

**DIARIES OF REV. TIMOTHY WALKER:
THE FIRST AND ONLY MINISTER OF
CONCORD, N.H., FROM HIS
ORDINATION NOVEMBER 18, 1730,
TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1782**

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JOSEPH B. WALKER

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DIARIES

OF

REV. TIMOTHY WALKER,

THE FIRST AND ONLY MINISTER OF CONCORD, N. H.

FROM HIS ORDINATION NOVEMBER 18, 1730,

TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1782.

EDITED AND ANNOTATED

BY

JOSEPH B. WALKER.

CONCORD, N. H.:

IRA C. EVANS, PRINTER, 13 AND 15 CAPITOL ST.

1889.



THE WALKER HOUSE, CONCORD, N. H.

This was built in 1784 by Rev. Timothy Walker, (the first, and for fifty years, the only Minister of Concord,) who lived in it until his death in 1788. From him it passed to his son Judge Timothy Walker who occupied it until 1828 when he died; and it descended to his son Capt. Jos. Walker, who, dying in 1833 left it to his son Jos. B. Walker, its present occupant. It has been somewhat modified from time to time; but this view presents it as originally constructed.

DIARIES OF THE REV. TIMOTHY WALKER,
THE FIRST AND ONLY MINISTER OF CONCORD, NEW
HAMPSHIRE, FROM HIS ORDINATION, NOVEMBER 18,
1730, TO HIS DEATH, SEPTEMBER 1, 1782.

PREFATORY NOTE.

The Rev. Timothy Walker, author of the following diaries, was the first minister of Pennycook, now Concord, N. H., and from the organization of its church to his death, a period of fifty-two years, its only one.

He was born in Woburn, Mass., on the 27th day of July, 1705, was graduated at Harvard College in 1725, and settled at Pennycook on the 18th day of November, 1730. This was his first and only settlement. As did his neighbors, he went there to stay, and at once identifying himself with all their interests, he devoted to these the energies of his entire life. He possessed good mental abilities, a good education, strong common sense, and marked wisdom. He was not only their spiritual advisor, but their legal and temporal counsellor as well.

His modest salary,* insufficient for his support, was supplemented by the income of the parsonage lands and the farm which was given by the proprietors of the township to their first settled minister. He thus became a farmer as well as minister, and, through this relation, was brought into more intimate sympathy with his people than he might otherwise have been.

His pacific feelings and good sense contributed to the maintenance of friendly relations with the neighboring Indians, liable at any time to be provoked to acts of violence by imaginary grievances or the wiley counsels of the French.

But, pacific as was his disposition, he held firmly to the sacred right of self-defence. When, therefore, some twenty years after his settlement at Pennycook, a company having little existence but upon paper laid claim to the fair town which his people had wrested from the wilderness, he personally championed their cause, and, in the prosecution of

* £100 per annum, equal to \$130.67 in silver.

appeals from the decisions of the New Hampshire courts, made no less than three voyages to England in their behalf, where he finally obtained, from the King in Council, the redress denied them at home. This struggle lasted about thirteen years.

All through the Revolutionary war he was an ardent patriot. He lived to rejoice at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, to see the establishment of independence, and the substantial close of the war. He died September 1, 1782.

For a large portion of his life Mr. Walker kept brief diaries of current events. It is to be regretted that most of these have perished. Three, however, have been preserved entire, and fragments of six others. They afford vivid pictures of New Hampshire life on the Indian frontier while the question of English or French supremacy on this continent was being decided and while the inestimable privileges of American independence were being achieved.

J. B. W.

Concord, March 1, 1889.

DIARY OF REV. TIMOTHY WALKER.

1746.

Woodwell's Garrison was taken April 22.¹
 Thomas Cook & als. killed May y^c 9.²
 Richard Blanchard scalped June 11.³
 Bishop was captivated June 25.
 Jon^s Bradley & als. killed Aug: 11.⁴
 Easterbrook killed Nov^r 10.⁵

Killed, 8. Captivated, 12. Died of his wounds, 1.

1. Woodwell's garrison was in Hopkinton, a short distance from Contoocookville, near the point where the road to Tyler's Bridge branches from the main road.

2. A Boscawen man, killed on Clay Hill just above the Plain.

3. A Canterbury man.

4. Jonathan Bradley of Exeter, Samuel Bradley and Obadiah Peters of Concord, John Lufkin of Kingston, and John Bean of Brentwood, who were massacred on the road to Hopkinton, about a mile from Concord. A granite obelisk now marks the locality and commemorates the event.

5. He was a Hopkinton man, and was shot by an Indian near the watering trough at the foot of Rum Hill.

JANUARY.

- 1, D. Very cold. Remained at Woburn.
 2, D. At night went and lodged at Brother Walkers.⁶
 3, D. Sat out homeward. Lodged at Mr. Flaggs.⁷
 4, D. Arrived home.
 5, D. Preached all day at home.
 6, D. Visited over y^e River.
 7, D. Moderate weather.
 8, D. Ditto.
 9, D. Snowed and then turned to rain. Visited with Mr. Stevens over y^e River.
 10, D. Cleared up very cold. Capt. Goffe dined at our house.⁸
 11, D. A very cold morning. Went up to Con-
 toocook.
 12, D. Preached all day there. Mr. Page preached here. Returned home at night.
 13, D. Visited Capt. Eastman⁹ just returned from Boston with news of y^e Pretender's success in Scotland.¹⁰
 15, D. Capt. Eastman and wife dined at our house. Remainder of y^e week tarried at home. This week has been very warm.
 19, D. Preached all day at home.

6. Samuel Walker, of Woburn, Mass.

7. Rev. Ebenezer Flagg, a classmate of Mr. Walker and for sixty years the pastor of the church in Chester.

8. Afterwards known as Col. John Goffe, a prominent citizen of Amherst.

9. Capt. Ebenezer Eastman, one of the most enterprising citizens of Concord.

10. Charles Edward, son of James Francis Edward Stuart, grandson of James 2d and claimant of the British throne. The success mentioned above was, probably, the defeat of the English army at Preston Pans, September 21, 1745, and the capture of Carlisle, Nov. 26th of the same year.

- 20, D. Visited Mr. A. Whittemore being sick of fever.¹¹
- 22, D. Visited at Deacon Merrill's.¹²
- 25, D. A warm snow. This week; also has been very warm.
- 26, D. Preached all day at home. Cleared up very blustering. Y^e new snow being about mid leg deep drifted very much.
- 27, D. Warm again.
- 28, D. Warm. Began to hail Fort Timber.¹³
- 27 D. Moderate y^e rest of this Week.

N : B : 3^d day pd. Mr. Philips all y^t I owed him except 0—13—4. and Wm. Pudney's order of 3—00—00. Sum Total—or what I owe him is 3—13—4.

FEBRUARY.

- 1, D. A. M. Snowed: Mr. Stevens¹⁴ came and lodged at our house.
- 2, D. He preached here and baptized Abraham, y^e son of Ab^m Colby; Eben^t. y^e son of Sampson Colby, and Abigail y^e daughter of James Abbot Junior. I Preached at Contocook.
- 3, D. At night it hail a great deal.
- 4, D. Visited at Mr. Lovejoys¹⁴. Y^e rest of y^e week very warm.

11. Rev. Aaron Whittemore, first minister of Pembroke, ordained March 12, 1737.

12. John Merrill, the first deacon of the Concord church, against whom the first suit for ejectionment was brought in the celebrated Bow controversy.

13. This timber was for the garrison built around Mr. Walker's house this year.

14. Rev. Phineas Stevens, first Pastor of the Boscawen church, ordained Oct. 8, 1740.

14. Probably Capt. Henry Lovejoy, who had a grist mill at West Concord, and afterwards a forge used in the manufacture of bar iron.

- 8, D. It seemed to thicken up for a storm of rain but cleared away again.
- 9, D. Preached all day at home, and baptized Isaac y^e son of Benjⁿ Abbot and Sarah y^e daughter of Joseph Pudney.
- 10, D. Eben Hall came to live with me. We sledded wood.
- 11, D. Ditto.
- 12, D. At night Col. Rolfe¹⁵ returned from Newbury. It was a cold night for this moderate winter.
- 13, D. Col. Rolfe dined at our house.
- 14, D. Warm again. Snowed a little.
- 15, D. Ditto.
- 16, D. Preached all day at home.
- 17, D. Fair weather. Received a letter from Woburn.
- 19, D. Visited with Col. Rolfe over y^e River. At night he lodged at our house.
N. B. From the 8 instant to y^e 20 inclusive got home about 30 loads of wood for my years stock.
- 21, D. A very cold, blustering day.
- 22, D. Y^e weather moderated. Looked like rain but turned to a spitting snow.
- 23, D. Preached all day at home, and baptized Ezekiel y^e son of Tim. Walker Junior.
- 24, D. Extraordinary cold for y^e season. Visited at Col. Rolfe's. Pd. Mr. Simonds for my barrel of cyder.
- 25, D. Cold. Carried my wife up to Mr. Lovejoy's a visiting.¹⁵⁴

15. Col. Benjamin Rolfe, the largest landholder of Concord, and one of its most prominent citizens. He subsequently married one of Mr. Walker's daughters.

15 $\frac{1}{2}$. Neighbourhood visiting was vigorously pursued in olden times. Mothers frequently carried their infants to tea parties, and