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H. H. Ronning, Vice President

To our Alma Mater we give our heads, our hearts, and our hands.

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Red Wing Seminary Alumni Association

Red Wing, Minn.

HISTORY OF RED WING SEMINARY

(Theological Department)

Red Wing Seminary, originally known as Hauge's Seminary, has from the very first embraced theological and preparatory departments, so that the history of the theological seminary of Hauge's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America is intimately, and almost inseparably, connected with the history of the institution as a whole. The whole institution has been under the same management, both institutional and general, ~~being~~ being under the same administrative head and the same board of directors. The members of the theological faculty have also been members of the general faculty, giving instruction both in the theological department and the preparatory departments. The theological students have been subject to the general rules of discipline of the institution, although amenable in specific cases only to the discipline of the members of the theological faculty. The theological faculty, has however, never been organized as a separate unit in the instructional force of the institution. It is evident, therefore, ^{that} ~~that~~ it is no easy matter to separate the history of the theological seminary from that of the ^academy and college of which it has from the very beginning been an integral part. We shall nevertheless, endeavor to present the history of the theological seminary by itself as much as possible.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, known since 1875 as Hauge's Norwegian Evangelical Synod of America, was founded by laymen and its ministry during a little better than three decades of its

history consisted of men with very little general education and no theological training. There was, however, a growing need felt for better trained men for the ministry, and after a few abortive attempts at ~~est~~ establishing a school for the training of pastors and teachers, Red Wing Seminary was opened in the fall of 1879 as a theological seminary and preparatory school for boys. The first attempt was made in 1854 at Lisbon, Ill., and the second in 1865 at ~~Koshkonong, Wis.~~ Koshkonong, Wis. In 1867 ground was purchased at Red Wing, Minn., and work ~~gan~~ begun on grading the lot preparatory to building. Then a proposition came from Trinity Church of Chicago inviting the Synod to join that congregation in the erection of a ~~church~~ building on the corner of Grand ^{avenue} ~~and~~ north Peoria street to be used jointly by the congregation and the Synod for church and school purposes. ~~This~~ This proposition was finally accepted and the building erected, but the undertaking proved a failure and more than a decade of time was wasted. In 1877 this project was abandoned by the Synod.

By private initiative, especially by H.M. Sande, Aspelund, Minn., supported by Rev. Østen Hanson and A. Ellingson, an abandoned school property in Red Wing was purchased for the sum of \$10,000. ~~These~~ deal was later approved by the Synod and the ground previously purchased in Red Wing, embracing about three acres, was traded in on this property. At last the Synod was in possession of a school building and school grounds, but it had no teachers. At the meeting of the Synod in 1878, at which meeting the purchase of the school property at Red Wing was approved, it was also decided to extend a call to Rev. A. Wenaas^e of Norway to become president and theological professor of the new institution. Rev. Wenaas^e, however, declined the call, and being without teachers, the Synod was unable to open the school that year as had been planned.

At its meeting the following year, the Synod extended a call to Rev. I. Eistensen as temporary president and theological professor. He accepted the call and entered upon his duties at the opening of the seminary, Sept. 17, 1879. Besides Rev. Eistensen the school had only another teacher at its opening, namely Prof. G. O. Brohough, engaged to teach the preparatory branches. At the opening of the school there were present thirteen pupils, but this number increased to seventy, a more auspicious and prophetic number, during the school year. During this year there were seven theological students.

At the meeting of the Synod in 1880, Rev. Eistensen was called as permanent president and theological professor, but he declined ~~as~~ to accept the call for more than a year. The Synod therefore decided to send a delegation of two to Norway to secure a theological professor and president for the school. As delegates Rev. I. Eistensen and Rev. R. O. Hill were chosen. ~~Thankxmakixoxfxthxixxmaixxwxaxthxaxxxxxkingxafx~~
~~RaxxixWaxxWaxxaxx~~ The result of their mission was that they secured Rev. A. Weenaas for the position, but as he could not come until the following year, and Rev. Eistensen declined to serve another year, it was found necessary to discontinue the theological department during the following school year. Mr. I. Kyllingstad, a returned ~~missionary to Africa~~, missionary to Africa, was chosen as temporary president and instructor in religion for the ensuing year, and the preparatory school continued as before. Prof. Weenaas arrived during the summer of 1882 and ~~xxx~~ entered upon his duties at the opening of the school in the fall of that year. The theological department was now reopened, and was attended by the following students: Iver Hatlestad, T. J. Skjei, G. C. Gjerstad, C. C. Holter, L. L. Nervig, J. B. A. Dahle, A. Wold, O. O. Bergh, M. G. Hanson, and P. C. Rømo. Prof. Weenaas taught three periods a day of theology and two periods of preparatory subjects.

At the meeting of the Synod in 1883, the theological course was definitely fixed at three years to embrace the following subjects: Old and New Testament Exegesis, Dogmatics, Symbolics, Church History, Old and New Testament Introduction, and Practical Theology. The same year Prof. S.R. Gunnerson, who had just resigned his position at Augsburg Seminary, was called to be the second professor of theology, taking charge of the work in New Testament Exegesis and Introduction and Church History. At the commencement of that school year, the Seminary sent forth its first class of graduates from the theological department, consisting of M.G. Hanson, O.O. Bergh, J.B.A. Dale, L.L. Nervig, and T.J. Skjei. At the close of the school year, Prof. Gunnerson retired from his position, declining to accept a permanent call, and O.S. Meland was elected to fill ^{the} ~~the~~ vacancy. During the school year 1884-5, there were eighteen theological students in attendance. Prof. Weenaas now resigned, having decided to return to Norway, and the Seminary was again without a head. In the fall of that year, Rev. J.N. Kildahl was elected president and professor of theology for the coming year by the church council, a call which he accepted. Rev. Kildahl declined to continue in this position, so Rev. M.G. Hanson was called as president and theological professor for the year 1886-7. The following year Prof. O.S. Meland was elected president and H.H. Bergsland ~~acknowledged~~ called as theological professor. Prof. Meland continued as president till 1889, when he was succeeded by Prof. H.H. Bergsland, and as theological professor till 1892, when E. Kr. Johnson succeeded him. Prof. Bergsland served as president of the Seminary till 1897, when he was succeeded by Rev. M.G. Hanson, who served as president and theological professor until 1910, when he returned to the ministry. Prof. E. Kr. Johnson, whom Rev. Hanson succeeded, resigned his position in 1897. Prof. Bergsland continued in his position as theological professor until his death in 1907.

The necessity of giving some of the theological instruction in English was early felt, but it was a difficult matter to secure Norwegian teachers in theology to say nothing of obtaining English teachers. However, arrangements were made with Rev. G. Rast, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church of Red Wing, to give some hours per week in English during the years 1891-2 and 1892-3. From 1893 to 1897, there was no English instruction given, but in the fall of 1897, Rev. J. A. Leas, pastor of the English Lutheran church of Red Wing of the General Council, accepted a call to teach church history and Biblical theology, but he served only during the school year of 1897-8. In 1898, L. H. Chally was called as English professor of theology, and served as such until 1902. The two following year, Rev. A. J. Reichert, pastor of the English Lutheran church at Red Wing, had charge of the instruction in church history, symbolics, and English homiletics, and Biblical geography. The following year, Rev. A. O. Mortvedt served as English professor of theology. He was succeeded in 19⁰5 by Rev. J. Teleen, D. D., who served for three years in this capacity, when he was succeeded by Prof. E. W. Schmidt. Prof. Schmidt continued as English professor of theology until the ~~separation of the~~ Union. He also served as president of the Seminary from 1910 till the Union, succeeding Prof. M. G. Hanson.

Prof. H. H. Bergsland died Jan. 19, 1907 after serving as professor of Old Testament exegesis and dogmatics for twenty years. His death came very unexpectedly, and his important place could not be filled immediately. However, Rev. Th. Himle, who for many years had been a missionary in China and was at the time home on his furlough, was prevailed upon by the board of directors to take charge of some of Prof. Bergsland's work for the remainder of the year, the balance of the work being taken over by Prof. M. G. Hanson. The following year Rev. O. R. Wold, also a missionary home on furlough, served temporarily on the faculty. At the meeting of

the Synod in 1908, Rev. M. O. Wee was called as professor of Old Testament exegesis and dogmatics and Prof. E. W. Schmidt as ~~professor of Old Testament~~ English professor of theology. President M. G. Hanson resigned his ~~position~~ position in 1910 to return to the ministry, and Rev. Th. Homle was called to ~~fill~~ fill the vacancy temporarily, serving during the school year of 1910-11. At the meeting of the Synod in June, 1911, Rev. G. M. Bruce was extended a permanent call as professor of practical theology, and entered upon his duties at the opening of the school ~~year~~ year. The theological faculty was thus once more complete. The theological course of study was now revised and systematized, ~~and the following new courses added:~~ and the following new courses added: Apologetics, Old Testament Theology, Church Polity, Evangelistics, Diaconics, History of Preaching, and Christian Sociology. The courses of study ^{were} ~~was~~ so arranged that all the introductory ⁱⁿ ~~4~~ subjects were given during the junior year and the more advanced subjects every alternate year in certain groups, so as to limit as far as possible the number of hours per week both for teachers and students. ^{and every third year in other} Owing to the extension of the college course of the Seminary and the shortage of teachers in the academic and college departments, it was still necessary for the theological professors to teach certain branches in these departments. Prof. Schmidt taught biology and physiography, Prof. Wee Hebrew and comparative religion, and Prof. Bruce general sociology, social ^P pathology, criminal sociology, and politics in the college department. In addition to this Prof. Bruce also taught religion in the academic department and for ~~some time~~ ~~commercial~~ three years commercial correspondence in the commercial department. The courses in biology and sociology were so arranged that a three hour per week course was given every alternate year, thus limiting the number of hours of college work to three hours per week.

The following theological course was given from 1911 until the Union in 1917:

Junior Year.

First Semester		Second Semester	
N.T. Introduction	2 hrs. per wk.	Bible Geography	2 hrs. per wk.
O.T. Introduction	2	O.T. Introduction	2
Theol. Propedeutics	2	El. Homiletics	2
Hist. of Doctrines	1	Hist. of Doctrines	1
Bible Reading	1	Public Speaking	1

All Classes. Each group given every third year.

A

Church History	3
N.T. Ex. John	3
N.T. Ex. Acts	1
O.T. Ex. Genesis	3
Cursory Ex. Deut.	1

Church History	3
N.T. Ex. John	3
N.T. Ex. Acts	1
O.T. Ex. Genesis	3
Cursory Ex. Deut.	1

B

Church History	3
N.T. Ex. Synoptics	3
N.T. Ex. 1 Cor.	1
O.T. Ex. Isaiah	3
Cursory Ex. Jonah	1

Church History	3
N.T. Ex. Synoptics	3
N.T. Ex. 1 Cor.	1
O.T. Ex. Micah	3
Cursory Ex. Daniel	1

C

Church History	3
N.T. Ex. Romans	3
O.T. Ex. Psalms	3
Cursory Ex. Job	1

Church History	3
N.T. Ex. Romans	3
O.T. Ex. Psalms	3
~~O.T. Ex.~~	
Cursory Ex. Job	1

Middlers and Seniors. Each group given alternate years.

A

Dogmatics	3
O.T. Theology	1
Christian Ethics	3
Evangelistics	1
Liturgics	1

Dogmatics	3
O.T. Theology	1
Christian Ethics	3
Diaconics	1
Church Polity	1

B

Dogmatics	3
Apologetics	1
Polimenics	3
Christian Sociology	2

Dogmatics	3
Apologetics	1
Catechetics	3
Symbolics	2

~~Middlers Only.~~

Middlers Only.

Adv. Homiletics 1	Adv. Homiletics 1
Seniors Only.	
History of Preaching 1	History of Preaching 1

Division of Work Among Professors.

Prof. E. W. Schmidt:

Church History	N. T. Exegesis	Bible Geography
Bible Reading	Public Speaking	N. T. Introduction

Prof. M. O. Wee:

O. T. Exegesis	O. T. Introduction	Dogmatics
Apologetics	History of Doctrines	

Prof. G. M. Bruce:

Christian Ethics	Poimenics	Liturgics
Symbolics	Catechetics	Church Polity
Evangelistics	Diaconics	Homiletics
Theological Propedeutics		Christian Sociology

History of Preaching

H. B. Murt *Attended of presidents and professors here.*
 Graduates.

The theological department of ~~Raxd~~ Red Wing Seminary has sent forth 183 graduates as follows:

The following graduates have continued their studies at other institutions and have received higher degrees:

Rasmus S. Saby, M.A., U. Minn., Ph.D., Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
 Gustav M. Bruce, M.A., U.S. Dak., S.T.D., Temple University, Philadelphia.
 Nels J. Lohre, M.A., U.S. Dak.
 Ariel O. Mortvedt, B.D., Maywood Theological Seminary, Chicago.

- *Gustav M. Bruce*

Presidents of Red Wing Seminary.

(Insert after course of study)

Rev. Ingvald Eistensen	1879-1881
Rev. August Weenass	1882-1885
Rev. John N. Kildahl	1885-1886
Rev. Martin G. Hanson	1886-1887
Prof. Ole S. Meland	1887-1889
Prof. H. H. Bergsland	1889-1897
Rev. M. G. Hanson	1897-1910
Prof. Edward W. Schmidt	1910-1917

Theological Professors of Red Wing Seminary.

Rev. I. Eistensen	1879-1881	
Rev. A. Weenaas	1882-1885	Exegesis, Dogmatics, Ethics, Pract. Theol
Rev. S. Gunnersen	1883-1884	N.T. Ex., Introduction, Church History
Prof. Q. S. Meland	1884-1892	Church History, Practical Theology
Rev. J. N. Kildahl	1885-1886	
Rev. M. G. Hanson	1886-1887, 1897-1910	N.T. Exegesis, Practical Theology
Prof. H. H. Bergsland	1887-1907	O.T. Ex. Dogmatics, Ethics.
Rev. G. Rast	1891-1893	Doctrinal Theology and N.T. Ex. Eng.
Prof. E. Kr. Johnson	1892-1897	N.T. Ex., Ch. Hist., Pract. Theol.
Rev. J. A. Leas	1897-1898	Biblical Theol., Geog., Ch. Hist. Eng.
Prof. C. H. Chally	1898-1902	Ch. Hist., Homiletics, Bib. Geog. Eng.
Rev. A. J. Reichert	1902-1904	Ch. Hist., Homiletics, Symb. Geog. Eng.
Rev. A. O. Mortvedt	1904-1905	Ch. Hist., Homiletics, Symb. Geog. Eng.
~~Rev. Th. Himle~~	~~1905-1907~~	~~Ch. Hist., Homiletics, Symb., Geog. Eng.~~
Rev. J. Telien	1905-1908	Ch. Hist., Homiletics, Symb., Geog. Eng.
Rev. Th. Himle	1907	Part of Prof. Bergsland's work.
Rev. O. R. Wold	1907-1908	Dogmatics and Practical Theology
Prof. E. W. Schmidt	1908-1917	Church History, N.T. Exegesis.
Rev. M. O. Wee	1908-1917	Dogmatics, O.T. Exegesis.
Rev. G. M. Bruce	1911-1917	Ethics, Practical Theology