ANDREW WOOLF
1846-1927

Nine of the 12 children born to John Anthony Woolf and Sarah Ann DeVoe left large families. Of the other 3, Wallace, the youngest, who was born in Nephi, died in infancy, William Henry, the first to be born in Utah, died in his 7th year. Andrew, the only one of the Woolf children born in Nauvoo, lived to his 81st year, but never married.

Andrew was born 15 Feb. 1846 in Nauvoo, Illinois, & was an infant in arms during the trek from Nauvoo to Winter Quarters. He was only 19 months old when the family arrived in Salt Lake City. A widely retold story among his contemporaries is that when Andrew was 10 months old, he was kidnapped by Indians; a large part of the community turned out to achieve his recapture and upon their approach, his captors fled, leaving the baby to be returned to his parents.

Andrew was 7 years old when his family moved to Nephi. While living there, he & other boys were called upon to guard the corn fields against crows & blackbirds that swarmed in from the hills by the thousands to devour the green corn. They also set traps for coyotes, & on one occasion Andrew trapped a wolf, which won him high acclaim.

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Andrew was baptized 10 July 1854. When he was 16, his family moved to Hyde Park. The journey occupied 3 months, as the family traveled with their horses, cattle, & sheep. They followed the foothills in order to obtain water, wood, & grass.

Andrew’s help was invaluable in building the Woolf home in Hyde Park. He never married, but was very helpful to his sister, Phebe, who returned from Franklin, Idaho, with her children, & with Andrew, occupied the old Woolf home. He was like a father to Phebe’s children; Sarah, Hattie, Carrie, William, and Tracy Gibson.

Andrew was a lover of good horses & owned many fine animals during his lifetime. He also owned many good books, & read constantly. He watched for the paper, which he read from cover to cover, often expressing disapproval of what the Russians were doing. He was very much interested in politics & current events, & was a regular reader of the Literary Digest. He was anonymously charitable, helping many as the need occurred. He was greatly loved & respected by his friends.

His grandniece, Florence Follett Rigby, recalls, “He was a wise, broad-minded man, & honesty was a religion with him. He and Grandmotheer (Phebe, his sister) lived in the old house. I never heard an unkind word between them. He was a wonderful provider, & Grandma was a wonderful cook & homemaker. He always had peanuts on the mantle.”

He had cattle & rode a spirited pony he bought from the gypsies until he was well along in years. He lived in the west part of town & the Indians and gypsies always camped along his land & came to the flowing well at the house for water.

Andrew Woolf died 9 Nov. 1927, in Hyde Park, Utah, at the age 82-a faithful Latter-day Saint. He was buried in the Hyde Park Cemetery where his parents & all his brothers, with the exception of Homer, are interred.

Florence Follett Rigby & Carrie F. Hurren, Grandnieces

A Pioneer Story told by Andrew Woolf to his Niece, Tracy Gibson Daines

The Indians were terrible to the settlers around Franklin, Richmond, etc. They would steal their cattle & horses, & send a dare to the officers of the army in Salt Lake City to come up & fight them; so the soldiers came to make warfare up at Battle Creek. When they reached there, the Indians were hidden in the willows along the creek, yelling & encouraging the Indians to
Soon Bear Hunter was shot. He had a good gun, & as the Indians were short of weapons, 3 braves ran out, one at a time, to get his gun, & all 3 were shot down.

The soldiers were so anxious to fight, that many of them jumped into the water & their feet were frozen. They won the fight & brought the Indians” ponies with them (about 200).

They stopped down by Grandpa Woolf’s for about 2 hours on their way back. Andrew said the Indians would have won if they had had enough guns. Andrew & Joe Ellis were hunting cattle along the creek afterward, & found many skulls, teeth & hair, like horses” manes, lying around, and they were frightened.

By Mildred Daines, Grandniece (Daughter of Tracy)

Typed into computer by Kathleen Jardine Woolf 14 Oct 2002 Idaho Falls, Id.
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