

ETHEL KENDRICK WALKER COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Ethel Kendrick Walker 1877-1973
- Title:** Ethel Kendrick Walker Collection
- Dates:** 1894-1938, 1955- 1969.
- Abstract:** Scrapbook covering the years 1894-1938 and 3 diaries covering the years 1955-1959, 1960-1964, and 1965-1969.
- Quantity:** 4 volumes
- Identification:** Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ethel Gertrude Kendrick was born July 23, 1877 in Glens Falls, NY. She was the daughter of Mary Elizabeth Cadwell and Samuel Kendrick.

Samuel Kendrick (1845-1917) came to Glens Falls in 1873 from Potsdam, where he had been associated with Samuel Peck in the drug business. He established a drug store at 8 Warren Street, later moving to the corner of Glen and Berry Streets. In 1876 he married the daughter of Dr. James E. Cadwell, a prominent dentist in Glens Falls. Shortly thereafter he became associated with Dr. Cadwell and Lyman Wilson, Dr. Cadwell's step-son, in a lumber mill while also continuing his drug store. The lumber mill continued under various partnership arrangements until the end of the Second World War, known for most of its history as the Kendrick & Brown sash and blind mill. In addition to his business interests, Samuel Kendrick served as village Treasurer, Chief of the Fire Department, Vice-president of the Savings and Loan Association, three times village president and once mayor of the City of Glens Falls. Glens Falls: The "Empire City" contains a full page of pictures of the Kendrick & Brown mill as it appeared in 1908. Toward the end of his life Kendrick spent much of his time on his farm in Queensbury. (S.Williams biography of Kendrick in the Biographical Vertical Files, and Glens Falls City Directories).

Mary Elizabeth Cadwell (1856-1916) was descended from or related to a number of old prominent Glens Falls families. Her great-grandfather, John Berry, was a brother of Colonel Sidney Berry, of Revolutionary War service. John's daughter Lydia married Philander Doty, also from an old area family and the progenitor of one of several lines

of Dotys in the area. Their daughter Mary Anne married first Lyman Wilson and second Dr. Cadwell. Through the Berrys Ethel Kendrick was also related to the Hawleys, early merchants of Glens Falls (Alpheus, Elias and Seth), and through the Wilsons to Lodice Porter Patterson, the mother of Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson. (A.W. Miller Biographical Files and Folklife Biographical Vertical Files).

Ethel grew up in the family house at 8 Berry Street (named for Captain Sidney Berry, a son of Colonel Sidney Berry). She lived there until after the death of her parents in 1916 and 1917, at which time she was forty years old. There is no indication that she was employed outside the house during her father's lifetime. In 1918 she still resided at 8 Berry Street, but in 1919 she is listed as boarding at 13 Center Street, the home of William F. Bissell, and employed at the Glens Falls Insurance Company. The house at 8 Berry Street was vacant. In 1920 the census shows her living at 40 Maple Street, the home of her aunt Gertrude C. Robbins and Robbins' son Dr. Gordon C. Peck, who was a dentist. Neither Gertrude nor Ethel are employed. Gertrude was the sister of Ethel's mother Mary Elizabeth Cadwell. She married first Walter M. Peck, scion of the Peck family which settled in Queensbury in 1786, and second William H. Robbins. Ethel's cousin Dr. Gordon Peck died in 1949, leaving his estate to her.

Unlike the census, the 1920 City Directory lists Ethel again as boarding at 8 Berry Street, and the house is now listed as being owned by George K. Walker. He was born in Maine, where he lived at least until 1910. He was employed as a superintendent by the Finch Pruyn Company. The 1920 census shows Walker at 8 Berry Street, with his wife Olie, daughter Ruth, age 14, and mother Carrie, age 68. I wondered if Ethel's listing was an error, but the 1922 City Directory also lists her as boarding at 8 Berry Street. Starting in 1923 Ethel Kendrick is no longer listed in the City Directories.

The 1930 census for Glens Falls shows George Walker and his wife, Ethel G. Walker, at 8 Berry Street. They are living alone except for a servant. The census suggests that they married about 1923, which is consistent with Ethel "Kendrick" no longer appearing in the City Directory. They did not, however, marry in New York State unless it was in New York City (NYSVRI). Presumably George's previous wife, Olie, died before his remarriage, although it is possible that they divorced. She does not appear to have died in New York, certainly not in Glens Falls, and she is not buried in Glens Falls. Starting in 1924 the City Directories, which are not yet including wives names, list Ruth Walker as a student, boarding at 8 Berry Street and Carrie Walker, widow of Hazen, likewise. Carrie died in Glens Falls in 1929 and is buried in Portland Maine. The 1930 Directory lists Ruth as employed on Long Island, NY but still residing at 8 Berry Street. In 1930-31 the Walkers moved to Roosevelt Ave. where they occupied the first house to be built on that street. It is variously designated as 1 Roosevelt, "corner of Pershing," and eventually 22 Roosevelt. They lived there for the rest of their lives. George died June 1, 1964 and Ethel June 19, 1973. Both are buried in Bay Street Cemetery, Glens Falls, NY.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The collection consists of four items: a scrapbook compiled by Ethel G. Kendrick, mostly before her marriage to George Walker, and three diaries she kept from 1955 through 1969.

The scrapbook is half-calf bound, with marbled paper covers, and measures 9 ½ x 7 ½ inches. On the first page she has written her name and the date: Ethel G. Kendrick, Sept. 27, '99. Although this suggests that she started the scrapbook at that time, it contains items dates from 1894 to 1938 (bulk 1899-1920). It provides extensive documentation of her personal and family life, especially while she was a young woman. This scrapbook contains numerous photographs, as well as theater and concert programs, menus for dinners, dance cards, newspaper clippings, telegrams, railroad tickets, letters, notes, memorabilia, Valentines, Christmas cards, calling cards, advertising cards, labels, and an itinerary of trip by horse and wagon through northern New York State, 1898. The volume mainly describes Ethel G. Kendrick's activities in Glens Falls and Lake George, but also included are photographs of Wolcott, Vermont; Manlius, New York (including St. John's Military Academy); Martinsburg, New York; and Morrisville, New York.

The first two diaries are Five Year Diary, 6 ½ by 5 ¼ inches, with blue leatherette covers. They originally had a tab that closed and locked the diary but on the 1960 diary that has broken off. The title page says "Marquette Five Year Diary. Property of ____" which is filled in "Ethel K. Walker/22 Roosevelt Avenue/Glens Falls, NY". The endpapers are printed with calendars for 1957- 1962 and 1959-1967. The inside back cover says "No. 1-595/Marquette Quality/ Made in U.S.A." The form of a five year diary provides 5 or 6 lines for each date for each year, one date per page. Mrs. Walker used these book for the years 1955 through 1959, and 1960 through 1964. The 1965 – 1969 diary, also a Five Year Diary, is 5 ½ by 4 inches, bound in red leatherette and missing its tab.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Family—New York(State)—History—Sources
Women-- New York(State)—History—Sources

Places: Glens Falls(N.Y.)—History—Sources
Lake George(N.Y.)—History—Sources
New York(State)—History--Sources

Important People: Walker, Ethel G. Kendrick 1877-1973
Walker, George K. 1879-1964
Kendrick Family

Form/Genre: Scrapbook

Diaries.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Ethel Kendrick Walker Collection
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Scrapbook donated by Bruce Cole 2005, 1960-1964 diary donated by Victoria Garlanda 2011; 1955-1959 and 1965-1969 donated by the O'Brien Estate, 2014.

Processing Information: Scrapbook described by Albert W. Fowler and John Austin, revised by Erica Wolfe Burke. Diaries arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, July 2011, December 2014.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

The Diaries

The format of five year diaries allows 5 or 6 lines per day. Ethel Walker was scrupulous about writing in her diary every day except for a period at the beginning of 1962 when she was ill (she was in the hospital from December 27, 1961 to February 20, 1962). On Feb 23 she wrote "Still not interested in diaries" and she didn't start to write regularly until a month later.

For the most part, Mrs. Walker recorded weather and daily activities: walks, drives, getting groceries; aches and pains; friends who came by; programs on TV. She regularly reports on who does her hair. On June 1, 1964 she records the death of her husband of forty-one years: "At noon today George my husband went on peacefully to a better home where sorrow is no more. It is 9:15 and I am so weary but it is life and I must go on for awhile."

The Scrapbook

For detailed description of the contents of the scrapbook, see the attached pages prepared by John Austin and Albert Fowler in 2005. (in the binder in the Folklife Center).