

From Arthur Haugen, St. Paul, Minnesota to my Great Aunt Evelyn Sorenson--1940  
Letter back inquiring about family history. I will copy verbatim the contents.  
Dallas, Wisconsin original homestead. There will be some Norwegian terms.  
1<sup>st</sup> part is who related to who- goes to my Grandfathers generation- I'm 54.  
2<sup>nd</sup> part is the story of coming from Norway & eventually living in Dallas, Wis.- 1872

### Familien Wahl

Ole Johannesen (Dybdahl)---12 Juli 1829--22 April 1915--gift med

Olia Gulbrands Datter (Kvernstua)---3 Juli 1839--22 April 1911- had the following Barn  
& Barnebarn---hand note lists- Miss Olia Gilbertson?

Johannes (John Wahl) gift med Olia Espeseth : (farmer)  
29 November 1858--25 Juli 1906

Oscar gift med ?  
Olger g. m. Anna Kringle  
Gjertina (Gertrude) g. m. Fred R. Small  
Thilda g. m. Howard E. Hill  
Selma ( died age 10-12)  
Joseph g. m. ?  
Albert g. m. ? Wigen  
Benjamin (Bennie) g. m. Ella Wigen

Gulbrand (Gilbert Wall) g. m. ? Arneson (farmer)  
27 Sept. 1860--24 Juni 1943

Ole g. m. Olive Jacobson  
Henry g.m.  
Minnie g. m. Ed J. Anderson  
Emma g. m. William Jellema

Dorte (died in Liverpool, England)  
15 Februar 1863--24 Mai 1869

Thron (died on Norway)  
14 Januar 1864--28 August 1869

Lars (Louis Wahl) g. m. Amanda Halverson (farmer- undertaker)  
16 April 1867--1 Januar 1948

Ernest g. m. ?  
Frances g. m. Oliver Torgerson  
Leonard g. m. ?

Cyrus g. m. ?  
Arthur g. m. ?  
Roland g. m. ?  
Doris g. m. Henry Somsen

Dortea (Dora) g. m. Gustav Sorenson (farmer)  
18 Mai 1870--22 Februar 1910

Gerhard g. m. Emma Phillips  
Selma g. m. Carl G. Anderson  
Paul g. m. Palma Pederson- my Dad Neil- I'm David-Grandson, copying this down.  
Evelyn (ungift)- (who saved this whole story)  
Myrtle g. m. Fred Hankerson  
Louise g. m. Clayton Nelson  
Elsie g. m. Floyd Martin

Inger (Ida) g. m. Nels A. Haugen (merchant tailor)  
2 Juni 1872--27 September 1963

Arthur g. m. Edith H. Johnson  
Orville g. m. Margaret E. Boll  
Bernhart (divorced)  
Selmer g. m. Beulah J. Solbraa  
Margaret g. m. Alvin Booty  
Roy Martin (ungift)

Julia (ungift)  
24 December 1874--29 Oktober 1947

Johan Oskar (died as an infant)  
19 Mars 1877--12 Juni 1877

Hanna (Hannah) g. m. Norval Severud (farmer)  
31 August 1878--26 Juli 1951

Ruth g. m. L. G. Lee  
Neva (died as an infant)  
Esther (ungift)  
Chester (died 8-9 years old)  
Lloyd g. m. Dorothy Todd  
Rachel g.m. Curtis Mikkelson

Oskar (ungift)  
21 September 1882--6 September 1904

The dates listed above are from the Family Bible which was kept by Grandmother Wahl and after her death by Hannah Severud. The Bible is now in possession of Hannah's daughter Rachel.

### **From Norway to Wisconsin**

Ole Johannesen was born in Hadeland, Norway to Johannes and Ann Dybdahl- one of nine children. He was in the military for several years as a young man and then became manager of the Nedre (lower) Hval farm. A brother, Abram Johnson, came to America and settled near Montevideo, Minnesota. Emma Wall Jellema met some of the members of this Johnson family when she lived in Minnesota. After Johannes, the father, died in Norway, his wife came to America to live with her son and died in Minnesota at age 93. No knowledge of other members of the Dybdahl family.

Olia Gulbrands Datter was born to Gulbrand and Margrete Oleson (Kvernstua) at Adelen, Norway. She had one sister Berta. Their father had been a carpenter and then operated a flour and feed mill. He died when the two girls were small (7-9 years old), The Mother and an Aunt operated the mill after he passed away. They insisted that the the two girls learn to read and write although school authorities had said it was not necessary. Both the Mother and Aunt died when Ida Wahl was a young girl. The sister and husband and two children all died at early ages leaving Olia the sole survivor of the Kvernstua family.

After their marriage Ole and Olia lived on the Hval farm for a few years, it was Olia that had the fever to go to America. They emigrated in 1869 by way of Liverpool, England where they spent about three weeks in an immigration camp. Their daughter Dortea died of diphtheria while there. Their son Thron had died in Norway a year before and is buried in the Hval cemetery.

Ole (40) and Olia (30) Johannesen and their three sons, Johannes (11), Gulbrand (9) and Lars (2) came to Green County, Wisconsin to the home of Ole's first cousin, Johan Lokke (Lokken) where they stayed until they could arrange to rent a farm as it was necessary for an immigrant to have lived in America for two years before making a claim on a homestead. This cousin later moved to Montevideo, Minnesota. A son, Gilbert Lokke taught in the Rice Lake Wisconsin High School and married Hazel Peterson of Rice Lake. Selmer Haugen spent one summer vacation at the Lokke farm when he was an unguutt.

The second Dortea (Dora) and Inger (Ida) were born in Green County and baptized at the Perry Lutheran Church near Daleyville.

According to a letter from Gilbert Wall written in 1937, the family moved to Dallas, Wisconsin in the fall of 1872. He was 12 years old at the time. Friends took them to Mt.

Horeb by horse and wagon where they were able to take the train to Menominee and the stage coach to Prairie Farm. From there they walked about 8-9 miles to the Dallas area (Dora and Ida had to be carried by their big brothers) where they were greeted by the Wintrone and Hassel-Haugen families that also came from Aadelen. They lived with these families while their log house was being built in the Maple Grove area about four miles northeast of Dallas. The other children in the family were born in this log house the family home for several years.

Ole Johannesen ( he was also known as Johnson) had made his claim for a homestead. As was the custom in Norway he dropped the "son" name now that he was to become a landowner and adopted the Ole Hval. He is recognized under that name as a Charter member of the Nye Scandinavia Lutheran Church, Maple Grove Township, Barron County, Wisconsin. He was known to be present at a business meeting 6 September 1875 at which time the church is believed to have been officially founded.

Gilbert has further stated that the family name was again changed to Wahl (some chose Wahl, others Wall) at the time Ole proved up his claim for the homestead. This was when Gilbert said he was about 18 years old which would be about 1878.

Times were not easy for the newcomers and their growing family. The father Ole farmed the land with the help of his sons in the summer and worked in the logging camps in in the winter. He also did some carpentry work and was rather adept at whittling with a jack knife in his spare time. The mother Olia, besides her many duties as a house wife (husmor), was also a jordmor (midwife). She received \$.50 for her services but there was very little profit in that because she always took a jar of rommegret (cream porridge) for the new mother and a new gingham dress for the new born infant. On one of her trips she was walking along a path in the woods when she ran across a bear busy eating berries in a patch near the path. She had also planned to pick some berries but changed her mind and walked slowly down the path without harm. On another occasion when a deer wandered into the yard, the boys loaded the shotgun and Olia shot the deer. The children rejoiced to have fresh meat. When Ole came back from logging camp one spring he came walking into the yard with a 100# sack of flour on his shoulder, he had come from Prairie Farm (8 miles away). One can wonder which was the more enjoyable sight- the father or the store bought flour.

In spite of the many hardships the family prospered, living in Maple Grove until retirement when they took residence in a small house near a creek (abounding in trout) located about a mile north of the village of Dallas. This was between the farms of their sons Gilbert and John. (both of these as young men had worked as loggers and in the harvest fields in the west to earn money to buy their farms). Emma Wall Jellema was reared by her Grandmother and lived in both houses. Jukia took care of her parents in their late years. They enjoyed a simple life in their declining years, visited occasionally by their children and grandchildren. The pause at the end of the day was frequently highlighted by the smoking of a pipeful of tobacco by each of these elderly people who had come a long, long way from their early beginnings in Norge.

