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S.C. - Homes, Historic - York County

Old Walker Homestead Is Landmark Of The Neely's Creek Community

History Of House, Built In 3 Periods, Is Not Well-Known

BY ELIZABETH REED

One of the landmarks of the Neely's Creek community is the story-and-one-half Walker house not far from Neely's Creek A. R. P. church.

The nine room house has been built in three room units and at different periods. The three rooms at the right are of logs that have long since been weatherboarded over. At two times since three room units have been added.

The hospitable and gracious mistresses of the house are the Walker sisters, Misses Minnie, Maggie and Mattie Walker, who are noted for being fine cooks.

Early History

Very little is known about Thomas Wherry who owned the home and about 1,000 acres of land prior to 1870. However, visions of pioneer life in the quiet community when York county was new—or did not yet exist—can be conjured up if one visits the home. The setting is extremely pleasant and in the yard are to be seen very old cedars, boxwoods and other shrubs. The Walker sisters blend the old and new into a harmonious whole in their yard. They cultivate a number of specimens of camellias.

Andrew Jackson Walker bought the house and approximately 1,000 acres of land from Thomas Wherry in 1870. He moved to the house with his wife, Mrs. Mary Ann Whiteside Walker. The couple reared a fine family in the substantial old home.

The oldest son, William Edgar Walker, was married to Rosa Wherry on December 23, 1898. He died January 12, 1944.

Grier Walker was married to Dora West on December 12, 1894 and lives in the Harmony community.

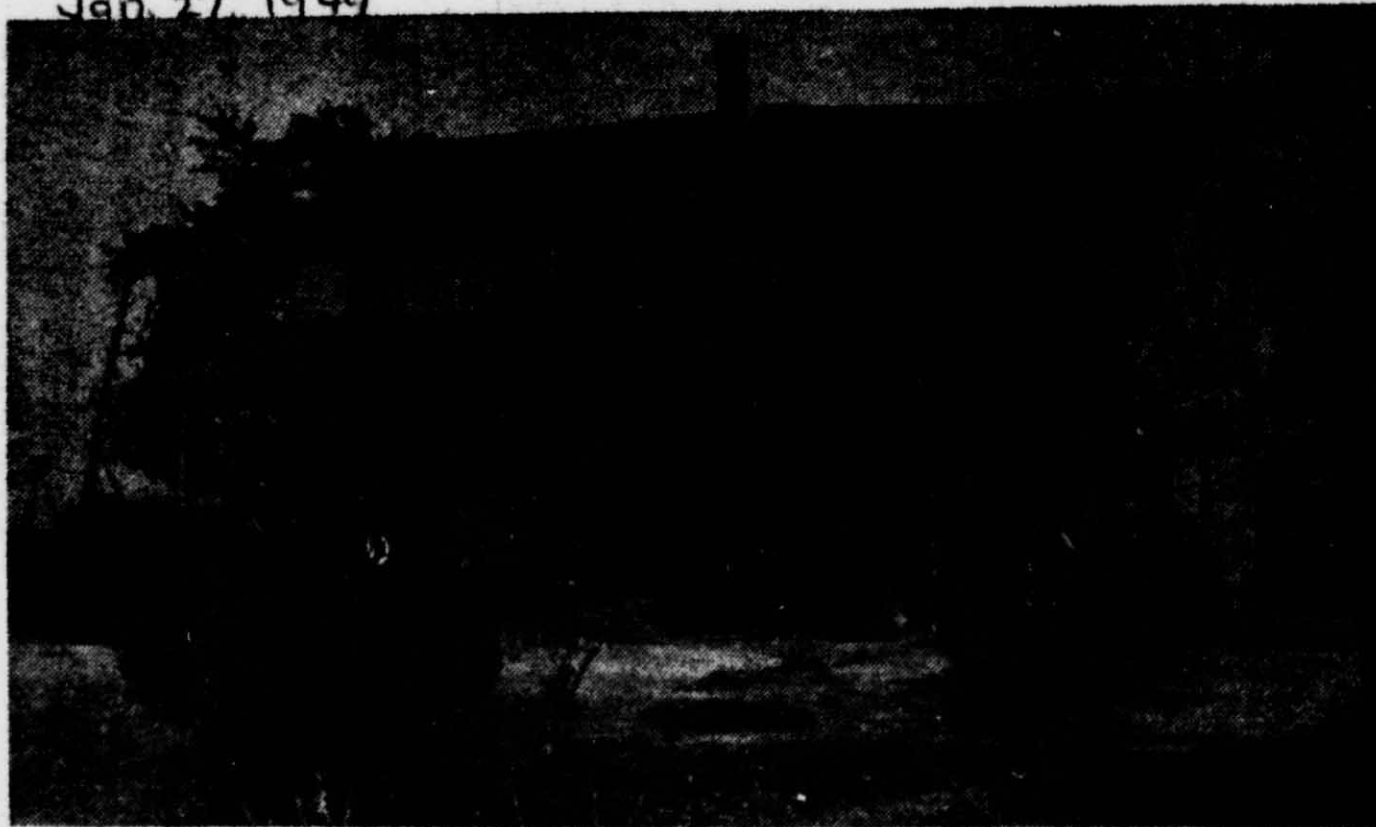
The eldest daughter, Miss Lela Walker was married to Joe Williams on June 28, 1894 and lives today in the Neely's Creek community.

John T. Walker married Miss Jennie Gettys, a missionary to Mexico, on February 23, 1916. They live in the Leslie community.

Misses Minnie and Maggie Walker and the youngest daughter, Miss Mattie Walker, live in the homestead now.

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The Walker House



The rambling but comfortable Walker house near Neely's Creek A. R. P. church has been the abode of its present owners, Misses Minnie, Maggie and Mattie Walker since they were born. In the yard can be seen the old boxwoods, crepe myrtle and other shrubs in which the sisters take great interest. (Herald staff photo.)

The youngest son in the family is Brice Walker who married Miss Maggie Shillinglaw on September 13, 1908.

An interesting incident connected with the old house is that the late Joe J. Williams married both his wives in the old house. His first wife was Miss Mollie Wherry, daughter of Thomas Wherry, and his second wife was Miss Lela Walker.

In 1890 three rooms were added to the house. Today it has electric lights and the Misses Walker cook on a gleaming electric stove and cool their food with a modern refrigerator.

In the home are to be found lovely old pieces of furniture and furnishings handed down from previous generations. Among these are marble topped dressers, very old chairs, massive bedroom suites of oak and other pieces. Lovely, too, are the pieces of handwork made by hands, long dust. One of these is a quilt in a tulip design with thousands of tiny stitches, done in bright yellow, red and green against a white background. Miss Minnie Walker said this quilt "was brought by Aunt Sallie Grier from Steele Creek."

In the downstairs room a Seth Thomas clock has ticked away since 1870, keeping perfect time.

The stairway to the huge bedroom upstairs is dark, winding and narrow. A door opens on the stairway and care must be exercised in making the ascent and the descent.

Not fancy, but substantial and comfortable is the Walker house. The wide pine boards that form the floors, walls and ceilings are probably good for another century.

This is one of a series of articles on old York County homes.

* Thomas Wherry was the son of William and Elizabeth (Anderson) Wherry.

cf. History of Hopewell
Presbyterian Church, York
Co., S.C., 1808-1958
by Wm. B. White, Jr.
1958 (see Appendix on
Wherry family)