

Carrie Walker

(Carrie Dey Elte Walker Liddle Norvall)

Carrie Dey Elte Walker was born 8 October 1859¹ in Neshonoc, La Crosse, Wisconsin. She was the seventh of nine children of Edward E Walker and Mary Elizabeth Bush. The schoolhouse in Salem, La Crosse, Wisconsin, only five years old, burned in 1875 and a new school was constructed of brick. It had four main rooms, one of which housed the first high school. Carrie graduated in 1879, one of only two graduates for the first graduating class.²

On the 1880 census, Carries was attending school and living with her family in Hamilton, La Crosse, Wisconsin.³ That October, Carrie accompanied her Uncle Squire Bush from Salem to Salt Lake City in Utah Territory. Squire was a never-do-well but charming man, planning on hooking up with some wealthy relatives. They were welcomed by her cousin Nicholas Harmon Groesbeck, the wealthiest man in Salt Lake City.⁴

In January 1881, Carrie was staying at the Valley House Hotel in Salt Lake City.⁵ The new Silver Reef School Board trustees hired her to be the first school teacher at the new public school.⁶ School began 10 January 1881 and Carrie was paid \$75 per month.⁷ This was an excellent wage, as most teachers in Wisconsin in 1880 made \$29 for female teachers to \$39 for male teachers per month.⁸ Locally, teacher Melvin Harmon of St George received \$40 per month in 1890; female teacher Vinnie Angell of Leeds received \$10 per month in 1890.⁹

By February 1881, the school was well established and sustained by private subscription, with about 70 pupils. The school was housed in the community hall and was owned by a company of generous citizens. The building was “very creditable, commodious and comfortable house“ with a “good roomy stage, and a scenic artist is busy in getting up curtains and scenery, in view of theatrical amusements [sic] in the near future”¹⁰ The lease for the school building was \$1.00 per year.¹¹

The school board reported in June 1881, that “Miss Walker has taught the school to the satisfaction of both parents and pupils.” There were 91 students enrolled at the end of the school year, with an average attendance of 75. Carrie was rehired for the next school session and arrived by private conveyance from the north.¹² Mrs S. A. Hall was hired as an assistant teacher at \$25 per month.¹³ School opened October 1881 but Carrie became severely ill with “flammatory crysipelas” (an acute skin infection now known as *erysipelas* -- high fever, shaking, chills, fatigue, headaches, vomiting)

¹ California Death Index, 1940-1997.

² Leonard’s Dream: A History of West Salem, by Errol Kindschy, 1981, p. 39-40; History of La Crosse Wisconsin, 1881, pp. 696-7

³ United States Census, 1880.

⁴ Communication from Martha Kloss, first cousin twice removed to Carrie.

⁵ *Salt Lake Herald*, 20 October 1880, p. 3.

⁶ Silver Reef School Board Minutes; Memories of Silver Reef, by Mark A. Pendleton, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 1930, p. 101.

⁷ Silver Reef School Board Minutes.

⁸ *Calling this Place Home: Women on the Wisconsin Frontier, 1850-1925*, by Joan M. Jensen, p. 298.

⁹ *Saga of Three Towns*, by Marietta M. Mariger, 1951, p. 38.

¹⁰ *Salt Lake Herald*, 4 February 1881, p. 3.

¹¹ Silver Reef School Board Minutes.

¹² *Silver, Saints and Sinners*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 110.

¹³ Minutes of the Silver Reef School Board.

and was confined to her bed for four weeks.¹⁴ She recovered in November and reopened the school.¹⁵

Carrie had a pet canary which died on colic and was buried with great ceremony on Christmas Eve of 1881.¹⁶ Miss Minnie Corbis was hired as an assistant teacher at \$20 a month. Mrs. Hall also taught but was obliged to resign due to ill health and Miss Bernetta Alphin was selected to fill her place as assistant teacher for the unexpired part of the term.¹⁷

In May 1882, Carrie “called her school children together and marched off to the green wood, where they have been picknicking [sic] and having a good time, although the clouds and wind were not most enjoyable...” A public-school exhibition performance was very successful, the house full of attentive listeners, and the financial results satisfactory.¹⁸ Carrie was described as “a most beloved teacher”¹⁹ and the editors of the newspaper reported: “Public school under the able management of Miss Walker is in flourishing condition.”²⁰

On the Fourth of July in 1882, a procession of school children, headed by the Silver Reef brass band, march and counter marched. Carrie resigned from teaching and her position as school principal.²¹ She married James C Liddle about 1884 (James was 48; Carrie was 25). James had been a strong advocate for public schooling²² in Silver Reef and had recently sold his grocery store business to Woolley, Lund and Judd in 1881.²³ It may be that James was ordered to leave town, as a resolution was passed by the miner’s union that no members should trade with him, and he understood that it would be safer elsewhere.²⁴

By 1886, James and Carrie were living in Fillmore, Millard, Utah Territory. James incorporated the Liddle Agricultural & Cattle Company with his brother Donald, both company directors.²⁵ In 1889, they were living in Mt Pleasant, Sanpete, Utah Territory, where Carrie served as a “missionary teacher to the Mormons”²⁶ at a Presbyterian school. By 1895, they had moved to Salina, Sevier, Utah Territory, where James was the proprietor of the Jim Liddle Hotel.²⁷

¹⁴ *Silver, Saints and Sinners*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 110.

¹⁵ *Salt Lake Herald*, 15 November 1881, p. 8.

¹⁶ *Silver Reef Miner*, 24 December 1881, p. 3.

¹⁷ Minutes of the Silver Reef School Board.

¹⁸ *Saga of Three Towns*, by Marietta M. Mariger; *Salt Lake Herald*, 6 May 1882, p. 8.

¹⁹ *Saga of Three Towns*, by Marietta M. Mariger, p. 104.

²⁰ *Silver, Saints and Sinners*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 109.

²¹ *A Historical Study of Silver Reef: Southern Utah Mining Town*, by Alfred Bleak Stucki, 1966, p. 55.

²² *Memories of Silver Reef*, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 1930, p. 113.

²³ *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 28 August 1881, p. 2; 30 August 1881, p. 7 and 4 September 1881, p. 2; *Silver Reef Miner*, 3 September 1881, p. 2.

²⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 10 March 1881, p. 3.

²⁵ *Salt Lake Herald*, 21 February 1886, p. 1.

²⁶ *Presbyterian Church in the US*, 1890, p. 48; *Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church*, 1889, p. 153; *Reports of the Missionary and Benevolent Boards and Committees to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the US*, 1891, p. 146; *Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. General Assembly*, 1890, Issue 20, p. 140.

²⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 2 January 1896, p. 6.

In 1889 Carrie served as a “missionary teacher to the Mormons” in Mt Pleasant²⁸, Utah, and was a teacher²⁹ and the principal³⁰ at the Wasatch Academy there (opened in 1875 by Duncan J McMillan, a Presbyterian minister, to serve thirty apostate Mormon families—in 1912 the public school system started in Utah and the academy became and still is a college preparatory school).³¹ James died 8 January 1896 in Salt Lake City, at age 60.³² They were living in Salina at the time, and Carrie applied to teach school there after his death.³³

Carrie’s widowed sister, Ell Dora Ash, died in 1898 in San Luis Obispo, California³⁴, leaving four small children from two to twelve years old.³⁵ On the 1900 census, Carrie was raising these children in San Jose, California³⁶, while attending San Jose State Normal School. She graduated with the first class.³⁷ Carrie then attended Stanford University, graduating in 1903 (the largest class in the history of the university³⁸) with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.³⁹ She continued her education, earning a master of letters degree at University of California Berkeley in 1904. Her thesis was entitled “Experiments on the Transfer of Mental Facility”.⁴⁰

In 1905 she returned to Salina, Utah, to complete the probate⁴¹ of her husband’s estate (he died intestate). She taught at Salina High School.⁴² She then moved to Oregon where she served as the head of the English department at Weston Normal School.⁴³ The school closed in 1909 and she moved to East Cheney, Spokane, Washington. In 1910 she was living there with her three nephews.⁴⁴

In 1915 Carrie married Karl E Norvall⁴⁵, a chiropractor known as the “drugless physician”.⁴⁶ Karl was age 51, born in Sweden. They lived in Red Bluff, California, but moved to Oregon in 1916, where Carrie trained as a chiropractic at Palmer and Pacific College. They moved to Idaho in 1917, where they were advertised as Norvall & Norvall⁴⁷ in the business directory.

²⁸ Presbyterian Church in the US, 1890, p. 48; Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, 1889, p. 153; Reports of the Missionary and Benevolent Boards and Committees to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the US, 1891, p. 146; Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. General Assembly, 1890, Issue 20, p. 140.

²⁹ *The Church Review*, Vol 41 Issue 1, 1895, p. 61.

³⁰ [Minutes of the Synod of Utah, 1883-1899](#), p. 9.

³¹ [Utah History Encyclopedia](#).

³² Utah, Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949; Utah, Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; obituary.

³³ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 23 April 1897, p. 7.

³⁴ California Death Index, 1940-1997.

³⁵ [Familysearch.org](#)

³⁶ United States Census, 1900.

³⁷ *San Francisco Chronicle*, 2 February 1901, p. 4.

³⁸ *San Francisco Chronicle*, 26 May 1903, p. 3.

³⁹ *The Daily Palo Alto*, Vol 22, Issue 92, 25 May 1903.

⁴⁰ Register of University of California Berkeley, 1905, pp. 412, 459.

⁴¹ [Probate file for James C Liddle](#).

⁴² *Deseret News*, 11 December 1906, p. 3.

⁴³ *Oregon Teachers' Monthly*, Vol. 13, 1908, p. 82.

⁴⁴ United States Census, 1910.

⁴⁵ Stanford University Alumni Directory and Ten-Year Book III, 1891-1920, p. 328.

⁴⁶ *The Steelhead*, June 1919, Vol 10, No 5.

⁴⁷ *The Evening Herald*, 27 June 1928, p. 7.

In 1920 Carrie toured in Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, and Ottawa, meeting with chiropractic schools.⁴⁸ Karl was living in Oregon at the time, but Carrie was living alone in Davenport, Scott, Iowa. However, after an extended visit to family in Oregon, Carrie decided to relocate there.⁴⁹

In 1921, Carrie moved back to Red Bluff, Tehama, California, where she was convicted of violating the Medical Practice Act by practicing as a chiropractor without a California license. The jury recommended leniency and suggested she be admitted to probation. She was charged a fine of \$300 or serve 150 days in jail. She refused to pay the fine and led a procession of chiropractics to the jail where she was refused admission as a prisoner. She stated she was in accordance with the Northern California Chiropractors Association as a regularly licensed practitioner in the state of Oregon, where she had practiced for many years. It was appealed to a higher court, where the sentence was upheld.⁵⁰ A relative has a picture of an older Carrie, with this inscription written on the back: "Carrie was feared by one and all."⁵¹

Carrie and Karl must have divorced, because he remarried in 1924⁵² and died 1856 in Nampa, Canyon, Idaho.⁵³ In 1927, Carrie was living in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where she was known as the lady chiropractor.⁵⁴ She also regularly advertised the sale of her pedigree Persian kittens.⁵⁵ In 1928 she turned her office over to Dr. Paul Long and moved to Angels Camp, California.⁵⁶ In 1930 she was living with her brother and sister in Angels Camp.⁵⁷ Her love of animals must have continued, as she was listed as proprietor of the Angels Camp city kennel in the 1940 census.

Carrie died of chronic myocarditis on 16 June 1946 at home in Calaveras, California, at age 87.⁵⁸ She was cremated, and her ashes probably scattered in her garden. Her home went to her niece Hattie Conley who lived there with her husband until their deaths.⁵⁹

⁴⁸ *Fountain Head News*, 27 November 1920, 1911, pp. 1-2. Also in Chronology of William Charles Schulze, and the National College of Chiropractic.

⁴⁹ *Ashland Weekly Tidings*, 29 December 1920, p. 4.

⁵⁰ *The Pacific Reporter*, Vol 206, p. 1116; *Oakland Tribune*, 30 September 1921, p. 36; also *People v. Norvall*.

⁵¹ Communication from Martha Kloss, first cousin twice removed to Carrie.

⁵² Oregon, Marriage Indexes, 1906-1924.

⁵³ Idaho, Death Index, 1890-1964.

⁵⁴ *The Klamath News*, 5 October 1927, p. 3.

⁵⁵ *The Klamath News*, (various editions) June 1927; *The Evening Herald*, 5 August 1927, p. 7.

⁵⁶ *The Evening Herald*, 18 December 1928, p. 30.

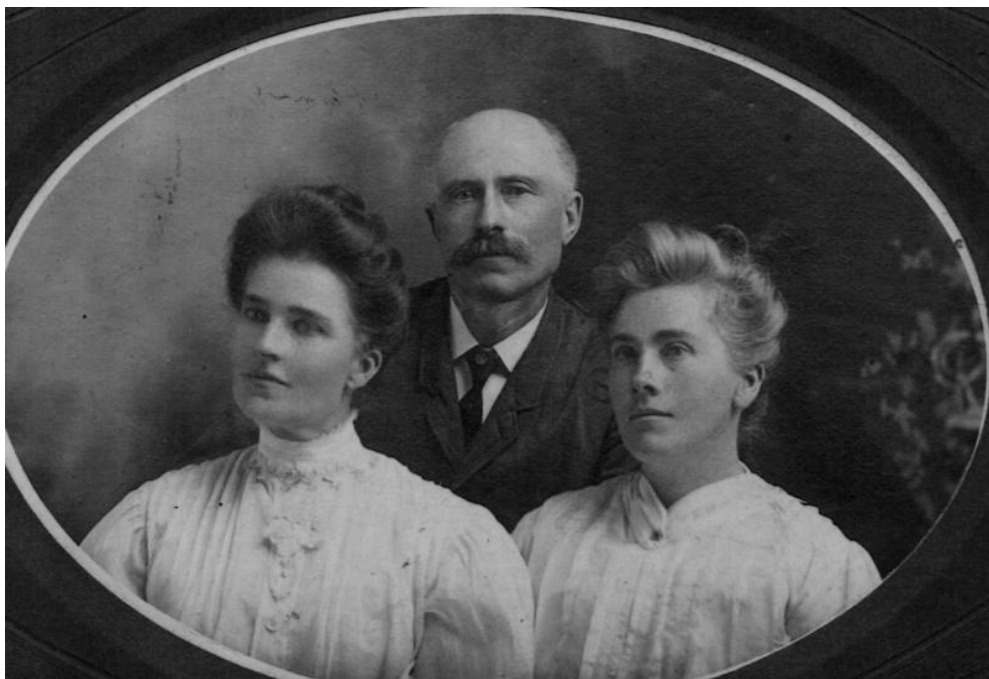
⁵⁷ United States Census, 1930.

⁵⁸ California Death Index, 1940-1997.

⁵⁹ Communication from Martha Kloss, first cousin twice removed to Carrie.



Carrie Liddle (top) and three other teachers (left is probably her niece Belle Walker) by a school building in Salina, Utah Photographer George Edward Anderson, original date about 1880-1920. (Image from <http://cdm15999.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/GEA/id/4669/rec/6>).



Carrie (left) with her brother Frank and sister "Pinky" (image from cousin Martha Kloss)



Carrie with her niece Carrie Frank (image from cousin Martha Kloss)



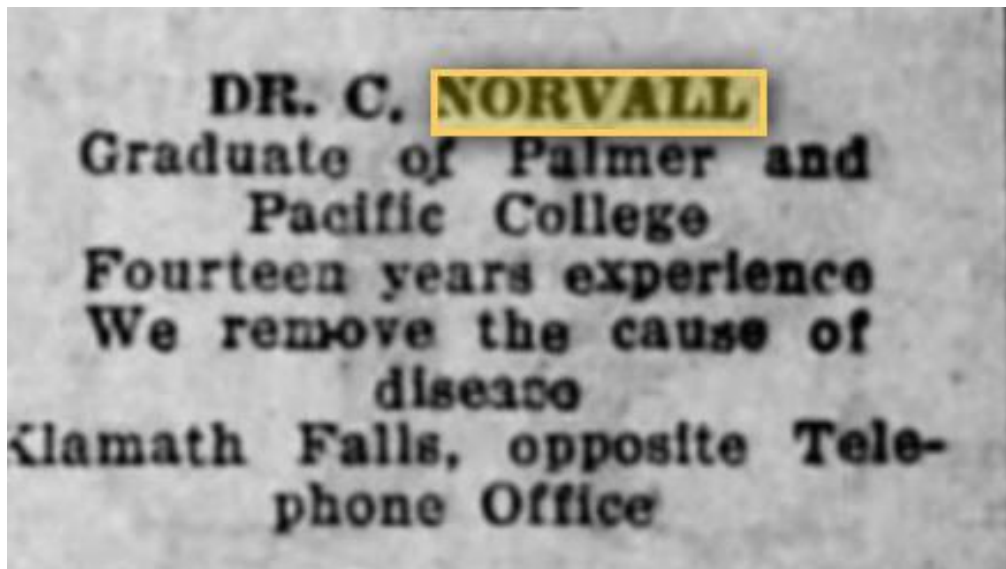
Carrie in graduation from Berkeley, 1906
(image from cousin Martha Kloss)



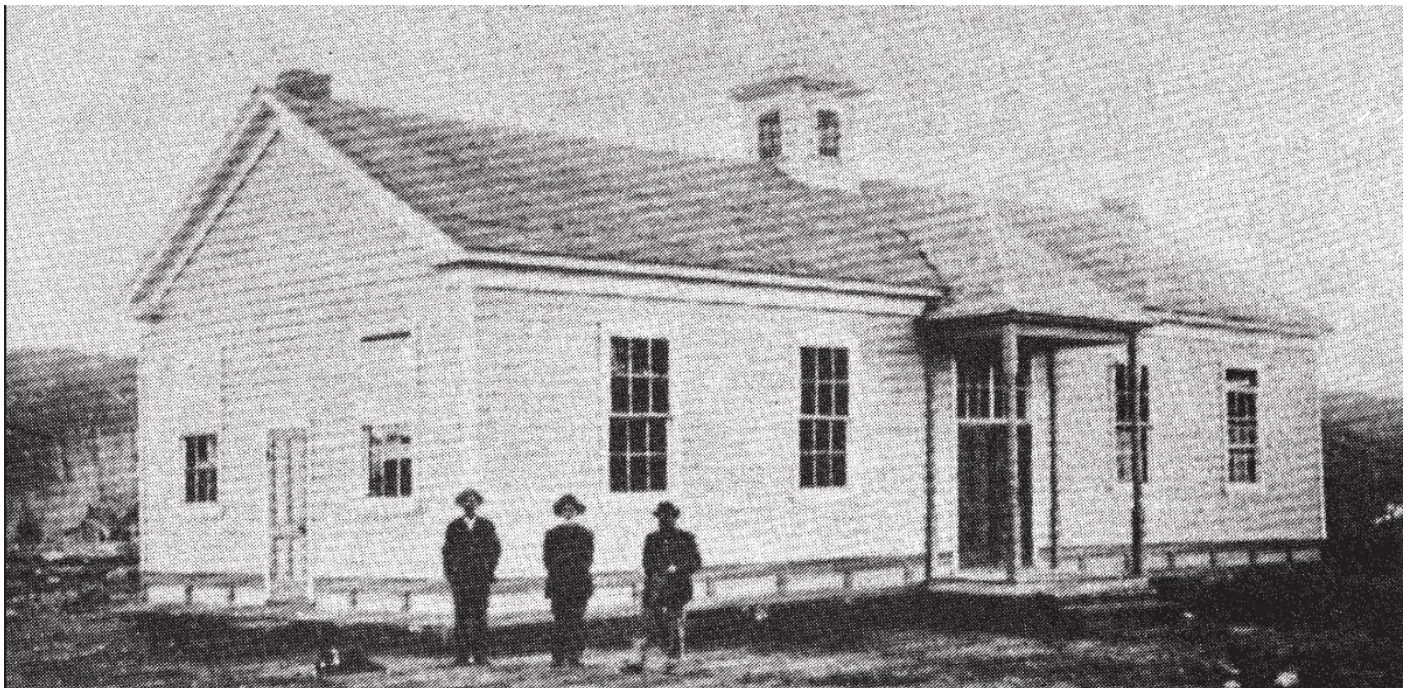
Letterhead from the hotel Jim and Carrie ran (image from Martha Teacher)

Carrie's signature on her husband's probate papers (Image from *Ancestry.com*)

Advertisement selling pedigreed Persian kittens and breeding mothers (*The Evening Herald*, 6 August 1927, p. 7).



Sample advertisement for Carrie as a chiropractic in Oregon
(*The Evening Herald*, 12 October 1927, p. 7).



*Remodeled schoolhouse as it appeared in the early 1900s, after being moved from Silver Reef.
(Left to right: Unknown individual, William Stirling Sr., George Angell)*

Leeds schoolhouse, moved from Silver Reef, Utah, November 1909.



(Rock wall around the school playground in Silver Reef (image from [raptorguy14.deviantart.com](https://www.deviantart.com/raptorguy14))

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