

**Walker, George Washington (1800-1859)**

Sponsored: Hannah Banyard (Hopton, Suffolk)  
Harriet Robertson (Suffolk, nursemaid)  
Barclay Wood (Hertfordshire, aged 9)  
Emily Wood (Hertfordshire, aged 8)  
Lydia Wood (Hertfordshire, Governess)  
William Wood (Hertfordshire, draper)



George Washington Walker was born in London. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography, Volumes 1-22* after his mother's early death his father relocated to Paris. George was brought up by a grandmother at Newcastle-on-Tyne as a unitarian. He was confirmed by a bishop, and placed at a Wesleyan school at Barnard Castle. He was apprenticed to a quaker draper of Newcastle, and attended Friends' meetings, and in 1827 joined the society.

In 1881 he accompanied James Backhouse, a minister of York, on a missionary visit to the Southern Hemisphere. They landed at Hobart Town on 8 February 1832, after a five months' voyage. The governor, Sir George Arthur, afforded the Friends every opportunity of visiting the convicts, and at his request they furnished him with reports on penal discipline. They also visited the aborigines on Flinders Island. In Launceston they gathered a body of quakers who held their first yearly meeting in 1834, and who founded an excellent college in Hobart Town for the instruction of their young. By that first yearly meeting Walker was acknowledged a minister. He was well known for advancing the principles of Total Abstinence. He was a linen draper, banker and humanitarian. In 1845 he opened the Hobart Savings Bank beside his drapery business in Liverpool Street, to encourage savings by poorer people. Walker had ten children and they lived at Narryna in Hampden Road, Battery Point.

Mr Walker died at his residence in Macquarie Street on 1 February 1859, aged 58 years.

Picture of George Washington Walker copied from *ancestry.com* (Hankin\_family).

Walker, George Washington, Secretary (?), Savings Bank, Hobart Town, applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets.