



Guide to the Samuel Holmes Walker Family Papers, 1798-1902

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Samuel Holmes Walker Family Papers, 1798-1902

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1961.001

Author of Finding Aid:

Katelynn Vance

Creator:

Samuel Holmes Walker, 1796-1869

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 Manuscript Box

Abstract:

Papers of Samuel Homes Walker and his family. Walker was a distiller and farmer in Thornton, NH. Town tax papers, accounts of distillery, land sale, and court suits for lumber business.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Samuel Holmes Walker Family Papers were a gift of Frank A. Walker on January 27, 1961.

Processing Information:

The finding aid was updated by Katelynn Vance in October 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

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Preferred Citation:

Item title, Samuel Holmes Walker Family Papers, 1961.001. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date Accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information/ Administrative Information:

Thomas Walker, Sr. (ca. 1716-1804) is believed to have been a merchant in Suffolk County, MA prior to 1751 when he purchased land in Londonderry, NH. He married Grace (or Grissell) Young of Londonderry. They had three children, Jane, Agnes, and Thomas Jr. In 1771, Walker deeded his Londonderry land to Matthew Thornton, and by 1785, he was living in the new town of Thornton, NH.

Thomas Walker, Jr. (1765-1829) was a prominent man in the town of Thornton. He held various offices such as Selectman, Justice of Peace, Moderator, Highway Surveyor, School Committeemen, Fish Warden, Tax Collector, etc. He operated a distillery as well as a lumber business and farm. Around 1795 he married Elizabeth Bowen. They had five children: Samuel Holmes, Nancy, Peter, Cynthia, and Ezra.

Samuel Holmes Walker (1796-1869) was born in Thornton, NH. He continued the distillery business and was a farmer and land developer. He continued to expand his father's lumber business sending crews with logs down the Merrimack River to Lowell, MA. He was an agent for Fiske & Norcross who operated a sawmill in Lowell, MA. He sold threshing machinery and insurance and acted as a lawyer for local people. He had major business losses but was rebuilding and living in Holderness, NH, when he died in

1869. He married Elizabeth York George of Woodstock, NH. They had seven children: Eliza Ann, Arthur Livermore, William Crawford, Gardner Edmunds, Malinda W., Martha G., and Jerusha P.

Arthur Livermore Walker (1823-1907) was born in Thornton, NH. He attended Plymouth Academy and then worked in a store in Boston, MA. He moved to Manchester, NH, in 1847 and opened a book store and circulating library at the corner of Elm and Merrimack Streets, which he later sold to the City Library. He built the first ice house in the city in 1853. After settling his father's estate he opened a real estate office in Manchester, NH. He was married twice, first to Rebecca Glidden of Unity, NH, and then, Mary Hazen.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

Folder 1 contains genealogy of the Walker Family. Folder 2 contains the names of people from Thornton and amounts paid for town taxes as well as accounts, receipts, and deeds of Thomas Walker Sr. & Jr. Thomas Walker Jr.'s account book entries are largely for brandy by the glass or gallon. There are also accounts for items such as pistols, scythes, files, buckets, etc. and accounts of charges paid by boarders.

Most of the correspondence of Samuel H. Walker deals with land purchase or sale, land tax, and court suits as they related to his lumber business. Much of the correspondence is from Fiske & Norcross in Lowell, MA. Names of some of his other correspondents are Edmund Carleton in Littleton, NH; Alex Ladd in Portsmouth, NH; W. Whittemore in Greenfield, NH; E. A. Holland of Meredith Bridge [Laconia], NH.

The correspondence of Arthur L. Walker includes family letters from his brother-in-law M. R. Vincent in Manchester, NH. One letter mentions Jerusha making money at the loom. The papers show that he was licensed to sell a fluid called "Petolia". There are billheads from businesses such as Haines & Wallace Lumber, and W. I. Goods Groceries and Dr. Custer, Homeopathic Medicine, all from Manchester, NH.

Arrangement:

- Series I. Thomas Walker Sr. (c. 1716-1804) & Thomas Walker Jr. (1765-1829)
- Series II. Samuel H. Walker (1796-1869)
- Series III. Arthur L. Walker (1823-1907)
- Series IV. Miscellaneous

Contents List

Series I. Thomas Walker Sr. (c. 1716 – 1804) & Thomas Walker Jr. (1765-1829)

Extent: 3 folders

Scope and Content Note: Material relating to the Walker family of Thornton, NH, particularly Thomas Walker Sr. and Thomas Walker Jr.

- Folder 1 Genealogy and Newspaper Clippings of Walker Family; 14 items
- Folder 2 Thomas Walker Sr. & Thomas Walker Jr. Deeds & Tax Assessments, 1798-1829; 18 items
- Folder 3 Thomas Walker Jr. Account Books, 1828-1829

Series II. Samuel H. Walker (1796-1869)

Extent: 11 folders

Scope and Content Note: Material relating to Samuel H. Walker of Thornton, NH.

- Folder 4 Deed, 1837
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1839-1845; 14 items
- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1846; 17 items
- Folder 7 Correspondence, 1847; 16 items
- Folder 8 Correspondence, 1848; 16 items
- Folder 9 Correspondence, 1849; 16 items
- Folder 10 Correspondence, 1850; 11 items
- Folder 11 Correspondence, 1851-1855; 21 items
- Folder 12 Correspondence, 1856-58; 15 items
- Folder 13 Correspondence, 1859-1865; 11 items
- Folder 14 Administration of the Estate of Samuel H. Walker, 1865-1868; 15 items

Series III. Arthur L. Walker (1823-1907)

Extent: 3 folders

Scope and Content Note: Material relating to Arthur L. Walker of Thornton and Manchester, NH

- Folder 15 Correspondence, 1846-1902; 52 items
- Folder 16 Bills & Receipts, 1865-1874; 22 items
- Folder 17 Deeds & Power of Attorney, 1856, 1866-1868, 1884; 6 items

Series IV. Miscellaneous

Extent: 1 folder

Scope and Content Note: Miscellaneous documents related to the Walker family, which includes three letters of Peter Walker and envelopes.

- Folder 18. 3 letters of Peter Walker, 1856, 1864
42 envelopes

Subject Terms

People:

- Carleton, Edmund
- Holland, E. A.
- Ladd, Alex
- Vincent, M. R.
- Walker, Arthur L. (1823-1907)
- Walker, Jerusha P.
- Walker, Thomas (1716-1804)
- Walker, Thomas (1765-1829)

Subjects:

- Accounts
- Account books
- Billheads - Manchester

Distilleries
Distilling industry - - By products
Liquor
Mineral springs

Locations:

Londonderry, NH
Manchester, NH
Thornton, NH

Occupations:

Distillers
Lumberjacks