

Guide to the Walker family papers, circa 1870-circa 1920

Summary Information

Collection No.:	MS 2026-112
Title:	Walker family papers
Inclusive Dates:	circa 1870-circa 1920
Author:	Nancy Martin
Repository:	Peters Township Public Library 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317
Creator:	Walker family
Extent:	1 linear foot
Language of materials:	All materials are in English.
Abstract:	Records consist of the family photograph album of Peters Township resident Sarah Jane “Jennie” May Walker and of a collection of postcards sent to Jennie Patterson (aka Malinda “Jane” Walker) between 1909 and 1915.

Biography/History

Sarah Jane May, known as “Jennie”, (1852-1925) was the eldest of six children born to Malinda (1832-1894) and David May (1812-1887). Her siblings were David “Alexander” (born 1853), Samuel (born 1857), John (born 1859), Kate (born 1864), and Minnie (born 1865). The May family was raised in Peters Township, PA.

In 1874, Sarah Jane married David Moore Walker (1845-1899). In 1882, the couple had a daughter they named Malinda K. Walker (1882-1973).

Malinda married Richard “Clarence” Patterson in 1903 and, in 1904, the couple had a daughter they named Malinda Jane Patterson (1904-1978).

Malinda Jane was known as Jennie Patterson for the first several years of her life. Around the time of her parents’ divorce in 1913, however, her mother Malinda reverted to her maiden name of Walker and Jennie Patterson became known as Jennie or Jane Walker.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Walker family papers consist of a photograph album documenting four generations of the May and Walker families of Peters Township between circa 1870 and circa 1920, and a collection of postcards sent to Jennie Patterson/Walker between 1905 and 1915 that were collected and arranged by her mother Malinda.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in 2 series:

- Series I. Sarah Jane May Walker family photograph album, circa 1870-circa 1920
- Series II. Walker family postcard collection, 1905-1915

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions:

None.

Acquisition Information:

Gift of Lois Houston Fosbaugh and her daughter Laurel Fosbaugh Lavelle, February 2026.

Custodial History:

Malinda “Jane” Walker Wolf, the granddaughter of Sarah Jane “Jennie” Walker, gave the photograph album and postcard collection to Lois Houston’s father Robert “Jinx” Houston who passed them on to Lois.

Accruals note:

No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation:

Peters Township Public Library, MS 2026-112 Walker family papers

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Nancy Martin in March 2026.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact Peters Township Public Library.

Rights Statement for this Archival Description:

Except where otherwise noted, the guide to the Walker family papers by the Peters Township Public Library Archives is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

Contents List

Series I.	Sarah Jane May Walker family photograph album, circa 1870-circa 1920
------------------	---

Series Extent: 1 album

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of a large velvet-covered photograph album containing photographs of four generations of the Sarah Jane May Walker family dating from around 1870 until around 1920.

The album includes images of Sarah Jane's mother, her siblings and nephew, her husband David, his aunts, and Sarah Jane and David's daughter and granddaughter.

The album includes both tintypes and paper studio cards. The majority of photographs in the album are formal studio portraits and many of the people who appear in the photographs are identified. A calling card, a greeting card and some loose photographs that were located in the back of the album are also included in the series.

Note: An item list of the names of those who appear in the photographs has been created. Please ask the Archivist to see a copy of the list.

Box 1	Sarah Jane May Walker family photograph album
--------------	---

Series II.	Walker family postcard collection, 1905-1915
-------------------	---

Series Extent: 299 postcards

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of 299 postcards sent to Jennie Patterson/Walker (1904-1978) of Peters Township by her family and friends between 1905 and 1915. Jennie’s mother, Malinda K. Walker Patterson, saved the postcards sent to her daughter, wrote the name of each sender on the front of each card, and arranged them in a postcard album.

The postcards are addressed to a single individual who was known by different names. Malinda Jane Patterson, daughter of Malinda K. Walker Patterson and Richard “Clarence” Patterson, was known as Jennie Patterson for the first several years of her life. Around the time of her parents’ divorce in 1913, however, her mother Malinda reverted to her maiden name of Walker and Jennie Patterson became known as Jennie or Jane Walker.

The postcards were removed from the album in which they were originally housed for preservation purposes. The postcards do, however, retain their original order which was not chronological. The most frequent writers of the postcards were Jennie’s great aunt, Kate Bell, her cousin, Edgar Bell, and her friends Gladys “Gladdy” Houston and Wanda Flack.

Note: Photographs of the postcards’ arrangement in their original album are available to view. Please ask the archivist for access.

Box 2	Walker family postcard collection
--------------	-----------------------------------