

Husband		Thomas WALKER		undertaker		Other Information	Generation	No	
Birth date	11 Mar 1819	Place	Windsor NSW			Matthew was the 11th child according to his birth certificate			
Christening date		Place							
Marriage date	20 Nov 1842	Place	Windsor NSW						
Death date	26 Mar 1895	Place	East Kempsey						
Burial date	28 Mar 1895 @2pm	Place	East Kempsey Cemetery NSW						
Other wives									
His Father	John WALKER		His mother Ann (nee JONES) GILL						
Wife		Elizabeth BUTLER							
Birth date	18 Mar 1824	Place							
Christening date		Place							
Death date	18 Aug 1893	Place	East Kempsey aged 68yrs 8mths						
Burial date	20 Aug 1893	Place	East Kempsey Cemetery NSW						
Other husbands									
Her Father	Sylvester BUTLER		Her mother Ann Andrew ELKIN						
Sex	Children	When born	Where born	Married to	When	When Died	Where		
1	f Mildred WALKER	1846	Windsor NSW						
2	m Thomas WALKER	V18482583 33A	Windsor NSW						
3	f Emily WALKER	13564/1859	Windsor NSW						
4	f Phoeby WALKER	9006/1862	Macleay River NSW	Thomas B FELTON (d 1949)	1881	23 Feb 1948	Wren's Creek East Kempsey		
5	f Selina WALKER	9965/1864	Macleay River NSW						
6	f Elizabeth WALKER			David Colin COOMBES	Dec 1881	30 Jun 1930			
7	m George S WALKER	1845		Matilda WRIGHT	1872	25 Jun 1929	East Kempsey		
8	m Cornelius WALKER	c4 May 1847	Windsor NSW	Ann Deborah LEE	1872	6 Jul 1935	East Kempsey		
9	f								
10	f								
11	m Matthew WALKER	11 Dec 1867	East Kempsey, Macleay River NSW	Annie BEATTIE	2 Dec 1891	9 Nov 1935	Auckland NZ		
12									
13									
14									
15									

Macleay Argus 23 Aug 1893

Sudden Death of Mrs. Walker, sen.

Mr. James Johnston, J.P., Coroner, held an inquest at Mr. George Walker's house, East Kempsey, on Saturday, with respect to the death of Mrs. Thomas Walker, who died suddenly on the previous evening. The following evidence was given:—

Dr. Charles L. Gabriel deposed: I was called yesterday, 18th August, about five o'clock in the evening to see Mrs. Walker, whom it was stated had fainted. On my arrival at her residence I found her on the sofa lying down. I examined her and found no sign or life; I felt her pulse and the region of the heart, but life was ex-tinct. I examined her head, and on the back there was bleeding caused by a small contused wound; there was no other mark. By Sub-Inspector Baker: Her husband pointed out the spot where deceased was found lying and the position of her head; in the floor was a nail sticking up; in my opinion falling on this caused the wound mentioned; the cause of death was syncope from failure of the heart's action.

Thomas Walker deposed: I am an undertaker residing at East Kempsey; last saw my late wife, the deceased, alive a little after five o'clock on the 18th instant, she was then on the verandah; she had just finished cleaning the rooms; she had been at work all day and appeared to be in good health; previously she had complained of pain near the left breast, but not much; we have been married 50 years and 9 months; the deceased was in her seventy-first year; my daughter-in-law, Mrs. George Walker, was with us yesterday afternoon; we were talking on the verandah; deceased left us on the verandah, and passed on through the house; Mrs. George Walker next called out to me and pointed to where my wife was lying in the washhouse; when I went there saw her lying just as I supposed she fell on the floor; she was lying on her back with her arms by her side; put my arms around her to lift her up, my right arm being under her head; saw some blood on the floor and on the floor and on my arm; held her until assistance came; we then carried her into a room and laid her on a sofa; Dr. Gabriel was

sent for, and arrived in from ten to fifteen minutes. Augustus Walker deposed: I am a grandson of the deceased and am fifteen years of age; I reside with my father in East Kempsey; last saw deceased alive on the 18th inst, she was then below the house talking to my mother; when I was going out of the house a little after five o'clock I noticed in passing the wash-house deceased lying on her back. I went in and told my mother, and came out with her again; then went and called my father; when I first saw the deceased there was no one about. By the Coroner: Have heard deceased complain of a pain in her side.

Matilda Walker deposed: I am the wife of Geo. Walker; have known deceased since I was a child; have been living alongside of her place for 21 years. She complained occasionally of pain at her left breast; last saw her alive on August 18th about twenty minutes past five in the evening; she was at my husband's place, and had been talking to him and myself on the verandah; she seemed quite well and cheerful. . When she walked away I did not see where she went to. My son was going out, to post a letter, when he turned to me and said "Grandma is lying down." I looked in the direction of the wash-house and saw deceased lying on her back. I could see that something was the matter and called my husband; she then raised her head, and Mr. Walker came up and put his arms around her and held her; I thought she had fainted and got some water and sprinkled it on her face; then sent for Dr. Gabriel and got assistance to carry her into the house.

The jury returned the following verdict; "We find that the said Elizabeth Walker came by her death at her residence, East Kempsey, on August 18th, 1893, from syncope or failure of the heart's action."

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon at the East Kempsey Cemetery, and notwithstanding the threatening character of the weather the attendance was large. The service at the grave was read by the Rev. Bowes.

Macleay Argus 27 Mar 1895

FUNERAL NOTICE;

THE friends of the late Mr. Thomas Walker are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, to move from his late residence, East Kempsey, at, 2 o'clock on THURSDAY, 28th March.

Macleay Argus 27 Mar 1895

Death of Mr. Thomas Walker. — We have, with regret, to chronicle the death of a very old and much-respected resident of the Macleay, Mr. Thomas Walker, of East Kempsey. Mr. Walker crossed the border line yesterday afternoon, after a lengthy illness: for some months he had been almost completely bed-ridden. His death, however, was very peaceful. Deceased, who, for many years, had carried on the business of undertaker in Kempsey, latterly in conjunction with one of his sons, was respected from one end of the river to the other, and his demise will provoke many an expression of sincere regret. He was a prominent member of the Wesleyan body and took an active interest in all church and sabbath-school affairs. He leaves a family of seven, three sons and four daughters. The former, Messrs. Cornelius, George and Mathew, are all well-known men. Three of the daughters are married; being known as Mrs. Coombes (of Sydney), Mrs. H. Betts and Mrs. E. Battle. The remaining daughter lives at home. Deceased will be buried to-morrow (Thursday). He was 76 years of age.

Macleay Argus 3 Apr 1895

The Late Mr. Thomas Walker.

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All that was mortal of the late Mr Thomas Walker was laid to rest in the East Kempsey Cemetery on Thursday last. The funeral was largely attended by all classes of people. Not alone in Kempsey, but both up and down the river was represented, by sincere mourners. The Mayor and several of the aldermen were among the number. The pall-bearers were Messrs. W. T. Daugar (Mayor), B. Bennett,

Wm. Turnbull, Rafe Turnbull, Mitchell Mackay, J. Keneally, L. L. Boshell, G. Nelson, J. Grossman. W. Anderson, Geo. Hodgson, senr., and E. J. Wright. The last rites at the grave were performed by the Rev. F. W. Roberts.

Mr. Walker was a native of New, South Wales, having been born George-st., Sydney, near the present Circular Quay, on March 11th, 1819. His father was an old soldier. Late in the last century he was in charge of some artillery on the cliffs of Dover (Eng.), and was removed from that post to come to Australia as one of the guards of an early batch of convicts. The Government of the day granted the elder Walker an area of land on the Hawkesbury, and shortly after Thomas Walker was born the family took up their abode where the town of Windsor now is. Thomas Walker was reared on the river and lived there until 1861, when he moved to the Macleay. Before then, however, when gold was first discovered in Australia, in 1851, Mr. Walker left his Hawkesbury home for a brief while and delved for the yellow metal on the Turon river. He was one of the first arrivals on that famous "rush." There it was that the deceased showed his possession of those powers of endurance which marked his afterlife. As a long-distance pedestrian, it is believed that Mr. Walker had no equal in the colony. Until the day of his illness, about 5 months ago, he even preferred walking to riding when out anywhere. A brother, John, was equally noted for his swimming and diving. Since Mr. Walker arrived on the Macleay his career is well-known. He was every-where, by every one, respected. He bore his protracted illness bravely and patiently and retained consciousness to the last breath. Besides the family mentioned in last week's Argus deceased leaves another daughter, Mrs. Felton, of East Kempsey. Three children (2 daughters and a son) predeceased him. A sister 12 months older than he is still alive, on the Hawkesbury. Besides his sons and daughters, the deceased had 40 grandchildren living. Three nephews also are in the Wesleyan Ministry, the Revs. Mathew, Joseph, and John Walker. Mrs. Walker died about 11 months ago.

The Methodist 18 May 1895

THOMAS WALKER.

Thomas Walker (Kempsey) was born in Sydney in 1819, and was therefore 76 when he died. In early life his parents removed to the Hawkesbury River, where many of his relations are still prominent members of the Wesleyan Church. Under the preaching of Father Watkin he was converted to God. In the year '59 he removed to the Macleay River. From his arrival he identified himself with the cause of Christ, and the Wesleyan Church. There was no ecclesiastical edifice or any kind on this botanically beautiful but spiritually barren river when he came, and services were but irregularly conducted in private houses by the Manning River minister or the now sainted Silas Gill. It is impossible to estimate the service he rendered to Christ by his quiet yet unflinching stand for that which was 'lovely and of good report.' For fifty-six years he never swerved in his attachment to the Church of his choice, right royally he stood by the Ark of God. He was a prayer and class leader for many years, and finally an appreciated local preacher. His high-toned character and singleness of aim raised him till he stood second to none in the circuit. He has left a name and a testimony any of us may covet. Emerson says, 'A beautiful behaviour is better than a beautiful form: it is the finest of the fine arts.' The last seven months of his life were spent in bed, and in much physical suffering. Notwithstanding that the 'corruptible body pressed down the soul,' he had an abiding sense of the Divine favour, and with another could say, 'I have the light of God's smile shining through my soul every day and every night.' His favourite verse was— Jesu, Thy blood and righteousness, My beauty are, my glorious dress; Midst flaming worlds in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head. The funeral, and two weeks later the funeral service, were very largely attended, the church being filled to overflowing by all classes and denominations. We can but hope that the children will take the place of the beloved father. F.W. A. R.

Macleay Argus 25 Jun 1929

MR. GEORGE WALKER.

The death occurred at his residence, Rudder-street, East Kempsey, at an early hour this morning, of another very old resident of Kempsey in the person of Mr. George Walker, at the age of 84 years. The deceased gentleman, who was held in high esteem, was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walker, of East Kempsey. Born on the Hawkesbury River, he came to the Macleay with his parents when 16 years of age, and on attaining manhood estate, engaged in the trade of a boat builder, many of the fine cedar boats to be seen on the Macleay in the earlier days being of his handiwork. In his younger days he took a keen interest in church work, and was for some year's a teacher in the Methodist Sunday School. Some 57 years ago he was married to Miss Matilda Wright, daughter of a well-known Pola Creek pioneering couple (many of whose descendants reside on the Macleay), by whom and one son, Mr. Frederick Percy Walker (East Kempsey) he is survived. Three other sons predeceased their father, but three grandchildren, Messrs. Stanley and Leslie Walker and Miss Ena Walker, are residing in Sydney. Messrs. Cornelius (Crescent Head) and Matthew Walker (Auckland, N.Z.) are brothers of the deceased, and Mesdames D. C. Coombes (Sydney) and T. Felton (Pola Creek), sisters. The funeral, under the conduct of Mr. J. R. Garland, will take place to-morrow (Wednesday) at 11.30 a.m., moving from the deceased's late residence, Rudder-street, for the Methodist portion of the East Kempsey cemetery, where Rev. P. O. Davis will conduct the last rites.

The Macleay Chronicle 25 Feb 1848

Mrs. Phoebe Felton.

Mrs. Phoebe Felton, wife of Mr. Thomas Felton, of Wren's Creek, East Kempsey, passed away on Monday, aged 88 years. Deceased was a daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Walker, the first undertaker on the Macleay. Her husband, who survives her, is in his 95th year. The funeral, under conduct of Messrs

Harry B. & Jos. T. Walker, took place to East Kempsey Methodist cemetery on Tuesday afternoon.

Macleay Arcus 24 Feb 1948

OBITUARY

MRS. P. FELTON

The death has occurred of Mrs. Phoebe Felton, wife of Thomas B. Felton, of Wren's Creek, East Kempsey.

The couple were reputedly the oldest on the Macleay, the late Mrs. Felton being near her 90th year, and her husband 95.

The late Mrs. Felton was a daughter of the late Thomas Walker, who was the first undertaker on the Macleay.

The funeral, under the conduct of Messrs. Jos. T. and H. B. Walker, took place this afternoon, leaving the Methodist Church for the East Kempsey cemetery. Further details will appear in Friday's "Argus."

Macleay Arcus 27 Feb 1948

OBITUARY

MRS. P. FELTON

Mrs. Phoebe Felton, who passed away in the District Hospital on Monday, was one of Kempsey's oldest residents and was aged 87.

A daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Elizabeth Walker, she was born at East Kempsey, and spent all her life on the Macleay. In more recent years she lived at Wren's Creek with her husband, Thomas Felton, whom she married in 1881.

The late Mrs. Felton was a lover of her home, her family and church. She was renowned for her devotion to the church, and this was emphasised by Rev. Sharp in his address in the church prior to the funeral. Right to her death, Mrs. Felton was able to recount many, interesting things of the early Kempsey days, and could trace its progress to what it is to-day.

The surviving sons are, Frederick William, of San Souci; Herbert, of Gladstone; Harold, at home; Lindsay, of East Kempsey; Thomas Harry, of

Tamworth.

The daughters are, Mrs. Ruby Dentler, of Lakemba; Mrs. Gladys Gleeson, of Auburn; Mrs. ; Rita Everingham, of Helensburgh.

One son, Ernest, died of wounds in the 1914-18 war.

The funeral, under the conduct of Jos. T. and H. B. Walker, took place on Tuesday afternoon leaving the Methodist Church, Kempsey, after a service by Rev. J. Sharp, who also officiated at the graveside in East Kempsey cemetery.

During the church service, Mr. Alywn Secomb presided at the organ, playing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Abide With Me", and the "Dead March in Saul."

The pall-bearers, who carried the casket to its last resting place were Messrs. W. Betts, P. Betts, P. Walters and C. Cameron.

Macleay Chronicle 2 Jul 1930

MRS. D. C. COOMBES.

Monday morning last at her residence in Newtown, Mrs. Elizabeth Coombes, wife of Mr. D. C. Coombes, passed away aged 81. She was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walker, of East Kempsey, and sister of Mr. Con. Walker, Crescent Head, Mr. M. Walker, Auckland; and also of Mrs. Thomas Felton, East Kempsey. She is survived by a family of one son and three daughters, one of these being the wife of Mr. W. T. Broome, a St. Peters business man who often spends a holiday on the Macleay. Her husband, now in his 87th year, is still remembered by a few here as the man who propounded, collected for, and carried out the scheme of building the Macleay District Hospital at Kempsey.

Macleay Arcus 30 Jun 1933

OBITUARY.

MR. DAVID COLIN COOMBES.

As briefly reported in our last issue, there passed away at his home at St. Peter's, Sydney, on June 14th, Mr. David Colin Coombes, aged 88 years, a native of Liverpool, England. The deceased was

married at West Kempsey in December, 1881, to a Miss Eliza-beth Walker, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walker, of East Kempsey. The late Mrs. Coombes died at Newtown, Sydney, on July 1st, 1930. The late Mr. Coombes worked his way up from cabin boy to the position of master mariner. After coming to the Macleay he took a leading part in the agitation for the erection of a district hospital at Kempsey, and was present at the first meeting, which took place at the old School of Arts, Smith Street, in 1880. A second public meeting was held on May 28th, when he was elected honorary secretary, and afterwards collector for voluntary subscriptions. His great energy, combined with the assistance he received from many well-known residents of the Kempsey district, finally overcame all difficulties, and the hospital was duly erected and opened. The articles for the building were signed on 25th July, 1881, when Robert Masterton, contractor, of Kempsey, and D. C. Coombes, on behalf of the committee, the witnesses being J. Salmond and J. Mazey, for the sum of £1375. After leaving Kempsey he proceeded to Sydney and entered the Railway Department, where he rose to be night officer at Summer Hill and Ryde stations. Later he became interested in the nickle mine at Noumea, and after residing there for some time he returned to Sydney and became a painter and decorator. In later years he invented a cure for cutaneous diseases, and after full and exhaustive tests had been made an official permit was granted by the Board of Health to practice its use. His wonderful energy and strength proved in the end to be his undoing, for at the age of 88 years he commenced to dig up a tree to transplant, and the strain dilated his heart, and he passed peacefully to rest in a few days.. Mesdames T. Broome (St. Peter's), Mrs. A. White (St. Peter's) and Mrs. G. Bell (Summer Hill) are daughters of deceased, and Mr. Colin Coombes, of Burwood, a son. Messrs. Con Walker (Crescent Head) and M. Walker (New Zealand) are brothers-in-law, and Mrs. Thomas Felten (East Kempsey) is a sister-in-law of deceased. The remains were interred in the Methodist portion of the Sutherland cemetery on

June 15th.

Macleay Argus 9 Aug 1949

MR. T. B. FELTON

The death 'occurred yesterday of one of the Macleay pioneers, Mr. Thomas B. Felton, who was born at East Kempsey 97 years ago.

The late Mr Felton was farming practically all his life at Pola Creek, and he was one of the first to go in for mixed farming on the Macleay. In his younger days he was a crack gun-shot amongst the wild ducks. He had a remarkable memory, and many were the stories he told of aborigines 80 years ago and their colourful corroborees.

His wife, who predeceased him recently, was the daughter of the late Mr Thomas Walker, the first undertaker on the Macleay, and one son, Ernest, died some 12 years ago, from the effects of the first war.

He is survived by daughters in Mrs Ruby Dentler, Mrs Gladys Gleeson, and Mrs Rita Everingham. The sons are Frederick William, Herbert, Harold, Glendon, Lindsay, "and Harry.

The funeral took place to-day, leaving the Methodist Church, Kempsey, for the East Kempsey cemetery. Messrs. Harry B. and Jos. T. Walker were the funeral directors.