

Archives & Manuscript Collections
National Sporting Library
Middleburg, VA

**Walker Hounds
Pedigree Book
1867-1913**

Name: **Walker Hounds** **MC0023**

Materials: Pedigree Book

Dates: 1867-1913 (bulk dates 1881-1911)

Volume: 0.25 cubic feet

Donation: Gift of William Ashby, 1975

Usage: Unless otherwise stated by NSL staff, these records are open for research without restrictions.

Historical Note

The Walker foxhound is perhaps the most popular of all strains of the American foxhound. The origins of this strain lie in Madison and Garrard Counties, Kentucky in the 1850s. Hounds from Virginia and Maryland had hunted deer and gray fox there for generations, but in 1855 the first recorded red fox was spotted in Madison County; Garrard saw its first a year later. A black and tan hound of medium build belonging to George Washington "Wash" Maupin was the only creature that knew how to pursue this new arrival successfully, revealing that he must have had prior experience. That hound was the famous "Tennessee Lead," so named because he had been stolen in 1852 from a deer hunt in Tennessee by a livestock trader, who in turn sold it to Maupin. Lead's successes against the red fox created a high demand for his service as a stud; his most successful turns came from his breeding to two Pennsylvania bitches, Florence and Vic. The Walkers, close friends and hunting companions of the Maupins, also acquired two English imports, Rifler and Marth, to introduce the better bone structure of the English strains into the lines. Marth was already in whelp when she arrived in Kentucky; her five English puppies produced four dogs which proved to be good sires and the one bitch, crippled by a wagon, proved to be an excellent breeder. Recognizing the suitability of these hounds for the Kentucky style of foxhunting, the two families worked closely together to advance the strain and disperse them throughout foxhunting territory.

The lines produced from Lead, Florence, Vic, Marth, and Rifler

were of such quality that no new blood had to be introduced until 1893. The quality of these hounds, prized for their gameness, speed, and good mouths, had created a large demand for them throughout the foxhunting communities of the country, including Virginia and Texas. However, intense in-breeding had become evident by 1891, so when an attempted cross with a Maryland hound proved inferior, three more English hounds, Striver (dog), Relish, and Clara (bitches), were imported. The cross was a success in that it helped to maintain the quality of the animals by introducing new blood, but did not necessarily improve upon it.

Walker and his four sons, W. S. ("Steve"), Edwin, John Wade, and Arch, kept accurate records of their breeding program, and were responsible for the strain's spread throughout the country. Thus it is their name, not that of Wash Maupin, that has become attached to the line. For their part, the Walkers became synonymous with good quality hounds. W. S. Walker compiled precisely detailed pedigree albums for the hounds, utilizing record books developed for Standardbred pedigrees. Copies of these albums, annotated and corrected, were also made for the next generation of Walkers and their associates who carried on the program. The volume in this collection, which begins with the pedigree of the noted "Scott No. 7," was compiled by Woods Walker (son of Edwin) and his partner and close friend, A. V. Huyler, a successful New York candy manufacturer and owner of several Walker hounds.

Collection Description

The Walker Hounds Pedigree Album is a detailed compilation of pedigree charts for several Walker hounds owned by A. V. Huyler as well as for the foundation hounds of the Walker strain. Information about each hound such as coloring, age, full name, and AKC number was entered by hand, mostly by Huyler and Woods.

Series and Subseries

- I. Pedigree book, 1867-1913** **1 book**
- Contains over 360 entries for Walker hounds dating back to several foundation hounds such as Imp. Marth, Spotted Top, Aggie II, and Scott No. 7 in the 1860s and 1870s. Pedigrees going back five generations are represented, as is information such sex, coloring, full name, AKC number, date of birth, and breeder. The existence of several different handwriting styles suggests that this book was added to by various breeders to create a more detailed record. There is some cross-referencing to other entries in the book. Also included at the back of the book are several pages of pedigrees for Shetland ponies and Thoroughbred horses.

Container List
MC0023

I. Pedigree book

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
L43	N/A	Bound volume of charts for Walker hounds	1867-1913

This collection was processed by Michele M. Tourney, June 2004.