



Arbeia Society Local History Notes no. 4

2017

**A HISTORY OF WALKER EAST FARM AND WALKER WEST
FARM, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE**
(HER 7884)

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A History of Walker East Farm and Walker West Farm, Newcastle upon Tyne

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Walker village

The two farms originally formed part of the medieval village of Walker (HER 1411), but survived as neighbouring properties after the rest of the settlement faded away. The name of the township, first recorded in 1242, means 'Marsh by the wall' and refers to Hadrian's Wall which ran through it.¹ Boggy ground was still evident in the early twentieth century when it was noted that in the past there would have been 'a marsh or fen or car, where the Stott's Gill now takes its rise. The remains of this fen can even now be seen in the marshy nature of the field immediately to the east of the old farm'.²

The township had seven taxpayers in 1312, but only two by 1336.³ It is shown on Wenceslaus Hollar's 1654 map of 'The River of Tyne' in stylized form, the buildings lining a road leading from the turnpike down to the river. It is drawn as slightly smaller than Wallsend village to the east but at least twice the size of Byker, the next village to the west.⁴ The Corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne attempted to buy the manor of Walker in 1716, although it was not until 1723 that it won control of it, after which it rented out the farms to tenants.

About 1732 it was still described as 'a small village'.⁵ In 1745 Isaac Thompson produced a map of the Lordship of Walker, which shows a roughly triangular Town Green with a pond and four buildings and, to the south, a further building set in its own green (Fig. 2).⁶ The road leading south to Scrogg House Farm ran through what would later become the yard of East Farm and ran diagonally across the green. Three of the buildings, possibly linear farmsteads, are orientated east-west, and two, possibly out-buildings or cottages, are north-south.

By 1798, the west side of Town Green, including the linear farmstead, had been incorporated into the neighbouring field, Saughey Close, and the rest of the Green converted to a stack-yard (Figs 2-3). The two new farmhouses blocked the original route of the road south, so it now ran west before making a right-angle turn (Fig. 3).⁷ A. Robson's map of 1798⁸ appears to show many of the same buildings as that

¹ Ekwall 1960, 492.

² Crawford 1904, 3. The stream called Stott's Gill, more usually referred to as Stott's Pow, had a number of different branches, one of which formed the eastern boundary of East Farm, and another which ran across it. Both farms had fields using a word meaning 'willow', which could reflect the nature of the surrounding land: see Appendix 3.

³ HER 1411.

⁴ Gardiner 1655. Hollar's map only appears in the first edition. As well as showing travellers on the roads it depicts a horse-race on Killingworth Moor and a hanging on Newcastle Moor, amongst other details.

⁵ Bourne 1736, 4; the author died in 1732.

⁶ TWAM D.NCP/19/21.

⁷ Later called Scrogg Road.

of 1745, although one of the north-south buildings shown on the 1745 map has been replaced by another in the position of the earlier pond, and in addition there are the new pair of semi-detached farmhouses to the south of the original farmsteads, and a row of workers' cottages beside the road south. It is likely the new farmhouses were built in the late 1770s or early 1780s, as the historian Brand recorded that before 1783: 'The remains of a religious house were discovered not long ago at Walker, on rebuilding the farm house there which belongs to the corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne. I saw here a Roman hand mill-stone, and have in my possession a rosary found in the old building at Walker.'⁹ By 1807 the village was frequently called 'Old Walker' to distinguish it from the more recent developments in the area, and by 1825 the village consisted only of the two farms and some pit-cottages.¹⁰

Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian's Wall and its ditch ran through both farms; Milecastle 1 was situated by the eastern boundary of East Farm and the likely location of Turret 1A would be at the position of the two farms themselves. As with the two neighbouring properties to the east (Stott's House Farm and Cousin's House), the original farmsteads were built on or just to the south of the Wall, making use of the stone for their construction, and creating duck-ponds in the silted-up ditch.

Walker East Farm¹¹

An estate survey gives the size of the farm as 104 acres in 1839 and a tithe map of 1843 as 127 acres, while census entries and newspaper adverts record the amount of land actually farmed by the occupants as ranging from 114 to 182 acres over the years.¹² To the east the main branch of Stott's Pow marked the boundary of the farm with its neighbour, Stott's House Farm.¹³ Another branch partially demarcated the southern boundary of the farm to the south, while a third crossed one of the fields to the pond in the old Town Green (Fig. 2). To the north of the farm was the turnpike road and to the west were the fields of West Farm. The entrance to the farmstead was to the north, from a road later called Millers Lane (now Fossway); the later road up to the turnpike followed the route of a waggon-way that had gone out of use by 1798. It was replaced by another waggon-way running diagonally across the farm, linking the two pits sunk on land belonging to the farm; Gosforth pit to the north and Delight pit to the south (Fig. 5).

Thompson's map of 1745 shows a building orientated east-west just south of Hadrian's Wall, in the approximate position of Buildings 6 and 7. It is not shown as a typical linear farmstead, but has a central tower, possibly a dovecote, with a wing to either side (Fig. 4).¹⁴ Originally it is likely that it consisted of the farmhouse, barn and

⁸ Robson's 'Plan of the Lordship and Township of Walker': Newcastle Library Local Studies, Seymour Bell Collection 21/3.

⁹ Brand 1789, 605, footnote m; he visited the area in 1783. He does not explain the evidence for the 'religious house'.

¹⁰ *Newcastle Courant*, 23 May 1807; Mackenzie 1825, 464.

¹¹ Sometimes also called Walker Town East Farm, East Farm Walker, or East Farm, Walker Gate.

¹² See Appendix 1; Newcastle Local studies Library, Seymour Bell Collection 21/3.

¹³ Croom 2015.

¹⁴ Planned courtyard farmsteads sometimes included a similar tower in one wing as a dovecote, but these date to the nineteenth century.

byre, but the house was later replaced by the new building to the south, which incorporated houses for both farms (Fig. 1, Buildings 12, 20). These were joined double-pile houses with double gables, the range at the back for the services having a lower roof-line. A photograph of c.1925 shows the back of the building, built of stone with a brick chimney stack at the end (Fig. 11), and by this period the main part of the houses were tiled in pantiles and the back ranges in slates. The 1st edition OS map and the Town plan map of 1907 shows that the front door faced south, with gardens and groves of trees in front (Figs 1, 7). The 1911 census entries indicate both houses had seven rooms each.

Sometime c.1848 Henry Richardson painted a watercolour of Stott's House Farm to show the line of Hadrian's Wall ditch in front of it, with East Farm visible in the background. It is a very detailed depiction, despite being a minor element in the composition, but it is difficult to reconcile it with the maps of the time. Various buildings can be matched to the plans shown on both earlier and later maps, but towards the south is a roofless house built of stone with brick chimney stacks at either end (Fig. 6).¹⁵ It is unclear what this building is: it could be the single storey building attached to the farmhouse (Fig. 1, no. 11, and Fig. 10), but according to maps dated 1798, 1840 and 1844 the main farmhouses had been built by the date of the watercolour and should be visible in the painting.

Throughout the nineteenth century East Farm was a mixed farm, typical of the period, as can be seen in an 1849 advertisement:

Mr Brough will sell by auction at Walker Town East Farm, on Friday, the 11th May, all the farm stock of Mr J. Hetherington, consisting of 2 Draught Horses; 2 Cows; 3 Stacks of Wheat; 6 Stacks of Oats; 1 Stack of Beans; a Quantity of new and old land hay; Long and Coup Carts; and all the implements of husbandry'.¹⁶

There were pigeons at the farm in 1868 when 40 of them were stolen, and in 1873 an away-going crop (one that would be ready for harvesting after the end of a tenancy) refers to 23 acres of wheat and nine of oats.¹⁷ The 1st edition OS map shows a gin-gang (a circular wheel-house for a horse-powered mill; building 9) had been added to the barn in the original farmstead building sometime between 1844 and 1858 (Fig. 7).

By 1849 Thomas Davison was the farmer, and he remained there for c.24 years until his death in 1872. John Robson took over the lease on the farm in 1873, and on the last day of the year he married Isabella Robson.¹⁸ Their only child, Ann, was born in 1875, and John died only a few years later, in January 1878. Isabella continued to run the farm herself for a couple more years before marrying William Brown in

¹⁵ Such symmetrically designed houses had become standard in the region by the mid-eighteenth century: Lake and Edwards 2006, 37.

¹⁶ *Newcastle Courant*, 4 May 1849.

¹⁷ *Newcastle Courant*, June 5 1868; *Newcastle Courant*, Aug 22, 1873.

¹⁸ Isabella's surname before marriage was also Robson. Two years before her marriage she was acting as housekeeper for her uncle on a farm at Nether-ton, Northumberland, so it is unclear how she met John; perhaps there was a family connection. They were married in the nearby parish of Byker on 31 December 1873.

1880.¹⁹ In 1886 the second Hadrian's Wall Pilgrimage took place, and visited the farm; a photograph probably taken at the time shows the duck-pond over the ditch (Fig. 8).²⁰ The boundary line between the two farms ran across the centre of the pond, and while that in East Farm had become very shallow, that on the West Farm property dried up completely, possibly because it was not used as there was no easy access to it from the farm courtyard (cf Figs 1 and 12).

Isabella and William Brown remained at the farm until William died in 1926. Their son William H. Brown then took over the farm and lived there until the buildings were demolished in 1933 to make way for housing for the ever expanding city of Newcastle:

Demolition of 300-Year-Old Buildings

Dismantling operations which have started on the West and East Farm buildings at the north end of Scrogg Road, Walker, will shortly cause the disappearance of one of the oldest Walker landmarks said to have been built over 300 [years ago] ... The structures, according to an old Newcastle Corporation plan of 1675, were two of the six buildings then existent at Walker Most of the buildings, as far as can be ascertained, were made from the stone of the Roman Wall. When a section of East Farm was overhauled recently, the present tenant, Mr W. H. Brown, found four coins bearing Roman markings.

During the operation of the two farms some of the best all-round crops in Northumberland were grown For the past 70 years the Brown family have occupied East Farm. The departure shortly of the present occupants, Mr and Mrs W. H. Brown and family, to take up farming at Beamish Home Farm, Beamish Park, will sever a link in the history of the farming family.²¹

No trace of the old farm now survives.

West Farm

The farm consisted of 131 acres in the estate survey of 1839, but only 80 acres in the tithe map in 1842. Census entries show the occupants farmed from 80 to 161 acres.²² The property was narrow, rarely more than one field wide, and mainly running to the south. To the east it was bounded by East Farm and to the west a farm in Byker township.

The position of the original farmstead is unclear. Isaac Thompson's map of 1745 shows a linear farmstead on the line of Hadrian's Wall (shown as being in line with East Farm farmstead, just south of the Wall, on Robson's map of 1798). The position of the building in Robson's map would put it close to the duck-pond shown on the 1st edition OS map (Fig. 7); similar dock-ponds were located immediately outside

¹⁹ He seems to have been working in Walker as a butcher, like his father, before his marriage. The couple were married at St Nicholas Cathedral on 27 June 1880.

²⁰ The photograph, mislabelled 'Wallsend', is included with a series of other photos presumably taken at the same time, in Collingwood Bruce's own bound copy of the articles recording the Pilgrimage. TWAM, Collingwood Bruce Collection, *The Pilgrimage of the Roman Wall*.

²¹ Un-named paper, March 9, 1933, in the album *Walker, Walkergate and Walkerville: Miscellaneous articles*, Newcastle Library Local Studies. It is not known which 1675 map is referred to.

²² See Appendix 2; Newcastle Library Local Studies, Seymour Bell collection 21/3. An advert of 1872 offers the tenancy of Walker West Farm and neighbouring Byker Hill Farm together (146 acres): *York Herald*, 24 February 1872.

farmsteads at the neighbouring properties of East Farm and Stott's House Farm. However, the third linear farmstead shown on Thompson's map at the south of the village in its own green was on land that was originally part of West Farm (Fig. 3). On a sketch map dated c.1800 this southern farmstead is identified as Thomas Swan's farmhouse; the Swan family certainly later farmed West Farm, and it is unclear which of the two buildings was the main farmstead for West Farm at this period.²³ Both of these buildings are shown on Robson's map of 1798, by which time the new farmhouses had been built (Fig. 3), but both had been demolished by 1840.²⁴

Thomas Oliver's plan of the Walker Estate in that year shows new farm buildings in the form of a U-shaped courtyard have been built to the north of the new farmhouse (Fig. 5).²⁵ This type of formal courtyard, designed to maximise efficiency, began to appear from the 1790s, and was, like here, usually south-facing, with a barn forming the central block and with the gin-gang to the north.²⁶ They were often accompanied by a row of farm-workers' cottages, which in this case appeared to have been built by 1798 (Figs 3, 5). It is possible that the new Building 13 incorporated an existing building, as shown on Robson's 1798 map (Fig. 3), as later images show this building is divided into two parts, and has two loft entrances only accessible from the next-door farm (Figs 6 and 12), which would be unusual features in a new-built construction. The entrance to the farmstead was to the west, on the road that led down to Scrogg House Farm, and the farmhouse looked south over quite extensive gardens (Figs 1, 7, 10). It is not clear why West Farm was upgraded in this way while East Farm remained more piecemeal.

The Swan family were associated with West Farm from at least 1800, and continued to be associated with it for the next 70 years. In 1841 William and Ann Swan lived in the farmhouse with their eight children and two servants. In total they had 11 children, some of whom were very successful in later life. Their eldest child, William, became a chemical manufacturer; Anne married Charles Mitchell, shipbuilder and founder of Mitchell's Low Walker Yard; Charles was a ship builder; John became an ironmaster and magistrate; and Henry was a shipbuilder, Lieutenant-Colonel and High Sheriff of Northumberland, living at Prudhoe Hall, Northumberland at the time of his death. Charles and Henry both worked with their brother-in-law Charles Mitchell, and a partnership with Charles' widow (Mary Glover) in 1880 led to the formation of the ship-building company C. S. Swan and Hunter, which eventually became Swan Hunter.

William Swan died in 1849 and for the next few years Ann was described as 'farmer' in the local directories. William Swan Jr seems to have taken over the lease, since

²³ TWAM: D.NCP/19/2. Unfortunately the buildings in the position of East Farm are shown only as a single building labelled 'farmhouses'. The Swans moved to Longbenton parish (which contained Walker) before 1781 according to church records, but their exact place of residence is not given.

²⁴ After the demolition of Thomas Swan's farmhouse the field boundaries were re-arranged to create a larger field called The Green, and by 1840, this field and the two to the south had become part of East Farm.

²⁵ TWAM: D.NCP/19/4.

²⁶ Lake and Edwards 2006, 40, 45; fig. 14, F.

from at least 1853 he is described as 'farmer' in trade directories and newspaper reports. William was an 'agent to chemical works' according to the census in 1851, and a 'chemical manufacturer' in 1861 and 1871, by which time he was living with his wife, three daughters and four servants at Willow Place (later The Willows), a 11-room villa built on a field belonging to West Farm (Figs 7, 9). In 1861 his younger brother John was described as 'farmer 161 acres employing 3 labourers and 1 boy', although he was not a full-time farmer, as by 1865 he was already an ironmaster in a partnership that eventually became Cargo Fleet Iron Company, and by 1870-1 could afford to build Upsall Hall, Guisborough, a large house set in 13 acres of land.²⁷

William Swan was still described as the farmer when a fire broke out in 1871:

On Tuesday morning, shortly after two o'clock, a fire broke out in the stackyards of Mr William Swan, West Farm, Walker. A messenger was sent to the Ouseburn Police Station, and Superintendent Watson, accompanied by several of his men, proceeded to the place with the manual engine, the hose, and reel. The people living in the vicinity worked with the policemen to subdue the fire, which commenced in a large straw-stack and spread to two other stacks. The men continued their efforts for upwards of four hours, and succeeded in saving nearly the whole of a stack of hay. The strawstack was completely destroyed, and a considerable amount of damage was done to an oat-stack. It is not known how the fire originated.²⁸

Ann Swan died in 1870, and by the time of the census in 1871 none of the Swan family are mentioned as living at the farm, which was occupied by a farm steward. Six months after the fire the property was advertised for let, consisting of the farm and that of Byker Hill Farm, of 'about 146 acres' with an away-going crop of 14 acres of wheat and 25 of oats.²⁹

The next occupant of the farm may have been John Jopling, who gave up farming in 1879, and sold his stock and equipment:

Mr William Raw, honoured with a commission from Mr John Jopling of West Walker Farm, near Newcastle-on-Tyne (who is declining farming) will sell by public auction, the whole of his valuable farming stock, implements of husbandry, etc, on Friday, May 2nd, 1879, comprising –

4 Useful Draught Horses, good workers; viz., 1 Brown Mare, 9 years old; 1 Roan Horse, 10 years old; 1 Bay Horse; 1 Black Mare, aged.

6 Superior Shorthorn Milch Cows, calved and in calf.

2 Fat Cows.

Implements. – 4 coup carts, 2 long carts, 1 low wheeled phaeton, 3 iron swing ploughs, 1 ribbing plough, 3 pairs of harrows, 1 iron grubber, 1 drum roller, 1 stone do., double turnip drill, 1 scrubber, 1 corn reaping machine, new last year, 1 grass cutting machine, 1 combined reaper, 1 horse hay rake, turnip cutter, 1 turnip scuffler, 1 winnowing machine, 4 cart saddles and trappings and other harness for six horses, 1 barrow, large stone trough, 2 pig troughs, manure pump, large grain tub, 2 large water tubs, cart ropes, rakes, forks, gripes, and all the

²⁷ *London Gazette*, 5 Dec 1865; Bulmer's History and Directory of North Yorkshire.

²⁸ *Newcastle Courant*, 1 Sept 1871.

²⁹ *York Herald*, 24 Feb 1872; *Shields Daily Gazette*, 12 Sept 1872.

other hand implements, 12 metal stack stands, about 5 tons of hay, dog and kennel, hen coop, and about 40 excellent hens and cocks, barrel churn, dairy utensils, and a part of the household Furniture.³⁰

The farm was taken over by G. Stafford, who stayed for about four years, and it was then run by agents for Newcastle Corporation. Henry Ramsey, variously described as a 'property inspector', 'manager' and 'farmer' for the Corporation lived at the farm for about 18 years.

Henry Ramsay was still at the farm when there was another fire in 1883. This time the police had the fire brigade to help them fight it:

Last night a fire broke out in the stack-yard in connection with Walker West Farm, the property of the Newcastle Corporation, and managed by them by Mr Henry Ramsay. The fire was discovered about nine o'clock in one of the hay stacks nearest the roadway, and at that time it had obtained a serious hold. A mounted messenger (Robert Fenwick, hind at the farm) was dispatched to the Ouseburn Police Station, Newcastle, to communicate the disaster and obtain help. The sergeant in charge, on receiving Fenwick's message, telegraphed to the headquarters of the fire brigade, and Engineer Murphy, and a staff of firemen with the engine, etc, started for the scene of the fire with their usual promptitude. In the meantime, the men about the place did what was in their power to save a second stack, situate only a few yards from the fire. When the firemen arrived they obtained a plentiful supply of water from the Water Company's mains, and played water on the fire in such an effective manner that they saved the second stack, and before 11 o'clock had the fire virtually extinguished, though it was still found necessary to continue operations for some time longer. The stack was the property of Mr Brown, of the East Farm, who had a month or two previously bought it from the Corporation. Some of the hay had already been removed, and only about eight or ten tons remained. The damage is about £20. The cause of the fire is not known.³¹

By 1902 Jared Grant 'dairyman' worked the farm, although he seems to have lived in a house near Walkergate station, a few minutes' walk away, while an estates agent or steward, Walter Burnup, lived at the farm itself. The entry for West Farm in the field book of the 1910-15 Valuation Office Survey shows that William Brown occupied the lands of both East and West Farms, described as: 'two dwelling houses, cottages and farm buildings (Walker Town East and Walker Town West)', while there were three tenants and a contractor's yard in the property.³² By 1920 the land to the west was being prepared for building new housing estates,³³ and the photo of 1933 (Fig. 12) shows houses built on the land right next to the farm buildings. After 1928 there is no mention of the farm in the trade directories, and in 1933 it was demolished along with East Farm. The farm is commemorated in the street name 'West Farm Road' that runs diagonally across the site of the buildings belonging to both farms.

³⁰ *Newcastle Courant*, 18 April 1879.

³¹ *Shields Daily Gazette*, 29 Dec 1883.

³² NA IR58/57808, entries 3248-54; IR58/57857, entry 8182.

³³ Ball 1920, 214.

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TWAM = Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums

TWCMS = accession numbers of Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums

Appendix 1: The occupants of Walker East Farm

Year	Name	Comments
1841		Census: refers only to 'Old Walker 2 Farms and cottages' without separating the two; no farmer is listed for East Farm; it is unclear whether the agricultural workers and servants mentioned belong to this farm
1843	Joseph	Tithe map: farm 127 acres; NRO DT469s
1849	Hetherington	114 acres of land, <i>Newcastle Journal</i> , 6 Jan 1849; <i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 4 May 1849; 1841 census describes him as being a colliery owner living in Wallsend Village
1849	Thomas Davison	Abbat 1849, 15
1851		Census: Thomas and Jane Davison lived in the farmhouse with their five children, two male farm servants and two female house servants. He was a 'farmer of 114 acres employing 2 men'.
1853		Ward's Directory: farmer
1861		Census: Thomas and new wife Elizabeth lived in the farmhouse, with their eight children, two ploughmen, one milk boy and one female house servant. Living elsewhere in the farm was Thomas Chicken, agricultural labourer, his wife Ann, daughter and nephew. Although no house name is given, but almost certainly also on East Farm was agricultural labourer Joseph Thompson, his wife Elizabeth and two children. Davison is described as a 'farmer of 182 acres employing 2 men and 1 boy'.
1871		Census: Thomas, now a widower, lived in the farmhouse with six children, one granddaughter, one milk boy and one female general servant. Ann, the widow of Thomas Chicken (described as a cartman), still lived on the farm with her daughter, grandson and nephew. Also living on the farm was farm labourer George Gowen, his wife, two children and one boarder. Davison is described as a 'farmer of 118 acres employing 3 labourers and 1 boy'.
1873		Kelly's Directory: farmer
1873	Miss Jane Davison	Christie's Directory: farmer. Auction of away-going crop of the 'late Thomas Davison' (died 1872): <i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 22 Aug 1873; the farm was offered for rent from May 1873, 166 acres: <i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 20 Dec 1872; Jane married Robert Heslop: <i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 15 May 1874.
1873	John Robson	The farm was let from May 1873, and was presumably taken over by John Robson since his daughter was born at the farm in 1875.
1875		Ann Robson, daughter of John and Isabella Robson, born at the farm

1879	Isabella Robson	Kelly's Directory; John Robson had died in 1878
1880		Jackson's Directory
1881	William Brown	Census: Isabella Robson married William Brown in 1880. William was a 'farmer of 116 acres employing 2 men & 1 boy'. They lived at the farm with their two children (including step-daughter Ann Robson), Isabella's parents, one milk boy and one female indoor servant. Living at 'East Farm Cottages' were two other households: agricultural labourer George Robson and his wife Jane, and one child, and agricultural labourer James Robson, wife Jane and four children; they were perhaps related to Isabella's family, but 'Robson' is a common local name
1883		Ward's Directory: farmer
1891		Census: William and Isabella, four children, two male farm servants and one female general domestic servant lived in the house. Living in two rooms (presumably in the cottage, although it is not mentioned by name) were George and Jane Robson and their three children; in another (?) two rooms were James and Jane Robson and their eight children.
1901		Census: William and Isabella Brown, four children, one 'cattle boy', two female general servants. In the cottage, in one room was 'horseman on farm' Joseph Robson, his wife Mary and three children. His relationship with the other Robsons who had lived on the farm is unknown (he was not a son of either George or James).
1910		Valuation Office Survey of 1910-15 identifies William Brown as occupying both West and East Farms: IR 58/57808, entry 3249.
1911		Census: William and Isabella Brown, one child, one farm labourer, and one female general servant. In '2 rooms' in the cottage was farm labourer Thomas Murray.
1926		William died 19 May 1926
1926	William H. Brown	Ward's Directory: son of William Brown Senior
1933		W. H. Brown occupant: unnamed newspaper, 9 Mar 1933
1933		Farm demolished: unnamed newspaper, 9 Mar 1933

Appendix 2: The occupants of Walker West Farm

Year	Name	Comments
1763	Robert Fawcus	Leased Walker East Town Farm, renewed in 1771: info. from Mike Fairless (rootsweb)
1780	John Falcus	Leased Walker East Town Farm: info. from Mike Fairless (rootsweb)
1800 (c)	Thomas Swan	The Swan family was living in Walker by 1781 (when one William Swan died), although their exact location is unknown; in 1798 Thomas Swan is described as a farmer (St Bartholemew's, Longbenton, parish records: baptism of his son William, born 7 Oct 1797; a map of c.1800 shows Thomas Swan's farmhouse, although this is the farmhouse at the south end of Walker village.
1828		William Swan is described as a farmer at Walker, although the farm name is not mentioned: Parson and White 1828, 406
1841	William Swan	Census: this refers only to 'Old Walker 2 Farms and cottages' without separating them; the one farmer mentioned is William Swan, who is known to have lived at West Farm. In the farmhouse lived William and Ann Swan, their eight children and two female servants. It is unclear which of the three servants and five agricultural workers and their families (15 people in total) mentioned belong to this farm.
1843		Tithe map: farm of 80 acres. The farm is called Town Farm: NRO DT469s
1849	Ann Sheriton Swan	William Swan (1799-1849) died; his widow Ann (1800-70) took over the farm
1851		Census: Ann Swan, eight children and one female house servant. Farm of 80 acres, with three labourers.
1853	William Swan	Ward's Directory: farmer. Eldest son of William Swan, also called William. Although his name might have been on the lease of the farm, he did not work as a farmer.
1855		Whellan's Directory
1858	Ann Swan	Post Office Directory; described as 'farmer'
1859	William Swan	Ward's Directory: farmer
1861		Census: Ann, four children, one female house servant, one dairy maid and one carter live in the farmhouse. Ann's third son, John, is described as 'farmer 161 acres employing 3 labourers and 1 boy'. Also living at a cottage at the farm (no house name is given) was agricultural labourer James Patterson, his wife Ann and six children.
1871		fire in stackyard, belonging to W. H. Swan
1871		Census: James Patterson (now described as 'farm steward'), his wife and nine children. A second household held William Deuchar (spelling uncertain), a coachman,

		and his daughter.
1872		Farm, 'late in the occupation of Mr William Swan' to be let for 7 years: <i>York Herald</i> , 24 Feb 1872. Described as being of about 146 acres (with Byker Hill Farm).
1873	William Robson	Kelly's and Christie's Directories
1878	John Jopling	farm worker Christopher Turnball was 'highly commended' in a ploughing competition: <i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 25 Jan 1878
1879		Leaves before April: stock and implements for sale <i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 18 April 1879
1879	George Stafford	<i>Shields Daily Gazette</i> , 12 April 1879; Kelly's Directory
1881		Census: George Stafford, wife Margaret, their three children, his mother-in-law and one boarder. Stafford is described as 'farmer 120 acres employing three men'. In West Farm Cottages were farm labourer John Foreter (spelling unclear), his wife Mary and four children.
1883	Henry Ramsey for Walker	Ward's Directory (no name given); <i>Shields Daily Gazette</i> , 29 Dec 1883
1891	Corporation	Census: Henry Ramsey 'property inspector', eight children and one female domestic servant. Living in '2 rooms' in the cottage was drayman Robert Fenwick and his sister.
1894		Kelly's Directory: described as 'manager' in 1894 and 'farmer' in 1896, for Newcastle Corporation Estate
1897		Ward's Directory: described as 'steward' for Newcastle Corporation
1900		
1901		Census: Henry Ramsey 'estates agent', three children and his sister. Jared Grant, dairyman, was living a few minutes walk away at 25 Walpole Street, and may have already been working the farm. In '2 rooms' in the cottage were cartman James and Jane Robson, their four children and widowed grandmother. They had previously lived in East Farm cottage.
1902	Jared William	Ward's Directory: 'dairyman'
1909	Grant	Ward's Directory: 'dairy farmer'
1910		Valuation Office Survey field books of 1910-15 has the land occupied by William Brown, but Jane Robson, [W.] Burnup and [J.] Grant are also listed as living on the property and paying rent. NA. IR/57808 entries 3248 to, 3254; IR 58/57857, entry 8182.
1911	Walter Burnup	Census: 'estates agent' Walter, wife Emily and five children lived at the farm. In the cottage was the now widowed Jane Robson and her three children, two of which worked as farm labourers.
1915	Jarred William	Ward's Directory: Burnup described as 'farm steward'
1923	Grant and W. J. Burnup	A postcard was sent to Miss K Burnup at West Farm Walkergate

1925		Ward's Directory
1926	W. J. Burnup	Ward's Directory: 'steward'
1928		Ward's Directory: 'steward'
1929		No mention of West Farm in directories after this date
1933		Farm demolished: unnamed newspaper, 9 Mar 1933

Appendix 3: Field names as given in Isaac Thompson's map of 1745 and Thomas Oliver's map of 1840

1745 map	1840 map	Comments
Walker East Farm		
'Closes' were new fields 'enclosed' with hedges that were created after the enclosures of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The majority of the fields on this farm seem to refer to people's names, presumably relating to the original owners.		
Green	The Green	in 1745 this was a small field round a linear farmstead that was later demolished, and the name transferred when a larger field was created.
North Long Flatts	North West Flatt North East Flatt	Although already divided into four fields in 1745 at that time they only had two names. 'Flatt' means a level piece of ground, typically used for arable rather than pasture. In the medieval period it also meant a group of field strips, so this could indicate land cultivated in the medieval period.
South Long Flatts	South West Flatt South East Flatt	
North Binnvans Nook	North Binnyan's Nook	A 'nook' is a corner, a projecting corner of land or a triangular piece of land. Both these fields are roughly triangular.
South Binnyans Nook	South Binnyan's Nook	
Saugh Close or Wood Hedo	North Saugh Close South Saugh Close	'Saugh' is a North British word for 'willow', but can also be used as a surname.
-	Corner Close	This small field was created out of a corner of a larger field.
Selby's Close	Selby's Close	
Mark's Close	Marks Close	
Wrangham's Close	Wrangham's Close	
Belsvs Pasture	Bessy's Pasture	On the 1745 map Vs are sometime used for Ys (see Binnvans, above), so this could be Belsy's Pasture, a surname similar to Belsey.
Walker West Farm		
In contrast to East Farm the names on this farm almost all describe the fields themselves		
Saugh Close	Saughey Close	'Saugh' means 'willow' (see above);

		the later 'Saughey' means 'abundant in willows', so this could relate to the marshy land in this area.
Intake	Intake	This relates to land that has been reclaimed from waste land.
Haining	The Haining	This is a North British word for land enclosed by a fence, hedge or wall, especially those preserving grass for cattle to eat.
Wood Head	Wood Head	At the top, or head, of a wood, or a wood on a hill.
Little Field	Little Field	
-	New Field	This was created by making the neighbouring fields to north and south smaller.
West Horse Pasture	West Horse Pasture	These form part of the farm for a while, but are later sold, probably to Scrogg House Farm to the south.
East Horse Pasture	East Horse Pasture	
North Green Meadow	North Green Meadow	Unusually South Green Meadow was not part of the farm; it had presumably been transferred sometime before 1839, where it is shown as belonging to Scrogg House Farm. A rough sketch map of c.1800 refers to this field as 'Swans Long Field', after the farmer of the time. ³⁴
Town Green	-	Not strictly a field, but partly converted into a stack-yard and partly absorbed into Saughey Close before 1798.

³⁴ TWAM : D.NCP/19/2.