

FREDERICK H WALKER
(1877-1943)

Obituary (researched) by Faye V Bell
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Fred H Walker was born to Thomas B and India L Walker in Iowa in 1877. His father was born in Pennsylvania and his mother in Iowa (1880 Federal census) and the family lived in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA. A sibling named Maude who was three years older than Fred is listed with them. In 1900 the Walkers with a daughter Anna (b 1881) lived in Atkinson, Holt, NE. The 1900 census shows Fred born in July (21 years old then). In 1910 Fred Walker (31) was still single, but in 1920 he had a wife named Mabel S Walker and the couple live in Washakie County, Election District #3, Ten Sleep. By 1930 Fred is shown on the census as a wool stomper and a boarder a private home. Mabel Walker is not present. It is interesting to note here that he boarded with Rufus and Arden Egger in Worland, WY and that in Marshalltown, IA, there were Eggers living there for a number of years.

MEMORIES: Fred Walker was a very large man—heavy boned and physically powerful. His residence in Ten Sleep was a lonely one living in a cabin down by the convergence of the Nowood and the Ten Sleep creeks on the once-owned property of Roy Sweet. That he stomped wool for the sheepmen and sheep shearers in the 30s and 40s was a well-accepted fact. He lived alone, and it isn't definite that anyone knew about Mabel. *By way of explanation*, a wool stomper stands inside the giant wool gunny sacks (probably 8 ft by 3 ft) and as the wool from the shearer's blade is freed, it is tossed to the sack and the stomper makes it solid by tromping all the air out of the wool. It is hard work and requires a lot of strength to fill the huge and heavy sacks. The wool stomper would be employed during shearing season and follow the shearing crew from one sheep holding to another. Ordinarily, the season lasts about 2 months altogether making allowances for wet weather. A wool stomper had to find other means to provide for the remainder of the year—hiring out to farmers and ranchers on an irregular basis, providing handywork for the townspeople, etc. Fred Walker lived meagerly, it would appear.

Frederick H Walker died in 1943 leaving no posterity and no 'ill will' in the community—a private man with a private lifestyle.

FRED WALKER, A PIONEER BURIED AT TEN SLEEP

Funeral services for Fred Walker, 64, were held at the Ten Sleep Methodist church Wednesday afternoon with the Rev. D. M. Kitch officiating. Music was furnished by Mrs. Sam McPhee and Mrs. Roy Shriver with Mrs. Carl Dornberger at the piano. Selections were "Rock of Ages," "Ivory Palaces" and "Shepherd's Song". Pallbearers were Frank Bull, W. E. Hatfield, Archie Jacobs, Zina McCree, Richard Redland and Arnold Wain.

Walker was a pioneer of the Big Horn basin and Nowood country. He was born at Marshalltown, Iowa, was raised near O'Fallon, Mo., and went to Colorado when 19 years old. He came to the Nowood country in 1905, working first on the "Turkey-Foot" ranch now known as the Lorenzo French place. He ran a bunch of horses in the badlands and was an expert bronco buster. A friend described him as a "giant of a man" and said it was a pleasure to watch him "rustle a bronc." For the past several years he had lived at Ten Sleep. He was brought to the Worland hospital Saturday suffering with Rocky Mountain fever. His death came Sunday morning. He is survived by two sisters, Anne Lilly of Seattle, Wash., and Maud and Merriam of Lewiston, Idaho. He was a grandson of Col. Geo. Walker, of Civil War fame.

Pioneer Dies Of Spotted Fever Here

One of the oldest pioneer cowpunchers of the Big Horn basin died Sunday night, the victim of the dread Rocky mountain spotted fever. He was Fred Walker, 64, who was a bronco buster and cowpuncher in this section of the country 40 years ago.

Walker was admitted to Worland hospital Saturday and died the following day.

Walker, the grandson of Col. Thomas Walker, Civil war hero,

—PIONEER DIES

(Continued on Page 2)

--PIONEER DIES

(Continued from First Page)

was born at Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1879. He lived in that state several years before moving with his parents to O'Neil, Neb. When he was 19 years old, Walker went to Colorado where he worked in the cattle business. He came to the Big Horn basin country in 1903.

His first job in this part of the country was at the "Turkey-Foot" ranch, now known as the Lorenzo French place on the upper Nowood. In the years that followed, Walker broke saddle horses and worked cattle all up and down the Nowood. Some 12 years ago he moved to Ten Sleep where he has resided since.

He is survived by two sisters, Anna Lilly of Seattle, Wash., and Maud Marrison of Lewiston, Ida. Mrs. Marrison has indicated that she will be unable to attend the funeral, but no word has been received from the other sister as yet.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete. Veile mortuary is in charge.

Walker Funeral Services Will Be Held Today

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 this afternoon for Fred Walker, pioneer stockman of the Nowood country, who died Sunday night, the victim of Rocky mountain spotted fever.

Services will be at the Methodist church in Ten Sleep with Rev. Dwight M. Kitch officiating. Music will be furnished by the church. Burial will be in the Ten Sleep cemetery.

Walker had been a bronc buster and cowhand in the Ten Sleep country 40 years ago, but had been living in Ten Sleep the last 12 years. He was a grandson of the Civil war hero, Col. Thomas Walker.

During his 30 years as a cowhand he worked on ranches all up and down the Nowood river.

He is survived by two sisters, Anna Lilly of Seattle, Wash., and Maud Marrison of Lewiston, Idaho, neither of whom will be able to attend the services.

Funeral arrangements are in charge of the Veile mortuary.