

Koren 100

Issue No. 1 *Architecture and the Korens*



Luther Before Decorah

The first freestanding Luther College library honors founder Rev. Ulrik Vilhelm (U.V.) Koren. Beginning in 1861, Luther College students lived and studied at the Halfway Creek Parsonage near La Crosse, Wisconsin with faculty members Professor Laur. Larsen and Rev. F.A. Schmidt. During this time, the Norwegian Synod, the religious body that founded and supported the school, explored options for a permanent home. In June 1861, for \$1,500, Rev. Koren purchased the land where Luther stands today.¹

CLOSE QUARTERS IN WISCONSIN

At Halfway Creek, students, faculty, and faculty families all shared living quarters. The downstairs had a large kitchen, which also was used as a dining room, a pantry, quarters for the parsonage steward, and two connected rooms used for instruction and study. These two rooms also served as sleeping quarters for 8 students. Upstairs, a spare room was converted into a shared closet, called the "clothes room." The Schmidt family lived in a set of two connected rooms, while the Larsens lived in a single room. Three students slept in the final room, intended to be Professor Larsen's office.²³ "If more students come," Larsen observed, "they will either have to sleep in the clothes room, or in one of Prof. Schmidt's rooms; and while he would gladly consent to this, it would be very crowded for him."⁴ Luther moved to Decorah in 1862, which proved fortunate. In 1865, the same year the first Main building was dedicated, the parsonage burned to the ground.

The Korens



Ulrik Vilhelm and Elizabeth Koren; Herbjørn Gausta; Luther College Fine Arts Collection; Decorah, Iowa

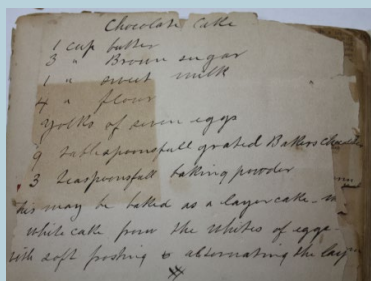
Born in Bergen, Norway, U.V. Koren immigrated to the United States in 1853, after being called to serve the Norwegian Lutheran Little Iowa Congregation in Winneshiek County, Iowa. This congregation served members across the county. Five current Lutheran churches trace their history back to Little Iowa: Madison, Washington Prairie, Stavanger, Calmar, and Glenwood.⁵ Rev. Koren spent much of his career as a circuit pastor, traveling to various towns to provide pastoral services. His pastorate eventually expanded to include parts of northeastern Iowa and southern Minnesota. While he served many churches, he and his wife resided at the Washington Prairie Church parsonage, where he served as pastor from 1853 through 1910. He also was heavily involved in the Norwegian Synod, serving as its president for sixteen years.⁶ Rev. Koren remained involved with Luther College throughout his career, including serving on the school's Board of Trustees from 1865-1871.⁷

Rev. Koren's wife, Else Elisabeth (née Hysing) Koren, was born in Larvik, Norway to a distinguished upper-class family. Born slightly deaf, Elisabeth learned several languages while being privately tutored at her father's school. She kept a diary chronicling her 1853 immigration and her first two years living in Decorah. This diary, translated into English

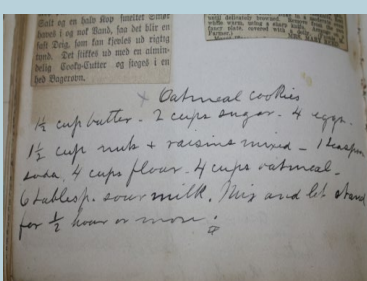
from Norwegian, provides insight into life in 1850s Decorah.⁸ Through her correspondence with the wives of other local pastors, Elisabeth strategized how to model housekeeping, teaching, and motherhood for her community. Elisabeth was especially close to Linka Preus, the wife of Luther founder Rev. H.A. Preus. [Dr. Gracia Grindal](#) has written extensively on the

The Recipes of Elisabeth Koren and the “Battle of the Bettys”

In the fall of 2017, Dr. Crider's Introduction to Museum Studies class created an exhibit called “The Battle of the Bettys.” A trip to the Koren Collection, Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum Archives inspired an experiment in which one exhibit team prepared the Koren family recipes for oatmeal cookies, breakfast muffins, and chocolate cake alongside the commercially pre-packaged, just add eggs and oil Betty Crocker versions. The whole class voted in a side-by-side taste test and it was generally agreed that while the Koren recipes tended to have less sugar, both her cookies and her cake were more popular than Betty Crocker's.



Recipes collected by Elisabeth Koren, Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.



Museum Studies students working on exhibit. (Taken by Destiny Crider)

EGGE-KOREN CABIN

When the Korens arrived in Winneshiek County in 1853, the Washington Prairie parsonage had not yet been built. For much of their first year in America, the Korens were instead hosted by various local families, including the Egges. Erik and Helene Egge lived with their two toddlers in a 14 x 16 foot cabin, which was divided into two rooms by calico curtains, an additional curtain separating the two beds. Elizabeth described the difficulties of their living conditions in her diary, writing, "I cannot imagine how Vilhelm will get any quiet for study here, it is so crowded."¹⁰ The Korens arrived at their new home on Christmas Eve, 1853, and remained until March 10, 1854.¹¹

The Egge-Koren Cabin, as it came to be known, was moved from its original location to the Luther College campus in 1913 when it was acquired as part of the Luther College Museum.¹² It remained there with several other pioneer cabins until 1976, when it was moved a few miles down the road to the [Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum](#).¹³ Today, visitors to the Vesterheim's newly-renovated Heritage Park can view the cabin the Korens called home.



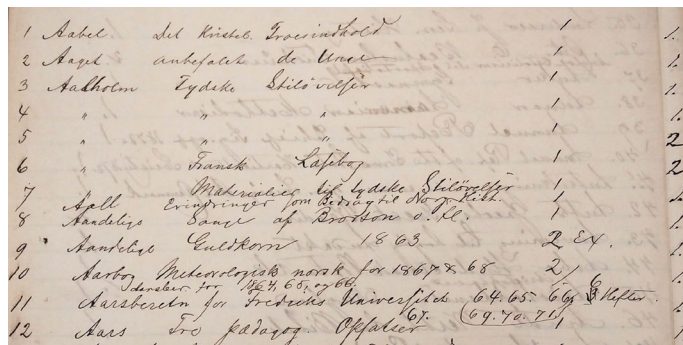
The Egge-Koren Cabin on the Luther College campus, 1955. The Korens shared this cabin with the Egge family for nearly three months.

circle of Decorah wives of the Luther College founders and pastors.

In 1883, the Koren couple had a pair of portraits commissioned from famous Norwegian painter Herbjørn Gausta. Gausta briefly attended Luther College, left to attend art school, and later returned to teach painting at Luther, living with the Korens at the Washington Prairie parsonage.⁹ Visitors can view these portraits on the first floor of Koren.

Ever Expanding Library Collections

Originally, the library collection was housed on the second floor of Main in the so-called "tower room." In the beginning, the Norwegian Synod budgeted \$100 per year to purchase books for the college. This investment increased over the next several years. By 1881, the college had amassed 3,500 volumes. Collections of books



A page of handwritten entries in the 1873 catalog of the Luther College Library. (Taken by Hayley Jackson)

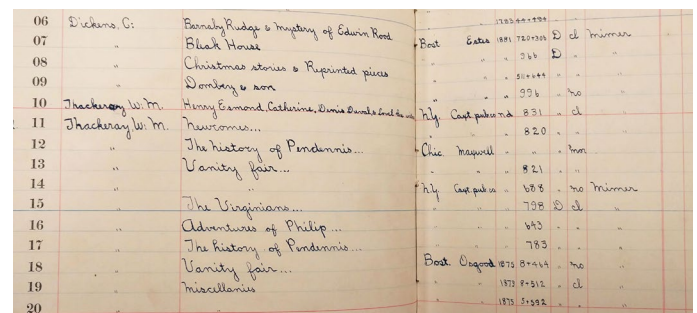
also were gifted to the college. A notable gift was the Bang Collection. While Prof. Larsen had been in communication with Bishop Anton Christian Bang as early as 1879, the 1914 acquisition was funded and supported by alumni Hon. Laruits Swenson '86 and Chicago banker Herman Haugan. With their help, several thousand volumes were added to the library. The Bang Collection remains one of the college's oldest and largest additions to the library, with several items kept as part of the rare books collection and in closed stacks.¹⁴

Student groups also collected books. One such club was the Mimer Society, named for the giant Mimir who guarded Mimirbrunnr, the well of knowledge in Norse mythology.¹⁵ Mimer was founded "expressly for the purpose

of obtaining more books along wider cultural lines, the funds of the library not being sufficient to obtain much more than the most needed reference works."¹⁶ They collected 900 books over fifteen years by charging each member one dollar per year. These books covered a wide variety of subjects, as the students wished to expand beyond Norwegian and read other classics and educational texts. This "Mimer Student Library" was added as a generous donation to Luther's library collection when the group decided to disband in 1889.¹⁷

Thanks to donations like these, the collection quickly outgrew its living space and was moved to larger quarters on the first floor of Main in 1884. This relocation ultimately saved these precious books when lightning struck in 1889, and the building caught fire. The building burned to the ground, but not before students carried the books out. Close to 6,000 volumes were saved over the course of several hours that night.¹⁸

As Main was being rebuilt, these collections shared a space with the college museum in what was known as the Chicken Coop. This building was originally built as a barn, then transitioned into a dormitory space, and later a housing space for museum and library collections.¹⁹ When the new Main building was completed in 1891, it was moved to three designated rooms at the south end of the building. The collection soon outgrew that space, taking over a room outside the librarian's office, and two rooms in the corner of the second floor.²⁰ The need for a separate library grew as the college gained momentum. By 1920, the library collections included 27,000 volumes and between 5,000-7,000 pamphlets.²¹



A page of a library accession book with Mimer additions, including works by Charles Dickens. (Taken by Hayley Jackson)



Photo of Main I burning, annotated by President Oscar L. Olson, 1891. Olson was a student at the time of the fire. He identified his room, noting all his belongings were saved

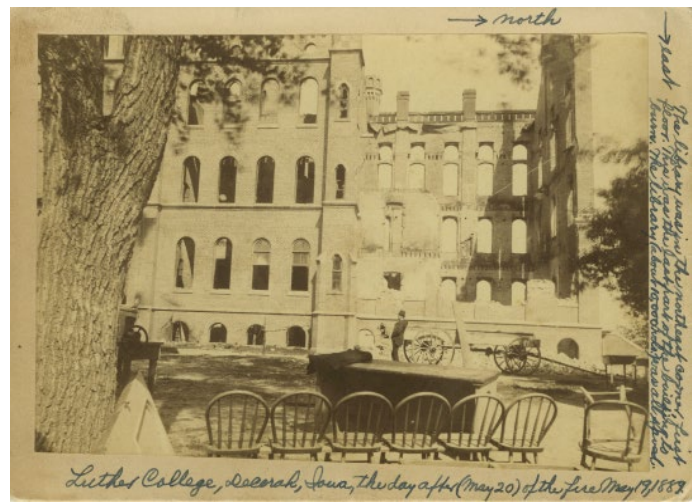


Photo of salvaged furniture outside of Main I the day after the fire, annotated by President Oscar L. Olson. In the margins, Olson recalled how the library space was the last part of the building to burn, allowing all the books to be saved.

C.K. Preus: Man on a Library Mission

After assuming the presidency of Luther College in 1902, Rev. Christian Keyser (C.K.) Preus saw a need for new campus facilities. The prospect of a freestanding library became one of his top priorities.

Design

When working with architects to design the new library, Preus exchanged several letters with James (J.C.M.) Hanson '82. Hanson, who was serving as the Associate Director of Libraries at the University of Chicago, offered pages of advice on designing the library. He wrote that elaborate decor should be sacrificed in favor of flexible open spaces and abundant high windows. He also recommended the use of pressed brick for the exterior, the use of metal shelving instead of wood, and to avoid gas lighting "as far as possible in rooms containing books."²² Hanson's expertise proved valuable enough that the Board of Trustees appointed him to the Building Committee.²³

The final design, as prepared by architects Magney and Tusler, was for a brick building of Georgian design, with stone facing and symmetrical arched windows. The proposed reading room would accommodate up to 84 students, and its metal stacks would hold up to 80,000 volumes. Possibly remembering the previous salvaging of the library, Luther College librarian Karl T. Jacobsen '02 wrote

that "construction is of reinforced concrete and other fireproof materials."²⁴ The building contract was awarded to A.R. Coffeen of Decorah in February 1921.²⁵

During the later stages of the project, Preus also corresponded with noted landscape architect Jens Jensen. Jensen had worked with Luther College previously to redesign the campus landscape prior to the school's 50th anniversary in 1911. During that project, there was debate about where to place a future library, with Jensen in favor of removing Preus' home, known as the Reque House (later known as Sunnyside) on the east side of campus and building the library there. Once it was determined that the house would be too expensive to move, he eventually agreed to move the library a few hundred feet southeast, as drawn on his campus plan. When asked by Preus for his opinion in 1920, Jensen reiterated "I personally always preferred the Reque House site for the site of the Library, but was persuaded at the time to change the plan. The second choice is also a fine location."²⁶

The name of the new building appeared to be less contentious than the site of the building. Minutes from the September 26, 1919 Board of Trustees meeting state "Moved and carried, that the new library building be called the Koren Library."²⁷ No discussion or objections were recorded.

AN AUDITORIUM IN THE LIBRARY

Early in the library project, Preus corresponded with architect A.T. Ganger. Letters between the two indicate that Preus had hoped to include an auditorium in the new library for lectures and performances. Unfortunately, they determined the extra space was too expensive.²⁸

LIGHTING A LIBRARY

Before widespread access to electricity, indoor lights in Decorah were powered by gas. Electric light first came to Decorah in 1883 with the incorporation of the Decorah Electric Light and Power Company.²⁹ They were replaced by the Decorah Electric Light Company, whose new plant electrified the town in 1897.³⁰ In 1901, the Luther College Alumni Association raised money to install a private electric light plant to power campus.³¹ Despite the growing popularity of electricity, there were still debates on whether gas or electric lights would better serve the college. James Hanson made it clear to Preus that gas lights, particularly in areas where books were kept, were not advisable. Gas lamps increased the risk of fire, and Luther had already lost one building to fire. Despite this, Preus made the decision to include strategically placed gas lamps in library. "The trouble is that the electric lights sometimes disappear here in town," he wrote to Hanson in 1921, "and we are then left absolutely in the dark, if we haven't a gas light somewhere to find our way out, at least."³²

Fundraising

The process of raising money for the library involved tricky regional politics, changing priorities, and Lutheran disputes, but over the course of twenty years, Luther College was able to gather funds from loyal alumni, churches, and parent religious institutions. Brick by brick, donation by donation, they managed to reach their goals.

Fundraising for a library building had begun as early as 1902, with a promised gift of \$1,500 towards a library and museum building. The library project, however, was supplanted several times by other projects needing attention. Initially, a new dormitory was considered a more pressing issue, so efforts went towards building Larsen Hall, which was completed in 1907. Students and alumni took up fundraising and block-making in 1909, in hopes the building would be complete in time for the college's 50th anniversary in 1911; however, an unexpected gift of \$50,000 towards an endowment prompted the College to put energy towards raising funds for that project. The library issue was revived yet again in 1913, but the Norwegian Synod, the religious body that founded and supported Luther, chose to prioritize raising money to pay off its debts. The Synod was anticipating merging with two

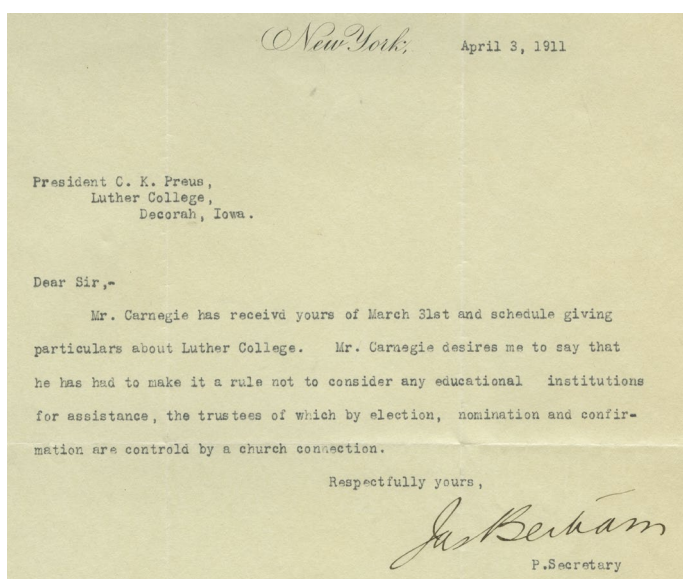
other Norwegian Lutheran church bodies, and wanted to enter it free of debt. This merge became official in 1917, establishing the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America (NLCA).³³ Fortunately for Luther, there was a \$25,000 surplus left from the debt fund. This became the nucleus for the library fund, and in 1919, NLCA President Hans G. Stub '66 authorized Preus to begin fundraising for the library.³⁴

The merger presented an additional challenge because the NLCA had several educational institutions to support in addition to Luther, including St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, which previously had been supported by the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. St. Olaf was fundraising for a new gymnasium at the same time Luther was seeking funds for the new library. Instead of asking all NLCA-affiliated churches to contribute to both campaigns, a compromise was reached. According to a document outlining NLCA fundraising activity for 1919-1920, the agreement was that Luther College was permitted to seek funds from churches who had been affiliated with the Norwegian Synod prior to the merger, while St. Olaf could fundraise at churches who had previously been affiliated with the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. There were a few exceptions to this rule. "Congregations

around the institution in the neighborhood," the document stated, "are considered open territory."³⁵

When given the green light by the NLCA, Preus began a significant campaign, traveling to churches across Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin to make his case for supporting a new library. The College chose a subscription-based fundraising model, in which a person would pledge an amount of money and promise to pay in full after a certain number of years. They would bring the money to an assigned local pastor, who in turn would mail the funds to Preus at the college. When he could not travel, Preus recruited close colleagues, including his own adult sons, to make trips to speak on his behalf.

In addition to these traditional sources of funding, Luther College administration explored more creative avenues for gaining the necessary funding. In 1911, a representative from Luther College wrote to Andrew Carnegie to see if he might contribute funds towards the library. At the time, Carnegie was the richest man in the world. Using his wealth, he funded the construction of 1,689 public libraries around the nation. Unfortunately, Luther's request was one of the few that he rejected, citing the religious affiliation of the college as the reason he would not contribute funds.³⁶



Letter written to C.K. Preus by James Bertram, secretary to Andrew Carnegie, denying Luther's request for funds to build a library.

FUNDRAISING TIPS FROM PREUS

Making the pitch to potential donors could be tricky. In a 1920 letter to Rev. E. R. Weeks, Preus shared some of his best tips:

- If a person thought missionary work was more important: "They will have no missionaries if they do not take care of our own colleges, and they will not have good students if we do not equip the schools well."

- If a person did not believe all the books were necessary since nobody read them all: "Ask him who has eaten all the drugs in the drugstore. Nobody has of course, but they must have them there so they can be gotten when needed. So with books."

- If a person was still upset about the Norwegian Synod merge: "Tell him that the work is going on as usual at Luther College. It is work for old Synod principles and he ought to support them."³⁷

Koren's Building Blocks

Before the Koren Library could be constructed, it was necessary to assemble the building blocks. In February 1909, students approached Preus and the Board of Trustees with the proposal to assist with building a library by constructing concrete blocks. Student volunteers made over 27,000 concrete blocks over the course of five years.³⁸ Freshmen were specifically pulled out of classes to help dig out the foundation for the building. It was their duty to help their school and enable the learning of future classes, and as one fundraiser wrote rather unsympathetically: "the idea of the boys doing something is good. They should have been doing these sorts of things all these years."³⁹ The young men undoubtedly had some strong opinions on the subject, but their friends who had graduated already were happy to do their part on the financial side. Joseph G. Hanson, an alumni and high school principal, promised to gather his fellows and put together 25 dollars-enough to make about 150 concrete blocks.⁴⁰ Adjusted for inflation, Hanson's \$25 would be about \$707.25 today. Therefore, the equivalent cost of bricks alone in 2021 would be \$129,870. Miracle Stone, the company who sold the equipment, also was quite generous in provid-

ing advice over several months and advertising that their products would create blocks both moisture and frost-resistant.⁴¹ These features were important for surviving the harsh winters of northern Iowa.

The mold used to create the bricks for Koren Library still exists today in Dr. Uwe Rudolf and Dr. Ruth Caldwell's Decorah home. Dr. Rudolf and Dr. Caldwell live in a house built by William Sihler, a beloved early professor of German at Luther College. Known for his kind heart and eccentric teaching style, Sihler built the home in 1903 using the same brick mold students used to make bricks for Koren. Keeping with tradition, Sihler also hired students to build his house. The house, however, was not constructed as meticulously as Koren. According to Dr. Rudolf, not all of the bricks in his house line up perfectly like they do in Koren.⁴² The mold itself was unknown to him for six years because he was afraid of the "primitive door" in the basement of his house. When he finally built up enough courage to open the door, he was greeted by a spider that was as large as a tarantula! The door was immediately closed again and stayed that way for a bit longer. Later, after the spider was conquered, Rudolf found the brick mold and realized that it was used to build the Koren Library.



Photo of brick-making machine used by students to make bricks for building Koren, 2021. (Taken by Uwe Rudolf)

A Closing Chapter

After years of designing, fundraising, and brickmaking, construction began on the new library in April 1921. Rev. Hans G. Stub, member of the first Luther College graduating class of 1866 and president of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, laid the cornerstone in a ceremony on April 18, 1921. Rev. Johan Linnevold, an 1890 graduate and described by Preus as one of Rev. Koren's "spiritual sons" gave a talk in English.⁴³ The Luther College Concert Band provided music. Rev. Paul Koren '82, son of Rev. Koren and Elisabeth, also spoke at the service.

Sadly, Preus would not live to see the building he championed completed. He passed away suddenly on May 28, 1921. Two of his sons, Johan C.K. Preus and future Luther College president Ove. J. H. Preus, continued his fundraising work to ensure there was enough money to complete the building and pay off loans. They were assisted by Paul Koren.⁴⁴ At Preus's memorial, one Rev. G. A. Sundby '00 said that rather than send a wreath for the



Cornerstone of Koren, laid April 18, 1921. Photo taken circa 1980s.

BLOCKS AND BUCKS

Paolo Sperati '15, son of Luther College Band director Carlo Sperati, was a student in the Preparatory Department when he spent a winter making concrete blocks for the library building. "I didn't do much," he wrote to Preus. "I was in the "Prep" and only a kid, I suppose."⁴⁷ The work left an impression on him long after he graduated. In 1919, he was stationed with the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia, and still receiving issues of the *College Chips*. Inspired by an op-ed encouraging students to support the library effort, he sent Preus a money order for \$25. "I've been thinking about the desired building," he noted. "A couple of weeks ago, I decided finally not merely to 'think' anymore."⁴⁸

Preus was touched by the gesture. "It was a great pleasure to receive a letter from you," he replied, " ...your letters showed that the war, Siberia, your commission etc. has not led you to forget Luther and friends here."⁴⁹ He also made it a point to note that the architect pronounced "the blocks you made fine for the purpose."⁵⁰

Brickmaking in Decorah

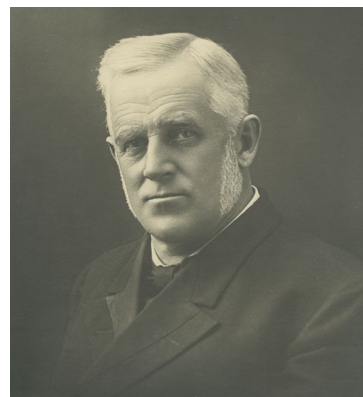
The K Brothers Brick Company was founded in 1900 by brothers Bernard and Charles Kornmeyer. The company ran for nearly thirty years in Decorah, Iowa, producing upwards of one million bricks per year from three separate production kilns. The kilns were conveniently located near a natural clay pit on the south side of town, near the highway 52 and highway 9 intersection. The Kornmeyers' father emigrated from Germany in 1861 and found his way to Decorah in 1863. Bernard Sr had his own brick kiln on what is now the Luther College campus before the K Brothers Brick Company was opened. The First Lutheran Church and many of the brick houses on the west side of Decorah were made from Kornmeyer Bricks. Both the First Lutheran Church and the Koren Library were, in part, funded by the Norwegian Synod.



A Brick found at an 1885 homestead 10 miles east of Decorah. (Photo taken by Ian Gonzales, 2021, Anthropology Lab Collections Assistant)

casket, his congregation would take up additional subscriptions for Koren Library.⁴⁵

His monumental efforts were not forgotten. On Founder's Day, October 14, 1921, Dr. O.E. Brandt '79 officially dedicated Koren Library in honor of U.V. Koren, and C.K. Preus. Another son, newly-elected Minnesota Governor Jacob A. O. Preus, '03, was on hand to give the opening remarks, while Paul Koren gave the final benediction.⁴⁶ After nearly twenty years, Luther College had a freestanding library.



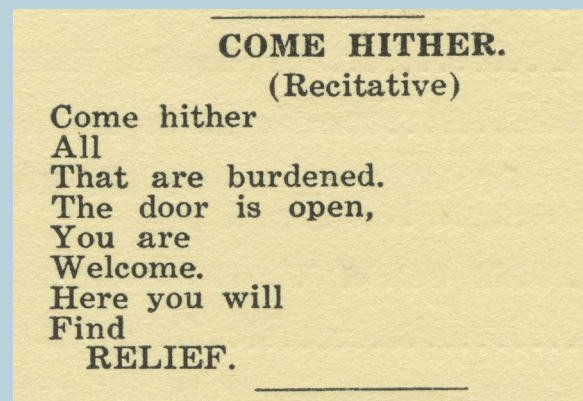
Portrait of Christian Keyser (C.K.) Preus, second president of Luther College.

Brynjolf Hall: Factual or Fictitious Facilities?

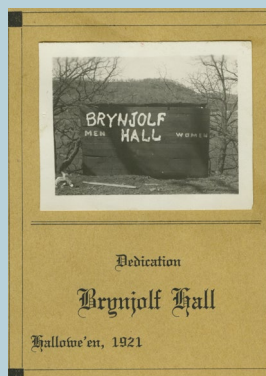
Koren was not the only building dedicated in 1921. Brynjolf Hall, an eight-hole outhouse, was built that same year. Harold Belgum '33, remembering the story he heard about it, wrote that it was "arranged so that the sunset could be viewed over the river as well as the moonrise."⁵¹ This description brings to mind an enchanting scene, but this building rests between the precipice of fact and legend. According to Rachel Vagts, Luther's College Archivist from 1998 to 2014, there is no mention of Brynjolf Hall in any official college records.⁵² The only documents that confirm the existence of this building are programs created for the dedication by students, a photograph from the event donated by Rev. Paul Hasvold '55, with the letter he wrote to explain the photograph, and Belgum's memoir, *Alma Mater in the Dirty Thirties*.

Brynjolf Hall was dedicated on October 31, 1921, just 17 days after Koren. The dedication was arranged entirely by the students and included a program featuring a specially-composed cantata by Gunnar "Gub" Malmin '23, who later became a well-known choir conductor at Pacific Lutheran University.⁵³ The cantata, aptly named "Morning, Noon and Night at Luther," had seven parts. The sixth movement, pictured below, is particularly witty.

The outhouse was named after professor and Dean of Men, Brynjolf Hovde '16, who taught Norwegian and history at Luther. Faculty were not allowed to attend the ceremony, but according to Carol Hasvold, they hid among the trees to watch the dedication.⁵⁴ Pr. Hasvold's father, Morris '24, attended the ceremony and took the photograph later donated to the Archives. According to Pr. Hasvold, his father believed they named the outhouse after Hovde took a position at a "liberal institution" like the New School. However, Vagts noted in her research that Hovde left Luther in 1923, two years after the outhouse was dedicated, and did not join the New School until 1940. His appointment at the New School, she suggested, may have caused consternation among Luther faculty and retroactively colored memories of the dedication.⁵⁵ The true reason, whatever it was, has been lost to time.



The tradition of dedicating bathrooms to professors was revived in 2015. A group of students dedicated Brandt First East's restroom to political science professor [Dr. John Moeller](#). Dr. Moeller himself attended the ceremony and gave a speech. The students even formed a band, mimicking their predecessors in 1921.



Cover of the Brynjolf Hall dedication program, 1921.



Students at Brynjolf Hall dedication, 1921.
(Photo taken by Morris Hasvold '24)



John Moeller at bathroom dedication, 2015. (Taken by Katie Nelson for College Chips)

Endnotes

Luther Before Decorah

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The Korens

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18. Jacobsen, "Library and Museum," 161.
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21. Nelson, *Luther College 1861-1961*, 194.

C.K. Preus: Man on a Library Mission

22. Letter from J.C.M. Hanson to C.K. Preus, 2 October 1919, RG02, Box 25, Folder 8, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa.
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24. Peterson, "School Plant," 156.
25. "The New Library," *College Chips*, May 1921, [Luther Digital](http://LutherDigital), 190.
26. Letter from Jens Jensen to C.K. Preus, 30 January 1920, RG02, Box 26, Folder 9, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa.
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33. O.A. Tingelstad, "Professor and President at Luther College," in *Christian Keyser Preus: 1852-1921*, eds. O.A. Tingelstad and O.M. Norlie (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1922), 129.
34. David T. Nelson, *Luther College 1861-1961* (Decorah: Luther College Press, 1961), 177.
35. Typescript of document "Collections Scheduled for 1919-20," n.d., RG02, Box 27, Folder 1, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa.
36. Letter from James Bertram to C.K. Preus, 3 April 1911, RG02, Box 12, Folder 6, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa.
37. Letter from C.K. Preus to Rev. E.R. Weeks, 20 January 1920, RG02, Box 26, Folder 11, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa.

38. Nelson, *Luther College 1861-1961*, 176.
39. Letter from George Markhus to C.K. Preus, 4 February 1909, RG02, Box 12, Folder 4, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa.
40. Letter from Joseph G. Hanson to C.K. Preus, 2 August 1909, RG02, Box 12 Folder 6, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa.
41. Letter from Miracle Stone Press Co. to C.K. Preus, 1 April 1909, RG02, Box 12, Folder 5, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa.
42. Uwe Rudolf interview, December 7, 2020.

A Closing Chapter

43. Letter from C.K. Preus to Johan Linnevold, 1 April 1921, RG02, Box 26, Folder 9, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa.
44. Nelson, *Luther College 1861-1961*, 177.
45. "Christian Keyser Preus, 1852-1921," *College Chips*, [Luther Digital](#), June 1921, 203-204.
46. "The Sixtieth Anniversary Program," *College Chips*, [Luther Digital](#), November 1921, 314-315.
47. Letter from Paolo Sperati to C.K. Preus, 26 October 1919, RG02, Box 26, Folder 7, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa (hereafter cited as Sperati letter, C.K. Preus Presidential Papers).
48. Sperati letter, C.K. Preus Presidential Papers.
49. Letter from C.K. Preus to Paolo Sperati, 6 December 1919, RG02, Box 26, Folder 7, C.K. (Christian Keyser) Preus Presidential Papers, Luther College Archives, Decorah, Iowa (hereafter cited Preus letter to Sperati, C.K. Preus Presidential Papers).
50. Preus letter to Sperati, C.K. Preus Presidential Papers.
51. Harold Belgum, *Alma Mater in the Dirty Thirties* (self-pub., 1979), IV-1.
52. Rachel Vagts, "Luther Legends," *Agora* 12, no.1 (Fall 1999): 5-6.
53. Vagts, "Luther Legends," 6.
54. Carol Hasvold interview, September 16, 2020.
55. Vagts, "Luther Legends," 5-6.

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Unless noted, all photographs taken from the Luther College Archives.