

*Captain Walker*

WALKER, JOSEPH HEDDEFORD, born in Roane County, Tennessee, December 13, 1798; moved with his mother and four brothers to Fort Osage, in Western Missouri, 1818; never married; in the spring of 1820 left with a party of trappers for the Rocky Mountains and went on to New Mexico, where they were arrested and imprisoned at Santa Fe; persuaded Governor Malgares to release the party on their agreement to drive away marauding Indians; surprised a band of Pawnees and defeated them; was given permission to trade, in which they were joined by another party of which his brother Joel was a member; the combined parties returned to Missouri ~~for~~<sup>from</sup> the first trading expedition to New Mexico, 1823; guided the first survey party to mark the Santa Fe Trail; 1824-1825; first sheriff of Jackson County, Missouri, 1827-1830.

Went on a trading expedition to Indian Territory where he met Capt. B.L.E. Bonneville, 7th U. S. Infantry, at Fort Gibson, 1831; served as Guide for the Bonneville expedition to the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast, 1832-36; guided an emigrant party, headed by J. B. Chiles, from Fort Laramie to California, 1843; guide for Captain J. C. Fremont from Las Vegas de Santa Clara (Mountain Meadow) to Bents Fort, 1844; Guide for the Fremont expedition to California, 1845-46; drove about 500 horses from California to Santa Fe, 1846; returned to Missouri and remained until 1849; when he went back to California; with Jack Ralston and 6 others visited the Hopi country and found indications of gold near the Little Colorado River, 1850; returned to California and engaged in cattle raising in Monterey County, 1851-1858; he and Kit Carson served as Guides at \$7 per day with Col. Willison Hoffman en route down the Colorado River from Fort Mohave to Fort

Yuma, December 20, 1858 to January 24, 1859.

In the spring of 1861, at the suggestion of George Lount, he went from Contra Costa County to Kernville, California, to become Captain of a party organized to rediscover gold on the Little Colorado; the party went via Walker Pass, crossed the Colorado near Mount Virginus above Fort Mohave, and thence via the San Francisco Mountain but found no gold; went on via Albuquerque to Denver; the party came out of Colorado in the spring of 1862 with 60 mules and traveled via Taos, Santa Fe and Albuquerque down the Rio Grande to Fort Craig; went on to Fort West and sent out prospecting groups along the headwaters of the Gila River including the San Francisco River; the party prospected the country along the Gila and came via Tucson to the Pima Villages; traveled up the Hassayampa where some gold was discovered and the Pioneer Mining District was established on May 10, 1863; went on to Lynx Creek where more gold was found in June; thence back to Maricopa Wells to leave letters and obtain supplies; returned to Lynx Creek to continue placer mining.

Accompanied Governor Goodwin, Judge Allyn and a party of citizens to explore the valleys of the Verde and Salt River in February and March, 1864; listed Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County), resident in Arizona 12 months, occupation, Mountaineer, property valued at \$300; returned to California in 1867 to live with his nephew, James T. Waller, in Ygnacio Valley, Contra Costa County, where he died on October 27, 1876; aged 78; buried, Alhambra Cemetary, Martinez, California.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- McClintock, J. H. - Arizona, the Youngest State, pp. 107, 110, 176, 177, 403.
- Farish, T. E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 2, p. 241; Vol. 3, pp. 4, 26-40, 200; Vol. 4, p. 315.
- W. W. Elliott & Co. - History of Arizona Territory, 1884, pp. 58, 207.
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- De Long, S. R. - History of Arizona, 1903, pp. 168, 174.
- Wellman, P. - Death in the Desert, p. 87.
- Barnes, W. C. - Arizona Place Names, 1935, p. 474.
- W. P. A. - Arizona, A State Guide N. Y. 1940, p. 304.
- W. P. A. - Historical Records Project - Journal of the Walker Party.
- The Quartermaster General's Office - Archives and Claims.
- Jackson, O. - The White Conquest of Arizona, Los Angeles, 1908, p. 14.
- Arizona Weekly Miner, Prescott, March 9 and 23, 1864, May 11, 1864, and November 24, 1876, p. 1, Col. 4. (obituary).
- The Prescott Journal Miner - "Walker's Famous Expedition", October 8, 1909, p. 4, c. 3-6.
- The Arizonian, Tubac, March 17, 1858, 3:2.
- The Contra Costa Gazette, November 4, (obituary), November 28, 1878 (refers to obituaries in the Santa Rosa Gazette and the Hans Reporter, the latter by George W. Giff who knew Walker very well).
- The Californian, Magazine, for December 1861, pp. 466-476 (biography of Walker).

### WANTED

1. Any additional newspaper references to him.
2. Obituaries in other Arizona newspapers.