

## Ranum Reunion - June 25, 1978

The 43rd annual reunion of the descendants of Nels K. Ranum met on Sunday, June 25, 1978 at the village of Daleyville, Wis. Hosts for the day were the descendants of Gilbert M. Ranum, deceased, who was being honored on this particular occasion. Arrangements had been made for the use of the basement of the Perry Lutheran Church in case of threatening weather. Following a stormy night, with more storms predicted, the church basement was used and was found to be very adequate and comfortable.

Ben A. Ranum of Arena, Wis. volunteered to preside at the opening of the meeting and gave high praise to our former secretary, Ray D. Ranum of Minneapolis, who had ably served the group with endless hours of his time over the many years which this group had been enjoying annual meetings. Ben paid high tribute to Ray for his solid convictions and pride in being a member of the Ranum family. Ray passed away on April 17, 1978 at age 83. Other deaths which had occurred within the past year included:

Mrs. Olive (Josie) Ranum, widow of Sherman Ranum, Arena, Wis., age 95.

Gilbert Knutson, Livingston, Wis.

Florine (Mrs. Karl) Knutson, La Crosse, Wis.

Norman Plath, husband of Florence Hilden Plath, Lake Mills, Wis.

Delores Hilden, widow of George Hilden, Madison, Wis.

Births during the past year:

Justin Ranum, born to Mark and Vicki Ranum, Baraboo, Wis.

Kyle Adam Fornander, born Aug. 25, 1977 to Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Fornander, Oshkosh, Nebraska. Kyle is a great-grandson of Vera and Vivian Ranum.

Robert King Erwin, Jr. born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert King Erwin, Sr., Lees Summit, Missouri. Robert is a grandson of Rupert Ranum.

Financial Report: Ben Ranum reported that Dorothy, widow of Ray D. Ranum, had turned over to him the amount on hand in the Ranum Reunion fund, about \$47.00, out of which he had paid \$24.37 for the printing and postage involved in sending out notices of today's reunion and \$5.25 for coffee and other beverages, leaving a balance of \$17.38.

Ben Ranum then reported on several letters which had come in from relatives, and read one from Edith Ranum Wilcox of Jacksonville, Florida.

Contributions were requested from those present toward defraying the expenses -- beverages and incidentals. The total amount of the collection was \$43.50

Ben reminded the group that he had been asked to take over and preside at this 1978 reunion but asked for a volunteer who would take the responsibility beginning next year. A motion was made by Jan Gay that Ben take the job on a permanent basis and "we will all help him." Motion seconded by Milton Ranum and carried.

A suggestion was made by Mrs. Esther Tollund that a memorial of some kind be sent to Dorothy Ranum, widow of the late Ray D. Ranum, in appreciation of Ray's many years of work. Suggestions were made by various people, one being that a plaque be made commending him for his services. If this were done, any money remaining could be sent to Dorothy as a love gift for Ray's services. A motion was made to this effect, which was amended to include the canvassing of families not present today, by mail, giving them an opportunity to contribute if they wished. Motion seconded and carried. A committee of two was appointed to carry this out: Mrs. Jan Gay and Mrs. Stella Faville. A collection was made among the persons present which netted a total of \$41.00.

Today we are honoring Gilbert Martinus Ranum, who married Alice Lunn, and to whom four children were born: Alvin, Ella, Edward and Maurice. Of this family of six, only two remain: Ella and Maurice. These two, as well as others in the audience, related stories which came to mind concerning Gilbert Ranum, many of the incidents being amusing. Along a more serious strain, it came out that Gilbert's bee-keeping business started when his eldest brother, Ole, gave him a hive of bees from his own collection. There were casualties when the queen bee froze during a severe winter. At about the same time Gilbert was raising sorghum cane and making sorghum for sale, devoting evenings to the cooking and almost constant stirring of the syrup. It wasn't until he gave up sorghum-making that he went into the honey business seriously.

Gilbert was very much interested in his relatives in Norway and corresponded with them, gaining many interesting facts. His sons Edward and Maurice followed through on these contacts ~~that~~ and in fact made trips to Norway to research the family history. Maurice announced that he would be showing slides right after today's business meeting. These included both scenic and historic pictures taken by him and his wife Evelyn on a second trip to Norway. Among these were pictures of the old homestead and the area around it.

At next year's reunion we will salute Peter Ranum, three of whose children are present today: Rupert, Thelma Evelyn, and Vivian. The question of where that reunion would be held was discussed. Several persons expressed a liking for Brigham Park, near Blue Mounds and Mt. Horeb, and the suggestion was that we tentatively name that as our meeting place unless the hosts find another location.

Total attendance for the day: 59.

The new secretary, Ben A. Ranum, told the group he was glad they had come and hoped to see them all next year, plus a few more.

Signed Benjamin A. Ranum  
Secretary

*Committee Report on Memorial Honoring*

*Ray D. Ranum*

*As stated in the minutes of the June 25, 1978 meeting, a collection was taken for a memorial honoring Ray D. Ranum, Secretary and Historian of the Ranum Family Reunion for the past 42 years. The amount collected was \$41.00. An additional amount received through a canvass by mail of the families not in attendance at the reunion brought the total to \$145.00. As suggested at the meeting, the cost of a plaque was explored by the Committee and disbursements were made as follows:*

<i>Total cash received</i>	<i>\$145.00</i>
<i>Expenditures</i>	
<i>Plaque</i>	<i>\$10.40</i>
<i>Postage &amp; Insurance</i>	<i>1.89</i>
<i>Cashier's check</i>	<i><u>3.00</u></i>
<i>Total expenditures</i>	<i><u>15.29</u></i>
<i>Balance sent by Cashier's check to Mrs. Ray D. Ranum</i>	<i>\$129.71</i>

*The plaque was about 6x8" in size, with an inscription on bronze as follows:*

*In sincere appreciation of*

*Ray D. Ranum's*

*42 years of diligent service*

*as Historian and Secretary*

*of the*

*Nels K. Ranum family and its descendants*

*This commendation is presented in compliance  
with action taken at the annual reunion of  
the Ranum families on June 25, 1978.*

*Committee: Mrs. Robert L. Gay  
Mrs. Stella Faville*