BIOGRAPHY:

Matthew R. Walker was born near Sandusky, Ohio, on June 17, 1810, the son of William S. and Catherine (Rankin) Walker. William S. had been kidnapped as a child by the Delaware Indians and through a trade of prisoners, came to the Wyandotte tribe with whom he remained the rest of his life. His wife, Catherine Rankin, was also a member of the tribe.

Matthew Walker married Lydia Brown Ladd in Franklin County, Ohio, and by her became the father of seven children: Adaline, Sarah Louisa, Thomas G., Malcolm, Percy L, Clarence F. and Lillian. In 1843, Walker, along with his brothers William and Joel, came with their families to Kansas with the removal of the Wyandotte Indians from Ohio. They settled in what would later become Wyandotte County and contributed significantly to the development of that community and state. A farmer by occupation, Walker also served as a judge for Leavenworth County (which at that time included Wyandotte County) and was a member of the first Territorial Legislature and the Lecompton Convention. He was also a member of the Masonic order. William Walker became the first territorial governor of Kansas and of Nebraska. He died in 1875 and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Joel Walker was a successful businessman. Matthew Rankin Walker died at his home on October 14, 1860.
PROVENANCE:

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:

This collection consists of letters received by Matthew Walker from several people, including his brother, William. There is also a letter to Lydia Walker from her sister, Elizabeth.

INVENTORY:

Folder 1. Correspondence, 1830-1860.