

The Parents of Frank Elmer Graham (1874-1928)

This paper is dedicated to the birth date and parents of Frank Graham. He was also known as Elmer, and in 1902 he married Katarina Elizabeth Hall. ¹ Frank was reported as being born to David and Martha Graham, ² who is the son of James Graham and Angelina Gross. ³

We have determined Frank is not the child of David and Martha Graham, but the son of James Graham, and his 2nd wife Caroline Devor. We believe Frank was their 1st born, and the family could not care for him. David, Elmer, and our great-grandfather William, ⁴ came from the same family line. David and Frank are half brothers. ⁵

Elmer and our great-grandfather William Graham were children sent off to different other extended family member's for care. Through this process they would not have been able to maintain continuity of their family memorable history and relationships.

This is demonstrated with the lack of a consistent birth date for Frank and Clara Graham, which is not unusual, especially on the census records. The 1900 census record is a perfect example of this. This also occurred with our great-grandfather, William Graham, when his mother died, and William was given to another family to be raised.

Everything is circumstantial, but compelling.

Frank's Birth Date

We start by looking at Frank's birth date. There are inconsistencies with Frank's birth date on all public, church, and family records. Elmer's birth year ranges from 1872 to 1877.

- No known birth record
- 1880: Can't locate him
- June 11th 1900 Census: February 1876 - 24 years old
- October 16th 1902 marriage application: 1877 - 25 years old
- April 23rd 1910 Census: 1874 - 36 years old
- September 12th 1918 WWI registration: February 6th 1874 ⁶ - 44 years old
- January 22nd 1920 Census: 1874 - 46 years old – if turning 47 he would be born in 1873
- December 25th 1928 Obituary: 1873 ⁷ - 55 years old
- His Family - 1873

His birth date is most likely February 6th 1873 or February 6th 1873.

Frank's Parents

There is no question Frank is related to David Graham, but we suspect he's a brother. In a photo of David Graham's family, with Frank; Frank and David have almost identical physical features, while the other children appear completely different. ⁸

The following are specific significant timeline events.

- 1870: James and Angeline are living in the Newville post office area. They had 4 children; Sarah E. (b.1859), David (b. 1862), Agnes (b. 1864), John A. (b. 1866), and Andrew (b. May 1870).
- 1870: Caroline Devor is living with her father, Richard Dever, in the Newville post office area.
- 1872: Angeline Graham died December 29th 1872, 36 years, 6 months, and 23 days old. ⁹
- 1873: Mary Oliver-Graham died August 24th 1874, age 33 years, 6 months, and 16 days. ¹⁰
- 1873: If Frank's birth year is 1873, David Graham would have been 11 or 12 years old, and Elizabeth Farner would have been 16 or 17 years old. This is possible, and a little weird. But then why would they wait until 1882 to get married?
- 1880: June 11th 1880 David lives with his father and Martha Farner lives with the family. James and Angeline are living in the Newville post office area. They had 4 children; Sarah E. (b.1859), David (b. 1862), Agnes (b. 1864), John A. (b. 1866), and Andrew (b. May 1870), Edward (b. 1870), Clara (b. 1873).
¹¹ All these children were listed as being single, and they were all born to James's 1st wife, Angeline.
- 1880: There is only one Martha E Farner in Cumberland County, and she lives with her parents in Newton Township. James and Caroline Graham, and David live in Hopewell Township, most likely Newburg area. That's can be anywhere from 6 to 10 miles apart.
- 1880: Frank can't be found in any record. There is no Elmer, or Frank, or Franklin Graham or Farner in the entire Cumberland, Franklin, York, Adams, or Perry county areas. We believe that Frank never left the regions of Shippensburg, Newton or Hopewell Townships Cumberland County Pennsylvania.
- David Graham and Martha Farner didn't marry until 1882. The 1900 census record, David and Martha where married for 18 years (married in 1882), and Martha indicated she had 7 children and only 6 were still living.
- 1900: Frank Graham is 24 years old and a ward in the home of W. A. and Clara Stouffer, who May or may not be the daughter of James and Caroline Graham. This probably isn't a legal or formal use of the word; ward. A ward is also known as a guardian, who cares for a minor or incompetent person placed under the care or protection of a guardian or court.
- 1900: David and Martha where married for 18 years (married in 1882), and Martha indicated she had 7 children and only 6 were still living. All censuses are cited in the Bibliography.
- 1900: David and Martha had a daughter. Her name was Adeline Graham. David Graham and Elizabeth Farner were identified on her 1922 marriage application. ¹²
- 1900: Caroline indicated she had three children, and one was still living.
- In 1911 seven children were still living, and in 1916 three sons and two daughters were living. ¹³
- 1910 James Graham is living with Margaret (Maggie) Devor
- 1920 Maggie Devor is living with Clara Jane Stouffer, who is James and Angeline Graham's last daughter born before Angeline died.

There is a David T. Graham down the road on June 10th 1880, who is 18 years old (b.1862) working as a hired hand for Jacob Myres. This family lives in between Martha E. Farner and Elmer Divin. Our David Graham was recorded living with James and Caroline on June 11th 1880.

- There are no other David Graham's with the same profile living in the Cumberland County region.
- This is the same David Graham, and it would be about 10 miles between where David lives in Newburg with his parents, and in the Newville area of Newton Township where he worked as a hired hand.
- On June 9th 1880, Elmer E. Divin is 15 years old (b. 1865) living with A. F. and Maggie E. Devin (b. 1844) in Newton Township Cumberland County. The spelling of Divin is wrong, and we later learn it to be Devor.

In 1910 Maggie (Margaret Devore), age 62, single, lived with James, her cousin, in Hopewell Township Cumberland County. In 1920 Maggie Devor, age 72, single, born about 1848 in Pennsylvania is living with Clara Zora Graham-Stouffer in Hopewell Township Cumberland County. ¹⁴

Bibliography

1. 1870 James and Angelina Graham Census: Hopewell, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: M593_1332; Page: 103B; Image: 211; Family History Library Film: 552831; 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d; Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
2. 1880 James and Caroline Grimes Census: Hopewell, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1122; Family History Film: 1255122; Page: 440B; Enumeration District: 087; Image: 0683; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880; (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. 1880 Martha E. Farner Census: Newton, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1122; Family History Film: 1255122; Page: 380A; Enumeration District: 084; Image: 0565; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880; (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. 1880 Elmer Divin (Devor) Census: Newton, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1122; Family History Film: 1255122; Page: 380A; Enumeration District: 084; Image: 0564; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. David T. Graham (Hired Hand) for Jacob Myres Census: Newton, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1122; Family History Film: 1255122; Page: 381C; Enumeration District: 084; Image: 0566; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. 1900 W. A. Stoafer and Frank Graham Census: Southampton, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1401; Page: 8B; Enumeration District: 0026; FHL microfilm: 1241401 United States of America, Bureau of the Census; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.
7. 1900 David Graham Census: Hopewell, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1400; Page: 2B; Enumeration District: 0012; FHL microfilm: 1241400; United States of America, Bureau of the Census; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900; T623, 1854 rolls.
8. 1900 James and Caroline Graham Census: Hopewell, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1400; Page: 5B; Enumeration District: 0012; FHL microfilm: 1241400; United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900; T623, 1854 rolls.
9. 1918 Frank Elmer Graham WWI Draft Registration: Pennsylvania; Registration County: Cumberland; Roll: 1877942; Draft Board: 2; United States, Selective Service System. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration; M1509, 4,582 rolls.

10. 1920 Clara Zora Stouffer and Maggie Devor Census: Hopewell, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: T625_1556; Page: 5A; Enumeration District: 18; Image: 1188; Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
11. Frank Graham Family: From the Graham Family Ancestry Tree, Kevin Graham, keevin@keyzine.com

End Notes

¹ Frank Graham and Katie Hall Marriage: 1902 Marriage Records, No. 95-14 Page 95, Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphans' Court Services, 1 Courthouse Square, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013.

² Franklin Elmer Graham Birth and Parents: His parents were reported by his family to be David Theodore Graham and Martha Elizabeth Farner; David Graham (1861-1916) research paper, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs, Pennsylvania, 17372.

³ James Graham and Angelina Gross: James Graham (1835-1911) Research Paper, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs, Pennsylvania, 17372.

⁴ Frank and William are Cousins: William's father was William Graham (1833-1908), who is the older brother of James Graham (1835-1911); Research Papers, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs, Pennsylvania, 17372.

⁵ A half-brother or half sister is when you share a biological connection with a sibling through one common parent. A step-brother or step sister is when you don't share one parent biologically; by virtue of one parent each entering a marriage, with no blood relation.

⁶ Frank Elmer Graham WW I Draft Registration: The date September 12th is readable but the last digit of the year, it looks like 1911. However it cannot be 1911. We chose 1918 as the year, based on the history for WW-I Draft Registration. See Bibliography

- The first, on June 5, 1917, was for all men between the ages of 21 and 31.
- The second, on June 5, 1918, registered those who attained age 21 after June 5, 1917. (A supplemental registration was held on August 24, 1918, for those becoming 21 years old after June 5, 1918. This was included in the second registration.)
- The third registration was held on September 12, 1918, for men age 18 through 45.

⁷ Frank Graham Obituary: Shippensburg Historical Society Obituary Collection, The News Chronicle, Tuesday, December 25th 1928, Shippensburg Historical Society, 52 W King Street Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, 17257.

⁸ Family Member Resemblances: This can help support our explanation on physical features and sibling resemblances in the David Graham family photo. In 2013, a body of research, building over the years in the journal Evolution & Human Behavior, has delivered results in conflict with the 1995 paper, indicating that young children resemble both parents equally. Some studies have even found that newborns tend to resemble their mothers more than their fathers.

⁹ Angeline Gross-Graham Death: Her death date and age, 36 years, 6 months, and 23 days old, came from her headstone inscription at the cemetery where the Newburg Church of God was once standing in Newburg, Hopewell Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania.

¹⁰ Mary Oliver-Graham: Mary is the wife of William Graham (1833-1908), who is the older brother of James Graham (1835-1911); Research Papers, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs, Pennsylvania, 17372. Mary Oliver Graham Obituary: Shippensburg Historical Society Microfilm Newspaper Collection, The Shippensburg News, Saturday August 29th 1874; Shippensburg Historical Society, 52 West King Street Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, 17257. DEATH-GRAHAM In Shippensburg Township, August 24th 1874, Mrs. Mary, wife of Wm. Graham aged 36 years, 6 months, 16 days.

¹¹ Clara Graham: In her marriage application with Joseph Mowery, Clara identified James and Angelina as her parents. Clara Graham and Joseph Harvey Mowery Marriage: 1893 Marriage Record, Page 516, Cumberland County Orphans' Court, Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphans' Court, 1 Courthouse Square, Room 102, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013.

¹² Adeline L. Graham Marriage: 1922 Marriage Records, Volume 460 Page 27, Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court Services, 1 Courthouse Square, Carlisle, PA 17013.

¹³ James Graham Children: James's 1911 will stated that he had seven children. David Graham's 1916 obituary mentioned he was survived by three surviving brothers, but didn't list their names, and two sisters: Mrs. Carbaugh of Shippensburg and Mrs. Smith of Newburg. The sisters are Agnes Carbaugh and Sarah Smith. There is no mention of half brothers or sisters. James Graham's 1911 Will: Cumberland County Orphans' Court, Wills, Court House Sq Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 17013; David T. Graham 1916 Obituary, Shippensburg Historical Society Obituary Collection, The Shippensburg News, Thursday, December 1916, Shippensburg Historical Society, 52 West King Street Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, 17257.

¹⁴ Maggie Devore and Clara Stouffer: May 4th to 6th 1900 Federal Census for Hopewell Township, Cumberland County, Enumeration District 18, page 11B.