

Ernest George Walker

(1 Sep 1869 – 6 Feb 1944)

The Washington Post, January 21, 1930, p. 1

**Walker Made Top Choice As Commissioner
Wealthy Realty Man Held to Be Leading Field of Possibilities
Has No Information On Chances, He Says
Confirmation Kept Back at White House Also as Rumor Persists
Taliaferro's Return Pressed By Friends
Commissioner Would Regard Reappointment as Reply to "Unfair Critics"**

Ernest G. Walker, wealthy real estate man and former newspaperman, yesterday was reported to be leading the field of those being considered by President Hoover for appointment as District Commissioner to fill one of the vacancies caused by the expiration of the terms of Commissioners Proctor L. Dougherty and Sidney F. Taliaferro on February 4.

Confirmation of the report was refused at the White House yesterday and Mr. Walker declared flatly that he had not received any information that the President had selected him to be District Commissioner. Despite the reticence of both the White House and Mr. Walker, however, it was believed that Mr. Walker stood in the forefront of those who are under consideration or are seeking appointment.

Rumor was less definite about the other civilian commissioner who will be named by President Hoover. Former Senator Miles Poindexter has been mentioned as the man selected to be the beneficiary of the Jones bill, introduced in the Senate last week. The measure would amend the existing District code by eliminating the requirement that the civilian commissioners of the District must have been bona fide residents of the District for three years prior to their appointment. It would make eligible for appointment persons who have maintained offices or a business in Washington for three years, even though they maintained a legal and voting residence elsewhere.

Poindexter Would Be Eligible

Mr. Poindexter would be ineligible for appointment under existing law, but would be eligible if the law were amended as proposed in the bill introduced by his former colleague from Washington State in the Senate. It was reported that the Jones measure had been given at least the tacit approval of President Hoover, although it is not expected that the President would seek to force it through Congress in the face of vigorous opposition. Whether the opposition will be effective remains to be seen, but it is certain that it will be vigorous so far as the organized citizenship movement and other civic organizations are concerned.

Senator Jones has refused to discuss his measure beyond saying that his purpose was to broaden the field of available men from whom the President could choose the District Commissioners. He refused to say that he had discussed the question with the White House or to say that former Senator Poindexter was the person for whose benefit the bill was introduced.

Taliaferro's Return Sought

Report that Commissioner Taliaferro may be reappointed persists, and it is known that important influences in District affairs are seeking to convince the President that Mr. Taliaferro's record entitles him to reappointment, especially in view of what his friends and admirers describe as the unjust criticism against the present Board of Commissioners. It is known that Commissioner Taliaferro would accept reappointment as an honor and a full answer to what he believes has been unfair criticism.

Mr. Walker's name has continued to be prominently mentioned despite the lack of official confirmation and the evident desire of the man himself to keep his name out of the newspaper accounts of the commissionership fight. As he is a man of wealth, it was regarded with surprise in some quarters that he would accept appointment to the Commissionership.

Mr. Walker was born in Embden, Me., in 1869, went to school there and subsequently taught school there in his youth. He was graduated from Harvard University in 1892. He came to Washington soon afterwards and entered the service of the Smithsonian Institution and in 1893 became a special writer for The Washington Post. Subsequently he became a reporter, city editor, telegraph editor, covered the Capitol and became the chief political writer of The Post when Henry Litchfield West was appointed District Commissioner.

Was News Correspondent

Later he became the chief of the Washington bureau of the Boston Herald, a post he held for ten years. During that time he was Washington correspondent for many papers scattered throughout the world, including newspapers in England, Hawaii, the Philippines and elsewhere.

He married Miss Romaine Mannix, daughter of Capt. D. Pratt Mannix, of the United States Marine Corps, whose family had resided in Washington many years. The old Mannix mansion still is standing on Missouri avenue. The Walkers have one son, Mannix Walker, and resided at 2112 S street northwest.

Pressure of his increasingly heavy personal affairs gradually forced Mr. Walker out of active newspaper work to devoted his time to his growing real estate holdings out of which he has made a fortune. It is estimated that his purchases and improvements of properties added the better of \$3,000,000 to the District real estate assessment.

Since retiring from active newspaper work Mr. Walker has continued his writing and recently published a 760-page history of a section of Maine and is considering writing a history of the State of Maine, a task he has been asked to undertake by friends and admirers there.

Walker, Ernest George. Suddenly, on Sunday, February 6, 1944, at his residence, 3035 Dumbarton ave. nw., Ernest George Walker, beloved husband of Romaine Mannix Walker and father of Mannix Walker. Remains resting at the above residence, where services will be held on Tuesday, February 8, at 3 p.m. Interment private.

The New York Times, February 8, 1944, p. 15

Ernest G. Walker

Former Newspaper Man and Gridiron Club President

Washington, Feb. 7 (AP) --

Ernest George Walker, former newspaper man and one-time president of the Gridiron Club, died yesterday of a heart attack after pneumonia. He was 74 years old.

Born in Embden, Me., Mr. Walker came to Washington in 1892 after his graduation from Harvard. For twelve years he was a staff member of The Washington Post, resigning in 1905 to head the Washington bureau of The Boston Herald for ten years. Later he was Washington correspondent for The Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

In recent years Mr. Walker had been in the real estate business and had been an administrative assistant with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation until he retired.

Mr. Walker was president of the Gridiron Club in 1914 and its historian for many years. He was author of "Forty-eight Gridiron Years," as well as several books on Maine history.

He leaves a widow and a son, Mannix Walker of Washington

Harvard College Class of 1892 secretary's report, Issue 4, Harvard College (1780-). Class of 1892 for the 15th Anniversary. The University Press, Cambridge, MA, 1907, p. 151

ERNEST GEORGE WALKER

Son of Stillman Atwood Walker and Martha R. (Wentworth) Walker. Born at Embden, Maine, September 1, 1869. Prepared for college at Anson Academy. After graduation was employed by Carter, Dinsmore & Company, from September to December 31, 1892; then went to Washington, District of Columbia, where he was with the Smithsonian Institution from January to September, 1893. After the latter date was with the Washington Post for twelve years, much of the time as its political editor and correspondent. Has been Washington Correspondent of the Boston Herald since November, 1906. Was married at Washington, October 26, 1898, to Romaine Mannix, daughter of Mrs. Ella S. and the late Captain D. Pratt Mannix, of the United States Marine Corps. Has one son, Mannix, born in Washington, August 31, 1904. Has travelled extensively on newspaper work. Belongs to Gridiron Club of Washington. Home address: 2509 Cliffbonine Place, Washington, District of Columbia. Business address: Care of Boston Herald Bureau, 1406 G Street, N. W., District of Columbia.