

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Walker Family Collection
2016.33

Processed by Robyn Conroy
August 2016

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Collection Information

Abstract : The collection contains genealogical information, daguerreotypes and ambrotypes of members of the Walker Family of Hopkinton and Worcester. The Walkers were prominent boot and shoe manufacturers in Worcester County.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated by Edith Tucker in July 2016

MARC Access :

Historical/Biographical Notes

Solomon Walker was born in Hopkinton, Massachusetts in 1739. He married Sarah Bullard (b. January 1, 1742). Solomon appears with the rank of Sergeant on muster and payroll of Captain Joseph Griffith's Company, Col. John Jacob's regiment. Mustered in June 3, 1778 and discharged January 1, 1779.

Their oldest child, Joseph Walker was born December 26, 1760. He married (January 1, 1784) Mehitable Gibbs (b. April 31, 1766 – d. September 26, 1849). Joseph Walker was an inventor in the art of pegging boots, which allowed the uppers and soles of shoes to be attached easier. He carried on a boot business on Thomas Street in Worcester for many years with J.C. Brown. The firm name Walker and Brown. He died January 8, 1852.

One son, Joseph Henry Walker, Jr (b. 1804) and m. 1828 Hannah Thayer Chapin. In 1843, the elder Joseph (b. 1804) moved his family to Worcester and established a boot and shoe manufacturing business (Barber and Walker, corner of Main and Lincoln Square).

They had a son Joseph Henry who was born December 21, 1829 in Boston, MA. In c. 1851, Joseph (b. 1829) and his brother George M. split from the rest of their family to found their own boot manufacturing business (J.H. and G.M. Walker Shoe Factory), eventually building their main factory on 28 Water Street in 1870. By 1880, Walker employed 300 people and was considered one of the city's substantial businessmen but also the father of the burgeoning Worcester shoe industry. Walker boots were widely sold in the American west. In 1888, Walker sold his factory and chose to focus on his career in politics, having already served three terms in the Massachusetts state legislature. He served one term in Congress. He married in 1852 Sarah Ellen Harrington and had one daughter, Mrs. Milton Shirk. In 1862, he married Hannah M. Spear, and they have three children, Joseph, George and Mrs. Adams D. Claflin. Joseph died April 3, 1907.

Another son of Joseph (b. 1760), Lovett Walker was born January 31, 1787 in Hopkinton. He married (October 31, 1808) Sophia Perry (b. October 30, 1786 – d. June 25, 1869). Lovett was shoemaker who died June 22, 1859.

Lovett's son, Aaron Gifford Walker was born January 12, 1815 in Hopkinton, Massachusetts. He married (February 10, 1836) Abigail Tryon (b. May 6, 1812 – d. September 11, 1886). Aaron died April 15, 1901 in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Their children were Helen Maria Walker Adams (b. April 13, 1837 – Hopkinton, MA – d. April 2, 1931 – Worcester, MA), Eliza Caroline Walker (b. November 2, 1838 – Hopkinton – d. January 4, 1863 – Worcester), Albert Claflin Walker (b. June 2, 1840 – Hopkinton – d. June 27, 1864 – Piedmont, VA). Albert was a member of the 6th MA and Company H, 34th MA during the Civil War. Charles Augustus Walker (b. November 2, 1842 – Hopkinton – d. November 6, 1918 – Worcester), Edward Hopkins Walker (b. April 9, 1847 – Hopkinton – d. August 9, 1847 –

Hopkinton), Sophia Perry Walker (b. May 11, 1849 – Hopkinton – d. August 27, 1887 – Worcester), Annie Louise Walker (b. November 3, 1851 – Hopkinton – d. March 11, 19), Lucie Emilie Walker (b. November 8, 1856 – Worcester – d. March 11, 1930 – Augusta, GA).

Aaron was also a boot and shoe manufacturer and is a cousin of Congressman Joseph H. Walker. He came to Worcester in 1855 and started a shoe company called Childs and Walker on Main Street opposite the court house until 1862. He then became superintendent of the shoe factory of J.H. Walker and Company at Lincoln Square for 5 years until the partnership of (T.S.) Stone, Walker and (Samuel) Brown which dissolved in 1870. Walker and Brown went into business on Front Street and Aaron Walker retired from the firm in 1880. He was elected to the city council. He was original free soiler and lifelong republican. In 1881 he was sent from ward 1 to the state legislature and returned until 1885.

One of his daughters Lucie, married Robert W. Ney who worked for American Steel and Wire in Worcester and Ohio for over 40 years.

Scope and Content

The collection contains genealogical information, daguerreotypes and ambrotypes of members of the Walker Family of Hopkinton and Worcester. The Walkers were prominent boot and shoe manufacturers in Worcester County.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Joseph and Mehitable (Gibb) Walker

Series 2: Lovett and Sophia (Perry) Walker

Series 3: Aaron Gifford and Abigail (Tryon) Walker

Series 4: Aaron and Abigail Walker Children (Group Photographs)

Series 5: Albert Claflin Walker

Series 6: Eliza Walker

Series 7: Annie Louise Walker

Series 8: Helen M. (Walker) Adams

Series 9: Sophia P Walker

Series 10: Lucie E (Walker) Ney

Series 11: Robert W Ney

Series 12: Genealogical Material

Series 13: Objects (See Curator)

Walker Family Collection
 Series 1, Joseph and Mehitable (Gibb) Walker
 2016.33.1

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2016.33.1.1	Genealogical material on Mehitable (Gibb) Walker
1	1	2016.33.1.2	Petition for Administration – Joseph Walker (January 8, 1852)
1	1	2016.33.1.3	Letter concerning Joseph Walker’s Revolutionary War Record
1	1	2016.33.1.4	Certificate of Pension – Joseph Walker
1	1	2016.33.1.5	Letter concerning pension of Joseph Walker
1	1	2016.33.1.6-8	Newspaper articles about Joseph Walker
1a		2016.33.1.9	3.5” x 3.5” Ambrotype of Mehitable (Gibb) Walker
1a		2016.33.1.10	3.5” x 3.5” Daguerreotype of Mehitable (Gibb) Walker
1a		2016.33.1.11	3.5” x 3.5” Ambrotype of Joseph Walker
1a		2016.33.1.12	3.5” x 3.5” Daguerreotype of Joseph Walker

Walker Family Collection
 Series 2, Lovett and Sophia (Perry) Walker
 2016.33.2

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1a		2016.33.2.1	3” x 2” Ambrotype of Lovett and Sophia (Perry) Walker

Walker Family Collection
 Series 3, Aaron Gifford and Abigail (Tyron) Walker
 2016.33.3

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2016.33.3.1	Last will and Testament of Aaron G. Walker
1	2	2016.33.3.2-7	Newspaper articles about Aaron Walker
1	2	2016.33.3.8-9	CDVs of Aaron Walker
1	2	2016.33.3.10	4" x 6" Print of Aaron Walker
1	2	2016.33.3.11	4" x 6" Print of Abigail Walker
1	2	2016.33.3.12	8" x 10" Print of Aaron Walker
1	1a	2016.33.3.13	3.5" x 3.5" Daguerreotype of Abigail Walker
1	1a	2016.33.3.14	4" x 5" Daguerreotype of Aaron Walker (September 1855)
1	1a	2016.33.3.15	3.5" x 3.5" Daguerreotype of Aaron Walker

Walker Family Collection
 Series 4, Aaron and Abigail Walker Children (Group Photographs)
 2016.33.4

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1a	2016.33.4.1	3.5" x 3.5" Daguerreotype of Albert Claflin Walker and Charles Augustus Walker
1	1a	2016.33.4.2	3.5" x 3.5" Ambrotype of Albert Claflin and Eliza Caroline Walker (July 1859)
1	1a	2016.33.4.3	3.5" x 3.5" Daguerreotype of Sophia Perry and Annie Louise Walker

Walker Family Collection
 Series 5, Albert Claflin Walker
 2016.33.5

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	2016.33.5.1	Letter to sister Annie from Albert (September 19, 1863)
1	3	2016.33.5.2	Special orders (September 5, 1863)
1	3	2016.33.5.3-8	Miscellaneous photocopies about Albert Walker and his time in service during Civil War.
1	3	2016.33.5.9-11	CDVs of Albert Claflin Walker
1a		2016.33.5.12	2.5" x 3.0" Ambrotype of Albert Claflin Walker (July 1860)
1a		2016.33.5.13	Medal (Company H, 34 th Regiment)
1a		2016.33.5.14	2.5" x 3.0" Ambrotype of Albert Claflin Walker (January 16, 1860)
1a		2016.33.5.15	3.5" x 3.5" Ambrotype of Albert Claflin Walker

Walker Family Collection
 Series 6, Eliza Walker
 2016.33.6

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1b		2016.33.6.1	3.5" x 3.5" Daguerreotype of Eliza Caroline Walker
1b		2016.33.6.2	2.5" x 3.0" Ambrotype of Eliza Caroline Walker (July 4, 1863)

Walker Family Collection
Series 7, Annie Louise Walker
2016.33.7

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2016.33.7.1-2	Images of Annie Louise Walker
1b		2016.33.7.3	3.5" x 3.5" Daguerreotype of Annie Louise Walker (3 years old)

Walker Family Collection
Series 8, Helen M (Walker) Adams
2016.33.8

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2016.33.8.1	Obituary
1b		2016.33.8.2	3.5" x 3.5" Daguerreotype of Helen Maria (Walker) Adams
1b		2016.33.8.3	4" x 6" Ambrotype of Helen Maria (Walker) Adams
1b		2016.33.8.4	2.5" x 3" Ambrotype of Helen Maria (Walker) Adams (July 29, 1867)

Walker Family Collection
Series 9, Sophia Perry Walker
2016.33.9

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1b		2016.33.9.1	3.5" x 3.5" Daguerreotype of Sophia Perry Walker (3 years old – 1852)

Walker Family Collection
 Series 10, Lucie E (Walker) Ney
 2016.33.10

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	2016.33.10.1-.2	Newspaper articles
1	6	2016.33.10.3	Autograph Book
1	6	2016.33.10.4	Autograph Book
1	7	2016.33.10.5-.13	Images of Lucie Emile (Walker) Ney
1b		2015.33.10.14	2.5" x 3" Ambrotype of Lucie Emile (Walker) Ney (3 years and 5 months old).

Walker Family Collection
 Series 11, Robert W. Ney
 2016.33.11

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	2016.33.11.1	Marriage certificate (Robert Ney and Annie L. Walker) 1880
1	8	2016.33.11.2	Master Mason Certificate (1891)
1	8	2016.33.11.3-.14	Miscellaneous correspondences regarding job and American Steel and Wire.
1	9	2016.33.11.15-.23	Miscellaneous images of Robert Washington Ney
1b		2016.33.11.24	3.5" x 3.5" Ambrotype of Robert W. Ney
1b		2016.33.11.25	2.5" x 3" Daguerreotype of Robert W. Ney
1b		2016.33.11.26	2.5" x 3" Daguerreotype of Robert W. Ney

Walker Family Collection
Series 12, Genealogical Material
2016.33.12

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	9	2016.33.12.1-.12	Miscellaneous genealogical documents on the Walker Family.
Framed Item		2016.33.12.13	Family Register - Walker Family