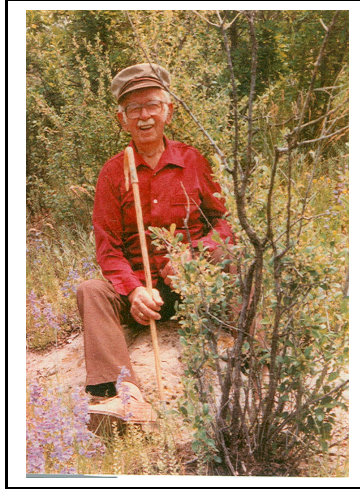
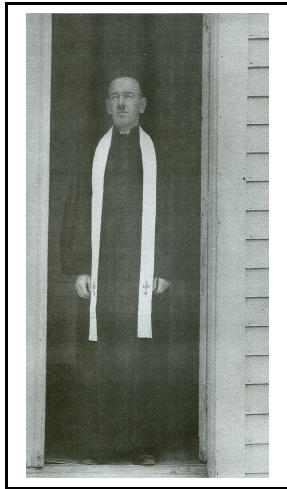


Across Oceans, Across Time®

Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



The above pictures show two faces of a versatile Danish immigrant who as an infant was bestowed a name almost longer than his christening gown: **Kristian Karl Johannes Marenti Ludvigsen**. Born in Taulov in Vejle County in 1897, K. M. Ludvigsen's first incarnation was as a Lutheran minister. Hoping to work in Africa, he was ordained at the Sudan Missionary Seminary in Denmark. His wife's health, however, prevented that dream from becoming a reality and the couple was instead sent to a congregation in Pass Lake, Ontario. Following his wife's death Pastor Ludvigsen came to the U.S., serving in Ansgar, Nebraska, before being called to Bethesda Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Iowa, in 1938. This, his longest assignment, lasted through the end of World War II. Later calls were to Clifton, Illinois; and Brush, Colorado. In the mid-1950s Ludvigsen left the full-time clergy, turning his hand to a variety of other endeavors. He owned an Episcopal-Lutheran bookstore in downtown Denver for many years, and worked as an insurance agent for the Lutheran Brotherhood as well as a realtor and in the hardware business. Following retirement in the early 1970s his love of the outdoors, horses and an innate adventurous spirit kept him active and on the go. While traveling in 1980 he suffered a stroke. This led him to return to Colorado, where he was instrumental in the formation of the National Stroke Association and later, the Shy Cliff Stroke Center. He also found time to practice his artistic talents, working in oils, charcoal and pencil before turning to clay in his later years. His bronze sculpture called "The Return" can be seen in Grace Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas.

K. M. Ludvigsen died in Castle Rock, Colorado, in 1993. He was the only one of his family to leave Denmark permanently, but his American family retains ties with its Danish relatives. His daughter Ellie has donated a number of stories and photographs of her father for the files at the FHGC.