

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP
Ava Barton Class of 2027
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies



Samuel Groff Graybill (1872-1961)

Samuel Groff Graybill was born on October 31, 1872, in Pennsylvania.¹ On November 27, 1908, the Board of Trustees appointed a committee comprised of S.H. Hertzler, S.G. Graybill, and D.C. Reber. They were instructed to receive plans and estimates for a “new building” which was really an additional wing on Alpha Hall. On February 5, 1909 the committee suggested no addition should be built in order to preserve the symmetrical and artistic design of Alpha Hall.. The committee was discharged.²

In 1913, there began discussion on transferring the ownership of the college from “the contributors of the funds for the establishment of the College to the Church of the Brethren of the Eastern and Southern Districts of Pennsylvania. “On April 9, 1913, the following query came to the District Conference in Ephrata, Pennsylvania:

“The Ephrata Church asks District Meeting of 1913 of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to consider the advisability of taking over Elizabethtown College as the property of the church, and to appoint a committee to consult with the present owners or their representatives. Said committee to report to the District Meeting of 1914. On July 22, 1913, a committee was appointed to confer with the committee from the District. This committee was made up of: Jesse C. Ziegler, S.H. Hertzler, D.C. Reber, H.K. Ober, S.G. Graybill, and Amos G. Longnecker.³”

¹ "Samuel G. Graybill," *Elizabethtown Chronicles*, May 25, 1961.

² Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 62.

³ Schlosser, 67-68.

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(1866-1945), John G. Graybill (1867-1948), and Nathan G. Graybill (1869-1907). Samuel Graybill married Katie (Groff) Graybill (1876-1956) and had one child who died in infancy, Evelyn Graybill (1899-1899). Katie (Groff) Graybill is the daughter of Benjamin G Groff whose farmland Elizabethtown College is built upon and who was the contractor for Alpha Hall and many of the other college buildings.⁵ According to his obituary he also had two sons, Benjamin G. and Samuel E. His funeral service was held at the Miller Funeral Home.⁶

Samuel Groff Graybill died on May 20, 1961, at age 88 in Manheim Township, Lancaster County Pennsylvania. His obituary was published in the Elizabethtown Chronical on Thursday, May 25, 1961, and said he had died of complications at the Neffsville Brethren Home.⁴ He was buried at the Mount Tunnel Cemetery. His parents were Reuban S Graybill (1841-1913) and Rebecca (Groff) Graybill (1846-1919). Samuel Graybill had three siblings, Amanda G. Boyd

HVS-20143-325M-9-55		COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS		File No. <u>45515</u>	
Primary Dist. No. <u>36932-340</u>		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		Registered No. <u>24</u>	
1. PLACE OF DEATH a. County <u>Lancaster</u> b. City, Borough or Township <u>(Neffsville) Manheim Twp.</u> c. Length of stay in 1b. <u>-</u> d. FULL NAME (If NOT in hospital, give street address) of HOSPITAL or INSTITUTION <u>Neffsville Brethren Home</u> e. Is Place of Death inside Municipality Limits? Yes ☒ No ☐		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission) a. State <u>Pa.</u> b. County <u>Lancaster</u> c. City, Borough or Township <u>Elizabethtown</u> d. Street Address or Location <u>-</u> e. Is Residence inside Municipality Limits? Yes ☒ No ☐ f. Is Residence on a Farm? Yes ☐ No ☒			
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) a. (First) <u>Samuel</u> b. (Middle) <u>G.</u> c. (Last) <u>Graybill</u>		4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) <u>May</u> (Day) <u>20</u> (Year) <u>1961</u>			
5. SEX <u>Male</u> 6. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u> 7. MARRIED ☐ NEVER MARRIED ☐ WIDOWED ☒ DIVORCED ☐		8. DATE OF BIRTH (In years) <u>Oct. 31, 1872</u> 9. AGE (in years) <u>88</u> Months <u>0</u> Days <u>0</u> Hours <u>0</u> Min. <u>0</u>			
10. FULL NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Katie Groff Graybill</u>		11. BIRTHPLACE (Also give state or foreign country) <u>Pa.</u> 12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY <u>U.S.A.</u>			
13. FATHER'S NAME <u>Reuben Graybill</u>		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <u>Rebecca</u>			
15. USUAL OCCUPATION (even if retired) <u>Merchant</u>		16. Social Security No. <u>-</u>		17. INFORMANT <u>Samuel E. Graybill, Lancaster, Pa.</u>	
18. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b) & (c))					
PART I. Death was caused by: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) <u>Arterio-sclerotic Heart and Vascular Disease</u> DUE TO (b) <u>Senility</u> DUE TO (c) <u>Fracture of Hip</u>					
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS (contributing to death, but not related to the terminal disease given in Part I (a)) <u>11/5/60</u>					
20a. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE ☐ ☐ ☐		20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. <u>-</u>		20c. Time of Injury Hour, Month, Day, Year m. <u>-</u> E.S.T. <u>-</u>	
20d. INJURY OCCURRED While at work ☐ Not while at work ☐		20e. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., home, farm, factory, street, etc.) <u>-</u>		20f. CITY, BOROUGH, TOWNSHIP COUNTY STATE	
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from <u>11/5/60</u> to <u>5-20-61</u> , that I last saw the deceased alive on <u>5-19-61</u> , and that death occurred at <u>9:30</u> m. E.S.T., from the causes and on the date stated above.					
22a. SIGNATURE <u>Frank K. Case, MD</u>		22b. ADDRESS <u>21717 Pa</u>		22c. DATE SIGNED <u>5-20-61</u>	
23a. BURIAL OR CREMATION ☐ 23b. DATE <u>5/23/61</u>		23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY <u>Mt. Tunnel Cemetery</u>		23d. LOCATION (City, Boro., Twp. & County) (State) <u>Elizabethtown, Lanc. Co., Pa.</u>	
24. DATE REC'D BY REG. <u>5/24/61</u>		25. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE <u>Ray H. Kim</u>		26. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR <u>Russell Miller</u> ADDRESS <u>Elizabethtown, Pa.</u>	

⁴ "Samuel G. Graybill," *Elizabethtown Chronicles*, May 25, 1961.

⁵ "Benjamin G Groff," Find a Grave, accessed June 3, 2024,

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/103917614/benjamin_g_groff; "Samuel G Graybill," Find a Grave, accessed June 3, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/196781048/samuel-g-graybill>; "Katie Groff Graybill," Find a Grave, accessed June 3, 2024, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/196781000/katie_graybill.

⁶ "Samuel G. Graybill," *Elizabethtown Chronicles*, May 25, 1961.

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