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Myrl V. Walker Papers, 1915-1984

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Creator

Walker, Myrl V.

Title

Myrl V. Walker Papers, 1915-1984

Dates

1915-1984

Extent

1.68 linear feet (4 document boxes)

Accession Number

987-10-04

Arrangement

Chronological order.

Language

English

Access

No restrictions.

Abstract

Paleontologist, author, and educator, Myrl V. Walker, began his career at Fort Hays Kansas State College (now Fort Hays State University) in 1955 as an Assistant Professor in Geology. Walker was promoted to Associate Professor (1964), and Professor (1972); and was appointed Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences in 1970. Walker also served as the Director of Sternberg Memorial Museum from 1955 until his retirement in 1973. The Myrl V. Walker Papers are housed in four document boxes and date from 1915 to 1984. These papers are comprised mainly of correspondence; articles, chiefly written by Walker; reports; photographs and negatives.

Biographical / Historical Note

Myrl Vincent Walker was born May 20, 1903 in Alden, Kansas to Elmer and Florence E. (Vincent) Walker. Walker married Wilda Irene Opdycke on June 14, 1930 in Hays, Kansas. The couple had one daughter, Margaret Jean Walker born in 1934. Wilda Walker died on November 7, 1980; Myrl Walker died on May 23, 1985. They are buried at Fort Hays Memorial Gardens, Hays, Kansas.

Walker started college at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas from 1921-1923. He attended Kansas State Teachers College (now Fort Hays State University) from 1923-1927 majoring in Biological Science and earning a B.S. degree in 1927. Walker taught school for several years and then attended the University of Kansas from 1930-1931 earning a M.A. in vertebrate paleontology.

Walker was a close associate of George F. Sternberg, renowned paleontologist and former curator of the natural history museum at Fort Hays State University. They worked together for five consecutive summers, starting in 1927, digging for fossils in Wyoming.

In 1933, Walker became a Federal Civil Service Ranger and Park Naturalist. He was first appointed to the Petrified Forest National Monument, then to Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, on to Crater Lake National Park, then to Glacier National Park, then to Yosemite in 1944. He returned to Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks from 1947 to 1955.

While employed for the National Park Service, Walker wrote a number of articles. Some of these articles are entitled: *The Petrified Forest of Arizona* (1935); *Evidence of Triassic insects in Petrified Forest National Monument* (1938); *Black Widow Spiders, A Forest turned to Stone, I have seen Crater Lake, These Little Pigs have a Way* (1941); *Reptiles and Amphibians of Yosemite National Park* (1946); *National Parks and Monuments of Utah* (1947, revised 1953); and *National Parks in Nature Education* (1951).

Walker returned to Fort Hays Kansas State College in 1955 as an Assistant Professor in the Geology Department. Walker was promoted to Associate Professor (1964), and Professor (1972); and was appointed Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences in 1970. Walker also served as the Director of Sternberg Memorial Museum from 1955 until his retirement on July 1, 1973. In 1988, a series of paleontology papers were published as "Articles in Honor of Myrl V. Walker," *Fort Hays Studies*, 3d ser. v. 10 (Science series).

Scope and Content Note

The Myrl V. Walker Papers are housed in four document boxes dating from 1915 to 1984. These files are arranged in chronological order. The papers are comprised mainly of correspondence; articles, chiefly written by Walker; reports; photographs and negatives. There are also a few files of teaching materials from courses Walker taught at Fort Hays Kansas State College.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Names

Bryce Canyon National Park (Utah)
Crater Lake National Park (Oregon)
Glacier National Park (Montana)
Kansas State Teachers College
Fort Hays Kansas State College
National Park Service (U.S.)
Petrified Forest National Park (Arizona)
Sternberg Museum of Natural History
Yosemite National Park (California)
Zion National Park (Utah)

Subject Names

Paleontology--Arizona
Paleontology--California
Paleontology--Oregon
Paleontology--Montana
Paleontology--Utah
Paleontology--Wyoming

Container List / Contents

Amphibia and Reptilia chart; Fish chart: n.d.	Box 1, Folder 1
Various notes on fossil Lagomorphs; miscellaneous materials: 1928-1930, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 2
A "Dental Index" in the classification of Lagomorphs and Rodents: ca. 1930	Box 1, Folder 3
Checklist of Kansas Mammals and Osteology of the Rabbit: 1930	Box 1, Folder 4
Checklist of the Mammals of Kansas compiled by M. V. Walker, Autumn of 1930	Box 1, Folder 5
Fossil Rodents and Lagomorphs, general references and notes: 1927, 1931	Box 1, Folder 6
Ranger-Naturalists temporary manual of operation, Crater Lake National Park: 1934	Box 1, Folder 7
Petrified Forest National Monument paper: 1935	Box 1, Folder 8
"A Key to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Zion, Bryce, and Cedar Breaks" by M. V. Walker: February 8, 1939	Box 1, Folder 9
Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks Ranger-Naturalists' Manual: Lectures, Schedules, References: Compiled 1940 [folder 1 of 2]	Box 1, Folder 10
Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks Ranger-Naturalists' Manual: Lectures, Schedules, References: Compiled 1940 [folder 2 of 2]	Box 1, Folder 11
"Glimpses into the private life of the Latrodectus;" correspondence: 1940	Box 1, Folder 12

Black Widow spider articles (2) written by M. V. Walker: June 1, 1940; n.d.	Box 1, Folder 13
Correspondence, rhymes (2): 1938-1941, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 1
Special Articles and Notes by M. V. Walker, Crater Lake National Park: August 15, 1940 – May 1, 1941	Box 2, Folder 2
“One Hundred Places to go, or things to see in Glacier National Park,” December 1943	Box 2, Folder 3
Articles written by M. V. Walker: ca. 1940-1944; n.d.	Box 2, Folder 4
Correspondence, articles, outlines, lists: 1941-1944	Box 2, Folder 5
Interpretive Plan and Development Outline, Glacier National Park, Montana; correspondence: 1942, 1944	Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence, lists, key to filing system: Glacier National Park: 1943-1944, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 7
Special Reports and Manuscripts prepared by M. V. Walker, Associate Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park: 1944	Box 2, Folder 8
Special Reports and Manuscripts prepared by M. V. Walker, Park Nationalist, Glacier National Park: 1941-1944 [folder 1 of 2]	Box 2, Folder 9
Special Reports and Manuscripts prepared by M. V. Walker, Park Nationalist, Glacier National Park: 1941-1944 [folder 2 of 2]	Box 2, Folder 10
Articles by various authors: 1937; 1940; 1945; n.d.	Box 3, Folder 1
Reports, correspondence, lists regarding Yosemite National Park: 1944-1945	Box 3, Folder 2
Articles of Incorporation of Glacier Natural History Association: 1946	Box 3, Folder 3
Geology I and II: outlines, syllabus, notes, tests, etc.: 1951-1954, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 4
“Archeology of Zion Park,” by A. H. Schroeder with contributions from...M. V. Walker: June 1955	Box 3, Folder 5
Biological Sciences – Zoology; articles, news clippings re: fish, amphibians, reptiles: 1919; 1921-1922; 1928-1930; 1934; 1946; 1957; n.d.	Box 3, Folder 6
Wooster, L. D., “History of Fort Hays State University: the first 50 years; manuscript, comments, notes on museum, etc., Walker’s copy: 1947; 1952; 1960-1961	Box 3, Folder 7
Articles and notes by M. V. Walker: 1930; 1967; n.d.	Box 3, Folder 8
Professional Activity; Monument Rocks Evaluation: 1966; 1968	Box 3, Folder 9
Fort Hays Studies Committee; Minutes of Meetings: 1957; 1964-1969	Box 3, Folder 10
Fort Hays Studies Committee; Correspondence, memos, etc.: 1957; 1959; 1961; 1965-1969	Box 3, Folder 11
Correspondence; Dakota Sandstone: 1973-1974	Box 3, Folder 12
Fort Hays State University Homecoming Committee: Host/Hostess, 1967; Parade, 1977	Box 3, Folder 13
Species named in honor of Myrl V. Walker, “Niobrarateuthis Walkeri, a new species of Teuthid from the Upper Cretaceous Niobrara formation of Kansas,” by Richard G. Green, September 1977	Box 3, Folder 14
Fort Hays Studies Committee; Annual reports; exchange publications; list of studies published: 1960; 1964-1972; 1980	Box 3, Folder 15
Correspondence, memoranda, etc.: 1951; 1954; 1964-1965; 1973-1984	Box 3, Folder 16

Negatives; family, friends, landscapes, flora and fauna of the National Parks: ca. 1930-1955	Box 4, Folder 1
Photographs, black & white; family, friends, landscapes, flora and fauna of the National Parks: ca. 1930-1955	Box 4, Folder 2
Publications: "Triassic life of the Connecticut Valley," 1915; "The National zoological Park: a popular account of its collections," 1919; "The American Midland Naturalist," 1932; "New remains of Trilophodont-Tetrapelodont Mastodons," 1933	Box 4, Folder 3
"Moundbuilder" yearbook, Southwestern College, 1922	Box 4, Folder 4
"The Cardinal" yearbook, Plainville High School, 1929	Box 4, Folder 5
"Beaver in Kansas," 1960; Directory to the Bird-life of Kansas," 1960; "Rhymes of a National Park Naturalist," 1971	Box 4, Folder 6