

## Descendants of Levi Empson Walker and Ida Kernodle Walker

By James Franklin Walker (1937 -) and his first cousins

July 29, 2014

### Children of Grandma and Grandpa Walker



Bruce, Francis, Robert, Alice, Estelle, Lillian, Thomas, Mamie, Claude.

### Nannie Bruce Walker (1897 - 1965 )



Aunt Bruce was an old maid school teacher. She taught at various places in central North Carolina. She never had a car. Members of the family would take her to school at the beginning of the year and pick her up for Christmas break. She lived with Grandma in summer. Hopefully, one of Uncle Robert's family will provide additional information about her. They lived in the same house with her in summer.

Aunt Bruce went to Elon for 2 years. She had a type B teaching certificate which she had to renew every year. She taught at Midway School between Hopedale and Caroline, Farmville, Jonesboro in Lee County and Carthage in Moore County. She was an expert at making lace and made pillow cases for many members of the family.

### **Mamie Elizabeth Walker (1899 - 1974) and Fred Swanson**



Aunt Mamie moved to Washington, DC. The rumors I heard are that she got pregnant and Grandpa kicked her out of the house. At her funeral, Aunt Francis met her daughter who none of us ever knew. Unfortunately I don't have a name or any other information about her. If anyone knows how to contact her please let me know.

Aunt Mamie and Uncle Fred bought a small row house in Georgetown before it became the fashionable place to live in Washington. Her house was a block from where John and Jackie Kennedy lived while he was a senator. In the mid 1960's I had business meetings several times a year in Washington, and on several occasions I stayed with Aunt Mamie instead of getting a hotel room. Believe me she had lots of interesting stories to tell. She had worked for Stuart Alsop who was a columnist for the New York Herald Tribune and later for the Saturday Evening Post and Newsweek. Somehow I got the feeling that she had inside information about Washington events.

Martha and Susanne also remember her as being a good hostess when they visited her in Georgetown.

## Claude Levi Walker (1901 - 1995) and Mary Inez White (1904 - 1969)



Daddy went to a one room school at McRay for seven years. The school was operated by the local citizens. State and county support for public education had not yet begun. He said that Grandma baked an oven full of sweet potatoes every morning. He and his siblings would put a hot potato under their coat to keep them warm on their walk to school, and then eat it for their lunch. I guess it was warmer in the afternoon for the return trip home. The older kids had to help teach the younger kids, so this is where he began to learn how to teach school.

After seven years at McRay, he went to Elon for seven years for high school and college. He was tall (6 feet) and thin and his nickname at Elon was "Slats". He played center on the basketball team, and that was in the days when they jumped center after every score. He wouldn't be tall enough to play guard today.

After graduation, he taught at Pleasant Grove School the first year it was open as a county school. He taught many of his brothers and sisters that year. Of course many of us attended Pleasant Grove years later, for grades 1 through 12. It was finally replaced by Eastern High School near Mebane.

Daddy taught in eastern North Carolina and in the western town of Andrews. He met and married Mother in 1930. They taught in Stokesdale, NC for several years, and I believe Aunt Francis lived with them and went to school there for perhaps her senior year in high school. In 1933 he bought 90 acres of land from Grandpa, build a house and barn and moved back to NC62. After returning, both Daddy and Mother taught at Anderson school in Caswell County. Then they moved to the four room Glenco School where he taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and she taught 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. In 1945 they both started teaching in Burlington where he continued until retirement. Mother had breast cancer in 1957 and survived for 12 years, which was a remarkable feat in those days. After recovering she went back to Anderson to continue her teaching career.

I was born in 1937. They hired Viola Bradshaw Day to keep me while they taught school. Viola stayed with the family for many years. Carolyn was born in 1947, and Viola raised her too. She and Ernest (Spider) lived in the small tenant house next door to our house.

**John Robert Walker (1903 - 1988) and Mattie Pearl McKinney (1906 - 1990)**



Robert and Sheriff Kernodle

**Rachel Estelle Walker (1906 - 1989) and Boyd Staley Tickle (1910 - 1973)**

**Lillian Lofton Walker (1908 - 1999) and John Preston Boswell (1906 - 1987)**

**Thomas Graham Walker (1910 - 1977) and Lilly Adell Mills (1915 - 1981)**

**Alice Anderson Walker (1913 - 2005) and Aubrey Ivy (1918 -)**



**Francis Harriet Walker (1915 - 2010) and Reid Campbell (1922 - 2003)**



## Grandchildren (Cousins)



2012 Family Reunion at Patterson Cabin, Altamahaw

Ester, Uncle Aubrey, Tommy, Becky, Mary, Julia, Glen, Lila, Martha, Rachel, John, Charles, Jane, Janet, Jim  
Missing: Carolyn, Ann, Kay, Catherine

Grandma and Grandpa had 18 grandchildren. Most of us grew up on NC 62 North of Burlington. Ida Jane Tickle, Ann and Kay Campbell visited us there often. So I'm going to describe a little of what it was like living there in the 1940's and early 1950's when most of us grew up.

NC62 was a gravel road. And we didn't have electric power. Apparently electric power was planned to be installed in the late 1930's, but the looming war rationed materials such as wire. We finally got power after the war in 1947 I believe.

Until we got power, everyone had an outhouse for the toilet. And we pretty much took sponge baths with a pan of hot water and a wash cloth. But I don't remember that as being a big inconvenience. We just didn't know about anything else.

The neighborhood had installed a party line telephone system sometime in the late 20's or early 30's. There was no phone company. The neighbors maintained the line and paid a small connection charge to the switchboard in Glenco (I think). Each phone had a crank. One turn of the crank was a "short" and two turns was a "long". Each person on the line had their own ring, such as two shorts and a long. Aunt Lillian and Uncle Robert were connected to this system along with lots of other neighbors. Southern Bell replaced this system with 8 party lines in about 1949, which is when we finally got a phone.

In summer, the cousins would get together and play hiding go seek or catch lightning bugs. Our favorite toy was a tobacco stick which we rode like a horse. Uncle Preston's store was a community gathering place. In winter we sat around the pot belly stove. In summer we sat under the pecan and maple trees. Actually the kids usually sat on a limb in the tree.

Susan Walker grew up in Greensboro. She said that during the war the grocery stores had very little food on the shelves. The bulk of the food was diverted to the war effort. We never had a problem with having enough food. Everyone had a garden. We also had chickens for eggs and meat, and cows for milk. Everyone had a couple of hogs which were slaughtered in the fall and salted, so there was plenty of pork as well. Sugar was rationed during the war, and at least one year Daddy attempted to grow sugar cane without much success. But all in all we probably ate better than most Americans during the war.

There was a polio epidemic in 1948 and 1949, and North Carolina had more cases of polio than any other state. So we were quarantined and had to stay close to home all summer. We could go to Grandma's house on Sunday, but couldn't go to town or church. I don't think I put on shoes or shirt those whole summers.

We got TV in 1952 just in time to watch the political conventions. We sat glued to the TV and shelled butter beans as Dwight Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson were nominated to run for president. In those days the nomination was not pre-determined prior to the convention. I still remember the long demonstrations and parades for each of the candidates.

Those are just a few of the things I remember. Maybe my cousins can add what they remember about these times.



John Boswell and Glen Walker



Tommy, Mary, Carolyn, Catherine, Arnold, more



2000 Family Reunion at Hyco Lake



Cousins at 2001 Reunion at Hyco Lake

Tommy, Ester, Charles, Julia, Jane, Becky, Eddie, John, Martha, Ann, Janet, Jim, Aunt Alice, Sandra, Lila, Carolyn, Rachel, Glen



2001 Reunion at Hyco Lake



Cousins, Patterson Cabin, 2012



2014 Reunion at Patterson Cabin, Altamahaw