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Family History of Holly (Halbach) Westberg

Holly M. Westberg

Pittsburg State University, hwestberg@gus.pittstate.edu

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Recommended Citation

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The Family History of

Holly Marie Westberg

8 November 2016

Holly Westberg authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 813 Seminar in American History: Family History offered online in Fall 2016 and was submitted to the Pittsburg State University [Digital Commons](#). Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: hwestberg@gus.pittstate.edu

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List of Direct Line Family Members

Generation One

- A1. Holly Marie Halbach Westberg (1983-)
- A2. Vincent Jay Westberg (1985-)

Generation Two

- A1a. Robin Ann Greil Halbach (1964-)
- A1b. Jeffrey Anthony Halbach (1963-)

Generation Three

- A1a1. Arlene Eileen Rosenthal Greil (1942-)
- A1a2. Darrell Oliver Greil (1939-)
- A1b1. Joyce Caroline Dassler Halbach (1940-2012)
- A1b2. Claude Sylvester Halbach (1938-2010)

Generation Four

- A1a1a. Erna Forbeck Rosenthal (1917-1983)
- A1a1b. Leonard Rosenthal (1915-2003)
- A1a2a. Emma A Miller Greil (1916-2001)
- A1a2b. William Edward Greil (1909-1986)
- A1b1a. Elizabeth E Martin Dassler (1915-2006)
- A1b1b. Melvin Charles Dassler (1910-1985)
- A1b2a. Margaret Holzmann Halbach (1919-1982)
- A1b2b. Claude Joseph Halbach (1917-1999)

Generation Five

- A1a1a1. Ella Uhlenbrauck Forbeck (1886-1970)
- A1a1a2. Theodore W Forbeck (1880-1946)

- A1a1b1. Augusta M Reed Rosenthal (1887-1931)
- A1a1b2. Herman Rosenthal (1886-1928)

- A1a2a1. Ida Johanna Emilie Lemke Miller (1892-1963)
- A1a2a2. Benjamin Miller (1882-1929)

- A1a2b1. Bertha Hardwig Greil (1879-1965)
- A1a2b2. Jacob Greil (1865-1931)

- A1b1a1. Anna Neese Martin (1883-1975)
- A1b1a2. Conrad Martin (1878-1969)

- A1b1b1. Alvine Cemechen Dassler (1870-unknown)
- A1b1b2. Herman F Dassler (1866-1913)

- A1b2a1. Elizabeth Koenigs Holzmann (1880-1933)
- A1b2a2. Albert V Holzmann (1879-1976)

- A1b2b1. Emma Martina Casper Halbach (1897-1920)
- A1b2b2. Vincent Joseph Halbach Sr. (1892-1984)

GENERATION ONE

I was born on a hot summer day in August 1983. My parents, **Robin Ann (Greil) Halbach (1964-)** and **Jeffrey Anthony Halbach (1963-)**, were both young and just married. I was born at Sacred Heart Hospital in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, where my family resided. Everyone was a little concerned because exactly a month earlier my aunt had lost her first baby due to many different complications. Luckily, everything went well and I was able to go home with my parents the next day.

Today

My typical week starts out by making sure the kids are ready for school. Monday mornings are always the hardest because the kids have been busy all weekend and do not want to get up and get ready. This year is a little different because my oldest son, Christian, is off at college, so I do not have him to help me get the two younger boys, Zane and Isaiah, up and off to school. Generally, I get myself ready each morning and then work on getting the little guys off. I do not work on Mondays, so I am able to spend more time getting them ready. They both take cold lunches and have them made up the night before. They also get their clothes out and ready for the next day. After the boys are off to school, I spend most of the day doing chores, homework, and grocery shopping. Usually Zane has soccer practice after school and Isaiah has football practice, so we do not eat dinner until around 7 pm.

Things are a bit different on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as I work a night shift. During these days, I do a lot of homework and housework. Thursdays are usually my day off and I am able to relax a bit and spend time getting ready for the weekend, especially if it is my weekend to work. Fridays I work 8-4 and then work 8-4 every other weekend.

Most of our evenings are spent at sports practices or games. The boys play soccer, baseball, basketball, and football. They definitely keep us busy. Our weekends are also usually spent at sports tournaments, depending on what season it is.

I work as a Mobile Crisis Service Professional at North Central Health Care in a city nearby. I drive about thirty minutes to work each way. My job consists of working with clients that have mental health issues, as well as clients with issues related to drug and alcohol abuse. Part of my organization is a behavioral health unit (please see link in 10 Nov module about correct capitalization), where people are often placed if they are unable to take care of themselves or if they are considered a harm to themselves or others. My job takes me out to hospitals, schools, jails, and people's homes. I evaluate them and see if they are in need of being detained or if they are able to contract for their safety. I also work with youth with these same issues. My job is mentally exhausting and it is often difficult to leave it at the work place. I am constantly thinking about my clients and hoping that we were able to get them the help that they need in order to be happy and productive. Sometimes the

decisions that co-workers and myself make can change a person's life and that is something that weighs heavily on a person. As strange as it sounds, I really enjoy my work. My job allows me to work with an under-served group of people and anything I can do to make their lives better makes me feel accomplished. I am lucky to be one of the 80% of Americans that feel very satisfied with their job.¹

Right now, everyone is a little thrown off schedule with the new school year and both younger boys being at the middle school. Christian is off at college, so there is less supervision at home for the younger kids, but that is also giving them a lot more responsibility. In addition, with the start of my new job and odd hours, things are somewhat hectic and no day is the same. On top of that, my husband has also started a new job, so he is working twelve-hour days six days a week. Everyone is starting to adjust and life is getting into a normal routine.

I am currently taking classes for my Masters in History at Pittsburg State University. I am about halfway done with my degree and am hoping to teach after I am finished. History has always been a passion of mine and it would be great to be able to share my love of history with other people.

In the little bit of free time that I do have, I enjoy reading, watching sports and watching horror movies. I have a hard time finding a movie that is actually scary, but it is fun to hang out with the family and get spooked. When it comes to reading, I will read

¹ Fischer, Claude S. and Hout, Michael. *Century of Difference*. Russell Sage Foundation, New York (2006), 131.

just about any type of book. I really enjoy thrillers and historical fiction. I am currently reading the Outlander series and am a little upset that I am almost done with them all. I feel like a part of my life will be missing once the series is over, as it has taken up almost a year of my life. Most of my time is spent with the family and I am a little lost when I have quiet time or alone time. I really enjoy watching my kids play sports and spent almost every night and weekend at practice or a game. As a working mom, I do not get much time to myself, which is okay because I get bored very easily.

I would like to travel the world when I get older. Our family likes to do little day or weekend trips and we do a family vacation each year. We usually go on a Caribbean cruise and visit places like Mexico, the Bahamas, and Belize. We are currently planning a trip to Disney World for next winter. Traveling and meeting new people and learning about different cultures is something that I really enjoy and I hope that I will be able to visit more places throughout my life. I am very lucky because my husband is up for anything and he goes along with all of my crazy plans. I am very detailed in regards to planning, so I tend to start working on new vacation plans the year before we go. I would really love to visit Europe and Africa in the near future.

Family

My immediate family consists of my husband, my three sons, and myself. My husband's name is Vincent (Jay) and we were married on June 27, 2003. We will celebrate our 14 years together in October of

2016. We met at High School Football game and have been together ever since.

My oldest son is Christian. He is eighteen and just graduated from Merrill High School in May of 2016. Christian is attending the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County and plans to move on to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to get his degree in Animal Sciences and Biology. After that, he plans on going to University of Wisconsin Madison to become an Animal Pathologist. Christian is an avid soccer and baseball player and spends a lot of his time at different sporting events.

My middle son, Zane, is a seventh grader at Prairie River Middle School in Merrill. He plays soccer, basketball, and baseball. He is into video games and music. Zane plans to become a Chef after high school.

Isaiah is the youngest and is in 6th grade at Prairie River Middle School. Isaiah plays soccer, baseball, basketball, and football. Isaiah is very into sports and knows a lot about different teams and their players. He is also a fan of comic books and Marvel.

GROWING UP

I was born in Tomahawk, Wisconsin in 1983. My parents, Jeffrey and Robin (Greil) Halbach were married in 1983 and will be celebrating their 34th anniversary in January 2017. My family lived in Tomahawk until I was four years old and then moved to Merrill, Wisconsin. I also have a younger sister, Kelly that was born in 1986.

Growing up, my family did not have a lot of money, but we always had the things that we needed. My father worked in factories and later as a local delivery truck driver. My mother spent most of my childhood as a day care provider, watching other people's children in our home. When I was a teenager, she worked in a factory for a few years but then went back to day care when I was in high school so that she could take care of her grandson.

Much of what I remember of my childhood revolved around our yearly camping trips. My family took a weeklong family trip every summer to different parts of the state. We visited waterfalls, football training camps and other local tourist attractions. I remember playing many rounds of mini-golf and eating a lot of ice cream. We generally went camping at Wisconsin State Campgrounds, but also did visit South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, and Canada. For the most part, we spent time wandering the campgrounds, hiking, swimming, and sitting around the fire. We were able to visit Mount Rushmore, the Corn Palace, an English Trading Post, and waterfalls. One year we were in Platteville and were able to watch the Chicago Bears during their training camp.

I remember coming home from school every day and having a treat waiting for us. My mother loves to bake and I think that her way of showing us how much she cared was by making us treats. Everything that we did revolved around food. Whenever something good happened, there was food, similar to when something bad happened and food was the thing to make life better. Food was something important in my

extended family as well, as my paternal grandmother always baked for my maternal grandfather and us had his famous bread and baked beans that were brought to every occasion.

Growing up in small town Merrill was pretty boring; there was not a lot to do. As a teenager, most of my free time was spent at friends' houses, the movie theater, or the bowling alley. I started working at a local grocery store, Dave's County Market, when I was fourteen and was employed there until I was 17. I then went to work at Central Wisconsin Wholesale and later had jobs at Walmart, Waldenbooks, and Eastbay.

Merrill is a small town in central Wisconsin along the Wisconsin River. Merrill is referred to as "the city of parks" and is surrounded by trees, rivers, and lakes. The population of Merrill is around 10,000 and the better part of that includes people over the age of 55. Growing up, we always felt safe and there was not much crime. Our parents allowed us to go out on our own and there was not a lot of worry.

I am still best friends with the best friend I had when I was eight years old. Katie and I met when we were in 3rd grade at Lincoln School. We were in the same class and spent a lot of time at each other's homes throughout the school year. After third grade, my family purchased a home and I ended up going to a different school across town. Katie and I remained friends for the next few years of grade school, visiting each other often. Once we were in middle school together, we were inseparable. We continued our friendship

throughout high school. Later, our husbands ended up being the best of friends, as well.

Christian, my oldest son, was born when I was a freshman in High School, so my teenage years were a little different from some. I spent a lot of time at home with him and at work and school. I graduated from High School in 2001, and Christian was three years old. I had a job all through high school and spent all free time with Christian. I am very lucky because my mother did in-home daycare, so I did not have to leave him with a stranger while I was at school at work. My parents were supportive and encouraging, which allowed me to graduate with honors and still be a good mother, even though I was busy most of the time. Christian and I moved into our own apartment in 2002. You could say that Christian and I did a lot of growing up together and because of this, we are very close.

ADULTHOOD

I met my husband, Vincent, in October 2002. Vincent (we call him by his middle name, Jay) and I met at a high school football game. He was actually friends with one of my younger sister's friends and they were looking for her. We ended up meeting again the same night at the local bowling alley and became friends after. We definitely were not similar and people were very surprised when we started dating. We did face a lot of backlash living in such a small town, as Vincent is half African American. According to the 2000 Census, only twelve

percent of the United States population was African American and a majority of those identifying as such were not located in our area.² There were many times that we heard rude and insensitive comments, but we were able to overcome any sort of outside issues.³

I have noticed in the last fifteen years that the local population has been changing rapidly. A city close to her hometown of Merrill, Wisconsin, has had a large influx of Vietnamese and Laotian immigrants. These immigrants were sponsored by local charitable and church groups. The immigrants are brought to the area so that they can start their lives over since many of them were living in Vietnam and Laos during and after the Vietnam War. Many were soldiers in the war and were able to come to the United States and eventually bring their families.

There has been some difficulty with new immigrants finding their niche in small, European communities, but for the most part, things seem to be working out for everyone. It seems that local people are mostly accepting to the Asian immigrant population and it helps that the immigrants are joining fairly small towns and not large cities where they are pushed aside. It would be very difficult to come to a

²Fischer, Claude S. and Hout, Michael. *Century of Difference*. Russell Sage Foundation, New York (2006), 24.

³ ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>. Accessed 8 November 2016.

new country with a very different culture, but that is part of what makes America different.

Our family has been able to welcome many different people into their home, as the children have friends of all different ethnicities. It is very important to the family to make sure that everyone feels welcome.

Vincent and I met at a high school football game, quite by accident. His friend, Tony, was looking for my sister and that is how we were introduced. Vincent and I dated for five months before becoming engaged. We married in June of 2003 and our son, Zane, was born in December of 2003. In 2005, our youngest son, Isaiah was born.

Vincent and I purchased our home in April 2010 and started to work with dog rescues. We have adopted four of our own dogs, have rescued, and fostered many more. We generally rescue the dogs from high kill shelters and keep them with us as fosters until they can be adopted out. Pitbull type breeds tend to be the type that we work with the most, but we have also rescued many other type of dogs. Our family tends to "find" animals that need help and we end up keeping them. Our house has turned into a mini zoo. We currently have four dogs, two chinchillas (adopted), two snakes, a tortoise, and a gecko. People often try to drop their unwanted animals off at our home, thinking that we can find a home for them.

Our family spends a lot of time at sporting events, as all of our children play sports. Our summers are spent at baseball and soccer

tournaments, fall brings football and more soccer. In addition, both Zane and Isaiah play basketball in the winter. We also enjoy going to Brewers baseball games.

Our family also goes on a family vacation every year. Every other year the whole family goes and on the off years, just Vincent and I go. We have been doing family cruises for the past eight years. We have visited Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Mexico, Jamaica, Honduras, Belize, the Bahamas, and Grand Cayman. The kids enjoy running around on the cruise ship and eating all the food that they can. My husband enjoys snorkeling and water activities, while I enjoy ruins and history based excursions. Family cruises are great ways to have the children learn about other cultures and to share in different experiences together.

In 2008, I decided to go back to college. The boys were older and I was able to work part time while going to school part time. I chose to go to the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County, which was only thirty minutes away. While I was there, I realized how much I missed learning. In 2010, I won the Academic Award for Anthropology at UWMC. The head of each department decide the award winner. I graduated with my Associates degree in 2011. Keeping up with work, school and my family was difficult at first, but I was able to balance everything and do well with it. I am very lucky because my husband and children were supportive in my going back to school and they helped to take on chores at home so that I could focus on my schoolwork.

After the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County, I transferred to University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh to get my Bachelor's Degree in Human Services. I had always wanted to be a history teacher, but I was able to take all of my classes online for my Human Services degree and that worked better with our family. I ended up doing my first internship at the local humane society and my final internship at a local domestic abuse shelter. After my internship, I was hired on at the domestic abuse shelter as a Shelter Manager.

In 2013, after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, I decided that I could not give up my dream of teaching history, so I enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for a second degree. I was able to enroll in their online program, which worked well for me, as I was now working full time and taking care of three kids and my house full of animals. I graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a degree in history in the spring of 2015.

After looking high and low, I was unable to find any online Master's degree programs in Wisconsin. I was able to find a few across the country, but decided that Pitt State seemed to be the best. I started my classes at Pitt in Fall 2015 and am pretty much done with my classes there. I need one more class and my thesis in order to graduate. After graduating from Pitt, I am hoping to be able to find a teaching job in the area. My husband and I plan to stay in Merrill until all of our boys are done with high school and then we would like to move to a warmer area. I am also debating continuing on and getting my Ph.D. at some point, I just need to decide what I actually

want to be when I grow up, as I keep changing my mind. It has also crossed my mind to get my degree in Social Work, which would be beneficial in my current position as a Crisis Worker.

When it comes to my local area, it is rare for someone to have a Master's Degree and I feel that I am very lucky to be able to accomplish something so special. Only about fifty people out of over thirteen hundred women in my age group have earned a Master's Degree, according to the American Community Survey and I am proud to join that group.⁴

My husband is also going back to school and is earning his Associates Degree in Computer Technology. It is very interesting to have three of us in college at the same time. The nice part is that we are able to focus on homework and study together.

⁴ SEX BY AGE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER
Universe: Population 18 years and over. 2006-2010 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables
http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_10_SF4_B15001&prodType=table. Accessed 8 November 2016.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Robin Ann Greil Halbach (1964-)

A1b. Jeffrey Anthony Halbach (1963-)

Robin Ann Greil was born August 1964, in Iola, Wisconsin, to **Darrell Oliver Greil (1939-)** and **Arlene Rosenthal Greil (1942-)**. She was the second child of the couple; however, her older brother Robert (1963-1963) had passed away as an infant. By the time Robin was six years old, she was a big sister to Rhonda (1965-), Kathy (1966-), Julie (1968-) and Darrell Jr. (1969-).

The family moved to Glenbeulah, Wisconsin, when Robin was five years old. They lived close to the Halbach family and the children spent most of their time running around together. The town that they lived in was one that allowed for a lot of fun and very little supervision by parents. Robin recalls getting up in the morning to eat breakfast and then not coming home until dinnertime.

When Robin was about eleven, the family moved to Appleton, Wisconsin and lived there briefly. After that, the family moved to Tomahawk, Wisconsin, where Robin resided throughout her school years. In 1982, Robin was reunited with the Halbach family from Glenbeulah. A romance between Robin and Jeffrey was kindled and they were married in January 1983.

Their eldest daughter, Holly, was born in August of 1983 and their youngest daughter, Kelly, was born in December of 1986. In 1988, the family moved to Merrill, Wisconsin, where they still reside

today. Robin spent many years working in the daycare business before doing factory work for six years. After the birth of her first grandson, Christian, in 1998, she decided to get back into the daycare business so that she could stay at home with him.

Robin enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. She often bakes for them and enjoys when they stop by to visit. Robin is a great baker and often times hosts holiday parties for her siblings and their families.

Robin is still doing daycare today. She spends most of her time at her camper in Tomahawk, Wisconsin and enjoys taking her grandchildren camping and hiking, especially to Porcupine Mountains in upper Michigan. Robin and Jeffrey enjoy going on yearly cruises to the Caribbean and Alaska and spend a lot of time exploring different countries. Robin is also an avid reader and enjoys long relaxing baths.

Jeffrey Anthony Halbach was born in August 1963 in Plymouth, Wisconsin to **Claude Sylvester Halbach (1938-2010)** and **Joyce Caroline Dassler Halbach (1940-2012)**. Jeffrey was the fourth son for the family; he followed Michael (1957-1957), Daniel (1958-) and Randall (1960-).

The family lived in Glenbeulah, Wisconsin, a very small town of 463 people. As a child, Jeffrey rode his bike around the town with his brothers and other neighborhood children. He also spent a lot of time at the Mill Pond at and Knowles Park. The benefit of living in such a small town was that everyone knew each other and the children were able to roam freely. When one family wanted their

children home, it was like a game of telephone with each house yelling down to the next so the children would know it was time to go.

It was when Jeffrey was five years old, that the Greil family moved to town. Both families became fast friends and the children spent most of their time together. It was the beginning of a friendship between the Halbach children and the Greil children, one that would last a lifetime and would eventually lead to a major change in Jeffrey's future.

While growing up in Glenbeulah, Jeffrey and his family lived next door to a woman that was always, mean to the neighborhood children. Once Jeffrey and his older brothers threw frogs onto her roof and another time they caught a skunk and released it into her front door while other kids pounded on her back door to divert her attention.

The neighborhood kids also enjoyed catching salamanders from the Mill Pond. They would catch hundreds of them and put them in Jeffrey's mothers' washtubs in the garage. It would be okay for a few days, but then his mother would go to do laundry and find her tubs full of dirt and lizards.

There were many kids in the small town, and they spent much of their free time playing baseball in the lot behind their house. One time Jeffrey hit a ball so far that it went through the stained glass window of the Lutheran Church across the street. The Pastor brought them the ball back and did not tell their parents what had happened, for which all involved were very grateful.

In the winter, the boys would go to the Mill Pond with their father to ice fish. They would pull the sleds from their house to the pond because no one drove the car unless absolutely necessary. The Halbach family was actually one of the only households that owned a car at the time. One year, the family caught over 200 Northern during the winter, including a 46" Northern that Jeffrey's oldest brother, Danny, pulled in.

When it came to school, the kids were bussed to Elkhart Lake until fourth grade. Glenbeulah only had a school with fourth and fifth grade. After fifth, they had to ride the bus to Elkhart Lake again. They would meet the bus at the Fire Station, which also served as the town Library, Police Station and City Hall. They also had a post office, but it did not deliver mail, there were only P.O. Boxes. Glenbeulah also had two taverns, a bowling alley, and multiple churches. Jeffrey's father worked at the only factory in town, Knowles.

On Jeffrey's 9th birthday, Stemper's barn burned to the ground with all of the equipment and animals in it. Fire departments from all over came to help put out the fire. The next night, there was more commotion, as the family's landlord, Huli Baumann, was murdered in his home.

On Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day, the whole family would pack up and go camping at the Sheboygan Marsh. By the time Jeffrey was five years old, this family had added another two sons Rodney (1966-), Wayne (1968-) and a daughter, Brenda Lee (1965-). It was a huge undertaking to pack up all six children to go

camping, but everyone enjoyed it. Jeffrey's mother's side of the family would always come to the Sheboygan Marsh with them and they would play baseball in the field.

Every August, the family would take a trip to Canada to camp. On Jeffrey's 10th birthday, they were at a parade and one of the Royal Canadian Police pulled him out of the crowd and allowed him to ride on the horse with him. He was also given a toy horse and Canadian flag. Along with their yearly Canadian vacation, the family also spent a week in Eagle River, Wisconsin, camping. While there, Jeffrey saw a little girl attacked by a huge Muskellunge. It had saw her foot moving in the water and bit off her toe. Eagle River was also, where the kids got their first pet rabbits. The rabbits were named Cracker Jack and Buffy. The family thought the rabbits were both female until a few weeks later when they suddenly had more rabbits.

As a young boy, Jeffrey had an Alaskan malamute named Honey. The dog was born before his brothers, so she had been around the family a long time. Jeffrey remembers the day that she snapped a steel chain because the neighbor dog came into the yard and snatched one of her puppies. She got the puppy back unharmed. She passed away when Jeffrey was eleven years old.

Jeffrey and all of his brothers started hunting when they were ten years old. For the first two years, they had to carry a wooden gun but pretend it was real. If they made more than three mistakes with the gun, they had to carry it again the next year instead of a real one. The first time that Jeffrey went deer hunting,

he saw a deer, stood up, and yelled to his father because he was so excited. Of course, the deer ran away. When it came to duck hunting, the rule was that the new person has to shoot the first duck and no one else could shoot until he had one. Jeffrey went through two boxes of shells before hitting his first duck, his older brothers were not happy.

When Jeffrey was eleven years old, the whole family moved to Sheboygan. His father had been asked to weld on the Alaskan pipeline for six months as a government contractor and was given a large bonus, so they were able to purchase their first home. After Claude came back from Alaska, he started working at the Manitowoc Ship Yard, which was over twenty miles away from Sheboygan. Jeffrey recalls that one night his father walked home from work, about twenty miles, because his ride decided to go to the bar instead of take the rest of the men home.

In Sheboygan, Jeffrey went to Longfellow Elementary School, which was right across the street from Fredrick's Bakery. Every morning he would stop and get a donut on the way to school. They were often free because the owners went to their church.

It was in Sheboygan that the family got their first inside pet, a dog-named Queenie. Jeffrey's mother did not like animals and was always threatening that if Queenie misbehaved, she would have to be sold. One Easter, Jeffrey's mother had made pies and they were cooling in the kitchen. Jeffery walked in to find Queenie eating a blueberry pie. He pushed her outside and rubbed blueberries all over his own face so that the dog did not get in trouble. His mother saw

the blueberries all over his face and told his father to punish him. When they went outside, his father saw the dog and realized that Jeffrey had not been the one eating the pie after all and did not punish him. No one else ever knew that Queenie was the one that actually ate the pie.

The summer that Jeffrey was 12 years old, he decided that he wanted to make money. He started out by mowing two lawns a week and eventually worked up to fourteen a week. One day the women at the Greek Church asked him to mow the church lawn, which was waist high. They brought him lemonade, cookies, and over \$150.

In 1977, things change dramatically for the whole family. Jeffrey was at home and received a phone call from his father's work saying that a two-ton steel beam had fallen and his father had been crushed underneath it. He was in the hospital in Manitowoc and sent flight for life to Madison. He spent three weeks in Manitowoc and was then in Sheboygan's St. Nicholas Hospital for the next six months. The hospital had to import whale blubber from Japan for him to lay on because the beds were too hard for his crushed body. Over all, Claude ended up with thirty rods in his body, had twelve skin grafts and twenty-eight surgeries in six months.

While Claude was in the hospital, Jeffrey's mother, Joyce, filed for divorce and moved with Jeffrey's younger siblings. When Claude was well enough to come home from the hospital, he and Jeffrey moved to New Holstein to live with Claude's parents, Claude (1917-1999) and Margaret (1919-1982). When Jeffrey started eighth grade at his school in New Holstein, there were twelve other students with his

same last name in his history class. While living with his grandparents and his father was in hospital having more surgeries, his grandpa would pull him out of school to go hunting and fishing, with the promise that Jeffrey not tell his father. When Jeffrey was fourteen years old, he went Sturgeon fishing on Lake Winnebago with his father and grandfather. He had just strapped into his shanty and was able to spear a sturgeon that was 54 pounds and 56 inches long.

After eighth grade, Jeffrey and his father moved back to Sheboygan. In ninth grade, Jeffrey started to play football. This was also, where he got into a fight with a boy that was picking on girls in the class. The vice principal of the school came to break up the fight and Jeffrey accidently broke the principals glasses and he ended up being suspended for three days.

In tenth grade, Jeffrey decided that he school was not for him and that he wanted to join the Army. At the time, you could join the military at age 16 if you had a parents permission. His father said he would only sign off on the paper to join if Jeffrey could score an 80% or higher. Jeffrey scored an 89% and was off to Fort Jackson, South Carolina three days after his 16th birthday. He spent eight weeks at Fort Jackson, and then went to Fort Benning, Georgia. After that, he was stationed at Fort Hood in Texas as part of the 1st Calvary. Jeffrey came home from the military in 1982.

In the Spring of 1982, the Halbach family decided to go visit their old friends from Glenbeulah, the Greil's, who were now living in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Jeffrey reunited with the oldest

daughter, Robin, and decided to move to Tomahawk. On January 21, 1983, they were married in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

In August of the same year, their daughter, Holly Marie, was born weighing 8lbs. 3oz. The family lived in a small apartment in Tomahawk, with Robin staying home and Jeffrey working at a Sheep Farm and Nokomis Lumber. In December of 1986, they added an additional daughter, Kelly Lynn, to the family.

In 1988, the family moved to Merrill, Wisconsin, which is also, where Jeffrey's sister in law, Rhonda, lived with her family. Jeffrey continued to work in different factory positions while the girls were growing up. Jeffrey and Robin bought their house in 1991 and still live there today. Jeffrey is a truck driver for Merrill Distributing, where he has worked for fifteen years.

Jeffrey has coached many youth football teams and is a huge Green Bay Packers fan. He enjoys watching his grandsons play sports and often helps with their teams. Jeffrey also puts together football pools with friends and family and enjoys making friendly wagers on the outcome of games.

Jeffrey and Robin have now been married for thirty-three years. They enjoy taking yearly cruises to the Caribbean and visit different areas of the country. Jeffrey also spends much of his time at their camper in Tomahawk, where he likes to fish and sit around the fire. Hunting is still a major part of Jeffrey's life and a great way to remember his father, Claude, who passed away in 2010. Jeffrey was able to get his first bear in 2015. Jeffrey also enjoys spending time with his seven grandsons.

GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Arlene Eileen Rosenthal Greil (1942-)

A1a2. Darrell Oliver Greil (1939-)

A1b1. Joyce Caroline Dassler Halbach (1940-2012)

A1b2. Claude Sylvester Halbach (1938-2010)

My maternal grandmother, **Arlene Eileen Rosenthal (1942-)**, was born in Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1942, to **Erna Forbeck Rosenthal (1917-1983)** and **Leonard Rosenthal (1915-2003)** Arlene was the oldest of three children and spent much of her time helping her mother with the house and the other children.

My maternal grandfather, **Darrell Oliver Greil (1939-)**, was born in Tomahawk, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, home of World War II hero and Medal of Honor Recipient, Einer Ingman.⁵ Darrell was born to **Emma Miller Greil (1916-2001)**⁶ and **William Edward Greil (1909-1986)**. Darrell is a fraternal twin, with his sister Darlene. Darrell was born at home, as was typical of the time and was kept warm by being placed in a cigar box on the open oven door.

Darrell and family spent most of their time living in Tomahawk, but they also moved back and forth from Appleton, Wisconsin. As a young man, Darrell joined the United States Army, but was injured and was

⁵ Wikipedia. "Tomahawk, Wisconsin." Accessed November 8, 2016. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomahawk,_Wisconsin

⁶ "Find a Grave Index," <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=jolitz&GSfn=emma&GSby=1916&GSbyrel=in&GSdy=2001&GSdyrel=in&GSob=n&GRid=20981182&df=all&> (Accessed 10 April 2016). Emma Greil Jolitz, 2001; Burial, Tomahawk, Wisconsin, United States of America, Woodlawn Cemetery; citing record ID 20981182, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>

discharged without ever seeing action. He then went back to Appleton, where he met Arlene Rosenthal and started a family.

Darrell and Arlene went on to have six children, two boys, and four girls. Darrell and Arlene have been married 53 years and now reside in Appleton, Wisconsin and spend most of their time fishing.

Joyce Caroline Dassler (1940-2012) was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and lived there for a majority of her life. She spent much of her time running around town with her siblings and friends. My grandmother's family lived along the Sheboygan River and she enjoyed walking around the river's edge. One summer day, in the late 1940's, when she was about ten years old, she was walking alone near the river. My grandmother spotted something on the riverbank and went to see what it was. It turns out that my grandmother had come across the lifeless body of a small baby. At first, she thought that it was a doll, but soon realized that it was actually a real child. My grandmother was not afraid, as her father Melvin was a mortician and she was used to seeing dead bodies. My grandmother was able to stay calm and go home to alert her father and mother, who then alerted the police. Unfortunately, for the child, no one ever found out who the child was or where it had come from, but my grandmother remembered that day in great detail until she passed away.

She left the area briefly in the 1980s and lived in Naples, Florida. She was the mother of seven children and enjoyed cooking for her entire family. Joyce divorced her first husband, Claude and then remarried twice afterward. Her second husband was Casious Adams, a retired member of the United States Marine Corp. After he passed

away, Joyce married Raymond Stock. They were married until her passing. Joyce enjoyed golfing and going to Door County in eastern Wisconsin. Joyce also enjoyed cooking for her family, collecting items related to Native American culture and John Wayne. Joyce was very outgoing, loud and opinionated, something that was very different for most women of her time. She passed away in June 2012 after battling a difficult illness and possible early term dementia.

Claude Sylvester Halbach (1938-2010) was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He spent most of his life in that area and raised a family there. He was married to Joyce for many years, but they did divorce. He later remarried Margaret Giles in 1982.

Claude enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time with his children and grandchildren. Claude owned land in central Wisconsin, which he called "Halbach's Copper River Hunting Camp and Summer Retreat". He and his family spent many summers and each deer season at the land. Claude also enjoyed going to the Hodag Country Music festival, even though he never sang along. Besides family and hunting, Claude's greatest love was of icecream. He would eat gallons of icecream by himself, sometimes while in the bath tub.

Claude was well known to be an extremely hard worker. Claude was one of the many Americans that spent time working on WPA projects created to stimulate the economy after World War II.⁷ Many of the projects continued into the 1950's and 1960's, and Claude was one of the men working in North Dakota on the oil pipelines. Claude continued to be a hard worker even after he had two tons of steel fall

⁷ Anderson, Margo. *The American Census*. Yale College, New Haven. (1988), 189.

on him while working at the Manitowoc shipyard. Claude spent almost a year in the hospital, but went back to work at the same company as soon as he was able. Claude was diagnosed with cancer and passed away at the hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in August 2010, on his great grandson Isaiah's fifth birthday.

GENERATION FOUR

Ala1a. Erna Forbeck Rosenthal (1917-1983)

Ala1b. Leonard Rosenthal (1915-2003)

Ala2a. Emma A Miller Greil (1916-2001)

Ala2b. William Edward Greil (1909-1986)

Alb1a. Elizabeth E Martin Dassler (1915-2006)

Alb1b. Melvin Charles Dassler (1910-1985)

Alb2a. Margaret Holzmann Halbach (1919-1982)

Alb2b. Claude Joseph Halbach (1917-1999)

Erna Forbeck Rosenthal (1917-1983) was the oldest of four children. Erna enjoyed cooking and always had something special for her grandchildren when they came to visit. She was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes early in life and sadly passed away in 1983, only months before I was born.

Leonard Rosenthal (1915-2003) was one of nine children in his family. He was a hard worker that did not say much. Leonard was very traditional in that he believed that children should be seen and not heard, but was often caught sneaking candies to his grandchildren. He passed away in 2003.

Emma A Miller Greil (1916-2001) was born in Northern Wisconsin and lived most of her life there and in Appleton, Wisconsin. She enjoyed birds and often had many finches in her home. Emma was married to William Greil and had all of her children at home rather than in the hospital. Emma had one set of twins, which were only two pounds when they were born. Due to being born at home, they were put into cigar

boxes and kept warm on the open door of the oven. Miraculously, both of the twins survived and are currently still living. Emma and William later divorced and Emma remarried Mr. Jolitz. She passed away in 2001 at her Tomahawk, Wisconsin home.

William Edward Greil (1909-1986) was born in Montana in 1909. He worked different odd jobs. William and Emma were divorced before his death in 1986 due to issues with Williams's sobriety and unwillingness to help provide for his family. During this time period, it was more typical for women to initiate a divorce, especially when their husband was unable to help take care of the family to do alcohol issues.⁸ William never remarried and stayed away from the family until his death in 1986. He was cremated in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Elizabeth E. Martin Dassler (1915-2006) was born and raised in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where she lived most of her life. She was married to her husband, Melvin for fifty years before he passed away. Elizabeth worked in Housekeeping at the local hospital and enjoyed volunteering. She spent all of her weekends at flea markets and had a huge collection of dolls. Elizabeth had seven children and enjoyed cooking for them and for all of her great and great great grandchildren. The one thing I remember most about my Great Grandma Dassler is that she collected hundreds of dolls and Barbie's, which she kept in the packages as collector items. She had a whole room full of dolls and toys, which was difficult to visit as a child, as we were not allowed to touch them.

⁸ Fischer, Claude . *Made in America*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. (2010), 138.

Melvin Charles Dassler (1910-1985) was born in Cleveland, Wisconsin. He married Elizabeth Martin on 25 January 1934. The couple had seven children and was married for fifty years before his passing. Melvin served in the United States Navy and Naval reserve from 1929-1951. Melvin worked at the Mayline Company and R-Way in Sheboygan for over thirty years. He passed away in May 1985.

Margaret Holzmans Halbach (1919-1982)⁹ was born in Johnsburg, Wisconsin. She married Claude Joseph Halbach on 7 September 1937 in Johnsburg, Wisconsin. Margaret passed away in 1982.

Claude Joseph Halbach (1917-1999) was born in Marytown, Wisconsin. He married Margaret Holzmans in 1937. The couple was happily married until Margaret's death in 1982. Claude then went on to marry Mildred Verhage in 1982.¹⁰ Claude enjoyed hunting, fishing, poker, and making bets that he often lost. He passed away in 1999 and is buried in Chilton, Wisconsin.

⁹ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/K7VG-QMK> : accessed 21 April 2016), Margie Halbach in household of Albert Holzman, Calumet Town, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 20-6, sheet 1B, family 21, NARA digital publication T627 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012), roll 4479.

¹⁰ "Wisconsin Marriage Index, 1973-1997," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/VJYX-R64> : accessed 21 April 2016), Claude Joseph Halbach and Mildred H McCabe, 28 Dec 1982; from "Wisconsin Marriages, 1973-1997," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2005); citing certificate number 032905, roll 10, Calumet, Wisconsin, Department of Health and Family Services, Madison.

GENERATION FIVE

- Ala1a1. Ella Uhlenbrauck Forbeck (1886-1970)
- Ala1a2. Theodore W Forbeck (1880-1946)
- Ala1b1. Augusta M Reed Rosenthal (1887-1931)
- Ala1b2. Herman Rosenthal (1886-1928)
- Ala2a1. Ida Johanna Emilie Lemke Miller (1892-1963)
- Ala2a2. Benjamin Miller (1882-1929)
- Ala2b1. Bertha Hardwig Greil (1879-1965)
- Ala2b2. Jacob Greil (1865-1931)
- Alb1a1. Anna Neese Martin (1883-1975)
- Alb1a2. Conrad Martin (1878-1969)
- Alb1b1. Alvine Cemechen Dassler (1870-unknown)
- Alb1b2. Herman F Dassler (1866-1913)
- Alb2a1. Elizabeth Koenigs Holzmann (1880-1933)
- Alb2a2. Albert V Holzmann (1879-1976)
- Alb2b1. Emma Martina Casper Halbach (1897-1920)
- Alb2b2. Vincent Joseph Halbach Sr. (1892-1984)

Ella Uhlenbrauck Forbeck (1886-1970) was married to Theodore Forbeck and went on to have four children. Ella was fairly typical of the times, as most women in America went through four to five child births in their lifetime. This was a time where the amount of children being born was starting to decrease.¹¹ Ella lived a very pleasant life and passed away at age 84 in 1970.

¹¹ Fischer, Claude S. and Hout, Michael. *Century of Difference*. Russell Sage Foundation, New York (2006), 64.

Theodore W Forbeck (1880-1946) was married to Ella Uhlenbrauck and they went on to have four children. He passed away in 1946.

Augusta M Reed Rosenthal (1887-1931) grew up in Brown County, Wisconsin. She was one of seven children. She married Herman Rosenthal on 8 May, 1907 in Brown County, Wisconsin.¹² Augusta had seven children, four boys, and three girls. She passed away in 1931.

Herman Fredrick Rosenthal (1886-1928) was born in Hortonville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin. He was the fourteenth of nineteen children in the family. Herman's father, **Wilhelm Adam Rosenthal (1836-1925)**, came to the United States from Brandenburg, Germany in 1854. Herman's father enlisted in the Northern Army during the Civil War. Herman married Augusta M Reed in Brown County, Wisconsin in 1907. Herman passed away in 1928.

Ida Johanna Emilie Lemke Miller (1892-1963)¹³ was born in Cecil, Shawano County, Wisconsin. Both of her parents were born in Germany. According to the 1905 Census, her father, John, was a mail carrier in Breed, Wisconsin.¹⁴ She married Benjamin Miller. Ida passed away in 1963 in Breed, Wisconsin.

Benjamin Miller (1882-1929) was born in Poland. He came to Wisconsin and married Ida Lemke. Benjamin immigrated to the United

¹² "Wisconsin, County Marriages, 1836-1911," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/XRVY-JJN> : accessed 22 April 2016), Herman Rosenthal and Augusta Reed, 08 May 1907; citing , Brown, Wisconsin, United States, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison; FHL microfilm 1,275,779.

¹³ "Find a Grave Index," <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=78649107> (Accessed 10 April 2016). Ida Miller, 1963; Burial, Breed, Oconto County, United States of America, Union Cemetery; citing record ID 78649107, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>

¹⁴ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-63V9-45S?cc=1443899>

States in 1890. Once in the United States, the family made their way to Wisconsin and settled as farmers. According to the United States Census, before the year 1880, a majority of the United States population worked in agriculture¹⁵. Benjamin and his family fit this model, even though they arrived in the country after 1880. In the Midwest, farming stayed popular and for Benjamin and his family, it was a carryover of the life they had in Poland. He passed away at only 47 years old.

Bertha Hardwig Greil (1879-1965) married Jacob Greil in 1898. She passed in 1965 and is buried in Tomahawk, Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

Jacob Greil (1865-1931) married Bertha Hardwig in 1898. He passed away in Tomahawk, Wisconsin in 1931.¹⁶

Anna Neese Martin (1883-1975) was born in Germany on 6 August 1883 to **Fred and Minnie Neese**. She moved to Sheboygan, Wisconsin as an infant with her family. Anna and her family were part of the almost 12,000 added Americans in the country between the 1880 and 1890 Census.¹⁷ In 1902, she married Conrad Martin, whom she was married to for sixty-five years. She lived in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and passed away due to a heart attack in 1975.¹⁸

¹⁵ Anderson, Margo. *The American Census*. Yale College, New Haven. (1988), 87.

¹⁶ "Find a Grave Index," <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=20981139> (Accessed 20 April 2016). Jacob Greil, 1931; Burial, Tomahawk, Lincoln County, United States of America, Woodlawn Cemetery; citing record 20981139, Find a Grave, <http://findagrave.com>.

¹⁷ Anderson, Margo. *The American Census*. Yale College, New Haven. (1988), 189.

¹⁸ "Find a Grave Index," <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=94197660> (Accessed 20 April 2016). Anna Neese Martin, 1975; Burial, Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, United States of America, Lutheran Cemetery; citing record 94197660, Find a Grave, <http://findagrave.com>.

Conrad Martin (1878-1969) was born to **Henry and Elizabeth Martin** in Germany. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1884. They first went to Michigan, then moved to Chicago, Illinois and then to Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He married Anna Neese in 1902. He passed away at age 91 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.¹⁹

My father's grandfather's side of the family immigrated from Wehr, Germany. They finally settled in southern Wisconsin, but before that, spent time in Michigan and Illinois. They were in the Illinois area in the late 1850's until the early 1860's, so this may have been a newspaper that they used to get information on the area. The paper gives information on where to shop and on jobs that were available, so it may have been helpful during their transition to a new state.²⁰

Alvine Cemechen Dassler (1870-unknown) married Herman Dassler on 14 November 1899.

Herman F Dassler (1866-1913) was born in Centerville, Wisconsin. He married Alvine Cemechen in Manitowoc, Wisconsin in 1899. Both of Herman's parents were born in Germany and the family immigrated to the United States in 1852, where Herman was born. Herman helped his family with their farm and crops. He worked in a cheese factory and then worked as a carpenter. Herman and Alvine had three children. Herman was part of the M.W.A., the German Reformed Church, a member of

¹⁹ "Find a Grave Index," <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=94197503> (Accessed 20 April 2016). Conrad Martin, 1969; Burial, Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, United States of America, Lutheran Cemetery; citing record 94197503, Find a Grave, <http://findagrave.com>.

²⁰ *The evening Argus*. (Rock Island, Ill.), 02 Jan. 1862. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. (Accessed 2 January 2016). <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84038628/1862-01-02/ed-1/seq-1/> (Links to an external site.)

the Republican Party and Town Treasurer. He passed away in 1913 in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.²¹

My great grandfather grew up in southern Wisconsin during a time when it was not necessarily a good thing to be an immigrant or born to an immigrant family. He took it upon himself to join any type of club he could and would always try to participate in local activities and events, especially those that were political. He felt that in order to be truly "American," you needed to participate and make yourself be like others around you. Claude Fischer explains in his book, "Made in America" that this was the time when Americans began to come together in groups and work as a team. It was a way to become more social in the community and to work toward a more "voluntaristic" society.²² He passed those ideals down to his grandson, who grew up doing 4-H and Boy Scouts as a child and later, became a Mason and member of the Shriners.

It was important to the family to give back to the community, whether it is through local politics, civic organizations, or church. Many members of the family have held local political office and were leaders in the community. Grandfather felt it important to pass down the same ideals to my grandfather and his siblings, who also participated in 4-H, Boy Scouts and in Jeffrey's case, the U.S. Army.

²¹ "Manitowoc County Personal Sketches," Accessed 20 April 2016. www.2manitowoc.com/biosD/html.

²² Fischer, Claude. *Made in America*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. (2010), 9.

Elizabeth Koenigs Holzmann (1880-1933) was born in Johnsbury, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. She first married John Raidy and then Albert Holzmann. Elizabeth passed away in 1933.

Albert V Holzmann (1879-1976) was born to Henry and Elizabeth Holzmann in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. He was the second of twelve children for the couple. Unfortunately, of the twelve children, three passed away before their third birthdays. This was a typical situation due to the lack of medical care and unsanitary conditions. In the late 1800's, white male children only had a 75% chance of living to their first birthday.²³ He married Elizabeth Koenigs in 1907. They went on to have a daughter, Margaret. Albert passed away in Chilton, Wisconsin in 1976.

Emma Martina Casper Halbach (1897-1920) was born to Christian and Eva Casper. She married Vincent Joseph Halbach Sr. on 6 June 1916. She passed away at age 23.

Vincent Joseph Halbach Sr. (1892-1984) was born to Joseph and Katharina Halbach. He was born in Marytown, Wisconsin and was the eleventh of thirteen children. Vincent married Emma Martina Casper in 1916. Emma passed away in 1920 and Vincent married Elizabeth Aulbach in 1931. He passed away in 1984.

²³ Fischer, Claude. *Made in America*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. (2010), 18.

GENERATION SIX AND MORE

I have found some information on the sixth generation and even further back of my family tree. Unfortunately, there is not a plethora of information, as most of my relatives were born in Germany. Most of my family was born in either Wehr or Bonn Germany. I have been able to trace some family members back to 1673 in Prussia. There is some evidence that my father's side of the family entered the United States through New Orleans rather than the typical route of New York. Many of those that were able to come to the United States before or during the Civil War were part of the Northern Military. Traditionally, it seems that my family in Germany tended to be farmers and they kept up with that line of work after settling in the United States. Most came to the Midwest, settled, and began their lives over as farmers and carpenters.

FAMILY TALES

Famous Relatives?

According to many people on the Dassler side of the family, we are related to the creators of Adidas and Puma. The creators are the brothers, Adolf (Adi) and Rudolf Dassler from Germany. Family legend has it that they were the richest members of the Dassler group, but their fighting caused a rift between the families. So far, there has not been any actual evidence that the Dassler families in Wisconsin are really related to Adi and Rudolf.

Connection to Nazi Germany

Another interesting but disconcerting family story is that the Dassler side of the family was part of the Nazi Party in Germany during Hitler's reign. There is some evidence that someone with the last name Dassler was tried at the Nuremberg Trials after the end of World War II, but again, no actual evidence to support that the families in Wisconsin are related to Wolfgang Von Dassler. With that is the connection that Adi and Rudolf Dassler were also members of the Nazi Party.

Hunting Camp Tales

Most of our family tales and stories revolve around the Halbach side in regards to hunting legends. These stories were often told during the weeklong hunting season each November. My grandfather and uncles often talked about their past hunting expeditions and the "great" bucks that they were able to get. Often times my grandfather had to correct the tall tales and give the real version of what happened. Hunting season was often a time for the family to bond and be together, as most of the group lived in different areas. Each Thanksgiving the group of hunters gathered at my parents home to eat a huge meal and watch football. The tradition of hunting and gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving stopped with the passing of my grandfather, Claude, in 2010.

Haunted History

Another interesting but strange family story is in regard to the supernatural. My father's side of the family has been known to see ghosts or spirits. Growing up, my father often spotted "ghosts" that others could not see. As an adult, he can describe vividly a Victorian woman that visits him on occasion. He can smell her perfume and hear her talk to him. My parents have had many odd things occur at their home, such as their jars of flour, sugar, and cookies being lined up in the middle of the kitchen floor when they got up in the morning, after being the only homes in the home all night.

My oldest son, Christian, was very sensitive to the supernatural as well. As a small child, he could describe what someone looked like when we drove past an accident site. He would also talk to "his friend" at night and give very detailed descriptions of what his conversations were like.

My youngest sons have also seen things at my parent's home and at our own home. They are not frightened by the things they see, but are interested in researching what is happening. The first time my grandmother came to my new home, she questioned if anyone had passed there because she "felt anger and hostility" when she came in the door. We have experienced multiple situations where others heard footsteps and voices in the house when no one was there.

Odd Family Relationships

As noted previously, my father's family has ties to Nazi Germany and unfortunately were part of the Nuremberg Trials, which sentenced Nazi War Criminals. The odd part is that my mother's family also came from Germany; however, a majority of the family was Jewish. It seems like such a strange combination, that when they arrived in the United States, the two families ended up together in a place of peace.

