

## Oley Dahl

The following excerpt is from the Wald Family History by Cleva Darling, written in 1939. Thank goodness that she wrote this, because without it my research would have been much more difficult and probably boring:

“Ole married Siri--and they had eight children: Ole J.; Sarah; Torkel; Gurina; Peter; Martha; Oley; and Andrew.

“Of these children not all is known. Oley chose the name Dahl because of coming from Ordahl (Årdal). He came to the United States and bought a bakery in Indianola, Iowa. He married a Louder girl of Indianola and they had two children, Ella and Charles. Ella married a Mr. Gilbert. After his death she married Mr. Mathis and they had one child, Virginia. Virginia had stage ambitions and little is known of her.

“Sarah and Gurina also came to the United States and both settled in Illinois. Sarah married a man from Esmond, Illinois and had one girl who married Ludwig Burg. She has six children. Gurina married Mr. Olson. They had two children: Regina, who married Hulver Warren of Eagle Grove, Iowa, and had three children; and Andrew K. who lived at Cambridge, Iowa, married and had four children--Ella, Mary, James, and Ollie.

“Torkel (or Tom as was his nickname), married a Swede girl from Boone, Iowa. They moved to Omaha, Nebraska and there three children were born. His wife never gave up her ambition to be an actress and began training the children for the stage when they were very young. One day Tom said he was going up town for a couple of hours. He never returned, nor did the family ever hear from him again. The family moved to the Western Coast where the children went on the stage.

“Little of Peter and Andrew is known except they left Norway and went to Germany to seek their fortune.

Martha--ah, Martha loved not wisely but too well. One of the children, Ole Miller came to America and served in the Spanish American War. He never married and the last heard of him, he was in the Old Soldiers Home in Crookston, Minnesota.”

The oldest son in this family, Ole J., was our great great grandfather, also known as Ole J. Olson Wold. Although I have found the parish birth records from Norway for all of his brothers and sisters, I have never been able to find any U.S. records about any of them--until now. The difficulty is that names are changed, spellings are inconsistent, this family has very common names, and people move around. Very few clues are left behind. But in this case we have a few clues, so I spent some time digging in the census records online and I finally found the following from 1880:<sup>35</sup>

Name Occupation	Relation Father's Birthplace	Marital Status Mother's Birthplace	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace
Mary LOWDER NC	Self	W	Female	W	50	NC
Edwin LOWDER NC	Son	S	Male	W	22	IA
John W. LOWDER NC	Son	S	Male	W	20	IA
Victoria LOWDER NC	Dau	S	Female	W	18	IA
Candace LOWDER NC	Dau	S	Female	W	15	IA
Charley D. DALL IA	GSon	S	Male	W	4	IA
Ella DALL	GDau	S	Female	W	3	IA

“Mary Lowder” is a widow, age 50. She is living with four of her children on a farm in Warren county, Iowa, (near Indianola). This place is just south of Des Moines.

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35 Source: 1880 census, Washington, Warren, Iowa, pg. #362A

Our direct line family (Ole J.) is living in the next county north. Notice that the grandchildren here are unmistakably the children of “Oley Dahl” as told in the family history above. I knew instantly when I first saw this it could hardly be a coincidence! But where are their parents, Ole and his wife? And who is Ole’s wife? She cannot be one of the daughters listed here--they are too young. A quick check of the 1870 and 1860 census for the same place reveals that indeed there were four older daughters in the Lowder family named: Edith b. 1847, Rachel b. 1849, Asenith b. 1854, and Alazina b. 1856. Oley Dahl was born in 1846, so he might have married any one of them. As luck would have it there are marriage records for Warren county back to 1850, and the actual marriage license and certificate have been photographed and preserved with their names:

“Ole Dall and Ella Lowder”, married 10 November, 1874, in Indianola, Iowa.

Well, here’s another question, who is this Ella Lowder? She was not listed in the census records, or was she? Digging deeper into the county records I found the following “Record of Guardian’s Deeds” which clearly identifies the deceased mother of Charles and Ella Dall.<sup>36 37</sup>

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36 “Record of Guardian’s Deeds”, Warren County, Iowa, FHL film #1011027, p. 423.

37 Marriage Register, Warren County, Iowa, FHL film # 1034029, item 17, p. 309.

# RECORD OF GUARDIAN'S DEEDS.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME: I Mary Lowder  
 County, State of Iowa, Guardian of the person and  
 property of Chas. V. Dall & Ella May Dall  
Allagnumia Dall Decada minor heirs of  
 sends greeting: Whereas the said Mary Lowder  
 Guardian as aforesaid, heretofore, to-wit: at the March Session A. D. 1886,  
 of the County Court of Warren County, and State of Iowa, made application to the said Court to sell ertain Real Estate  
belonging to said minor

AND WHEREAS, notice of said application was duly and personally served upon said minor, according to law: And Whereas, also, at the said  
March Term, A. D. 1886, of said County Court, the said Mary Lowder  
 in his capacity of Guardian aforesaid was ordered and empowered to sell The Real Estate hereinafter described

AND WHEREAS, also, the said Guardian has given the Bond with sureties required by law: And Whereas, also, the said Guardian has sold the Real  
 Estate hereinafter described, (being all of the said Real Estate which the said Guardian was empowered to sell by said order  
 of said County Court,) to Edwin Lowder

of Warren County in the State of Iowa for the sum of  
Thirty Three Dollars.

NOW THEREFORE, KNOW YE That I, the said Mary Lowder in my capacity of  
 Guardian as aforesaid, by virtue of the authority vested in me by said County Court, and in pursuance of the said order of said Court, in consideration of the  
 sum of Thirty Three Dollars, to me paid by the said

Edwin Lowder (the receipt whereof I hereby acknowledge.)  
 do by these presents grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Edwin Lowder

and to his heirs and assigns forever, the following  
 described tracts of Real Estate, lying and being situated in the County of Warren and State of Iowa, to-wit:

The 11 divided 1/8 part of the West half of the North East 1/4 of Sec 7 except the right of way to the  
Warren & Opa Railway Co. beginning at the N corner of the S E 1/4 of Sec 7 thence South 20 rods thence West 45 rods  
thence N 20 thence E 48 to the place of beginning all in Twp 76 N of R 23 West also beginning 22 x 24.0 links N 78  
East corner of the N E 1/4 of Sec 2 thence N 23 1/2 rods N 73 1/2 rods E 23 1/2 rods South 73 1/2 rods to place of begin  
all in Township 76 North Range 24 West of 5th P.M.S.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, The said described premises unto the said Edwin Lowder  
his heirs and assigns forever. And I, the said Mary Lowder

for myself, my executors and administrators do hereby covenant with the said Edwin Lowder

his heirs and assigns that in making the said sale, I have in all things observed  
 and complied with all the requisitions of the law, and that as Guardian aforesaid, I will WARRANT AND DEFEND the above granted premises to the  
 said Edwin Lowder against the lawful claims of said minor and all persons claiming

or to claim the same by, through or under me

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 9th day of April A. D. 1886

Mary Lowder [L.S.]  
 Guardian as aforesaid.

STATE OF IOWA, COUNTY OF Warren



# MARRIAGE REGISTER

DATE

GRANTING OF LICENSE

Nov 10/74 No. 145

Marriage License issued to Ole - Dall

Ella Lowder

the former 27 years of age, and the latter 18

years of age, on the testimony of

Thomas P. Woodfoot

## WARREN COUNTY, IOWA.

DATE OF RETURN

CERTIFICATE

TO THE COUNTY COURT OF WARREN COUNTY:

THIS CERTIFIES, That on the 10 day of November  
A. D., 1874, at Ottumwa in said County, according to law, and  
by authority, I duly JOINED IN MARRIAGE, Ole Dall  
and Ella Lowder

Given under my hand the

day of

A. D., 1874

J. C. Moore  
M. C.

So, Ole's wife, Ella, was also known as Allazenia Lowder. They named their daughter Ella after her mother, but this more beautiful form of the name was not used in the 1880 census (It was used in an earlier census with a different spelling).. The guardianship deed tells us that Allazenia has died some time before 1886. Perhaps it was a long time before, and that is why she is not found in the 1880 census with her children. In fact, I finally did find her husband, "Ole Dall" listed in the 1880 census, living a short distance away from the family at a boarding house in Des Moines and working as a baker. I imagine that his wife may have died in child birth or by some other disease, and at this time he has moved back to Des Moines to find work.

It seems the family didn't really live happily ever after. A somewhat more tragic ending than the one painted by Cleve Darling. However, we can thank her again for providing the clues that helped us find anything at all about them. There are many more census and county records giving details about this Lowder family. Much research can yet be done there. As for "Oley Dahl" / "Ole Dall", he was the brother of our direct ancestor, and therefore he was very much a member of our Wald family with the same heritage from Årdal, Norway. Whether or not Oley and Ella's descendants still survive today remains to be discovered. If they do, it might be interesting to share with them the family history that they probably don't know much about...yet.

Allen H Wald