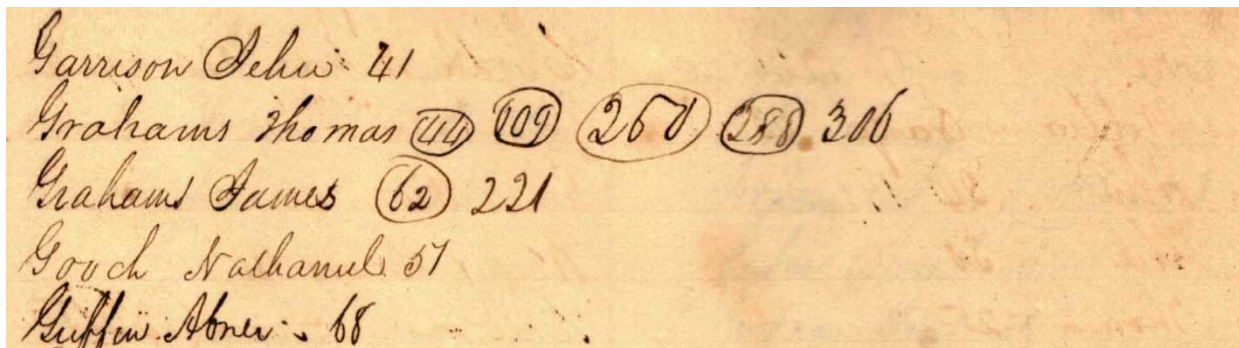


Dr. Levi Walker 1798 – 1844 Ledger

Presented to Cross Roads Presbyterian Church History Room on August 14, 2015 by his descendants. This ledger was discovered by his GGGgrandson James Powell in his grandmother's trunk (Hatti Walker Anderson Goodson). We are fascinated by this ledger, and believe that the History Room is a good place for it to reside.

Apparently most patients in the middle 1800's couldn't pay the doctor until the crops were harvested, so he maintained a ledger of what was owed. This is the second ledger, ledger "B" which records 1830 until Dr. Levi's death in 1844.

The first 26 pages of the ledger are an alphabetical index, one page for each letter of the alphabet. A patient's name was added to the index page, followed by the page number where that patient's entries were found. Several names were on each page, so many entries filled the space available. In this case, the original page number was circled and a new page number entered in the index. An example from the "G" page is shown below. Note the entry for James Graham, who is another of our GGGgrandfathers, which began on page 62 and was continued on page 221.



Each person's entry on the ledger pages begins with "Dr" followed by the name and in some cases a description of where the person lived. We believe that "Dr" is an abbreviation for "debtor". As far as we can determine, patients who paid cash were not entered into the ledger.

There are over 670 names in the ledger in 351 pages for the years 1830 through 1844. The last entries in the ledger are in mid August 1844. Dr. Levi's will was dated August 26, 1844 and he passed away six days later on September 1, 1844. We don't know what caused his death, but can only speculate that he perhaps contracted a fatal disease from a patient. Ledger entries show that many of his debts were collected after his death.

Dr. Levi Walker's Ancestors

John Walker (1736-1810) and Nancy Ashford (1725-1796). John Walker was a distiller who lived near the Anderson community in Caswell County. John was a patriot in the Revolutionary War and attained the rank of Lt. Colonel. John and Nancy had 11 sons, so they are responsible for many of the Walkers of Orange, Caswell and Alamance counties. John and Nancy are both buried at Cross Roads, and Nancy's grave is the first marked grave in the cemetery.

Aaron Walker (1762-1833) and Sarah Bird (1779-1843). I believe that Aaron was also a distiller, although we know from his will that he also had a small plantation. In any case he must have been relatively affluent because he was able to send his son Levi to the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. Aaron and Sarah are buried at Cross Roads, and her parents Empson Bird and Mary Whited are also buried there.

Dr. Levi Walker (1798 – 1844)

We don't know much about Levi's early years, but he must have had a good basic education. We think it is possible that he attended the Bingham School which operated 10 miles North of Mebane from 1815 to 1826. There was no SAT in those days. The recommendation of a respected educator would have been required to get accepted to a prominent school like the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in Philadelphia where he received his MD degree. The first requirement of that school was proficiency in Latin.

According to the NC Historical Marker web page:

The Reverend William Bingham (1754-1826), a native of Ireland who was educated in Scotland, became principal of Hillsborough Academy in 1813, but departed by 1815 in order to establish his own school. Bingham wished to raise his children in the country. Known as Mount Repose, Bingham's school was about ten miles northwest of Hillsborough. At Mount Repose, the thirty-five to forty male pupils lived and studied in log cabins. The school's classic curriculum and reputation for academic excellence drew students from as far away as Louisiana.

Levi received a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1826. Cousin Burton Goodson has his original Latin and English diplomas, as well his membership certificate in the Pennsylvania Medical Society. The Walker genealogy web site has high resolution copies of these certificates. <http://walkergenealogy.walkerfamily.name>

From University of Pennsylvania web page at <http://www.med.upenn.edu/history.html>

The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine was the first and only medical school in the thirteen American colonies when, in the fall of 1765, students enrolled for "anatomical lectures" and a course on "the theory and practice of physick." They enrolled at the College of Philadelphia, which was the name of the University of Pennsylvania in pre-Revolutionary times.

The founder of the School of Medicine was a young Philadelphia physician, John Morgan. The early faculty, including Morgan, had earned medical degrees at the University of Edinburgh and supplemented Edinburgh's courses with further study in London. London offered advanced training in anatomy in private schools owned by men who had become famous in this field. The clinical practice of medicine was taught by eminent preceptors in the great city hospitals.

Because of their training abroad, the University's founding faculty introduced two important elements in American medical education. With the University of Edinburgh as their model, they chose to build their medical school within an institution of higher learning. With the background of their hospital experience in London, they chose to emphasize the need to

supplement medical lectures with bedside teaching, which for some time had been provided to apprentice physicians by practitioners at the Pennsylvania Hospital. Founded by Benjamin Franklin, this hospital was located within a few blocks of the college.



From the University of Pennsylvania history web page

(<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/histy/features/1700s/medsch.html>) I found the following information on requirements.

Requirements and courses for medical students also underwent change with the reorganization of the new medical school under the University of Pennsylvania. On March 1, 1792, the Trustees abolished the M.B. degree and set out the new qualifications for the M.D. degree. All degree recipients now had to be at least twenty-one years of age and had to have studied medicine for a minimum of three years, with at least two years of this study taking place at the University of Pennsylvania. The required course included anatomy, surgery and midwifery; chemistry; institutes and clinical medicine; and practice of physic. A course in natural and experimental philosophy was also necessary, unless they had attended these lectures in another educational institution. In the year he was to graduate, a student was to be examined privately by the medical professors and then again by the University faculty and trustees; finally the candidate wrote a thesis on an approved topic, paid for its printing, and finally defended this thesis at the annual May commencement.

I was able to contact the school and received the following information.

We can confirm that Levi Walker from North Carolina received his Medical Degree in 1826, and the topic of his thesis was Opium. He resided in Philadelphia during the 1824 and 1825 academic years – so two years of study.

Dr. Levi was a mason and belonged to the Bingham Masonic Lodge in Mebane. My father, Claude Levi Walker, had his Masonic ring and apron and gave the apron back to the lodge. My sister, Carolyn Hamel has his ring. Levi's will is on page 161 Caswell County digital archives, Caswell county wills at 2A 314-315 in MARS data base. The box number is 220.74.1. I requested and received a Xerox copy of the microfilm copy of the will, but found it unreadable. I was only able to decipher the date it was signed, which was August 26, 1844, just 6 days before he died.

Dr. Levi Walker married Rachel Hurdle in December 1830. I was able to locate a picture of Rachel through a Hurdle web page. She was at least a third generation American. I have no pictures of Dr. Levi, and there probably were none since he died in 1844. They had eight children. Anderson Bruce, the oldest child, was only 13 when Dr. Levi died.



Rachel Hurdle Walker

Dr. Levi built Walker's mill on Tom's creek. He was also a prominent plantation owner. After his death, Rachel renamed the mill to Rachel Walker's mill and continued to operate it. The base of the mill dam can still be seen on Tom's creek where it intersects Kerr Chapel Road.

After Dr. Levi's death in 1844, the blank pages of the ledger at the back were cut out and used for paper. There several draft notes in the back written in pencil, apparently by Dr. Levi's grandson, Anderson Bud Walker. One draft letter is dated 1902.

More Walker genealogy information is available at:

<http://walkerfamily.name/walkergenealogy>

<http://www.wrwalker.com/page3.html>

<https://plus.google.com/photos/100332804864575109202/albums/6170302218786172897>

This paper prepared by:

James F. Walker, GGgrandson of Dr. Levi Walker and Rachel Hurdle Walker August 14, 2015