

Andrew Knudson (brother of Nils Knutson/Hageseth/Ranum)

by:

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Text as included on www.ranumhistory.com .

Name: Andrew(Anders) Knudson

Father: Knut Knutson Skrindsrud

Mother: Guri Nilsdatter Hageseth

Date of Birth: August 21, 1837

Place of Birth: Norway, Opland Fylke, Nord-Aurdal, Norre(north) Hageseth Farm

Date of Death: May 30, 1863

Place of Death: USA, Tennessee, Memphis

Final Resting Place: First interned at Memphis, then moved. (ref 6)

Timeline for Andrew Knutson:

August 21, 1837 - Andrew(Anders) Knudson was born on August 21, 1837 to Knut Knutson Skrindsrud and Guri Nilsdatter Hageseth. (ref 1)

June 27, 1852 – Andrew(Anders) Knudson was confirmed. (ref 2)

February, 1862 (verify) - Confederate forces pull out of Columbus Kentucky. After that point, fort DeRussy was under Union control and was renamed Fort Halleck. (provided for clarification of war service)

December 2, 1862 - Mustered into service Madison Wisconsin. (ref 3)

January 31, 1863 - Moved with whole Regiment to Columbus Ky. Attached to “District of Columbus, Ky., 6th division, 16th Army Corp” (ref 3) Served as “garrison and fatigue duty in Fort Halleck in Columbus Ky.” (ref 3) “Fort Halleck, known as Fort DeRussy when the Confederates built it, was the largest earthwork fort at Columbus. Today its remains are known as the "Arrowhead Point" in Columbus Belmont KY State Park.” (ref 5)

May 12, 1863 – Moved with his Company B to Memphis. “Companies B, C, D, F, H and K (detached) at Memphis, Tenn., May 12.” (ref 4) “attached to 4th Brigade, District of Memphis, Tenn., 5th Division, 16th Army Corp” (ref 3)

May 30, 1863 – “Died of fever at Memphis, Tennessee, on 30 May 1863. Buried in the cemetery at Memphis; remains later removed.” (ref 3)

Timeline Notes:

It is probable that since he was in Co B that he served at Fort Halleck (Confederate name for fort was DeRussy) in Columbus, Kentucky and then moved with his Company to Memphis Tennessee. I find it questionable that he died in the Libby Prison as that was several hundred miles away from his recorded place of death. This in no way diminishes the sacrifice he made for family and country but is probably a more accurate account of his service and consequent death. Columbus is located about 20 miles south of Cairo Illinois.

Narrative of Civil War Service:

By 1862, the Civil War had been raging for about a year. On November 10, 1862, then Wisconsin Governor Salomon scheduled drafting to begin town-by-town in the state based on the local sheriff's records. Nels at the time already had five children and was providing for them by working his 120 acre farm in Highland township. The draft effort, being very unpopular and disorganized at that time, probably did not have a primary provision to release Nels from the call to fight. Nels' brother, Andrew, who had just arrived from Norway offered to be enrolled in place of Nils. Andrew was enrolled in the drafted militia for a term of nine months on November 21, 1862 at Madison, Wisconsin. He was mustered there on December 2, 1862 as a private in the 34th Infantry, Company B. Andrew died of fever at Memphis, Tennessee, on May 30, 1863, only months after being mustered and probably only about a year after arriving in America. He was buried in the cemetery at Memphis but his remains were later moved. It is unclear at the time of this writing, where Andrew's final resting place is. It is ironic that only 6,812 Wisconsin soldiers reported to duty of the 38,495 called in that draft. Andrew had answered the call to fight in a battle that was threatening to tear his new country apart. He fought when others fled and in the stead of his brother. If he hadn't, most of us Nels Ranum descendants may NOT be here now. I can only imagine the pain that Nels must have felt at the loss of his brother. I also do not believe that it is coincidence that Nels next born child was named Andrew, perhaps in honor of his fallen brother.

Reference 1 - http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:kb_read?idx_kildeid=9371&idx_id=9371&uid=ny&idx_side=-97

Reference 2 -

http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:kb_read?urnread_imagesize=full&info=ingen&hode=nei&show=91&uid=183521&js=j

Reference 3 - <http://vesterheim.org/CivilWar/db/k/knu/005367.html> that includes separately listed sources.

Text of site:

KNUDSON, Andrew

WI 34th Inf Co B. Residence: Highland, Iowa County, Wisconsin. Civil War: Age 23. Unmarried. Drafted at Highland on 10 Nov 1862. Actually, his brother Nils Knudson Hagaset was the draftee, and Andrew who had just arrived from Norway offered to be enrolled in place of Nils. Andrew was enrolled in drafted militia for a term of nine months on 21 Nov 1862 at Madison, Wisconsin. Mustered there on 2 Dec 1862. Private. Died of fever at Memphis, Tennessee, on 30 May 1863. Buried in the cemetery at Memphis; remains later removed. Sources: (WHS Series 1200 box 155-2, 155-3; red book vol 39) (Love p1113) (Letter, Grand nephew Maurice Ranum, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin) "Knudson, Anderson" "Hagaset, Andrew Knudsen" "Knudson, Anders"

Reference 4 - "Excerpts from Frederick H. Dyer's A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion" page 1687 as presented by the Wisconsin Historical Society site:

<http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/quiner&CISOPTR=30077&CISOSHOW=30072>

Description - Frederick H. Dyer (1849-1917) began collecting archival records of the war in 1867 and spent 40 years compiling a massive "Compendium of the War of the Rebellion" (Des Moines, 1908). Based largely on official government records, that volume contains nearly 1,800 pages of minuscule print and documents every military unit, battle, skirmish or other event. It has been a basic authority on the war ever since it appeared. We provide here only its pages on Wisconsin regiments and its alphabetical list of all battles.

Reference 5 - COLUMBUS, KY: GIBRALTAR OF THE WEST site: <http://rosswar.blogspot.com/> . A fascinating blog site devoted to Fort DeRussy/Halleck.

Reference 6 - The author is not aware of the final resting place at the time of this writing. It would depend largely on when Andrew was moved. If it was when Nils lived on the Highland farm, it is possible he would have been interned on the farm property. This would be in keeping with references to Berrit's (Nils Knutson/Ranum's Wife) burial. More research is needed.