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Written by

Fielding Lewis Walker

In September of 1889 I went to Amherst to pay a last tribute of respect to my Aunt Sallie E. Rose, my father's sister. I met with Mr. John Robertson, a lawyer of that place whom I found was a distant kinsman of mine. Mr. Robertson was descended from Wyatt Powell who was my great grandfather, being the father of my father's mother. Mr. Robertson told me the following of my father's people:

Robert Davis, a Scotch fur trader, married a sister of the noted Indian Chief, Cornstalk. Davis' daughter married a Welshman named William Floyd. They had a large family and one of the sons married Miss Buchanan and their son was Secretary of War under Jackson and Governor of Virginia. He was father of Gen. John B. Floyd, also Governor of Virginia, so said Dr. William F. Floyd, brother of Gen. John B. Floyd.

John Floyd, the father of Governor Floyd, had a sister Sarah Floyd who married Wyatt Powell of Amherst County, Virginia where William Floyd lived and died. They had a large family:

- Dr. James Powell
- Nancy Floyd Powell, wife of Robert Walker, the father of Dr. Ajax Walker, my father
- Mrs. Brown
- Mrs. Burton
- Mrs. Coleman

Mr. John Robertson was descended from Mrs. Brown.

He also told me what had been handed down about my great grandfather, Wyatt Powell's courtship and marriage. He was very much in love with Sarah Floyd and had courted her repeatedly, but was declined. On one occasion after being discarded by her he went out and published the banns between himself and Sarah Floyd. When she heard of it, she was greatly exasperated and denied it, saying there was no truth in it. His friends became uneasy knowing that the punishment was severe for doing such a thing and inquired of him why he did it as it might put him in jail for a long time. He said his love for her was such that he had just a lief be in jail as any where if he could not marry her. The families were great friends and Sarah Floyd agreed to marry him rather than have him go to jail. Such love certainly deserved such a reward.

While I am on the subject of my father's family, (as I intend at some time to write a history of my family, the Walkers and Lewis's), I will add at this time what I know in regard to the Walkers. What I have been able to gather is

very limited, my father having died when I was only seven (7) years old and my mother has often told me that he knew little of his family.

As far back as I can go is to my great grandfather, Baylor Walker, who lived in King and Queen County, Virginia. I do not know whom he married (her name was Frances) or how many children he had. I only know of one son, Robert Walker, my grandfather who was born in King and Queen County, Virginia December 5, 1765. He moved to Amherst County, Virginia and married Nancy Floyd Powell. He owned a large plantation known then as Willow Grove, now known as "The Oaks", owned at this time by a Mr. Evans. My father inherited this place or a large part of it and lived there a short time after he was married, and sold it when he moved to Milton, N. C.

As far as I know my grandfather, Robert Walker, had five sons and three daughters, Peter, Thomas, Ajax, Wyatt and Baylor, Susan, Ann and Sally. Susan and Ann never married, Sally married Dr. Harry Rose of Amherst County. She outlived all of the family and died in Amherst September 18, 1889, aged 76 years. I don't think Wyatt or Baylor ever married. Thomas married, had one son, Tom, who died 1857 or 1858. Peter moved to Tuscumbia, Alabama and had children, was judge of one of the courts. I think his descendants are still in Alabama at this time. My Aunt, Sally Rose, had two grandsons, the sons of her daughter Nannie, wife of Paul C. Cabell, Henry and Carrington Cabell.

My father, Ajax Walker, was born in Amherst County, Virginia, November 15, 1794. He was in the War of 1812 and graduated in medicine in Philadelphia and moved to Milton, N. C. about 1818. Then he married my mother, Lucy Meriwether Lewis, daughter of Charles Lewis of Caswell County, N. C., in 1820, he being 26 years old and she 16. My father, as I have stated before, lived in Amherst a few years after his marriage and then returned to Milton to stay. He lived in three places: The house now owned by Dick Ferguson at the lower end of Main Street on the North Side, then at a place now owned by Jarvis Frion and used by him as a Storehouse. He then moved to the place he afterwards bought. The house is now owned by L. H. Hunt, is on High Street and is on the high hill over County Line Creek - this home was built by Mr. Warner Williams, a first cousin of my mother's who married a half sister of my mother. My father owned then about 50 acres, half of which was in North Carolina and half in Virginia. He also owned the toll bridge over Dan River at Milton which was washed away by high water in August 1860, a few months after he died.

My father lived at this place until his death. My mother lived there until after the War, when she went to

I live with Uncle Nick as my brother Henry had moved to Tarboro, N. C. and I was farming. Uncle Nick, whose wife had died in 1858, was living alone in the house at the corner of Main and High Streets, now occupied by the family of Captain Jack Irvine.

My mother had lived at her old homestead alone most of the four years of the War, my brother Henry and myself both being in the service. I returned to Milton to live after farming and my mother moved then from Uncle Nick's to my home where she lived until her death in 1874.

I have spoken of the three (3) older children, but will now give the names of all: Robert Lewis, Ann Eliza, Nicholas Lewis, Mary Frances, Lucy Lewis, Charles Baylor, Henry Ajax, Fielding Lewis and Sally Rose.

I have a history of the Lewis family written by a Mr. P. Slaughter of Culepper County. My mother was a daughter of Charles Lewis (her name being Lucy Meriwether Lewis) who was the son of John. While I am speaking of my dear mother I will say that no man was ever born of a better one. She was a devoted Christian and certainly none surpassed her in her love for her fellow creatures and no cause from the poor or afflicted ever made to her went unanswered.

I will now state something of my own life. I was born in Milton, N. C., July 4, 1843, and spent my boyhood there. Nothing occurred in my life worthy of special note. My father died in 1850 when I was 7 years old. I went to school first to Mr. Farrar, a Northern man, then to Mrs. Susan Pate, James C. Smity, Halbert G. Hill now a D.D. of the Presbyterian Church, James R. MacClain, W. R. Berkeley and Mr. Ramsey. In 1860 I went to Hampden Sidney College and was there when the Civil War began April 1861. As my brother Henry had volunteered in the Milton Blues, I came home in April the day before he left for the army. I spent the time from then until May 1862 partly at home and partly at College.

In May 1862 I went to Richmond to be with Capt. John W. Lewis of Artillery which I joined in a few weeks. Soon after going with this Company, one of the Sergeants put in a substitute and the Captain offered to promote to his place the one who could drill a detachment the best by a certain date. I was successful and was made Second Sergeant. Edward Roe Stamps, my school and college mate, was made orderly sergeant. I stayed with my command and we were kept in Camp Lee (now the Fair ground in Richmond) until the fall of 1862 when we were moved to Stearns' farm just below Richmond where we stayed for a month or so.

We joined the main army in November 1862 by going to Fredericksburg where on the seventeenth of that month, I was

in my first engagement. General Burnside of the Federal Army had made a rapid movement towards Richmond from Manassas and a large part of his army arrived at Fredericksburg some days ahead of General Lee. We were very weak then but we were able to stop him, (he not knowing our force) until General Lee's Army arrived. I was shortly after, December 12, 1862, in the battle of Fredericksburg and we stayed at or near Fredericksburg until Spring of 1862. At this time the battle of Chancellorsville was fought. My battery was in Fredericksburg, and engagement which took place at the same time.

Then came the campaign that led to the battle of Gettysburg in Penn. in which I was engaged. After the return from there we spent the fall and winter in Albermarle County, Virginia, and were engaged in the battle of the Wilderness which followed in the Spring of 1864. Though not in any of the large battles, we were engaged in the lines at Spottsylvania Court House and then came with the Army to Petersburg. We were taken at this time from Richardson's or Garnett's batallion and put under Colonel W. I. Poague of Rockbridge and were sent down on James River near Dutch Gap to keep General Ben Butler from digging that Gap. The winter of 1864 was spent then worrying him with mortars. The morning that General Grant broke through the Confederate lines we were ordered to Petersburg and were closely engaged. Then came the marking and fighting from there to Appomattox Court House where we surrendered. In this battle I had charge of two (2) guns, one of the Lieutenants being away and was standing by the last cannon fired in General Lee's Army.

After the surrender on April 9, 1865, I came back to my home in Milton, N. C. My brother Henry, Adjutant in thirteenth N. C. Regiment, was wounded in the battle of Chancellorsville, having his thigh bone broken and was laid up for a length of time. He was afterwards made Lieutenant of Engineers but never served as he was never able to do any service. Henry lived in Milton for a few years after the War and then moved to Edgecomb, N. C., where he married Miss Mary McCotta Owens, the daughter of a Baptist minister. She died leaving two (2) children, the youngest an infant girl died a short time after her mother. Henry's health became poor and he came back to Milton. He stayed with one sister in law, Mrs. Emily Hunt Walker, the wife of our brother Nick, and died at her house February 1879, age 38 years. He left one son, John Owens Walker, who is at this time in Tennessee.

My sister, Eliza Ann, who married Thomas Stamps left no children. My brother Nick who married Emily Hunt left six (6) children:

- Lewis Walker - married Sue Cunningham
- Lucy Lewis Walker - unmarried

Robert Lewis Walker - married Connie Wilson,
 daughter of Dr. John Wilson and has one
 daughter, Margaret
 Leonard Hunt Walker - unmarried
 William Hunt Walker - married Kate Dibrell of
 Richmond and has children
 Nicholas Lewis Walker - unmarried

After my return from the Army in April 1865 I stayed at the homestead and made a crop. In the fall of that year, I farmed the Sandy Creek portion of Uncle Nick's farm and lived there until 1868. My farming was a great failure and I not only made no money but found myself in debt \$1600.00 in 1868.

I had been in the army seventeen months without a furlough when I was granted a leave of six (6) weeks to drum up recruits. This was during October and November 1862. While there, I fell desperately in love with Penelope Campbell Wilson, daughter of John Wilson, who was then 14 years old. She returned my love and while she was too young for a formal engagement it was an engagement in fact. She wrote me a letter engaging herself to me on the day she was 16, December 6, 1864. This letter I still have as one of my treasures. We were married November 28, 1866, and went to the farm in Pittsylvania and lived in a one room log cabin with a loft and a happier couple never lived in a palace.

While living there, my oldest child, Henry Ajax Walker, was born in Milton in his grandfather Wilson's home there October 22, 1867. We remained on the farm to the fall of 1868 when we moved to Milton and lived at the home of my father - in - law, John Wilson.

This record was never finished but later in 1918 he wrote other memoirs.

This paper was recopied from a typed copy of a copy of the handwritten original. I have copies of both of these papers in my possession. I do not know who made the first typed copy. I do not know the location of the original handwritten paper. Both of my copies came from my father - in - law, Lewis Meriwether Walker, Jr.

Marilyn Scherer Taylor Walker
 October 11, 1990

Reminiscent - May 20, 1918

My thoughts have been dwelling in the past and my mind has been taken up with things pertaining to my people and this has been brought about from this date as it is the 98th Anniversary of my parents' marriage which occurred May 20, 1820. I suppose this brought on a dream which I had last night, a very vivid one of my childhood days. It seems I was at my childhood home at Milton, N. C., the place at which I was born and raised and lived until 1862, at which time I entered the Confederate Army. My home was in High Street and it stands now on the hill above the railroad station, the place at which Major Leonard Hunt has lately died. In my dreams I was there and passed through an old orchard. I saw through the trees a cabin in which one old servant, Nancy Williams (known to we boys as Aunt Nannie) lived in - She was our washer - woman. I delighted to play at her cabin. She did the washing for our family from my earliest recollection until after the War and she was a good old soul. I was fond of chickens and she loved me as I loved her. As I said, I saw her old cabin through the trees in my dream. I was not a child but as I am right today tho the appearance of the cabin was what it was when I was a boy. I was anxious to see the old cabin realizing that Aunt Nannie and her husband, Uncle Plump, had passed away. I went out to the cabin and found it occupied by strangers. They were kind to me and told me their names as slaves and I wish I could remember this but that passed away. I sat down and talked with them for some time and I then went down a steep hill which slopes down to County Line Creek, and was the boundary of the little 50 acre farm that we lived on. We crossed the creek to the land that formerly belonged to my cousin, Fielding B. Lewis and there stopped at the remains of some old barn and I attempted to tell those with me about this country when occupied by Indians - They seemed not to take any interest in it. I stopped and waked and then I was wide awake for sometime. While thinking over my dream and the marriage of my parents I concluded I would write and tell something of those who were so dear to me. As soon as I got to my office I began this which I hope I may be able to complete.

The County Line Creek that I spoke of above was one of the joys of my life as a boy. I was extremely fond of bathing and swimming in it and on its banks was a great play ground. This creek was on the north side of our farm and Dan River on the west side. One of my earliest recollections while I wore dresses was my father taking me to the River and taking off my dress and letting me play in the water.

My father was Dr. Ajax Walker and was born in Amherst County, Virginia, August 15, 1794. His father was Robert Walker, born in King and Queen County, Virginia, April 15,

1765, and moved to Amherst County. He married Nancy Floyd Powell. His father was Baylor Walker of King and Queen; his father was John Walker of King & Queen; and his father Thomas Walker, the immigrant from England. My father, Dr. Ajax Walker, was in the War of 1812 and was discharged in 1815, which discharge I have here. He then graduated in Medicine in Philadelphia and moved from Amherst County to Milton, N. C. and there met my mother and they were married May 20, 1820.

My mother was Lucy Meriwether Lewis, daughter of Charles Lewis who lived on his farm on Dan River, above Milton, N. C. This farm was in Caswell County in North Carolina where my mother was born November 5, 1804.

Charles Lewis' father was John Lewis, son of Charles Lewis of the Byrd in Goochland County who married Mary Howell.

He, John Lewis, married Jane, the daughter of his Uncle, Colonel Robert Lewis of Belvoir in Albemarle County, Virginia. Colonel Robert Lewis' wife was Jane Meriwether. Charles Lewis of the Byrd and Robert Lewis of Belvoir were brothers and their father was John Lewis of Gloucester County whose wife was Elizabeth Warner the daughter of Augustine Warner of Gloucester County, Virginia.

John Lewis, my great grandfather, moved from Goochland County, Virginia, and settled in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, before the Revolutionary War. He owned land in Pittsylvania and Halifax Counties, Virginia, and in Caswell County, N. C.

My parents were married at my grandfather's place in Caswell County, N. C. I know very little of it but I know the fashion in those days for dress clothing was knee breeches and white silk stockings with large buckles on low quartered shoes. That was my father's dress when he was a bridegroom.

Many reports have I had of my mother's beauty and she was very young at the time of her marriage - Old "Aunt Crockett" has told me often of seeing her when a bride. At this time "Aunt Crockett" was a child and was carried in the room where my mother was sitting - She was told she must go in and see the bride - Aunt Crockett insisted that she was not a lady but a picture.

My mother's father was a large land and slave owner. My mother's riches were talked of and it is said that some of her admirers would go to her home and throw rocks on the cabins to see how many negroes would come out.

There were nine children of the marriage of Dr. Ajax Walker and Lucy Meriwether Lewis. They were Nicholas Lewis Walker who was born 1826, in Amherst County, Virginia; married Emily Hunt, had 6 children and died 1861.

Charles Baylor Walker who died at 18 years.

Henry Ajax Walker born 1841, was educated at Harvard University in Massachusetts. He was there when the Civil War began and returned from the north on the last train that came through. He entered the Confederate Army in April 1861, in the Milton Blues where he was made Sergeant Major of the 13th North Carolina Regiment. He later became Adjutant of this Regiment with rank of First Lieutenant. He was a Civil Engineer and the Confederate Government made him Lt. of the Engineering. In the meantime he was so badly wounded at Chancellorsville that he was not able to serve longer. Henry Ajax Walker lived until 1879 and died in Milton.

Eliza Ann Walker was born in 1824, married Thomas Stamps, lived for some years in Florida and died 1851.

My father died at 56 years of age in 1850. My mother was a widow 24 years and died in Milton in 1874.

My father died when I was almost 7 years old so I know little of him. This left two children, Henry and myself. My mother was an earnest Christian and a lovely character. She was thoughtful of the poor, in fact, so much so, that she did not enjoy the comforts that she knew the poor did not have. I often tried to impress her that her suffering would not relieve the poor. She was mild in manner and bearing and would often suffer imposition rather than stand for her rights. I never knew a more faithful attendant at Church service and she never missed for any trivial reason.

When the War came on she showed great patriotism for the Confederate cause.

My brother, Henry, entered the War in 1861 and I in 1862. I never knew my mother to object to either of us going or making a complaint to being left alone or of even writing to us a low spirited letter though she was left alone with her slaves. When I have the opportunity I never fail to speak in the highest terms of their care and devotion to her and her two sons. I have ever had love in my heart for those servants so devoted to my mother.

My brother, Henry, and myself were 8 and 6 years old when my father died. I think in that day the Presbyterian Church would not christen children whose parents were not both members of the church. As my father was not a member, we were not christened as infants and after his death we

were both christened. It may be done sometimes but I never knew of another instance of this kind. I have never failed to bless my mother for having it done. Of course, being 6 years old I remember it well. Rev. Jacob Doll was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at the time. I was much addicted to going to sleep in church as a child and never got over the habit entirely - my mother was as careful to take her children to Church services as she was to go herself.

I was next to the youngest child, a girl named Sally Rose (for my father's sister Sally who lived in Amherst county, Virginia, and married Dr. Rose) I think she, Sally Rose, was 18 months younger than I and died when 18 months old. I remember that there were two colored nurses and Henry, Sally Rose and I playing in the attic. We were all kneeling around the little darling and everybody admiring her. She was standing and putting her finger in our mouths as we kneeled having such a happy time. When she put her finger in my mouth I bit it, I don't know why I should have done so as nothing was further from my heart that causing her pain. This broke up a pleasant meeting and I got a scolding from the elder ones. But for this circumstance I might not have remembered Sally Rose as it is I have an uncertain feeling of her after death and her clothing.

There is another occurrence in my life at three years of age - I have mentioned before of my sister, Eliza Ann Walker marrying Thomas Stamps. They lived on a farm in Virginia when I first remember them and they used to come to our house on horse back. She rode a good sized pony. I was such an admirer of my sister and her pony that I named all my cornstalk horses after her pony which was "Mary Mesmer".

I never knew where she got the name tho it might be the name of some heroine in a book. Eliza Ann Walker and Thomas Stamps were married two years or more before I was born. When I first remember them they were both delicate, having some lung trouble. They decided to go to Florida. This was in 1846 - I think they were to go through the country to Charleston, S. C. and then by steamer to Florida. They expected to make their home there so they carried all their slaves with them. I have an impression that my brother Nicholas Lewis Walker who was about 20 years old came from Chapel Hill where he was at College. I do not know whether or not he graduated there. He came home to go with Eliza Ann and Thomas Stamps, her husband, to make his home there also. He went through the Country in a wagon having charge of the negroes of Eliza Ann and Thomas Stamps as well as his own.

I remember so well when the white tents were raised in our front yard and stood there some days and how I enjoyed as a boy running in front of the tents. I remember so well the wagons with the white top on them and the negroes

dressed up in their best clothes, marching off from our front yard up the street going to Florida. My impression is that they were going into making sugar and that they had bought land from a foreigner, German, I think. And I think they had been there only a few years when a storm destroyed the sugar house that had been built there. The expense was so great they did not rebuild and brother Nick came back. Brother Tom and Sister moved to Key West where they lived for some years. Later both of them came home and died of consumption. After Brother Nick came back he was married in 1849 to Emily Hunt. I am uncertain as to date of his return from Florida.

I have a letter that my nephew R. E. Walker gave me that he found among brother Nick's papers that was written to him while he was in Florida 1846. From that, brother Nick had evidently been in Florida sometime. I was born July 4, 1843 and so it seems I was not three years old when I knew these things.

While I am writing of my brother Nicholas Lewis Walker, I will tell of his family. He married in 1849, Emily Hunt, who was the niece of my Uncle's (Nicholas Meriwether Lewis) wife who was Lucy Bullock of Granville County, N. C. Emily Hunt after the death of her mother went to live with Uncle Nick and Aunt Lucy in Milton.

Emily and brother Nick had six children:

Lewis Walker - married Sue Cunningham of Person County, N. C. now lives in Milton, no children living.

Lucy Walker - dead

Robert Lewis Walker - married Cornelia Wilson, daughter of Dr. John Wilson of Milton. He is dead and his wife lives with her daughter Margaret, the wife of Dr. P. W. Miles, in Danville, Virginia.

Leonard Hunt - lives in Henderson, Kentucky. No children.

William Hunt Walker - married Kate Dibrell of Richmond, Virginia. He is dead. She lives in Raleigh, N. C. with her son, Nick. She has also a son, Alfonso, who lives in London, England at this time. There are three daughters, Emily, Kate and Elizabeth. Kate married Dr. Thomas Stamps of Lumber Bridge, N. C. This Thomas Stamps is a nephew of the Thomas Stamps who married my sister, Eliza.

Nicholas Lewis Walker - lives in Oklahoma, married. No children.

Henry Ajax Walker - married Mary McCotter Owens of Talbora, N. C. Both are dead, leaving one son, John Owens Walker who lives in Penn.

Writing this, that it may be left for my children, I have thought it well to put as I have done the other descendants of my parents beside my own, so that in years to come the record here can be referred to. If one of my ancestors had written something like this of my parents and my grandparents, it would be a great pleasure to me and a thing of interest to us all. There are so many things of real importance that I could have known just for the asking and I regret that I did not ask about them. I have often wondered who performed the marriage ceremony of my parents and for whom my mother was named Lucy. No records of the Lewis family have I noticed a Lucy until my mother. Of course, she got her middle name Meriwether from the family of her grandmother who was Jane Meriwether, the wife of John Lewis.

In telling of those who were dear to me, I would wish to have the pen of a ready writer to tell of them and their character, but a person who is as slow of thought and slower of words, I cannot do proper justice to their characters and goodness for lack of expression.

Of course, in naming those I knew and loved best I would name my wife first of all but as this begins with my childhood, I will tell first of my mother. In childhood and afterwards I called her "Ma" - . In writing I speak of her as Mother because she regretted not having taught me to say "Mother and Father" - I was so impressed and acted in this by having my children say Mother and Father. To keep it in their minds, I called by wife Mother and she called me Father.

My mother was the salt of the earth. She was sweet and gentle in the management of her children, but not very demonstrative towards them. I remember as a small boy I visited often at the home of Dr. Stamps whose son, Edward Roe was about my age and it was a pleasant place to visit. While there was no blood kin between the family, there was marriage connection that made us claim kin. Mrs. Stamps, "Cousin Lizzie" as we knew her was always as kind as could be, thought a great deal of her children and showed it to them and to other people. On one occasion she was telling of Ed Roe's good qualities and she said, "You know, Fie, every Mother like the crow think her young ones the blackest, don't they?" I said that if my mother thought so she had never said so. It was not her nature to do this (which I think is a good thing for children) but there was no reason to doubt her love which was intense. She was kind to every one especially the poor, economical and could not bear waste of any kind. She used to say, Dr. Walker, my father always said that his wife should have control of the pocketbook, then the family would be in better financial

Uncle Nick had a room near his old home for sometime. My mother lived with us until her death in 1874. I don't think I ever dreamed of her for forty years or more after her death and had such a remarkable one of her and so vivid, it is in my mind as fresh as then.

My Uncle Nicholas Meriwether Lewis was my mother's brother and about three years older. He married when a young man, Miss Lucy Bullock of Granville County, N. C. It was a large family and I remember two of her brothers, Richard and James Bullock. She was one of the sweetest of women. She died in 1858. Uncle Nick lived to be 88 years old and died in 1889 in Milton, N. C. on his birthday, November 28th.

He was a good man and elder in the Presbyterian Church in Milton and the most regular attendant on divine worship I ever knew of a man but not more so than my mother. He was very methodical, had used tobacco from childhood but in the most moderate way and never let it increase on him. He was a man of great faith. He kept in fine health the whole of his life and he seemed to have died by wearing out and never appeared to be sick. About run down my nephew Lewis Walker, the son of my brother Nick, had taken his supper to him, some bread and milk, and was sitting by him. While Uncle Nick was propped up, Lewis was feeding him with a spoon. He said he had fed him a little while and he seemed to enjoy his supper. Then between one spoonful and the next one offered to him, Uncle Nick died. He was always interested in the salvation of souls -. He was Magistrate for many years and allowed to marry people. The laws of Virginia about marrying were very stringent those days and only preachers could perform the ceremony. In North Carolina, a Magistrate kept licenses on hand, simply had to be filled out and he could perform the ceremony. So many couples went to Milton, N. C., from Pittsylvania and Halifax Counties, Virginia, on account of the convenience. Another consideration was the fact that a person of 18 could be married in N. C. without the parents' consent. My mother lived close to Uncle Nick and frequently he would send a message to us that there was to be a marriage and we would go up. I remember on one occasion

This account was copied from a typed copy of the original. I don't think that this copy was complete, but I need to locate the original to answer that question (i.e. final sentence is not completed and the paragraph does not seem complete). My copy came from my father in law, Lewis Meriwether Walker, Jr. I do not know the location of the original.

October 12, 1990

Reminiscent - 2nd Part

P.1

In looking over my reminiscent I find it was begun in 1918 and for some reason I have let it rest for some time though I was some months writing it. I want in beginning this to say something of my father, Dr. Ajax Walker. I stated before that his father was born in King and Queen County, Virginia. My father was born in Amherst on November 25, 1794. If the reader will think a minute you will realize that this is only 11 years after the Treaty of Peace in 1783, between the United States and Great Britain after the Revolution. So it will be seen that he was nearly 50 years old when I was born and my mother nearly 40 or she was 10 years younger, he died at 56 years of age in 1850 and I was not quite 7 years old at this time. For some years before he died he was in poor health and went about a great deal on horseback and he took me with him frequently. When in town * and when he went to the farm which he did frequently. President George Washington was inaugurated the first time in 1789 and the second time in 1793. So my father was born during his second administration. Though it may look strange that the two ? showed him around this time, but the two lines have been under are the President of the U.S. Being so young it is not strange that I know so little of him though I remember him on good many occasions.

So this paper was ? from a dream and I have before referred to ? ? ? dream I had of my mother. I will tell that dream at this time, which I had about forty years after death and when I tell in this paper of my wife I will then relate a dream I had of her. The dream, ? in a large room with a high ceiling with a large number of ladies and gentlemen all laughing and talking. I was passing through the room and met my mother in the middle of the room. She recognized me as I did her and she called me by my name "Fee" as she always did. I saw immediately that she had been dead and that appearance of face showed the marks of the grave, but one never surfaced as anything in a dream, ? face ? white and there was a ? of some of her left cheek. She put arms around me and then put her arms over my shoulder, one on each side as she stood front of me and told how much she loved me and how dear I was to her. I put arms about her and told her of my love. The pressure of arms was quite heavy. I waked up and the pressure of my shoulders continued. I found upon waking that my wife who was lying beside me was awake and I told her of the dream and that I could still feel the pressure on my shoulders of my mothers arms.*

I will now have something to say about my wife's people. Her parents were John Wilson and his wife Penelope Campbell. Mr. Wilson was born in Norfolk, Virginia in 1796. He came to Milton, N.C. about 1818, I think about the same time my father did. I know very little of his ancestry though I know his father was Scotch and I think a sea captain, and I know there was a son named George Wilson who

was a sea captain and was lost at sea. His mother was a Miss Tatum. He married first a ~~wife~~ Ann Smith of Caswell County. She was a daughter of Mr. Samuel Smith whose wife was a Miss Harrison a daughter of Mayor Thomas Harrison, by this marriage there were three children: George Wilson, who moved to Arkansas, married there and left several children of who I have not heard for years, the next child was Dr. John Wilson who was educated at Chapel Hill, the University * of North Carolina and in medicine in Philadelphia, he married Cornelia Stevenson of Newburn, N.C., (They had six girls and one boy. The boy, John never married, Lizzie married ? Collum of Greensboro, N.C. and had one daughter Carrie, Carrie married ? Taylor of Romney, West Virginia and had nine daughters, most of whom have married. Maggie married Ben Williamson of N.C. - one son Wilson, Carrie - married my nephew Robert L. Walker of Milton, N.C. and had one daughter, Margaret who married ? P. Wilkins from ? Virginia, Pensey married Robert Harriton of Henry County, Virginia and had several children, Mary married first to John H. Cosby of Dunnville, Virginia (and had three boys and one girl - the girl Elizabeth married Mr. Diskey of Atlanta, Georgia,) Mr. John Wilson's second wife was Miss Margaret McPheeton, daughter of Rev. ? McPheeton of Raleigh, N.C., a celebrated Presbyterian minister of Raleigh, N.C. There were no children. His third wife was Penelope Campbell, the daughter of Mr.* Patrick Campbell of Edinburgh, Scotland, who was the English Consul at Rotterdam, Holland at the time of her birth in 1828. There were several children by this marriage the only one who lived to be grown was Penelope (Pensey as she was always called) who married the writer of this, Fielding Lewis Walker, Milton, N.C. They were married at Milton, N.C. on November 28, 1866.

Mr. John Wilson ^{my} father in law was one of the finest men I ever knew. He was an even tempered ^{or} balanced man, with a keen sense of humor and a thorough Christian gentleman and his ? ? have been greatly quoted. He has good property and quite a number of slaves at the close of the Civil War. His wife told me that for some years before the beginning of that war he was worth \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars), and would never let it accumulate, but gave away each year the ? over that amount. He thought* as President Lincoln issued the proclamation freeing the slaves, that they bring the property which the United States had permitted its citizens to own as property that at ? day the United States would realize that this property had been taken from the citizens without their consent, the government would make some provision for the payment for them and at the ^{close} of the war he made a list of his slaves, giving their ages at that time. That list I have now but the U.S. have never seen fit to pay for them. An old bachelor Mr. George ^WJohnson of Milton, N.C. who was a friend of Mr. Wilsons and of my father said to me not long after I was married - Fielding, you father in law is a fine

man and I ^{haven't} but one thing against him, I asked him what that ^{it} was he said, "he has had more than his share of good wine".

^{staid} In May, 1862 I joined the Confederate States Army * and the army for about 17 months and then had a furlough for 6 days, which was spent at Milton with my mother in October and November of 1863 at which time I was just passed 20 years of age. I fell in love with Pensy Wilson at once and she was within a few weeks of 15 years old when I addressed her, she said she ? not engage herself to me until she had spoken to her mother, and she told me afterward that her mother said never engage herself at her age, but if she kept of her ^{the} same mind she might do so when she was 16 years old with us of course there was a tacit engagement and on the sixth of December, 1864. She wrote me a letter (which I have now) engaging herself formally to me. I stayed in the army of Northern Virginia, and surrendered with General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, were married in November 28, 1866.

I was farming on Uncle Nick Lewis's land in Pittsylvania County and we lived there in a log cabin * for two years and then moved back to Milton and lived with my father in law, Mr. Wilson. My mother in law died in 1871. About 1873 my mother and Uncle Nick Lewis came to live with us though Uncle Nick only took his meals there. My mother died in 1874 (70 years old) and Mr. Wilson in 1875 (age 79). I should have said something of Mrs. Pensy Campbell Wilson, my mother in law farther back, but as it was not done then I wish to do so now, she was one of the finest characters I ever knew and any one that knew her, knew her to love her, she was noted for her kindness to the ? and her seems ? devoted to her was well educated and well read and a fine student of the Bible. She was my Sunday School teacher for a number of years up to the time I went to college (Hampden-Sydney) and from that to the war. I said that my wife was the only child that loved to be grown, but in that I was somewhat * a ? her oldest daughter lived to be 18 and died in 1861. Maitland who was the daughter younger than my wife, she lived to be grown but died in early life. I will say of Pensy my wife whom I loved better than my own life - she was anything that a wife should be, she was a devoted wife and mother ?. I ? any and else one heard her speak a cross word to anyone. She died October 8, 1915, nearly sixty - seven years of age.

We left Milton, N.C. and moved to Danville, Virginia in 1880 at which time there was eight children, Henry Ajax, Maitland (daughter), Mary Wilson, Agnes Campbell, Lucy Meriwether Lewis, Penelope Wilson, Fielding Lewis, John Wilson. After we came to Danville there were five children born: Annie Louise, Lewis Meriwether, Floyd (give) Charles Baylor and Norvell Stuart. These were born on Paxton Street

No. 927 where we lived until 1890 when we built * 440 West Main Street where we have lived to this time.

After the surrender on April 9, 1865, I came back to my home in Milton, N.C. My brother ? Adjutant in thirteenth N.C. Regiment was wounded in the battle of Chancellorsville. having his thigh bone ? and was laid up for a length of time. He was afterward made Lieutenant of Engineers but never ? as he was never able to do any service. Henry lived in Milton for a few years after the war and then moved to Edgecomb, N.C. where he married Miss Mary McCotta Owens, the daughter of a Baptist minister. She died leaving two children, the youngest an infant girl died a short time after her mother. Henry's health became poor and he came back to Milton. He stayed with one sister in law, Mrs. Emily Hunt Walker, the wife of our brother Nick and died at her house, February, 1879, age 38 years. He left one son John Owens Walker who is at this time in Tennessee.

My sister Eliza Ann who married Thomas ? left no children. My brother Nick who married *

married Nancy Floyd Powell whose parents were Wyatt Powell and his wife Sarah Floyd at this time I am not able to trace back the parentage of Wyatt Powell, but his wife was the daughter of William Floyd and Abadiah Davis (married 1747), whose parents were Nathaniel Davis and Elizabeth Hughes, she being the daughter of ? Hughes and Nickitte the daughter of the Indian Chief Cornstalk, who is command of the Indians, who fought General Andrew Lewis at Point Pleasant and history says that General Lewis promised that he should not be hurt when he surrendered, but without this General ? or ? Cornstalk was murdered by his soldiers.

In the Floyd book which I have was given to me by my son Henry - it states the Nickitti was known as the princess, and the morning of the ? she brushed the deer from the ? and that Hughes met her at Balcony Falls on the James River. It is said that when Wyatt Powell was courting Sarah Floyd that she has ? him over * and over again, but he continued devoted to her and after being discarded he went to the minister and had the ? announced. When she and her people heard of it of course they were very much put out and properly so. And his own family told him he had no right to do such a thing and asked him if he did not know ? heavy fine and a jail sentence for doing such a thing. He said that was all right for if she would not marry him he had rather be in jail than out of it. The families got together and discussed the matter and such direction changed Sarah's mind and she agreed to marry him, there ? are not exactly like the ? in the heavens but there are a good number.

This text was compiled from a copy of a handwritten text written by Fielding Lewis Walker. I have in my possession a copy of the original, but the location of the original is unknown to me. I assume that I got my copy from my father in law, Lewis Meriwether Walker, Jr.

Marilyn Scherer Taylor Walker
October 9, 1990