

263 - S. Harrington Rd.
Coupeville, Wash. 98233
June 20, 1984

JUN 22 1984

Dear Rev. Nesvig,
Betty Lou Zier,

Enclosed is a narrative
about my Wangsness
family.

I thought you might
find it interesting and
add it to Markus
Wangsness pictures and
school records!

Happy reading

Sincerely yours
Roger A. Matthews

Pacific Lutheran University

TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98447

June 26, 1984

Inger A. Mathews
263 S. Harrington Rd.
Coupeville, WA 98239

Dear Friend:

Thank you very much for sending us the narrative about the Wangsness family. We have found it most interesting to read, and we will keep this publication in our Archives. This is a very valuable addition and gives us a lot of background about people who lived here many years ago.

If you are ever down this way, you are most welcome to stop by. We would be happy to see you and show you around the Archives and the University.

Sincerely,

Milton Nesvig
Vice-President Emeritus

MN:blz

GENEALOGICAL NARRATIVE OF
MARKUS HALLVARDSON AND BRITA SJURSDATTER VANGSNESS
BY INGER A. MATHEWS

GENEALOGICAL NARRATIVE

by
Inger A Mathews

This is a genealogical narrative of Markus Hallvardson and Brita Sjursdatter Vangsness who came to America in 1844. It also has data on Brita's parents and Markus' parents, grandparents and great grandparents. I carry this narrative to and include Markus Hallvardson and Brita Sjursdatter Vangsness' great grandchildren.

Markus Hallvardson and Brita Sjursdatter Vangsness were my great grandparents. They came to America in 1844 to the Luther Valley settlement, moving to Bristol Township, Dane County, Wisconsin. Vangsness is a farm or an area name and that is how Markus obtained Vangsness for a last name. The town or the area of Vangsness is on the Sogne Fjord. There are many farms there. When one who owned a farm in Vangsness came to America they often took Vangsness for their last name.

Hallvard Samuelson, who was Markus' father, was born in 1775 in Lidal, and in 1800 married Anna Markusdatter Dale in Svaerefjorden. Hallvard died in 1838 and Anna died in 1857, both in Norway.

Hallvard Samuelson's father was Samuel Hallvardson Lunde, who married Gurid Andersdatter Valsvik in Arnefjord in 1752. Samuel Hallvardson's parents were Hallvard Person Biri in Lundsviki, and he was married to Sitrona Katarina Torgensdatter Vido. Nothing is known about Hallvard Person's parents, but is supposed Hallvard Person came from Biri in eastern Norway.

My great grandmother Brita Sjursdatter Vangsness's parents were Sjur Sjursen Vangsness and Inger Persdatter Mundal. Sjur Sjursen was born April 4, 1798, in Norway and died June 9, 1878, in Wisconsin; buried in Norway Grove Cemetery, Wisconsin. He married Inger Persdatter Mundal in 1819, in Norway. They came to America in 1844 on the Barque, Juno, and settled near Spring Prairie, Wisconsin. Inger's death is listed in the Norway Grove Church, no date is given. They had four children besides my great grandmother, Brita. They are:

I.⁴ Sjur: Born 1826 and died 1900; born in Norway and married Helga Olesdatter. She was born 1826 and died 1913. Settled near the Norway Grove Church and buried there. They had nine children. The following dates are from the Norway Grove Lutheran Church:

1. Samuel: June 17, 1849, baptized Oct. 15, 1849.
2. Ingeborg: Jan. 13, 1852, baptized Feb. 15, 1852. Confirmed June 16, 1867.
3. Ole: April 19, 1854, baptized May 14, 1854.

4. Ingeri: July 18, 1855, baptized July 22, 1855. Confirmed April 30, 1871.
5. Britha: Feb. 14, 1858, baptized Feb. 21, 1858.
6. Ola: May 27, 1860 - 1897, baptized June 21, 1860. Confirmed May 6, 1875. Buried in Norway Grove Cemetery.
7. Anna: March 16, 1863, baptized March 19, 1863. Confirmed 1878.
8. Samuel: Nov. 21, 1865, baptized Dec. 3, 1865. Confirmed May 22, 1881.
9. Johannes: June 27, 1868, baptized July 12, 1868. Died 1895. Buried in Norway Grove Cemetery.

I have found no other information about the children after the above dates.

- II. Peder: Born Nov. 29, 1829, in Norway. Married Anna Nonsdatter, born 1833 in Norway. They had five children.

1. Sjur: March 5, 1852. Baptized March 28, 1852.
2. Solvei: Nov. 4, 1854. Baptized Nov. 19, 1854.
3. John: Jan. 28, 1857. Baptized Feb. 26, 1857.
4. Mons: Feb. 14, 1860. Baptized March 4, 1860.
5. Andreas: Aug. 18, 1862. Baptized Sept. 5, 1862.

⁴The Peder Vangness family belonged to the Norway Grove Church. The above dates are from that church. No other information about the children after the above dates.

- III. John: Feb. 28, 1836, in Norway. I believe that he died in the Civil War, but have not been able to prove it. I had a small picture of a John Vangness (now at the Archive Luther College Library, Decorah, Iowa) that stated he died in the Civil War and was a cousin of H. M. Vangness. I believe that he is H. M. Vangness' uncle.

- IV. Britha: Jan. 20, 1833. Born in Norway.

No church record on John and the second Britha, (Children of Inger Mundal and Sjur Sjursen Vangness) other than the birth dates. These were given to me by Gerhard B. Naeseth.

If you wonder about Britha Vangness marrying ^{Markus} Halvor Vangness, all I can say is that Britha's father, Sjur Sjursen, must have had a farm in Vangness and took that last name when he came to America.

³From a copy of Emigration from the Vangness parish between 1844-1856, eight single or family groups came to America that took the name of Vangness for a last name. So there can be many Vangness families in America that are in no way related by blood ties.

1844: Vangsness: Sjur Sjursen, Ingeri Persdt., Sjur, Per, Jon, and Brita.

1844: Vangsness: Markus Halorsen, Brita Sjursdt. and Ingeri Markusdt.

1854: Vangsness: Eli Hermundsdt.

1856: Vangsness: Ellend Hermundsn, Brita Ellendsdt. Ellend Ellendsn, Hermund Ellendsen, Jon Ellendsn, Johanne Ellendsdt.

1856: Vangsness: Gjert Sjursen

1856: Vangsness: Ole Olsen, Ole Knuden, Christine Mikketsde, Helene Olsdt, Michael Olson, Ingebrigt Olson.

1856: Vangsness: Per Sjurson and Ole Sjurson.

The above list of names and dates was given to me by Gerhard B. Naeseth. There was more information about which I did not understand.

Now back to Hallvard Samuelson⁴, my great-great grandfather. He bought³ the farm in Vangsness from Michelet in Manger¹⁸⁴³. When he died in 1838 he had six grown children; one son, Markus, and five daughters. Gurid married Sjovat Anderson Vangsness and they had a place in Vangsness. Sitona married Sjur Olsen Berrekvam and moved from Vangsness. Brita, Anna and Gjertrud left Vangsness and probably went to America. Gurid died in 1871 and was buried in Vangsness.

Markus Hallvardson, my great grandfather, was born June 30, 1804, in Balestrand, Norway, and died Nov. 15, 1892, and buried in Spring Prairie Cemetery, Wisconsin. He married Britha Sjursdatter Vangsness in 1841. Britha was born March 19, 1821, in Balestrand, Norway. Britha was buried in Spring Prairie Cemetery--no date given, but in 1860 or 1861. Markus⁴ inherited the Vangsness farm, lived there six years and in 1844 sold it to Jon Erikson Ramsøy from Aurland. The farm changed hands 3 times and in 1902 was divided into many small farms in Vangsness.

Ingeri was confirmed May, 1859, at Spring Prairie Church. In 1844 Markus, Brita and daughter Ingeri were baptized Jan. 14, 1844, in Vangsness, emigrated to America on the Barque, Juno, date 6-24-1844, and settled near Bristol tws., Dane County, Wisconsin. Ingeri was living in 1860 but nothing more is known about her.

They took the name Vangsness (now spelled Wangsness) for their last name, and that is how we got it.

Markus and Brita had seven children born in America:

1. Anne, born Sept. 19, 1846. That is all I know about her.
2. ⁴Johanne, born 1851, confirmed June 2, 1864, at Spring Prairie Church. Married Jens Ingebrechts Hauge on Oct. 14, 1871, at Spring Prairie Church. Children, Helge born Feb. 16, 1872, baptized March 4, 1872. ⁷When Markus Wangsness (my father) died Jan. 24, 1919, my Mother received a sympathy card from Selma Hauge, Clarkfield, Minn. The inside message was "from the Hauge Brothers and Sisters". In 1981 or so I wrote to the city clerk in Clarkfield (enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope) asking if any Hauge lived there---gave information as to my connection to them and asked the clerk to give the letter to the Hagues or acknowledge my letter if there were no Hagues living there. I did not hear from the city clerk or any of the Hagues.
3. Sjur was born Nov. 23, 1853, baptized Dec. 11, 1853. That is all I know about him.
4. Hendrick, born Dec. 7, 1855. Baptized Dec. 23, 1855. No other information after this date.
5. ⁴Samuel, born April 9, 1857, baptized April 14, 1857. ⁷Confirmed May 22, 1873, at Spring Prairie Church. Samuel was my father's uncle and came to visit us in 1916 or 1917 in Coupeville, Washington. He played a concertina and my Mother played the piano. I can remember them making music. As far as I know, he was never married and had a farm in North Dakota near the Canadian border. He died a year or so after he visited us.
6. Sjur was born May 19, 1860. Baptized June 24, 1860. No other information after this date. It makes you wonder why two Sjur (brothers) in one family. Could the older one have died when a child?
7. Halvor M. Wangsness (my grandfather) was born Feb. 21, 1849, in Dane County, Wisconsin, and moved to Iowa as a young man, where he met and married Inger Skotland, October 29, 1873. Inger Skotland was the daughter of Thore Skotland, who was the first to settle near Calmar in 1850. She was born in the covered wagon--the dugout/sod house was not built yet. Thore Skotland was very much interested in Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. He was one of the three Incorporators of Luther College, a member of the first Board of Trustees and a member of the first Building Committee.

Inger and Halvor moved to Ottertail County, Minnesota, after they were married. They also lived near Devils Lake and Larimore, North Dakota. Inger's uncle, Lars T. Land urged them to come to Camano Island, Washington.

In 1890 they moved their 9 children to Camano Island. In the book, Life Histories of the Descendants of Pedre and Gjertrud Sandover starting on page 117 gives the family of Halvor and Inger up to about 1953. Inger was born in Calmar, Iowa, September 8, 1850, and died January 27, 1895, Camano Island. She is buried in the cemetery near Stanwood, Washington. Halvor was born Feb. 21, 1849, in Dane County, Wisconsin, and died March 22, 1904, in Yakima County, Washington, where he had gone for his health. Both Inger and Halvor died of consumption. Halvor was buried in the cemetery near Stanwood, Washington.

These are Halvor and Inger Wangsness's children:

1. Brita, born Jan. 23, 1875, Ottertail County, Minn. Married Carl Land (who was Inger's cousin). She died Oct. 11, 1894, Camano Is. I was told she had tuberculosis. No children. She was 19.
2. Thore, born March 12, 1876, Ottertail County, Minn. Died Jan. 21, 1902, Camano Island. He was shot and killed by the carelessness of a hired man.
3. Ingelbert, born April 23, 1880, Ottertail Co., Minn. Died Oct. 21, 1901. Accidentally killed in a logging camp on Camano Island.
4. Henry Ingeman, born Sept. 23, 1883, in North Dakota; died Feb. 4, 1907. He passed away after extended illness believed to be tuberculosis.
5. George Johander, born Oct. 28, 1884, in North Dakota; died Nov. 20, 1905, in Tacoma General Hospital, Tacoma, Washington.
6. Ida Ellen, born July 24, 1886, Devils Lake, North Dakota; died June 17, 1976, at the Stanwood Josephine Home. She married Thorbjorn Mangelssen June 28, 1905. Thorbjorn was born in Norway March 16, 1877 and died Jan. 30, 1963. He was 9 years old when he came to the United States. He was a farmer and they lived on Camano Island. Both are buried in Camano Lutheran Cemetery. They had 5 sons: Harold Christian, Johan Brynjulf, Wilhelm Magnus, Roald Theodore and Kenneth Sanford.
7. Johan Severyn, born August 24, 1888, Devils Lake, North Dakota and died Oct. 30, 1937.

He was buried in Stanwood, Wash. Married Margaret Brink. He was a shingle mill worker. They had two children, Arthur Manser and Marjorie Cecelia Engelstad.

8. Manser William, born Sept. 15, 1889, Devils Lake, North Dakota; died July 17, 1976. Married Sigrid Fett June 16, 1923. Sigrid was born Dec. 28, 1898 and died April 11, 1975 in Stanwood. Manser owned and ran a service station in Stanwood for many years before he retired. They had 3 children: Howard Norman, Irma Carlene Garrison and Shirley Mae Danielson. Manser and Sigrid are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery, Stanwood, Washington.
9. Markus, who was my father, was born April 14, 1877, Ottertail County, Minn. and died Jan. 23, 1919, in Seattle, Wash., Seattle General Hospital. He had an operation for ulcers and hemorrhaged from that. He was buried at Sunnyside Cemetery, Coupeville, Wash. Markus was sheriff of Island County for 4 years and Clerk of Island County for 4 years. He was working for the Seattle Police as a special police when he died. At that time in 1918 and 1919, during the First World War, there was much radical unrest. Markus married Ivy Gareldine Harrington Sept. 21, 1907. Ivy Gareldine Harrington was born April 23, 1886, near Big Rapids, Michigan; died October 1, 1977, in Coupeville, and buried in Sunnyside Cemetery, Coupeville, Washington. She was the daughter of John Taylor Harrington and Hannah Amanda Ellsworth Harrington. They had two daughters, Inger Athaleen Mathews and Arlie Gareldine Ostling. Markus, Thore and Henry attended Pacific Lutheran College in Tacoma, Wash., during the years of 1896-1899, but not all quarters. Pacific Lutheran College is co-educational and was founded in 1890.

⁴ Markus Halvordson Vangsness' first wife Brita died in 1860 or 1861. Markus married Karen Nielsdatter, daughter of Niels and Anna Olad from Hafslo. Karen (Kari) was born 1829 and died Jan. 16, 1918. They had four children:

- I. Britha, born Dec. 8, 1863, confirmed April 4, 1880. Married Ole Christianson Lerum June 16, 1886, at the Spring Prairie Church. She died in 1931. Ole Lerum, born 1860; died in 1941. They had 9 children:

1. Anne Caroline, born Dec. 17, 1887. Baptized Jan. 4, 1888; confirmed May 19, 1903.
2. Carl Andreas, born Aug. 20, 1889. Baptized Sept. 6, 1889; confirmed May 24, 1906.
3. Martin, born March 8, 1891, died 1975. Baptized April 19, 1891. Confirmed May 24, 1906.
4. Carrie Isable, born April 8, 1893. Baptized June 24, 1893. Confirmed May 24, 1908. Married Arthur M. Johnson. In March, 1981, Carrie was living at 2122 Sommers Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53704.
5. Bodie Christine, born April 22, 1895. Baptized in 1895. Confirmed May 22, 1910. Married Boby J. M. Auby on July 27, 1916.
6. Bertine Olina, born Feb. 1, 1897. Baptized March 21, 1897. Confirmed May 19, 1912. Married Joseph Hiney on June 8, 1919.
7. Jennie Marie, born Jan. 14, 1899. Baptized March 5, 1899. Confirmed May 10, 1914. On March, 1981, lived at 314 N. Baldwin St., Madison, Wisconsin.
8. Harvey Johan, born March 31, 1901; died 1925. Baptized 1901; confirmed ~~June 18,~~ 1916.
9. Mabel Amanda, born ^{May 5} May 9, 1903. Baptized July 26, 1903. Confirmed May 26, 1918.

Britha and Ole Lerum, with their sons, Carl, Martin and Harvey, are buried in the Spring Prairie Church Cemetery.

- II. Niels, born Nov. 21, 1866. Baptized Dec. 25, 1866. Confirmed April 30, 1882, at Spring Prairie Church. No information after that date.
- III. Andus, born Feb. 23, 1870. Baptized March 23, 1870. No information after that date.
- IV. Ingeri, born Sept. 7, 1872; died June 1, 1907. Baptized Oct. 27, 1872. Married Erick Nelson Ru/Rowe. Ingeri confirmed June 3, 1888. Ingeri and Erick Rowe had 7 children.
 1. Norman Martin, born Jan. 15, 1893. Baptized April 2, 1893. Confirmed May 24, 1908.
 2. Anna Carolina, born May 17, 1895. Baptized in 1895. Married Mr. Sande. A son, Harold Sande

in March 5, 1981, lived in Morrisonville, Wisconsin, 53571.

3. Elmer Ingvald, born March 11, 1897; died 1897. Baptized April 1, 1897.
4. Ida Amanda, born March 25, 1898. Baptized April 8, 1898.
5. Gertie Marie, born Sept. 1, 1901. Baptized Oct. 6, 1901.
6. Fredclian Elvina, born Jan. 5, 1904. Baptized March 27, 1904.
7. Julia, born May 23, 1907; died 1907. Lived one day.

Erick and Ingeri Rowe and their children, Elmer and Julia, are buried on the Markus Halvorson Vangsness lot in the Spring Prairie Church Cemetery.

Bibliography

1. Jon Laberg's book, Balestrand (bygd og aetter pages 692-693 on Vangsness). This is in Norwegian.
2. Jan Sjavik, University of Washington, Scandinavian Dept.
3. Gerhard Naeseth, Madison, Wisconsin.
4. Ruth Ann Gullickson and Spring Prairie Lutheran Cemetery, Keyeser, Wisconsin.
5. Life Histories of the Descendants of Peder and Gjertrud Sandager, page 117, compiled by T. L. Rosholt.
6. Our Grandfather James Harrington 1811-1897. His Ancestors and His Descendants, by H. L. Harrington, Detroit 1940 (page 72)
7. Inger A. Mathews, Coupeville, Washington

Inger A. Mathews
June 20, 1984