

## Norman Wesley Graham (1896-1948)

Norman Wesley Graham was born <sup>i</sup> July 4<sup>th</sup> 1896 <sup>1</sup> to Dellia Catherine Killinger <sup>2</sup> on the Killinger family farm in Upper Strasburg Franklin County Pennsylvania. Norman's middle name comes from his maternal grandfather, John Wesley Killinger.

- It was thought that to William Graham (1873-1948) <sup>3</sup> was the father of Norman, however, through a Legacy Tree DNA analysis, and Ancestry DNA, the decedents of Norman Graham are not DNA related to any Graham line, particularly William Graham. <sup>4</sup>

One month before Norman was born, William Graham left the Killinger farm. In March 1898 John Killinger sold his farm,<sup>5</sup> and with his family, Dellia, and her three-year-old son Norman, went to the city of Baltimore, Maryland. They lived at 136 David Avenue, Third Precinct-Sixteenth Ward Baltimore Maryland.

In the fall of 1900 Dellia, Norman, and her Killinger family returned to Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Shortly afterwards Dellia filed for divorce from William Graham. By April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1910 Dellia, and Norman, lived with Dellia's parents in Letterkenny Township, Franklin County on Roxbury Road. Della and Norman are listed with their last name as Killinger, using the family name, and not Graham.

On March 28<sup>th</sup> 1913, 18-year-old Norman went duck hunting with his grandfather, John Killinger, at the Hosfield dam near Roxbury. While walking along the dam with his gun cocked, Norman stooped to pick up a stone to cast in the dam's water when the gun he was carrying accidentally discharged. The shot struck Norman's toes on his left foot, badly shattering several of them. Norman and his grandfather managed to reach Dr. Shuman for help. <sup>6</sup>

Sometime before 1916, Norman left Letterkenny Township Franklin County for Kansas. According to his children, he went to Kansas because of the excitement of the times. While living in Ramona, Hope Township, Dickenson County, Kansas, Norman signed up for the World War I draft. <sup>7</sup> He enlisted as a private in the Kansas 10<sup>th</sup> Division, 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry.

It was in Kansas Norman would meet, and marry, Hilda Wilhelmina Pigorsch on January 10<sup>th</sup> 1920 in Abilene, Kansas. <sup>8</sup> Their marriage was announced in the local newspaper. <sup>9</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Norman's World War I Draft Registration listed his date of birth as July 4<sup>th</sup> 1896, his 1948 obituary identified his birth date as July 4<sup>th</sup> 1895, and his headstone indicates December 5<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Hilda was born September 14<sup>th</sup> 1901 in Hope Township Dickenson County Kansas to Augustus Wilhelm (William) and Katherine Anna Pigorsch <sup>10</sup>who were both born in Germany.

After they married Norman and Hilda lived with Hilda's brother Otto Pigorsch, and his wife Lizzie, in Dickenson County Kansas. <sup>11</sup> While in Kansas their first son, Eugene, would be born in 1920. Norman worked as a general farm labor for Thomas McRae in Hope City, Hope Township, Dickinson County, Kansas.

They would later move back to Newburg, Hopewell Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. They lived next door to Norman's mother Della (Killinger) Hockenberry and her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband Grover Hockenberry.

In 1930 Norman and Hilda lived at 333 State Road Hopewell Township Cumberland County when they had their next six children. They lived next door to Norman's mother Della Hockenberry, and her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband Grover.

Soon after 1930, the family moved back to Elmo, Jefferson Township, Dickinson County Kansas, where Norman went to work for the railroad. Hilda was a member of the St. John's Lutheran Church.

Norman was 44 years old when he registered for the WW II draft of February 16<sup>th</sup> 1942, he indicated he lived in the rural route #1 area of Elmo, Dickinson County, Kansas. Norman was 5' 7", with light brown skin, grey eyes, brown hair, and weighing 150 pounds. Norman was employed in the Government Project, W.P.A. in Topeka, Kansas. Identified as someone who would always know Norman's address was, Henry C. Riffel of Romona, Marion County, Kansas. <sup>12</sup>

On February 26<sup>th</sup> 1948 Norman took his own life at his home in Elmo, Kansas.

Norman's Obituary: <sup>13</sup>

- Mrs. Ray Goodhart of South Prince Street, Shippensburg received a telegram on the death of her cousin, Norman Graham. Mrs. Goodhart reported the death to The News-Chronicle, Shippensburg. The telegram reported Norman died last Thursday morning, February 26<sup>th</sup> 1948, <sup>14</sup> of a self-inflicted bullet wound. The son of Mrs. Della Hockenberry of 111 South Prince street was born near Upper Strasburg on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1895.

- In addition to his mother, he is survived by his widow, Mrs. Hilda Graham of Elmo Kansas, Albert, Charles, Isabelle, Viola, Velva, Jane, Zelda, and Gale, all of Elmo Kansas, and Floyd, who is stationed in Germany, and a number of relatives residing in the valley. Mr. Graham moved to Kansas from this area 14 years ago.

Norman's funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in Hope, Kansas. Norman was laid to rest in the Hope Community Cemetery. FAG#:38537321 <sup>ii</sup>

On December 7<sup>th</sup> 1948, Hilda applied for Norman's headstone from the US Army Quartermaster General's office. Norman's date of birth was identified as July 4<sup>th</sup> 1896, which was signed by his wife, Hilda. <sup>15</sup>

Hilda was 74 years old when she died Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 1976 at the Municipal Hospital, Herington. <sup>16</sup>

Hilda's Obituary: <sup>17</sup>

- Three sons preceded Hilda in death. Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Zelda Hatfield, Abilene, Mrs. Isabella Bezdek, Marion, and Mrs. Viola Stevens and Mrs. Velva Brunner, both of Belton Missouri; four sons, Gale Graham, Americus, Floyd Graham, Elizabethtown Kentucky, William Graham, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Albert Graham, Bedford, Virginia; a brother, William Pigsorch, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; a sister, Mrs. Clemence Wamgreen.

Funeral services were held Friday at 2 p.m. at the Carlson Funeral Home in Hope, with the Reverend Dan Wiens officiating. Hilda was laid to rest next to her husband in the Ebenezer Baptist Cemetery in Dickinson County Kansas. FAG#:38537225 <sup>iii</sup>

Together, Norman and Hilda had eleven children.

- i. Eugene Graham was born July 10<sup>th</sup> 1920 in Ramona Kansas. He died at an early age.
- ii. Orville Earnest Graham (1922-)
- iii. Floyd Cleveland Graham (1923-1973)

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<sup>ii</sup> Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

<sup>iii</sup> Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

- iv. William Franklin Graham (1925-)
- v. Charles P. Graham (1927-).
- vi. Isabella C. Graham (1928-) She married Mr. Bezdek.
- vii. Albert F. Graham (1929-2009) He married Peggy.
- viii. Viola Mae Graham (1931-) married Dean G. Stevens.
- ix. Velva Jane Graham (1933-2008) She married Edward Brunner.
- x. Zelda Ora Graham (1939-). She 1<sup>st</sup> married William Henry Martin in 1954, 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage was to John Hatfield, and 3<sup>rd</sup> to Richard Fryhover.
- xi. Gale Lee Graham (1941-) He married Sandy.

#### Orville Earnest Graham (1922-)

Orville Earnest Graham was born August 6<sup>th</sup> 1922 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Chambersburg Franklin County Pennsylvania.

#### Floyd Cleveland Graham (1923-1973)

Floyd Cleveland Graham was born August 20<sup>th</sup> 1923 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Chambersburg Franklin County Pennsylvania. He died November 1973. <sup>18</sup>

#### William Franklin Graham (1925-)

William Franklin Graham was born April 19<sup>th</sup> 1925 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Fredericksburg, Crawford County Pennsylvania.

#### Charles P. Graham (1927-)

Charles P. Graham was born February 25<sup>th</sup> 1927 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Shippensburg, Cumberland County Pennsylvania.

### Isabella C. Graham (1928-)

Isabella C. Graham was born June 8<sup>th</sup> 1928 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Shippensburg, Cumberland County Pennsylvania. She married Mr. Bezdek.

### Albert F. Graham (1929-2009)

Albert F. Graham was born August 25<sup>th</sup> 1929 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Shippensburg, Cumberland County Pennsylvania. He died November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 at 80 years old in Salina, Salina County Kansas. <sup>19</sup> He was laid to rest at the Kanopolis Cemetery in Ellsworth County Kansas.

Albert married Peggy and together they had:

- i. Sharon Graham married Dryer, and in 2009 they lived in Salina
- ii. Teresa Graham married Dillon, , and in 2009 they lived in Colorado
- iii. Iris Graham married Small, , and in 2009 they lived in Wilson Kansas
- iv. Ernest Graham lives in Hutchinson Kansas

### Viola Mae Graham (1931-)

Viola Mae Graham was born May 19<sup>th</sup> 1931 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Elmo, Hope Township, Dickenson County Kansas. She married Dean G. Stevens in December 1948, and they lived in Belton Kansas.

Their Children:

- i. Patricia K. Stevens was born November 5<sup>th</sup> 1949 Patricia K. Kirk, Scottsdale Arizona contacted me 11/19/2009, [pkkirk55@hotmail.net](mailto:pkkirk55@hotmail.net) Home: 480-941-3828 Cell: c480-467-8139
- ii. Richard Allen Stevens was born March 25<sup>th</sup> 1958; and died January 11<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Velva Jane Graham (1933-2008)

Velva Jane Graham was born February 19<sup>th</sup> 1933 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Elmo, Hope Township, Dickinson County Kansas. She died January 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Belton Missouri. She as laid to rest in Hope, Hope Township Kansas. She married Edward Brunner.

Velva was born Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 1933 in Elmo, Dickinson, Kansas. Her husband Eddie Brunner died in 2000. As of July 2008, Velva may still be living in Belton, Cass County Missouri. Her husband Eddie Brunner died in 2000. Cass County

Velva Brunner, 74 -

Velva Jane Brunner, 74, of Belton, Mo., died Jan. 10 2008 in Kansas City, Mo. Services were Jan. 14 at South Haven Baptist Church of Belton. She will be buried in Hope at a later date. She was born Feb. 19, 1933, to Norman and Hilda (Pigorish) Graham in Hope. She was married to Edward Brunner, who predeceased her in 2000. Oldest daughter: Cindy Ball, Husband is Doug, 816-524-7782, Lee Summit Missouri, 512 Northwest Carroll Drive Lees Summit Missouri 64063 – [Has Pictures](#)

She is survived by four sons, Robert Brunner of Harrisonville, Mo., and Gary, David and Daniel Brunner, all of Belton; three daughters, Cindy Ball of Lee's Summit, Mo., Lindy Brunner and Becky McCarrty, both of Belton;

Together they had 4 boys and 3 girls.

## Zelda Ora Graham (1939-)

Zelda Ora Graham was born September 17<sup>th</sup> 1939 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Elmo, Hope Township, Dickinson County Kansas. <sup>20</sup> She died May 2000, and was laid to rest in Elmo, Jefferson Township, Dickinson County Kansas, beside her parents Norman and Hilda.

Zelda was married three 3 times.

1<sup>st</sup> Marriage: William Henry Martin in 1954, who she divorced circa 1962. William was killed in a car accident on October 19. 1971. Zelda and William Martin Children: 5 daughters

2<sup>nd</sup> Marriage: John Hatfield circa 1968, who she divorced John circa 1973. John died circa 1981 or 1982. Zelda and John Hatfield Children: 1 Son

3<sup>rd</sup> Marriage: Richard Fryhover circa 1985, who died July 1999. Richard and Zelda didn't have any children.

### Gale Lee Graham (1941-)

Gale Lee Graham was born June 20<sup>th</sup> 1941 to Norman Graham and Hilda W. Pigorsch in Elmo, Hope Township in Dickinson County Kansas. He married Sandy and they live in Strong City Chase County Kansas. He married Sandy and they live in Strong City Chase County Kansas.

Gale and Sandy Graham, 2580 V Rd, Strong City, KS 66869, (620) 273-6703  
Gale L. Graham, Strong City, driving 49 mph in a 25 mph work zone, Jan. 13  
Spoke to Gale's wife, Sandy, July, 12, 2008

## Bibliography

1. 1900 John Killinger and Dellia Graham Census: Baltimore Ward 16, Baltimore City (Independent City), Maryland; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, T623, 1854 rolls, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
2. 1910 John Killinger and Dellia Killinger (Graham) Census: Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls, Record Group 29, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
3. 1918 Norman Graham WWI Draft Registration, Abilene, Dickenson County, Kansas, United States Selective Service System; World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, National Archives and Records Administration, M1509, 4,582 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
4. 1920 Norman Graham Census: Hope, Dickinson, Kansas, Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls), Record Group 29, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.  
  
1930 Norman Graham and Dellia Hockenberry Census: Hopewell, Cumberland, Pennsylvania, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.
5. 1940 Norman and Hilda Graham Census: Jefferson, Dickinson, Kansas; Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940; T627, 4,643 rolls, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.



## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> Norman Grahams Name and Date of Birth: The information came from his headstone located at the Ebenezer Baptist Cemetery, Dickinson County, Kansas 67451.

<sup>2</sup> Dellia Killinger (1873-1963) Research Paper, Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs, Pennsylvania, 17372.

<sup>3</sup> William Graham (1873-1948) Research Paper, Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs, Pennsylvania, 17372.

<sup>4</sup> DNA Match to Graham Lineage: The information came from Legacy Tree, Genealogical DNA Research, 50 West Broadway, Suite 303, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, and Ancestry DNA match between Robert Graham, the great grandson of William Graham, and William A. Graham, who is the son of William Franklin Graham, the son of Norman, and William A. Graham's daughter, Ashley Graham, Ancestry, Ancestry.com Data, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

<sup>5</sup> John Killinger Farm Sale: The information came from a news article, Valley Spirit, Wednesday Evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1898, Ancestry, Newspapers.com, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

<sup>6</sup> Norman Graham 1913 Shooting Accident: The information came from Accidently Shoot in The Foot, Page 1, Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 1913, People's Register, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Ancestry, Newspapers.com, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

<sup>7</sup> Norman Graham Residence and WWI Registration: The information came from his World War I Draft Registration, 15-2-10-B, June 5<sup>th</sup> 1918, Abilene, Dickenson County, Kansas, United States Selective Service System; World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, National Archives and Records Administration, M1509, 4,582 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

<sup>8</sup> Norman Graham Marriage: The information came from the 1920 marriages, B No.: 58162, P. J. No.: 562, Page #21-868, Central Division of Vital Statistics, Office of Vital Statistics, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 120, Topeka, Kansas 66612-2221.

<sup>9</sup> 1920 Norman Graham Marriage News Article: The information came from Page 3, Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 1920, Saturday, Abilene Weekly Chronicle and the Dickinson County News, Abilene, Kansas, Ancestry, Newspapers.com, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

<sup>10</sup> Hilda Pigorsch Name, Date of Birth, and Parents Names: The information came from Hilda Graham's Obituary, Deaths, Graham Services, Page 7, Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 1976, Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, Ancestry, Newspapers.com, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

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<sup>11</sup> April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1930 Federal Census, 333 State Road, Hopewell Township, Cumberland County PA, Enumeration District 19, Sheet 1 A and 1 B; 1930 Federal Census, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

<sup>12</sup> Norman Graham Name, Date of Birth, 1942 Residence, and Occupation: The information came from the National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; WWII Draft Registration Cards for Kansas, 10/16/1940-03/31/1947; Record Group: Records of the Selective Service System, 147; Box: 143, National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Dr, Street, Saint Louis, Missouri 63138.

<sup>13</sup> 1948 Norman Graham Cause of Death and Obituary: The information came from Bullet Wound Fatal to Former Resident, Funeral for Norman Graham Held Saturday, Page 1, Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1948, The News-Chronicle, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, Ancestry, Newspapers.com, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

<sup>14</sup> Norman Graham Death Date and Burial: The information came from his headstone, located in the Ebenezer Baptist Cemetery, Dickinson County, Kansas 67451.

<sup>15</sup> Norman Graham Name, Date of Birth, and Norman Graham Headstone Application: The information came from the Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941. Microfilm publication M1916, 134 rolls. ARC ID: 596118. Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

<sup>16</sup> Hilda Graham Death Date: The information came from her Social Security Death Index (SSDI), Social Security Administration's Death Master File Extract, Social Security Administration, Office of Public Inquiries at 1100 West High Rise, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore Maryland 21235.

<sup>17</sup> Hilda Graham's Obituary: The information came from Hilda Graham's Obituary, Deaths, Graham Services, Page 7, Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 1976, Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, Ancestry, Newspapers.com, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

<sup>18</sup> Floyd Cleveland Graham Birth: Number: The information came from his Social Security Death Index (SSDI), Social Security Administration's Death Master File Extract, Social Security Administration, Office of Public Inquiries at 1100 West High Rise, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore Maryland 21235.

<sup>19</sup> Albert F. Graham Death Information: The information came from his obituary, Salina Journal, 333 S. 4th St., Salina, KS 67401, November 24, 2009, Ancestry, Newspapers.com, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

<sup>20</sup> Zelva Ora Graham Name, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, and Parents Names: The information came from her Birth Certificate#: 21-10832, Central Division of Vital Statistics, Office of Vital Statistics, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 120, Topeka, Kansas 66612-2221.