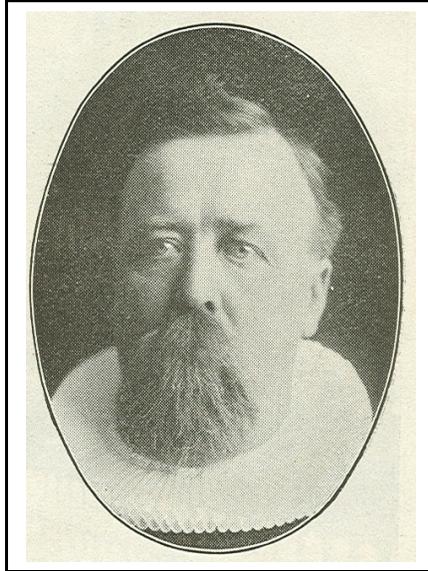


Across Oceans, Across Time[®] ...

Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



Peder Lauritz Christian Hansen was born in 1854 into a farming family in Barløse parish in southern Fyn. His family later moved to Grindløse parish, where he finished school before attending Vallekilde Folk High School. Peder taught public school near Slagelse for a time and then attended Askov Folk High School before coming to the U.S. in 1882. That same year he was ordained as a Lutheran minister in Chicago, where he married Elisa Petrina Kristine Pedersen. Like most of his contemporaries in the Danish-American Lutheran Church Pastor Hansen's life from here on was a peripatetic one, with sojourns in one locality commonly lasting between 2 and 5 years. Often the congregations he served were in rural areas or places where new Danish colonies were being established. His first call was to St. Stefan's Church in Chicago, following which he served or established churches in Viborg, South Dakota; Lincoln, Nebraska; Cedar Falls and Elk Horn, Iowa; Portland and Eugene, Oregon; San Francisco - where he experienced the 1906 earthquake and Great Fire; Minden, Nebraska; Kenosha, Wisconsin; and Turlock, California. Throughout his career he corresponded with colleagues about both spiritual matters and church business. Many of these letters were to his contemporary, Pastor Carl Christian Falk. This correspondence is now part of the collections at the Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg. It provides much insight into the concerns of this dedicated minister, as well as many of the issues and events that led up to the schism in the 1890s between Indre Mission and Grundtvigian adherents in the Danish Lutheran Church. The letters have been translated and comprise part of a biography of Peter Hansen's life recently received by the Museum. Rev. Peter L. C. Hansen and his second wife Marie Johnson died within a few months of each other in 1920-21 and are buried in at Fben-ezer in Brush Colorado