

The Biography of Ann Wilson

By Marjorie Walker Hemmingsen

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Marjorie Hemmingsen was known for her unintentional exaggeration in telling a tale. She was sometimes not as accurate as she seems with facts and dates. Some things have been corrected with the kind assistance of my aunt Jean Rosheim. And with whatever inaccuracies it may hold, this family history decidedly carries the spirit of Ann's ancestors.

The biography of Ann Wilson began way back in the early days of America, in 1750 to be exact at Jamestown, Virginia. His name was John Walker the second or subsequent son of a nobleman. In those days it was the custom for the oldest son to inherit the title and land of the father, so that left the second or subsequent sons at loose ends. A group of these came over for some excitement. The first winter more than half died from lack of shelter and food. One of the survivors became our ancestor.

In the spring a shipload of wives arrived. Walker paid the passage for one Kathleen O'Sullivan. She became the first Mrs. Walker in America. They had a large family. One of their sons was Thomas Walker, who became a surveyor and did some work for George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. In 1811 some of the family immigrated to Roan County, Tennessee. Thomas Walker joined the Tennessee Militia and was called up to serve in the War of 1812. He was later discharged as a Captain in 1814.