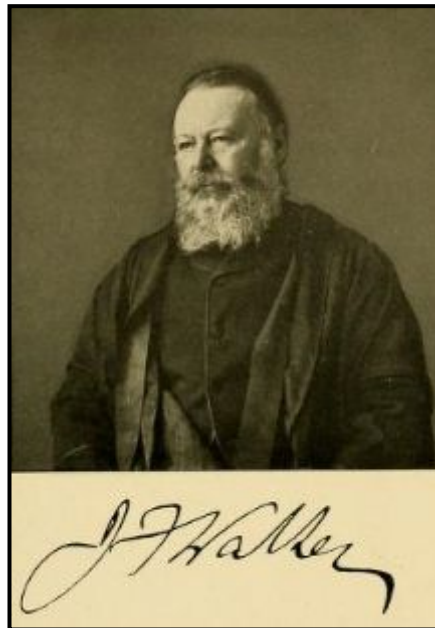


JOHN FRANCIS WALKER

MA FLS FIC FCS FGS

(1839-1907)



Born York, 25 November 1839

Died York, 23 May 1907

John Francis Walker (1839-1907) MA FLS FIC FCS FGS

I. Introduction



York born John Francis Walker was a science lecturer at Cambridge who in later life took to the law and was called to the Bar. He was born on the 25th November 1839 as a freeman of York and lived and died in the City. The brief obituary below notes Geology as his special study and Brachiopoda as his particular interest, this is borne out by the collection of some 50 Wenlock Edge Brachiopoda which found their way into the Shrewsbury collection. A more detailed obituary is found in the Geological Magazine.

Obituary John Francis Walker MA (OP)

On May 23rd, after a short illness, J. F. Walker, M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.J.C., etc. passed away in his 66th year.

The deceased gentleman, who was a well known figure in the city, was a native of York, and was educated at St Peter's School. In 1857 he went to the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, subsequently taking his B.A. degree at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, in 1866. There he was placed top in the first class Natural Science Tripos. Later the deceased went to study organic chemistry at Bonn, Germany, and was there during the Franco-Prussian War. Afterwards he returned and went to London, studied for the law and was called to the Bar, subsequently returning to Cambridge as Science Lecturer, and was elected to fellowship of his college. In 1882 Mr. Walker married Miss Alice Crocknell, of London, and settled down in York.

The deceased was interested in many York institutions, and was senior vice-president of the York Philosophical Society. Geology was his special study, and of his many fine collections that of the fossils Brachiopoda was, perhaps, one of the best in the world. Mr Walker was greatly respected, and his loss will be keenly felt.

Yorkshire Herald.

John Francis Walker studied chemistry under John Christopher Voelcker (1822-1884) and natural sciences under Professor James Buckman FGS (1814-1884) at the Royal College, Cirencester – it was presumably the latter who inspired his interest in geology. He was a student of the Inner Temple and was called to the bar on the 6th June, 1874. He was the Honorary Curator of the York Philosophical Society's Museum and also a member of the Numismatic Society.

Walker was elected Fellow of the Geological Society on the 17th April 1867. The obituary in the Geological Magazine covers in more detail his geological interests. The John Francis Walker Fossil collection is held at the Yorkshire Museum and his type specimens of Brachiopoda from the Cambridge Greensand are held at the Natural History Museum. He was the author of several geological and chemical papers (see the listing of the geological papers below). Of note, also, is his interest in the 'formation of species' see his 1905 paper in the Geological Magazine. Here he suggested that type species are not necessarily representative of a species; the true type species is near the centre of (the development of) the species where the individuals are most thickly clustered and most closely resemble each other. The type species may or may not be at this centre – 'It would be good for palaeontology if all type specimens should be destroyed'.

The obituary is particularly cognisant of his generosity in finding and passing on specimens of Brachiopoda to fellow geologists – and to museums such as Shrewsbury.....

2. The Walker Family

John Francis Walker was the eldest son of the late John Walker, of York, gentleman. He married Alice Cracknell in 1882 the youngest daughter of Charles Cracknell, Esq., of Knoyle House, Ealing.

The John Walker senior family lived at 20 Gillygate, St Giles, York, John senior (and grandfather John) were confectioners by trade. John Francis Walker and Alice Walker lived at 45 Bootham, York.

John Walker 1776- Confectioner	m.	Ann 1781-
John Walker 1801- Confectioner	m.	Sarah Ann 1815-
John Francis 1839-1907 b. York		Sarah Ann 1842- b. York
		Edward 1843- b. York
m. Alice Cracknell Ealing 1882		
John Francis Edward Gelson Walker 1884-1962		

John Francis Walker died in York on the 23rd May 1907 leaving his widow Alice and their only son, John Francis Edward Gelson Walker, a railway engineer who served in the Royal Engineers during WWI.

3. The Walker Fossils at Ludlow

There are two listings of the Walker fossils; the first gleaned from a spread sheet listing the contents of the Hanson Store at the Ludlow Museum Resource Centre and numbered in the GG series (taken from the *Object Packing File* which holds the records of the fossils moved from Shrewsbury to Ludlow). These fossils are definitely 'in store' at Ludlow. The second is a list taken off Adlib under the reference shyms: G.1994/0xx. There is some conflict between the two lists and some of the fossils in the second list have yet to be located. This gives a total fossil count of about 50 Brachiopoda.

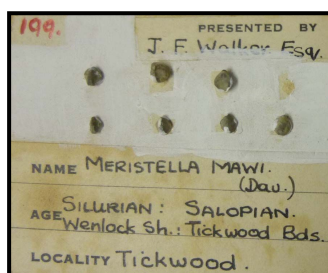
1. Fossils listed in the Object Packing File

GG 14.085-90	Br.	Whitfieldella didyma (Dalm.)	Buildwas
GG 14.091/92	Br.	Dalmanella cf elegantula	Tickwood
GG 17.044/47	Br.	Carrata? toechia	Tickwood
GG 17.057	Br.	Meristella mawi (Dav.)	Tickwood
GG 17.101/102	Br.	Orthis bouchardi (Dav.)	Buildwas
GG 17.155-160	Br.	Sowerbyella sericea (Sow.)	Buildwas
GG 17.162-64	Br.	Cyrtia exporrecta (Wahl.)	Buildwas
GG 17.166/67	Br.	Cyrtia exporrecta (Wahl.)	Tickwood

2. Fossils ex ADLIB

shyms: G.1977/0xxx

143	Br.	Leptelloidea segmentum (Lind.)	Buildwas
170	Br.	Sowerbyella transversalis (Dav.)	Buildwas
171	Br.	Orbiculoidea forbesi (Dav.)	Buildwas
172	Br.	Delthyris crispa (Dalm.)	Tickwood
173	Br.	Nucleospira pisum (Sow.)	Tickwood
174	Br.	Steptis? grayi (Dav.)	Buildwas
175	Br.	Atrypa reticularis Dav.)	Tickwood
176	Br.	Atrypina barrandii (Dav.)	Buildwas
177	Br.	Trematospira salteri (Dav.)	Buildwas
178	Br.	Bilobites biloba (Lin.)	Tickwood
179	Br.	Bilobites biloba (Lin.)	Buildwas
180	Br.	Nucleospira pisum (Sow.)	Buildwas
181	Br.	Orthis bouchardi (Dav.)	Buildwas
182	Br.	Lingula symondsi (Dav.)	Buildwas
183	Br.	Atrypina barrandii (Dav.)	Tickwood
184	Br.	Dalmanella cf elegantula (Dalm.)	Buildwas
185	Br.	Rhipidomella hybrida (Sow.)	Tickwood
186	Br.	Dalmanella cf elegantula (Dalm.)	Buildwas
187	Br.	Rhipidomella hybrida (Sow.)	Buildwas
192	Br.	Whitfieldella didyma (Dav.)	Buildwas
193	Br.	Cyrtia exporrecta (Wahl.)	Buildwas
194	Br.	Scenidium lewisi (Dav.)	Tickwood
198	Br.	Camarotoechia dayi (Dav.)	Tickwood
199	Br.	Meristella mawi (Dav.)	Tickwood
200	Br.	Dalmanella cf elegantula (Dalm.)	Tickwood
201	Br.	Glassia obovata (Sow.)	Buildwas
202	Br.	Barrandella linguifer (Sow.)	Tickwood
203	Br.	Glassia elongata (Dav.)	Tickwood
204	Br.	Dictyonella capewelli (Dav.)	Buildwas
205	Br.	Lepetelloidea segmentum (Lind.)	Tickwood
206	Br.	Cyrtia exporrecta (Wahl.)	Tickwood



Meristella mawi (Dav.) see No.199.

Dr J.A. Gosling
August 2018

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