

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:

October 17, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.
Pintlala Baptist Church



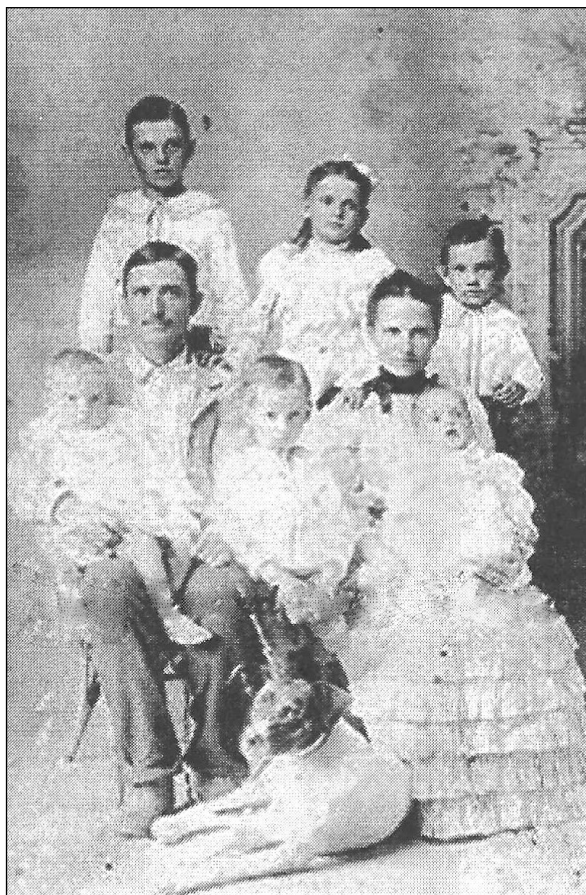
*c/o Pintlala Public Library
255 Federal Road
Hope Hull, Alabama 36043*

Volume XXXV, Number 3

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

October 2021

Moore Leonard Walter, wife, Mary Campbell Walter and Unidentified Children, date unknown,



Source: Ancestry.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Adding Meaning To Where You Live

I am amazed at the innumerable ways to learn history. Having persistent curiosity is a necessary stimulant for effective learning. So are you not curious about the early owners of the land where you now live? Examine the deed related to the land where you live. Often a deed is joined by abstracts which will probably identify every owner, often back to the first legal one. I usually try to identify land patents involved by using the website for the Bureau of Land Management (<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/default.aspx>).

It must be noted that early settlers may have lived on the land long before making it legal.

Searching abstracts is very local history. Local history catches fire in one's soul when such discoveries are made.

Frankly, many locals have no sense of place. How is it possible to possess a sense of place without some degree of historical significance. Gather as much history as possibly related to your own real estate. And you will want to know more and more. Encourage others to join the Pintlala Historical Association which continues to inform and inspire.

Check out all the archived newsletters to begin with local resources (pintlalahistoricalassociation.com)

My commendations to our Vice President and Program Chair, Alice Carter. She continues to produce newsletter articles based on her own research and narrative. In this edition, she provides us with Part 1 of information related to the Walter Brothers who resided and worked in Sprague. Our current generation would be hard pressed to know anything about the Walter Brothers and their contribution as citizens. Read Alice's article twice, three times.

Gary Burton, President
garyburton1@charter.net



October 2021 PHA Program

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, October 17 at 2:30 at Pintlala Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Our program will feature Dr. Christopher Haveman's presentation "Creek Indian Removal from Alabama" which was given at ADAH and recorded. We will replay this video for our organization. We thank the ADAH for presenting top quality programs and for sharing them so generously.

Dr. Haveman is an Associate Professor of History at the University of West Alabama. He holds a B.A. degree from Western Washington University, a Master of Arts from Marquette University and a Master and PhD in History from Auburn University. In 2016 he published the book, *Rivers of Sand: Creek Indian Emigration, Relocation and Ethnic Cleansing in the American South* and in 2017 he published *Bending Their Way Onward: The Creek Indians and the Long Journey West*.

Please plan to attend this informative talk. We do request that members wear their facemasks and be mindful of safe distancing. Our aim is to keep everyone virus free—audience and speakers alike.

See you on October 17th!

Introduction

This paper is a cursory look at the planter culture of the Walter family who came from North Carolina to Alabama in the early 19th century— led here by the father Moore Leonard Walter. By the early 20th century the Walter family had become successful planters primarily dependent upon large cotton crops and the efforts of convict laborers who were by majority of the African American race.

The “Firm” developed by brothers Duncan Campbell Walter, Tristram/Tristram Bethea Walter, and Jesse Bethea Walter is complicated. They were insightful, hard working men who were smart enough to move with changing business developments that blended a plantation life and industrialization—primarily due to the introduction of railroads into south Montgomery County.

An entire book should be written on the success of the Walter Brothers Firm, family relationships and its eventual demise—a job best left for legal minds, not an amateur historian.

I have elected to use WALTER as a surname rather than the often found WALTERS. Also I elected to use the TRISTRAM spelling rather than TRISTAM, these choices are based on spellings found in *Kinfolks...* by William Curry Harley in 1937.

Alice T. Carter

Part I

Walter Brothers

Montgomery County, Alabama

Moore Leonard Walter, Sr. (1803-1873)¹ from Robeson County, North Carolina arrived in Alabama around 1835. He was accompanied by his wife, Mary Campbell Walter (1807-1859/1860) and their first three sons all born in either North or South Carolina. The date of their marriage year was 1832.² The family eventually included five additional children for a total of eight siblings living in south Montgomery County. Their mother died in 1859 according to a Walter family genealogy compiled by Col. John Adkin Walter III around 1963. No place of burial was found by this researcher for either Mary Campbell Walter or Moore Leonard Walter, Sr.

Moore Leonard Walter, Sr. remarried in 1865³ to Rebecca Rosa Hurt and they parented three children: Moore Leonard Walter, Jr. (1866-1938), Mollie May Walter (1871-1960) and Julia Lonnie Walter (1872-1919). There is some evidence that Moore Leonard Walter, Sr. and Rebecca Hurt Walter perhaps lived for some unknown period of time in Coffee County, Alabama. Eighty acres of land in Section 17, Range 21 were deeded to Rebecca Rosa Hurt Walter and all children shared by the couple in 1869 as per Coffee County Deed Book F. In addition, Ancestry.com features a Voter Registration form for M.L. Walter for Precinct 13, Election District 04, Coffee County.⁴ The volunteers at the Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society in Enterprise, Alabama could find no record of a death in Coffee County for M. L. Walter.

Moore Leonard Walter distributed all of his personal assets to six of his children by Mary Campbell Walter on July 18, 1859. After this legal distribution, which was carried out in the Probate Office of Montgomery County (witnessed by D. Holman and R. T. Sharp), Moore Leonard and Mary Walter acknowledged a \$7,065.00 debt to a James Irby. This debt was satisfied through a bond or “bill” backed by a banking institution, Meyer and Max. For this study of Moore Leonard Walter, a listing of his distributed property has been transcribed as:⁵

To: John C. Walter a tract of land containing 1,000 acres in Montgomery County Township 13, sold for \$12,500.00

To: Jesse B Walter transfer ownership of slaves—Hansen, Parish, May, Lilly, Joe, Little Bill and Ben

To: John C. Walter and Evander Walter ownership of all stock of every character, farming utensils, hogs, cattle & crops growing

To: son Lorenzo D. Walter ownership of slaves—John, Will, Chaney, Mandy, Bill, Gabe and Elich

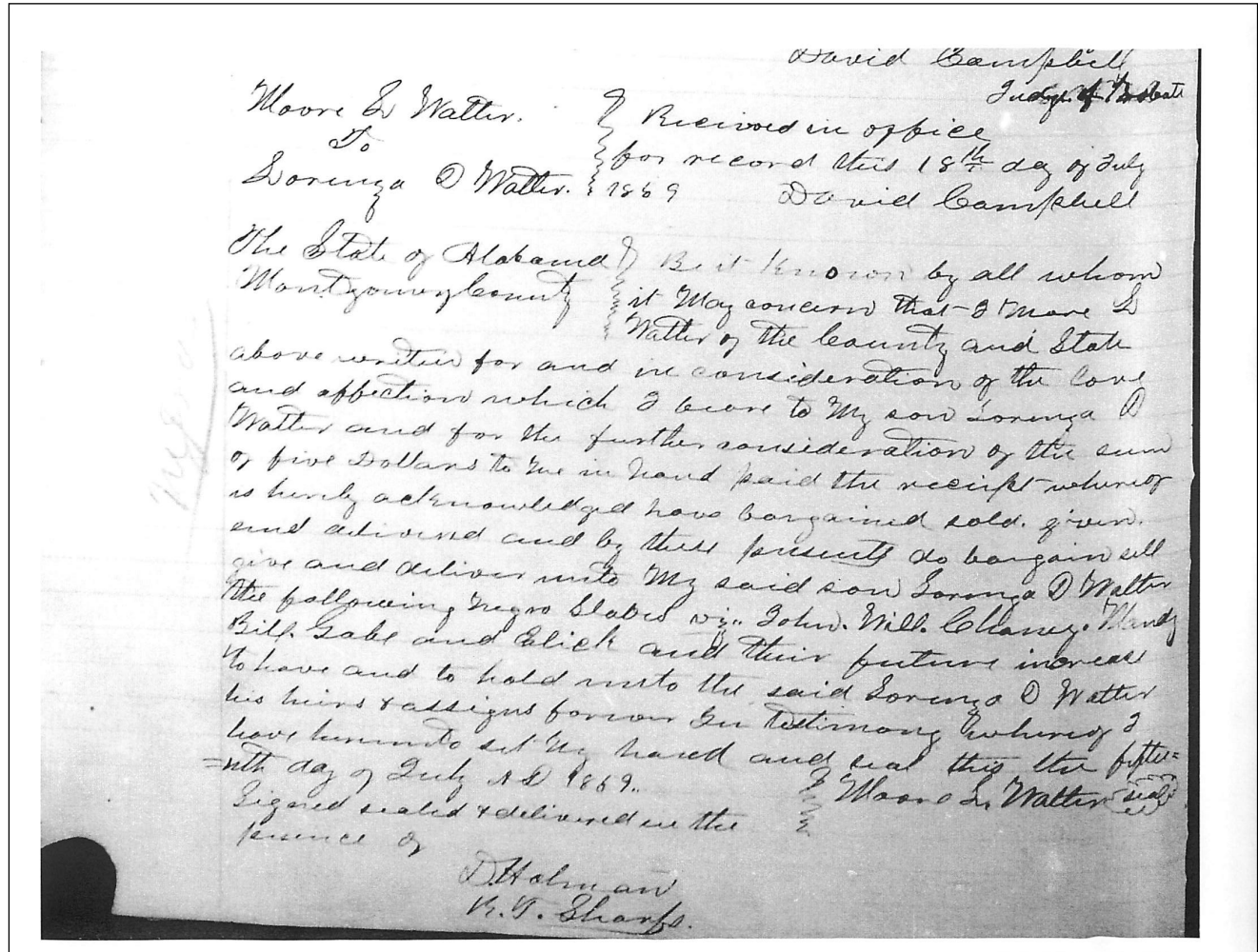
To: son Tristram Walter ownership of slaves—Sam, Manuel, Betsey, Harriet, Little Mary, Tom and Henry

To: son Evander Walter ownership of slaves— Sip, Dick, George, Clara, V., Fanny and Sally

To: son Dunkin C, (Duncan Campbell Walter) ownership of slaves—Meridy, Steve, Grace, Win, Liza, Milton and Mose

To: son John C. ownership of slaves—Peter, Daniel, Ginny, Caroline, Cal, Yellow John and Polly

A selected sample of these original transactions in the handwriting of Moore Leonard Walter are below:⁶



There is no record of a Last Will and Testament at the Montgomery County Archives for Moore Leonard Walter, Sr. in either 1873 or 1869 according to Archivist, Dallas Hanbury, who so kindly checked the Will Index for me. In light of his earlier dispersal of assets including 1,000 acres to son John C. Walter in 1859, could this mean that he held no more acreage in 1859? Perhaps the 5,000 acres mentioned in later wills and abstracts in the Walter estate could have been acquired by the three sons, Tristram, Duncan and Jesse. Further study would be beneficial.

From this large family unit three brothers: Duncan Campbell Walter, fourth child, born in 1839; Tristram Bethea Walter, seventh child, born in 1845 and the eighth child, Jesse Bethea Walter, born in 1855, became owners and operators of one of the largest agricultural enterprises in Montgomery County, Alabama in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. An accumulation of property was acquired over time in or near Sprague and Snowdown, south Montgomery County. The Walter business was referred to in 1982 as the "Walter Brothers Firm" in a book of family and community memories from Willie Walter Stowers (1891-1983) of Snowdown, Alabama, granddaughter of Tristram Bethea Walter.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL WALTER (1839-1917)



Duncan Walter as a young man, date unknown, Ancestry.com; Dawson Garrett Family Tree; Duncan as a much older man, date unknown, Photo courtesy of Ricky McLaney

Duncan Campbell Walter, first Moore Leonard Walter child born in Alabama, either in Sumter County or Montgomery County on May 28th 1839. The 1860 Federal Census for the 2nd District of Montgomery County documents Duncan as 21 years of age and living in his father's household with mother Mary and five siblings. Two years later, Duncan mustered into the Confederate Army in Greenville, Alabama as a soldier serving in the 33rd Alabama Regiment, Company E. He was paroled in North Carolina at the end of the war. "Dunk" as Duncan was familiarly known was 31 years old, a planter living in Township 13, Montgomery County in the 1870 U.S. Census. This record lists a Jessie Walter, age 15 years as an inferred child. The 1880 Alabama Federal Census lists Duncan as 40 years old, residing in Beat 11, Robertson's Cross Roads, Montgomery County. The same Census lists a fourteen-year-old white male living in the same household listed as a laborer and "brother"—name appears to be Lenard, born in 1866. This description leads one to the conclusion that this child is Moore Leonard Walter, Jr. son of MLW, Sr. and Rebecca Rosa Hurt Walter who were married in 1865. Walter, Jr. would have been seven years old when his father Walter, Sr. died in 1873.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| No. <u>263</u> | Full name: <u>Duncan C. Walter</u> | Present Post Office address: <u>Sprague</u> |
| Do not use initials. | | |
| was born on <u>May 28, 1839</u> at | in the County of <u>Sumter</u> | |
| in the State of <u>Ala.</u> | ; first entered the service as <u>private</u> on <u>Spring 1862</u> | |
| at <u>Montgomery, Ala.</u> | in the <u>Co. E. 33rd Ala. Infantry</u> | |
| Give name and letter of Co., and number of Regiment. | | |
| <u>Close of war, was paroled in N. Car.</u> | | |
| Give date, and whether captured, discharged, transferred, resigned or paroled, with the place of same. | | |
| Re-enlisted as _____ | OR _____ | at _____ |
| Give rank, etc. Date Place. | | |
| in the _____ | and continued until _____ | |
| Give exact command as above. Here give details as above for termination of service. | | |
| Re-enlisted as _____ | OR _____ | at _____ |
| Give rank, etc. Date Place. | | |
| in the _____ | and continued until _____ | |
| Give exact command as above. Here give details as above for termination of service. | | |
| Other service, if any: (Here give all facts in brief as to other forms of service, as Conscript officer, Staff officer, Ordnance officer, member of Home Guards, of an Escort Company, or of a Reserve Company, etc., etc.): | | |

Census of Confederate Soldiers Residing in Alabama, 1907, found on Ancestry.com, 2021

Moore Leonard Walter, Jr. married Martha M. Broadway in 1891 in Montgomery County. A 1900 Census

Record for MLW, Jr. indicates his residence as Robertson's Cross Roads, Beat 11. An Ancestry.com entry for Martha Broadway Walters lists two of her children born in Tennessee in 1903 and 1905. The 1910 Federal Census lists Walters living in Louisiana followed by the 1920 Census, which shows him living in Franklin Parish, Louisiana as a farmer. Leonard and Martha had a total of 11 children and he died in 1938, Franklin Parish, Louisiana and is buried at Coax (pronounced Cooks) Baptist Church Cemetery in Franklin Parish, Louisiana.

An article published in an 1890 *Montgomery Advertiser* reported Duncan Walter had returned to his home after surgery in Montgomery to remove a diseased jawbone, the surgery was described as painful.⁷ Ancestry.com records the 1900 Federal Census for Montgomery County and indicates the enumerator for the record as C. M. Robertson for Beat 11, Robertson's Cross Roads. Duncan was listed as head of household with no other residents included. Documents for Appointments of U. S. Postmasters, 1832-1971, found on Ancestry.com, list Duncan appointed as Postmaster at Sprague, Alabama on March 26, 1904.



Left to right: Ricky McLaney and James Randall in 2018. Photo courtesy Ricky McLaney

PHA member Ricky McLaney, a life-long resident of Sprague, has previously shared his knowledge of Duncan Walter having had relationships with several different African American women from nearby communities. In 2018, James Randall, a man of African American descent from New York City, contacted PHA in

search of information on the Walter family of Sprague. At the time, I connected James with Ricky. Ricky was pleased to take James on a tour of Sprague and James returned for a second visit later in the same year. He has done extensive research into his kinship with Duncan. One African American woman who was associated with Duncan Campbell Walter was Easter Bradley with whom he had an undetermined number of children. Names of other African American women who had children with Duncan are: Gracie Walters, Emma Emerson and Lizzie Walters. These names were provided by James Randall or from Alabama Death Certificates provided by Randall.

The last twist in the life of Duncan Campbell Walter hinges on his Last Will and Testament, sworn before Charles B. Teasley, Probate Judge, Montgomery County on June 29, 1917. Duncan's Last Will and Testament named his brother, Jesse Bethea Walter as Executor and in case of Jesse's death, the next named executors were the children of Jesse. This will was contested by the

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
STATE OF ALABAMA 3612

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. County Montgomery b. Beat No. 5100
c. City (if outside city or town limits, write RURAL) Montgomery
d. Length of Stay 1 day
e. City (if outside city or town limits, write RURAL) Montgomery
f. Full Name of (if not in hospital or institution, give street address or location) Randy Williams
g. Street Address (if rural, give location) 441 S. Central St.
h. City, Town or Village Name Montgomery
i. State Alabama
j. Zip 36102

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (where deceased lived, if institution, specify before admission)
a. State Alabama b. County Montgomery
c. City (if outside city or town limits, write RURAL) Montgomery
d. Street Address (if rural, give location) 441 S. Central St.
e. City, Town or Village Name Montgomery
f. State Alabama
g. Zip 36102

3. Name of Deceased
a. (First) Randy b. (Middle) Williams c. (Last) Williams
d. Date of Birth Sept. 30, 1949
e. Sex Male f. Race White
g. Color or Hair Brown h. Marital Status Never Married
i. Widowed, Divorced (Specify) None
j. Usual Occupation (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Farmer
k. Kind of Business or Industry None
l. Birthplace (State or foreign country) Montgomery Co., Ala.
m. Citizen of What Country? USA
n. Name of Mother Jessie Walters
o. Name of Father Duncan Walter
p. Was Deceased Ever in U. S. Armed Forces? (If yes, give war or dates of service) No
q. Social Security No. 181X
r. Informant's Name and Address D. H. Graham, 441 S. Central St., Montgomery, Ala.

18. Cause of Death
Enter only one cause per line, see (a), (b), and (c)
a. Carcinoma of Bladder
b. 181X
c. 181X
d. 181X
e. 181X
f. 181X
g. 181X
h. 181X
i. 181X
j. 181X
k. 181X
l. 181X
m. 181X
n. 181X
o. 181X
p. 181X
q. 181X
r. 181X
s. 181X
t. 181X
u. 181X
v. 181X
w. 181X
x. 181X
y. 181X
z. 181X

19. Date of Operation 6-28-49
20. Major Findings of Operation Large Carcinoma of Bladder, Extensive metastases
21. Date of Death 6-28-49
22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from 6-28-49 to 6-28-49, that I saw the deceased alive on 6-28-49, and that death occurred at about 12:00 PM on 6-28-49, from the causes and on the date stated above.

23. SIGNATURE
a. Registrar's Signature D. H. Graham b. Degree or Title MD c. Address 441 S. Central St. d. Date Signed 2-21-60
e. Registrar's Signature A. H. Graham, MD f. Degree or Title MD g. Address 441 S. Central St. h. Date Signed 2-21-60

24. Burial or Disposition
a. Name of Cemetery or Crematory Montgomery b. Location (City, town, or country) (State) Montgomery, Ala.
c. Name of Funeral Director SMITH & GASTON d. Address 441 S. Central St.

VS-3-Rev. 11-60 ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COOPERATING

Image of 1950 Death Certificate for Bell Williams, daughter of Duncan Walter, Counties of James Randall, 2021

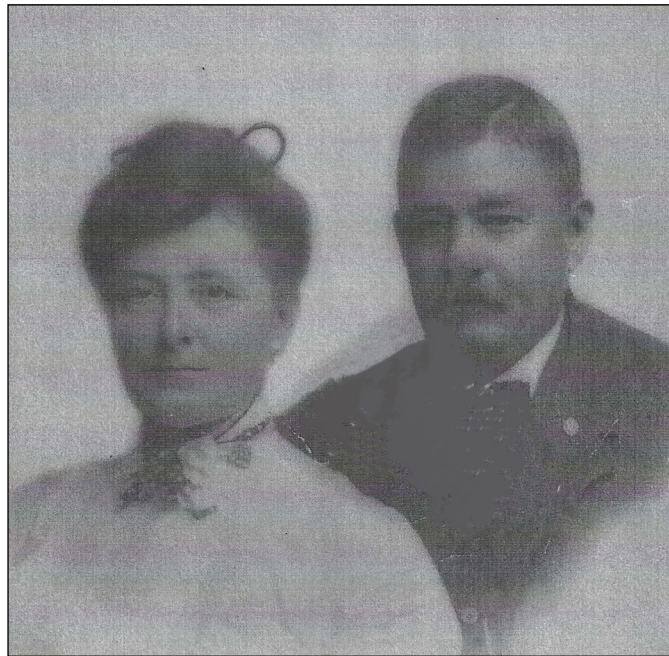


widow and children of Duncan's brother, Tristram. How this case was resolved, my research did not prove.

Duncan Campbell Walter is the only Walter brother buried at the Sprague Cemetery (now referred to as the McLaney Cemetery) in the community where once their lives had been centered.

Tombstone for Duncan Campbell Walter, Sprague Cemetery, Photo courtesy Gary Burton, 2021

Tristram Bethea Walter (1845-1909)



Callie Stacey Walter and Tristram Walter, date unknown, Photo courtesy Adam Pitts

Tristram Bethea Walter known by family and friends as "Truss," was born on January 14, 1845 to Moore Leonard and Mary Campbell Walter of southeast Montgomery County, Alabama. He and older brother Duncan enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1862. Tristram mustered in at age 17 on March 14, at Greenville, Alabama in Company E, 33rd Alabama Regiment. He re-enlisted on March 10, 1864 at Chattanooga, Tennessee and was captured on November 24, 1864 at Spring Hill, Tennessee, finally he was paroled at Camp Douglas, Illinois on June 12, 1865. Camp Douglas was located on 60 acres on the south side of Chicago, which was described on Wikipedia as the "Fair Grounds."

Camp Douglas is referred to as "The North's Andersonville" and is known as one of the largest Union Army prisoner-of-war camps in use from 1861-1865. Tristram fortunately survived seven months in this camp.

No. 264 Full name: Tristram, Bethea Walter; Present Post Office address: Snowdown
 was born on Jan. 14, 1845 at Sprague, in the County of Montgomery
 in the State of Ala.; first entered the service as private, on Mar. 10, 1862
 at Greenville Ala. in the Co. E. 33rd Ala. Regiment and continued until
Mar-10, 1864
 Give date, and whether captured, discharged, transferred, resigned or paroled, with the place of same.
 Re-enlisted as private, on Mar. 10, 1864 at Chattanooga, Ten-
 in the Co. E. 33rd Ala. Regiment and continued until Nov. 24, 1864 Captured
at Spring Hill Tenn. and paroled at Camp Douglas Ill. June 12, 1865.
 Re-enlisted as _____, on _____ at _____
 in the _____ and continued until _____
 Other service, if any: (Here give all facts in brief as to other forms of service, as Conscript officer, Staff officer, Ordnance officer, member of House Guards, of an Escort Company, or of a Reserve Company, etc., etc.):

Census of Confederate Soldiers Residing in Alabama, 1907, found on Ancestry.com, 2021

Confederate.
Tristram B. Walters
Co. E. 33rd Ala.
 Name appears as signature to an
Oath of Allegiance
 to the United States, subscribed to at (date and place not stated).
 Place of residence Montgomery, Ala.
 Complexion fair; hair black
 Eyes hazel; height 5 ft. 4 in.
 Remarks: Montgomery, Ala.
 * Incarceration shows: Hall of Prisoners of War released June 12th, 1865.
 Co. J. Home
 (905)

To the left, note the physical description for Tristram on the Confederate document copied from Ancestry.com for this study. After the War he became a member of the Camp Lomax United Confederate Veterans Chapter in Montgomery.

A year after returning to his home in Montgomery County, Truss Walter married, on November 29, 1866, Mary Leonidas (Lonnie) Jackson daughter of Benjamin Franklin Jackson and Julia Perry Moseley Jackson. Julia was the daughter of Anderson Wade Moseley of Pintlala. She is listed on an inventory for Moseley/Luckie/ Supples/ Tankersley Cemetery on Tabernacle Road in Pintlala. No marker has been found for her nor a burial place for Benjamin Franklin Jackson.



Mary Leonidas (Lonnie) Jackson Walter, Photo courtesy Mary Stowers Dunn through Ancestry.com, Dunn Family Tree, 2021

The 1870 U. S. Census lists Truss and Lonnie with two children: Walter Walters (so written in Census record) listed as 2 years of age and John A. (Adkin) Walter, birth year 1869 given by Col. John A. Walter in his *Walter Genealogy*. Adkin's mother, Lonnie, died in 1872⁸ when John Adkin was three years of age. Apparently Walter Walters (so spelled in 1870 Census) died before the second marriage as there

is no further mention of him. Truss married second in 1873, Ellen Caroline (Callie) Stacey (1856-1913), daughter of Capt. Thomas R. Stacey and Julia Campbell (See PHA Newsletter, Volume XXXIV, No. 3, October-December 2020). With Callie Stacey Walter, Truss had three more children: Mamie (1876-1957) who married Lee Calloway; Julia (1879-1935) who married Walter Edwin Pitts; Jesse Campbell Walter (1889-1949) who married Helen Colquitt. A sweet story written by Willie Walter

Confederate Oath of Allegiance card for Tristram Bethea Walter giving his physical description, found on Ancestry.com, 2021



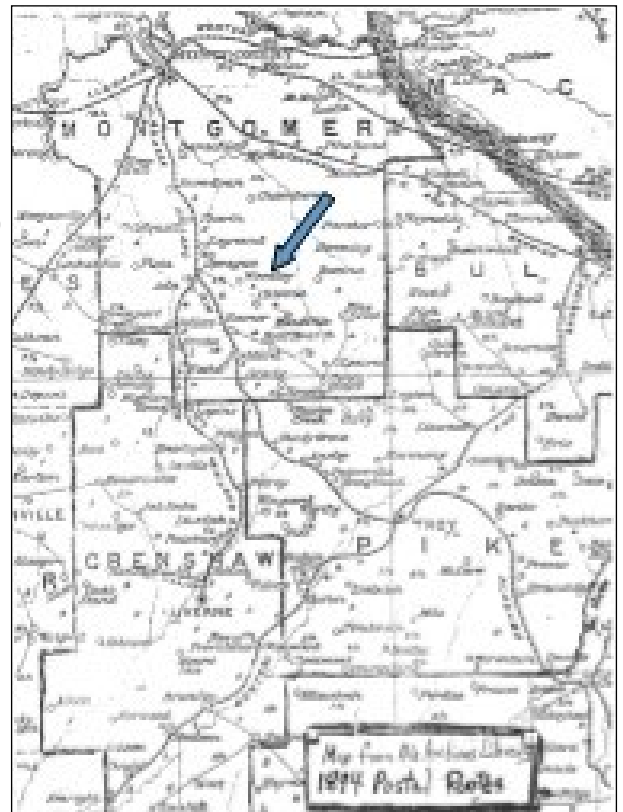
John Adkin Walter, Sr. (1862-1935) and wife, Kate Peagler Walter, date unknown, Photo courtesy Mary Stowers Dunn through Ancestry.com, Dunn Family Tree , September, 2021

Stowers in a 1982 letter to “Jule”, shared by Adam Pitts, tells that John Adkin Walter did not remember that his birth mother was Mary Leonidas Jackson Walter and grew into near adulthood before he knew that Ellen Caroline (Callie) Stacey Walter was his step-mother. That speaks volumes for Callie and the relationship she shared with her step-son.

Truss went on to be a successful planter and merchant in Sprague and Snowdown, Alabama, along with his brothers, Duncan and Jesse. He was grandfather of Willie Walter Stowers, who recalls memories of her Granddaddy and Granny Walter in the book *Miss Willie* by Mary W. Prim. Truss and Callie Walter lived at a plantation/community called “Woodley.” This area of the county, according to Ricky McLaney, is now known by local residents as Oakwood. Here Willie Leonidas Walter was born, the first child to John Adkin Walter and his wife Kate Peagler Walter on November 23, 1891. Hopefully the home was a large one as Truss, Callie and their three children plus the Adkin Walter family of three were sharing the “Woodley” home! In March, 1900, Tristram and Callie moved from “Woodley” to the Snowdown community and Sprague Junction became center of operation for the Walter farming business. In 1893 Willie gained a sister, Annie Ruth and in 1902 the girls moved to their Walter grandparents home now in Snowdown, in order to attend a better

school. The necessity for a good school influenced Adkin and Kate to send the girls farther away into Montgomery in 1906 to live with their widowed grandmother Peagler and to attend a private school conducted by Mrs. Annie Trimble.⁹

Tristram Walter died at his Snowdown residence on May 27, 1909 at age 64. He was buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Montgomery. About two months after his death, son Adkin and wife Kate moved from Sprague to Snowdown and two years later, Tristram’s granddaughter, Willie Walter married Crump Mason Stowers in 1911; she remained a devoted Snowdown community activist until her death in 1983. Tristram had set an example for Willie of doing work for the public good. He and his two brothers, Duncan and Jesse Bethea worked to have Bethesda Baptist Church at Ada moved in 1892 to Sprague where they provided two acres of land for the church building and a cemetery.¹⁰ Today the Church is gone but the cemetery is the resting place for Duncan Walter, two wives and one daughter of Jesse B. Walter. Sprague community residents and descendants of Knox McLaney, Sr. are buried here and the family maintains the cemetery now known as the McLaney Cemetery. The Bethesda Church closed in 1927 and is no longer extant. Minutes for the church were given to the Pintlala His-



1894 Map of Postal Routes showing “Woodley” where Truss Walter family lived, Personal Files, from research of J.J. and Laurie Sanders



Willie Walter Stowers, ca. 1982 from *Miss Willie* by Mary Prim

torical Association by Mrs. David A. Boyd in an unknown year.

The Snowdoun Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in large part by the three Walter Brothers: Duncan, Truss and Jesse Bethea around 1890/91. A church had existed on the land donated by the brothers for a Methodist Church, but had burned. The church location seemed doomed as a new church was destroyed by cyclonic winds around 1900. The Walter family provided financial assistance for the second church. A third church was destroyed again by wind in 1924, the replacement continues as Snowdoun United Methodist Church in 2021.¹¹



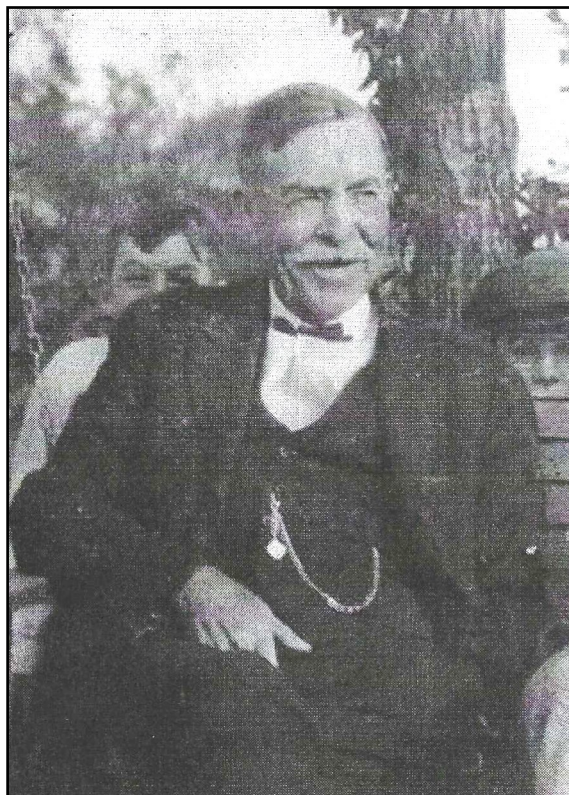
Tombstone for Tristram Bethea Walter, Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery, AL, Photo courtesy Gary Burton 2021

Masonic Activity of Walter Brothers

The Ramer Lodge Number 243, established around 1857, held their meetings on the second floor of the Sampey Memorial Baptist Church, Ramer, Alabama. Records from Lodge 243 are currently in possession of PHA member Alan Davis of Montgomery. Evander K. Walter, born around 1835 is listed in Lodge records for June 5, 1869 as paying his dues of \$2.00. Tristram Bethea Walter (1845-1909) Lodge records indicate his progression as a Mason: Entered Apprentice and paid \$15.00 on May 21, 1870; attained the Fellow Craft degree on June 2, 1870 and paid a \$5.00 fee and became a Master Mason on July 2, 1870/71 and paid a \$10.00 fee. Masonic Records for the Ramer Lodge document attendance at a Lodge meeting for Jesse Bethea Walter and Tristram Bethea Walter in 1878; Tristram, recorded again present on June 17, 1871.¹² His tombstone in Greenwood Cemetery includes a Masonic symbol incised into the stone and a metal Confederate marker placed near the stone.

Jesse Bethea Walter

(1855-1925)



Jesse Bethea Walter, date unknown, youth in back, unknown; found on Ancestry.com; Dawson Garrett Family Tree

Jesse Bethea was the youngest of eight children born to Moore Leonard and Mary Campbell Walter in 1855, Montgomery County, Alabama. The 1860 U. S. Census documents Jesse living with his parents and four siblings; the 1880 U. S. Census informs readers that Jesse made his home with his brother, Tristram and his wife Callie and their children John Adkin (11 years), Mamie (3 years) and Julia (between 9 to 12) in the Robertson's Cross Roads area of Montgomery County.

Jesse married first, Emma Callaway; second, Lucy Callaway and by 1899 to third wife, Florence Robertson. Emma and Lucy are buried at the Sprague Cemetery. Jesse and Florence lived in the Snowdoun area with four children according to the 1900 census. In 1910 Jesse listed his business as a grocery store and included six children on the Census Record. By the 1920 Federal Census, Jesse, Florence and nine children were living in Snowdoun. Jesse listed his business as "general store." Florence died in 1921. Only four years later on June 10, 1925, Jesse passed away at his Snowdoun, Alabama home and was buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery, just feet away from brother, Tristram. His obituary in the *Montgomery Advertiser* listed his children numbering eleven.

Ancestry.com provides a listing of U. S. Postmasters, 1832-1971 and indicates that Jesse Bethea Walter was appointed postmaster at Woodley in 1880, replaced in 1892 and Woodley Post Office closed in 1895 when the mail was dispatched to Sprague. At Snowdoun, Tristram Walter was appointed in November, 1905 (difficult to read) and Jesse Bethea Walter was appointed to same Post Office in July, 1909, two months after death of brother, Tristram.

The business acumen of Jesse, Sr. proved to make him a successful businessman. His Last Will and Testament, located at Ancestry.com, signed and dated on May 24, 1922 reflects a large estate and complicated to this writer. Jesse, Sr. named Jesse B. Walter, Jr. and The First National Bank of Montgomery as Executors, guardians of minor children and Trustees for the education of children belonging to Jesse, Sr. His obituary listed eleven children. His will describes U. S. Liberty Bonds amounting to \$20,000.00, plus interest, that were set aside in a Trust for the education of all minor (under 21 years) children at the time of his

death. Jesse, Sr. was covered by a \$90,000.00 life insurance policy. His largest asset was ownership of about 5200 acres of land at Sprague Junction known as the Walter Plantation plus around 600 acres near Snowdown and 20 acres in Snowdown used for a homeplace.¹³

By 1927 surviving children of Jesse B. Walter, Sr. filed a petition in court seeking authority to sell the Walter Plantation to Robert J. Bell.¹⁴ The land continued to change hands in differing acreage amounts. It was my privilege to examine several Abstracts of Title from some owners of the original Walter land—the last exchange (viewed by me) being in 1939 from John T. Walter to C. K. McLaney.¹⁵

This ends Part I of the Walter Brothers and the next edition of the PHA Newsletter will pick up with “The Firm” and its agricultural operations.

Endnotes

1. www.ancestry.com: Jeremiah Walter, father of M.L. Walter, has written his son's name as Leonard Moore Walter in his will of 1853, numerous documents signed by the son himself, use Moore Leonard Walter.
2. Col. John Adkin Walter, Walter Genealogical Study (self published, ca. 1963) unpaginated
3. www.ancestry.com
4. www.ancestry.com, Source for voter registration form and Deed Book Entry, Coffee County
5. www.ancestry.com
6. www.ancestry.com, Hand written dispersal of slaves
7. Newspapers.com by ancestry, *Montgomery Advertiser*, Friday, September 19, 1890
8. Col. John Adkin Walter, Walter Genealogical Study (self published, ca. 1963) unpaginated; Lonnie Walter would have been 19 years old when married and 25 years of age at her death
9. Mary Prim, *Miss Willie*, 1982, p. 26
10. *Heritage of Montgomery County Alabama*, 2001, p.15
11. *Heritage of Montgomery County Alabama*, 2001, p. 57
12. Alan Davis notes from Ramer Lodge #243 Minutes, shared in September, 2021
13. Abstract of Title, Lent by Alan Davis
14. Abstract of Title, Lent by Alan Davis
15. Abstract of Title, Lent by Ricky McLaney

EXTENDED ILLNESS RESULTS IN DEATH OF J. B. WALTER

**Prominent Planter and Business
Man Had Achieved Enviably
Success; Funeral Services
Will Be Held Thursday**

Following an extended illness, Jesse B. Walter, 69, died Wednesday morning at one o'clock, at his residence at Snowdown. Mr. Walter was one of the most prominent planters in this section of Alabama and was also a member of the firm of Walter Brothers. Both as a planter and a business man, he achieved an enviable success. Prominent in religious, social and business circles in the county, Mr. Walter was at the time of his death, an elder in the Presbyterian church. His death has brought deep sorrow to the community, for it is probable that no man in Montgomery county had more devoted friends.

He is survived by four daughters, Miss Louise Walter and Miss Cally Walter, of Snowdown; Mrs. Charles E. Ward, of Nashville, Tenn., and Mrs. P. H. Graham, of Prattville; also by seven sons, J. B. Walter, Jr., Will Robertson Walter, Van Campbell Walter, John Thomas Walter, Robert Hart Walter, Charles Mason Walter and Berney Hill Walter, all of Snowdown.

Funeral services will be conducted at the residence, Thursday morning at 11 o'clock, by Reverend C. H. Rogers. Interment will be at Oakwood cemetery. The Leak company in charge.

The following will act as pallbearers: Frank Calloway, Willis Calloway, T. W. Robertson, J. P. Curry, H. J. Hooper and W. E. Pitts.

Honorary pallbearers will be: J. A. Walter, J. C. Walter, C. M. Robertson, Lee Calloway, Joseph Calloway, Dr. Charles Thigpen, A. M. Baldwin, Myer Loeb, Wyley Hill, Sr., W. R. Walter, H. C. Lamar, Dr. J. C. Mason, J. H. Smith, G. F. Nissen and Clark Taylor.

From *Montgomery Advertiser*, June 11, 1925 for Jesse Bethea Walter, Obituary found at Newspapers.com by Ancestry

Sources

Books

Harlee, William Curry. *Kinfolks : a Genealogical and Biographical Record...* 4 volumes, Self Published, New Orleans, LA., 1937

The Heritage of Montgomery County, Alabama, Published by Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., Clanton, AL 35046 and The Montgomery County Heritage Book Committee, 2001, pp. 15 and 57

Prim, Mary. *Miss Willie*. Self Published, 1982

Documents

Walter, Col. John Adkin. *Genealogy of the Walter Family*. Self Published, ca. 1963.

Abstract of Title belonging to Alan Davis, Montgomery, AL

Abstract of Title (4) belonging to Mary Stowers Dunn, Montgomery, AL

Abstract of Title belonging to Ricky McLaney, Sprague, AL

Internet

www.ancestry.com

www.newspapers.com

Interviews

Alan Davis varying dates in August and September, 2021

Ricky McLaney, varying dates in August and September, 2021

James Randall, varying dates in September, 2021

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Gary Burton, for photography and use of newspapers.com

Jerrie Burton, for scanning of images

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Mary Stowers Dunn for getting me started by introducing me to *Miss Willie* by Mary Prim

Dallas Hanbury, Montgomery County Archivist for his knowledge of Montgomery County records held at the Probate Office, Montgomery County Archives

Ricky McLaney, life long resident of Sprague, who shared his memories, time answering questions and use of his property abstracts

Kitty Dawson Norris, for her records and materials found on her Family Tree at www.ancestry.com

Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society, Enterprise, Alabama for willingness to search Coffee County records

Adam Pitts for sharing his Walter research on Ancestry.com

James Randall, for being so generous with his research into Duncan Walter and his various family relationships

I am indebted to you all!

Advertisement associated with Duncan C. Walter, advertisement courtesy Ricky McLaney

STOLEN MULE!

STOP THIEF!

A heavy set, black Horse Mule, in good order, about 14 to 15 hands high, with high arched neck, slightly roman nose, with a very SMALL eye, PECULIARLY set in his head, was Stolen from me on Saturday Night, December 14, 1889. Said mule is high spirited, recently roached, recently had front shoes taken off, drives and rides well, is gentle and kind.

Said Mule was Stolen by one Nick Brooks, (colored) Nick is stoutly built, weighs about 175 lbs; age about 25; has no beard, and shows the whites of his eyes more than usual. He was raised near here, and has a family living in "Boguehoma," city of Montgomery. He is an ex-convict from Birmingham, committed a felony after his discharge; ~~came back here and committed another felony on the plantation of D. C. Walters, of Oakwood, Montgomery County, where he is wanted, and Stole my Mule to get away on.~~ He is a great gambler; owns and carries a 16 shot repeating rifle. When last seen was dressed in black frock coat, dark vest, flannel shirt, fancy striped pants red about them, and a black hat. Nick is dark ginger cake color. I will pay \$15.00 for the Mule, and \$25.00 for Thief, with evidence to convict.

HAMILTON McINTYRE,
LeGRAND, ALA.
 16 Miles South of Montgomery, Ala. Midland R. R.

G. W. Beere & Co., Printers, Montgomery, Ala.

Event To Honor Creek Indian Major David Moniac

Born in Pintlala December 1802, Major David Moniac will be posthumously honored by the Governor in Alabama's State Capitol on November 18 at 10:00 a.m. As the son of Sam Moniac, Major David Moniac was the first Native American to enter West Point from Alabama. He died in the Battle of Wahoo Swamp, November, 1836.

The event is open to the public, but seating is limited. Attorney Richard Allen is organizing the event and may be reached at 334-241-8002.



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

*c/o Pintlala Public Library
255 Federal Road
Hope Hull, AL 36043*

NEXT MEETING

**OCTOBER 17, 2021
2:30 P.M.
PINTLALA BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Join the Pintlala Historical Association
Please mail completed form & dues to:

**Pintlala Historical Association
Ina Slade
15212 Highway 31
Hope Hull, Alabama 36043**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone (Home & Office) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Areas of Interest _____

If you are interested in genealogy, please indicate family surnames _____

\$15.00 Annual Dues