

Bertrand N. O. Walker Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2022086530>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms023019>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2023

Collection Summary

Title: Bertrand N. O. Walker Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1899-1921

ID No.: MSS86530

Creator: Walker, Bertrand N. O.

Extent: 250 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: 0.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with Wyandot

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2022086530>

Summary: Native American (Wyandot) poet, folklorist, ethnologist, teacher, and clerk. Photograph, correspondence, and writings, including drafts of poems published under the name Hen-Toh, writings by others related to Wyandot folklore, and writings annotated by Walker.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Bernard N. O. Walker were purchased by the Library of Congress in 2022.

Custodial History

The papers of Bertrand N. O. Walker were found saved among the personal effects of Canadian anthropologist, folklorist, and ethnologist Marius Barbeau (1883-1969), with whom Walker worked as a source and fieldwork advisor for *Huron and Wyandot Mythology*, published in 1915. The papers of Marius Barbeau are located at the Canadian Museum of History, Quebec, Canada.

Processing History

The papers of Bertrand N. O. Walker were arranged and described by Emilia Schrier in 2023.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Bertrand N. O. Walker is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Bertrand N. O. Walker are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Bertrand N. O. Walker Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Bertrand N. O. Walker was born September 5, 1870, in Kansas City, Kansas. He moved with his family to Wyandotte, Oklahoma, in 1874, where he attended a Friends' Mission School, later known as the Seneca Indian School. From 1890 until his death in 1927, he worked in the Indian Service, now known as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, first as a teacher and from 1901 onward as a clerk. He published two books under the name Hen-Toh, *Tales of the Bark Lodges* (1919) and *Yon-Doo-Sha-We-Ah (Nubbins)* (1924), with the Harlow Publishing Company, Oklahoma City. He died June 29, 1927, in Joplin, Missouri.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Bertrand N. O. Walker (1870-1927) span the years 1899-1921. The collection primarily contains Walker's writings, mostly drafts and notes, which demonstrate his deep interest in Wyandot legends, language, and history. While some poetry drafts were published in his book *Tales of the Bark Lodges*, most of the material is unpublished. Of note are two completed typescript collections titled "Myths, Tales and Legends" and "Other Indian Myths and Tales." Walker's papers also contain a letter from M. M. Quaiife, the superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, regarding material on ancestor William Walker, a 1909 photograph of Walker taken by George Bancroft Cornish, and writings by other authors. Among these are an 1899 copy of *Wyandot Folk-Lore* by William Elsey Connelley, annotated by Walker, and drafts of stories published in Marius Barbeau's *Huron and Wyandot Mythology*. Walker served as an advisor to Barbeau on this project and is directly credited in one of the drafts. The papers are in English, with some Wyandot phrases and names.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Barbeau, Marius, 1883-1969. *Huron and Wyandot mythology*. 1915.
Connelley, William Elsey, 1855-1930. *Wyandot folk-lore*. 1899.
Cornish, Geo. B. (George Bancroft), Bertrand N.O. Walker, chronotype portrait. 1909.
Hen-Toh. *Tales of the bark lodges*. 1919.
Walker, Bertrand N. O.

Subjects

Indian mythology--North America.
Indians of North America--Folklore.
Indians of North America--History.
Indians of North America--Languages.
Indians of North America--Poetry.
Wyandot Indians--Folklore.
Wyandot Indians--History.
Wyandot Indians--Poetry.
Wyandot Indians.
Wyandot language.

Occupations

Ethnologists, Native American.
Ethnologists.
Folklorists, Native American.

Folklorists.
Poets, Native American.
Poets.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1916
BOX 1	Photograph, 1909
	Writings
BOX 1	Folklore, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Language and history, 1904, 1921, undated
BOX 1	Poetry, 1902-1905, undated
BOX 1	Writings by others, 1899, 1915, undated