

# THE WALTON FAMILY

BY

JOSEPH C. MARTINDALE, M. D.

MARTIN & ALLARDYCE

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The name of Walton frequently occurs in Besse's Account of the Sufferings of Friends in England, published about 1751. The first of that name who came to America were four brothers, NATHANIEL, THOMAS, DANIEL, and WILLIAM, who arrived at Newcastle early in 1675. They ascended the Delaware River and settled in Byberry, on land now owned by George Dehaven.

### (1) NATHANIEL WALTON AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

In the records of the Monthly Meeting of Friends, held alternately at Tacony and Poquessing, we find that NATHANIEL WALTON had their approbation to accomplish his marriage with Martha Bownall, of Philadelphia, which was accordingly done 11th mo. 26th, 1685. When the Keithian controversy divided the Society of Friends, Nathaniel and his family joined the Keithian Church, of which John Hart was the minister. When Hart joined the Baptists, Nathaniel joined the "Church of All Saints." In a letter found some years since, written by Nathaniel to his brother William, dated 7th of October, 1713, he reminds him "that he paid five pounds for his passage from England, which had not been repaid, and makes a demand for the money." We have no other account of him, except that he lived on property now belonging to George Dehaven, and left two sons, Nathaniel and Benjamin.

#### (1) *Nathaniel and Martha Walton's Children.*

(2) NATHANIEL, was a schoolmaster as early as 1727, and Thomas Chalkley speaks in his Journal of having sent his children to Nathaniel's school. He died in Moreland, back of Edge Hill, in 1784, aged about 80 years, and left two sons, Boaz and Joseph.

(3) BENJAMIN, we have no account of, except that he left a son, Benjamin.

(4) JOSEPH, son of (2) Nathaniel, lived on property now owned by William Wenzell. He taught the school at Byberry for fifteen years, after which he moved to the Falls, in Bucks County, to follow his profession. It is said he was a teacher for sixty years. He died 10th mo. 4th, 1759.

(5) BENJAMIN, son of (3) Benjamin, was a rigid Whig in the time of the Revolution, and very active in his distrains upon Friends on account of military requisitions, exorbitant in his seizures, and of imperious disposition. He was commonly called "Black Ben." on account of his dark complexion, and to distinguish him from another of the same name.

(1) THOMAS WALTON AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

(1) THOMAS WALTON, the second of the four brothers, settled back of Smithfield (Somerton), on the Horsham Road, in the Manor of Moreland. Nothing is known of his history, except that he married Priscilla Hunn, of Philadelphia, 12th mo. 24th, 1689 (O. S.), and that he died in 1758, at a very advanced age, probably near one hundred years. He left several children.

(2) THOMAS, son of (1) Thomas, lived with his father, and was a preacher in the Society of Friends. He usually walked to meeting at Byberry, a distance of five miles, and officiated when no other minister was present. He was afterwards disowned for not paying his debts. He was commonly designated as the "Old Bishop." He died 1st mo. 31st, 1777, aged 84 years, unmarried.

(1) DANIEL WALTON AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

(1) DANIEL WALTON, one of the four brothers, settled on his tract of land near the present residence of Linford Tomlinson. He married Mary

Lamb, 6th mo. 21st, 1688 (O. S.). Throughout his long life he was much respected, and was considered among the faithful Friends of that day. He died in 1719, leaving seven children; Samuel, Daniel, Joshua, Joseph, Benjamin, Nathan, and Mary. Nearly all the Waltons at present residing in the vicinity of Byberry are descendants of the ancient Daniel.

(1) *Daniel and Mary Walton's Children.*

(2) SAMUEL was disinherited by his father, for "disobedience to his mother," but inherited the estate belonging to his brother Nathan, who died intestate. He left the neighborhood and settled near Quakertown, in Bucks County. He had four sons, Samuel, Benjamin, Abraham and Jacob, most of whom emigrated to the Western country.

(3) DANIEL married ——— Clifton, and settled where English Knight now lives. His farm extended eastward to John Samms' Corner. He left three children, Daniel, Jane and Massy.

(4) JOSHUA took the western part of his father's farm, and settled where Watson Tomlinson now lives. He married Catharine Albertson, usually called "Case Walton." In the domestic history of the family many unpleasant traits are apparent. Joshua committed suicide by hanging himself to a tree in front of his house, and was buried in one of his back fields. His widow died 12th mo. 18th, 1759. For many years after the death of Joshua the premises were believed by the superstitious to be haunted, and "marvelous tales were told of sights, sounds and presentations terrific in their nature." Men were actually frightened from the "Timber Swamp" in the daytime, but the ghosts have since departed. Joshua left three sons: Joshua, who died 1779; Albertson, and Jonathan.

(5) JOSEPH married Esther, daughter of John Carver, of Buckingham. Children: Richard and Rachel.

(6) BENJAMIN was born in Byberry, about 1693. He married Rebecca Homer, in 1724, by whom he had nine children. He settled on his father's farm in Byberry, and was prosperous in business. He was a member with Friends, and much respected by his contemporaries. He died in 11th mo., 1753; and his widow in 8th mo., 1783, aged 79 years. Rebecca was much esteemed, and her virtues are handed down to us in some verses made by James Thornton, Jr., shortly after her decease. Their children were: Elizabeth, Mary, Daniel, Hannah, Rebecca, Sarah, Benjamin, Esther, and William.

(7) MARY married William Homer, and settled where William Carter now lives. She died in 1788. Her sons, "Taff, Joe and Jake, were bachelors, lounging about home and drinking a great deal of whiskey." They were called "The young Homers," being from their father's second wife.

(3) *Daniel Walton's Children.*

(8) DANIEL married Ann, daughter of Daniel Knight, and settled on the homestead, where he died 10th mo. 29th, 1776. Children: Daniel, Aaron and Ann.

(9) JANE married Isaiah Walton.

(10) MASSY married (9) William, grandson of

(1) William Walton, the preacher. Child: Jacob.

(4) *Joshua and Catharine Walton's Children.*

(11) ALBERTSON lived where George Weiss now owns. During the Revolutionary War his attachment to the British led him to secrete his title papers in a hollow tree, and join the English army in New York. He returned to Byberry after the war, but was taken and tried for treason. He was acquitted, but lost his title papers, and had to apply to the Legislature to make his title good. He died in 1821, aged 90 years. Children: Jesse, William and Jonathan.

(12) JONATHAN was born in Byberry, where Watson Tomlinson now lives, about 1733. He never married; but in early life was very anxious to accumulate property, and frequently plowed all night. He removed to a farm on the Old York Road, near Harts-ville, where he spent the most of his life, and where he died in 1790. He is particularly noted for the legacy left to Byberry Meeting, called "Walton's Donation," for schooling poor children. This amounted to \$886.46, the income of which has been judiciously applied to the benefit of many children who would most probably have otherwise grown up without any school learning. The other two-thirds of the estate were bequeathed, for similar purposes, to Friends of Richland and Horsham.

*(5) Joseph and Esther Walton's Children.*

(13) RICHARD married Abigail, widow of Isaac Comly and daughter of Thomas Walmsley. He died 10th mo. 6th. 1776. Children: Joseph, Benjamin and Esther.

*(6) Benjamin and Rebecca Walton's Children.*

(14) ELIZABETH, born 3d mo. 27th, 1725, married Bryan Pearl. Children: Benjamin, who moved to Salem, Ohio; Rebecca and Thomas. Bryant Pearl died in 1757, and Elizabeth married Benjamin Gilbert, the Indian captive, in 1760. Children: Jesse, Abner, Rebecca and Elizabeth. On account of her captivity she became well known to the public. She lived about thirty years after her return, and was universally respected by her numerous friends and connections, and peacefully closed her earthly career at her residence, near Fallowfield, Chester County, in the eighty-sixth year of her age.

(15) MARY, born 12th mo. 17th, 1726, married David Thomas. She died in 1804, aged 78 years.

(16) DANIEL, born 12th mo. 1st, 1728, married

Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Gilbert, and settled near the Red Lion. During the Revolutionary War he suffered much from the depredations of the Continentals, and had his barn burnt by General Lacy's men. He died near Fallowfield, Chester County, in 1798, aged 70 years. Sarah died in 1785. Children: Rachel, Rebecca, Sarah, Lydia, Asa, Jesse and Gilbert.

(17) HANNAH, born 12th mo. 28th, 1730, remained unmarried; died at the age of 86. She was a poet, and wrote several articles which were circulated in MS.

(18) REBECCA born 9th mo. 24th, 1723, married Joseph Warrington, of Moorestown, N. J. She was highly esteemed as a worthy member of society, and "was probably as near perfection as mortals ever are." She sometimes wrote poetry, and several of her effusions are still extant. She died 7th mo. 8th, 1812.

(19) SARAH, twin sister of Rebecca, married Thomas Knight in 1771. She died 1st mo. 4th, 1807. Children: Amos, Rebecca and Esther.

(20) BENJAMIN, born 12th mo. 1st, 1735, married Abigail, daughter of Benjamin Gilbert. After living a few years in Byberry, they moved to Fallowfield, Chester County. Children: Benjamin, Nathan, Joseph and Rebecca.

(21) ESTHER, born 3d mo. 17th, 1738, married  
(21) Thomas Walton, descendant of William.

(22) WILLIAM, born 5th mo. 29th, 1740, married Lydia, daughter of James Thornton, in 1771, and spent his life at the homestead now owned by Linford Tomlinson. He inherited a small estate from his father, to which he made large additions by the industrious and prudent course he pursued. For many years previous to his death, he was regarded as the largest landholder and the most wealthy man in either township. He, however, seems not to have been elated by his wealth, but scrupulously adhered to his

plain, old-fashioned way of living, and made no ostentatious display. He carefully maintained a concern for the institutions and principles of the Society of Friends, of which he was a member, and was for several years a clerk of the Monthly Meeting; afterward an overseer, and for twenty-five years an elder; he was the author of the original "Narrative of the Captivity of Benjamin Gilbert and Family by the Indians." He died the 14th of 5th mo. 1824, aged eighty-four years, and Lydia, his widow, died 2d mo. 23d, 1827. Children: Beulah, James, Martha, Phebe, Jabez, Josiah, Jason, Rebecca, Israel, Mary, Joseph Thornton, and Edmund.

(23) REBECCA, daughter of (20) Benjamin, married Benjamin Kite. She died 12th mo. 20th, 1840.

(8) *Daniel and Ann Walton's Children.*

(24) DANIEL, married Elizabeth ———, and settled at Sandyford. Some of his descendants now live in Philadelphia.

(25) AARON, married Ann Thomas, and lived on the lower end of the old homestead, next to Samms' Corner. He died 12th mo. 19th, 1834. Children: Brazilla, Clifton, Maria and Sindonia.

(26) ANN, married John Cornell.

(13) *Richard and Abigail Walton's Children.*

(27) JOSEPH, married Deborah Lee. Children: Sarah, Abigail, Deborah, Asenath, Agnes, Ann, and John. He died 3d mo. 19th, 1821, aged 67; Deborah died in 1840.

(28) BENJAMIN, died young.

(29) ESTHER, married Ephraim Howell. Children: Joseph, Rebecca, Richard, Abigail, Mary, Ephraim, Elizabeth and Deborah.

(25) *Aaron and Ann Walton's Children.*

(30) BRAZILLA, married Jane Feaster; died 12th

mo. 27, 1836.

(31) CLIFTON, died 9th mo. 30th, 1838; unmarried.

(32) MARIA, married Giles, son of Joseph T. Knight. Children: Abby Ann, and Grace.

(33) SINDONIA, married David, son of David and Elizabeth Webster. Children: Aaron, Mary, Thomas, Byron and Warren.

(1) WILLIAM WALTON AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

(1) WILLIAM, one of the four brothers, married Sarah Howell, 4th mo. 20th, 1689 (O. S.), and located near the present residence of Josiah Walton. He was the first preacher of Byberry Meeting after the Keithian separation, and continued the principal, if not the only one, for the next forty years. But little account of his religious labors has been preserved; but his ministry met with the approval of the Meeting, and he was recommended as a minister. In 1717, he visited all the families belonging to Byberry Meeting, and, in 1721, in company with Richard Busby, paid a religious visit to Maryland, Virginia and Carolina. This gave great satisfaction to those visited, and on his return he produced several certificates from meetings visited, stating that they "felt great unity with his visit of love." He again visited the families of Byberry in 1723, and was then accompanied by Henry Comly. He died 12th mo. 9th, 1736-7 (O. S.) and left ten children: Rachel, Isaac, Jeremiah, Jacob, Sarah, William, Abel, Job, Hannah and Mary. Although this family was so large, and many of their descendants still reside in Horsham, yet very few are now living within the vicinity of Byberry.

The name of William Walton has been so frequently adopted that it is amusing, without intending any disrespect, to note how the different men were designated. The first was William Walton, the

preacher; besides him we have "William, Jr.; William Walton, Benjamin's son; William Walton, Isaac's son; William Walton, Job's son; William Walton, Abel's son; Billy Thornton Walton; Jersey Billy; Shoemaker Billy; Duke Billy; Pony Billy; Hector Billy; Billy Duke; Soldier Billy; Shoe Billy's Son Bill; Pony Billy's son Bill, and Hector Billy's son Bill."

(1) *William and Sarah Walton's Children.*

(2) ISAAC, left three children, William (Jersey Billy), Jacob and Isaac.

(3) JEREMIAH, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Walmsley, and settled near Horsham. He died in 1741. Children: William, Thomas, Rachel, Jeremiah, Jacob, James, Mary, Sarah, Elizabeth and Phebe. Most of the Waltons about Horsham are of this family.

(4) WILLIAM died unmarried.

(5) ABEL, married Rebecca, daughter of Henry Walmsley, and lived near Somerton, where he died 12th mo. 25th, 1771. Children: Abel, Henry and William.

(6) JOB, married Agnes, daughter of Thomas Walmsley, and settled where Nathaniel Richardson now lives. He had a strong constitution and performed a great deal of hard work, yet did not get rich. He sometimes preached at Byberry. He died 4th mo. 16th, 1784. Children: Isaac, Sarah, Job, Isaiah, Thomas, Mary, William and Elijah.

(7) HANNAH, married, first, Thomas Walmsley, Jr., who was killed by being thrown from his horse, in 1728; second, Thomas Mardon, a tailor, "who had been purchased from off shipboard" by George James. As his time of servitude had not expired, his wife bought the remainder of his time. She died in 1741. Children: Rachel, Mary, Jacob and Sarah.

(8) MARY, married William Homer, and settled

near Willow Grove, where her descendants still reside.

(2) *Isaac Walton's Children.*

(9) WILLIAM (Jersey Billy), married (10) Massy Walton, descendant of (1) Daniel, by whom he had one son, Jacob. After her decease he married Rachel Atkinson, formerly Gilbert. He lived at one time in New Jersey, hence the name of "Jersey Billy." He was a strong man, and considered himself in his prime at 65. He probably had more enjoyment in catching "coons and wild pigeons," and sports of a similar character, than any other man in the township. He loved to converse upon his hunting adventures, and knew every place frequented by game in the vicinity. He shot the last bear killed in either township, in a large tree back of where George E. Weiss now lives. He died in 1807, aged 82 years. Child by last wife, William (Billy Broady).

(10) ISAAC, married and settled in Buckingham, and was the father of Jacob and Benjamin of that place.

(3) *Jeremiah and Elizabeth Walton's Children.*

(11) WILLIAM, married and had seven children, all of whom, except one, died before they were seven years old.

(12) THOMAS, married and settled at Horsham. Children: Jeremiah. Silas. Thomas, Phebe, and Elizabeth.

(13) JEREMIAH, was a short, fleshy man, and was called "Chunky Jerry." He married and settled in Upper Moreland. Children: Jesse, Jeremiah, Elizabeth, Isaac, Joseph and Jonathan.

(14) JACOB, married and settled at Horsham. Children: Isaiah and Charles.

(5) *Abel and Rebecca Walton's Children.*

(15) ABEL had eight children: Rebecca, Mary.

William, Abel, Jonathan, Elizabeth, Henry, and Silas.

(16) WILLIAM (Old Duke), married Mary Davis, and settled in Byberry. Children: William (Young Duke), Reese, Abel and Job.

(6) *Job and Agnes Walton's Children.*

(17) ISAAC, married and settled on the York Road, near the county line. He had one son, Jonathan, who married Hannah, daughter of Benjamin Worthington, and had children: Josiah, Hannah, and Agnes.

(18) SARAH, married Jacob Tompkins, of Philadelphia.

(19) JOB, married Margaret Powel, in 1763, and settled in Middletown. They afterwards moved to a farm on the York Road, near Hartsville, where they ended their days. Children: Job and Isaac.

(20) ISAAH, married Sarah Pennington, and resided in Bensalem, near the river. Children: Isaiah, Mary, Jane, and Agnes.

(21) THOMAS, married (21) Esther Walton, descendant of (1) Daniel, and resided on a farm now owned by Isaac Tomlinson. He afterwards traded this farm to Jacob Comly for a mill on the Pennypack Creek. Children: Solomon, Mary, Amelia, Thomas, Rebecca, Keziah, Abiathar and Asher.

(22) MARY, married ——— Lloyd. Children: Martha and Samuel.

(23) WILLIAM (Shoemaker Billy), married Mary Search, and lived in Byberry. Children: William (Old Boy), Elijah, Mary, Agnes, Amos, Christopher and Job.

(24) ELIJAH, married and lived in Horsham.

(7) *Hannah (Walton) Walmsley's Children.*

(25) RACHEL, MARY, and JACOB died single.

(26) SARAH, married Jonathan Wilson. Chil-

dren: Jacob, Rachel, and Sarah. Of these Jacob married Rebecca Thomas, and inherited the homestead of (1) William. Children: Ann, Mardon, Jonathan, David, Robert, Ethan, Jabez, and Jehu T. Jacob Wilson died 9th mo. 30th, 1814, and Rebecca, his widow, 11th mo. 25th, 1842.

Sarah, daughter of Jonathan Wilson, married Jesse Tomlinson, of Bensalem. She died 11th mo. 3d, 1849. Children: Jesse, Rhoda, and Charles.

(12) *Thomas Walton's Children.*

(27) SILAS, married Phebe, daughter of John Parry. Children: Thomas, Margaret, and David. Silas died 9th mo. 19th, 1824.

(28) PHEBE, married Daniel Shoemaker, and had three daughters, who severally married Joseph Foulke, Salathiel Cleaver, and Nathan Cleaver.

(15) *Abel Walton's Children.*

(29) WILLIAM (Pony Billy), married Mary, daughter of Henry Ridge, and settled near the Crossroads, in Byberry.

(30) MARY, married John Sickel, and settled in Bensalem.