

Garnie Walker Testa Papers and Walker-Testa Family Genealogy A&M 4670

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1878-2025



Title Statement

Garnie Walker Testa Papers and Walker-Testa Family Genealogy A&M 4670

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Publication Statement

Publisher: West Virginia and Regional History Center

1549 University Ave.
P.O. Box 6069
Morgantown, WV 26506-6069
Business Number: 304-293-3536
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URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu>



2025/04/22

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-06-10 07:02:50 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 4670

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/7073

Unit Date

1878-2025

Language

English .

Creator

Testa, Garnie Walker, 1914-1999

source

Walker, Karen Jo

Extent

9.88 Linear Feet 9 ft. 10 1/2 in. (1 document case, 5 in.; 1 document case, 2.5 in.; 7 record cartons, 15 in. each; 1 flat storage box, 5 in.; 1 oversize folder, 0.1 in.; 1 framed cirkut photograph, 1 in.)

Extent

856 Megabytes 682 assorted .tiff, .docx, .jpg, .wps, .odt, .pptx, and .pdf files

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/>

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gifts from Walker, Karen Jo of 2022 October 5 and 2025 February 11.

Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Garnie Walker Testa Papers and Walker-Testa Family Genealogy, A&M 4670, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Garnie Wilma Walker Testa (1914-1999) was a native of a West Virginia mountain farming community within the Elk River basin, near Ivydale in Clay County. She was an educator, a World War II veteran, a farmer and a local historian.

After graduating as valedictorian from Clay County High School in 1933, she earned her first teaching certificate from Glenville State Teachers College in 1934, a Bachelor of Arts from Marshall College in 1940 and a Master of Arts from West Virginia University in 1942. During these years and until 1944, she also taught grades 1 through 8, mostly in one-room, Clay County rural schools.

In 1944, while at WVU, Walker enlisted in the U.S. Women's Army Corps. Following her military training in Iowa, she was assigned to work at the Pentagon and then, at the war's end, was placed with the Historical Division in Germany's American Zone. While in Weisbaden, she met Carmelo F. Testa who was serving in the U.S. Air Force, and they married in 1949. Soon after, they returned to the U.S. and Garnie Walker Testa returned to her teaching career in West Virginia. Beginning in the fall of 1950, she taught at elementary and junior high schools in Kanawha County and continued through the spring of 1958. In 1954, Walker Testa bought her family's Laurel Run Farm from her parents. Then from 1958 through 1975, she taught grades 11 and 12 (mostly English and History) at Clay County High School and continued farming.

After retiring in 1975, Walker Testa expanded her WVU thesis research into a full-length book manuscript, doing much of the writing during the cold winters on the farm. Although she completed it ca. 1983, *The Ringing of the Bells: A Bicentennial History of Education in Clay County, West Virginia* was not published until 2020. Many of the items in this collection were compiled and retained by Walker Testa, but her niece, Karen Jo Walker, is responsible for organizing the collection, editing/publishing the education history volume, and compiling much of the genealogical research. Karen J. Walker, Ph.D., retired, is an archaeological and historical researcher.

Scope and Contents

Includes the papers of Garnie Wilma Walker Testa (1914-1999) and genealogical research about the Walker-Testa family. The papers include material retained from her high school, college, and graduate school years, like graduation photographs and academic texts – all in Series 1 Subseries 1. The collection also includes documentation of her military service in the Army during World War II, featuring items like field guides for

military procedures, photographs of herself and peers in uniform, and travel books acquired while serving internationally – all in Series 1 Subseries 2. There are materials from Walker Testa's time as a teacher in Kanawha and Clay Counties, West Virginia, like certificates commemorating her work and books used in the classroom – all in Series 1 Subseries 3. A copy of Walker Testa's historical survey of education in Clay County, *The Ringing of the Bells: A Bicentennial History of Education in Clay County, West Virginia*, and other items related to the book's production are featured, including some digital material – all in Series 1 Subseries 4. Additionally, there is genealogical research material that explores her life and her family's lineage through material like descendant charts, biographical sketches, and old family photographs – all in Series 1 Subseries 5 and the collection's addendum of 2025.

Keywords

Education -- West Virginia -- Clay County
Clay County, West Virginia -- Genealogy
World War, 1939-1945 -- Veterans -- West Virginia
Farm life -- West Virginia
Walker, Karen Jo
Testa, Garnie Walker, 1914-1999

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Garnie Walker Testa Papers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234733

Unit Date 1878-2020

Conditions Governing Access

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Scope and Contents

This series includes Walker Testa's personal and professional papers retained throughout her life. It includes material from her education at Glenville State Teachers College, Marshall College and West Virginia University, documentation of her military service in the US Women's Army Corps, items from her 30+ years of service as a teacher in Clay and Kanawha County schools, material related to the research, writing, and publication of her book on the history of education in Clay County, and an assortment of genealogical research material compiled by and about Walker Testa.

Education

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234734

Unit Date 1912-2020

Scope and Contents

This subseries includes materials related to Walker's education in Clay County schools and her secondary education to become a teacher. She earned her teaching certificate from Glenville State Teachers College in 1934, her bachelor's degree at Marshall College in 1940 and her master's degree at West Virginia University in 1942. Includes academic textbooks, photographs of Walker with school friends and in graduation regalia, correspondence, and a copy of her master's thesis.

Portrait photograph of Garnie W. Walker

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234735

Unit Date 1933

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

The gathers at the shoulder of Walker's garment are suggestive of a graduation gown. May be her high

school graduation photograph.

Photograph of Garnie W. Walker sitting in front of a large haystack

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234736

Unit Date 1933

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Greetings from Glenville, W. Va. postcard

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234737

Unit Date 1936 October

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Written, mailed, and stamped by Oattie Walker to her sister Garnie Walker, address "Ivydale, Wva" in October 1936. Includes a message about cost of boarding, cases of scarlet fever, and other things. Found hidden in between pages 322 and 323 of Walker's Elements of Geography textbook.

Envelope and note from John Coulter including photo of Garnie

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234738

Unit Date 2020 December

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

John Coulter is the son of Janie Stephenson Coulter, a teacher who has an entry in The Ringing of the Bells. A related email was printed and included. On the back of the photograph, John Coulter wrote, "Garnie Walker, Glenville. Mom's Room Mate," however, a stamp of the developer indicates that the photo was made in Des Moines, Iowa. In late 1944, Walker did spend 9 weeks in Des Moines in WAC Training, but the location and date of the photo is uncertain.

Photographs of Garnie Walker and Janie Stephenson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234739

Unit Date circa 1930s

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Two same-day images on hilltop near Glenville, WV, 1930s. One is of Walker standing by herself. The second is her sitting with Janie Stephenson; behind them are Jim Curry (left) and French DeBoard (rt). A related email was printed and included.

Photograph of Garnie Walker in front of a building

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234740

Unit Date circa 1930s-early 1940s

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Possible locations are Glenville State Teachers College, Marshall College, and even WVU in Morgantown. 1930s or early 1940s.

Photograph of Garnie Walker sitting in black graduation cap and gown

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234741

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Estimate for the date and context of this photograph is Walker's 1940 graduation from Marshall College when she received her B.A. degree in Education.

Marshall College Commencement Announcement

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234742

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Walker's graduation announcement of the 1940 Marshall College commencement ceremony; her name appears on the last page.

Postcard from Garnie Walker to Josephine Hickman

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234743

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Written, stamped, and mailed from Walker to her sister Josephine ("Mrs. Josephine Hickman") in Charleston, WV. Likely sent while Walker was in Huntington at Marshall College.

Garnie Walker Testa Master's Thesis

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234744

Unit Date 1942

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

A History of Education in Clay County, West Virginia. Garnie Wilma Walker, A.B. 1942 Morgantown, West Virginia. Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts to the Faculty of the Graduate School of West Virginia University. This is Walker's personal copy of her thesis. The Chairman of her examining committee was Dr. H. G. Wheat of the College of Education, WVU. His signature appears at the back.

Chief Justice Vol. One

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234745

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Marshall College Student Government yearbook, 1940. Walker's name is printed in the front of the book. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in the Teachers College of Marshall College in June 1940. Her photograph as a senior student is included on page 48.

A Survey of European Civilization. W. Ferguson, G. Bruun, and C. Becker. Houghton Mifflin Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234746

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker's name is printed in ink in front of book.

In This Our Life. Ellen Glasgow, Grosset & Dunlap. First Edition

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234747

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker's hand-printed name appears in ink in front of this Pulitzer-Prize winning novel. Glasgow "portrayed the changing world of the contemporary South in a realistic manner" (including the topic of racism).

Elements of Geography. V. Finch and G. Trewartha, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234748

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie W. Walker Ivydale, W. Va." appears in penciled cursive writing in front of book. Within text are penciled underlining and notes in Walker's hand and someone else's, perhaps her sister Ottie's. There are 9 folded maps in an attached envelope at the back of the book. Also there are seven folded papers that are tests and/or study questions related to the book. Much of the handwriting on these is Garnie Walker's. There may be a second person's writing; possibly Ottie Walker.

Political and Social History of the United States: 1829-1925. A. M. Schlesinger, The MacMillan Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234749

Unit Date 1932

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Miss Garnie Walker" appears in ink in front of book, but the previous owner(s) has written many notes in pencil in front and elsewhere. Notes at back of book are in Walker's hand, and somewhere she wrote "Test" at the beginning of a section.

The Methodology of Educational Research. C. Good, A. Barr, and D. Scates, D. Appleton-Century Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234750

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker's name appears in ink, cursive writing in front of book. Her penciled notes and underlining are evident. This book likely influenced her Masters work where she identified, researched and followed through with a "Problem" for a written thesis.

Classroom Organization and Control (revised). J. B. Sears, Houghton Mifflin Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234751

Unit Date 1928

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker's name appears in ink, cursive writing in front of book. She may have acquired this book around 1936 while at Glenville State College.

How to Write a Thesis. W. Reeder, Public School Publishing Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234752

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker's printed, inked name appears in front of book. She may have used this book in part, along with the Methodology one, during the summer of 1942 to guide her thesis work/writing/formatting. Her handwritten notes appear on several pages.

Public School Finance: Its Background, Structure, and Operation. P. Mort and W. Reusser, McGraw-Hill Book Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234753

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie W. Testa" is hand-printed in red pencil in front of book. She married Carmelo Testa in 1949 but this is a textbook likely acquired in Morgantown during her WVU Master's Degree work, so it is unclear when she wrote her name.

Public School Administration: A Statement of the Fundamental Principles Underlying the Organization and Administration of Public Education. E. P. Cubberley, Houghton Mifflin Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234754

Unit Date 1929

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie W. Walker" appears, hand-printed in ink, in the front of this textbook. Previously owned. Pencil underlining evident.

History of the American Frontier: 1763-1893, Students' Edition. F. L. Paxson, Houghton Mifflin Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234755

Unit Date 1924

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Garnie Walker's name is printed in ink in front of book. Below it is another name, presumably a previous owner.

The Teacher Outside the School. J. F. Marsh, World Book Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234756

Unit Date 1928

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Garnie Walker's name is in inked cursive writing in front of book.

Evaluation and Improvement of Teaching (Teacher Training Series). C. Knudsen, Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234757

Unit Date 1932

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie W. Walker" appears in ink in front of book. The book relates to secondary-school instruction. Walker received her Secondary Teaching Certificate from Marshall College in 1943.

A History of West Virginia. Charles H. Ambler, Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234758

Unit Date 1933

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie Wilma Walker Ivydale, W. Va." is printed in ink by Walker's hand in front of book. There was at least one previous owner/user, so more than one person has made notations throughout, but Walker's handwritten penciled notes are recognizably distinctive.

West Virginia: The Mountain State. Charles H. Ambler, Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234759

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Ottie Walker's penciled cursive signature is written in front of book. Garnie Walker used and cited this updated history volume in her 1942 WVU M.A. thesis.

Fighting Angel: Portrait of a Soul. Pearl S. Buck, Triangle Books

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234760

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie W. Walker" is hand-printed in ink in front of book.

Common Seed Plants of the Mid-Appalachian Region. P. Strausbaugh, E. Core, and N. Ammons, The Morgantown Printing & Binding Co.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234761

Unit Date 1931

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Garnie Walker's name is printed in ink in front of book. Others appear in cursive by different hands as

Garnie Walker's name is printed in ink in front of book. Others appear in cursive by different hands, as does a penciled price of \$2.29. While not directly related to Walker's course of study, she may have used this plant book for reference.

Reading and Writing: A Method and a Manual of Compositional Exercises to Accompany the Study of Literature. R. M. Gay, Little, Brown, and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234762

Unit Date 1935

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie Walker Ivydale, Clay Co. W. Va." written in cursive ink in front of book. She likely used this book as a text during the 1939-1940 school year at Marshall College.

The Primary School: How to Improve its Organization and Teaching. Annie E. Moore, Houghton Mifflin Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234763

Unit Date 1925

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Garnie Walker's name is in penciled cursive writing in front of book. Penciled notes and underlining are present through the book.

Progressive Education at the Crossroads. B. Bode, Newson & Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234764

Unit Date 1938

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Garnie Walker's inked, printed name appears in the front of this book.

First Year Musical Theory (Rudiments of Music). T. Tapper, The Arthur P. Schmidt Co.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234765

Unit Date 1912

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

New Handbook of Composition E. Wooley and F. W. Scott, D. C. Heath and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234766

Unit Date 1926

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie Wilma Walker" and "Garnie Walker" names appear in front of book. As do "Ottie Walker," and "Mary Brannon" (possibly a cousin on maternal side of family). And "Nay S. Hathaway June 14, 1935 Glenville College." Mr. Hathaway was a teacher at Laurel Ridge School. Other names of owners/users appear. Walker was at Glenville State Teachers College in the summers of 1933 -1937.

Military Service

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234767

Unit Date 1938-1998

Scope and Contents

This subseries includes materials related to Garnie Walker's military service. She enlisted in the US Women's Army Corps in 1944. There are several photographs of Walker in military uniform, of her and friends in the service, and of Carmelo Testa, whom she married in 1949. There are several guides that would have been issued to Walker while in the service and several commemorative books written after the war ended, including an excerpt written by Garnie Walker Testa for a publication highlighting Clay County WWII veterans. These materials also document Garnie Walker and Carmelo Testa's travels with the military, including postcards and photographs from around Europe. A large assortment of travel guides, language learning books, and other books about the history and culture of countries in continental Europe, the British Isles, Scandinavia, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia are also included.

The Waacs. Nancy Shea

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234768

Unit Date 1943

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Helmets and Lipstick. Ruth G. Haskell, 2nd Lieutenant A.N.C., G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234769

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker wrote her name in front of book - "Garnie Walker" and there is a stamp: ".....'s Bookstore - The Pentagon - Washington 25 D. C."

Memoirs of a WAC: Memories of Clay County WAC During World War II Part I. Appears in Hickory & Lady Slippers Volume XVIII

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234770

Unit Date 1996

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Edited volume featuring a memoir by Walker Testa

Memoirs of a WAC: Memories of Clay County WAC During World War II Part II. Appears in Hickory & Lady Slippers Volume XXI

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234771

Unit Date 1998

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Edited volume featuring an essay by Walker

War Department Field Manual, Leadership Courtesy and Drill

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234772

Unit Date 1946 February

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

On page III, a statement reads that the book is published "by order of the Secretary of War: Official: Dwight D. Eisenhower, Chief of Staff and Edward F. Witsell, Major General The Adjutant General," and Garnie Walker wrote in pencil next to Witsell's name: "My Boss for 6 months. Left this office to go to

Germany June 1946."

Basic Field Manual - Soldier's Handbook. U.S. Govt Printing Office.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234773

Unit Date 1941 July 23

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker's name is printed on the front cover along with her number A513026. These are also stamped in bold black ink on the front cover, inside on front page, and again in the back.

Elmendorf Air Force Base Alaskan Portraits

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234774

Unit Date circa 1950s

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Elmendorf is likely where Carmelo Testa, Walker's husband, was stationed throughout the 1950s.

Women's Army Corps Song Book

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234775

Unit Date 1944 August 1

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

The National Archives of the United States: Catalog of Exhibit. Circular No. 6 booklet

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234776

Unit Date 1944 October

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Washington Handy Guide. L. J. Nesterman

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234777

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Bylaws and Rituals - Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234778

Unit Date 1975

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Two related booklets

Framed photograph of Garnie W. Walker in uniform exhibiting U.S. Army Air Force, Technical Sergeant, and other insignia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234779

Unit Date 1947

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Photograph is in a decorative "USA" frame with flag motifs

Personal Memoir on Military Service in History of Clay County, West Virginia. photocopies

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234780

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Garnie Walker and Carmelo Testa, military photographs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234781

Unit Date circa 1938-1950

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes the following photographs, many of which have handwritten captions: Garnie W. Walker in uniform including cap. "About 1946." (shoulder patch signifies Military District - Washington.); Photographs of Garnie W. Walker in uniform 1947 (2 8x10s (1 b/w, 1 colorized); 1 5x6); Photograph of Carmelo Testa in uniform, sitting in a dog sled with dogs on snow-covered ground in front of a building (likely taken in Alaska, where he was station at this time); Six photographs of scenes that may be in Alaska, presumably taken by Carmelo Testa; Photograph of 7th Historical Unit - Headquarters USAFE, Wiesbaden Germany July 1947 (Eight individuals all named on back of photo in Walker's handwriting. Taken on steps to a building); A photograph showing Garnie Walker with her brother in law Judson Hickman in a Naval uniform.; Photograph of Garnie and her sister Josephine E. Walker; Photograph of Walker's visit to a German farm; Photograph of Walker in a uniform overcoat and cap; Photograph captioned by Walker showing American soldiers at wreckage of Hitler's bombed retreat; Photograph captioned by Walker as "Eagle's Nest - Hitler's Retreat - Berchtesgaden."; 4 photographs of Walker in uniform in Austria, Denmark, and Norway; Photograph of Walker and friends at a dinner party at the Rocker Club, Wiesbaden, Germany, 5 February, 1948; Photograph of Walker and friends in front of an airplane, Wiesbaden Airfield. 1948; Photograph of Walker and friends under wing of same airplane, Wiesbaden Airfield; Photograph of a 3-story building in Frankfurt, Germany, August 1948; Photograph of same 3-story building in Frankfurt; Photograph of a funeral for a WAC 1948; Photograph of Walker sitting in a chair in Copenhagen; Photographs of Walker and friends in uniform taken at Wespertal Lodge, Germany, 1948?; Photograph of Garnie W. Walker in uniform with cap; Wedding photographs of Garnie Walker Testa and new husband Carmelo F. Testa. April 29, 1949; Photograph of the Egyptian Sphinx with pyramid in background (After missions in North Africa and Italy, ca. 1942-1943, Carmelo Testa visited Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt.); Photograph of Carmelo F. Testa in Panama - Canal Zone, circa 1938; Portrait photographs of Carmelo Francisco Testa in uniform, 1948, Air Force First Intelligence Service.; Printed photographs of framed panoramic photograph of Thirty Third Infantry - Panama Canal Zone 1938

Postcards from military travels

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234782

Unit Date 1944-1949

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes the following items: Postcard of Hotel Maison Rouge where Walker stayed in Strasbourg, France November 19-21, 1948 (In Walker's handwriting. It is not addressed to anyone. It may have been included in an envelope perhaps with a letter.); Postcard of the Eiffel Tower from "Carmelo and Garnie." 1949 (In Walker's handwriting, stamped addressed to her mother home on the farm. "Mrs. Albert S. Walker, Ivydale, West Virginia U. S. A." GW and Carmelo Testa were on their honeymoon in Paris, May 1949.); Postcard showing the Hotel de Ville, a bridge over the Seine with a boat. 1949 (From Walker, stamped and addressed to "Mrs. Gene Hamrick" Clay WV. This was Walker's sister, Justena Walker Hamrick.); 2 postcards from Pvt. Garnie W. Walker in Iowa where she was in training at Fort Des Moines (one sent to sister Josephine and one sent to brother Leonard); 2 postcards from Pfc.

Garnie W. Walker at Fort Myer, VA (both sent to Josephine)

Handwritten letters from Garnie Walker in Europe sent to her sister, Ottie Walker Callison, in West Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234783

Unit Date 1946

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes a series of letters, but one seems to be missing, per a note from the donor.

Shoulder Sleeve Insignia... U.S. Armed Forces

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234784

Unit Date 1945

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Photocopies of My Life in the Service of the United States (1938-1959) with photographs, by Carmelo Francisco Testa

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234785

Unit Date circa 1975

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Travel guides, language learning books, and history books regarding countries and regions Garnie Walker and Carmelo Testa traveled to while serving abroad

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234786

Unit Date 1937-1951 and undated

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Includes an assortment of 110 guidebooks, pamphlets, language learning books, history and culture books, and more for regions across continental Europe, the British Isles, Scandinavia, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

A Pocket Reference Guide - Army Navy Marine Corps Insignia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234787

Unit Date circa 1943

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Mein Own Kampf. M. P. Gudebrod, Stars and Stripes, Pfungstadt, Germany

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234788

Unit Date 1949

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Yank--the GI Story of the War. By the staff of Yank, The Army Weekly, Duell, Sloan & Pearce, New York.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234789

Unit Date 1947

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Operation Vittles: Cook Book compiled by The American Women in Blockaded Berlin, Deutscher Verlag

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234790

Unit Date 1949

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Hurricane Yank. R. G. Montgomery, David McKay Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234791

Unit Date 1942

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Infantry Drill Regulations - U.S. Army. The Military Service Publishing Co. Harrisburg, Pa.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234792

Unit Date 1938

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Likely belonged to Carmelo Testa

VE Plus 365 booklet

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234793

Unit Date 1946

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Songs of Stephen Foster for the U.S. Armed Forces.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234794

Unit Date 1943

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Army Song Book with lyrics and scores

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234795

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Army Song Book with lyrics only

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234796

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

History of the 861st Engineer Aviation Battalion 1942-1945. Printed by R. Oldenbourg, Munich, Germany

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234797

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Two copies

A Brief History of the 439th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion. Edited by F. E. Van Camp, John W. Stalder, and others

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234798

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Cruise Log - The Story of a Ship, of her Crew, and Six Months in the Mediterranean: U. S. S. Fargo. Edited by Lt. H. O. Webster et al

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234799

Unit Date circa 1949

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

The Falcon

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234800

Unit Date 1946

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

A Soldier's Album

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234801

Unit Date 1946

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Military Tribunals: Case No. Two. The United States of America against Erhard Milch, Defendant. Nurnberg Germany

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234802

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker visited Nurnberg to view the trials, this may be the record of the one she attended.

Ninth Air Force - USAAF. Milton Marx, Captain A. C., Publication by Executive Liaison Section, Ulius L. Amoss, Colonel U.S.A., Printed by Desfosses-Neogravure, Paris France

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234803

Unit Date 1945

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

The Record: the Holocaust in History - 1933-1945. featured in The Charleston Gazette

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234804

Unit Date 1978 April 17

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

"The Best of the Best" Unit History: 988th Military Police Co., (AVN) August 1942 - December 1945. Printed by Wiesbadener Verlag G. m. b. H., Wiesbaden, Germany

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234805

Unit Date 1947

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Panoramic photograph of Thirty Third Infantry - Panama Canal Zone

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234806

Unit Date 1938

Graphic Materials 1 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Carmelo Testa is likely in this photograph.

Portraits of Carmelo Testa in military uniform

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234807

Unit Date 1948

Mixed Materials Oversize 1 (Folder)

Teaching Career

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234808

Unit Date 1934-1975

Scope and Contents

This subseries includes items from Walker Testa's decades of service as an educator in Clay County public schools. There are photographs of Walker Testa and her students, photocopied excerpts of yearbooks, and certificates and letters of appreciation. There is also an assortment of books that Walker Testa used in her classroom.

Copied photograph of a group of Walker's students at Laurel Ridge School

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234809

Unit Date 1937

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Walker taught at Laurel Ridge School in the 1936-1937 school year. Her handwriting appears on the backside: "Laurel Ridge School Garnie Walker Teacher." A dated stamp from Glenville WV also is exhibited. Notes have been added to this copy in pencil by Karen Walker.

Nine original copies of headshots of Walker Testa

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234810

Unit Date 1943-1944; 1958-1975

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

These are sitting portrait-style photographs that were taken of Walker Testa as a member of the faculty at Clay County High School where she taught 1943-1944 and 1958-1975. Only one is dated - 1967 - but all the others also could be dated if the school yearbooks were consulted.

Photograph of group with Walker Testa at head of table

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234811

Unit Date circa 1967 or 1968

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scanned pages from Clay County High School's 1967 Yearbook featuring Walker Testa

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234812

Unit Date 1967

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Walker Testa served as the faculty advisor for the yearbook (known as the "Tiskelwah") in 1967

Certificate of Cooperative Service presented to Mrs. Garnie Testa by the Southern States Cooperative Farm Home Advisory Committee

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234813

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Certificates and Letters of Appreciation

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234814

Unit Date circa 1975-1983

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Included are a letter signed by 16 members of the 1975 Tiskelwah Staff; a letter from Gov. Arch Moore (1975); a letter from A. J. Manchin, Sec. of State (1983), and more

Birthday card from Walker Testa to niece, Karen Walker

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234815

Unit Date 1975

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

References Walker Testa's work as a teacher

Plaque awarded to Walker Testa by Tiskelwah Yearbook Staff**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/234816**Unit Date** circa 1967**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)**Scope and Contents**

"Tiskelwah" is the name of the Clay County High School yearbook

American Language Series: Book Three. J. F. Hosic and C. L. Hooper, Rand McNally & Company**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/234817**Unit Date** 1932**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)**Scope and Contents**

English composition for 7th and 8th grades. "Garnie Walker" appears in ink in front of book and lightly penciled, relevant marks, etc. in Walker's handwriting on multiple pages. She likely used this book, 1934-1939 while teaching in several one-room rural schools and/or at Swandale, 1941-1943.

Using Words: An Enriched Spelling Program. Second, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Years. Lillian Billington, Silver Burdette Company**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/234818**Unit Date** 1940**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)**Scope and Contents**

Second book has "Testa" in blue pencil in front of book and only a few pencil markings within the text. "Garnie Walker" appears in the other 3 books; all 3 exhibit much handwriting by Walker throughout. The seventh-year book exhibits a stamp in the front recording the place of purchase: Murphy & Company Department Store Since 1902, Clay, W. Va. Walker taught grades 6, 7, and 8 at Swandale School, where she also served as Principal. (The eighth-year book exhibits, in the back, the name Leonard Walker, Garnie Walker's youngest brother who attended Laurel Ridge School, 1-8 grades.)

Children's Literature. Curry Clippinger**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/234819**Unit Date** 1921**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)**Scope and Contents**

Several pages have been torn from the front of the book, including the title page. Penciled underlining and notes, the latter in Walker's handwriting appear here and there, especially on page 17 and back of book.

The New Curriculum Arithmetics: Book Three. Grade Seven (first half) and Grade Eight (second half). L. J. Brueckner, et al., J. C. Winston Company**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/234820**Unit Date** 1935**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)**Scope and Contents**

There was at least one previous owner of book whose name appears in front. Also includes the purchase price of \$0.73. In the back, many names are written by someone other than Walker. Many

penciled markings appear throughout - some are recognizably Walker's (small, tight cursive script.) She likely used this book, 1934-1939 in one-rooms and/or at Swandale, 1941-1943. See timeline.

The Music Hour: One-Book Course. O. McConathy, et al., Silver, Burdette and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234821

Unit Date 1932

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"This is a music book for one-room schools..." Garnie Walker's name is printed in ink in the front of this book. On the back of the first page is a list of music terms written by her hand. On title page, upper right, appears the initials LOW. Walker taught her younger brothers, Leon and Leonard, the latter having the initials LOW. She likely used this book, 1934-1939. Relevant notations in pencil are by her hand.

The Progressive Music Series: Teacher's Manual Volume I For First, Second, and Third Grades. H. Parker, O. McConathy, E. B. Birge, and W. O Miessner, Silver, Burdett and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234822

Unit Date 1919

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Garnie Walker's name is penciled in front of book, cursive writing. There are also penciled notes through the text in her hand. Based on a few of these (indicating what will be tested), Walker possibly also used this book as a student.

Pathways in Science: Learning About Our World. G. Craig and M. Condry, Ginn and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234823

Unit Date 1932

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Garnie Walker's name is printed in ink in front of book. Likely used during 1934-1939 and/or 1941-1943.

Our Wild Animals. E. L. Moseley, D. Appleton and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234824

Unit Date 1927

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

This is a science reader for intermediate grades. Oattie Walker's signature appears in ink in front of this book. Oattie was one of Garnie Walker's sisters. Oattie also taught in Clay County's one-room schools during the 1930s and later in Kanawha County as Oattie Walker Callison.

Healthy Living (Book Two): Principles of Personal and Community Hygiene. C-E. A. Winslow, Charles E. Merrill Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234825

Unit Date 1927

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Garnie Walker's name in cursive writing is inked in front of book. Also a "Murphy & Company

Garnie Walker's name in cursive writing is inked in front of book. Also, a "Murphy & Company Department Store Clay W. Va." stamp. Given the age of this book, Walker may well have used it well before she taught Health during her first year (1943-1944) teaching at Clay County High School.

Your Household Guide. 4-H Leaders Association, Clay County, West Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234826

Unit Date 1951

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Clay County supporters/businesses listed in back.

Sing a Tune

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234827

Unit Date 1954

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Camp songs, etc.

West Virginia Sings. 4H Club Song Book

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234828

Unit Date 1964

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker Testa was an active 4-H faculty advisor/organizer during her years teaching at Clay County High School.

The Alpha Phi State Story 1941-1975: The Delta Kappa Gamma Society. McGlothlin Printing Company, Parkersburg, WV

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234829

Unit Date 1975

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Walker Testa was an active member of this international, honorary educational society. Alpha Phi is the West Virginia state organization within the Society. She was first a member of the Nu Chapter (she is mentioned on page 105) and then with the Alpha Alpha Chapter (pages 134-135). On page 134 she is mentioned twice and said to be the chapter's recording secretary; on page 135 she appears in the photograph with other Clay County teachers who have auto/biographical entries in the The Ringing of the Bells book.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International -- Alpha Alpha Chapter, Clay, West Virginia, Yearbook

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234830

Unit Date 1970

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Multiple listings of Garnie W. Testa. She was President of the Chapter (see page 19).

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International -- Alpha Phi State, West Virginia 1989-1991 State Directory, Standing Rules and Bylaws

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234831

Unit Date 1989

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Page 44 - Alpha Alpha Chapter listing includes Garnie W. Testa.

A collection of small playbooks published variously, titled variously, from 1928, 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234832

Unit Date circa 1928-1975

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Some of these exhibit Garnie Walker's handwriting and some have handwritten dates noted on them, perhaps indicating a year when the plays were performed. One is as recent as 1975, the year of Walker's retirement. According to Walker's daughter Rosalia, she loved incorporating plays into her teaching through the years.

The Ringing of the Bells: A Bicentennial History of Education in Clay County, West Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234833

Unit Date 1971-2020

Conditions Governing Access

Researchers may access digital materials by requesting to view the materials in person by appointment or remotely by contacting the West Virginia & Regional History Center reference department at <https://westvirginia.libanswers.com/wvrhc>.

Scope and Contents

This subseries includes materials related to the development and production of *The Ringing of the Bells: A Bicentennial History of Education in Clay County, West Virginia*. This book is an expansion of Walker Testa's master's thesis, but most of the expanded research and writing was done in the 1970s and early 1980s. From the 2010s to 2020, Karen J. Walker worked with the Clay County Historical Society to edit, publish, and distribute the book. A small portion of Walker Testa's original research material, like maps and an unfinished manuscript copy of the book are included. Related items are included in digital format, like teacher biographies and supporting photographs. There are also items created during the process of editing, printing, and publicizing the book -- both paper and digital. Lastly, there is a completed, bound copy of the book.

Correspondence and notes related to production of *The Ringing of the Bells*

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234834

Unit Date 2014-2020

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Unused supporting material for *The Ringing of the Bells*

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234835

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes a copy of a 1889 document that was researched for *The Ringing of the Bells* but ultimately not

includes a copy of a 1999 document that was researched for *The Ringing of the Bells* but ultimately not used, titled "Specifications for S House in Pleasant District Clay County West Va." The date the photocopy was created is unknown.

Typed manuscript copy of *The Ringing of the Bells*

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234836

Unit Date 1980

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 3-7 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This copy was manually typewritten by Garnie Walker Testa. It is stored across 5 manila folders in box 6.

Original envelopes housing manuscript copy

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234837

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials Oversize 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

These envelopes feature handwritten notes from Garnie Walker Testa, Karen Walker, and/or others involved in the book

Bound copy of *The Ringing of the Bells*

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234838

Unit Date 2020

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Photograph of Garnie Walker Testa

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234839

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This image was used in the book.

Assorted maps of Clay County

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234840

Unit Date 1971-1976

Mixed Materials Oversize 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes the following maps and related correspondence: Outline Map With County Seats State of West Virginia by WV Dept of Highways, undated; map of Clay County Primary and Secondary Highways created by the State Road Commission of West Virginia, 1971 reprint of 1933 edition map; General Highway Map - Clay County - West Virginia by WV Department of Highways, 1976; ordering information for Department of Highways maps and two 8 1/2 x 11 in. maps of the Outline Map with County Seats

Digital materials related to production and distribution of *The Ringing of the Bells*

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234841

Unit Date circa 2014-2020

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Conditions Governing Access

Researchers may access digital materials by requesting to view the materials in person by appointment or remotely by contacting the West Virginia & Regional History Center reference department at <https://westvirginia.libanswers.com/wvrhc>.

Scope and Contents

Includes digital copies of information used by Karen Walker to facilitate the production and distribution of the book, which took place around 2014-2020. Digital folder titles are as follows: "1989 Letters & Permission Form," "Book Printing - Sheridan," "Chapter 11 map images," "Chapter 11 School Photos," "Chapter 17 Clay County Teachers," "Editor," "Flyers and Order Form," "Hist of Clay Co Education FINAL book image 5-14-2020," "Hist of Clay Co Education FINAL Testa book 4-21-2020," "Maps 1, 2, 3," and "Misc. Correspondence"

Walker-Testa Family Genealogy

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234842

Unit Date 1878-1999

Scope and Contents

This subseries includes an assortment of genealogical research about the Walker family. Descendant lists, biographical sketches, photographs, obituaries, and more are included – some of which were compiled by Walker Testa and others compiled after her death in 1999. There is also a collection of books owned by her father, Albert Seth Walker, in the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries and an 1881 bible that has been passed down through the family. Albert Seth Walker likely attended Little Laurel School and later a Normal school in Clay County. He attained a Teaching Certificate and later became a minister. Most of the academic and religious books in this series belonged to him unless otherwise noted. His name and sometimes "Ivydale, Clay Co" appears in the covers of these books.

List of Descendants of Captain Samuel Walker

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234843

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Provided by Neva Pearl Shiflett Adams. Adams achieved the breakthrough finding of Walker connections to colonial New Hampshire and Massachusetts and then back to England. After the death of Solomon Walker in NH, his wife Leah Boyden Walker and their son, Solon Walker moved south into West Virginia.

List of Descendants of Andrew Jackson Walker

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234844

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Provided by Neva Pearl Shiflett Adams. A. J. Walker was Garnie Walker's paternal grandfather. A. J. Walker and his family are the source of the Walker Road community name, located off of Laurel Ridge Road. As of 2022, Walker Road is known as Dark Hollow Road.

Written entry about the Walker Family by Garnie W. W. Testa in History of Clay County, West Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234845

Unit Date 1989

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Walker and others did not have the advantage of the internet or DNA analyses when completing this work. For a long time, it was thought that the WV Walker family was connected to the 1775 Joel Walker (m. Jane Cavendish) line. This has been corrected in recent years.

A Twig from the Walker Tree, written and compiled by Garnie Walker Testa

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234846

Unit Date circa 1980s

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

During the 1980s, Garnie Walker Testa researched her family tree as best she could, with the occasional help of others, including her youngest brother, Leonard O. Walker. The connection made between Joel Walker/Jane Cavendish is an error.

Aerial photograph of a large portion of the Walker Testa Farm

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234847

Unit Date 1979

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Clippings of Laurel Ridge News, a column by Garnie Walker Testa in the Clay County Free Press newspaper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234848

Unit Date 1979-1984

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Photographs of Garnie Walker and others

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234849

Unit Date 1919-1933

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes the following photos: Image of Albert Seth Walker and Ollie Dove Brannon Walker with their first three children: Garnie Wilma (first born), Ottie Irene, and Josephine Etta (third born); 1919 [Studio] Image of the oldest three Walker sisters: Garnie Wilma, Ottie Irene, and Josephine Etta; 1920s image of Garnie, Ottie, and Josephine standing in front of a fence; 1920s image of Garnie, Ottie, and Josephine sitting on back of saddled farm horse; 1924 image of Garnie (and likely also Ottie) Walker in a school group taken against an exterior wall of Laurel Ridge School near Ivydale, WV; Image from Clay County Free Press of Garnie Walker and 2 high school friends, taken in 1933; A photograph of a group of people at a table; and a photograph of a group of people outdoors

Letters by Garnie Walker Testa to her family with related photographs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234850

Unit Date circa 1980s

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Photographs feature Garnie Walker Testa's farm, taken by Karen J. Walker. 1: Open gate, Barn on right. Camera is facing north/NE. On the hilltop in center of photo, under the trees, is the old Lyons cemetery, identified on maps as the Cherrytree Cemetery. The visible farm road leads up and on around to the right toward the other trees. In this area is the "new" Walker Cemetery where Albert and Ollie Walker and are buried. And in 1999, where Garnie Walker Testa was also buried, alongside Carmelo. 2: Lower portion of the same barn seen in previous photo. 3: Mountaintop farm view with a fence, pasture, and one of Garnie's cows. (Cherrytree Cemetery is named for Cherrytree Run/Fork which is beyond view and runs into Rush Fork). 4: Another view of the barn with outbuildings on the left and the house to the right near the evergreen trees. Color images were taken in 1982 by Bruce C. Walker, which feature the old farm, located below Garnie Walker Testa's ridgetop home (still within the 221 acres). It is down at the head of Laurel Run which flows into the Big Otter and on to the Elk River. There were other outbuildings not shown in these photos. K. J. Walker, her brothers and cousins, including Garnie's daughter Rosalia, are currently working to document this older farm.

Autobiographical and biographical sketches of Garnie Walker Testa's life

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234851

Unit Date 1960s and undated

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Material relating to the death and burial of Garnie Walker Testa and Carmelo Testa

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234852

Unit Date 1975 and 1999

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Holy Bible belonging to Joel B. Walker and related information

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234853

Unit Date circa 1881

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Common-School Dictionary of the English Language, N. Webster

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234854

Unit Date 1878

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Intermediate Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene, Including Scientific Instruction upon the effects of Narcotics and Stimulants Upon the Human Body, John C. Cutter. J. B. Lippincott Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234855

Unit Date 1887

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

McGuffey's Fifth Eclectic Reader

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234856

Unit Date 1896

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Baldwin's Readers - Fourth and Fifth Years Combined

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234857

Unit Date 1897

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

A Practical Grammar of the English Language, T. W. Harvey

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234858

Unit Date 1896

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

A Practical English Grammar, Mary F. Hyde

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234859

Unit Date 1897

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Lessons in Grammar, J. N. Patrick

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234860

Unit Date 1898

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Practical Arithmetic, G. A. Wentworth

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234861

Unit Date 1898

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Elements of Civil Government - West Virginia Edition, A. L. Peterman

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234862

Unit Date 1903

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

A General History P. V. N. Myers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234863

Unit Date 1896

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Temple Bells, J. D. Vaughan

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234864

Unit Date 1921

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Sacred Memories, R. E. Winsett.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234865

Unit Date 1942

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Living Faith, J. D. Vaughan.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234866

Unit Date 1954

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Shepherd's Love

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234867

Unit Date 1955

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Originally owned by Albert Seth Walker.

Frye's First Course in Geography: West Virginia Edition, A. E. Frye, Ginn and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234868

Unit Date 1920

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie Walker" in cursive pencil appears in front of book along with the cursive penciled names of 3 of Garnie's 6 siblings (all younger than her): Oattie, Josephine, and Leon. On page viii another sister's name, Justena, appears. Frye states (Preface) that the book is meant for 4th through 6th grades.

New Geography: Book Two (West Virginia Edition) in the Frye-Atwood Geographical Series, W. W. Atwood, Ginn and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234869

Unit Date 1929

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie Walker" in cursive ink appears in front of book. She graduated (8th grade) in May of 1930, so likely her siblings used this book. Genevieve Walker's name appears here and there along with a first cousin, Maxine Walker.

Boys and Girls Of Wake-Up Town, J. Mace Andress and Illustrated by Marguerite Davis, Ginn and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234870

Unit Date 1924

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

A book in "The Story Series in Health." In the front, Garnie Walker's name appears in a penciled, child's cursive handwriting, as does her sister's and a date "Miss Genevieve Pearl Walker September 1936." Also, four blue-ink stamps of "Murphy & Company Department Store Since 1902 - Clay, W.Va." Walker was in 4th grade at Laurel Ridge School in 1924 (see photo image) and used this book when it was new. When Genevieve used it in her 4th grade, in 1936-1937, Garnie was her teacher. This book was published just a few years after the 1918-1920 flu pandemic. From the Preface: "This book is offered as a contribution to the newer health teaching now being inaugurated in our schools." Directed at fourth and fifth grades. Garnie's (and her siblings') paternal grandmother, Almira Jane (Hanshaw) Walker, died of the flu on March 8, 1920.

Health Essentials, J. Mace Andress, A. K. Aldinger, and I. H. Goldberger, Ginn and Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234871

Unit Date 1928

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Garnie Walker's name in cursive writing is inked in front of book. Given the age of this book and that it was meant for high-school students, GW likely used it as a student at Clay County High School. It is also likely that when she herself taught Health during her first year (1943-1944) teaching at CCHS that

she used this textbook again.

Twice-Told Tales, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Standard Book Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234872

Unit Date 1931

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

"Garnie Walker Ivydale, W. Va." appears in ink, hand-printed in her hand, in front of book. Walker attended Clay County High School 1930-1933 graduating as Valedictorian of her Class of 1933.

Cooking Favorites of Clay, Rebekah Lodge 184, Clay, West Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234873

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Scope and Contents

On page 14 is a recipe submitted by Garnie W. Testa - "Biscuits Supreme."

Series 2. Addendum of 2025 February 11

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234874

Unit Date circa 2010s-2020s

Scope and Contents

This addendum includes additional genealogical research compiled by Karen Jo Walker. This research is primarily focused on 19th-century Walker relatives Solomon Walker, his sons Solon and Joel Walker, and their families. Items like maps, land deeds, obituaries, newspaper clippings, and photographs that feature these individuals are included. K. J. Walker has also provided biographical sketches and extensive notes to better contextualize her research findings.

Genealogical research material about Solomon Walker

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234875

Unit Date circa 2010s-2020s

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Genealogical research material about Solon and Joel Walker

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234876

Unit Date circa 2010s-2020s

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Genealogical research material about Solon Walker and Family

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234877

Unit Date circa 2010s-2020s

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Genealogical research material about Joel & M. Louisa (Friend) Walker Families

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/234878

Unit Date circa 2010s-2020s

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)