

Small Collections Category

A. B. Graham Collection

Processed by:
John Hays, volunteer
Summer 2005

Introduction

The contents of this collection range from Graham as a young boy at age 11 through his death in 1960.

The collection fills 9 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize box and a total of 250 file folders. There are 2 boxes of photographs housed in the Photograph Category. The collection is divided into 8 series, as follows:

- Series 1: Biographical Information
- Series 2: Early School Reports for Springfield Township
- Series 3: Writings by Graham
- Series 4: The 4-H Club
- Series 5: Letters concerning Graham's departure from Ohio State U.
- Series 6: Other Correspondence
- Series 7: Miscellaneous
- Series 8: Photographs

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Biography

Albert Belmont Graham (1868-1960) was born in a frame two-story farmhouse just east of the Miami-Champaign County line. After the death of his father in a devastating fire that occurred when Graham was 11 years old, the rest of the family moved into the Lena-Conover Community. Graham attended the local school and received his Miami county teaching certificate in 1885. He and Maud Keyte Lauer were married August 14, 1890 and together they had 5 children, one of whom died in infancy.

In 1900 the family moved to Clark County, Springfield Township where Graham became Superintendent of county schools. In 1902 he founded the Boys and Girls Agricultural Club, the forerunner of the 4-H Club.

Graham remained in Clark County only 5 years. The Ohio State University's College of Agriculture offered him a position as its first agricultural extension superintendent in 1905. He remained at the university until 1915 when he left for New York State School of Agriculture, Farmingdale, Long Island. His tenure there was brief.

From 1916 to his retirement in 1932, Graham worked with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., visiting all 48 states and promoting cooperative extension services. Upon retirement, Graham moved back to Columbus, Ohio where he maintained an active correspondence with all of the former contacts he had made in education, the extension service, and through the 4-H.

Scope and Content

This collection is not complete by any means since Graham was in Clark County for about 5 years. There are large gaps in time such as his tenure at Ohio State University, although there is correspondence about his leaving the university. There is also limited information concerning his employment with the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The information in Series 1 consists of articles, a map Graham drew at the age of 11, a sketchbook and autograph book, diaries from 1900-1904, awards and honors, writings concerning Graham, especially after his death in 1960.

Series 2 contains his superintendent reports from Springfield Township schools, 1900-1904. The reports are a standard form, but they also include Graham's comments on his goals and recommended improvements.

Series 3 are letters and articles written by Graham. The topics range from his thoughts on the founding and philosophy governing 4-H to comments on education, historical articles, and several published articles.

Series 4 concerns 4-H- anniversary celebrations and commemorative stamps, projects, proclamations, and articles.

Series 5 is small, containing only 5 folders, all of which concern his departure from Ohio State University.

Family correspondence, letters from former students, Boys and Girls Agricultural Club correspondence from students to Graham, and various letters to Graham comprise Series 6.

Series 7 has 1 file folder with a biography of Norton Strange Townsend. How it fits into the rest of the collection is unclear.

Series 8 consists of photographs. Files 1-6 are biographical; files 7-10 are township; files 11-23 are 4-H; files 25-56 are Graham's honors. The bulk of the photographs are black and white; there are very few color photographs.

Box and Folder Listing

Series	Folder	Description
1	1	Map by Graham at 11 years of age
	2	Graham's drawing book
	3	Graham's autograph book
	4	Letter of recommendation from Bethel Twp. Board of Education 1899
	5	Diary 1900
	6	Diary 1900-01
	7	Diary 1901
	8	Diary 1902
	9	"Graham's Students go to O. S. U."
	10	Diary 1903-04
	11	Diary- Sept., Oct., Nov., 1904
	12	Receipts- Teaching, education, married life
	13	Income statement 1880-1950 w/ Graham's comments
	14	Graham's Boyhood Home Burns 1879 Graham Recalls Walking in Snow 1949
	15	Clipping about Graham
	16	Excerpt from <i>Ohio Farmer</i> , 1905- 4-H & Graham
	17	Article on Graham
	18	Clipping: "Rejected Portrait Displayed at Clark Co. Fair" 6/20/1955
	19	Clipping: "Graham Portrait to be Displayed: 1955
	20	Ohio State University Hall
	21	Portrait of Graham 1976
	22	Groundbreaking, Graham School, 5/22/1956
	23	<i>Ohio Farm Bureau News</i> 1960- Article on Graham
	24	<i>Better Farming</i> - Article on Graham
	25	<i>Agriculture Leaders Digest</i> 1954- Article on Graham
	26	<i>Tractor Farming</i> 1952- Article on Graham
	27	<i>Ford Farming</i> 1958- Article on Graham
	28	Graham- historical data- biographical, educational, employment
	29	Book on Graham by V. E. and R. W. McCormick 1984
	30	Articles on Graham- 3/7/1949
	31	Articles remembering Graham
	32	Article- Biography of Graham 5/18/1955
	33	Articles & Radio Broadcasts- Graham & 4-H- file 1
	34	Articles & Radio Broadcasts- Graham & 4-H- file 2
	35	<i>Eagle</i> magazine- Article on Graham & 4-H
	36	<i>Ohio State</i> publication 1985- Article on Graham
	37	<i>Ohio State</i> publication 1958- Article on Graham
	38	<i>Columbus Newspaper</i> 1947- Articles on Graham
	39	<i>Ohio Farmer</i> 1981- Article on Graham

Series	Folder	Description
	40	<i>Ohio Farmer</i> 1960- Article on Graham
	41	<i>Ohio State</i> publication 1939- Article on Graham
	42	A. B. Graham- St. Paris- clippings
	43	Honorary degree from O. S. U. 1953
	44	First acknowledgement of A. B. Graham as 4-H Founder
	45	Induction into Agriculture Hall of Fame 1984
	46	Governor's Award- 1952
	47	Honorary degree from Marietta College 1955 (See oversize)
	48	Annual Meeting & Banquet & Unveiling of Bronze Plaque- A. B. Graham & 4-H Club 1902-1932
	49	A. B. Graham memorial programs
	50	A. B. Graham Building- Pocket Park Dedication 8/12/2004
	51	A. B. Graham- Graham High School Centennial Program 3/10/1968
	52	Graham Honored during Springfield Bicentennial 1976
	53	4-H Hall of Fame- Clark County
	54	Birthday greetings- 1937
	55	91 st Birthday greetings- 3/13/1959
	56	Death certificate and Memorial Record 1960
	57	Obituary
2	1	Sept. 1900 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	2	Oct. 1900 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	3	Nov. 1900 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	4	Dec. 1901 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	5	Jan. 1901 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	6	Feb. 1901 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	7	Mar. 1901 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	8	April 1901 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	9	May 1901 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	10	Sept. 1901 Report- "Suspend Judgment, Give Encouragement"- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	11	Oct. 1901 Report- "Fight on Tardiness/Irregularity Goes On"- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	12	Nov. 1901 Report-Spfld. Twp.-Graham
	13	Dec. 1901 Report- "Value of Chores and Work at Home" Spfld. Twp.-Graham
	14	Jan. 1902 Report-"Open Schools for Evening Meetings"- Spfld. Twp.-Graham
	15	Feb. 1902 Report- "Continue Open House School Meetings in Evening"- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	16	March 1902 Report compares Spfld. Twp. with other townships- Graham
	17	April 1902 Report-"Money Dispersals"- Spfld. Twp.- Graham

Series	Folder	Description
	18	May 1902 Report- "Boxwell Grads"- Spfld. Twp.-Graham
	19	Sept. 1902 Report-Spfld. Twp.-Graham
	20	Oct. 1902 Report-Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	21	Nov. 1902 Report-Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	22	Dec. 1902 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	23	Jan. 1903 Report-Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	24	Feb. 1903 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	25	Mar. 1903 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	26	April 1903 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	27	May 1903 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	28	Sept. 1903 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	29	Oct. 1903 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	30	Nov. 1903 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	31	Dec. 1903 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	32	Jan. 1904 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	33	Feb. 1904 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	34	Mar. 1904 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	35	April 1904 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	36	May 1904 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	37	Sept. 1904 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	38	Oct. 1904 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	39	Nov. 1904 Report- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
	40	Nov. 25, 1904 Graham's Final Report, 3 months ending 11/25/1904- Spfld. Twp.- Graham
3	1	Graham's notes and thoughts on early education
	2	Article and comment by Graham
	3	Plans for Agriculture Extension Work at O. S. U. 1905
	4	Graham's response to Assistant Postmaster General about issue of the 4-H stamp
	5	4-H history by Graham 1952
	6	A. B. Graham & others- History of 4-H
	7	Graham & others- History of 4-H 1955
	8	Notes on Schull- handwritten
	9	Omitted
	10	Articles by Graham
	11	"Passenger Pigeons"- Graham 1958
	12	Articles by Graham
	13	Graham's presentation to Agriculture Historical Society in Washington, D. C.
	14	Purpose of Boys and Girls Agricultural Clubs- Graham
	15	Graham's script comments on Reck's manuscript of the 4-H history 3/20/1948
	16	Graham's notes of Prof. Holden
	17	Letter to C.C.H.S. from Joseph Graham- notes on Christmas

Series	Folder	Description
	18	Agriculture Club bulletins
	19	Material list from O. S. U. Historical Society Museum
	20	Junior High proposal- Education papers
	21	Graham's acceptance speech on award from Fraternal Order of Eagles 1952
	22	Graham's first commencement address Lena-Conover School 1885
	23	Clipping- Graham's history of Lena-Conover Community
	24	Bulletin: "Cold Pack Canning"
	25	<i>The Farmer's Wife</i> , article by Graham- See oversize
	26	<i>4-H Life</i> , article by Graham- See oversize
4	1	4-H Club postage stamp- 1 st Day of Issue
	2	4-H postage stamps- 50 years
	3	Membership Rolls- 1902-1904
	4	4-H Clubs in Ohio- 1902-1906
	5	4-H Clubs clippings
	6	Clipping searching for former 4-H members 1977
	7	4-H Project Handbook
	8	4-H Members Receiving Honors
	9	Article: "Springfield was Birthplace of 4-H"
	10	National 4-H Club Calendar 1950
	11	Dedication ceremony 1976- Birthplace of 4-H
	12	Centennial reception 1902-2002 program
	13	National 4-H Club News 1942
	14	National 4-H Club News 1952
	15	<i>4-H News</i> 1962
	16	Articles about 4-H Commemorative Stamp, file 1
	17	Same, file 2
	18	Same, file 3
	19	Same, file 4
	20	Same, file 5
	21	Black binder sheet of 4-H stamps signed by Postmaster General
	22	Soil Testing, Student Union O. S. U.
	23	Article: "4-H" 10/1/1978
	24	"The Change from Boys & Girls Agriculture Club to Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics"
	25	<i>Yesteryear in Clark County</i> . 1951
	26	1 st members of 4-H as presented at Clark Co. Fair 7/13/1951
	27	Proclamation- 4-H Golden Anniversary 1952
	28	Graham's Boys & Girls Club Golden Jubilee
	29	Golden Anniversary 4-H Club
	30	Golden Anniversary 4-H Club
	31	Program of 4-H Golden Jubilee

Series	Folder	Description
	32	Article: "Golden Jubilee 4-H" 1952
	33	Beef donation to 4-H for Banquet
	34	Article: "75 Years of 4-H"
	35	Dedication Ceremony- Birthplace 4-H
	36	4-H Birthplace & National Shrine articles
	37	4-H Camp Clifton
	38	Article: "On 4-H Steer Projects"
	39	County Fair Supplement to Paper 8/1952. Springfield News
	40	Proclamation- Ohio 4-H Week 1983
5	1	Letters concerning Graham leaving O. S. U. File 1 of 5
	2	File 2 of 5
	3	File 3 of 5
	4	File 4 of 5
	5	File 5 of 5
6	1	Joseph Graham's correspondence. File 1 of 3
	2	File 2 of 3
	3	File 3 of 3
	4	Family correspondence
	5	Note from Graham 10/7/1955 to Children that diaries were to go to C.C.H.S.
	6	Letters between Graham and C.C.H.S.
	7	Graham letter to Waldo Jerkle family concerning Waldo's death
	8	Letter from W. O. Thompson-O.S.U. to Graham-appointment
	9	Letter of appreciation from Graham to Dean Alfred Vivian-1940
	10	Letter from W. Robert Amick to Graham
	11	Franklin Reck letters about his work with Agriculture Clubs
	12	Letter from P. G. Holden to Graham, 1947-8
	13	Letter from Morrill to Graham- Greetings & Thanks
	14	Letter from E. J. Fairchild, New Hampshire College, to Graham, 1914
	15	Letter from Graham to W. J. Morris 1914; Morris to Graham
	16	Partial letter from Graham to Cousin Harry 1943
	17	Letters from former students, File 1 of 3
	18	File 2 of 3
	19	File 3 of 3
	20	Graham's instructions for meeting of Boys Agriculture Club 1904
	21	Students' letters to Graham about their seeds & gardens, 1904

Series	Folder	Description
	22	Letters to Graham about Boys & Girls Agriculture Club, 1903
	23	Graham's letter to students about agriculture clubs as it relates to O. S. U. Dept. of Agriculture
	24	Graham's letters, File 1 of 2
	25	File 2 of 2
7	1	Bio. on Norton Strange Townsend
8	1	Graham on extension work
	2	National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio, Class of 1888
	3	Graham birthplace, 1905
	4	A. B. Graham residence, 141 N. Rice St.
	5	Graham at home, 1952-59
	6	Graham, summer 1948, at home
	7	New Rockway School, Clark Co.
	8	Lawrence High School, German Twp.
	9	Springfield Twp. School District- early conveyance, 1902-5
	10	Graham w/ Springfield Twp. students 1903
	11	Original Agriculture Club members at Ohio Senate Recognition Program 1951
	12	1902-04 Agriculture Club members at WOSU Radio, 1942
	13	Boys & Girls Club, 1902
	14	Boys & Girls Club, 1903-5
	15	Boys & Girls Club Projects, 1902-4
	16	Boys & Girls Club Projects, 1902-4
	17	Negative & prints, Charles Schneider, Harry Otstot, Earl Hyslop, Bernard Tavenner, 1951
	18	Chas, Schneider & family- original member 1947
	19	Original Agriculture Club members 1942
	20	Ohio State 4-H Celebration, 1977
	21	Graham, AG agents, & 4-H leaders
	22	Group of 6 4-H Leaders, 1946
	23	4-H 50 th Anniversary Exhibit at Lazarus, 1951- Artist's concept
	24	Cake at Circleville 10/3/1952- 50 th Anniversary 4-H
	25	Club Congress Dinner, 1951- Autographing programs
	26	Graham at display of books, Ohio Historical Society
	27	National 4-H Center
	28	Reception for Graham, 8/22/1952, at State Fairgrounds
	29	1955 Ohio State Fair
	30	Photos of newspaper and magazine articles
	31	Negatives- Unveiling of Graham portrait at New Youth Building, State Fairgrounds, 1955
	32	Memorial to A. B. Graham at Graham High School, 1968
	33	Wittenberg University- building. Print & negative, 1890
	34	Graham at WOSU Radio 1943

Series	Folder	Description
	35	Memorial Hall Commemorative Ceremony- 50 th Anniversary, 1952
	36	Ohio State Fair 1952, 4-H Booth
	37	Charles Kohl & Graham, 1932
	38	Graham visiting farms
	39	Graham & Schull
	40	A. B. Graham- portraits
	41	Retirement dinner, 1938
	42	84 th Birthday cake, 1952
	43	90 th Birthday celebration
	44	Courthouse plaque, 1951
	45	4-H Club plaques, A. B. Graham Building, Springfield
	46	Agricultural Hall of Fame medallion award, 1984
	47	Commemorative plaques & banners
	48	F. O. E. International Civic Service Award 1952
	49	Graham receiving degrees, 1953-55
	50	Marker outside of Springfield, 1953
	51	Memorial tablet at Memorial Hall, 1952
	52	Ohio State recognition scroll, March 1951
	53	Plaque commemorating 4-H founding
	54	Plaque- Governor's Award, 1952
	55	Recognition plaque presented by Miami Co. 4-H Clubs 8/13/1951
	56	Misc.