



125 YEARS

1891–2016

Cultivating Great Intellectuals & Great Hearts
North Park University's Quasquicentennial





Old Main, 1890s

The Authors



Philip J. Anderson (DPhil, University of Oxford) is professor emeritus of church history, having taught in the Seminary from 1979 until his retirement in 2013. Since 1989 he has served as president of the Swedish-American Historical Society, an international organization that has had its home on North Park's campus since 1948. His published research addresses the religious dimensions of British, American, and Swedish-American history as well as Covenant history and theology. Anderson was knighted by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden in 2008, with the rank of Commander of the Royal Order of the Polar Star, for his contributions to cultural relations between the United States and Sweden.



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The Exhibit & Book

This year North Park University celebrates its quasiquicentennial—125 years of learning in a school with an inspiring vision voiced by our first president David Nyvall: to be a place where “great intellects are warmed by great hearts, and great hearts are enlightened by great intellects.”

The exhibit *Cultivating Great Intellects & Great Hearts: North Park University's Quasiquicentennial* traces the evolution of the Covenant school in Minneapolis to the University in Chicago through photographs from the Archives and text by three North Park historians. The exhibit also displays North Park artifacts and publications from the Archives, providing a glimpse of the physical remnants of our past.

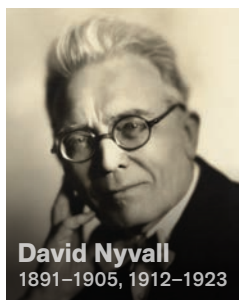
This companion book offers expanded text as well as selected photographs and artifacts displayed in the exhibit. Each section includes a thumbnail of the corresponding exhibit panel as a guide to the reader.

Anniversaries present the opportunity to reflect: to look at where we are today, explore the events and people that brought us to this point, and to wonder about the future. Over the past months, many of us preparing the celebration of North Park University's 125 years have paused to acknowledge that we weren't here for the last significant anniversary, and we probably won't be here for the next. It's been an honor and a pleasure to help prepare for this one.

Just as many hands have shaped our history, many hands have shaped the exhibit and this companion book. Joanna Wilkinson's (Brandel Library head of circulation and communications) exhibit design expertise, and Hauna Ondrey's (assistant professor of church history) sharp editorial skills were instrumental. Stephen Spencer's (theological and cataloging librarian) research acumen supported this and other anniversary projects. We found strong partners in our shared work across campus, including Melissa Velez-Luce (director of alumni relations), Mary Nowesnick (principal at MNMarketing Chicago), and Patty O'Friel (designer at Patty O'Friel Design). I am grateful for the support and enthusiasm of President David Parkyn and Vice President for Advancement Mary Surridge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AK Anderson'.

Anna-Kajsa Anderson
Director, F.M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections
August 2016



David Nyvall
1891–1905, 1912–1923



A.W. Fredrickson
1905–1909



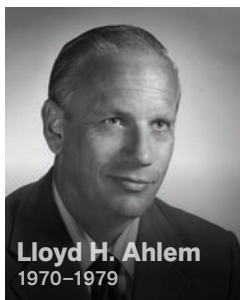
Algoth Ohlson
1924–1949



Clarence Nelson
1950–1959



Karl A. Olsson
1959–1970



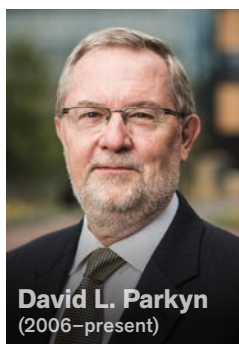
Lloyd H. Ahlem
1970–1979



William R. Hausman
1980–1986



David G. Horner
1987–2004



David L. Parkyn
(2006–present)

In his 1941 history of North Park College Leland Carlson described the events of September 18, 1894, when a small group of people gathered with a “goodly number of students” in Old Main to open the new school year. Classes had been initiated three years earlier in Minneapolis, and with the dedication of Old Main earlier in the summer the program was relocated to Chicago. Carlson described the school on that first day of classes in Old Main as a “work just beginning.”

Now, more than 120 years later, in the fall of 2016, the campus community is celebrating again. Generations of students have enrolled and graduated; across these generations alumni have faithfully demonstrated “lives of significance and service.” This institutional history is worth telling and retelling, evidence that the work initiated 125 years ago was indeed “just beginning.”

This description of North Park in its earliest days remains an apt portrait of North Park today: a work just beginning. We remember the past of our institutional story to find therein the promise for our future. North Park University has been, and continues to be, a work just beginning.

David L. Parkyn
President



Cultivating Great Intellects & Great Hearts

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10). These words were chiseled into the cornerstone of Old Main, laid with prayerful hope and expectation on September 26, 1893. During opening festivities the following academic year, a sermon was preached on Psalm 36:9, which soon became the school's motto: “In Thy Light Shall We See Light.” The graduating class of 1911 added more words to the stone foundation of Old Main: “For God and Humanity.” The educational philosophy of North Park is succinctly stated in these three quotations.

Over its 125 years, North Park has grown from a humble, immigrant institution to a cosmopolitan university. Through great change and transformation, a single mission has persisted. Speaking for his colleagues through the generations, North Park's first president David Nyvall envisaged the school—its leaders, faculty, staff, and students—as a community of life and learning where “great intellects are warmed by great hearts, and great hearts are enlightened by great intellects.” This speaks to the Pietist convictions of early Covenanters, for whom the conversation between head and heart was integral to the personal and spiritual formation of the human person, understood to be an organic process of nurture and relationships.

Faculty and administrators through the decades have been committed to fostering learning that bears fruit throughout life, where students discover what it means to be an individual in community, and where mentors pay attention to the lives of students as well as their studies. The Christian character of the school is embodied in faithful people, sharing a common mission of experiential piety joined to intellectual development. This has been pursued with imaginative vigor, enlightened acumen, and moral force, while embracing the freedom, the meekness, and the joyousness of faith active in love—all for God's glory and neighbor's good.





An Immigrant Institution

Founded in 1891, the origins of North Park University—prior to 1997 North Park College and Theological Seminary—are rooted in 19th-century immigration from Sweden, the faith traditions carried from the homeland and established in a new world, and the educational needs of an immigrant denomination, today's Evangelical Covenant Church.

Between 1840 and 1930, approximately 1.3 million Swedes emigrated. Comprised primarily of younger generations, it is estimated that a quarter of Swedes born between 1850 and 1900 died in North America, having left for various reasons. They were pushed by lack of opportunity in an expanding, still largely agrarian population and pulled by a rapidly growing American labor market. Initially they settled in rural areas on the frontier, then increasingly in urban neighborhoods. Education was high on the agenda for many, an opportunity that had frequently been denied to those of peasant stock. Those who became Covenant were part of this massive wave of immigration. Known as Mission Friends, they were products of 19th century religious revivals in Sweden. As they sought to find their place in the diverse American denominational landscape, they formed various Lutheran synods, ultimately organizing themselves as a *Förbund*, or Covenant, in 1885.

The education of pastors was of primary concern to this immigrant church. At their organizational meeting, a committee was appointed to address “the need for a school for ministers.” After an initial partnership with the Congregationalist seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, the young denomination soon realized that it needed to have control over the education of its clergy.

Thus in 1891 the Covenant officially adopted the immigrant training school of Swedish evangelist E.A. Skogsbergh in Minneapolis (est. 1884). David Nyvall, North Park's first president, recalled that as a young immigrant teacher at Skogsbergh's school in 1886 he “taught everything that I could persuade anybody to learn”—a noble legacy, indeed.

After three years in the basement of Skogsbergh's Tabernacle Church, the school prepared to relocate. The 1893 annual meeting of the Covenant voted to accept an offer of the Swedish University Land Association of 8.5 acres on the northwest outskirts of Chicago, \$25,000 for building costs, and a promised endowment. Chicago was the center of Swedish America. By 1900, Chicago maintained the second largest Swedish population of any city in the world, with only Stockholm housing more. Chicago was also the center of the Covenant, with more members and churches than any other American city.

On the heels of Chicago's Columbian Exposition, the World's Fair of 1893, Nyvall gathered with others on September 26 of that year to lay the cornerstone of Old Main. Registration began September 18, 1894, and the young immigrant school began its life in Chicago. Over the decades both the school and the neighborhood would “grow up” together.



1. Old Main, 1895.
2. North Park's first president, David Nyvall, 1892.
3. North Park College advertisement, 1900. The school began to be called "North Park College" soon after its move to Chicago.




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Taking Root

The first quarter-century of North Park's life was encompassed by challenge, growth, and transition. Infancy through adolescence was arguably the most difficult time in the school's history. Concurrent economic collapse across the United States in 1893 resulted in a deficit and the University Land Association's inability to provide the promised endowment. Financial woes were compounded by low enrollment, caused in part by the school's remote location. This was the first great challenge confronting the fledgling school, its young President David Nyvall and growing faculty—including the first female professor, Carolina (Lena) Sahlstrom.

Classes in Chicago opened in the fall of 1894. The school was comprised of five departments: Seminary, music, business, academy, and primary. Total enrollment was 74, 31 of whom were seminarians. Growth was slow, and funds were scarce. In fact, the annual meeting of the Covenant Church in 1897 narrowly avoided a vote that would have closed all but the Seminary.

The following year, an alumnus struck gold while serving as a missionary in Alaska. Though embroiled in controversy and litigation—settled finally by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1920—the windfall kept the school open and funded the addition of a men's residence, the current Wilson Hall, and a house for the president (1901). Eventually Hamming Hall (1916), the first gymnasium and auditorium, would also benefit from a separate donation of Alaska gold. Despite the unquestionable financial benefit, the gold controversy led to President Nyvall's voluntary departure from North Park between 1905 and 1912, a tragic loss of momentum and vision.

Academic life nevertheless grew and flourished during this time. North Park was first accredited by the University of Illinois in 1900; a denominational newspaper, *Missionären*, was published in the basement of Old Main between 1895 and 1905; a Junior College was begun in 1902, but sadly closed two years later when its director, Professor Alfred Ahnfeldt, passed away; athletic, social, and cultural opportunities increased.

Upon Nyvall's return to the presidency in 1912 (having recently founded the Department of Scandinavian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington), enrollment surged, an Honor Guard (precursor to the Friends of North Park) was organized, and the energy and sacrificial financial assistance of the Covenant Women's Auxiliary (formed in 1916) led to many initiatives. The first edition of the *Cupola* yearbook appeared in 1916. This was an era of unwavering persistence, sacrifice, and ingenuity.



1. The North Branch after spring rains, 1915. In the background are Old Main and the men's residence (now Wilson Hall). 2. North Park students outside Old Main, date unknown.



Americanization

When the First World War began, first- and second-generation immigrants made up one-third of the American population. As Americans were progressively drawn into what began as a European war, the immigrant experience would change significantly at home. German expansionism in Europe and the rise of Bolshevism in Russia led the American government to push “100% Americanism” policies, encouraging the adoption of English and accelerating cultural change among ethnic institutions like North Park. In the words of historian Leland Carlson, “Some asserted pontifically that things Swedish were gone forever.”

By 1917, the year of American entry into the war, College courses were taught entirely in English, and all textbooks were in English. Because the Seminary was training pastors who served long-established Swedish-American communities, its students continued to read some Swedish texts and preach in basic Swedish well into the 1940s.

Some 70 North Park students enlisted in the war, and the 1918 *Cupola* reported that about 15 percent of the school's alumni association was serving in the military. With the cessation of large-scale European immigration during the 1920s, a new generation of American-born students and leaders emerged. In 1923 American-educated Algoth Ohlson replaced College and Seminary founder David Nyvall as president.

Though war-time economic pressures led to a drop in enrollment—from 406 in 1916 to 230 in 1918—enrollment increased following World War I,

and new buildings were added, including Caroline Hall (1925), a women's residence funded by the Covenant Women's Auxiliary. A two-year Junior College began in 1919 with 12 students and was accredited in 1926, inaugurating a new chapter in the liberal arts. The associates degrees offered through the Junior College drew hundreds of new students to North Park, particularly during the Depression when Chicago-area students found the location and low cost appealing. Both the University of Chicago and Northwestern University recommended prospective students to attend North Park's Junior College for their first two years of study.

By the mid-1930s, total enrollment would exceed 1,200, and the school would be on more solid footing as a second generation grew more comfortable in their homeland.



1. May Day Festival, 1915. This traditional Swedish celebration included a picnic and athletic contests.
2. President Algoth Ohlson with his predecessor David Nyvall, 1928. 3. Men's baseball team, circa 1923.



Expansion

The Second World War transformed the country, the Covenant Church, and North Park. The 1944 *Cupola* begins with the recognition that, "Throughout this school year, 1943–44, North Park has felt the prevailing influence of warfare upon all her activities. . . . It is inevitable that warfare must influence school activities as it influences all other institutions." More than 900 North Park alumni served in the military.

Wartime *Cupolas* devoted sections to campus efforts in support of the war. The *Cupola* of 1946 paid homage to the 41 Vikings numbered among the country's 407,300 military casualties. Arguably, the war's greatest impact on North Park was the influx of servicemen and women that flooded the classrooms, drawing on the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, or the "G.I. Bill." At North Park, enrollment swelled by 30 percent in the years immediately following the war. In 1946, more than 500 applicants were turned away, and veterans comprised nearly half the student body.

This massive growth strained the institution's resources, but additional residence halls and educational buildings were soon built to accommodate students. A building acquired for a men's residence in 1940 allowed Wilson Hall to be reappropriated for classroom space. Sohlberg Hall was constructed as a women's residence in 1951, followed by Burgh Hall in 1956—North Park's first

construction south of the river. North Park erected Nyvall Hall, the new Seminary building, in 1947 with funds raised in anniversary campaigns celebrating North Park's 50 years and the denomination's 60. Additional new educational space included Hanson Hall (1947) and classrooms in the new Wallgren Library (1958).

These decades also saw substantial maturation in educational programs. In 1958 the Senior College was officially inaugurated as students who matriculated in 1956 became the first junior year class. The same year the bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program began, in partnership with Swedish Covenant Hospital. The following year, on track for full accreditation, the Seminary traded its diploma to award full bachelor of divinity degrees. The years following World War II saw North Park grow in size and stature as it approached the transformative years of the 1960s.



1. Nyvall Hall, circa 1950. 2. English professor E. Gustav Johnson teaching a class in Old Main with a student-father holding his two babies, 1945.



The Student Experience

Within the very first year of the school's founding, students had organized a quartet, literary society, and student paper produced on a typewriter—representing a range of activities that have remained constitutive of the North Park learning community. From the beginning, student societies and publications have cultivated student leadership and promoted engagement—from the women's society Nopaco (1913) and Anti-Saloon League (1917) to the Black Student Association (1969) and today's Faith and Justice Club.

When the school moved to Chicago, the original Lyceum Literary Society (1892) was given new life in the Philharmonic Society (1894), which organized lectures and debates and read handwritten news briefs in lieu of a published student paper. Publications were not long in coming, however. The first student annual, the *Cupola*, was established in 1916, followed by *North Park College News* (1922), *Pegasus* (1930), the *North Parker* (1935), the *North Branch* (1975), and *Spectrum* (2014).

Today's thriving music scene had humble beginnings in a brass band established in 1901, with students renting their instruments for two cents an hour. In 1938 the Women's and Men's Glee Clubs joined together to form the first College Choir, which continues today. The Choir held annual benefit concerts at Orchestra Hall for more than 50 years (1947–2001). Additional vocal and instrumental ensembles have formed over the decades, including the Concert Band (1913), Marching Band (1964), Chamber Singers (1967), Jazz Band (1983), and Gospel Choir (1993).

As soon as space was available in the Chicago school, a program of Swedish gymnastics was introduced, making local headlines: "Marvelous

Feats Performed by the Students of the New Institution." A men's football team was established in 1899 and played until it was disbanded in 1903—the victim of larger conflicts concerning the nature of the school. The team was reestablished in 1934, joining basketball, baseball, track, swimming, tennis, and golf, all established between 1922 and 1930. Women competed in intramural sports from early in the school's history, establishing an intercollegiate basketball team in 1955. Volleyball became the first women's varsity sport in 1969.

Viking conference championships include men's wrestling (1973), men's basketball (1969), women's cross country (1982), men's baseball (1983, 1984, 1987, 1990, 2011, 2012), women's basketball (1988), and men's soccer (2004, 2005, 2006, 2010). The men's basketball team secured five national Division III championship titles (1979, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1987), and the women's crew team earned gold at the Dad Vail National Regatta in their inaugural year (2004). Today North Park Vikings compete intercollegiately in basketball, cross country, track and field, golf, and soccer, with additional women's softball, rowing, and tennis teams, and men's baseball and football teams.



1. North Park College Choir and Orchestra performing in Chicago's Orchestra Hall, date unknown. **2.** The 1962 staff of *North Park College News*. **3.** Cheerleaders during North Park's 1948 football season.



“A Turbulent Day and Age”

At the outset of the nation's most tumultuous decade, North Park graduated its first four-year college class in May 1960. The decade included the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X., Martin Luther King, Jr., and Bobby Kennedy. The civil rights movement led to the securing of voting rights for African Americans. Toward the end of the decade, the Vietnam War provoked a protest movement featuring the nation's youth who advocated for peace and lived the mantra, “Sex, Drugs, and Rock ‘n’ Roll.” Modern feminism took shape as the women's rights movement exploded across the country. The *North Park College News* described the time as a “turbulent day and age” during which America was “a nation threatened by violence and hate.”

The changes in the country found clear expression at North Park. Strong echoes of national turmoil appear in the *College News*, as students called for justice in a number of areas, including the civil rights movement, farm workers' unions, and the Vietnam War. Invited campus speakers included Tom Skinner, founding member of the (now) National Black Evangelical Association; labor union activist Eliseo Medina (associate of Cesar Chavez); a member of the “Chicago Seven”; Nick Jones, National Farm Worker member; and a member of the state chapter of the Black Panthers. These decades saw the formation of both the Black Student Association (1969) and Center for Black Studies (1971).

Following the Kent State shootings in 1970, North Park students decided to strike in protest of the invasion of Cambodia. The following day the striking students marched down Foster Avenue to demand of Covenant President Milton Engebretson that the church speak out on contemporary national crises.

Throughout the 1960s, North Park was progressively transformed as it grew and matured to a student body of nearly 2,000 by the decade's end. In 1963, the Seminary was formally accredited by the Association of Theological Schools, and the College began its first four-year degree program in nursing, graduating its first class in 1968. In 1965, the Magnuson Student Center opened, followed by Carlson Tower in 1967, named after alumnus Paul Carlson, medical missionary to Congo whose death by Simba rebels three years prior had made the covers of *Time* and *Life* magazines.

As the decade closed, North Park Academy graduated its final class in 1969. In 1967, the University hired its first faculty member of color, Haitian refugee L. Roger Boncy, a former United Nations employee, to teach French and Latin. An article in the *Chicago Tribune* highlighted North Park's programs in international studies, featuring African, Scandinavian, and Chinese cultures.



North Park student attending a protest at Loyola University in Chicago, 1970.



A Cosmopolitan University

North Park resides no longer on the outskirts in a rural district, address "Station X," but in one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the United States, whose people's roots extend around the globe. Throughout its history the University has considered leaving Chicago for possible locations in Iowa, St. Paul, and Chicago's northwest suburbs, each time reaffirming the neighborhood it has grown in and with. In 1980, facing neighborhood decline, North Park considered relocating to donated land in neighboring Lake County. A unanimous decision was made to remain in its present location, citing the recognition "that our urban location has been instrumental to the quality of education our people receive."

In addition to the benefits of "Chicago's libraries, museums, laboratory facilities, schools, hospitals, churches, and concert halls as learning tools," the decision was motivated by concern for the vitality of its immediate community—and represented a commitment to reinvesting in neighborhood revitalization.

The decades between this consequential decision and the present have been characterized by significant growth and diversification of both student body and educational offerings. From 1985 to 2014, the North Park student body has increased by more than 250 percent and become far more ethnically diverse. The percentage of students of color has doubled each decade from 1990. In 2013 Seminary graduate Wilfredo De Jesús was listed among *Time's* 100 most influential people in the world. Pastor of the largest Assemblies of God congregation in the United States, De Jesús appeared on the cover of the same issue and in its cover story, "¡Evangélicos!" Today undergraduate enrollment is 49 percent Caucasian, 41 percent ethnic/racial minority, and 6 percent international.

Significant expansion of degree programs in the 1990s, including master's degrees in nursing, management, business administration, and community development (the last ending in 2008), led to North Park's being accredited as a university in 1997. Further growth followed this milestone, with the opening of the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management in 1999, offering master's degrees in nonprofit administration, human resources management, and higher education administration. The School of Music now offers master's degrees

in vocal performance and collaborative piano, and the Seminary awards doctor of ministry degrees in preaching and urban ministry leadership. Nineteen North Park students have been awarded Fulbright awards since 2008, ranking North Park on the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* list of top producers of Fulbright recipients in 2013 and 2016.

The years since 1990 have shown a renewed vigor to campus development, beginning with the 1993 construction of Anderson Chapel—North Park's first new building in nearly 30 years. In 2001 Brandel Library was built and the campus transformed as Spaulding Avenue and the former library site were turned into green spaces. Athletics and recreation facilities were expanded through the Holmgren Athletic Complex (2004) and Helwig Recreation Center (2006). Two new residential facilities were added: Park North (2005) and Sawyer Court (2006). In 2014, the Johnson Center for Science and Community Life opened, providing state-of-the-art science facilities in a LEED Gold-certified building.

What began as an immigrant institution, training Swedish Americans for life and ministry in their new home, is now a cosmopolitan University, educating students from across the country and world for global citizenship and service. David Nyvall's far-reaching vision, expressed at North Park's 10th anniversary (1901), is now a reality:

"I would fain make this school a college, yea, a university.... To see our beloved school the university of the world, to hear in these halls the echoes of applause from every quarter of the globe."



1. College and Seminary leadership celebrating North Park's inclusion in the *U.S. News & World Report's* list of the region's top colleges, 1991. Left to right: Seminary Faculty Dean Klyne Snodgrass, College Dean Dean Ebner, President David Horner, Vice President Carl Balsam, and Dean of Students Edward Eddy. 2. A 1990s performance of the Gospel Choir in Anderson Chapel.

125 Years of a Founding Vision

To trace North Park's 125 years is to follow the journey of an infant school meeting the needs of an immigrant church, through strides of adolescence as a quality Junior College, to mature expansion into a four-year liberal arts college, and ultimately a multifaceted University of higher education. As North Park has grown with its surrounding neighborhood, city, and world, it has continued to be a community that cultivates "great intellects...warmed by great hearts, and great hearts...enlightened by great intellects" in service of God and neighbor. Together, from the past into an imagined future, we celebrate the alumni, faculty, and staff who have applied this founding vision to each new present, from 1891 to today.

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North Park College graduates, 1917



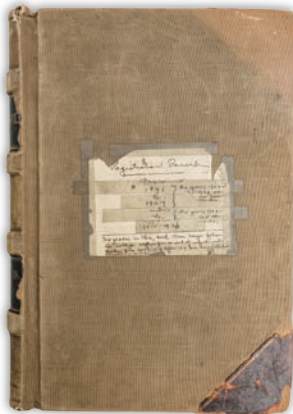
North Park Academy graduates, 1960s



North Park University commencement, 2015

Selected North Park Artifacts from the F.M. Johnson Archives

The collections of the F.M. Johnson Archives are mostly comprised of written records, such as letters, meeting minutes, reports, and diaries. However, they also include a small selection of objects used in daily life that now offer a glimpse into our past. Here is a selection of the artifacts displayed in the anniversary exhibit, *Cultivating Great Intellects & Great Hearts: North Park University's Quasquicentennial*.



This was North Park's first student registration book. Used from 1891 to 1907 and again from 1915 to 1916, it records the students enrolled each term, where they were from, their primary contact, and the department in which they enrolled.

This 1908 diploma was presented to Henning Gustafson upon his graduation from North Park Academy. Gustafson went on to graduate from the Seminary in 1910 and became a Covenant pastor in Unalakleet, Alaska, and around the Midwest.



This L.C. Smith & Brothers typewriter belonged to North Park's first president, David Nyvall. We don't know when he bought it, but this typewriter was manufactured between 1915 and 1925 in Syracuse, New York. Nyvall's papers in the archives are substantial and serve as a significant source for North Park and Covenant history.

Caroline Hall, originally a residence for women, included the college dining hall from 1925 until 1951 when it was moved to the lower level of the new Sohlberg Hall. This bell summoned students to family-style meals.





This football was used at a game against Morton Junior College during the 1935–1936 season, resulting in the first Viking football win after the reestablishment of the sport at North Park the previous year. The team recorded the game score on the ball and signed it.

This felt banner advertises WNPC, North Park College's radio station, which began limited programming to the campus residence halls in 1958 from a reconverted coal bin in the Arts building (formerly the first president's house). The station later relocated to Magnuson Campus Center and operated intermittently until 1975.



This football helmet was worn by Viking linebacker Peter Heintzelman during the 1969 football season, celebrated as the 100th anniversary of college football. Many college helmets featured the decal seen here. A crack on the front right is the result of a tackle in Heintzelman's final college game.

The white nurse's cap was given to students at the sophomore nursing convocation. The blue and gold stripes were added at the senior pinning. This cap was worn by nursing student Melody Skalla McMillan, class of 1972.



