

C. J. Arthur reviews Career of John Smith Walker, Pioneer
who died on the 16 inst. 1916.

(By C. J. Arthur)

John Smith Walker was born on the 10th day of April 1834 in the Iron District of Low Moor near Bradford, Yorkshire, England. The oldest son of Joseph Walker and Betty Smith Walker.. And after 82 years of mortal experience John departed to the vast unknown on the 16th day of June 1916.

He was baptized in his native town, and when 15 years of age, emigrated, with his parents and two brothers, William and Thomas, to Utah under the Presidency of Elder Orson Spencer, arriving in Salt Lake City, in the early fall of 1849.

Father Walker bought a farm on Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, adjoining Joseph Wright farm, who emigrated from Low Moor and was an old friend and fellow workman in the iron works of that place.

In the fall of 1850 Father Walker, subject to council of the Church authorities, left his wife and children on the farm and made a home in Parowan, Iron County. The following spring he sold his farm and moved his family to Parowan, Again directed by council of President George A. Smith he pioneered with a small company and located a fort northwest of Cedar City cemetery, Matthew Carruther presiding. President George A. Smith, visiting the fort counilled and advised a move to the south of the fort and surveyed a site for a city; this occurred in the spring of 1853. That fall a call was made by the presidency at the October conference for 100 families to strengthen Cedar City and labor at the Iron Works located one half mile above the walled city. In 1854, the month of May, President Young and company visited Cedar City, organized a stake with Isaac C. Haight as President and Phillip K. Smith as Bishop. He told the people they were in danger from the flood waters of Coal Creek, called a few brethren to follow him, directed his teamster and stopped on the present site of Cedar City. Placing the point of his staff on the northwest corner of the I. C. Haight lot, he said, "Build west and south but go no further north."

Up to this date our friend John S. did a boy's part in the building up of the colony. He was then in his twenties, strong, hale, and hearty. John was not an idler, and his father and mother being industrious people found him something to do, which he did cheer-

City. About this time he was ordained an Elder and took an active part in the meeting of the quorum. The building up of a new town and surrounding the half mile square of the old town with a ten foot wall took every hand at the pick and shovel and axe.

The Legislature of 1853-54 granted Cedar City's charter with Isaac C. Haight as first mayor.

To build homes, lumber, shingles and lath were necessary. Father Walker and his son were on the job and continued in the lumber business for many years. Father Walker, who had been a furnaceman in Low Moor, took hold and worked faithfully at the same kind of work for the Deseret Iron Company. The furnace costing three thousand dollars was located a few rods of the present north bridge. The works shut down in the fall of 1857. The Walkers then turned to logging, lumbering and hauling to town.

On the 9th of August, 1864, our John took a wife, the lady we now call Aunt Maggie, her proper name, Margaret Augusta Ducell, and they were the parents of 11 children, six sons and five daughters. Sister Maggie, four sons, four daughters, 47 grandchildren and six great-grand children survive the deceased.

While logging one morning, John was caught by a falling timber and received a dislocated hip and broken leg, and during the past eight years he has suffered more or less on the accident; he has also had two paralytic strokes, all of which tend to weaken his once strong body.

For 52 years Sister Maggie was a true devoted helpmate and during his sickness was comfort and consoler.

With all his strength he did not accumulate wealth, always satisfied with fair compensation for his work. He was a factor in pioneering Iron County, especially Cedar City. At the services held in the tabernacle his friends of long ago spoke in kind words of the departed.