially worked to get the Danes to build their school in Blair. The aforementioned house in Dexterville has interest for us more than just its appearance, for it was not only the residence for the first Danish pastor in Blair, and the first Danish theological seminary in America, but also the publishing house for "Kirkebladet" and the church office. When the school moved up the hill in the fall of 1886, the pastor's family and Kirkebladet went along. And it is now at this time of celebration, that we find ourselves in this building, as it was constructed.

It is now, however, not such an easy matter to recognize what was here (25 years past) because with the addition of the two side buildings quite a change has taken place. In the main, it has not been a good thing for the school, that the building had to be built piece by piece, each time it has been necessary to create more space, and for which money had to be raised. It is self-evident, that because the additions are not planned at the beginning there is some waste of space, convenience and symmetry, especially when it is not so easy to sketch what the future will bring, and so that is the way it occurred. We shall now become acquainted with the buildings in the order in which they were erected.

#### **The Main Building**

We have already had some description about the main building in the foregoing. Therefore we present just the following information.

The building has a façade of 60 feet, and is 30 feet wide and 60 feet high, consisting of 4 floors. This facade faces the east, and in the middle is a tower, which goes through all floors. The tower itself is 75-80 feet high. The ground floor is solidly built of red brick. The upper floors have what is called "brick-veneer". Originally there was enough space in the building for the director and family, classes, dining room, and sleeping quarters for 40 students, as well as a kitchen and maid's chambers.

The building cost \$7,000 to construct. As stated already, the townspeople and businessmen in Blair contributed \$3,000 to the school. Consequently \$4,000 had to be collected from the Association. For us that perhaps doesn't seem so much. But if we remember that in 1884 the Association consisted of only 9 pastors and ca. 1800 members, of whom only about 900 were confirmed, and of these 900 there were not many rich and powerful, so from those facts the matter looks a little different. According to my thinking it was a tremendous undertaking for an association of only 800 to 900 people to complete the common goal of erecting a building of that size and it really is a beautiful testimonial to the fact that the Association's power is not completely dependent on the number of people. If we look at the list of contributors, we find not many large contributions, -- the largest I have found is only \$200 from the now deceased N.J. Pedersen of Kennard, later Blair, and several of \$100, but instead there were many smaller, and those are as is usually recognized, the last to be counted. One of those who was from the first to the last along in this great effort, has later expressed it thus: "It had gone so strangely and wonderfully easily over our expectation, that we must say 'it is the work of the Lord and is strange to our eyes', for it was Him who opened our hearts to the matter."

#### **The Northern Building Wing**

Before many years had gone by, it was evident that the school was not large enough, and so the idea came of adding on. This idea became reality in 1893, when an addition to the west from the northern side of the main building, 50 feet by 32 feet and 60 feet high-- was built. This building, with a dining room on the first floor, assembly hall on the second floor, and sleeping rooms for 40 students on the second and third floors, cost about \$6,000, which was collected within the Association with the exception of \$500 collected from citizens and businesses of Blair.

So the school had room for about 80 students from the fall of 1893. For comparison it is noted that in 1893 the Association had 29 pastors and 5,663 members.

Under the Photograph - PASTOR J.P. JENSEN

#### **The Women's Building.**

When it was decided in 1899, that the school should accept women as well as male students, it became necessary to build a special building for the women students. That was then also built in 1899. It is 3 stories tall. On the second floor there is a family apartment for the School President, and on the second and third floors rooms for the women students and women faculty.

This building was built to the north and west of the School's northern wing, and cost ca. \$3,000. The School's heating apparatus was moved to the basement of this building.

#### **The Gymnasium**

is the fourth in a row of the School's buildings.

It is a "frame" building, 64 feet long and 30 feet wide. It cost ca. \$1,200. It has been the scene for not just a few games of basketball and the students from Dana College have come away with victory in most of them. It is the hope that one or another wealthy man in the Association will feel impelled to underwrite a new and larger physical education building.

#### **The South Building Wing**

at the school was built in the summer of 1905. It is 72 feet long, 32 feet wide and 4 stories tall. In this beautiful building, which has cost ca. \$9,000 can be found the school's chapel, music room, library and reception room, as well as rooms for ca. 50 students. On the second floor are bath and rest rooms for the men.

#### **The New President's Home**

which lies north and east of the school, was given to the Association by the Bondo family of Pottawatomie County, Iowa, according to the will of the deceased L.C. Bondo.

The house was built in 1908 and together with the lot cost \$30,200, a not unmeaningful sum. And as it is known that the School buildings cost a lot to maintain, the total sum to the buildings increases greatly, when the maintenance costs are added.

In addition to the construction and maintenance costs, were the expenses for the school's heating and inventory. We are not exaggerating when we say that our department of

the Danish Lutheran Church people in America have contributed a sum of \$40,000 in the course of 25 years to the school, in addition to the costs of teachers salaries and the School's other expenses.

But for this chapter of the Danish Lutheran Church peoples' history in America, none of the participants need to be ashamed. Although those of our immigrant countrymen who do not belong to our church certainly have other large expenses, they also get by more cheaply, financially speaking, because they are not members of our church.

#### About the Teachers Salary Account, Income and Expenses

Those who might build a school in order to make money, will, as a rule, find that they have made an error. And those who think that a school of theology might be able to pay its own expenses, also are mistaken. As a rule, it is neither rich men, nor rich mens' sons who study to be pastors. That, wouldn't be a way to make money. And it is not in large numbers, that our immigrant countrymen's children have come to be students at the Seminary. But a teacher's salary cannot compare to the numbers of students he teaches, if he should live, whether he teaches a few or many. Because of this, a school of theology must have support from the church group for which it works. And the substantial portion of this support is well known in the different church associations under the name of the account for the teachers' salaries. I have, as far as possible, tried to determine how large these accounts were for Trinity Seminary since 1884, but it has not been entirely possible, since the financial reports did not always separate out salaries from other financial obligations of the school. I can not therefore present the teachers salaries portion precisely for each and every year, which would not be very pleasant reading for most anyway. But I can relay the information that in the school year 1884-85 there was designated as teacher's pay \$119.80, whereas in the Association's year 1909-10 the amount for this designation was \$3,116.46, which as one can see is a significant difference.

Next I can inform that from 1884 to 1896, before the start of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the "Blair Association" contributed \$17,000 to teachers' salaries. And from 1896 to 1910 the United Church has given \$37,000 to this part of the treasury. In other words, for the 27 years that the Theological Seminary has been in Blair, it has cost the association about \$54,000 or on the average \$2,000 per year.

As stated, my accounting is not precisely to the dollar and cent, but it is not far from the actual cost, and perhaps more likely under than over.

And when I mention this, I have a certain goal in mind. A church association among immigrant Danes in America consists primarily of those who could be considered lower or middle class, if they are measured according to financial measure. And it can be shown, that most of the contributors to a church association, also to its theological seminary, are such people. But so it is that the aforementioned sum of money given to the educational account, is a point of honor for Danish Christians in America. And this point of honor I would like to raise with this thought. For a sum of \$54,000 one could buy a very large farm in Denmark. And for some years since one could pay the President of the United States the stated sum for one year, and the large lodges pay each year a similar sum to a couple of their most capable employees. But that is enough for the comparison.

It is the many, steady, even though generally small contributors, who, in terms of the people, support both the Church and the School in America. And if any of the instructors should think that such has made them still poorer, I would advise him to pay attention to this matter himself.

It is the hope, that some of the wealthier Danes who still have interest for the Lutheran Church will find a way to share some of their profit, while they themselves still have control of their means. A fund of \$100,000 would be a beautiful and permanent memorial, which could preserve their name longer, than if it is engraved in stone with gilded letters in one or another cemetery, where only few will notice it, after some years have gone by. When the ordinary people have built and supported our school through a lifetime, it is about time that the rich take the occasion to lend a hand, I refer to the wealthier who own their property, and are not owned by it.

Under the Photograph - PASTOR S.C. ERIKSEN

#### 7. About the School Library

Among the first who provided books to the library at the school, was the now deceased Pastor M.C. Hansen Rohe, who was always a warm friend of the school. And I remember having seen a place, that one of the books, he provided for this purpose, was the known "Pastoral Pain", or, as it is also called, "Godly Questions Book", by M. Saxe. It has obviously amused Pastor Rohe -- with his sense of the comical -- to provide this "Pastoral Pain" to the Theological Seminary Library. In addition, "Pastoral Pain" is one of the first books to be published in Norway, and also one of the books, which among others, the "Strong Jutlanders" set a high value on, it is full of curious questions concerning things and persons, which are written about in the Holy Scriptures.

Both pastors and laymen in America and in Denmark, have followed Pastor Rohe's example and provided books to the school library. Not a few American and Scandinavian publishing houses have provide us with books. But a good large collection we do not yet have. Such costs money. And we also lack a fireproof building for a library, archive and other collections.

We do not envy our sister associations here in this country, which this year can receive a gift of a library building for use for a price of over one-half million dollars. But we hope, that among our countrymen we can find a wealthy man, who has sufficient funds to provide both the books and a building to house and preserve them.

That the school is owned by a church association hinders finding assistance in the suggested direction of wealthy Americans. For wealthy Danes, however, this situation should seem to be an advantage and a guarantee that their gifts would be well used.

Of unusual or special books, there are not many in the school's collection, but there are some. Included among these is a publication from 1578 of Morten Chemnitz' well known "*Examen Concilii Tridentinum*" in a large "octave" binding.

But the book which we prize most highly is Danish and bears the title "Biblia (The Bible), the Very Holy Scripture in Danish, Again Translated and Printed after our Most Gracious Lord and King, King Christian IV's Order. With a Concordance, all of Dr. Luther's Writings, his Construction in Breadth and "*Viti Theodori*" Summaries. *Cum gratio og privilegio*. København 1633." In other words, we own Christian the Fourth's Church Bible, in very large folio format, with illustrations and Christian IV's portrait. The book is as large as a normal briefcase, bound in leather and decorated with much solid brass furnishings and clasps. For its time it is a remarkable work. It was given to the school in 1899 by old Pastor and Mrs. H.J. Dahlström, now in Racine, Wisconsin. As far as I know, there are only two of these bibles in America, namely this one in Blair, and another which some years ago was for sale in an antique store in Denver, Colorado and which was, if I remember correctly, sold to an old Danish recluse some place out west.

It is the wish, that the school library could inherit more of these kinds of old and remarkable books, which are found hidden all around the country among the Danish immigrants.

## 8. About the School's Organizations

Organizations are a part of present day school life and often play a quite meaningful role. The school in Blair takes no exception to this rule. The oldest of these school organizations is

### Trinity Seminary's "Boarding Club"

Students of the school and unmarried faculty members created a boarding club, which elected a president, who then supervised the shopping, hired the "cooking girls", etc. The costs are divided among the organization's members. This Boarding Club existed, with one exception, until 1899-1900, or, in other words, while the school was still quite small.

From the year 1900 on the school has provided the food for the students. Many of the school's older alumni will yet fondly remember the "Boarding Club" days and their purchases and in other connections.

### The Christian Student Society

has existed from about 1880 and continues yet its work with weekly meetings, where the society's leaders specify speakers and subjects, which a committee has presented to the Society's president. Most of the students at the school have become members of this society. At the start, all of the meetings were in Danish, but recently the English language is used once per month.

There is no doubt that this organization has been a blessing for many young people, and likewise their meetings have been a valuable learning experience for young speakers.

### "Dannebrog"

is a Danish literature society in existence at the school since 1899-1900. It gives its members occasion to hear and hold discussions over such subjects which the society has determined.

### "The Hesperian"

is an English society of the same age and type as Dannebrog. Not seldom are these two societies' meetings attended by many people from the town and region, not least at the times when the society has invited one or another known speaker to lead the program.

Under the Photograph - PROF. C.X. HANSEN

### Trinity Seminary's Heathen Mission Society

is likewise a newer organization, which purpose is to support the Synod's Foreign Mission. The annual membership fee is \$1.00. The lectures at the society's monthly meetings are published in "*Danskeren*". One of the Society's goals is to support the Foreign Mission with a not unmeaningful annual donation.

A newer mission society "*Lyskasteren*" (The Shining Light) was begun at the school last year, almost an effect of the large current movement which is known as "The Laymen's Missionary Movement." This new organization, whose members urge a meaningfully large annual donation, is thinking seriously about uniting with the other society at the school, and it is the hope, that this union will be a benefit for the societies and their common objective.

### Other Organizations

like the Gymnastics Society, "Basketball Club", Tennis Club", the Young Womens Society etc. should be mentioned in this connection that the school does not object to organizations besides its program.

Likewise, it can be stated, that there are official seminars at the school, generally the first and third Monday evenings of each month, alternating in Danish and English, sometimes given by faculty members, sometimes by known men from near and far, both pastors and others.

It can be seen, that there is a search for rich development along with the uniformly strong class work, which the school desires and provides for its students.

In addition, it must be said that the singing and music societies among the students comprise a very important constituent of the different meetings at the school.

## 9. Some of the Schools Benefactors - In Remembrance

In this as we look back over the 25 years which have now disappeared, we miss several of the steadfast workers, who were along at the start, but now have been called away from the work of this world. It is in good and Christian order, that we name some of the more frontrunning among these in an article like this, which especially has something to do with the days gone past. Since I have not myself been here from the beginning, it is possible that I have forgotten some who should be named. That happens without my knowledge and against my will. I pass over the pastors, since their work is more widely known, and restrict myself to the laymen among the school's steadfast supporters, and will name them in the order in which they were called away from their work.

### Peder C.T. Munk

was born in Bryrup near Horsens on the 4th of June, 1842. He has told me that his grandfather was very careful that the name Munk did not disappear from the family and therefore laid great importance to ensuring his grandchildren were baptized with that name. Munk came to America in 1869 and has among other places lived in Omaha, Nebraska, where a Norwegian Synod Pastor, most likely Erdahl, had great influence on him. From Omaha he moved to Burt County, Nebraska, where he was a member of the congregation at Argo, where the "Blair Synod" began in 1884. Right from the start Munk was hard at work on behalf of the school issue. He was therefore present at the meeting in Blair in July 1885, when "The Trinity School Society for the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Association in America" was formed, and he was a member of that Society.

In 1890 Munk and his family moved to Blair, and the first of July, 1891 he was elected President of the Board of Trustees of Trinity Seminary, a post he held until 1894. Both before and after that time his name is appears frequently in writings connected with the Board. He was as well a member of the Building Committee for the northern wing of the school building. And when the United Church was organized in 1896 Munk became treasurer of that Board of Trustees.

Munk is remembered by all who knew him as a capable and warmhearted man with living interest for God's Kingdom. In 1900 he turned over his farm to one of his sons and moved into the town of Blair. After living here a short time, he died on the first of April, 1900.

#### **Niels Jørgen Petersen**

was born in Smidstrup Parish near Fredericia the 18th of May, 1839. After coming to America, he lived for a time in Omaha and came from there to Washington County, Nebraska where he farmed. In his last years he lived in the town in Blair, steadily plagued by ill health. He died very suddenly on the 7th of May, 1908.

Petersen had a living interest in the school issue from the very beginning and was therefore one of the first and largest financial supporters of the new school building in 1886. He was for some years a member of the School's Board of Trustees. Petersen will, by all who knew him, be remembered as not a little melancholy, but a very self-sacrificing and helpful man. And so he was known by most of the school's teachers.

#### **Marcus Beck**

was born in Skærbeck Parish in Southern Jutland in 1847. He was very early fatherless and had to work outside the home. As a young man he came to work for a prosperous farmer Niels Bæk in Hjemsted Parish, and from there came to America in 1866 as a 19-year-old. P. A. Mosbøll in New York, who also was born in Skærbeck Parish and was known to Niels Bæk in Hjemsted, found for him a place to stay and directions at first. Mosbøll, who had been in New York since 1836, got him a job and encouraged him with his violin playing, when homesickness became a bit strong for him. From New York Marcus Beck traveled to Wisconsin and worked for a time with the well known Pastor J.A. Ottesen in Koshkonong, Dane County.

From Wisconsin Beck moved to Iowa, where he worked with the construction of the Northwestern Railroad together with his brother. From there he came -- having lost all his possessions to a thief -- one beautiful 4th of July to Omaha, Nebraska, and got work there. But that would take us all too much time, if we should follow Beck in all his wanderings. We will therefore be content to say that in the beginning of the seventies he came to Washington County, where he had bought land. For not a few years he was a farmer, but then he moved at the beginning of the eighties to Blair, where he lived until his death on the 24th of March, 1911.

Marcus Beck has been a great and extremely industrious man in the service of the Church Association, whose treasurer he was in many years until his death.

But not least can he be named as serving in connection with the school.

Marcus Beck was a member of the first Building Committee in 1885-86, and he also was a member of all later building committees at the school, and he was always an effective member. With his clear understanding, sound judgment, strong willingness to work and to help where he could, in word and deed, Marcus Beck will be remembered by all who came in contact with him, not least among those of the school and the faculty, from the first to the last.

Under the Photograph - THE BONDO MEMORIAL

#### **10. About the School's Future**

Only One can speak clearly and certainly about the unknown; we people must be satisfied with what we know, to draw conclusions about the unknown. We know God's will; His will is that we hold this school in a Christian spirit; therefore has He laid down the attraction of truth, the knowledge of truth in the human breast and let it not be the weakest now, when the family forms like none before, and the fight for existence now and hereafter therefore remain stronger for them who desire victory. And we know the Danish Church peoples' will, that part of it which has formed the community around the school in Blair. Also it has been shown that this community will maintain a school. It has because of that basis already contributed a large sum, of which that part which can be counted amounts to about a hundred thousand dollars. And there can be no doubt that the church people will seek to ensure that this capital comes to give interest and the interest on interest -- to the enrichment of them and their children and their grandchildren.

And we know the will of the Danish American youth; they will attend the school and from year to year assemble in greater and greater numbers at this school. Not a few of our students are children of earlier students at the school.

One of the students from 1884 had the last winter no less than three sons attending the school. And not a few of the alumni have had their younger siblings at the school - also in this school year.

But all of these things bode well for the future of the school. And under these positive signs we meet together in hope that the next quarter-century which begins with the next 21st October, may be rich with good fruit. To God the honor, to the Danish American youth the grace and in the whole to forward God's Kingdom.

But the school must have more space to do its work, and it must have more power, more faculty and funds with which to do its work. But it is the Church Association which this year for the third time holds its annual meeting at the school in Blair, both to inspect and to help the school with God's assistance, without whom all human endeavor is for nought.

To Him be praise and honor for his grace and assistance in the 25 years which have now gone by, and we ask Him to bless this school, its faculty, students and friends in the years to come!

TO GOD THE HONOR!