

The following is part of an oral history and mementos from the Calvin and Ruth Graham family.

Calvin Stoej Graham (1805-1983)

Calvin Stoej Graham was born November 19th 1905 to William Graham and Sarah Greenawalt in the farming community of Mongul in Lurgan Township Franklin County Pennsylvania. Calvin's middle name, Stoej, came from Oliver P. Stoej who was the local practicing doctor in Lurgan during the time Calvin was born. Dr. Stoej most likely delivered Calvin into the world. ¹

Calvin attended the local Mongul School, completing the 8th grade level of education. At 19 years old he hopped a train his Uncle Thomas Greenawalt was conductor on, and made his way to Harrisburg Pennsylvania. He worked as a mechanic and service manager in the local garages and car dealers in the area. ²

When Calvin was 21 years old, he married 19 year old Ruth Etta Barr on Jun 29th 1927 in Harrisburg Pennsylvania. Ruth was born May 5th 1908 to Harvey Joseph Barr and Sarah Henrietta Ellis in Harrisburg, Dauphin County Pennsylvania.

Ruth attended the newly formed Central Pennsylvania Business College on Market Square Harrisburg Pennsylvania. She would eventually graduate from the school in May 1927, before she married Calvin. ³

- An interesting side story. Ruth's great granddaughter, April Brent, attended Central Penn and graduated in 1991. During April's graduation ceremony held at the Capitol Forum in Harrisburg, Ruth was recognized as a former student of the Central Penn.

After Calvin and Ruth married, they lived at 203 Brisban Street in Paxtang Borough Harrisburg Dauphin County Pennsylvania. They eventually would purchase a home on Paxtang Street, only to lose the home during the great economic depression in the 1930s.

In 1933 the family moved to Franklinton York County Pennsylvania, where their five children would live and attend school.

- i. Robert Harvey Graham was born October 4th 1928 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County Pennsylvania. He married Dorothy Irene Klinger on November 5th 1948.
- ii. Sarah Louise Graham was born a twin on September 15th 1930 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County Pennsylvania. She married Harry (June) Rosenberger on July 1st 1955.
- iii. Jean Marie Graham was born a twin on September 15th 1930 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County Pennsylvania. She married Roy Eugene Hipp on July 19th 1951.
- iv. Patricia Ann Graham was born February 4th 1935 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County Pennsylvania. She married Alfred (Al) Fred Napoli on May 9th 1953.

- v. Keith Ellis Graham was born July 29th 1949 in Hanover York County Pennsylvania. He married Carol Elaine Davis on August 28th 1972 in Burnettsville Indiana.

Calvin was active in the Republican Party, and was the Justice of the Peace in Franklin Township for over 10 years. He was an active member in the Williams Grove Steam Engine Association, and his family operated a phony ride and museum during the association's event and show days in August.

When World War II broke out, Ruth went to work for the Navy's newly developed navy supply base in Mechanicsburg Pennsylvania. While working at the base, her son Robert joined the Navy in 1945. After leaving the Navy, Ruth became the post master for the Franklinton post office, and she was a great pastry maker of her time. Ruth was an advent and pious person who was a member of the Franklinton United Brethren Church.

Calvin died June 14th 1983, and Ruth died August 26th 1994. They were laid to rest was laid to rest in the Dillsburg Cemetery, York County Pennsylvania.

Bibliography

1. 1880 Oliver P. Stoey Census: Lurgan, Franklin, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1131; Family History Film: 1255131; Page: 93D; Enumeration District: 091; Image: 0191; 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.
2. 1900 O. P. Stoey Census: Lurgan, Franklin, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1413; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 0048; FHL microfilm: 1241413; 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.
3. 1920 William Graham Census: Southampton, Franklin, Pennsylvania; Roll: T625_1572; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 34; Image: 502; 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.; Note: Enumeration Districts 819-839 are on roll 323 (Chicago City).
4. 1930 Calvin S. Graham Census: Paxtang, Dauphin, Pennsylvania; Roll: 2028; Page: 8A; Enumeration District: 86; Image: 145.0; FHL microfilm: 2341762; United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930; T626, 2,667 rolls.
5. 1940 Calean S Graham Census: Franklinton, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: T627_3641; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 67-25; United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940; T627, 4,643 rolls.

End Notes

¹ This is most likely how Calvin received his middle name. The doctor lived in Lurgan Township area, Township Franklin County Pennsylvania.

² Hopping the train and working as a mechanic came from the family, and Calvin's 2nd cousin, Earl Hoffman of Harrisburg.

³ The Penn Business School dates back to 1881, and by 1923 the school was consolidated with other local business schools into the Central Pennsylvania Business College. The school was located at 15 S. Market Square in Harrisburg Pennsylvania, and offered a two year business skill development courses. In 1970 the school moved across the Susquehanna River to Summerdale Pennsylvania. In 2000 the school was approved to provide a four year curriculum as the Central Penn College.