

'36 PITT STREET TELLS THIS STORY'

I was owned by the Walter family during the life time of five generations. I am over a hundred years old and was built to stand the wear and tear of time. I have stood the ravages of war, hurricanes, fire and earthquake. The last almost shattered me, but bolts and rods still hold my bricks together.

While the Northern gunboats were shelling the City, I was left vacant but after the fall of the Confederacy General Sickles and his northern officers took me for their headquarters. My open grate fires were not warm enough for them, so they put up stoves which blackened my white marble mantels and my family had a hard time cleaning them when they came in after the war.

As no respectable white woman would dance with a Northern soldier, Gen. Sickles invited in mulatto women to dance with the officers at the balls they gave in my front room.

As I was built before bath tubs were known, my Walter family put in a tub and commode as soon as they came in but my crowning glory was a shower. The water was pumped up the four stories by hand which was no easy job. The butler and coachman did it, but the children thought it was fun to pump, too.

All the men in my Walter family who were old enough served in the Confederate Army, but none were killed. Ten members of my family moved in. They were: Captain and Mrs. Walter, their four sons, Eugene, Gatswood, Whitten, and Ellicott; William McCormack and his wife who had been Pauline Walter, and their younger daughter Emilie Walter. Mr. and Mrs. McCormack had two children, Walter and Pauline McCormack.

The housekeeper, Mrs. Smith whom all called "Lal", had one of my comfortable fourth story rooms and was a necessary member of the family. A Mr. Riggs who came down from Orangeburg to work in Captain Walter's Cotton Office lived here also. The five colored servants occupied my outside kitchen rooms.

The war had been hard on the family in Orangeburg where they had refugeed. Sherman took all the cows as his Army came through and when Emilie Walter was born they had to feed her on green corn grated and boiled as there was no milk for her. Sherman also took all the food from the store-house, except the grits as the Army did not like or eat hominy. The family had nothing to eat but hominy without any butter or meat. When Mrs. Walter saw this, the tears rolled down her cheeks, but Whittie asked her why she was crying. She answered, "To see you eating dry hominy." Whittie said, "Don't cry, Mama. When our stomachs are full, we don't know but what we have had turkey."

When the family was settled in my large comfortable rooms the sons went into business with their Father and the children were sent to a private school. This did not keep the children from having many good times in my sunny yard and large piazzas. Many a trip they took in the huge oak clothes baskets as boats, with brooms for oars, and the power to reach any city in a few minutes.

The Reconstruction Period kept the family stirred up as so many horrible things happened to their friends while the city was under martial law and the Carpetbaggers ruled the Courts. In 1876 while four of the men of my family were on their way to a funeral at St. Philip's Church, they were fired on by negro police at the City Hall, and Ellicott the youngest son was shot through the heart. The ball went through his body and wounded his father who was walking behind him. Another shot wounded Mr. Ned Williams who was with them.

They brought Ellicott and his father home and the doctor told Mrs. Walter, who was in bed from a stroke of paralysis. It was a terrible time, the mother ill in one room, the father wounded in another, and down stairs young Ellicott lay dead. Mammy Judy, his nurse, came in to help lay him out. The negroes threatened to kill her too, but she went right on doing for all. The cook let Mammy's little girl lie on the cold hearth all night to spite Mammy. The next morning William McCormack took his pistol and gave the cook five minutes to get out or be shot. Mammy was very faithful. When the richest woman in town came to the back gate and offered her large wages to nurse her child, Mammy said, "You ain't got money 'nuff for to hire me." Mrs. McCormack was shocked at Mammy's answer, but Mammy said, "I don't work for no one what come to back gate for git me for leave. 'Y didn't she go to see you by front doo' and ask for hire me?"

After a few years Captain Walter made a small fortune in cotton and one night there was a large ball in my rooms and the piassa was canvased in. When the French windows were open, the whole floor made a huge ball-room. Mr. McCormack formed a glee club quartette. They sang every Tuesday night and any musical acquaintances were expected that night. Sometimes there were twenty singing. Mr. McCormack had beautiful tenor voice and Mrs. McCormack was a fine musician.

The old slave butler had never left them after his freedom and there was always much form in serving the meals. Just before dessert was served, the white cloth was removed and under it was a linen cloth with colored borders and napkins to match, on which dessert was eaten. When old John served on the yacht, he did not look happy so Mrs. Walter asked him if he was afraid of the water. He said, "No, Missus, but I radder be where foot kin tech."

The Carpet Baggers had been arresting white planters and sending them to the Charleston Jail. When Captain and Mrs. Walter heard of it, they sent a champagne basket of food to the jail every day for the planters. When it could not be proved they were Ku Klux, the Carpet Baggers let them go and they came in a body to thank Mrs. Walter for the food she had sent them every day.

Eugene Walter had bought a home near me and had married Miss Rowe from Orangeburg, S. C. Gatewood Walter married Miss Farnum and had his home. Whitten Walter married Miss Kinsmore and had gone to live in Birmingham. Mr. Riggs married and moved away. He had met his wife at "The Ball." Rosalie McCormack was born the year after her grandmother, Mrs. Walter, died and joy came back to the family after all the sorrow. Mammy Judy was her nurse, too, and when Rosalie answered, "Yes," Mammy would say, "Yes, cat; yes, dog; yes, cow," until Rosalie would say, "Yes, Mammy," And that was the right way.

The old housekeeper, "Lal", died and Mrs. McCormack and Emilie Walter took over the housekeeping which was hard for them, as Captain Walter had failed through the selfishness of a firm that had endorsed for him and many of the servants had to leave.

Walter McCormack married Miss Cary Glasgow, the sister of the Virginia novelist Ellen Glasgow and he left me, too. He died not many years after his marriage. A few years afterward, Captain Walter died and Emilie Walter sold her part of me and went to live with her friend Nellie Godard.

Rosalie McCormack married Wade Humphreys from Anderson. They had a little son, but the little mother was not very strong and she died a few years after her marriage. The boy died of flu at a school. This left just Mr. & Mrs. McCormack and their daughter Pauline in my old shell and when Mrs. McCormack died, I was no longer a home. Mr. McCormack soon followed her and that left only Pauline.

Now I belong to some one else.

Vital Records of New Haven, Connecticut. 1619 - 1850

Tuttle

Thomas Walter and Mehetabel/Walter had two children:

William Walter who was born March 6, 1752
Elinor Walter who was born March 14, 1760

William Walter married Theodosia Pierpont who was the daughter of Samuel Pierpont and was born February 22, 1758. William Walter and Theodosia Pierpont Walter had five children:

Joel Walter who was born May 28, 1778
Lovicy Walter who was born May 22, 1780
Lavinia Walter who was born May 4, 1782
Jerry Walter who was born March 23, 1784
William Walter who was born October 10, 1786

Page 610 Vital Statistics - Death in New Haven, 1824, Episcopal Society, William Walter, aged 72 years.

Page 815 - Interments 1845 City Burying Ground, Lavinia Walter, Residence West Water Street.

Jerry Walter, son of William and Theodosia Pierpont Walter, married Elizabeth Wilmont, New Haven, Connecticut, December 25, 1805. Jerry Walter and Elizabeth Wilmont Walter had six children and were the founders of the Charleston, South Carolina branch. Their children were:

William Walter who married Mary Calder
Cornelia Walter who married Thomas Trout
Lavinia Walter who married Robert Dotterer Eason
Theodosia Walter who died young
Wilmont Walter who married Sarah Dove
George Henry Walter who married Emilie Roumillat
Caroline Walter who married Mr. Winslow

William and Mary Calder Walter had two children:

Sarah Walter who married Joseph Marshall
Mary Walter who married William Butler

Elizabeth Trout who married Dr. Moseley Fitch
Emily Trout who married Major Happerset, U.S.A.
Thomas Trout who married Eliza St. Armand
Louisa Trout who was an Episcopal Sister and did not marry - these were the four children of

Cornelia Walter Trout and Thomas Trout

Lavinia Walter Eason and Robert Dotterer Eason had three children:

Fred Eason
Russell Eason who died young
Theodosia Eason who married Mr. Hart

Wilmont Walter and Sarah Dove Walter had four children:

John Falls Walter who married Emma Horn
Theodosia Walter who married Loton Reid
Dove Walter who married Lois Hazelhurst
Wilmont Walter who died young

George Henry Walter and Emile Roumillat Walter had fourteen children:
seven of whom lived:

Eugene Robert Walter who married Mary Rowe
Pauline Walter who married William J. McCormack
George Wilmont Walter who died young
Julia Walter who died young
Nettie Walter who died young
Gatewood Walter who married Helen Farnum
Whitten Walter who married Cora Kingsmore
Ellicott Walter who was killed in riots of
1876 - Reconstruction Period
Emilie Rosalie Walter who did not marry

The Wilmonts of New Haven

Samuel Wilmont born in New Haven, Connecticut, March 6, 1742, was a Captain in the Continental Army, served until the end of Revolution, remained in army under General Schuyler for some time. He married Elizabeth Storer who was born March 22, 1746. Married in New Haven, Connecticut, November, 1772. Samuel Wilmont died March 4, 1812. Elizabeth Storer Wilmont died January 9, 1809. Their children were:

Thomas Wilmont who was born November 17, 1773
Samuel Wilmont who was born October 26, 1777
Ebenezer Wilmont who was born March 6, 1780
Elizabeth Wilmont who was born October 24, 1782
Sarah Wilmont who was born September 30, 1786

Elizabeth Wilmont married Jerry Walter December 25, 1805. Jerry Walter died August 4, 1850. Elizabeth Wilmont Walter died November 24, 1857.

Thomas Wilmont married Lucy Tuttle October 29, 1778. Died January 16, 1813.

Samuel Wilmont married Sarah DeForest November 27, 1803. Died March 4, 1812.

Ebenezer Wilmont died September 1, 1802.

Sarah Wilmont married Benjamin Ford January 10, 1800, and at his death married John Bassett October 4, 1819.

These were the brothers and sisters of Elizabeth Wilmont who married our Grandfather Jerry Walter.

Thomas Walter was your Great-great-great Grandfather. I do not know the family name of his wife, Mehstabel.