

### Andrew Nels Ranum

Andrew Nels Ranum was the <sup>fifth</sup> ~~fourth~~ child born to Nils K. Ranum and his first wife, Berit. The two had emigrated from Norway in 1852 and settled for a short time in Perry township, Dane County, Wisconsin. Among several moves, one was to Highland township, Iowa County.

Andrew was born October 4, 1864 in Iowa County, Wisconsin. He grew up on the farm, learning his father's skills in both farming and carpentry. His records showed that at the age of 20 he was working for various other farmers in the area, grubbing (rooting out) tree stumps, haying and harvesting.

In 1891, at the age of 27, Andrew went to Chicago and drove the horses on a dray line delivering ice. About a year later he moved to Primrose township, in Dane County, Wisconsin where he and his brother Ed rented one of the Krut P. Myrland farms. Mr. Myrland and his wife Sbrnev (Susan) still lived on this farm as well as Mrs. Myrland's parents, Paul Charlson and Guri Johnsdatter. Mary Maanum, a cousin of Ed's and Andrew's, was their housekeeper.

The scene now shifts to Julia Maria Paulson of Wanamingo, Goodhue County, Minnesota. She was born May 24, 1866, the daughter of Charles Paulson and Eli Langeteig Paulson. Her brother was John Andreas Paulson who was born November 23, 1864. A sister, Caroline Elisabeth Paulson, was born October 11, 1867. This of course was during the Civil War between the States. The father, Charles Paulson, was a recruiter during the War and traveled by foot between Wanamingo and headquarters in the St. Paul area. Probably from exposure to the weather, he became ill with pneumonia and died at the age of 28, a month before his third child was born.

As a young girl, Julia Maria Paulson came to Wisconsin to live with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Krut P. Myrland, where she helped care for Mrs. Myrland's parents. So it was here that Julia met her future husband, Andrew Nels Ranum. They were married on February 6, 1894 by an uncle of Andrew's, the Rev. Krut Hageseth. Attendants were Ed Ranum, brother of Andrew, and Julia Maanum, a cousin.

As for education, both Andrew and Julia attended country schools in their areas and Julia spoke often of spelling bees in which she had participated. She apparently excelled in that particular subject and enjoyed it. Andrew attended

school in his home district but may have been needed for farm work during the summer months, as was true of many young boys in that day, and therefore would have to forgo his education during the busy season on the farm.

Julia liked to sing as she rocked her little toddlers in her arms to put them to sleep. They were Esther, Nora and Stella. Some of her favorite songs were Oh, Susannah, Grandfather's Clock, Oh Dem Golden Slippers, and Red Wing. She was a good mother and never had to discipline the girls because just two words, "Now, girls" sufficed to squelch any misbehavior on the youngsters' part.

Andrew enjoyed playing with his children and was always kind in supplying them with equipment with which to play. He built a life-size play-house in which his three daughters could "keep house" as their mother did. He made skis for the girls out of barrel staves. Doing this sort of thing served as an outlet for his love of carpentry. Also, there were farm buildings needed from time to time.

Andrew and Julia raised their family in a religious atmosphere and were members of the Hauge Lutheran Church in Primrose township all of their married life until they moved to Mt. Horeb in 1915. They then worshipped at the Mt. Horeb Hauge Church until that congregation, a small one, joined the Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church. They transferred their membership to the latter church on October 11, 1918.

Julia was an energetic, happy worker, always ready to help others, and enjoyed good health until she became a victim of cancer and died on September 1, 1925, at the age of 59 years. Andrew, after 23 years of farming, devoted his time to whatever brief jobs were available as he enjoyed being busy and helping those who were in need of his services. It was in one such endeavor, at his brother Ole K. Ranum's home in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, that he suffered a stroke and died on November 20, 1935, at the age of 71 years. He is buried along with his wife Julia in the Mt. Horeb Lutheran Cemetery.