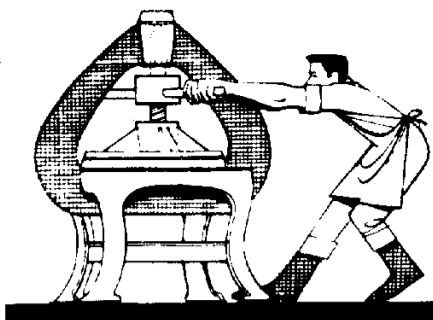


John Walker Family NEWSLETTER



Year 1980 -- No. 2

WALKER FAMILY REUNION

Saturday July 12, 1980 Farmington, Utah

Meet us at the Farmington First and Third Ward ----- 272 North Main Street

Tentative Program for the REUNION.....

BUSINESS MEETING -- 10:00 A.M. --- Come EARLY and get acquainted...

Reports - Action on a proposed amendment - Election of President and Vice President - Other business transaction.

LUNCHEON -- NOON

Everyone is to bring food and put on a table, and meal will be served with all food from a common table. -- TRUE REUNION STYLE. Dessert, drinks and napkins will be furnished by Family Organization.

AFTER LUNCHEON PROGRAM -- At the Rock Chapel Building:

Here are a few "Sneak Reviews" out of some selected entries for the program.

1. Leola G. Merrill's Tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Luman P. Green and their 69th Wedding Anniversary.
2. Jay Welch and his musical numbers.
3. Maida H. Spjut and her sketch on genealogy and history.
4. Others

RECREATION -- All Day:

South of the Courthouse or three short blocks south of the Rock Chapel building, there is a park provided with playground equipments, softball diamond, tennis court, shelter, tables and spacious lawn.

Final plans are in the making. Some surprises may be instore for us.

The Committee: Zelda E. Tidwell, Maida H. Spjut, James Clark, Julie W. Eberhard and some helpers.

MAKE YOUR PLAN TO ATTEND THIS REUNION AND BE AMONG US WHO WILL BE ON THE SAME GROUND WHERE OUR ANCESTORS USED TO WALK AND MAKE A LIVING, AND ALSO FEEL THE HISTORICAL ATMOSPHERE.....

The town of Farmington, Utah, has a place in the history of the Walker family, and was one of a few settlements in Utah where they pioneered and settled after arriving in Utah from Winter Quarters, and before they and their descendants were scattered all over the Western states.

Farmington may be clasified as an historic place among Boston, Mass.; Woodbury, Conn.; Peacham, Vermont; Nauvoo, Illinois; and also Holladay, Utah; Oak City-Delta, Utah, Minersville, Utah; Rockland, Idaho; Lewisville, Idaho; and othet towns to be mentioned, as places where the Walker family used to live and are living.

Farmington was the final place for our John Walker, after moving his family all the way from Peacham, Vermont, through Ogdensburg, New York, Nauvoo, Illinois and Winter Quarters.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

- Section 1. The term of office for President and Vice President shall be four years.
- Section 2. The reunions shall be held on a biennial basis.
- Section 3. The constitution shall be amended to reflect the above changes where applicable.

ELECTION YEAR:

The Nominating Committee, consisting of those present at the April 4th Board meeting, picked some names as potential candidates for President and Vice President. Their names will be present at the reunion for the election. However, those at the reunion may nominate someone from the floor to be a candidate to compete with the already nominated candidates who have accepted and who are being listed below:

For President:

- Elwood Walker Chambers, son of Hugh and Coral (Walker) Chambers, and a grandson of Lorin Paul and Sarah Louisa (Howell) Walker, married Barbara Allen. They have two living children. Their home is in Shoshone, Idaho.
- Lois Mabel Walker Grover, daughter of Willis Ray and Mabel (Ovard) Walker, and a granddaughter of William Holmes and Mary Jane (Shadden) Walker, married Dean "R" Grover. They have ten children. Their home is at Rexburg, Idaho.
- Owen John Walker, son of Edwin Roland and Ethel June (Webster) Walker, and a grandson of Don Carlos and Ann Taylor (Boyes) Walker, married Venice Nadine Johnson. They have six children. Their home is at Rexburg, Idaho.

Set B1 -- JOHN HOLMES' FOUR GENERATION SHEETS:

A set of four generation sheets starting with John Holmes, being in fifth generation from Lydia Holmes, wife of John Walker, are made available and will be released at the Farmington reunion this year. This set will be given to those who pay their 1980-1981 family dues. They may be picked up at the reunion or be mailed to those who are unable to attend the reunion. The family dues are \$5.00 per year. However, each set may be purchased at \$1.25. The family group sheets on Lydia Holmes' ancestors in this set are as follows:

1. John Holmes (1682) and Mercy Ford
2. Nathaniel Holmes (1640) and Mercy Faunce
3. John Holmes (of 1612) and Sarah
4. John Faunce** (1611) and Patience Morton**
5. Mr. Faunce (abt 1585)
6. George Morton** (1585) and Julia Ann Carpenter**

** John Faunce, George Morton, Patience Morton and Julia Ann Carpenter came to America as Pilgrims in 1632.

HAPPENINGS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER:

In January 1980 more than 2500 copies of the NEWSLETTER were sent out to all Walker cousins whose addresses were available on our mailing list.

Out of 2500 copies, 180 NEWSLETTER came back undelivered because of change of addresses or lack of forwarding addresses. Those NEWSLETTER with correct addresses were re-mailed, while the rest were sent in care of their immediate families.

Nearly 190 reminders were sent out to regular or new dues payers, as many of us have tendency to have some difficulties in keeping track of our dues, or in keeping in pace of time. About 70% of them have renewed their membership for 1979-1980 and have received Set A - Lydia Holmes' First Four Generation sheets.

Order for 111 copies for the Second Edition book, "Ancestry and Descendants of John Walker" have been received. Quite encouraging!!! Our goal is 1000 copies or better.

Family group sheets are coming in at the increasing number, even more than before. They are not too late to be included in the book. If you have any family group sheets to be sent in, please do so as soon as possible.

CELEBRATING 90th BIRTHDAY:

Minnie Annetta Hess Sessions celebrated her 90th birthday on April 20, 1980. She was born at Basalt, Idaho, 74 days before Idaho Territory became a state. Her parents were Moroni Hess and Emma Abigail Smith. She was married 4 June 1909 at the Salt Lake Temple to Printice Sidney Sessions. They had six children; Myron who passed away as a young child, Geneva, Marjorie, Virginia, Darwin, and Jerry. Both Minnie and Print spent their 50th wedding anniversary in Hawaii. Mrs. Sessions' 90th birthday was celebrated with a dinner at home with her family attending. She received a card from President and Mrs. Carter. She also have 15 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Rev. Zechariah Walker And His Church

William Cothren's History of Ancient Woodbury, Conn., published in 1854, carried an interesting account about our ancestor Rev. Zechariah Walker and his church. This Zechariah Walker was a son of Robert Walker who emigrated to Boston by 1631, and was in the second generation of our Walker family in America. He was born 15 September 1637 at Boston, Mass, seven years after the Puritans founded Boston in 1630. Rev. Zechariah Walker played an important role in a church affair at Stratford, Conn., and as an early settler and the first pastor in Woodbury, Conn.

Before the story about Rev. Zechariah Walker goes on, it would be better for one to get acquainted with the background of religious affair that beset many churches in the Colony.

As time passed, the first ministers in the Colony died. A new generation of ministers came and took their places. Some demands were made to alter the church membership, baptism, and the mode of church disciplines. This occurred in 1656 when a new doctrine known as "The Half Way Covenant" was introduced. It allowed children to be baptized whose parents were baptized but not really visible saints which could be interpreted as active saints. This doctrine was needed to widen membership but on the basis of lower standards. Great dissensions on these subjects arose in the churches at Boston, Hartford, Stratford and other places, and continued in various parts of the Colony from 1656 to about 1670. This discord not only affected all the churches but spread itself into all affairs of societies, towns, and eventually the whole Colony. What the precise nature of the controversy was could not be distinctly understood by the most learned and pious, even of that day. This doctrine soon found to be unsound was discontinued later on.

While the contention over the "Half Way Covenant Practice" was going on, the people at Stratford, Connecticut, fell into the same unhappy divisions and controversies in regard to this subject. Prior to that time Mr. Blackman was the first pastor. The First Church of Stratford and town of Stratford enjoyed great peace. Due to his advanced age, a majority of freeman being townmen of Stratford and also being members of the church, chose Mr. Israel Chauncy to help Mr. Blackman in his ministry. After Mr. Blackman's death, Mr. Chauncy was ordained in an independent mode in 1665. A large and respectable part of the church and town opposed to his ordination because they wanted to choose a minister first before anyone was ordained. While the opposition was going on, it was agreed that after they hear Mr. Chauncy for a certain time, they should continue to settle for another minister and to have the same privileges in the meeting house. But continuing to be dissatisfied with his ministrations, they invited Mr. Zechariah Walker to preach to them. Finally he was chosen as their pastor by some while Mr. Chauncy was accepted by the others. Thus the First Church of Stratford was divided, not by the prime cause of the "Half Way Covenant Practice" but by the dispute over the choice of pastors. Mr. Walker's church was called the Second Church of Stratford. Both ministers performed public worship in the same meeting house but at different time of day. Mr. Chauncy performed his services at the usual hours, and Mr. Walker was allowed two hours in the middle of the day.

But it happened after some time that Mr. Walker continued his services longer than his usual two hours allowed. Mr. Chauncy and his people finding that Mr. Walker's exercises were not finished, retired to a private house and there held their afternoon devotion. Next day Mr. Chauncy filed his complaint with Major Gold, one of the magistrates against Mr. Walker. The Major, upon hearing the case, advised pacific measures, and that Mr. Walker should be allowed three hours for the time of his public exercises.

In May 1669 the disputes came before the General Court. After unsuccessful reconciliations and settlements, the parties involved became more fixed in their oppositions to each other. At length Mr. Chauncy and the majority excluded Mr. Walker and his people from the meeting house. They were expelled in the face of the recommendation of the Court in October 1669. Governor Winthrop advised that Mr. Walker, his church and people should move and that a tract of land for the settlement of a new town should be granted for their encouragement and accommodation.

Mr. Walker and some families, including Minor, Curtis and Judson who are also our ancestors, bought tracts of land from the Indians at the place called Pomperaug which was renamed as the township of Woodbury. Woodbury is about 25 miles north of Stratford.

The township of Woodbury was once a wilderness covered with plenty of trees and is about 15 miles in length from north to south and about 10 miles wide. Pomperaug river runs in center from north to south with a few springs emptying into it, and comes into the Pootatuck river. The place had some high hills here and there. The first settlers found here, the bear, wolf, moose, deer and wild cat in considerable numbers. Wild turkeys were abundant. Some local names taken from animals were found as Bear Hill, Moose Horn Hill, Cat Swamp, Wolf Pit, and White Deer Rocks. Beavers were also found in many streams. Rivers were also named after Indians. The land there was considered to be of a good agricultural and manufacturing town. The climate is mild and healthful.

The church was organized on May 1670 with Mr. Walker as the first pastor of the First Church of Woodbury derived from the Second Church of Stratford. Public worship was held first at the Bethel Rock which is an overhung rock about 35 feet high, during warm weather and then in settlers' houses in taking their turns when it was cold outside. Several years later a new meeting house was erected. Its walls were built of clay or mud and it was covered with a thatched roof. It had been in use for about 75 years for sacred services and afterward as a town hall till the close of the Revolutionary War. It was pulled down after attaining the age of more than one hundred years. The new or second edifice in Woodbury was built in the place of the old one but on another location, and was dedicated in October 1747. It is now standing and is used as a place for public worship.



First Church, 1681

Mr. Walker as described in Cothren's books was a man of solid attainments, as he must be for the ministry in those days. He was a pungent and powerful preacher, greatly beloved by the people in his charge. He conducted the affairs of his church with commendable discretion, and both the church and the infant town flourished during his administration. Thus the infant church had secured a firm foundation, notwithstanding all the trials and hardships that beset its earliest years. He died 20 January 1699-1700 at age of 63 and was buried at Woodbury. His tombstone with initials "Zechariah Walker" can be seen today. The Fathers Monument was erected in memory of him and two subsequent pastors. He married twice, first about 1669 Mary Prudden, and second Susannah Rossiter. Three children were born by his first wife.

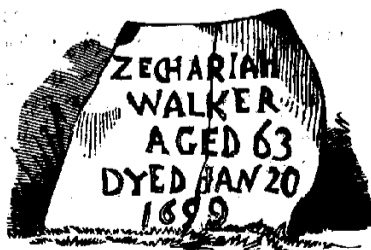
The Woodbury township was the hometown of our Walker family and many other families including Judson, Minor, and Curtis for four or five generations. They intermarried and lived together. The results are that there are two Walker, three Minor and two Judson lineages in John Walker's pedigree which is also in our pedigree.



Bethel Rock - Woodbury, Conn.



First Church
Woodbury, Conn.



Fathers Monument
Woodbury, Conn.

PICTURES TO BE INSERTED IN THE SECOND EDITION:

In the First Edition, pictures were limited to the first and second generations of John Walker. They were for John Walker, his children and their spouses only.

Many photographs, portraits and pictures of families, couples, children and individuals have been made by many families for their remembrance of their loved ones, and also for their treasure of fond memories. Some were mounted in their photograph albums and book of remembrance.

It was suggested and approved at one of the Walker Family Board meetings that the Second Edition of the book, "Ancestry and Descendants of John Walker" is to have pictures of families, couples, children and individuals inserted so as to add life to the book which could be a "Family Album" in disguise.

Here is a guideline of submitting pictures and the price of inserting them in the Second Edition. The price of insertion should be enough to cover the cost of photography work, purchase of space in the book, plate making and printing. The size of picture printed in the book should be of wallet size 2½ by 3½ for all pictures of families, couples and children, while a picture of individual should be 1½ by 1 inches, which size is same as for pictorial sheet.

The original pictures, photographs or the like may be submitted to Rodney W. Walker for reproduction work. The originals of any size but not too small, may be black and white, or color, but must be of good quality. The originals will be returned after copies are made satisfactorily. The Editor reserves the right to accept any pictures submitted and to limit the numbers of pictures.

The price for inserting pictures in the Second Edition is as follows:

#1	Head & Shoulder	OR/AND	Head & Shoulder	Head & Shoulder
\$10.00				
1" by 1½"				

#2	Couple or Children or Family
#10.00	
2½" by 3½"	

#3	Couple	and	Family or Children
#15.00			
Up to 2½" by 3½"			

#4	Couple <u>Newlywed</u>	and	Couple <u>50th Wedding Anniversary</u>
\$15.00			
Up to 2½" by 3½"			

SECOND EDITION:

*Regular Price \$50⁰⁰ plus - Pre Publication Offer - \$35⁰⁰
- cash -*

Progress on the Second Edition of the book, "Ancestry and Descendants of John Walker" is going strong. Articles on families of the first three generations have been typed. Copies of some articles were mailed as "gallery proof" to some of their direct descendants for their verification, change or correction. Many "gallery proofs" have been returned with minor corrections which are easily re-typed on the original articles.

Besides this, a total number of 111 orders for the Second Edition have been received. Monies received with these orders have been put in high interest bearing saving accounts. The pre-publication offer is \$35.00 payable in advance. If a copy of the book is to be mailed as desired or has to be mailed due to distance, \$3.50 will have to be added to cover the cost of handling and mailing each copy.

This offer is a way for us to raise funds enough to pay the printing cost in cash as required by most publishers, only if we can reach the goal of 1000 orders or better. It would be more advantageous for us to have as many pre-publication orders on hand as possible, and to have money invested in a higher interest bearing saving certificates so as to ride on the tide of inflation for a year or two.

SPECIAL 1980 REUNION SALE.....

Regular Price - \$6⁹⁵ Reunion Sale \$5⁰⁰

"LIFE INCIDENTS AND TRAVELS OF ELDER WILLIAM HOLMES WALKER
and his associatio with Joseph Smith, the Prophet"

Many copies of the 138 page book "Life Incidents and Travels of Elder William Holmes Walker and his association with Joseph Smith, the Prophet" are readily available and will be sold at a special price of \$5.00 during the month of July 1980. The regular price of the copy is \$6.95 postpaid. They may be purchased at the reunion or be ordered through mail. Add 60¢ enough to cover postage, if ordered through mail. This offer ends on July 31, 1980.

This book gives an account of the John Walker family -- Origin of the family, Conversion to the Church, Persecution, Association with the Prophet Joseph Smith, Diaries kept by Elder William Holmes Walker during his march in the famed Mormon Battlation and also his missionary work in South Africa.

PRESIDENT OF NEWLY ORGANIZED STAKE:

On April 27, 1980 Duane Bowring Welling was called to be the President of Bountiful Utah Mueller Park Stake after its creation from the division of the Bountiful Utah East Stake. He was also the President of the same stake before the division was made. He is an attorney and a son of Darrell Welling and his wife Bertha Bowring. He and his wife formerly Carla Ann Iverson have four children.

John Walker Family
NEWSLETTER



JOHN WALKER FAMILY ORGANIZATION
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

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