



HOTEL
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Biography: Norfolk Photographers



Carroll Herbert Walker, Sr. (1904 - 1990)

Carroll Herbert Walker was born in 1904 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was raised in Norfolk, Virginia, though when his family moved to the Brambleton section of Norfolk and he attended Norfolk Public Schools. Walker's father, a florist, died when Carroll was still a young boy, thus leaving his mother to raise him and his four other

siblings. Walker always wanted to become a painter, but the Great Depression forced him to leave the New York School of Industrial Arts. He then joined the Norfolk and Western (now Norfolk Southern) Railroad as a sales representative and would remain with the railroad company for 38 years. Now with steady employment, Walker indulged his passion for history and photography. He began to collect photographs relating to Norfolk and the surrounding Tidewater region and especially idolized Harry C. Mann and Mann's photographs of Norfolk from the turn of the century. Walker used many of Mann's images in his own publications.

The 1940s was a monumental decade for Walker as he met and married Isabella Bailey and also began to pursue the profession of photography. Walker and Bailey met at a band concert at the College of William & Mary - Norfolk Division (now Old Dominion University) and married in 1942 in Norfolk. They had two children.

Walker began his professional career as a photographer in Norfolk by taking family pictures and also photographs of places around the city. His passion for history led him to join Civil War reenactment groups and even gave him the rare opportunity of photographing the last reunion of living Confederate veterans in Norfolk.





Walker continued to pursue his love for photography and local history after his retirement from the Norfolk and Western Railroad. He regularly photographed events around the Norfolk area and published two books on Norfolk's photographic history: "Norfolk: Its Pictorial History" and "Norfolk: Its Tercentennial History." After his death, Walker's entire photographic collection, containing his own photographs in addition to images taken by Harry Mann and other Norfolk photographers, was given to the Sargeant Memorial Room of the Norfolk Public Library.

Photograph: Carroll Walker at one of the Harborfest celebrations at Waterside in Downtown Norfolk, early 1980s. From Carroll Walker Collection of Sargeant Memorial Room, Norfolk Public Library.

Source:

"Carroll H. Walker Sr., historian, dies." *Virginian - Pilot*. 25 December 1990. D1 and D3.

Obituary of Carroll H Walker. *Virginian - Pilot*. 27 December 1990. A16.

"Historian Leaves Us Norfolk's Past." *The Compass of Virginian - Pilot*. 13 January 1991. 8.

Yarsinske, Amy Waters, Norfolk, Virginia: the Sunrise City by the Sea: a Tribute to Photographer Carroll H. Walker, Sr. Virginia Beach, Virginia: Donning Company, 1994.

