

Family history of George Walker, 1800–1872 & Hannah Lloyd Walker 1802–1884

By Margaret Walker Edwards (1873–1964)



George Walker, 1800–1872 Hannah Lloyd Walker 1802–1884

Abram Walker was born in Springfield Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in 1771, five years before the American Colony revolted against the Mother Country, gained her independence and became the United States of America.

Who were Abram's parents? Where were they born? How long had they resided in America? We have no answers to these questions. But, undoubtedly they were of British origin since they were among those who refused to revolt against their King and chose rather to

emigrate to Canada where they would continue under British rule and were known as the United Empire Loyalists.

At this time there was a great influx of emigrants from America to Canada. They settled in the Maritime provinces, along the St. Lawrence River, along the north shore of Lake Ontario, in the Niagara Peninsula and along the Grand River in Brant County. The southern counties of Upper Canada were largely settled by the United Empire Loyalists. A contingent of emigrants from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, moved to York County, Ontario, including the Walkers and the Lloyds.

Here Abram Walker grew to manhood and later married Sarah Horton (1780-1841), who was born in Niagara County, New York State, about six miles from Niagara Falls, in a little hamlet, known as Kennedy, New York. Whether or not she was United Empire Loyalist stock is not known but possibly she was, since many Americans flocked across Lake Ontario to York County to a little hamlet called Little York or Muddy York, later known as Toronto. Here during the years, ten children were born to Abram & Sarah. In 1822, when the youngest child was three years of age, the family moved to Niagara Falls, New York, to the former home of the mother, after living in York County for twenty years at least, since all of the children were born there. In 1841, Sarah Horton Walker died and is buried in Kennedy, New York.

The following item was copied from the obituary notice of Abram Daniel Walker (the youngest son)(1819-1892): Mr. A. D. Walker was born near Toronto, Ontario in 1819 and moved into New York State when about three years of age. In 1845, he came to Michigan and in 1871 he began business in Standish as a member of the firm of Cross, Walker and Company, lumber manufacturers. He also conducted a general store in Standish known as the Trading Post.

Other records reveal that at least three members of the Walker family had moved into the newly opened Territory of Michigan. In 1838, Peter Walker (second son)(1808-1870) had purchased land in Jacksonville, Michigan. Later, he purchased more land in the Saginaw District and in Lapeer County near Newbury, now known as Almonte. Records also show that Elizabeth Walker and her husband Nicholas Richardson, Lydia Ann Walker and her husband, John McCausland, and Hannah Walker and her husband, Homer Parker, purchased land in Almonte in the year 1858.

After the mother's death in 1841, the father Abram Walker and other members of the family moved to Almonte, Michigan in 1845.

George Walker (1800-1872), the eldest son, married Hannah Lloyd (1802-1884) in 1821, the year before the Walker family moved to New York State.

The Lloyds, also came from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Hannah Lloyd, wife of George Walker, was born in Bucks County in 1801, of Welsh & German parentage. Her family was known as a Pennsylvania Dutch family and she spoke only German until she was fifteen years of age. Until her death, she read her German bible.

George & his wife Hannah did not choose to go with the other members of the family into Michigan. They decided there was greater advantage offered in the new country of Upper Canada, both in making a good living and for the educational advantages for their children.

George Walker visited the new country opening up along the Thames River in Oxford County and filed his claim for a Crown grant of land for at least 500 acres and presumably more, which he explored thoroughly and had mapped out the roads he must follow in bringing his family from Niagara Falls, New York, to Oxford County. There was a great urgency to get on the way. Ground must be prepared for the sowing of seed and the making of a garden if the family were to survive. In April 1832, he took his wife and five children ranging in age from two to ten years in the covered wagon along with the household furnishings. A cow was tethered behind the wagon and the horses started on the way.

They crossed the Niagara River at Lewiston and came by way of Hamilton and Dundas where they reached the Governor's Road, which Governor Simcoe had caused to be surveyed from Hamilton to London. This gave a measure of navigable highway, although far from our present idea of a highway. A week elapsed of continuous heavy driving of horses, not oxen, before they reached Oxford County. The indispensable cow furnished the family with fresh milk and what was not used was collected in a pail which hung under the wagon. The jolting churned the butter for their use.

When they reached West Zorra, almost in sight of their farm, grandmother found she could go no further. She was in labour. It is hard to imagine a woman far advance in pregnancy undertaking such a journey. But under the circumstances, it was a dire necessity to reach their new home in time to prepare the ground for a crop. Undoubtedly the baby was premature but the harrowing experience of riding in the jolting wagon over exceedingly rough roads was enough to induce labour.

They were forced to stop at the home of B. Munroe on the second concession of West Zorra to care for grandmother. Imagine having a man, his wife, five children, a span of horses and a cow arrive unexpectedly. There would be plenty of provision for such an emergency in 1964, but not so in 1832. True to the generous

hospitality which prevailed in pioneer days, the family was taken in and cared for. No doctor was available, so the good housewife, Mrs. Munroe must act as midwife. It must have been a perfectly normal pregnancy and Mrs. Munroe must have been an excellent midwife, for I can testify that the baby (my Aunt Sarah (1832-1916)) grew up a very healthy woman, bore eight children and died at the age of 82 years. One can guess grandmother spent scant time for convalescence. She had no time for that.

A couple more miles brought them to their farm, located at the corner of the sideroad and the first concession of West Zorra (315270 31st Line). Here, grandmother selected a building spot on a shady knoll facing the sideroad. There was a fine spring at that spot, and here they established their first home.

In pioneer days, a large family was considered a great asset and indeed, it would seem to have proved so for our grandparents. Grandfather seemed to be a very energetic man of vision, but not more energetic or resourceful than grandmother.

The forest was cleared and many fields prepared for grain which grew abundantly on the hitherto untilled land. The grain, wheat and oats, were drawn to Hamilton and Goderich. Father told of teaming many a load. One day he saw a crowd gathered near the railroad in Hamilton.

His boyish curiosity took him to the group to find the cause. There he saw the first passenger train on the Great Western Railway pass through.

The boys and girls of the family assumed responsibility early. My father (Hiram, 1824-1897) and his older brother James (1823-1882), the two elder boys, were early assigned to transport the grist to the mill to be ground for flour, oatmeal, etc. The mill was at Centreville, about eight miles distant. It seemed to be an all-day job. They started early in the morning and before their load was ready for their return journey it was near dusk. With their load upon the handsled, the journey was made in record time, spurred on many times by the howling of wolf packs near enough to raise their hair and to give great impetus to their speed.

Grandfather tried his hand at making potash but somehow it did not succeed very well. It was a long, slow, laborious process, which involved hours of patient watching. My father disliked the job very much and was glad when grandfather discontinued it.

The home literally carved from the forest. There was a great stand of wonderful hardwood trees, oak, beech, maple, walnut and others. These magnificent trees had to be felled and what was not of immediate use had to be burned to clear the ground. The cutting of

these great giants of the forest involved very hard labour and great skill and judgement in landing the trees in just the right place.

The farms were of necessity self-sustaining. The maple trees furnished maple syrup and maple sugar. The grain provided flour, oatmeal, cornmeal, etc. Apples from the orchard as soon as it was established, the gardens quickly produced small fruits and vegetables in addition to what could be garnered from the fence enclosures. Indeed the house and barn were logs and at first even furniture was made from logs and timbers of the forest. Flax provided cloth for sheets, garments, tablecloths, etc. The sheep were stabled each night to keep them from the wolves. They provided wool for blankets, garments, stockings, socks, mittens and other things.

One thing the pioneers were sure to have in their gardens was flowers, many of them brought from their homes, lilac bushes, red peonies, blue iris known as flags, orange lilies and many other old favourites. They beautified their humble homes and were a vital link with the past.

In the garden were many kinds of vegetables which contributed largely to their daily living. Among other things grandmother grew love apples in her garden because the fruit which she believed to be wholly ornamental was red & beautiful. She gathered them and placed them on the mantel. Later she learned the love apples were called

tomatoes and were edible. What a glad day that must have been to the family to learn they could be safely eaten and what a fine addition to their living.

It must have been a great disappointment to our grandparents to find no school near for their children. The early pioneers were too few, too scattered, and too poor to promote the establishment of churches though many opened their homes or barns for religious services.

Grandfather Walker gave his barn for the first school in the district. He and his neighbours continued to raise the small meagre salary needed. At that time it was customary for the school teacher to board around for a stated length of time at the home of each family represented in the school. Sometimes the accommodation was pretty good, at other times pretty poor.

As soon as it could be managed grandfather gave a portion of his farm as a site for a school. He and his neighbours erected a log school which served the growing community for several years. In 1869, a brick school replaced the log one. It is still standing in 1964, still in use and still known as Walker's School (school closed in 1966).

In the early years the equipment for the school must have been meagre and the academic preparation of the teachers limited.

However their contribution to the community and to Ontario cannot be measured. The schooling though limited was of inestimable value to the children. I know what it meant to my father who was a real student. He was an avid reader all his life and made the most of his opportunities. He was eager that his children should have the best education he could afford.

At the same time that grandfather Walker gave land for a school, a nearby neighbour and close friend, George Harris, a pious man who served as a lay preacher, gave the land for a church and cemetery. While there was no organized church services in the community, at stated times church services were held by itinerant ministers. Busy days were spent preparing for the approaching visit of the minister. The scattered neighbours were invited to attend the services, elements were prepared for the communion services; babies were enrolled for baptisms; young couples who wished to solemnize marriage were notified; provision was made for hospitality for the minister and for the families who came from a distance to spend the day.

On Sunday, September 17, 1854, the first Wesleyan Methodist Church in Ingersoll was opened. The church which Mr. Harris hoped would be erected was not built but the cemetery was used for some years. My Aunt Jane Walker Chalcraft lies there, also two of my infant sisters

and two small cousins. Community religious services were held for some years in the Walker's School.

There was no cheese making in the community but Grandmother Walker had learned the art in her Pennsylvania Dutch home.

Grandfather kept a large herd of cows. Grandmother made cheese and butter which was marketed in Hamilton and Goderich.

It is commonly stated in Ingersoll that Mrs. Ranney introduced cheese-making in Ingersoll, but it never appears that Grandmother Walker taught Mrs. Ranney how to make cheese.

Grandfather with his most competent and industrious wife and his large family of boys and girls prospered. The family quickly outgrew their first simple abode. There was a good deal of very fine stone on the place. Grandfather had a storey and a half house built of these stones on the first concession which was a much more travelled road leading into Ingersoll. Later another addition was added and finally an imposing two storey addition of goodly proportions.



In the front of the house, conforming with the custom of the days, six pine trees were planted. The grounds about the house were well cared for, flower were abundant, and for many years it was the show place of Oxford County.

Grandfather gave each of his four sons 100 acres of land, which stock and implements ready for farming. Uncle George (1838-1920) inherited the homestead. Uncle Wellington (1844-?) studied medicine and became a doctor. Each of the daughters received \$500 in addition to the marriage dowry.

Grandfather Walker was rated a wealthy man. It is true that he was in comfortable circumstances but he was far from wealthy as wealth is reckoned in this era.

Uncle James Walker (1823-1882) married Barbara McLeod (1822-1897) and lived on the townline on one of Grandfather's farms adjoining the land surrounding the Walker School house. There were three sons and two daughters who grew up to marry and establish their own homes. Hannah Jane (1854-1887), the eldest, married Duncan Hossack (1835-1907) of another well-established Scotch family; Walter (1857-?) married Hannah McKay (1856-?); Fran's (1861-1898) wife was Minnie Rowland (1865-1949), their daughter, Ruth (1895-?), Mrs. Hugh Taylor, has been for many years Executive Secretary of the Overseas Missions of the United Church. George Henry (1865-1909) married Minnie Reavley (1870-1952) and was on the homestead; Alice (1859-1882), Mrs. McIntosh Howe, the idol of the family, died in her youth, 23 years of age.

Hiram Walker (1824-1897), who was the second son, married Almira Marietta Aldrich (1831-1902). There were ten children born to Hiram & Almira. Susanna died at birth; Emma Laurette lived to be one year of age, the other eight lived to grow to adult life. Abram (1856-1938), the eldest, married Priscilla Brown (1856-1928); George (1860-1922) married Margaret Gibson (1859-?); James (1861-1913) married

Elizabeth Fawcett (1862-1916); Annie (1863-1936) married Lawrence McLeod (1856-1946); Mary (1866-1935) married John McKenzie (1860-?); Robert (1866-1943) never married; Margaret (1873–1964) married Bradford Edwards (1868-1934); and Alice Hannah (1876-1966), the youngest, did not marry.

Abram Daniel Walker (1828-1914), known as Uncle Dan Walker, married Laura Barber (1838-1872). He sold his farm near Ingersoll and moved to Dusville, Illinois, where my father and Uncle George Walker visited him in 1873, just after the great Chicago fire in 1872. Later Uncle Dan moved to Kansas where his four daughters, Harriet (1854-1939), Mary (1858-1917), Estelle (1862-1884), Isabella (1865-?), and one son, Arthur (1860-1934), made their home. Two of the girls were teachers and Arthur was a doctor.

Charles Walker (1831-1916) married Alexina Rose (1831-1884). He sold his farm at Kintore and moved to Camlachie, near Sarnia. One son, Lloyd (1854-1911) lived and died at Port Huron; a second son, George Alexander (1859-1930) lived in Forest; Charles (1873-?) lived and died in Pincer Creek, Saskatchewan. The three daughters: Annie Margaret (1855-1916) married James Whaley (1852-1923); Lillian (1858-1920) married Joseph William Whealy (1848–1910). They all lived in the vicinity of Woodstock.

George Walker (1838-1920) married Isabel Reavely (1839-1911). They lived on the old homestead and maintained the family tradition established by my grandfather and grandmother. The farm was well cultivated, the barns enlarged, the garden and lawns were well kept and the old homestead continued to be one of the well known show places of Oxford County. There were two daughters, Maud (1874-1932) & Stella (1877-1919), neither of them married and both died quite young. Uncle George built a house in Ingersoll and retired from the farm when he and Aunt Belle were too infirm to continue cultivating it. They always lived comfortably and rather ostentatiously. Uncle George was always regarded by his neighbours and friends as having a great deal more money than he possessed.

Uncle Wellington (1844-?), the doctor, located to Ohio. He served in the Civil War. He seemed to drop out of sight entirely for many years, and did not communicate with his family. Then he returned after many years. He married a widow who had one daughter, who accompanied him in his visit years later. Long after grandmother's death he visited his old home once more. My father was still living, also Uncle George, his sisters, Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Adams & Mrs. Elliott. He was tall well-built and well preserved, with a pleasing personality. It seemed such a tragedy that he had shut himself away from all his family for all those years.

The daughters married well. Margaret (1827-1907) the eldest daughter, married Jonathan Graves (1826-1902), a man of considerable wealth, son of one of the pioneer settlers located near Kintore. They had three children: Martha (1854-1885) married George Alderson (1849-1930); George W. (1856-1933) married Lucetta Burdick (1862-1944); Hannah (1860-?) married Robert Drummond (1859-?).

Sarah (1832-1916), the daughter who was born enroute, married John Adams (1832-1911), owner of 400 acres of land and a cheese factory. He was one of the pioneer cheese makers. Everything John Adams did was on a big scale. The house he constructed was quite a mansion, known as the Castle, and as I recall my visits to that house in my childhood, I thought it a palace. Later, John Adams moved his family of eight children to Toronto, where he had a dairy farm and conducted a milk depot and delivery. He was the first man in Upper Canada and perhaps in all Canada to deliver bottled milk. Many of his patrons did not approve of this method of delivery. They preferred having it ladeled out from the huge tin can by means of a tin dipper. His eldest son, John (1855-1889), married Harriet Chamberlain (1860-1926); Lydia (1857-1942) married James Smith (1855-1893); Arthur (1859-?) was unmarried; Mary (1859-?) married George Lovell (1861-1947); Edward (1861-1941) married Isabella McInnes (1868-?);

Hannah (1865-?) did not marry; Jane (1867-1920) married Henry Liddell (1859-?); and Sarah (1871-?) married Thomas Maxted (1876-?).

Mary Ann (1834-1922), the third daughter, married Samuel Elliott (1826-1908), another pioneer cheese maker and a member of one of the earliest settlers in this part of the country. Samuel Elliott, his wife, and his large family of nine children, cultivated a large farm, milked many cows and built the Red Star Cheese Factory, large enough to provide quarters for the numerous hired hands in addition to ample space for cheese making. Later he acquired more land and built a second cheese factory on the 4th Concession - the road leading to Embro. Ada (1854-1924) married Edwin Elliott (1854-?); Hannah Maria (1851-1924) married James Tate (1845-?); Mary was unmarried; Henrietta (1858-?) married Robert Sutherland (1851-1933); Elizabeth (1860-1933) married Tom Masters (1858-?); Fred (1864-1918) married Beatrice Cleave (1875-1941); Annie (1867-1907) married John Sutherland (1861-1943); Lila (1869-1947) married Jacob German (1870-1945); Arthur (1871-1961) married Almeda Roswell (1872-1942).

Jane (1836-1866), the fourth daughter, married Mark Chalcraft (1831-1896), a very aristocratic looking man, who carried himself like an English lord and the exalted opinion of his own importance which was not borne out in accomplishment. He was a cheese maker in

Sam Elliott's factory when he married Aunt Jane who bore three children, then died of tuberculosis. Lydia (1858-1923), the eldest child was cared for by Uncle Mark's family until later he married Melinda Reaveley (1840-1920). The two younger children, Albert (1862-1949) & Abigail (1860-1885) were raised by Uncle George Walker. Lydia married John Huntley (1859-?) & Abigail (1860-1885) married Edward Horsman (1860-1941). Albert Chalcraft (1862-1949) married Ada Marie Eresme (1873-1965) and lived in Port Huron.

The fifth daughter, Hannah (1838-1904), married Nelson Lewis (1836-1902), son of Seneca Lewis (1808-1863). Nelson conducted a grocery store in Ingersoll. Later, he moved his family to Michigan not far from Lowell, where I visited George Lewis and family in Moseley. I found them very comfortably located on a prosperous looking farm with a large white frame house and well painted red barns. Hannah & Nelson Lewis had five children: Edith Elizabeth (1864-1913), Alfred Henry (1868-1872) who died at the age of four; Frances Emily (1870-1934), George Walker (1873-1933) & Ella Marie (Edna) (1875-1958),

Lydia (1842-1902), the youngest daughter, married Dr. Henry Holmes Scott (1836-?), who practiced medicine for some years in Ingersoll. Later, they moved to Riverside, California, where the doctor purchased

an orange grove and raised oranges. There were two daughters: Annie (1869-1942) & Mildred (1882-1940).

This text is believed to have been written by Margaret Walker Edwards (1873–1964)

Ingersoll Tribune, April 1, 1964

MRS. B. C. EDWARDS PASSES IN 91ST YEAR

One of Ingersoll's oldest and most highly esteemed residents in the person of Mrs. Bradford C. Edwards passed away at the family residence, 286 Wellington Street, Thursday morning March 26th, 1964. Mrs. Edwards who was in her 91st year was the former, Margaret Walker, and was born in West Zorra [township], a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Walker. Following her marriage she and her husband farmed in Dereham [township] for over 30 years and moved to Ingersoll 33 years ago. She was the oldest member of the Baptist Church, a member of the Women's Association and a life member of the Timpany Mission Circle of the church and possessed a very kindly and unassuming manner which had won for her a very large circle of friends both in Ingersoll and throughout the community. Left to mourn the passing of a beloved mother are one daughter, Hazel of Ingersoll; and one son, Gordon of Woodstock. Also surviving is one sister, Miss Alice Walker of Ingersoll; three grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, Kenneth of Vancouver; Mrs. Harry Burn [Donna] of Ostrander; and John of Ingersoll. Her husband predeceased her 30 years ago and one son, Kenneth in 1955. Mrs. Edwards rested at the Walker & Clifton Funeral Home, 88 King St. W., where service was held on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. with Rev. George Y. Lockhart of Ingersoll Baptist Church, officiating.

There was a very large attendance of relatives, neighbours, and other friends and the Friendship Group of the Ingersoll Baptist Church, attended in a body. During the service a solo was sung by Thomas Turton, accompanied by Mrs. William Allison. The many beautiful floral tributes and contributions of Gideon Bibles were also indicative of the high esteem in which Mrs. Edward's was held. Temporary entombment was in the Ingersoll Mausoleum with interment later in the family plot in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Casket bearers who also acted as flower bearers were: V. R. Harrison, Carl Heeney, Stanley Whiteford, Frank Making, Arthur Pittock and Roelof Sissing.

The Walker Family.

160
Hannah Lloyd born in 1802
in Bucks Co. Pennsylvania. She
died in 1884. Her father was
John Lloyd; her mother
Mary Pelly.

Mr. George Walker was born north of Toronto, (then known as) "Fuddy York," his parents had moved there because they did not wish to take part in the Revolutionary War. Later, they returned to New York state.

Mr. and Mrs. George Walker came from Niagara Falls, N. Y., with their five children in 1832. They crossed the Niagara River at Lewiston and travelled toward Zorra in an ox-drawn cart. The children who came were James, Hiram, Margaret, Donald and Charles. On the way they stopped at Monroe's on the 2nd line of West Zorra (where Chas. Douglas lives now) and the sixth child, Sarah, was born. They came to the farm on lot 5 Concession 2, West Zorra, now occupied by Andrew Little. They obtained the land from

At first they located farther back in the woods. Mrs. Walker chose this site for their home because there was a bubbling spring near. Later six more children were born. All twelve children grew up to have children of their own. Nine of them had measles at one time.

Shortly after they settled the two eldest children, James and Hiram, who were still children of ten and twelve years, took a bag of wheat on a hand

sleigh to Centreville. The trip took most of the day so that it was very late as they made their way homeward through the forest. There were wolves howling; imagine the terror of the boys as they listened and plodded on.

Mr. Walker brought his family away from a more thickly populated area as he thought he could find better educational opportunities for them. When they first settled there was no school and classes were held in his barn for his own and neighbourhood children.

Mr. Geo. Walker gave the land for a school and with the help of the others in the neighbourhood a log school was erected. When Mr. Walker gave the land for a school, Mr. Harris gave land for a church and cemetery. If a church had been built it would have been a Methodist Church. However, the church was not erected but use was made of the land as a cemetery above the south bank of the river on the side of the hill. Many of the pioneers are buried there.

Later, Mr. Walker built a substantial stone house facing the first line of Zorra. The house is large, made to accommodate his large family and at the back there was a separate apartment for help to live in. The yard was attractively landscaped and was one

of the finest around the neighbourhood.

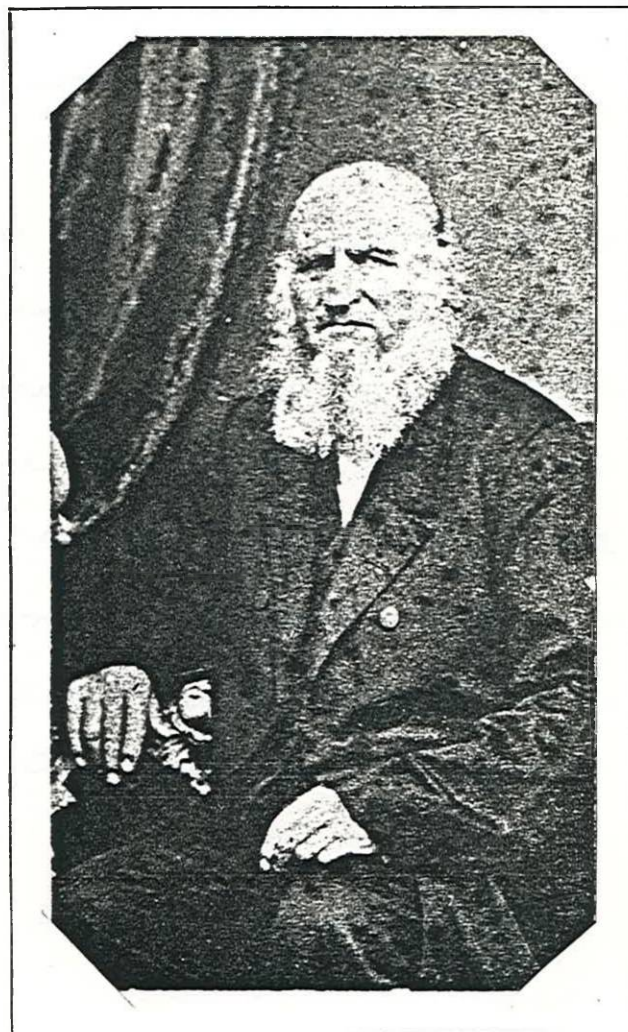
- The children of Mr. and Mrs. George Walker
1. James was born in 1822. He married Barbara McLeod and owned $N\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 5, Con. 1, West Zorra.
 2. Hiram was born in 1824. ^{died 1899} He married Almira Aldrich (from the 9th line of E. Missouri; her mother was a Day.) Owned $S\frac{1}{4}$ Lot 3 Con. 2, West Zorra.
 3. Margaret ¹⁸²⁶ married Jonathan Graves. They lived near Kintore, later in Ingersoll.
 4. Dan ¹⁸²³ married Laura Barber. Her brother was an early, well-known Methodist minister. Lived on $N\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 9 Con. 2, North Oxford; later moved to Illinois, then to Kansas.
 5. Charles ^{1830 died 1916} married Asenath Rose. Lived at Kintore and later Camalachie.
 6. Sarah ^{1832 died 1916} married John Adams.
 7. Mary Ann ¹⁸³⁴ married Samuel Elliott who owned the West Zorra Factory (now the "Red Star").
 8. Jane ¹⁸³⁶ married Mark Chalcroft. She died young.
 9. Hannah ¹⁸⁴⁰ married Nelson Lewis. Moved to ^{also} Michigan.
 10. George ¹⁸³⁴ married ^{died 1920} Isabel Reavey ^{has Grandchildren} from E. Missouri. Lived on the homestead. $N\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 5 Con. 2 West Zorra.

11. Lydia married Dr. Henry Scott. They lived in Ingersoll and moved to California.
12. Wellington became a doctor. He lived in Mansfield, Ohio.

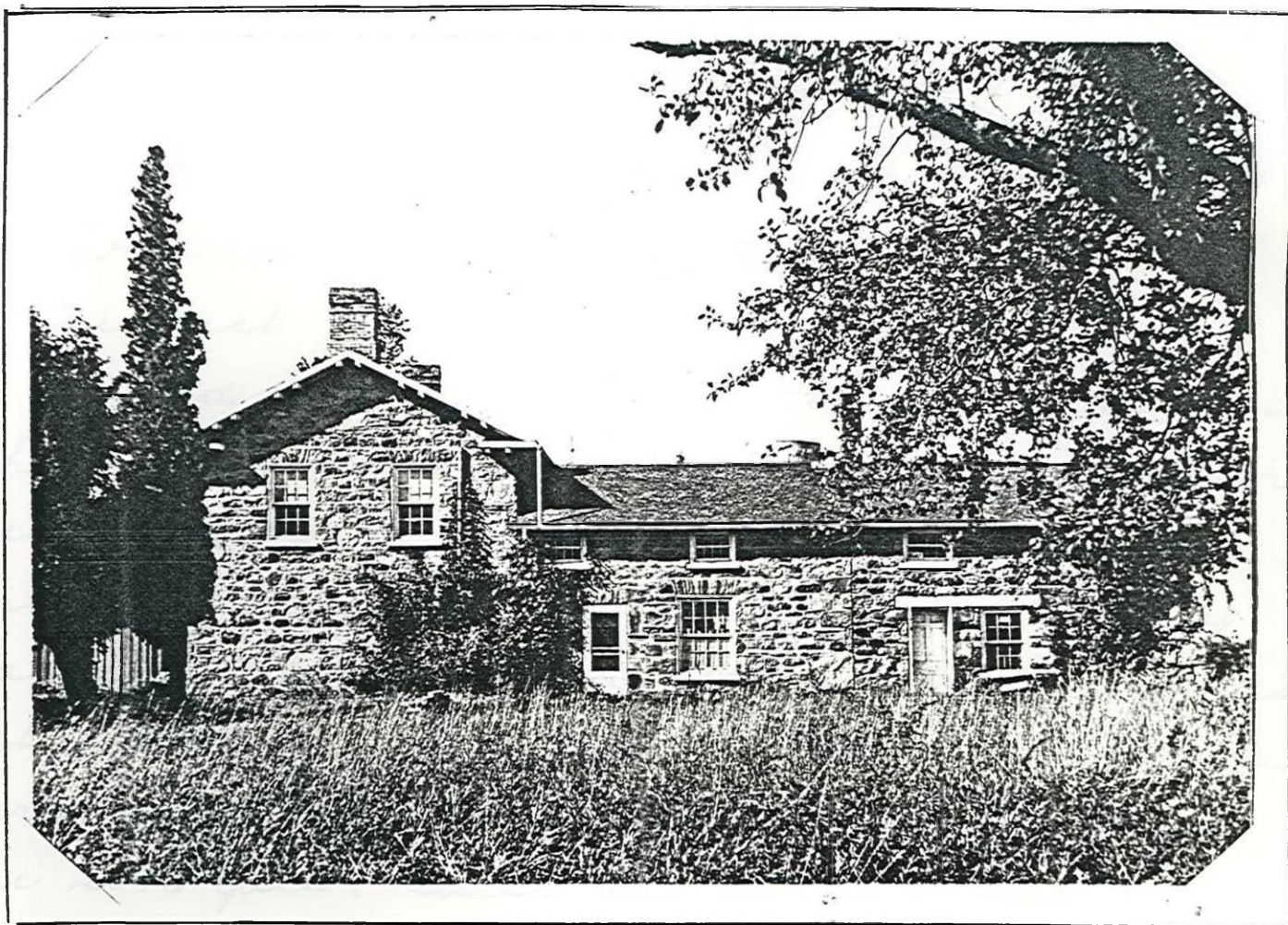
- by Miss Alice Walker. - 1952.



(MRS. GEO.) HANNAH LLOYD WALKER



GEORGE WALKER



THE WALKER HOME - Lot 5. Concession II. W. Zorra. - 1953.