

Sarah Benson Walker (1812-1893)



Sarah Benson Walker was born Sarah Mather in 1812 to Methodists Robert and Ann Mather. In 1834 the Mather's joined the Society of Friends and in that same year Sarah agreed to marry George Washington Walker, despite having once referred to him and James Backhouse as those 'pesky Quakers'. After their marriage in 1840 the couple had ten children. At times, according to her husband, the large household made her 'a perfect slave' because of the shortage of servants. Even so, she managed to serve on Jane Franklin's visiting committee to the Cascades Female Factory.

Darcy Street
Robert Town 20/1/99

Thank'd my dear Esther for the
shoes, they are very nice and beau-
tifully made. From them last
evening, and intend to wear them
every evening as long as they last.
I have couldst not have sent me
a more reasonable present.

Believe me as ever
thy affectionate Aunt
Sarah B. Walker.

This letter is from Sarah Benson Walker to her niece Ether Robey (nee Mather) thanking her for her present of some new shoes. The letter is signed 'thy affectionate Aunt', the use of words like 'thy', 'thee' and 'thou' instead of the plural form set the Quakers apart.



This is a sketch of Sarah Benson Walker by her daughter Mary Augusta Walker. Mary (aged 93) is pictured below wearing her mother's Quaker dress.

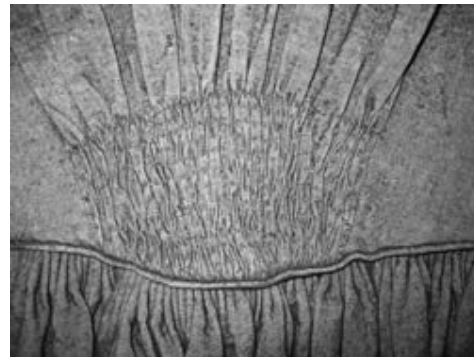


This is a bakery bill for the Walker family 1883.



This is part of the Quaker grey teaset belonging to George Washington Walker and his wife Sarah.





The clothes belonging to Sarah Benson Walker were preserved by the Robey sisters , Elinor and Marguerita. They are now held in the Society of Friends' Meeting House Collection, Hobart, Tasmania.