

the summer may be seen fields of waving corn, and the pastures dotted with shady trees, about which cattle graze. About three hundred yards in the rear of the house, and shaded by a thick growth of trees, are a number of little hills, which are supposed to have been corn hills, where the Indians planted corn before the advent of the white man. These little mounds of earth have been there ever since Philip Walker, the founder of the old homestead, first received the grant of the land, in 1655. On the farm have been found, at various times, a number of Indian arrowheads, and a fine specimen of an Indian battle axe. These are now in the possession of Mr. Christopher Dexter, one of the present owners of the farm.

About the birthplace of Philip Walker, the original owner of the Walker homestead, nothing is known. His mother, known as Widow Walker, was one of the colony from Weymouth and Hingham, Mass., that formed the first general settlement in the town of East Providence, then a part of Rehoboth, in the spring of 1644. This colony of settlers was composed of fifty-eight men and their families. The first purchase of land, for the settlement of the town, was made in 1641, but it was not until 1644 that the first general settlement was made, although one John Hazell resided at Seekonk in 1642. From the quit claim deed of King Philip, in 1668, it appears that the first purchase of land included the original town of Rehoboth, and was made of Oramequin, more commonly known among the English as Massasoit, by John Brown, and Edward Winslow, of Plymouth. The first meeting of the original planters was held on April 9, 1645, and on the same day lots were drawn for the "Great Plain," beginning on the west side of the river. Widow Walker was among those who drew lots on that day.

June 22, 1658, the name of Philip Walker appears as one of the drawers in the first division of Rehoboth, when lots were drawn for the meadow on the north side of the town, and again on May 26, 1668, in the division of lands. Philip Walker was a weaver by occupation. He was very industrious, and accumulated a property, which was considered very large in those days. In the allotment, in 1671, his estate was estimated to be worth £387, which amount was exceeded by only two in the town, the whole number at that time being seventy-eight. In 1678 he was exceeded by only one, in the valuation of eighty-three estates. He held several positions of honor.

At a town meeting held March 17, 1655, he was chosen a grand juror. He was propounded for freedom June 8, 1655, and took the