

By L.B. Walker  
about his family

Family Data:

(I am speaking of Gov. McKinley's nomination at the National Republican Convention, which nominated him as candidate for President, running against Wm. J. Bryan.)

My parents were: Lewis Edward Walker and Anna Elizabeth (Leger) Walker. They were married in the 1st Congregational Church of Beatrice in 1895 (Don't know exact date). My father's first wife was Bessie J. (Yule) Walker, who died in Beatrice.

It is my impression that my paternal grandparents also lived in Beatrice and died there. I am sure that my paternal grandmother was still living after my mother and father were married and made her home with them. So it is evident that sometime between 1895 and ~~1896~~ 1897 she must have died and been buried in Beatrice.

My father was a graduate of the Univ. of Wisconsin, with a degree in LAW, but he never practised his profession. When he lived in Beatrice he was connected with a bank (in what capacity I do not know). He evidently was prominent there because he was active in politics and was a personal friend of William McKinley while he was still Governor of Ohio, and he seconded his nomination as the Republican candidate for President, which made him a successful candidate and he became President.

My father assisted in promoting the business growth of Beatrice. I know he helped organize the Beatrice Creamery, which I believe was the beginning of what is now Beatrice Foods, Inc. of Chicago, a nationally active food manufacturer and distributor. From Beatrice he moved to Hutchinson, Kans. where he was receiver of a defunct railroad. Through good management he reorganized this R.R. and began construction of a major expansion. This attracted the interest of the A.T. & S.F. Ry. Co. and they purchased the Hutchinson Southern R.R., and incorporated it into their system, of which it is still an integral part. They did this because it appeared that if extended as planned by my father it would have provided substantial competition to the Santa Fe. So to prevent this they bought it. My father was president of 3 other railroads in Texas and Oklahoma before his death in Austin, Texas, in 1919. (over)

My mother came to the U.S. with her family from France about 1867. Her father had been a school teacher. They lived in St. Denis, a suburb of Paris. My Grandfather Leger was concerned over the likelihood of another war between France and Prussia, and he did not wish his sons to become "cannon fodder" in another European war. He was correct because the Franco-Prussian war broke out in 1870. They first settled in Illinois, where my ~~father~~ Grandfather Leger became a farmer. Later they moved to Nebraska. My mother received enough education to qualify for a teacher's certificate and she taught school in the elementary grades for 15 years before she married my father subsequent to the death of his first wife.

This is the 2nd  
home we owned in  
Austin, Tx.

My Father and Mother established their home in Austin, Texas in 1907 (when I was 10 years old). My mother survived my father several years and finally died at age 89 in 1948, and is buried with my father in Austin. Our family home in Austin, originally constructed in 1895 is still in practically 100% condition, and is a landmark in Austin. My mother lived in this house from 1914 when it was purchased until her death in 1948, a total of 38 years.

I am the only surviving member of my family, and am now in my 82nd year. I am active, in good health, walk about 2 miles a day, csrry on a small hobby/craft enterprise, manufacturing name necklaces (which are of my own design) and personalized key rings.

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