

TITLE: Mark Walker Family photograph collection

DATE RANGE: circa 1869-1931

CALL NUMBER: PC 148

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .25 linear ft. (1 box)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Helen Walker Heath in 1974.

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RESTRICTIONS: This collection is unrestricted.

CREDIT LINE: Arizona Historical Society, PC 148 – Walker Family Photograph Collection

PROCESSED BY: Unknown. Finding aid transcribed into electronic format by Mary Flynn in 2014.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Much of the information in this note is taken from a manuscript in the **Feldman-Walker papers, MS #255**.

Mark Walker, Sr., married Sophia Smith in 1869. They had a nursery in the country and a shop in Glasgow, Scotland. They were ruined by the failure of the Bank of Glasgow. Mr. Walker had seen California fruit at an exhibition in Paris and decided to come to California. He first went to Philadelphia about 1878 and then went on the St. Helena, California. About 1889 the Walkers moved to Tucson where Mark Walker, Sr. later became a horticulturist for the U. of A. Sophia Walker broke her back in a fall through a trap door in their home near the campus. It was poorly set, impairing her for the rest of her life. In 1896 the family moved to Benson. Mark Walker Sr. died there in 1901. Sophia died in 1919 in Douglas, Arizona.

Mark Walker, Jr., spent so much of his early life helping his father when they lived in Scotland that he did not have much time for school. The minister and a kind teacher helped him in the evenings. When the family came to Arizona Mark did odd jobs at the University, helping with plumbing, painting, etc. Prof. Collingwood asked Mark what course he planned to take and since he had little knowledge of anything but “budding roses and grafting trees” he was at a loss. Collingwood suggested Chemistry as a possibility and offered him help, getting him a job as a student assistant in the Chemistry Lab. He also worked for a time as an assistant chemist for the U.S. Government Agricultural Experiment station at the University. Later he transferred to the Mining and Geology Dept.

On August 24, 1896 Mark Walker, Jr. had married Alice Viola Feldman in Tucson. Their daughters were also born there, Helen on June 18, 1897 and Dorothy on September 5, 1899. After Dorothy’s birth Mark was offered a job as manager of the group of claims in the Huachuca Mountains known as the Exposed Reef Mining Company. Alice Feldman Walker described the

area of “Beautiful rough, high mountains covered with firs and oak shrubs and ferns, numerous springs, deer and bears! We spent a year and a half there – Helen was three years and Dorothy nine months when we made the journey. The last two miles, over narrow, winding paths along the cliffs above the canyons hundreds of feet below, were made on burros! Camp consisted of a few tents, one log cabin with mud filling the chinks. Later Mark lined it with building paper and we got a sawmill going, we added a lumber room – from there (ca. late 1901) we went to Silver Bell, a copper property (Pima Co.) where Mark, in addition to managing the laboratory was asked to serve as Judge to mediate the frequent disputes that arose--- this was a bleak place in a mountain miles from everywhere, with nothing but rocks and stones, cactus and coyotes. The store, a stone structure, was the only substantial thing in the settlement. Everything else being tents or doby huts. A camp of Indians lived over the hill and took care of the camp animals and laundry for some.”

For a brief time Mary worked for Stanley C. Bagg in Kingman. (Alice Feldman Walker’s sister Yetta Feldman Schmiedling also worked for Mr. Bagg. After her divorce from Schmiedling, Yetta set type for Bagg’s newspaper in Tombstone. Later she went to Kingman where she did assay work for Bagg’s Katherine Mine in which she also had a financial interest. After the mine was sold she used her share of the profits to start a chicken farm in the San Fernando Valley of California.)

The Katherine Mine was located in Mohave County, Arizona, on the Colorado River. It was discovered by Stanley C. Bagg in 1900 while he was out working with his son, and he named the mine after his daughter. The New Comstock Mining Company took out some 2000 tons of ore, which was worked in the nearby Sheep Trail Mill. [Material related to Katherine Bagg in MS 0051]

After a four month vacation in California, ca.1903, the Walker’s returned to Arizona and then went to Tombstone where Mark was in charge of the chemistry laboratory for the Consolidated Mining Company for about four years. During that period the family resided in four different houses in Tombstone. According to Helen Walker, T. Heath the first house was the L----House. Next was a house on Toughnut Street in town. This was followed by the Poindexter House high up on the hill. So called from a former occupant. What office or post Charles Poindexter held she did not know. The last home the Walker’s occupied in Tombstone was the big Toughnut House, lower on the street just across the gulch separating the mines from town. This huge place was built for the housing of Eastern stockholders and was formally stocked with servants and a chef. It had long suffered much carelessness while unoccupied, that it was rented to them for \$25 a month. “Although”, as Helen states “we should have been paid for cleaning house and garden and for protecting it.” (After they left for California it stood empty and later caught fire from gypsy or tramp campers. The place was destroyed along with three other buildings on the block.)

In 1907 the Walker’s went to California on vacation. Mark decided to buy an assaying lab in Los Angeles and moved the family there. They built a home at 2200 3rd Ave., in Los Angeles, ca. 1908-9. In 1918-19Mark acted as Professor of Chemistry at the University of Redlands. He sold his lab in 1919 and went to work for the Roessler-Hasslacher Chemical Co. as head chemist.

The company was absorbed by du Pont, and Mark remained with du Pont until his death September 30, 1931.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Walker Sr. (Sophia Smith Walker)	Undated
	2	Clifford Ambrose Truesdell III	Undated
	3	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Walker Jr. (Alice Viola Feldman)	Undated
	4	Helen Yetta Walker (Truesdell – Heath)	Undated
	5	Dorothy Lillis Walker	Undated
	6	Two 5 x 7 small albums	Undated