

Walker, of Southgate

Elihu Robinson, of Cumberland, at London Y.M. 1799 :

“ Mett with my generous Friend Isaac Walker, who seemed remarkably pleased to see me, enquired after my wife, wished She had been here, then he thought he would have gott us a few Days to Southgate, rec^d a Letter from John Walker pressingly Inviting me to pay him a Visit. He had come about 4 Miles to see me and could not meet with me.

“ Was soon attended or Surrounded by Isaac Walker, Jn^o Walker, his wife Eliza, &c. A very particular attention indeed to such an One as me. I am indeed but too much carressed. Was soon taken into Isaac's Carriage with himself only, & taken to John's in Upper Gower Street. The fine situation, elegance of y^e Rooms & Furniture, would once have been Striking objects. The agreeable Wife of Jn^o Walker seemed well pleased with her Fathers & her Husbands Fr^d Though y^e Table was uncommonly sett off, especially y^e 2^d course (which I did not taste) Yet y^e kindness & serene Affability of y^e Family made Visit as Easy as I did Expect. After tea was taken back to y^e Meeting in Jn^o Walkers Coach, though he Walked Himself, John Walker hath Four remarkable beautiful & healthy Children nursed by herself which I much approved. Saw in the LibRARY many Curiosities, several Vases & Potts found about Naples, some supposed Two Thousand years old.”

The home of Isaac Walker (c. 1725-1804), and later of his son John (1768-1824), was a mansion known as “ Arno's Grove,” ten miles north of London. In Brewer's *Survey of London and Middlesex*, 1816, we read : “ Conspicuous among the residences at Southgate is Arno's Grove, the seat of John Walker. This is a noble family residence, respectable in exterior architectural character, and highly adorned within by the refined taste and liberality of the owner. The apartments are conspicuous for size, elegance, and for that air of close domestic comfort so desirable in the variable climate of this country.”

The estate of about one hundred acres was purchased by Isaac Walker in 1772. There are pictures of Arno's Grove in D.

“ At his house at Southgate, Middlesex, in his 79th year, much and justly respected, Isaac Walker, esq. He had retired from extensive connexions in commerce as a wholesale linen draper, many years, not to a life of indolence, but to one of active and well-directed benevolence. He was buried in the Quakers' burial ground at Winchmore Hill ” (*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1804, II).

Isaac Walker's wife was Elizabeth Hill (d. 1795, aet. 56). There is a long notice of her in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1795, I. “. . . To manners peculiarly attractive were united a natural and unaffected vivacity and sweetness of disposition that rendered her conversation

and society highly interesting to her friends and acquaintance, and were such as render her loss irreparable to an afflicted husband, son and daughter. She was sister to Mr. Hill, author of 'Observations on France.' "

Isaac Walker was the greatgrandfather of the seven brothers who were noted cricketers, born between 1826 and 1844, whose exploits are recorded in *The Walkers of Southgate*, by W. A. Bettesworth, a volume of 439 pages, published in 1900. (Presented to D by William F. Nicholson.) The estate of Arno's Grove has been partly cut up and built over.

A Quaker Wine-retailer's Fortune

" Mr. Gray, who died at Tottenham at the age of 85, has left behind him 120,000 l. He has given to each of his three sons and two daughters 20,000 l. ; has left to his relict, the sister of Isaac Walker, esq. of Lincoln's-inn-fields, 1200 l. per annum, and 20,000 l. in her own disposal, to the Quaker's Seminary at Ackworth, to Christ's Hospital, and to the Philanthropic Society, 1000 l. each ; to St. Luke's hospital 500 l. ; besides several smaller legacies to various charitable institutions, and other private legacies. All this fortune was raised from the retailing of wine in small quantities, in a vault in Newgate-street, to chance customers, before the general prevalence of taverns or public-houses where wine was sold " (*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1794, II. 956).

This was Abraham Gray, a Friend, of Tottenham. His wife, Rebecca (Walker) Gray, died a month after her husband.

" Plainness "

The Testimony of London Yearly Meeting in the year 1718 :

" A Testimony against an undue liberty which too many under the profession of Truth run into, to the great grief of faithful Friends—by many Men among us putting on extravagant Wigs, and wearing their Hats and Cloths after the vain fashions unbecoming the gravity of a religious People : and too many Women decking themselves with gaudy and costly apparell, Gold Chains, Locketts, Necklaces and Gold Watches exposed to open view, which shews more of pride and ostentation, than for use and service, beside their vain imitation of that immodest Fashion of going with naked Necks and Breasts, and wearing hooped Petticoats inconsistent with that modesty which should adorn their sex."

Copied from Norris MSS. ix. 46 (D. Case 52).