

# Guide to the Walker Family Papers

WA MSS 501



by Beinecke staff

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Elkanah Walker, 1805-1877 .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	6
WA MSS 501: Papers .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	8

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS 501

**CREATOR:** Walker, Elkanah, 1805-1877

**TITLE:** Walker Family papers

**DATES:** 1839-1854

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 box

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Walker Family Papers (WA MSS 501) consist of drafts or copies of letters written by Elkanah Walker during the years 1839-54. Many of the letters are unsigned and unfinished. The collection also includes letters written to Elkanah and Mary Richardson Walker and a number of family papers. Among the papers is a typewritten copy of a diary of Mary Richardson Walker, covering the period June 10-December 31, 1838, as well as material concerning the Columbia Maternal Association. The latter consists of the Association's Constitution and minutes for the period September 3, 1838-June, 1842. The Constitution is written in a careful, copperplate hand, possibly Mary Richardson Walker's, and is evidently the Constitution as drawn up at the first meeting, when Mrs. Spalding was elected president, Mrs. Walker vice-president, and Mrs. Gray recording secretary. It is followed by the minutes of the first meeting, September 3, 1838, in Mrs. Walker's hand, and the records of the meetings she attended through August 26, 1840, and an account of the general meeting of June, 1842.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.walkerfam>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.walkerfam>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

The Walker Family papers collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

---

### Preferred Citation

Walker Family Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

---

### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections [as they are acquired], and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This finding aid, created before the advent of computer-generated files, has been converted into a ASCII data file by means of scanning and Optical Character Recognition software. While attempts have been made to retain the complete information from the original document a number of format changes have been made to present the structure of this archive in accordance with current practice.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

---

## Elkanah Walker, 1805-1877

The Rev. Elkanah Walker and Cushing Eells, with their wives, were sent to Oregon in 1838 by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to reinforce the Mission established in 1836 by Dr. Marcus Whitman, the Rev. H. H. Spalding and their wives, and W. H. Gray. They were joined in New York by the Rev. and Mrs. Asa Bowen Smith, and in Cincinnati by Cornelius Rogers, and reached Waiilatpu August 29.

---

## Scope and Contents

The Walker Family Papers (WA MSS 501) consist of drafts or copies of letters written by Elkanah Walker during the years 1839-54. Many of the letters are unsigned and unfinished. The collection also includes letters written to Elkanah and Mary Richardson Walker and a number of family papers. Among the papers is a typewritten copy of a diary of Mary Richardson Walker, covering the period June 10-December 31, 1838, as well as material concerning the Columbia Maternal Association. The latter consists of the Association's Constitution and minutes for the period September 3, 1838-June, 1842. The Constitution is written in a careful, copperplate hand, possibly Mary Richardson Walker's, and is evidently the Constitution as drawn up at the first meeting, when Mrs. Spalding was elected president, Mrs. Walker vice-president, and Mrs. Gray recording secretary. It is followed by the minutes of the first meeting, September 3, 1838, in Mrs.

Walker's hand, and the records of the meetings she attended through August 26, 1840, and an account of the general meeting of June, 1842.

The manuscripts cover the foundation and history of the Oregon Mission; the relations with other religious denominations; the overland emigrations; the administration of Indian affairs and work among the Indians; Marcus Whitman and the purpose of his journey of 1843—1844; the Whitman Massacre, 1847; the establishment of the Lapwai Press; and the final settlement of the Territory.

In all, there are 576 pages in the Walker Family Papers.

## Collection Contents

### WA MSS 501: Papers

The following letters and papers are included in the collection:

- WALKER, ELKANAH. Two letters to the editor of The Christian [Mirror?]. October 6, 1846 [n.d.]. 9 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter to the members of the Columbia Mission. Chimakine [SIC], October 27, 1839. Endorsed, in Whitman's hand: "Oct. 1839, Mr. Walker to the members of the Mission." 4 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter to Chief Factor James Douglas. March 8, 1842. 2 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter to "My dear friends." October 26, 1847. 2 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Eight letters to the Rev. David Greene, Secretary, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. February 7, 1839-January 18, 1847. 58 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter to Edwin O. Hall. June 28, 1842. 6 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Two letters to the Hudson's Bay Company. March 17, 1847, one enclosing an order for goods. 5 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Three letters to John L. Lewes. January 13, 1847-March 9, 1848. 14 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter to Archibald McDonald. September 22, 1845. 3 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Two letters to Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor, Hudson's Bay Company. March 20, 1840. Drafts. 6 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter to the editors of the New England Puritan. February 3, 1846. 7 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Two letters to the Rev. H. H. Spalding. March 12, 1840, August 10, 1842. 5 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter to John Mix Stanley. Undated, probably after November 1847. 7 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter to Mrs. Walker. June 21, 1847. 8 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter [or journal] probably to Mrs. Walker, without beginning or end, with entries for Saturday through Tuesday, 12-15 [July 1851], while accompanying Dr. Dart as interpreter on his expedition to the Indians. 7 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Letter to "My dear Boy" [Cyrus Walker?]. April 1847. Fragment.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Copy of a form letter promising a donation to Pacific University, Tualatin, O.T. August 22, 1854. 2 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Oregon Mission meeting, Elkanah Walker, secretary, and later moderator. Draft of minutes and votes at meetings of September 1838, February 1839, and January 1841; and a letter to the members of the Sandwich Island Mission, April 15, 18[?]. 9 pp.
- WALKER, ELKANAH. Miscellaneous manuscripts; notes for sermons; parts of letters; memoranda; receipts, bills, orders; a notebook containing a table of distances and days crossing the continent, notes on earlier missionaries, the country traversed, the natives and their customs [12 pp.]; certificate of baptism of Michel Ogden, April 21, 1848; account book, 1849-1851 [24 pp.]; statement of Walker's views "written on or near the tenth of March, 1854, at Tualatin Plains during a sitting of a council at this place" [8 pp.]; Commission of the American Home Missionary Society appointing the Rev. Elkanah Walker missionary at the First Congregational Church of Hillsboro, Ore., February 11, 1867, printed form filled in by hand with a note added by Milton Badger, New York, April 22, 1867. 100 pp.
- WALKER, MARY RICHARDSON (MRS. EIKANAH). Diary, June 10-December 31, 1838. Typewritten copy. Endorsed: "Copied by J. E. Walker." 34 pp.
- WALKER, MARY RICHARDSON (MRS. EIKANAH). Part of a letter describing the journey west, arrival at the Whitmans', their arrival and home at Tshimakain, written during the summer of 1839. 4 pp.
- WALKER, MARY RICHARDSON (MRS. EIKANAH). Letter to the Rev. S. A. McLean. June 7 [1842?]. Draft. 3 pp.
- WALKER, MARY RICHARDSON (MRS. EIKANAH). Part of a letter to Sister C. [Charlotte Richardson?]. October 26, 1847. Draft. 1 p.
- WALKER, MARY RICHARDSON (MRS. EIKANAH). Three letters to Mrs. Mercy L. Whitney. July 28, 1839-April 16, 1847. Drafts. 9 pp.
- WALKER, MARY RICHARDSON (MRS. EIKANAH). Memorandum in pencil, regarding raising money for Sunday school books, May 8 [1836]; manuscript poems, and memoranda. 6 pp.

COLUMBIA MATERNAL ASSOCIATION. Constitution and minutes, September 3, 1838-June 1842. 10 pp. The Constitution is written in a careful, copperplate hand, possibly Mrs. Walker's, and is evidently the Constitution as drawn up at the first meeting, when Mrs. Spalding was elected president, Mrs. Walker vice-president, and Mrs. Gray recording secretary. It is followed by the minutes of the first meeting, September 3, 1838, in Mrs. Walker's hand, and the records of the meetings she attended through August 26, 1840, and the general meeting of June 1842.

ALLEN, RUTH C. Letter to Mary Richardson. December 19, 1832. 3 pp.

DOUGLAS, JAMES. Letter to Mr. Walker. February 7, 1849. 2 pp.

ERMATINGER, FRANCIS. Letter to C. Rogers. January 14, 1839. 2 pp.

FLETT, JOHN. Letter to Mr. Walker. April 13, 1857. 1 p.

FLETT, THOMAS. Three letters to Mr. Walker. January 21-April 26, 1845. 3 pp.

FRASER, PAUL. Letter to Mr. Walker. March 18, 1845. 1 p.

GRIFFIN, MRS. DESIRE. Letter to Mrs. Walker. February 15, 1840. 3 pp.

HALE, HORATIO. Two letters to Mr. Walker. October 8, 1841. 5 pp.

HALL, EDWIN O. Three letters to Eells and Walker. May 5, 1839-March 16, 1840. 9 pp.

HATCH, SARAH C. Letter to Mrs. Walker. July 13, 1858. 4 pp.

JOHNSON, ROBERT E. Letter to the Ladies of the Mission [May 1841]. 3 pp.

JOHNSON, ROBERT E. Letter to Eells and Walker. June 27, 1841. 3 pp.

JORDEN, WILLIAM V. Letter to Mr. Walker. October 25, 1846. 3 pp.

LITTLEJOHN, PHILO B. Two letters to Walker and Eells. February 25, September 11, 1843. 5 pp.

LITTLEJOHN, MRS. ADELIN S. Letter to Mrs. Walker. February 1, 1844. 2 pp.

MCLEAN, DONALD. Letter to Mr. Walker. February 1842. 1 p.

MCPHERSON, JOHN. Letter to Mr. Walker. February 17, 1846. 2 pp.

MACTAVISH, DUGALD. Letter to Mr. Walker. April 18, 1845. 1 p.

PELLY, A. E. Letter to Mr. Walker. October 30, 1844. 2 pp.

[RICHARDSON], CHARLOTTE. Two letters to Mr. Walker, one with no date, the first part missing; the other January 2 [1850]. 2 pp.

RODGERS, ANDREW. Two letters to Mrs. Walker. October 8, 1846, June 26, 1847. 5 pp.

TOD, JOHN. Letter to Mr. Walker. July 7, 1844. 3 pp.

WALKER, JOSEPH M. Letter to his uncle, Elkanah Walker. April 22, 1850. 2 pp.

WHITMAN, PERRIN B. Order on Mr. Walker to pay Albion Post \$50. Oregon City, August 1, 1851. Endorsed by A. R. Post, March 17, 1852. 1 p.

WALKER, ELKANAH. Manuscript booklets in Indigenous languages; extracts from Matthew, lists of words and phrases, and vocabularies in the Flathead language; an English-Nez Perce dictionary; and a hymnbook for children in English in Mrs. Walker's hand. 20 pieces. 181 pp.

b. 1, f. 1	Letters of Elkanah Walker	1839-1857
b. 1, f. 2	Letters of Elkanah Walker	1839-1857
b. 1, f. 3	Letters of Elkanah Walker	1839-1857
b. 1, f. 4	Letters of Elkanah Walker	1839-1857
b. 1, f. 5	Manuscripts, booklets, etc. in the Indian tongue.	1838-1840
b. 1, f. 6	Manuscripts, booklets, etc. in the Indian tongue.	1838-1840

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Missions -- Oregon  
Nez Percé Indians -- Missions  
Nez Percé language -- Dictionaries  
Salish Indians -- Missions  
Salish language -- Glossaries, vocabularies, etc.

### **Geographic Names**

Oregon -- History

### **Occupations**

Missionaries -- Oregon

### **Names**

Greene, David  
Walker, Elkanah, 1805-1877  
Walker, Mary Richardson, 1811-1897

### **Corporate Bodies**

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign  
Missions  
Hudson's Bay Company