



**State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**WALKER, DALLAS (1895-1970)  
WORLD WAR I LETTERS, 1917-1918**

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**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:**

Walker, Dallas, 1895-1970

**Inclusive Dates:**

1917-1918

**Scope & Content:**

The Dallas Walker World War I Letters, containing approximately 34 items, spans the period 1917-1918. The collection is composed entirely of personal correspondence. Most of the letters were written by Mary Walker, a student at Nashville's Ward-Belmont School for Women, to her brother, Dallas Walker, while he was stationed in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in the United States Army Ambulance Service. A few of the letters were written by Mary's classmates at Ward-Belmont; including Margaret Saunders, Sadie Edwards, and Gladys Edwards (Sadie's sister).

The correspondence is centered around Mary's student experience at Ward-Belmont School for Women. She relates to her brother feelings of homesickness, the woes of studying for exams, and other details of college life. There are several items of special interest contained in the correspondence. The first is a letter (located in folder 1), dated September 22, 1917, in which Mary asks her brother if he has "heard any more about going to France." Another is a postcard (located in folder 5) depicting Pembroke Hall on the Ward-Belmont campus. Mary has written that she lives in Pembroke Hall and "it's prettier than this." A third item of interest is a letter (located in folder 5), dated April 20, 1918, in which Mary writes about seeing Charlie Chaplin. She relates that Chaplin is "just dandy (not one bit silly) and awfully good looking." A letter (located in folder 5), also dated April 20, 1918, has images and text that have been cut out of printed materials and glued on the letter. In the letter, Mary discusses the war and expresses her wish to "be a soldier and shoot a few of those Germans." The last page of the letter has a printed poem, titled "A New Song of Hate," that expresses hate for "The Kaiser."

**Physical Description/Extent:**

.25 linear feet

**Accession/Record Group Number:**

Ac. no. 2009-042

**Language:**

English

**Permanent Location:**

III-K-1

**Repository:**

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee,  
37243-0312

**Administrative/Biographical History****Dallas I. Walker**

September 22, 1895 - born in San Dimas, California, son of Harry E. and Genevieve R. Walker

June 5, 1917 - registers for the draft

February 1918 - contracts mumps and eventually quarantined

1925 - marries Pansy T.

July 15, 1970 - dies in Los Angeles, California

**Mary Genevieve Walker**

October 20, 1898 - born in San Dimas, California, daughter of Harry E. and Genevieve R. Walker

1917 - starts attending Ward-Belmont School for Women

April 1918 - meets Charlie Chaplin

1921-1923 - attends the University of California at Berkeley as an undergraduate

August 25, 1924 - applies for U. S. Passport

September - October 1924 - tours Europe

June 15, 1968 - dies in Los Angeles, California

**Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

The arrangement of the collection is chronological.

## **Conditions of Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access:**

No restrictions.

### **Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:**

No restrictions.

## **Index Terms**

### **Personal Names:**

Chaplin, Charlie, 1889-1977

Walker, Dallas, 1895-1970

### **Personal Names (As Authors):**

Edwards, Sadie

Edwards, Gladys

Saunders, Margaret

Walker, Mary Genevieve, 1898-1968

### **Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:**

United States -- Army -- Ambulance Service

Vanderbilt Commodores (Football team)

Ward-Belmont College (Nashville, Tenn.)

### **Subjects:**

World War, 1914-1918

### **Geographic Names:**

Allentown (Pa.)

Nashville (Tenn.)

## **Acquisition and Appraisal**

### **Provenance and Acquisition:**

The Dallas Walker World War I Letters were purchased from Charles Apfelbaum of Watchung, New Jersey, on June 1, 2009.

## **Processing and Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation:**

Dallas Walker (1895-1970) World War I Letters, 1917-1918

### **Processing Information:**

Processing was completed by Scott Lillard and Lori Lockhart, September 20, 2010.

### **Existence and Location of Copies:**

Mf. no. 1975

### **Electronic Location and Access:**

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/2009-042.pdf>

## DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

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### CONTAINER LIST

<b>Contents/Item Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Correspondence	September - October, 1917	1	1
Correspondence	November - December, 1917	1	2
Correspondence	January - February, 1918	1	3
Correspondence	March, 1918	1	4
Correspondence	April, 1918	1	5
Correspondence	May, 1918	1	6