

THOUGHTS ON DR. WALKER

First of all, a big Thank You to all the people at the Historical Society who put together the wonderful exhibition on that man who meant so much to the people of Cornwall and the surrounding area.

I have many childhood memories of being cared for by Dr. Walker, similar to those which have been well expressed by other people, and were vividly brought to mind as I walked through the exhibition.

What I would like to do is to share some thoughts on the larger role he played in the lives of the people of Cornwall in the context of the world events of the 1940's during and after World War II. My father was called up to work in the OSS, and many other slightly younger men served in the armed forces. That meant that many wives were left to cope with the challenges of child rearing and housekeeping on their own for long periods of time.

I know that during those years, Dr. Walker was a pillar of strength for my mother. He was more than just a Doctor; he was a compassionate and understanding person who was always there when she needed bolstering, enabling her to carry on. He was a true friend as well as the doctor who took care of medical needs.

After the war, my parents took the then rather radical step of getting divorced . I guess the wartime stresses had taken their toll on the marriage. We children were sent away to school, but mother retained the house in Cornwall, and I can imagine that Dr. Walker continued to be a source of strength for her as she weathered that transition period.

Dr. Walker played a key role in the later phase of her life too, in that he was the Justice of the Peace who performed her marriage to Laurens Hammond, a ceremony which took place in the living room of Dody and Merrill Prentices' house. He and Katy were also honored guests at my marriage to Desmond Nicholson not too many years later.

He blessed our family in so many ways, thank you, Dr. Walker!

Lisa Nicholson, Cornwall Hollow, June 2011