# Ethel Elizabeth Hansen Partridge Robinson

Ethel Hansen was born on July 10, 1894 in St Paul, Minnesota to Hans Peter Valdemar Hansen (1865-1947) and Ida Carolina Andersson Hansen (1872-1954). Valdemar came to America from Denmark and Ida from Sweden. Valdemar worked as a cutter at a factory.

In early 1915, US Surgeon General Rupert Blue asked Doctor William J Mayo of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota to organize a base hospital for the European war effort. Mayo proposed that the University of Minnesota lead the project with the Mayo Clinic's support. And so Base Hospital #26 was organized on paper. Ethel Hansen was a registered nurse who volunteered as a Red Cross Nurse in 1917. She was appointed to the University of Minnesota, Base Hospital #26 where she took her oath of allegiance and became a member of the Army Nurse Corps. All nurses that would be going to Europe were required to be immunized against smallpox and typhoid fever. Uniforms were issued. In May of 1918, Base Hospital #26 was transferred to Camp Merritt, New Jersey to prepare for embarkation to France. In a grand display, 15,000 nurses marched through the City of New York led by President Woodrow Wilson. On June 4, 1918, Ethel boarded the SS Baltic in route to Liverpool, England. From there they took the H.M. Hospital Ship through the German submarine-infested English Channel, arriving at La Havre, France and the Base Hospital located at, Saône-et-Loire, France on June 20th. The hospital became known for its exceptionally skilled medical personnel. All through the war they received the most serious surgical cases. The nurses worked 11-hour days, seven days a week. For this they received pay of $60 a week. On November 11, 1918 the Armistice Agreement was signed. On January 8th, the order came to evacuate the hospital and within 48 hours the hospital, which had been caring for more than 5,000 patients, ceased to function. Ethel was transferred to Casual Nurse Department #40. On June 10, 1919 Ethel Hansen left Brest, France on the SS Prinz Fredrich William to return to the United States. She was released on July 27, 1919. On the trip home she met and fell in love with a Corporal, named Howard Jesse Partridge (1890-1921). They married on December 22, 1919 in Glendive, Montana where Howard worked at a saddle factory. Ethel lost her husband just three months later. Their new baby had also died just five months earlier.

In May of 1922, Ethel was a student at Columbia University in New York City. The widow applied for a passport to visit the land of her parents, Norway and Sweden. She would be gone three months. She then married John Rose Robinson Jr in 1925, an attorney from Chico, California and a Harvard Law grad. The couple had three children. Ethel died on August 15, 1956 in Chico, California. She is buried in the Chico Cemetery.