

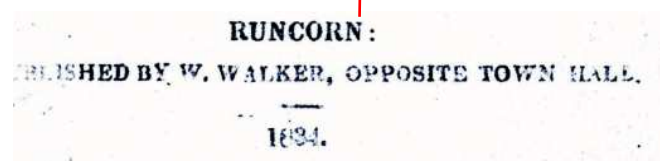
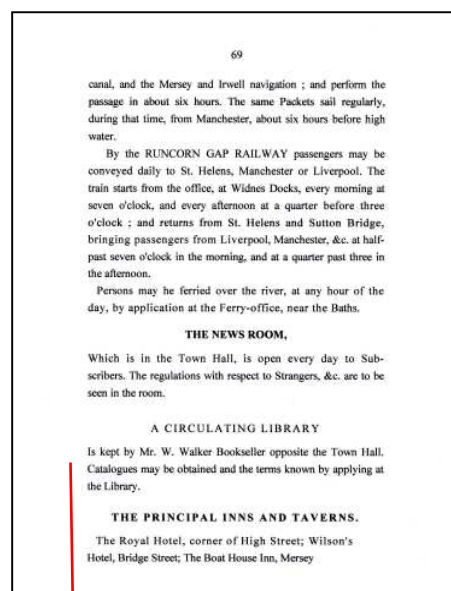
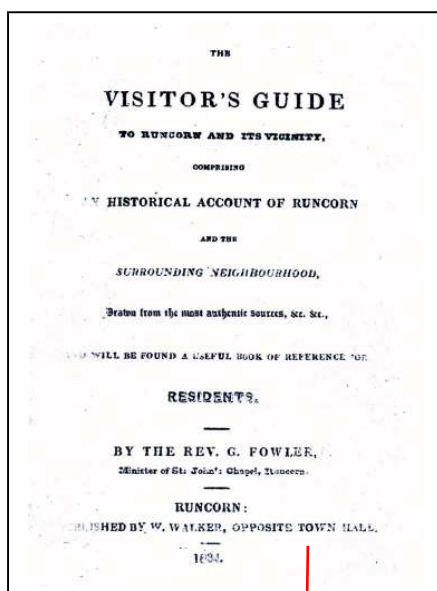
This article was presented at the January 2013 meeting of the Runcorn and District Historical Society by Mr. David Sterry, a former Chairman of the Society. Some time ago David gave a talk about William Shaw of the Merseyside Mission to Seamen and the church which he founded in Runcorn

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!

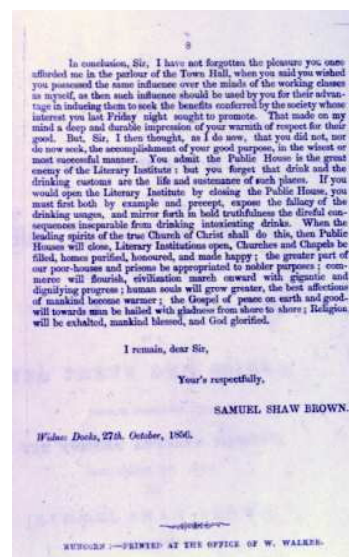
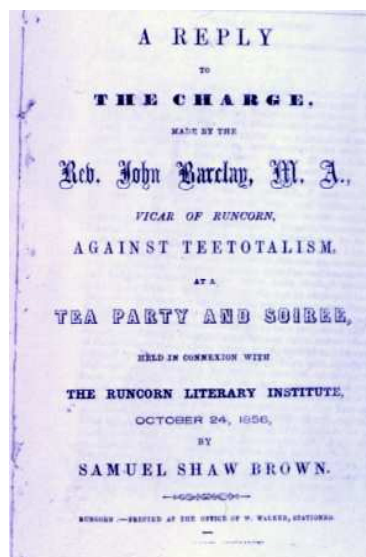
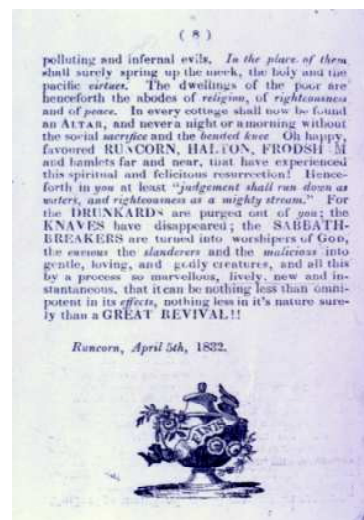
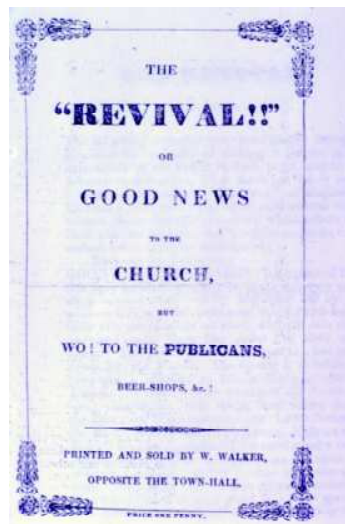


A CIRCULATING LIBRARY

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		Pedigree
Male		
<hr/>		
Event(s):		
Birth:	07 MAY 1809	
Christening:	09 AUG 1809 Saint James, Audley, Stafford, England	
Death:		
Burial:		
<hr/>		
Parents:		
Father:	WILLIAM WALKER	Family
Mother:	ALICE	

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		Pedigree
Male		
<hr/>		
Event(s):		
Birth:	23 MAY 1801	
Christening:	14 JUN 1801 Saint James, Audley, Stafford, England	
Death:		
Burial:		
<hr/>		
Parents:		
Father:	WILLIAM WALKER	Family
Mother:	ALICE	

That census sighting also prompted me to search for his marriage. My luck held as I came across this transcript, which I assume was extracted from the records of All Saints Church here in Runcorn

IGI Individual Record		FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0
		British Isles
WILLIAM WALKER		Pedigree
Male		Family
Event(s):		
Birth:		
Christening:		
Death:		
Burial:		
Marriages:		
Spouse: ALICE BESWICK		Family
Marriage: 15 MAR 1832 Runcorn, Cheshire, England		

Although it is not known exactly when William arrived in Runcorn nor can it be stated with any authority why he did, the 1841 census for Bridge Street, Runcorn also listed a 55 years old Printer called Charles Walker who, like William was not born in Cheshire?

18

City or Borough of

Ward or Township of

Providence

19

PLACE	HOUSES Number of Dwelling Houses	NAMES of each Person who shall occupy the dwelling Night	AGE SEX	PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS	When Born	PLACE	HOUSES Number of Dwelling Houses	NAMES of each Person who shall occupy the dwelling Night	AGE SEX	PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS	When Born
Bridge Street		Elizabeth Perry	21	X F L	41			John Houghton	41	Providence	1841
"		Lydia Hedges	16	X F L	41			John Houghton	41	Providence	1841
"		Elizabeth Perry	21	X F L	41			John Houghton	41	Providence	1841
"		Caroline L	21	X F L	41			John Houghton	41	Providence	1841
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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	Inns and Taverns. Boat House, Peter Brown Bridgewater Arms, Wm. Johnson Castle, Mrs. Askey, Halton Elephant and Castle, James Finch, Halton Hotel and Bowling-green Inn, Peter Johnson Lord Nelson, William Martin New Inn, Richard Edwards Norton Arms, Thos. Acton, Halton Royal Hotel, John Davies Weaver Navigation Hotel, Cornelius Baines, Weston CARRIER. MIDDLEWICH, Northwich, Wheelock, the Potteries, &c. by Water.—Henshall. PACKETS. LIVERPOOL, two Steam Packets, the	
Haspell Esther, grocer and draper	Rigby Lydia, confectioner			
Hayes, Ollier & Co. soap, rosin and turpentine works	Rigby Wm. cabinet-maker & builder			
Hazlehurst, Greenwood & Co. soap, rosin and turpentine works	Rigby Wm. jun. grocer			
Hazlehurst Thomas, flint and slate merchant	Roberts Thomas, coal dealer			
Hignett Thos. grocer & flour dealer	Rooson Sarah, confectioner			
Hilditch Richard, draper	Rothwell Peter, stone merchant			
Hughes Owen, officer of customs	Roylance Wm. tailor & habit-maker			
Hughes William, coal agent	Runcorn John, joiner			
Janion Robert, stone merchant	Salkeld Francis, grocer and draper			
Jardine Wm. agent to the trustees of the Duke of Bridgewater	Shalcross Saml. boot & shoe maker			
Johnson Frances, confectioner	Simpson, Potter and Co. slate and flint merchants			
Jones Evan Owen, slate and flint merchant	Sweetman Wm. tailor & habit-mak.			
Kennersley T. and Sons, coal dealers	Sweetman William, grocer			
Kirkham and Ankars, ship builders and sail makers	Trevitt Thos. smith and farrier			
Kirkham William, slate merchant	Turner and Janion, stone merchants			
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.

1	William Walker	30	Bookseller	W
	Alice	30		W
	Ann	1		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

15									
Household	Head of Household	Relationship	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation	When Born	When Died	When Married
15	William Walker	Head	30	M	Cheshire	Bookseller	1821		
	Alice	Wife	30	F	Cheshire		1821		
	Ann	Daughter	1	F	Cheshire		1850		
	Hannah	Daughter	1	F	Cheshire		1850		
	William	Son	1	M	Cheshire		1850		
	Samuel	Farmer	40	M	Cheshire		1811		

34									
Household	Head of Household	Relationship	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation	When Born	When Died	When Married
34	William Walker	Head	30	M	Cheshire	Bookseller	1821		
	Alice	Wife	30	F	Cheshire		1821		
	Ann	Daughter	1	F	Cheshire		1850		
	Hannah	Daughter	1	F	Cheshire		1850		
	William	Son	1	M	Cheshire		1850		
	Samuel	Farmer	40	M	Cheshire		1811		

51	Bridge St	William Walker	Head	41	13	Printed Stationer	High Street Runcorn
		Alice Walker	Wife	40			High Street Runcorn
				5	15		
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 Robinson Samuel, clothier, Devonshire place Rothwell Abraham, hosier, & agent to the Albion life assurance company, Church street Rowles Charles Samuel, <i>Egerton Arms</i> , Bridge street Rowley Michael, beer retailer, Mersey street Rowley Michael, marine store dealer, Water street Roylands Martha (Miss), dressmaker, Church street Rutter Robert, beer retailer, Alcock street Scanlan Bernard, pawnbroker, High street Shaw John, tailor & draper, Bridge street Shaw William, stonemason, Bridgewater street Shepherd Solomon, boot & shoe maker, Granville street Simpson & Potter, slate, flint, coal & salt merchants, ship brokers & general commission agents, High street Smith James, beer retailer, Church street Smith John, ship broker & general agent, Waterloo road Smith William, beer retailer, High street Speakman John, sailmaker, Halton road Spencer William, beer retailer, Heath road Stelfox Thomas Chantler, grocer & provision dealer & postmaster, High street	Timperley John, baker & grocer, Church street Tindall & Valey, solicitors, & agents to the Solicitors & General life assurance company, Waterloo road Tinkler Sarah (Miss), draper, Church street Tonks Henry, house, sign & ship painter, Fry street Tonks John, house & ship painter & paperhng. Devonshire pl Tracey George, beer retailer, Granville street Wade John, accountant & house agent, High street Waight George, tailor & draper, High street Walker George, beer retailer, Church street Walker Matthew, master of National school, Church street Walker William, bookseller, stationer, printer, news agent & circulating library, & agent to the Yorkshire fire & life assurance company, Bridge street Ward John, beer retailer, Cooper street Whittaker William, chemist & druggist, High street Whittle John, butcher, Church street Wilcock Thomas, beer retailer, Church street Wilcocks Mary (Mrs.), milliner, Church street Wild George, manager of Runcorn ferry Williams David, grocer, Heath road Williams John, grocer, Church street

TO ADVERTISERS.

And General Advertiser for Cheshire and North Wales,

AND IS ESPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF

AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOODS, WHERE IT HAS AN EXTENSIVE CIRCULATION

And contains all the

Together with

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 58		1861		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the							
Parishes (or Townships) of		Metropolitan Borough of		Metropolitan Borough of		Metropolitan Borough of		Metropolitan Borough of		Metropolitan Borough of	
No. of House		No. of House		No. of House		No. of House		No. of House		No. of House	
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William Malton	Wife	son	51	Printer, Book Store & Stationer	Weymouth	Weymouth
Allice	Wife	son	58	Young, Agent, employing 4 men	Cheshire	Weymouth
Harriet M. Do	Wife	son	31	He occupies	do	Weymouth
William	son	son	20	Merchant Clerk	do	do
Armed L. Do	son	son	18	Book seller & Printer	do	do
John H. do	son	son	16	Attendant at Chemical Works	do	do
Mary C. do	son	son	12	School	do	do
John Handley	Wife	son	64	Watch 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 Overton), Frodsham Bridge, Gods Croft, Halton, Hallwood, Helsby, Keckwick, Kingsley, Kingswood, Manley, Newton (including Bradley), Netherthorpe, 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!

186 MORRIS & CO 1864
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, 34th 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	9d. "
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 3.0 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

Directory.

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—*see advertisement*
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

PAVOR 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—*see advertisement*
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—*see advertisement*
Lovett & Co., Leinster street
Runcorn Soap and Alkali Co., Limited, Runcorn—*see advertisement*
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—*See advertisement*

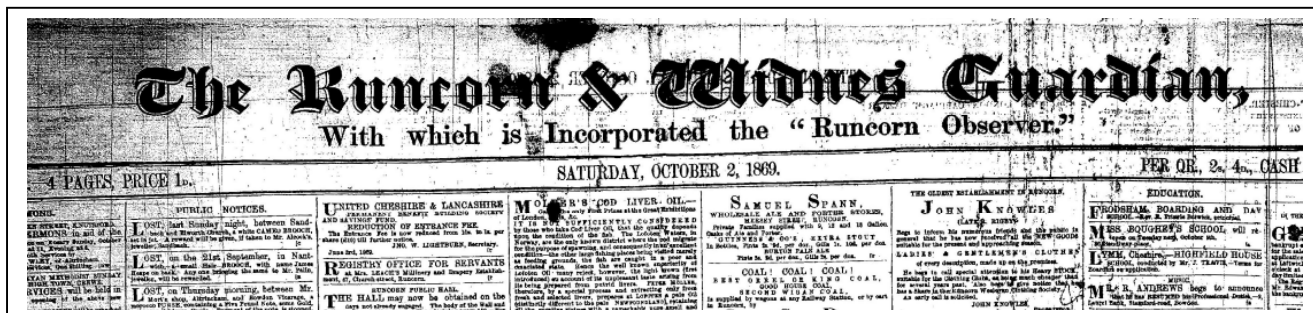
SCHOOLS—PRIVATE.

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

This evidence seems to point to a Guardian take over of the Observer sometime between 1867 and 1871. The terms of his bankruptcy suggest this could have been sometime during 1869.



The earliest edition of the Runcorn and Widnes Guardian held at Halton Lea Library is dated Saturday October 2nd 1869 and you will see that it does indeed incorporate the Runcorn Observer confirming that the financially compromised William had been obliged to let his Runcorn Observer go.

What happens after this take over is not particularly clear but the 1871 census for Pool Lane Runcorn finds William and his family living there rather than at their Trinity Street printers` shop, which may not have had living quarters.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Sanitary District (or Improvement Commissioners District) of	Religious District of				
Runcorn				Runcorn		Runcorn	St. Andrew's Church				
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the Schedule (1911)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	1. Date of Birth 2. Sex 3. Marital or Civil Status		
126	Boyl Lane	1	William Walker	Head	Mar	41	Letter Press Printer employed	Bradley, Staffs			
			Abie	Wife	Mar	40		Washington, Cheshire			
			James	Son	Mar	18	Printer	Runcorn			
			John H.	Son	Mar	17	Printer	Runcorn			
			Mary Catherine	Son	Mar	22		Runcorn			
127	St. John Street	1	Edward Withamption	Head	Mar	27	Shoe Maker	Runcorn			
			Sarah	Wife	Mar	21		Runcorn			
			Elizabeth	Son	Mar	6		Runcorn			
128	St.	1	William Shaw	Head	Mar	72	Water Keeper	Whiting			
			Mary	Wife	Mar	75		Stafford, Lancashire			
129	St.	1	Samuel Bechtel	Head	Mar	42	Harbour Master	Runcorn, Cheshire			
			Margaret	Wife	Mar	48		Stafford, Cheshire			
			William M.	Son	Mar	17	Ship Builders Clerk	Runcorn, Cheshire			
			Thomas	Son	Mar	16	Painter - Carpenter	Runcorn			
			Frederick	Son	Mar	13		Runcorn			
			Samuel	Son	Mar	11		Runcorn			
			Ann C.	Son	Mar	9		Runcorn			
			Walker	Son	Mar	6		Runcorn			
			Albert	Son	Mar	1		Runcorn			
			Ellen Smith	Wife	Mar	40	Amusement	Runcorn, Lancashire			
130	Blomere Street Grove Street Jackson's Lane	22 11 1	John Smith	Son	Mar	25	Printers & Stationers	Runcorn, Cheshire			
Total of Houses..		4	Total of Males and Females..		13	8					

326	Pool Lane	1	William Walker	Head	Male	40	Letter Press Printer	Employed	Benjamin Stappeler	
			Adrian	Wife	Female	60			Washington Cheshire	
			Samuel	Son	Male	20			Ramson	50
			John H.	Son	Male	17			50	50
			Mary Catherine	Son	Male	22			50	50

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
<p>Speakman Joseph James, agent, Soap and Alkali works</p> <p>Speakman Philip, ship, flat, and boat builder, Castle rock, Belvedere, and Albion Dockyard; h. Moughland road</p> <p>Speakman Thomas, coal agent, 4, Egerton street</p> <p>Sponder Thomas, apartments, 30, Greenway road</p> <p>Sproston Mrs. Harriet, confectioner, 89, High street</p> <p>Stanway William, shopkeeper, Lowlands rd</p> <p>Starkey Thomas, "Blue Ball," Fryer street</p> <p>STATHAM WILLIAM, joiner, builder, and contractor, Halton road; h. Bentinck street. (<i>See advertisement</i>)</p> <p>Staveley William R., collector of Customs, Leinster street</p> <p>Steele and Co., copper and alkali manufacturers, Old Quay works</p> <p>Steele William, ship chandler and commission agent, Alexandra buildings</p> <p>Stoll Henry, watchmaker, 30, High street</p> <p>Stringer Joseph, beer retailer, Mill place</p> <p>Stringer Peter, refreshment house, 64, Bridgewater street</p> <p>Strugfellow Henry, shopkeeper, 56, Shaw street</p> <p>STUBBS JOHN AND SONS, shipwrights, and block, mast, and spar makers, Percival lane</p> <p>Stubbs John (firm of John Stubbs and Sons), toy dealer, 23, Regent street</p> <p>Sutton William, baker and confectioner, 7, Church street</p> <p>Sutton William, parish clerk, Lowlands rd</p> <p>Swinton James, farmer, Mersey view</p> <p>Syred Horatio, pawnbroker, 31, Church st</p> <p>Tarry Joseph, beer retailer, 3, Wellington street</p> <p>Taylor Edward, clerk, Lowlands road</p> <p>Taylor George Henry, receiver of harbour rates, Brackley street</p> <p>Taylor Samuel, canal carrier, and coal and lime merchant, Halton road</p> <p>Taylor Samuel, foreman boxmaker, 24, Greenway road</p> <p>Taylor Thomas, hay and corn dealer, Stonecroft, Top locks</p> <p>Temperley John, baker and flour dealer, Lowlands road</p> <p>Tench Mrs. Elizabeth, beer retailer, 43,</p>	<p>Timmins Ebenezer, ironfounder, Bridge-water foundry</p> <p>Timmis Walter, engineer, Halton road</p> <p>Timperley John, grocer, 23, Church street, and Greenway road</p> <p>Tittle William, mason, 4, Thomas street</p> <p>Toft Richard B., shipbroker and commission agent, Top locks</p> <p>Tomlinson Thomas, agent, South view, Higher Runcorn</p> <p>TONES HENRY, plumber, glazier, paperhanger, 61, High street</p> <p>Toone Henry Burgess, clerk, 3, Greenway road</p> <p>Torkington Joseph, agent, Leinster street</p> <p>Turner Thomas, baker and flour dealer, 58, Church street</p> <p>Turner Walter Bliss, shopkeeper, 1, Vivern's place</p> <p>Union Loan and Discount Co. (Limited), Waterloo road and Peel street—Joseph Ellis, agent</p> <p>Unsworth Arnold, boot and clog maker, 41, High street</p> <p>UNSWORTH BROTHERS, hatters, 43, High street; and 18, Waterloo road, Widnes</p> <p>Verdin Brothers, salt merchants, Top locks—John Millington, agent</p> <p>Waight George, tailor and draper, Percival lane</p> <p>Wainwright Peter, shopkeeper, 4, Shaw at</p> <p>Wakefield John, shopkeeper, 78, Surrey st</p> <p>Walker and Co., "Masonic" hotel, Devonshire place—John Coxhill, manager</p> <p>Walker Joseph George, picture frame maker, 14, High street</p> <p>Walker Thomas, beer retailer, High street</p> <p>WALKER WILLIAM, coal and salt merchant and shipbroker, Top locks, Gilbert street; and at Widnes. (<i>See adlet.</i>)</p> <p>Walker William, printer and bookbinder, Trinity street; h. 11, Ellesmere street</p> <p>Ward John, clerk, 31, High street</p> <p>Ward John, sexton, 92, Church street</p> <p>Ward Samuel, shopkeeper, 30, Trinity st</p> <p>Wass William, eating house, 8, Mersey st</p> <p>Waterworth John, master mariner, 34, Ellesmere street</p> <p>Waterworth Mrs. Mary, "Anchor," Brunswick street</p> <p>Watson Richard, "Vine" hotel, Lowlands</p>

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

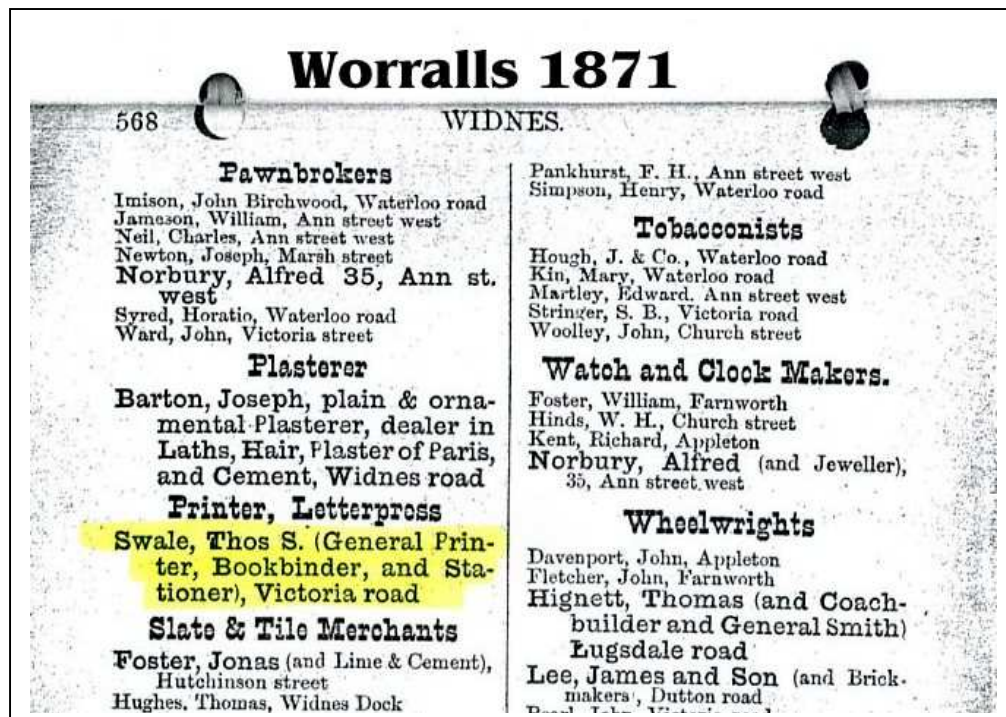
this reflects an up turn in his fortunes is not clear as when I subsequently searched the 1878 post office directory they was no trace of any William Walker printer in Runcorn. So I was left to ponder on his fate. I could find no relevant death registration, so I was left wondering if he may have moved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

120	WIDNES, &c.	1876 [WORRALLS]
IRON AND BRASS FOUNDERS <i>See under the head Engineers, Iron-founders, &c.</i>	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>
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	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
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	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 Ogden 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>
	NEWSPAPERS. <i>Runcorn and Widnes Examiner</i> (Friday), Waterloo rd; Charles Hadfield, proprietor and publisher; John Hough & Co. agents— <i>See advertisement</i> <i>Widnes Guardian</i> (Friday), Post Office, Widnes; Mackie & Brewtall, 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),

WIDNES 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	SALESTON White, Richard, Ann street west
Iron Manufacturers The Ditton Brook Iron Company Williams, John, Lugsdale foundry	Outfitters Miller, William, 69, Waterloo road, and 1, Gerard street Norbury, Alfred, 35, Ann st. west
Ironmongers Handley, James, and Co., Waterloo road Jervis, John, Victoria road	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
Worralls 1871	

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		REMARKS
				Males	Females				
1	Appering Elizabeth	Wife	Married	38			Lancaster	Whittle	Indecent
2	John Thomas	"	Married	67		Chemical works labourer	Ireland		
3	Jarbock William	"	Married	44		Agricultural do	Lancaster	Northon	
4	Jarbock Michael	"	"	24		Blacksmith do	"	Rainhill	
5	Jarbock Thomas	"	"	20		Agricultural do	"	Whittle	Indecent
6	Thompson William	"	Widower	67		Blacksmith	"	do	
7	Tracy John	"	"	64		Agricultural labourer	Ireland		
8	Tracy William	"	Married	55		do	Lancaster	Knowlton	
9	Thompson Sarah	"	Widow	73			"	Marston	
10	Taylor James Fredk	"	Married	16			"	Parr	
11	Tickle James	"	"	14			"	Rainhill	
12	Tickle Robert	"	"	29		Coal mines	"	Sutton	
13	Underhill Catherine	"	Widow	37		Charwoman	Ireland		
14	Walker Thomas	"	Married	41			Lancaster	Bronton	Indecent
15	Ward Solomon	"	Widower	44		Machine clerk	"	Mear	
16	Widcock Thomas	"	Married	64		Agricultural labourer	"	Beckton	
17	Walker John Henry	"	"	32		Sailor	"	Mear	Indecent
18	Nichols Walter	"	"	53		Saddler	"	Gatmore	
19	Walker William	"	Married	71		Printer	Stafford	Audley	
20	Walker Alice	"	"	70			Shropshire	Barnton	
21	Whittle John	"	Married	18			Lancaster	Parr	Indecent
22	Witherington Arthur	"	"	44			"	Rainhill	do
23	Nichols Isaac	"	"	72		Agricultural labourer	"	Ashton	
24	do do	"	"	40		Domestic servant	"	Mear	


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
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OPC for the County of Lancashire

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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, Prescott, 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, Prescott, 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

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[Refine Search](#)

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

Records for the Prescott 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.