

JAMES BACKHOUSE WALKER

J. E. Walker (1841-1899) solicitor, son of George Washington Walker and Sarah Benson Walker, Quakers, was interested in the history and geography of Tasmania. He gave many talks to the Royal Society of Tasmania and others. He was a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London.

His notes, draft articles, newspaper cuttings etc were presented to the Royal Society of Tasmania by his sisters in 1920

RS.5/

1 Walker's notes of trips he made in Tasmania:

(1) Fishing trip to Fortescue Bay Easter 1884

2 drafts (1 incomplete) ~

1 (2) West Coast 1887

Walk to Macquarie Harbour by a new track via Derwent Bridge, Lake St. Clair, Mt. Lyell, led by C.F. Sprent. The party included, as well as J.B. Walker, R.M. Johnston, A. Giblin, Bailly, Ferrin, Col. J.V. Legge and Pignatelli (the last two only as far as Collingwood Valley). Most of the party then walked on to Waratah and returned by train via the North Coast and Launceston.

- a) Walker's letter to his mother, 24-27 Feb. 1887, describing their walk to Macquarie Harbour via Mt. Lyell; also describing the mines and a miners' meeting called by Sprent to consider the need for tracks.
- b) Draft of Walker's article describing the walk (64 octavo papers) ~
- c) Draft account of the walk by another member of the party ~
- d) Col. J. V. Legge's 'The Highlands of Lake St. Clair' read 21 Nov. 1887 (offprint from Roy. Soc. Pap. & Proc., 14 pp + plan) ~
- e) Draft of letter from Walker to the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, 10 Aug. 1887, suggesting 'preparation of a better notice of Sprent for Transactions' mentioning having had 'the pleasure . . . to accompany him on a walk . . . by a new route . . . a track blazed through scrub'. Enclosed: cutting announcing the progress of a party of workmen headed by C.F. Sprent - the track cut to within 13 miles of King River 24 Feb. 1887. ~
- f) E. J. Sprent to Walker M.D. - 'some notes & a few extracts from the letters I have' [? of C.F. Sprent] for 1872, 1878 (5 papers) ~
- g) 5 scraps of paper containing rough memoranda (may not be connected with the walk) ~
- h) Part of a draft article about explorers
- j) bill for stores 1892 ~
- k) dried botanical specimen

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- 1 (3) Visit to Zeehan and West Coast, Nov 1890
Notes and draft article ✓
- 1 (4) Hartz Mountains 1895
Notes and draft article ✓
- 2 Walking Tour St Mary's to Branxholm, November 1895.
Journal, 7-18 Nov. Notebook , RS.5/2 ✓
- 3 Early Tasmanian history. Cuttings from Tasmanian Mail,
26 Oct. 1889-31 May, 1890. no. 1,2,3,4,5(a,b,c,d,e) 6,7,
8,9,10,11(a to g) 12. with ms. corrections. Reprinted
in his Early Tasmanian History. RS.5/3 ✓
- 4 ^{on Early Tasmanian History}
Mss. of papers, read to the Royal Society, with drafts
and notes and news cuttings of reports of Royal Society
meetings. also,
Walch's Literary Intelligencer, no.461 (June 1897)
Norfolk Island, by Thomas J. Brennan, from
The Austral Light, Melbourne, vol. 8 no. 8 (Aug. 1899) ✓
RS.5/4 ✓
- 5 Cuttings of J.B. Walker's articles on Tasmanian discovery
printed in Tasmanian Mail, and papers by A. Mault about
early maps read to Royal Society and A.A.A.S. ✓
RS.5/5 ✓
- 6,7 Cuttings from Argus, "Tasmania". 1878-89; 1890-93.
2 vols. of mounted cuttings. 8 Aug. 1878-22 Aug. 1881
contributed by J.B. Walker. "after that date Humphreys
was the Argus correspondent and he was, I believe, succeeded
by N.A. Nicholls, editor of the 'Morbart Mercury'. J.B.W." -
Note on fly leaf. ✓
RS.5/6-7 ✓

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RS.5

Newspaper cuttings:

- pp.2-10 Overland expedition of Sir John and Lady Franklin to Macquarie Harbour in 1842, by David Burn (Examiner, Launceston, 21 May-2 July 1887) (see also RS.154)
- pp.12-13 Ascent of Frenchman's Cap, by F.B. Moore. (Mercury, Hobart, 14 Apr. 1887).
- pp.14-33 articles by J.E. Calder: The first years of settlement. (Mercury, 16 May, 3 July 1873), A Tasmanian newspaper [Derwent Star] (Mercury, 9 Oct. 1874); Hobart Town in the olden times [1824] (Mercury, 3 July 1871); Sealers and blacks. (Mercury, 6 July 1874); General Count McHugo. (Mercury, 21 Oct. 1874); John Clark and John Julius Stutzer. (Mercury, 9 Nov. 1874); Topographical sketches of Tasmania. (Mercury, 8 May 1858)
- p.34 Obit. of Sir John Pedder. (Hobart Town Advertiser, 1859)
- p.35 Bushrangers in 1835. (Examiner, Launceston, 16 July 1887) ✓ RS.5/8

Cuttings of James Fenton's articles "Pioneer Work in Devon", published in North-west Post. 1890-1891 ✓ RS.5/9

"Newspaper cuttings Tasmania, Constitution, Politics":-

- Draft letter to Mercury? "Jany or Feb. 1887" re rumoured appointment of Alfred Dobson as Judge. ✓ RS.5/10 (1)
- Draft of letter and notes on secret ballot. 1872 ✓ RS.5/10 (2)
- Electioneering song on behalf G.S. Cansdell, ca. 1870; Broadside against Ivery for House of Assembly elections, 1869; Broadside, address to electors, by Richard Backhouse, 6 June 1861 ✓ RS.5/10 (3)
- "Tasmania Constitution Politics" mounted cuttings, 1871-72 on politics; unmounted cuttings including cuttings on the Tasmanian Constitution Act, 1884. ✓ RS.5/10 (4)

"Newspaper Cuttings, Tasmania, Ecclesiastical - Education"

Unmounted cuttings on State aid to religion, including controversy surrounding the State Aid Commutation Act, 1865-1868; also petition, ms. draft with notes by J.B. Walker, presented to Parliament, Sept. 1865 protesting against land grants to churches. also cuttings on education and church matters, 1872-1896. ✓ RS.5/11

Newspaper cuttings on currency, agriculture and commerce, natural history and meteorology and ms. notes on sheep breeding in Tasmania. ✓ RS.5/12

Miscellaneous newspaper cuttings, especially those relating to Hobart Working Men's Club, unemployment and ms. draft of letter to L.F. Giblin, 1894 and papers relating to Hobart Working Men's Club, 1887-8, 1892, 1894, 1895. ✓ RS.5/13

J.B. WALKER

RS.5

"Topographical and Descriptive Articles on Tasmania, Surveys and Crown Lands". Unmounted newspaper cuttings and excerpts from journals and magazines, including J.W. Beattie's "Trip to the Arthur Range" [illus] Tasmanian Mail, 18 July 1896; also ms. draft of article on land policy, 1883
1859-1896

✓ RS.5/14

Unmounted cuttings, mostly from newspapers, relating to the West Coast of Tasmania, its exploration and the mining areas. Included, Prospectus of Mt Black Proprietary Mine. ✓
1880-1899

RS.5/15

Newspaper cuttings, unmounted, mainly about the history of Launceston, North-west Tasmania and the Van Diemen's Land Company; includes article by John Balfe about John Davies, ca. 1870. ✓

RS.5/16

Ms. list of land owners (not in J.B. Walker's hand) ✓

RS.5/17

Two letters from James Bonwick from Record Office, London, July 1896, with transcripts from Colonial Office records and from English newspapers relating to Tasmania. ✓

RS.5/18

Mémoire sur les glandes adominales des ornithorhynques...
par M. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire. Extrait de la Gazette Médicale de Paris. 1833(1) With ms. notes by author and transcript by J.B. Walker. (2) ✓

RS.5/19(1) & (2)

Newspaper cuttings of articles and letters about ship in Hobart, La Mutiné or Aladdin. 1898 ✓

RS.5/20

Notebook containing list of J.B. Walker papers in Royal Society Library, compiled by Mrs J.E. McElroy, 1938 (See RS. Letter file) ✓

RS.5/21

Times, London, 21 Dec. 1899, containing obituary of J.B. Walker ✓

RS.5/22

Circular letter from J.B. Walker Memorial Committee, 23 Nov. 1899, soliciting donations. ✓

RS.5/23

Ms. lecture: "Hobart 1837-1897, a comparison. A lecture delivered at the Masonic Hall... 18 June 1897..." 40p. ✓
RS accession no. 10,063/U236

RS.5/24

Notes about people and buildings in Hobart, including notes made of interviews; also speech at dinner given by the Southern Legal Practitioners to the Judges, 22 Nov. 1898 ✓
(1 quarto vol., indexed)

RS.5/25

Miscellaneous notes by J.B. Walker ✓

RS.5/26

(rough papers - names, notes of newspaper cuttings etc)