

Johan Nordboe

Johan Nordboe came from Ringebu in Gudbrandsdal in eastern Norway and is one of the first to come from some other region of Norway than Stavanger. He settled in Kendall in 1832; in LaSalle Co, IL, in 1836; in Shelby Co., Mo., in 1837; and in Dallas, Tex., in 1838, where he lived on a farm of 1,920 acres and practiced medicine. He was the first Norwegian to settle in Texas. After George Johnson's death, John Nordboe came from Texas to take the four oldest children down to their grandparents. The widow, Malinda Johnson (Malene Nelsdatter Eie), and Oline, her only child by George, remained on the farm following the sale. But on April 2, 1853 she married Michael Olson and moved to where he was breaking prairie near Newark, Illinois. The trip by the older Johnson children to Texas was made in no less company than that of pathfinder, Cleng Peerson. He had only recently returned from Texas, possibly with John Nordboe, and was chock full of stories of that wonderland. He said land could be bought in Dallas County, Texas, with as deep and as black a soil as that of Illinois for fifty cents per acre and he told the truth. He persuaded Ole Canuteson and his father Knud to make the trip south, and thus the party consisted of five adults (Ole had acquired a wife) and four children. The latter were Joseph Johnson, 15, Caroline, 13, Elias, 9, and John W., 6. The group took a boat on the Illinois-Michigan Canal from Ottawa to LaSalle and then west by river steamer to St. Louis and New Orleans. Here two other Norwegians joined the party and they took another steamer back up stream to the Red River and thence up that to Shreveport. Here they secured a wagon to haul the baggage and the Johnson children to Greenwood, about sixteen miles; and there rented a house in which to leave Ole Canuteson's wife and the children. The four men then walked the remaining one hundred seventy five miles to Dallas, which then consisted of only a few houses along the river. John Nordboe hitched a yoke of large oxen to a light wagon and went back after its. Ganuteson and the Johnson children, arriving in Dallas about Christmas.

