

Neida E. Wallace Straub.

Born at Rib Lake, in the home I now occupy; June 24, 1916.
 Parents- Guy Wallace, who first came to Rib Lake in 1888. Returned to New York City to finish college. Later moved with his mother and brother to a farm she bought at the west end of Wellington Lake- Now owned by Roland Walty.

My mother was Flossie Page, who came to Rib Lake with her parents from Unity, who were formerly from Vermont and New Hampshire. She was legally blind at thirty-two from cataracts, so we had to have hired help. I stayed at my Grandma Pages, with her and my aunt and uncle most of the time. Spent two summers on the Dio Walty farm; He was single and needed my uncle to help with crops, harvest and chores. Then too, grandma was a wonderful cook. Dio always called her ma. I even attended the little Niggeman school for a short time one fall. Went with the teacher, Alexander Poyda. Nels Gustofson also taught there and stayed at Waltys. I recall wading in the small part of Wellington Lake, slipping from a rock and cutting my foot severely on a piece of glass. Those who were with me- the Faber kids, Valentine Bock and Ruth Waller (later, Dvorek) bound up my foot and helped me home. Dio used to let me ride to town with him in the light wagon. Once he had forgotten something and went in the house, after telling me to sit still and be very quiet. The horses were munching grass when suddenly a deer came leaping by. It spooked them and they made a mad dash for the gate, which was quite a distance from the house. I went head over teakettle, over the back of the seat, into the wagon box. I wasn't hurt but everyone came running to the gate, fearing I would be killed. I was five years old; Didn't know enough to be afraid. I was having a ball, enjoying it all.

A lot of the neighborhood kids used to gather at grandma's; There were always goodies for us and she and Aunt Lill would play caroms or flinch with us. Some of their names were Irene Burmeister, Clifford Sippy, Estelle Banks, The Amo and Bailey boys, Verle Gummo, Jennie Dahlburg, Wilma Lambright, Aurelia Lieg, The Mauch boys, Dorothy Prahl, Fredrika Bullard, Virginia Hahney and sometimes Louie Wicks daughter, Esther. A favorite pastime for some of us was going a block or so to the depot to watch the train come in.

I had a play store in the attic and grandma would let us dress up in clothes from trunks up there. One was my grandfathers old Civil War uniform. I also had my own room where the girls and I would play house and make doll clothes.

After I was eleven or twelve I had to go home and help my mother. Later, when the Rib Lake Lumber Co. ran day and night shifts, my dad started a rooming house. He had twenty men staying here. I loved school, but was never able to finish.

My dad and I were always great pals. He was a very gentle person; Never was cross with me. When I was very small, he used to sing a cute little ditty to me. There was a little girl, who had a little curl in the middle of her forehead; When she was good she was very good, But when she was bad she was horrid."

He took me to some of the old Milw. Brewer Games. He knew some of the players and would introduce them to me. I also went to our Rib Lake Ball club games with him when he was Manager or Scorer.

We used to sit up till 2:00 A.M. working crossword puzzles.

I was married quite young and lived in Merrill for a couple of years. I worked for my husband's Bro. Fred, who owned the West side Sanitary Bakery. His Bro. Charlie owned The Merrill Bakery. I had the two little boys. Came home to stay before my little Bobbie was born.

I have taken care of my grandmother before she died, at eighty-seven, My dad until he passed away at eighty, My aunt and uncle at different times when they were ill-- They had no children. I cared for my mother, who was blind. Helped her for many years, until her passing at eighty-seven. Then my husband had a massive stroke and it was almost five years with him. Dr. Hesse even cussed at me because I wouldn't put him in the nursing home, But I had promised him I never would as long as I could keep going, if anything ever happened to him, for he had allowed me to care for all of the others and didn't do a lot of hollering about it.

I have done so much baby sitting for so many that Pike, my bro. called me the perpetual baby sitter.

I have had time for some hobbies, such as quilt making and other craft work. I have switched from driftwood to feather art to seeds and shells to plaques to quilling. I have made nearly a hundred quilts. I made a pieced up velvet one for each of my children and their family. I put meaningful things on each block with fancy stitching around, such as a bootie, a heart made of a piece of their baby blankets, Scout badges, army stripes, etc. My pride and joy was a navy blue velvet quilt with white and red satin stripes around, near the edge, a circle of ^{red work} white stars in the center and gold dates in the circle 1776-- 1976. I donated ~~that~~ one to the Rib Lake Bicentennial celebration. Sue Voemastek won it and years later turned it back to me.

I also helped my mother make bells out of unusual things such as wire, wood, metal covers, glass, etc. She had a bell collection, and although she was blind she made beautiful braided wool rugs. I dyed many of the rags for her and cut the strips. Then put two or three colors in different size boxes so she didn't get the colors mixed up. She enjoyed her work, her bells, radio, especially news and baseball. We all had to be baseball minded, with dad around. He and ma used to sing to us a lot, too. They both had such good voices. Dad's deep bass was great and ma's was more of a contralto. Aunt Lill had a nice soprano voice and could really play that organ or piano when Uncle Hans played the violin.

Grandma Page made lovely braided rugs, too, and she would just go on with her rug making while they made music.

I have a wonderful, caring family. With the married ones-- nine children, twenty grandchildren and ¹⁹eighteen greatgrandchildren.

I also found time to teach Methodist Sunday School for twenty-seven years. Was also supt. for several years. Held offices in the Meth. Guild and Women's Society. Was a member of the ~~one~~ active Royal Neighbors. Am now a member of the Board of Directors of the Taylor Co. Historical Society, and a member of the United Methodist Women's Society. *I love people especially my children & also to be and do*