

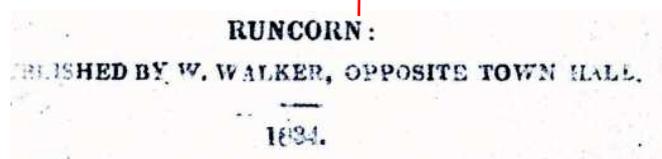
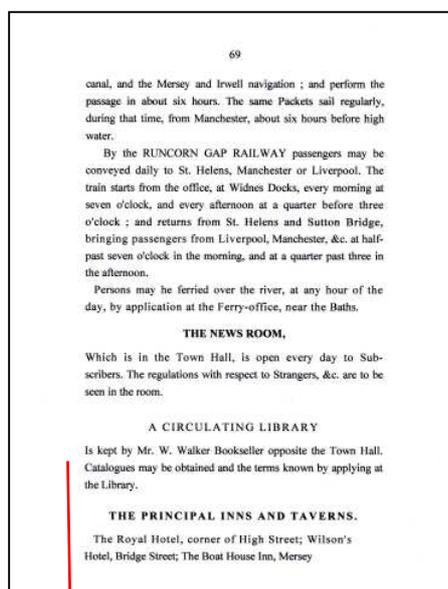
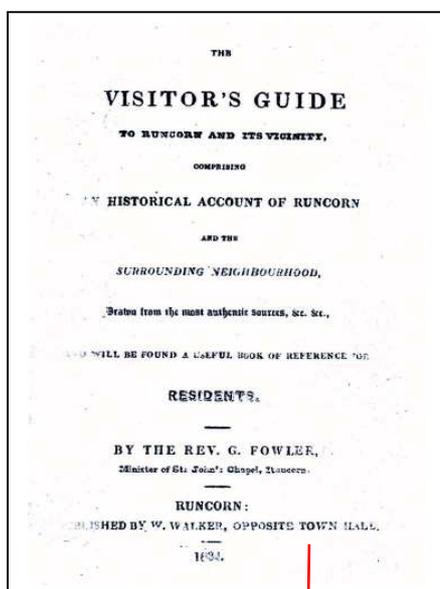
This article was presented at the January 2013 meeting of the Runcorn and District Historical Society by Mr. David Sterry, a former Chairman of the Society. Some time ago David gave a talk about William Shaw of the Merseyside Mission to Seamen and the church which he founded in Runcorn

In his research the name of "William Walker" appeared on many pamphlets. He was a printer in Runcorn and David was intrigued as to what had happened to this man, who must have been well known in the town at one time. David set out to discover as much about him, where he came from and his fortunes in life, as he could. This article is the result of this research.

What ever happened to William Walker

The subject of this short presentation is a man whose name will not necessarily be known to you and he has no known descendants to whom reference can be made. Consequently there is no family scrap books or photographs that can be plundered for stories or pictures. Furthermore, unlike more prominent citizens of the town, his name cannot be found in any books written about the history of Runcorn save one:

Fowlers "Visitors Guide To Runcorn" and that, was largely because it was he who published it in 1834!

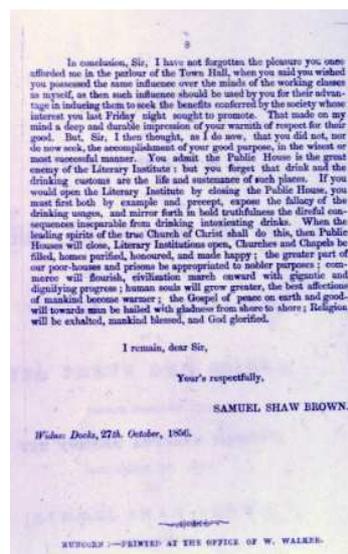
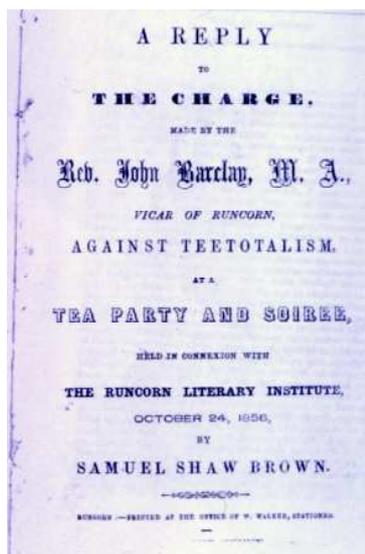
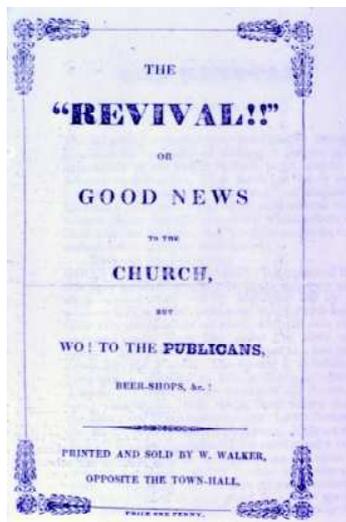


A CIRCULATING LIBRARY

Is kept by Mr. W. Walker Bookseller opposite the Town Hall. Catalogues may be obtained and the terms known by applying at the Library.

He did, however, get a further reference in the guide because he was the keeper of Runcorn's "circulating Library" in premises opposite the Town Hall in Bridge Street.

Those of you who heard my talk on "The Temperance Movement in Victorian Runcorn" may remember some pamphlets I referred to



These pamphlets, where both printed and published by William Walker, who could be found opposite the Town Hall in 1832 and 1856, respectively.

Unlike the subject of my last presentation, Runcorn's renowned Missioner, William Shaw, I had no living descendants or family records to refer to. Nonetheless I determined to see what I could learn about William Walkers' life and times using resources such as Ancestry. co. uk, the International Genealogical Index which is the website of The Church of the Latter-day Saints and Cheshire Directories which are now accessible on line.

Census records, of which I will say more later, enabled me to discover when and where he was born and using the IGI, I found this transcription of a parish record for the parish of St. James at Audley in Staffordshire.

IGI Individual Record	FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0
	British Isles
WILLIAM WALKER Male	Pedigree
Event(s): Birth: 07 MAY 1809 Christening: 09 AUG 1809 Saint James, Audley, Stafford, England Death: Burial:	
Parents: Father: WILLIAM WALKER Mother: ALICE	
	Family

Census records for Runcorn in 1841, which I will show later, prompted me to search for a brother and I subsequently found this transcript for his brother Samuel.

IGI Individual Record	FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0
	British Isles
SAMUEL WALKER Male	Pedigree
Event(s): Birth: 23 MAY 1801 Christening: 14 JUN 1801 Saint James, Audley, Stafford, England Death: Burial:	
Parents: Father: WILLIAM WALKER Mother: ALICE	
	Family



So, one wonders if they were related and whether William came to Runcorn initially to assist Charles before taking over the business? Unfortunately, Charles Walker could not be located in 1851 so the possibility of a family connection could not be developed and, therefore, must remain a matter for speculation. Nevertheless, a Chas Walker Letter-Press Printer is listed in Pigots Directory for 1822/3 some ten years before we become aware of William's arrival in Runcorn.

Cheshire.		PIGOTS	RUNCORN.	1822-23	23
Handley Jno. watch & clock maker	Rigby Josiah, mercer, draper and dealer in hats	Wylde Samuel, grocer, confectioner and flour dealer			
Haspell Esther, grocer and draper	Rigby Lydia, confectioner	<i>Inns and Taverns.</i>			
Hayes, Ollier & Co. soap, rosin and turpentine works	Rigby Wm. cabinet-maker & builder	Boat House, Peter Brown			
Hazlehurst, Greenwood & Co. soap, rosin and turpentine works	Rigby Wm. jun. grocer	Bridgewater Arms, Wm. Johnson			
Hazlehurst Thomas, flint and slate merchant	Roberts Thomas, coal dealer	Castle, Mrs. Askey, Halton			
Hignett Thos. grocer & flour dealer	Rooson Sarah, confectioner	Elephant and Castle, James Finch, Halton			
Hilditch Richard, draper	Rothwell Peter, stone merchant	Hotel and Bowling-green Inn, Peter Johnson			
Hughes Owen, officer of customs	Roylance Wm. tailor & habit-maker	Lord Nelson, William Martin			
Hughes William, coal agent	Runcorn John, joiner	New Inn, Richard Edwards			
Janion Robert, stone merchant	Salkeld Francis, grocer and draper	Norton Arms, Thos. Acton, Halton			
Jardine Wm. agent to the trustees of the Duke of Bridgewater	Shalcross Saml. boot & shoe maker	Royal Hotel, John Davies			
Johnson Frances, confectioner	Simpson, Potter and Co. slate and flint merchants	Weever Navigation Hotel, Cornelius Baines, Weston			
Jones Evan Owen, slate and flint merchant	Sweetman Wm. tailor & habit-mak.	CARRIER.			
Kennersley T. and Sons, coal dealers	Sweetman William, grocer	MIDDLEWICH, Northwich, Wheelock, the Potteries, &c. by Water.—Henshall.			
Kirkham and Ankers, ship builders and sail makers	Trevitt Thos. smith and farrier	PACKETS.			
Kirkham William, slate merchant	Turner and Janion, stone merchants	LIVERPOOL. two Steam Packets. the			
Leach John, shoe-maker	Turner James, stone merchant				
	Turner Jas. grocer and flour dealer				
	Walker Chas. letter-press printer				
	Warburton David, auctioneer				
	Williams James, saddler				

Unfortunately Pigots does not give an address so again the possible link is quite speculative although having said that, the 1841 census for Bridge Street also found our William and his brother Samuel close by.

PLACE	HOUSE	NAME	AGE	SEX	PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	When Born
Runcorn	1	William Walker	35	M	Printer	1806
Runcorn	2	Sarah Walker	32	F		1809
Runcorn	3	Elizabeth Walker	28	F		1813
Runcorn	4	James Walker	25	M		1816
Runcorn	5	John Walker	22	M		1819
Runcorn	6	William Walker	18	M		1823
Runcorn	7	Elizabeth Walker	15	F		1826
Runcorn	8	James Walker	12	M		1829
Runcorn	9	Sarah Walker	10	F		1831
Runcorn	10	William Walker	8	M		1833
Runcorn	11	Elizabeth Walker	6	F		1835
Runcorn	12	James Walker	4	M		1837
Runcorn	13	Sarah Walker	2	F		1839

William Walker	30	Bookseller	W
Alice	30		W
Ann	8		W
Hannah	1		W
William	1		W
Samuel	40	Farmer	W

William is listed as a bookseller NOT born in Cheshire living with Alice, his wife and three children Ann, Hannah & William. You will also see that next door was a Samuel Walker 40, farmer not born in Cheshire.

As we know from one of the pamphlets already viewed that William Walker was in bridge Street in 1856 I searched the 1851 Census and duly found these records

Parish or Township	Enumeration District	Household	Sex	Age	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	When Born
St. George's	15	1	Male	30	Bookseller	Cheshire
St. George's	15	2	Female	30		Cheshire
St. George's	15	3	Female	8		Cheshire
St. George's	15	4	Female	1		Cheshire
St. George's	15	5	Male	1		Cheshire
St. George's	15	6	Male	40	Farmer	Not born in Cheshire

Parish or Township	Enumeration District	Household	Sex	Age	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	When Born
St. George's	16	1	Male	30	Bookseller	Cheshire
St. George's	16	2	Female	30		Cheshire
St. George's	16	3	Female	8		Cheshire
St. George's	16	4	Female	1		Cheshire
St. George's	16	5	Male	1		Cheshire
St. George's	16	6	Male	40	Farmer	Not born in Cheshire

57	Bridge St	William Walker	41	Printer and Stationer	Audley Staffs
		Alice Walker	40		Partington Ches
		Ann Elizabeth	18		
		Hannah Beswick	11		
		John Henry	7		
		Mary Catherine	2		
Total of Persons		5		15	

which confirmed his presence in Bridge Street Runcorn, together with his wife Alice and Children Ann Elizabeth 18, Hannah Beswick 11, William 10, Samuel Sherlock 8, John Henry 7 and Mary Catherine 2.

William was described as a 41 year old Printer and Stationer born in Audley Staffordshire, which was how I came to find his birth record, whilst Alice was said to be a 40 year old from Partington Cheshire. We can see that by now his family had increased with the arrival of three more children.

By 1857, William seems to have widen his business interests as you will see from this extract from the 1857 post office directory which revealed that he was now, not only a printer and stationer, but a bookseller, newsagent and an assurance agent for, Yorkshire, Fire and Life as well. It is likely that he was also an agent for the Chester Chronicle, which this 1857 Post Office directory advert indicates was circulating in the town at that time.

1857 POST OFFICE	
DIRECTORY.	201 RUNCORN. [CHESHIRE.]
Roberts John, ship store dealer, Waterloo road	Timperley John, baker & grocer, Church street
Robinson Samuel, clothier, Devonshire place	Tindall & Vary, solicitors, & agents to the Solicitors & General life assurance company, Waterloo road
Rothwell Abraham, hosier, & agent to the Albion life assurance company, Church street	Tinkler Sarah (Miss), draper, Church street
Rowles Charles Samuel, <i>Egerton Arms</i> , Bridge street	Tonks Henry, house, sign & ship painter, Fry street
Rowley Michael, beer retailer, Mersey street	Tonks John, house & ship painter & paperhng. Devonshire pl
Rowley Michael, marine store dealer, Water street	Tracey George, beer retailer, Granville street
Roylands Martha (Miss), dressmaker, Church street	Wade John, accountant & house agent, High street
Rutter Robert, beer retailer, Alcock street	Waight George, tailor & draper, High street
Scanlan Bernard, pawnbroker, High street	Walker George, beer retailer, Church street
Shaw John, tailor & draper, Bridge street	Walker Matthew, master of National school, Church street
Shaw William, stonemason, Bridgewater street	Walker William, bookseller, stationer, printer, news agent & circulating library, & agent to the Yorkshire fire & life assurance company, Bridge street
Shepherd Solomon, boot & shoe maker, Granville street	Ward John, beer retailer, Cooper street
Simpson & Potter, slate, flint, coal & salt merchants, ship brokers & general commission agents, High street	Whittaker William, chemist & druggist, High street
Smith James, beer retailer, Church street	Whittle John, butcher, Church street
Smith John, ship broker & general agent, Waterloo road	Wilcock Thomas, beer retailer, Church street
Smith William, beer retailer, High street	Wilcocks Mary (Mrs.), milliner, Church street
Speakman John, sailmaker, Halton road	Wild George, manager of Runcorn ferry
Spencer William, beer retailer, Heath road	Williams David, grocer, Heath road
Stelfox Thomas Chantler, grocer & provision dealer & post-master, High street	Williams John, grocer, Church street

1857 POST OFFICE

TO ADVERTISERS.

THE CHESHIRE OBSERVER,

And General Advertiser for Cheshire and North Wales,

IS NOW THE MOST WIDELY CIRCULATED PAPER IN THE COUNTY,

AND IS ESPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF

Chester, Birkenhead, Nantwich, Northwich, Crewe, Sandbach, Winsford, Congleton,

Runcorn, Knutsford, Middlewich, Wingham, Holywell, Mold,

Whitchurch, Ruthin, Denbigh, &c.,

AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOODS, WHERE IT HAS AN EXTENSIVE CIRCULATION.

THIS PAPER IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY EVENING,

And contains all the

Local, Provincial, Parliamentary, & Foreign News,

Together with

THE LATEST STATE OF THE MARKETS UP TO THE HOUR OF PUBLICATION;

Advocates Free Trade & the Interests of Agriculture & Commerce conjointly,

AND IS BOTH A POLITICAL AND LITERARY JOURNAL. ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS IT IS NOT SECTARIAN.

It may be had at all Booksellers and Newsvenders, or of the Publishers,

H. SMITH & CO., BOOKSELLERS AND STATIONERS,
27, BRIDGE STREET ROW, CHESTER.

Price, Stamped, 3s. 3d. per Quarter; Unstamped Copies, 2d. each.

His developing interests are further illustrated in this 1861 census extract,

Page 21		1861										The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the			
Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Ecclesiastical Parochial of		Division of		Manor or Tything of		Division of			
No. of House	Household	Street	House and surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Where Bred or Brought up	Where Bred or Brought up					
116	Bridge St.	1	William Dalton	Head	Mar.	51	Print. Book Store & Stationer	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire		
			Allie	Wife	Mar.	51	Print. Book Store & Stationer	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire		
			Harriet B.	Daughter	Mar.	31	No occupation	do	do	do	do	do	do		
			William	Son	Mar.	20	Merchant Clerk	do	do	do	do	do	do		
			Abraham L. B.	Son	Mar.	17	Book seller & Printer	do	do	do	do	do	do		
			John H.	Son	Mar.	16	Assistant Chemist & Stationer	do	do	do	do	do	do		
			Mary C.	Daughter	Mar.	12	School	do	do	do	do	do	do		
			John Handley	Head	Mar.	46	Match Maker	do	do	do	do	do	do		
			Abraham	Son	Mar.	24	do	do	do	do	do	do	do		
Total of Houses...		5											Total of Males and Females...		11

William Dalton	Head	Mar.	51	Print. Book Store & Stationer	Cheshire	Cheshire
Allie	Wife	Mar.	51	Print. Book Store & Stationer	Cheshire	Cheshire
Harriet B.	Daughter	Mar.	31	No occupation	do	do
William	Son	Mar.	20	Merchant Clerk	do	do
Abraham L. B.	Son	Mar.	17	Book seller & Printer	do	do
John H.	Son	Mar.	16	Assistant Chemist & Stationer	do	do
Mary C.	Daughter	Mar.	12	School	do	do
John Handley	Head	Mar.	46	Match Maker	do	do

that describes William as a printer, bookseller and stationer and a newsagent now employing 4 men and 4 boys. His son William 20 is a Merchants clerk whilst his son Samuel 18 is listed as a bookseller and printer, presumably assisting his father. John H is employed in the local chemical works.

The 1864 Morris & Co street directory contains an advert, which reveals that William had in fact established his own newspaper in 1860.

Newspaper Press of North Cheshire.

THE RUNCORN OBSERVER,

Published Every Saturday Morning,

PRICE ONE PENNY.

This was the first Paper Established in Runcorn (July 1860), and possesses the most extensive and influential circulation of the Journals of the District. Neutral in politics, it furnishes a fair and impartial account of the leading events of the week—general, political, agricultural, social, and local, circulating amongst the most influential grades of society; and amongst all classes of politics it offers a most desirable medium for advertisements, for which the charges are very moderate; and for annual, half-yearly, or quarterly insertions a proportionate reduction from the fixed rate of prices will be made by agreement.

William Walker, Publisher and Proprietor,
Bridge St., near the Town Hall, Runcorn.

Associated with this advert were the following listings

Smith Brothers, hat manufacturers, 65, Bridge street
Smith George, railway contractor, Irwell In.
Smith James, beer retailer, Heath road
Smith John, master mariner, Thomas street
Speakman Mrs. Ann, sailmaker, Ferry slip; h. Waterloo road
Speakman David, agent, Linster street
Speakman Philip, shipwright and boat builder, Albion dock
Speakman Thomas, tea dealer, 7, Peel street
Stanway William, grocer, Shaw street
Statham William, bricklayer, Ashridge st.
Stelfox Mrs. Elizabeth, "Waterloo" hotel, High street
Stelfox Thomas C. grocer, tea dealer, and

sterer, Irwell lane
Vernon David, beer retailer, 10, Peel street
Waight George, tailor and woollen draper, High street
Warburton John, shopkeeper, Camden town
Warburton William, herbalist, 32, Bridge-water street
Walker George, beer retailer, 31, Granville street
Walker William, printer, bookseller, stationer, and publisher of the "Runcorn Observer," 28, Bridge street. (See advertisement)
Walker William, baker, Ashridge street
Warburton Ann, milliner and dressmaker, Halton road

PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS.

County Court Office, 21, Vicars street—John William Hardern, Esq., judge; Wm. Nicholson, registrar; Thomas Hough, deputy registrar. The district comprises the following places:—Alvanley, Astmore, Aston, Aston Grange, Atchmere, Clifton, Flaxmere, Frodsham (including Over-on), Frodsbam Bridge, Gods Croit, Halton, Hallwood, Helsby, Keckwick, Kingsley, Kingswood, Manley, Newton (including Bradley), Netherthorn, Norley, Norton, Rock Savage, Runcorn, Stockham, Sutton, Weston, Weston Point, Woodhouses.

County Police Station, Town Hall—William

H. Danby, master; Miss Margaret Smith, mistress.

NEWSPAPERS.

"Runcorn and Widness Guardian" (published every Saturday); Office, High street—Alexander Mackie, publisher and proprietor; Charles Gerrard, agent for Runcorn. (See advertisement)

"Runcorn Observer" (published every Saturday); Office, 28, Bridge street—William Walker, publisher. (See advertisement)

"Runcorn Free Press and General Advertiser" (published every Saturday); Office, Ellesmere street—Thomas Wm. Dutton, proprietor. (See advertisement)

And here is the Warrington Guardian Advert from the same directory!

MORRIS & CO 1864
186 WARRINGTON ADVERTISEMENTS.

COMPREHENSIVE ADVERTISING.

AUCTION, EDUCATION, WANTED, TO BE LET, ON SALE, LEGAL, PUBLIC MEETING, SERMON, LECTURE, BAZAAR, AND PUBLIC NOTICE ADVERTISEMENTS sent to the

WARRINGTON GUARDIAN
(12th Year, 12 Pages, Price 3d.)
Are inserted in the following papers, *without extra charge*, viz:—

Northwich & Winsford Guardian,
(5th Year, 8 Pages, Price 2d.)
The only Newspaper published in the Salt District of Cheshire.

Runcorn and Widnes Guardian,
The only 8-paged Newspaper published in that busy Shipping Port on the Mersey.

Nantwich and Crewe Guardian,
(8 Pages, Price 2d.)
Nantwich, the seat of the Boot and Shoe Trade, and Crewe, the residence of some thousands of skilled Mechanics employed by the London and North-Western Railway.

Altrincham & Bowdon Guardian,
(8th Year, 8 Pages, Price 2d.)
The only Newspaper circulating in the richest part of Lancashire and Cheshire,—Bowdon (8 miles from Manchester) being the "West End" of that City, and having upwards of fifty trains a day passing to and fro.

*. The united circulation of these papers gives a number exceeding 5,500 greater than that of any other paper published in the towns named. Excluding all political and religious controversial matters, these papers are read by all the nobility, gentry, farmers (very numerous), and tradesmen in the district.

TERMS, for insertion in all, 4d. per line, averaging ten words.

which show that whilst his Runcorn Observer may have been the first newspaper in the town it was not on its own for long.

An Advert found in a Warrington Directory for 1895 details the number of years the Guardian had been operating in Runcorn claiming it was 33 years, indicating it arrived here in 1862.

SLATERS DIRECTORY 1895

THE WARRINGTON GUARDIAN

— AND —

THIRTEEN ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS,

With Central Printing and Publishing Works, employing nearly Three Hundred Workpeople.

Each Paper with its own Office and Staff. Sixteen Reporters, and Fourteen District Offices.

LONDON OFFICE—60, LUDGATE HILL, E.C.

Twice-a-week Papers:—Wednesday, 1d.; Saturday, 2d.

District A.—	THE WARRINGTON GUARDIAN, 42nd year, for Warrington and Newton Parliamentary Divisions.	
" B.—	THE CHESTER GUARDIAN, 38th year, for Chester and Eddisbury Parliamentary Divisions and North Wales.	
" C.—	THE NORTHWICH GUARDIAN, 34th year	} For Northwich Parliamentary Division.
	THE WINSFORD & MIDDLEWICH GUARDIAN, 34th year	
" D.—	THE ALTRINCHAM AND BOWDON GUARDIAN, 33rd year	} For Altrincham and Stretford Parliamentary Divisions.
	THE SALE AND STRETFORD GUARDIAN, 33rd year	
" E.—	THE CREWE GUARDIAN, 32nd year	} For Crewe Parliamentary Division and Congleton.
	THE NANTWICH GUARDIAN, 32nd year	
	THE SANDBACH GUARDIAN, 32nd year	
	THE CONGLETON GUARDIAN, 32nd year	
" F.—	THE KNUTSFORD GUARDIAN, 34th year	} For Knutsford Parliamentary Division.
	THE WILMSLOW AND ALDERLEY EDGE EDITION, 7th year	
" G.—	THE RUNCORN GUARDIAN, 33rd year	} For Widnes Parliamentary Division and Runcorn.
	THE WIDNES GUARDIAN, 33rd year	

ADVERTISEMENT SCALE.—WEDNESDAY OR SATURDAY.

Parliamentary Notices, Election Addresses, Prospectuses	1s. per line
Chancery and Legal Notices	3d. "
Auctions, Public Meetings, Auditors, Bank and Board Notices, Municipal and County Council Elections, Contracts, Tenders	6d. "
Sermons, Bazaar, Entertainments, Excursions, Education, Money, Lost and Found, Insurance, Shipping, Parish Notices, Leys, Horses, &c.	6d. "

The Warrington Daily Guardian.

Published at 8.0 and 5.0. 12th year.

CHEQUES AND ORDERS TO MACKIE & CO., LTD.

HEAD OFFICE—WARRINGTON.

So it would seem William's efforts to establish his Runcorn Observer and associated printing, publishing, bookselling and insurance services, which could have seen him being regarded as something of a pioneer, and, at that point in his career, with a thriving business, where soon to attract competition from the neighbouring giant. Whether it was the tension in this situation or, an element of mismanagement, his circumstances could have been adversely affected by his involvement in bankruptcy:

5460

THE LONDON GAZETTE, OCTOBER 11, 1867.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the following is a copy of an entry made in the book kept by the Chief Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy for the Registration of Trust Deeds for the benefit of Creditors, Composition and Inspectorship Deeds executed by a Debtor, as required by the Bankruptcy Act, 1861, secs. 187, 192, 194, 196, and 198:—

Number—26,812.

Title of Deed, whether Deed of Assignment, Composition, or Inspectorship—Composition.

Date of Deed—12th September, 1867.

Date of execution by Debtor—12th September, 1867.

Name and description of the Debtor, as in the Deed—**William Walker the elder, of Runcorn, in the county of Chester, Bookseller, Stationer, and Printer.**

The names and descriptions of the Trustees or other parties to the Deed, not including the Creditors—The creditors of the debtor, second part; and Jonathan Potter, of Runcorn, in the county of Chester (trustees), third part.

A short statement of the nature of the Deed—A Deed, for the payment of a composition of 10s. in the pound, payable by four equal instalments, on the 1st day of April next, the 1st day of October following, the 1st

day of April, 1869, and the 1st day of October, 1869; and on payment thereof the creditors release to the debtor all debts and demands whatsoever. When left for Registration—10th October, 1867, at half-past twelve o'clock.

THE SEAL OF THE COURT.

What ever happened to William Walker –Part 2

Although the 1871 Worrall's directory still listed William Walker, he was now only a printer and was operating in different premises at 18 Trinity Street. His previous address at 28 Bridge Street was now occupied by Alexander Mackie's Runcorn & Widnes Guardian and Chas Gerrard (agent) and there was no Runcorn Observer!

WORRALLS 1871	
<i>Directory.</i>	RUNCORN
	297
MILLINERS AND DRESSMAKERS.	
Broadhurst Harriet, 46 Ashridge street	
Colgan Mary F., 54 Regent street	
Edwards M., 14 Shaw street	
Glover Mrs. H., 18 High street	
Goodall Mary, 13 Ellesmere street	
Handley Ann, 87 Church street	
Marston Ellen A., 5 Wellington street	
Roberts Dinah, 23 Church street	
Roylance Martha, 97 Church street	
Walker Elizabeth, 31 Bridgewater street	
Wood Betsey, 32 High street	
Warburton Ann, Halton road	
Withershaw Sarah, 58 Surrey street	
Wrighton Frederick C., 83 Bridge street	
NEWSPAPERS.	
Runcorn and Widnes Examiner (Friday), 12 Church street; The Warrington Printing & Publishing Co., Limited: Proprietors and Publishers— <i>see advertisement</i>	
Runcorn and Widnes Guardian (Saturday), 28 Bridge street; Alexander Mackie, proprietor and publisher	
PAINTERS, PLUMBERS, &c.	
Arrowsmith John, 12 Ellesmere street	
Hunt Robert, 59 Church street	
Oliver Benjamin, 16 Parker street	
Tonks Henry, High street	
PAVIOR AND CONTRACTOR.	
Cliff Thomas, 46 Greenway road	
PAWNBROKERS.	
Ashworth Henry, 40 High street	
Imison C. C., 64 Church street	
Lomax James, Church street	
Syred Horatio, 31 Church street	
PRINTERS—LETTER PRESS.	
Gerrard Charles, 28 Bridge street	
Marsh William (Examiner Office), 12 Church street— <i>see advertisement</i>	
Walker William, 18 Trinity street	
Woodland John W., High street	
QUARRY OWNERS.	
Whiteway Robert & Co., Top locks; Quarries: Weston	
Wright John L. & Son, Bridge street; Quarries: Weston	
ROPE AND TWINE MANUFACTURERS.	
Chadwick Thomas, Percival lane Top Locks	
Howard William, Waterloo road and Church st	
SADDLER.	
Grice William W., 59 Bridge street	
SAIL MAKERS.	
Acklerley Albert E., Mersey street	
Chadwick Thomas H., Percival lane, Top Locks	
Cooper William, Mill street	
Hayes & Sproston, Ferry slip	
Ravenscroft Samuel, Waterloo road	
SALT MERCHANTS.	
Astley and Tyldesley Coal and Salt Co., Limited, Lowlands road	
Cheshire Amalgamated Salt Works Co., Limited, The docks; Edmund Finlay, agent	
Davies Joseph, Top locks	
Falk H. E., 109 Church street	
Finley Edmund, The docks	
Hayes William, Top locks— <i>see advertisement</i>	
Lovett & Co., Leinster street	
Runcorn Soap and Alkali Co., Limited, Runcorn— <i>see advertisement</i>	
Simpson & Davies, 44 High street	
Smith John, Top locks	
Verdin Brothers, Top locks	
SAND MERCHANTS.	
Forrester & Co., Lowlands road	
SANITARY TUBE, &c., MANUFACTURERS	
Cliff John, Old Quay works	
Norman Thomas, Old Quay works	
SAW-MILL PROPRIETORS.	
Kershaw & Co., top of Ellesmere street	
White Thomas & Son, Sprinch Saw-mills— <i>See advertisement</i>	
SCHOOLS—PRIVATE.	
Arrowsmith Mary, Halton road	
Chews and Pretty, Higher Runcorn	
Craig James (1st B. A. London), Irwell house	
Gentles Margaret, 40 Church street	
Harrison Margaret, Greenway road	
Moon John, 48 Ellesmere street	
Moon Margaret, 48 Ellesmere street	
Pickles Thomas, Mill House Academy, Heath rd	
SCHOOLS—PUBLIC.	
Grammar School, 38 Church street, Charles P. Green, master	
National Schools:—	
Church street (All Saint's), Alfred Jordan, master; Thirza Higgins (girls), and Annie Tonks (infants), mistresses	
Newton Mission School, Miss Parker, mistress	
Ragged School, Heath road, Mary A. Edser, mistress	
Roman Catholic School, Windmill street, Mary Foley, mistress	
St. Peter's Mission School, Duke's Dock, Jane Boardman, mistress	

326	Pool Lane	1	William Walker	Head	Male	60	Letter Press Printer employed	Hendley	Staffordshire
			Adrian	Wife	Female	60		Warrington	Cheshire
			Samuel	Son	Male	28	Printer	Runcorn	Cheshire
			John H.	Son	Male	27			
			Mary Catherine	Daughter	Female	22			

You will see that in 1871, Samuel and John Henry were still living at home, and appear to have been concerned in the printing business. You will also see that Mary Catherine is still at home whilst the eldest daughter Ann, who had married David Speakman in 1856, was living at 11 Greenway Road with her six children. Her occupation is given as shopkeeper. Their eldest son, William who went into commerce, was found on the road in a hotel in Exeter. Hannah was not located!

Anyway, William Walker and his sons seem to have continued trading into the early 1870`s in spite of their Bridge street premises being taken over by the Warrington Guardian. However, the



*Old houses in Pool Lane at the centre of Runcorn township.
Pool Lane was sometimes called Buttermilk Lane or Sour Milk Lane.*

apparent dereliction of the houses in Pool Lane, shown in this photo, may suggest that the Walkers relocation here heralds a decline in their fortunes.

The 1874 Morris & Co directory flags up another change in circumstances

Morris & Co 1874	
RUNCORN.	569
Speakman Joseph James, agent, Soap and Alkali works	Timmins Ebenezer, ironfounder, Bridgewater foundry
Speakman Philip, ship, flat, and boat builder, Castle rock, Belvedere, and Albion Dockyard; h. Moughland road	Timmis Walter, engineer, Halton road
Speakman Thomas, coal agent, 4, Egerton street	Timperley John, grocer, 23, Church street, and Greenway road
Spender Thomas, apartments, 30, Greenway road	Tittle William, mason, 4, Thomas street
Sproston Mrs. Harriet, confectioner, 89, High street	Toft Richard B., shipbroker and commission agent, Top locks
Stanway William, shopkeeper, Lowlands rd	Tomlinson Thomas, agent, South view, Higher Runcorn
Starkey Thomas, "Blue Ball," Fryer street	TONES HENRY , plumber, glazier, paperhanger, 61, High street
STATHAM WILLIAM , joiner, builder, and contractor, Halton road; h. Bentinck street. (<i>See advertisement</i>)	Toone Henry Burgess, clerk, 3, Greenway road
Staveley William R., collector of Customs, Leinster street	Torkington Joseph, agent, Leinster street
Steele and Co., copper and alkali manufacturers, Old Quay works	Turner Thomas, baker and flour dealer, 58, Church street
Steele William, ship chandler and commission agent, Alexandra buildings	Turner Walter Bliss, shopkeeper, 1, Vivern's place
Stoll Henry, watchmaker, 30, High street	Union Loan and Discount Co. (Limited), Waterloo road and Peel street—Joseph Ellis, agent
Stringer Joseph, beer retailer, Mill place	Unsworth Arnold, boot and clog maker, 41, High street
Stringer Peter, refreshment house, 54, Bridgewater street	UNSWORTH BROTHERS , hatters, 40, High street; and 18, Waterloo road, Widnes
Stringfellow Henry, shopkeeper, 55, Shaw street	Verdin Brothers, salt merchants, Top locks—John Millington, agent
STUBBS JOHN AND SONS , shipwrights, and block, mast, and spar makers, Percival lane	Waight George, tailor and draper, Percival lane
Stubbs John (firm of John Stubbs and Sons), toy dealer, 23, Regent street	Wainwright Peter, shopkeeper, 4, Shaw at
Sutton William, baker and confectioner, 7, Church street	Wakefield John, shopkeeper, 78, Surrey st
Sutton William, parish clerk, Lowlands rd	Walker and Co., "Masonic" hotel, Devonshire place—John Coxhill, manager
Swinton James, farmer, Mersey view	Walker Joseph George, picture frame maker, 14, High street
Syred Horatio, pawnbroker, 31, Church at	Walker Thomas, beer retailer, High street
Tarry Joseph, beer retailer, 3, Wellington street	WALKER WILLIAM , coal and salt merchant and shipbroker, Top locks, Gilbert street; and at Widnes. (<i>See adlet.</i>)
Taylor Edward, clerk, Lowlands road	Walker William, printer and bookbinder, Trinity street; h. 11, Ellesmere street
Taylor George Henry, receiver of harbour rates, Brackley street	Ward John, clerk, 31, High street
Taylor Samuel, canal carrier, and coal and lime merchant, Halton road	Ward John, sexton, 92, Church street
Taylor Samuel, foreman boxmaker, 24, Greenway road	Ward Samuel, shopkeeper, 30, Trinity st
Taylor Thomas, hay and corn dealer, Stonecroft, Top locks	Wass William, eating house, 8, Mersey st
Temperley John, baker and flour dealer, Lowlands road	Waterworth John, master mariner, 34, Ellesmere street
Tench Mrs. Elizabeth, beer retailer, 43,	Waterworth Mrs. Mary, "Anchor," Brunswick street
	Watson Richard, "Vine" hotel, Lowlands

bert street; and at Widnes. (*See adlet.*)
Walker William, printer and bookbinder, Trinity street; h. 11, Ellesmere street
 Ward John, clerk, 31, High street
 Ward John, sexton, 92, Church street

Although he continues to trade from his Trinity Street Printers shop he appears to have moved his home to 11 Ellesmere Street. Whether

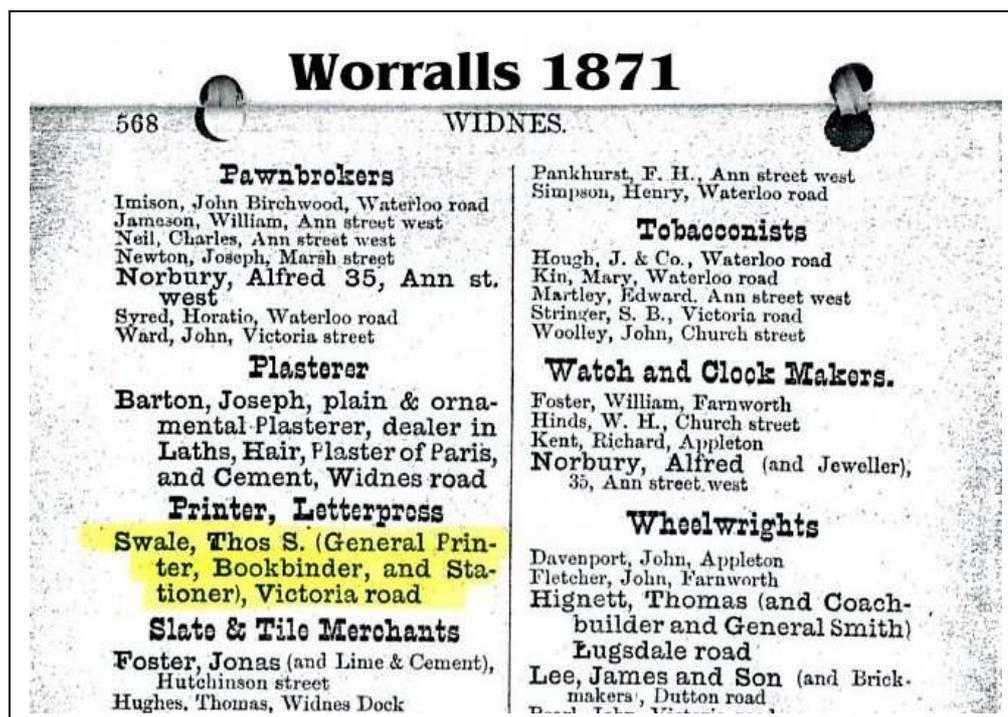
this reflects an up turn in his fortunes is not clear as when I subsequently searched the 1878 post office directory they was no trace of any William Walker printer in Runcorn. So I was left to ponder on his fate. I could find no relevant death registration, so I was left wondering if he may have moved again? Accordingly I took a trip over the bridge to Widnes library and located extracts from Worralls 1876 directory for Widnes.

180	WIDNES, &c.	1876 [WORRALL'S
IRON AND BRASS FOUNDERS <i>See under the head Engineers, Iron-founders, &c.</i>	Vickers Thomas & Sons, Widnes Phosphate Works, West Bank	PAWNBROKERS. Imison John Birchwood, Waterloo rd Jameson William, 7 & 9 Ann st West Neil Charles, 13 Ann st West Newton Joseph, Marsh st Syred Horatio, 54 & 56 Waterloo rd Ward John, 31 Victoria st
IRON MANUFACTURERS—PIG The Ditton Brook Iron Co. Limited (manufacturers of foundry, forge, & Bessemer pig iron, brand— DITTON), Ditton; near Widnes; John Thorburn, manager— <i>See advertisement</i>	MARINE STORE DEALERS. Cooper William & Co. Canal bank Davies William, Church st Godfrey Edmund, 13 Marsh st Simcock Fredk. T. 25 Appleton st	PRINTERS—LETTERPRESS. Swale Thomas S. (general printer, bookbinder, and stationer), Victoria rd Walker William, 47 James st
IRONMONGERS. Handley James & Co. (and iron merchants and nail makers), Waterloo rd and at Runcorn Jervis John, Victoria rd and at St. Helens Pritchard James, 42 Waterloo rd	MILLINERS & DRESSMAKERS Burn Charlotte, 56 Mersey rd Callaghan Elizabeth, Cromwell st Evans Mary, Farnworth Goff Lizzie, Waterloo rd Haworth Sarah, Simms cross Johnson Mary, near Elizabeth terrace Jones Fanny M. 41 Mersey rd Lees Elizabeth, 46 Oakland st Monaghan M. Church st Neil Charles (& funeral furnisher), 13 Ann st West O'Callaghan Elizabeth, 1 Hutchinson st O'Gden Ann, 31 Mersey rd Robe Ellen, Ditton Seddon Ann, 102 Mersey rd White Louisa, 8 Mersey rd	ROSIN REFINERS. The Runcorn Soap & Alkali Co. Limited, Widnes; offices, Runcorn and Walmer's buildings, 6 Water st, Liverpool— <i>See advt</i>
JOINERS AND BUILDERS. Balshaw Richard, Widnes rd Brotherton Francis, Mersey rd Brown Benjamin, Appleton Butler Thomas F. (and contractor), Victoria rd Cowell Wm. (joiner), Waterloo rd Davies John (and timber dealer), Appleton Ellis William, Widnes rd Hammond John, Halton view, Appleton Hughes Peter, High st Hughes Samuel, 36 Widnes rd Hughes Thomas, Gossage st Hunter James, Farnworth Kershaw W. H. & Co. Hutchinson st Leicester Thomas, Alpha st Midwood Joshua, Mersey view Musgrave Zachariah, 94 Mersey rd Ollier William, off Victoria rd Fatten Robert, Farnworth Sadler Thomas, Victoria rd Travis Henry, Travis st	NEWSPAPERS. Runcorn and Widnes Examiner (Friday), Waterloo rd; Charles Hadfield, proprietor and publisher; John Hough & Co. agents— <i>See advertisement</i> Widnes Guardian (Friday), Post Office, Widnes; Mackie & Brewt-nall, proprietors and publishers— <i>See advertisement</i> "Widnes Weekly News" (price one penny, Saturday), Thomas S. Swale, printer and publisher, Victoria rd	SADDLERS. Harrison Thomas, Farnworth Lightfoot Elizabeth, Farnworth
		SAIL MAKERS. Bibby Eliza, Canal bank Cooper William & Co. Canal bank
		SCHOOLS—PRIVATE. Bradshaw Richard (boarding), Appleton Haddock Margaret, Lune hey, Farnworth Hulme Jane, Bell house farm Kidd Annie, Farnworth King Paulina & Caroline, 137 Mersey rd Moore Sarah Anne (boarding), Hale O'Meara St. John, Irwell st Syred Annie, Bradley Cottage, Appleton
		SCHOOLS—PUBLIC. BOARD SCHOOLS:—

As you can see we find that 47 James Street, Widnes which was formerly the premises of Thomas Heath, a Glazier, Gasfitter and Decorator (as listed in Worralls 1871 directory),

<p>Simm's Cross, Thomas Deakin, Widnes road Sportman's Arms, Mark Wright, Canal bank Star, Mrs. Jones, Elizabeth street Swan, John Hunt, Waterloo road Victoria, H. Tyrer, Ann street west Vine, William S. L. Dickinson, 21, Waterloo road Vineyard, John Hunt, Lugsdale Waterloo Hotel, John Barrow, Waterloo road West Bank Commercial Hotel, W. Wood, Waterloo road, West bank White Star, J. Gerard, Queen street</p> <p>Iron Manufacturers The Ditton Brook Iron Company Williams, John, Lugsdale foundry</p> <p>Ironmongers Handley, James, and Co., Waterloo road Jervis, John, Victoria road</p>	<p>White, Richard, Ann street west</p> <p>Outfitters Miller, William, 69, Waterloo road, and 1, Gerard street Norbury, Alfred, 35, Ann st. west</p> <p>Painters, Plumbers and Glaziers Holland, John, Lugsdale road Heath, Thomas (and Gasfitter and Decorator), 47, James street Holt, Benjamin, Ditton new road Kenrick, S. H., Caroline street Lea, D. & Son (and Decorator and Gas & Water Fitters), 10, Church st., Farnworth Moreland, W., Waterloo road Nanson, Robert, Margaret street Roberts, William (& Decorator) Widnes road Waingwright, T. D., Victoria road</p>
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is now the location for William's printing shop. In the absence of any concrete evidence, one can only speculate that during the preceding years his Runcorn business continued to decline and that, perhaps, he was forced let his sons go. He could have hoped that the move to Widnes might promote an up turn in his fortunes as in the early 1870's there appears to have been only one printer, the same Thomas Swale as listed along with William in 1876, operating in Widnes as opposed to at least three known competitors in Runcorn.



The next directory for Widnes was not published until 1881 (Kellys) but a search of that did not locate William's printers shop or even feature 47 James street where he had opened his Printers shop sometime between 1874 and 1876, which it may have done if someone else had taken it over or implemented a change of use, suggesting that his business had floundered and he had ceased trading. I could find no reports of any bankruptcy during the preceding five years so it seems his fortunes just faded away. May be old age simply took its toll. Anyway, the outcome of whatever happened to him was to be, sadly, revealed when I searched the 1881 Census and was able to locate this transcript of an entry, which recorded the presence of William and Alice as pauper inmates of the "Prescot Union Workhouse".

1881 England Census

Name: **William Walker**

Age: 71

Estimated Birth: abt 1810

Year:

Relation: Pauper Inmate (Pauper)

Gender: Male

Where born: Audley, Staffordshire, England

Civil parish: Whiston

County/Island: Lancashire

Country: England

Street Address: "Prescot Union Workhouse" Whiston

Condition as to marriage: Married

Education:

Employment status: [View image](#)

Occupation: Printer

Registration district: Prescot

Sub-registration district: Prescot

ED, institution, or vessel: Prescot Union Workhouse Continued

H	NAME and Surname	(1) RELATION to Head of Family—or (2) Position in the Institution.	CONDITION as to Marriage	AGE Last Birthday		RANK, PROFESSION, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN		I
				Males	Females		1881	1881	
1	Topping Elizabeth	Wife	Married	38			Lancaster	Whittle	Indecent
2	Topping Thomas	"	"	67		Chemical works labourer	Ireland		
3	Tarkuck William	"	Married	47		Agricultural do	Lancaster	Northon	
4	Tearney Michael	"	"	24		Blacksmith do	"	Rainhill	
5	Taylor Thomas	"	"	20		Agricultural do	"	Whittle	Indecent
6	Thompson William	"	Widower	67		Blacksmith	"	do	
7	Tracy John	"	"	44		Agricultural labourer	Ireland		
8	Tyler William	"	Married	55		do	Lancaster	Knowsley	
9	Thompson Sarah	"	Widow	73			"	Whiston	
10	Taylor James Fredk	"	Married	16			"	Parr	
11	Tickle James	"	"	14			"	Rainhill	
12	Tickle Robert	"	"	29		Coal mines	"	Sutton	
13	Vanderhill Barbara	"	Widow	37		Charwoman	Ireland		
14	Walker Thomas	"	Married	41			Lancaster	Whiston	Indecent
15	Wood Solomon	"	Widower	44		Machine clerk	"	Moss	
16	Wilcock Thomas	"	Married	64		Agricultural labourer	"	Beckwith	
17	Walker John Henry	"	"	32		Sailor	"	Moss	Indecent
18	Walker Walter	"	"	53		Saddler	"	Gabacore	
19	Walker William	"	Married	71		Printer	Stafford	Audley	
20	Walker Alice	"	"	70			Stafford	Whiston	
21	Whittle John	"	Married	18			Lancaster	Parr	Indecent
22	Whittington Arthur	"	"	44			"	Rainhill	do
23	Walker Isaac	"	"	72		Agricultural labourer	"	Whiston	
24	Walker Isaac	"	"	40		Domestic servant	"	Moss	

This image lists both William born Audley and Alice born Partington, which matches previous sightings. Shortly after this census was taken Alice died. Although William lived on a few more years it appears he never left the workhouse and died in 1885 aged 75.

Lancashire OnLine Parish Clerk Project - Search Page 1 of 1

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County of
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Contents

- [Parishes](#)
- [Help](#)
-  [E-Mail](#)
- [OPC Home](#)
- [OPC Search](#)
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Ancestor Search
in the County of
-- Lancashire --



There was 1 match for this search!

Burial: 23 May 1881 St Mary the Virgin, Prescot, Lancashire, England
Alice Walker -
Age: 70 yrs
Abode: Whiston Union
Buried by: Frederick Lee
Register: Burials 1880 - 1886, Page 40, Entry 316
Source: LDS Film 1657597

There was 1 match for this search!

Burial: 14 Feb 1885 St Mary the Virgin, Prescot, Lancashire, England
William Walker -
Age: 75 years
Abode: Whiston Union
Buried by: Frederick Lee
Register: Burials 1880 - 1886, Page 167, Entry 1332
Source: LDS Film 1657597

©Lancashire OnLine Parish Clerks [Refine Search](#)

You will see that both William and Alice were laid to rest at St Mary the Virgin, Prescot; Alice on 23 may 1881 and William on 14th February 1885.

Records for the Prescot Union Workhouse for that period no longer exist so it was not possible to learn anything concerning the date or circumstances of William and Alice`s admission. 1881 Census searches for the rest of the family were only partially successful: by now, Ann the eldest daughter, was widowed and living at 51 Surrey Street with two of her sons whilst Hannah was in service in Malpas, living at the home of a grammar school head. The eldest son William, the commercial traveller, could not be located anywhere and there was absolutely no sign of Samuel, John or Mary.

In 1891 Samuel, a bookseller, turns up at his sister Ann`s home in Surrey Street. Hannah was living in Flintshire with her Husband Thomas Foulkes, a land agents clerk, as she was in 1901 when William, 60, an advertising agent, is sighted in Leytonstone, North East London, with his 26 years old wife Mary.

Ann died at Runcorn in 1896 aged 64, Samuel in 1907 aged 62 and Hannah`s death is recorded at Holywell in 1910.

I found no further records of William, John or Mary so we do not know what became of them except to observe that there is a death registration for a 69 years old John Henry Walker, registered at Leeds in 1913, which may be relevant.