

James Duncan Graham

(4 Apr 1799 – 28 Dec 1865)

The Evening Star, December 29, 1865

Dead, Boston

James Duncan Graham, a brother-in-law of Major General Meade and Col. U.S. Engineers, stationed in Boston died suddenly in this city last evening of disease of the heart.

American Biography

Graham, James Duncan, soldier, was born in Prince William county, Va., April 4, 1799 son of William



and Mary (Campbell) Graham, and a brother of Col. William Montrose Graham, U.S.A. (1798-1847). He was graduated at the U.S. military academy in 1817 and was assigned to the artillery as brevet 2d lieutenant. He was promoted regularly 2d and 1st lieutenant and captain and in 1829 was brevetted major and assigned to the topographical engineer corps, receiving a full commission as major in 1838. He was astronomer of the surveying party that fixed the boundary line between the United States and the republic of Texas in 1839-40, and on the northeast boundary line between the United States and Canada in 1840-43, and between the United States and the British provinces in the northeast, 1843-47. He was brevetted lieutenant-colonel "for valuable and highly distinguished services particularly on the boundary line between the United States and the provinces of Canada

and New Brunswick." He resurveyed the Mason and Dixon line and in 1851 was U.S. astronomer in the survey of the boundary line between the United States and Mexico. He discovered the lunar tide of the great lakes, 1858-59, and was subsequently engaged in harbor work along the Atlantic coast. He was promoted colonel of the engineer corps, June 1, 1863, and was elected a member of various scientific societies. He died in Boston, Mass., Dec. 28, 1865.

Married Frances Wickham Graham

Cullum, The Biographical Register of the U.S. Military Academy

Class of 1817: James D. Graham. Not Ranked (165th to graduate from the Academy)

Born Virginia, appointed Virginia

Cadet at the Military Academy, June 19, 1813 to July 17, 1817, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to 3d Lieut., Corps of Artillery, and 2d Lieut., Corps of Artillery, Oct. 14, 1817.

Served: At the Military Academy, as Adjutant, Oct. 12, 1817 to Feb. 10, 1819 on Major Long's Western Exploration, 1819-21 on Topographical duty, Jan. 14, 1822 to Jan. 15, 1829 on Surveys in Vermont, 1829 on Railroad Surveys in Virginia, 1831-32, and in Alabama, Florida and Georgia, 1836-37 in making

Reconnaissance and Surveys for Military Defenses in Maine, 1838 on Court of Inquiry at St. Louis, Mo., 1838-39 on tour of Inspection of Harbor Improvements on Lakes Ontario and Champlain, 1839 as Astronomer, on the part of the United States, for the joint demarcation of the Boundary between the United States and the Republic of Texas, 1839-40 as Commissioner for the Survey and Exploration of the Northeast Boundary of the United States, 1840-43 as Head of the Scientific Corps and Principal Astronomer, on the part of the United States, for the joint demarcation of the Boundary between the United States and the British Provinces under the Treat of Washington, 1843-47, and renewing maps of the Boundary Survey, destroyed by fire, 1848-50, and 1852-53 on Survey of Boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland ("Mason and Dixon's Line" 1849-50 as Principal Astronomer and "Head of the Scientific Corps" on the part of the United States for the joint demarcation of the Boundary between the United States and Mexico under the Treat of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1850-51 in general supervision of the Harbor Improvements on Lake Michigan, April 20, 1854 to Dec. 11, 1856, and of the Channel Improvement over St. Clair Flats, April 25, 1854 to Sept. 1856 as Superintending Engineer of the Harbor Improvements on the North and Northwestern Lakes, Dec. 11, 1856 to April 20, 1864, in which he discovered the existence of a lunar tide, 1858-59.

Served during the Rebellion of the Seceding States, 1861-65 as Superintendent of the United States Lake Survey, Aug. 30, 1861 to April 20, 1864 as Lighthouse Engineer of the 10th and 11th Districts Northern Lakes, except Champlain), Aug. 30, 1861 to April 20, 1864, and Inspector of 11th Lighthouse District, Aug. 30, 1861 to March 1863 as Superintending Engineer of Sea-walls in Boston harbor, and in charge of the Preservation and Repairs of Harbor Works on the Atlantic Cost from Maine to the Capes of the Chesapeake, Aug. 1, 1864 to Dec. 28, 1865.

Civil History: Member of several Scientific and Historical Societies. Died Dec. 28, 1865 at Boston, Mass., aged 66.

Ranks:

3d Lieut., Corps of Artillery, July 17, 1817
2d Lieut., Corps of Artillery, Oct. 14, 1817
1st Lieut., Corps of Artillery, Sept. 8, 1819
Transferred to 3d Artillery, Aug. 16, 1821
Bvt. Captain, Staff, Asst. Top. Engineers, Jan 15, 1829
Bvt. Major, Staff, Top. Engineer, Sept. 14, 1834
Major, Corps of Top. Engineers, July 7, 1838
Bvt. Lieut. Colonel, Jan. 1, 1847 for Valuable and highly distinguished services, particularly on the boundary line between the United States and the Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick
Lieut. Colonel, Top. Engineers, Aug. 6, 1861 Corps of Engineers, March 3, 1863