

Company F, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry



Photo Credits: Jerry Holderfield

FRAUNFELTER, Elias 22 Aug 1862

Elias was age 22 when he enrolled. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant from 1st Sergeant 15 Mar 1863: appointed Adjutant 1 Aug 1863; promoted to Captain 21 Mar 1864; captured 3 May 1864 near Snaggy Point, on Red River, Louisiana; transferred to Co D, 114th OVI on 27 Nov 1864. See also [Field and Staff](#)

Father: John FRAUNFELTER

Mother: Elizabeth REASER

Birth: 3 Apr 1840, near Easton, Northampton Co., PA

Marriage: Miss Laura J. Caldwell, 2 Apr 1867

Death: 8 August 1899

Cemetery: Glendale Cemetery [Note: Akron, OH, on Rt 162 Copley Rd or S. Maple St] At Glendale Cemetery, Sec 16, lot 23 there is a large FRAUNFLETER stone. To the right of it are two stones, Laura C. and one marked FATHER on the top, but nothing that I could make out on the front.

Pension Index: Elias FRAUNFELTER, F 120th and D 114th OH Inf. Invalid filed 4 May 1896, Application 1177083, Certificate 926620, filed in OH. His widow, Laura C., Fraunfelter filed 16 Aug 1899, Application 703889, Certificate 487194, filed in OH. Pension Card: Elias died 8 Aug 1899.

1850 Census Montgomery Twp, Ashland County, OH, page 895, Dwelling 334, Family 349: John FRAUNFELDER, age 46 PA, farmer; Elizabeth, age 41 PA; Benjamin, age 15 PA, farmer; Elias, age 10 PA, Catharine, age 8 PA; Christiana, age 6 PA; James, age 4 PA; Elizabeth, age 2 PA.

1860 Census Ashland County, OH Montgomery Twp, page 114 [Adds a new sibling and gives a clue to when the family came to Ohio.]

John Frownfelter, age 54, a farmer and innkeeper, born in PA; Elizabeth, age 50, b. PA; Benjamin, age 25, a farmer, b. PA; Christiana, age 24, b. PA [This must be Benjamin's wife: Benjamin Froumfelter married Christene Rowland 23 Sep 1858 in Ashland Co OH. Alice is probably their daughter.] Alice, age 1, born OH Elias, age 19, a farmer, born PA Catharine M., age 18, b. PA Ann, age 16, b. PA James, age 14, b. OH; Elizabeth, age 12 OH; Sarah, age 9 OH

He was married April 2, 1867, to Miss Laura J. Caldwell, a daughter of Rev. J.P.Caldwell, of Barnesville, Ohio.

1870 Census Ashland County OH Clear creek Twp., page 588 [Elias and wife with two children] Elias Fraunfelter, age 30, a teacher, born PA; Laura C., age 25, born OH; Charles D., age 2 born OH; Clara M., age 1, born OH

1880 Census, Series T9 Roll 38, Akron, Summit Co OH, page 38: Elias FRAUNFELTER, age 40 PA, professor of mathematics, parents born PA; Laura J, wife, age 35 OH, father born Ireland, mother born OH; Charles D, son, age 12 OH; Clara M, daughter, age 11 OH.

The History of Ashland County, Ohio by A.J. Baughman, 1909....page 226

"The next academy established was the Savannah Academy, at Savannah, in a village in the northern part of the county.[Ashland] It was founded in 1858. After varying fortunes in the spring of 1865, Captain Elias Frauenfelter just returned from the army, was elected professor of mathematics and at once assumed his duties there. Under the influence of his inspiring enthusiasm the school almost immediately assumed a commanding and important character. In 1875, he resigned to take the chair of mathematics in Buchtel College, Akron, Ohio. This place, in a few years, he resigned to become superintendent of the Akron city schools, which place he filled with marked ability until his decease."

The History of Summit County with an Outline Sketch of Ohio, edited by William Henry Perrin, 1881

page 397 in a section about Buchtel College

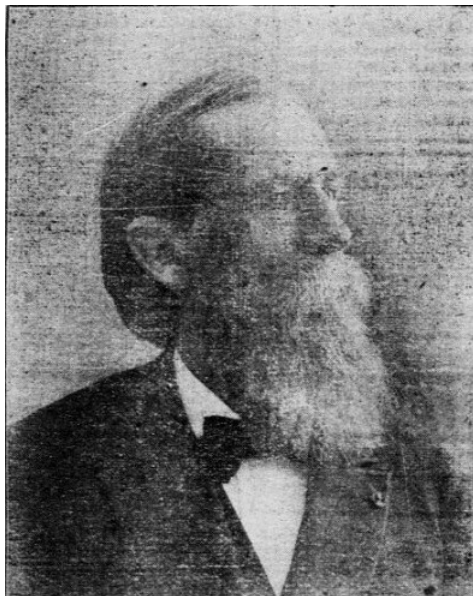
"Elias Fraunfelter, A. M., Ph. D.

He was educated at Vermillion Institute, at Hayesville, Ohio, and was for a number of years instructor in Mathematics and English in that school. In 1866, he was made co-Principal of Savanna Academy, and Instructor in Mathematics, Natural Science and Modern Languages. He was called to the college as Professor of Civil Engineering at the opening of the second year in 1874. The next year he was made Professor of Mathematics (his chair being made to include the instruction in Engineering) in which position he still remains completing this year (1881) his twenty-first year of service as an instructor."

page 703

"Prof. Elias Fraunfelter, Professor of Mathematics in Buchtel College, Akron; is a son of John and Elizabeth (Reaser) Fraunfelter, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Ohio in 1846, settling near Ashland, where they resided until their death, she in 1871 and he in 1879, leaving three sons and six daughters. Of this family, the subject is the second son, and was born near Easton, Northampton Co., Penn., April 3, 1840, and came here when but 6 years of age. He lived on a farm until 17, when he began teaching in the public schools of Ashland, and about the same time entered Vermilion Institute, and was made Tutor of Mathematics in 1859, continuing as such until 1862, when he enlisted in the 120th O.V.I., organized at Mansfield. He entered as a private, and was soon after made Sergeant, then Orderly Sergeant, and after the battle of Chickasaw Bluffs and Arkansas Post was commissioned First Lieutenant. He was detailed as aide-de-camp to Gen. Osterhaus, commanding Ninth Division of Thirteenth Army Corps. In May, 1863, he was commissioned Captain of Co. F in his regiment, and commanded it in all the engagements during the siege of Vicksburg. He was made Adjutant of the 120th O.V.I., and was with Gen. Banks in the invasion of Louisiana after the fall of Vicksburg. His regiment was with Gen. Banks on the Red River Expedition, and on the 4th of May, 1864, he and a large portion of the regiment were captured at Snaggy Point, on Red River, and were taken to different points, until finally landed at rebel prison in Texas called Camp Ford, where they were confined for thirteen months, and were badly treated and ill-fed on chopped corn. He and Capt. Miller were the only ones exchanged at New Orleans in July, 1865, were furloughed home and mustered out at Columbus in August. He then returned to Vermilion institute as teacher of mathematics, remaining until spring of 1866, when he with Rev. S.T. Boyd organized Savannah Academy, at Savannah, Ohio, a private school, where he continued until 1873, successfully put up large buildings, and in the fourth year (1870) catalogued 385 students. In 1873, he came to Akron, and accepted the Chair of Mathematics in Buchtel College, which he still fills. He was married April 2, 1867, to Miss Laura J. Caldwell, a daughter of Rev. J.P.Caldwell, of Barnesville, Ohio. They have one son and one daughter. Prof. F. received the degree of Master of Arts in Bethany College in 1873, and the degree of Ph. D. in Lombard University at Galesburg, Ill., in July, 1879."

In 1893 the Dept. of the Interior reported that Elias FRAUNFELTER was living at 580 E. Buchtel Ave. Akron OH.



Akron Daily Democrat, Wednesday, 9 Aug 1899, page 1:

"Prof. Elias Fraunfelter passed to his reward shortly before 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. He was 59 years, four months and five days of age. He retained his faculties to the last, recognizing every one surrounding his bedside. Prof. Fraunfelter has suffered from chronic stomach trouble for five years. Within the last 20 days not a particle of food has passed his lips. The only nourishment he received was by injections. Death was only a matter of time as he was slowly starving. His vitality was remarkable. He was not unconscious at any time.

He was one of the best known, highly respected and most useful citizens of Akron. He will be missed by hundreds of friends. His acquaintance was unusually large.

The funeral services will be conducted at the residence, 580 East Buchtel ave., Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Prof. Fraunfelter named those he desired to act as pall bearers several days ago. They are J. R. Campbell, Captain A. P. Baldwin, H. G. Griffin, Judge N. D. Tibbals, Prof. C. C. Bates and J. H. Seymour. The last five named are past commanders of Buckley post, G. A. R.. Captain A. P. Baldwin is a member of the Loyal Legion. J. R. Campbell represents the Lutheran church, of which he was a member and Prof. C. C. Bates, Buchtel college. School children will have an opportunity to view the remains between 9 and 11 o'clock Thursday morning.

Biography. Prof. Elias Fraunfelter was of German parentage. He was born near Easton, Pa., April 3, 1840. Six years later he came to Ohio with his parents, settling on a farm near Ashland. He was educated in a country school and Vermillion Institute at Haysville. He was chosen tutor of mathematics in this institute when 20 years old.

On August 22, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, 120th O. V. I., was transferred to Company F and then promoted to sergeant, orderly sergeant, first lieutenant and captain for meritorious conduct. He also served as aide-de-camp on the staff of Gen. Peter Osterhaus, ninth division, thirteenth army corps, and later as adjutant for his own regiment. He participated in numerous important battles. He was held captive in a rebel prison for 13 months at Camp Ford, Texas. He was exchanged at New Orleans, May 30, 1865, becoming captain of Co. D, 114th O. V. I. He

was mustered out of service with his regiment in Columbus, O., June 27, 1865. A few months later he resumed his position at Vermillion Institute.

He was soon made professor in mathematics and natural science at the Savannah (Ohio) academy, reorganizing the institution and enlarging its buildings.

In September, 1873, he came to Akron, having been chosen professor of engineering and normal studies in Buchtel college. A year later he was made professor in mathematics, where he remained for 10 years. He was elected superintendent of instruction in the Akron Public schools, in August, 1883. He retained this position until June, 1897, serving 14 years.

Prof. Fraunfelter has received a number of degrees from various institutions of learning. He was a prominent member of Buckley Post, G.A.R., and has represented it in a number of National conventions. He was also a member of the Ohio commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

Prof. Fraunfelter was united in marriage April 2, 1867, to Miss Laura K., daughter of Rev. John P. Caldwell, who was a Presbyterian minister at Barnesville, O. His wife and two children, Chas. D. and Clara May, now Mrs. F. M. Whitner, of 110 Beck av. survive him. Charles D. Fraunfelter is connected with the Roseville Pottery Co, in Zanesville.

Dr. E. L. Rexford of Columbus, a Universalist clergyman, formerly president of Buchtel college, will preach the sermon. He will be assisted by Rev. N. J. Myers, pastor of the St. Paul's Lutheran church.

Wife's Death Record: File #26847, Laura C FRAUNFELTER, of 756 W. Market St, died 2 Apr 1934 at Akron, Summit Co OH. Widowed. Husband Elias. Born 14 May 1845 at New Athens, Ohio. Father John Patrick CALDWELL, born County Clare, Ireland. Mother Catherine Crabb. Burial Glendale Cemetery [Note: Akron OH] Informant Mrs. Norman ORCUTT, of Akron OH.

This information comes from a descendant of the brother of Elias Fraunfelter [Benjamin Fraunfelter] From Karen Collins

Elias Fraunfelter was born on 3 April, 1840 to John Fraunfelter and Elizabeth Reaser Fraunfelter. He was one of a family of eleven children. Elias was born in Pennsylvania, I assume in Northampton Co. The family moved to Montgomery Township, Ashland Co., Ohio, in 1846. The 1850 Ohio census lists John Fraunfelter as a farmer and innkeeper.

Here is the father John's obituary from the Ashland Press, April 6, 1879:

Died - February 26, 1879, John Fraunfelter, aged 73 years, 4 months and 5 days. When 24 years of age her was married to Elizabeth Reaser, and their union was blessed in the birth of eleven children; two of whom died in infancy, while nine- three sons and six daughters survive.

Of the former, Benj. Fraunfelter, resides on the old homestead; Prof. Elias Fraunfelter fills the chair of Mathematics in Buchtel College, Akron (Ohio) and Dr. James Fraunfelter is practicing medicine in Canal Fulton (Ohio.)

In 1846, Mr. Fraunfelter moved to Ashland County, Ohio and purchased the "White Farm", a place commonly known as the "Richland Hotel" and continued to live here until his death. His death was caused by the falling of a tree which he was cutting down. His life-long vocation was that of a farmer and he was always regarded as a strictly honest and upright citizen.

Elias married Laura J. Caldwell on 2 April, 1867. I do not have information on their children, except:

Ashland Press 30 Mar. 1893

Friends here have received announcement of the marriage of Charles D. Fraunfelter and Miss Bernice B. Perry, of Akron. Mr. Fraunfelter is a son of Prof. Elias Fraunfelter, now principal (sic) of the Akron schools.

However, Elias also was superintendent of the Akron Schools.

Also from the Ashland Press, 4 June, 1896:

The Akron Democrat says that Professor Elias Fraunfelter was re-elected superintendent of the Akron Schools for two years on a vote of 7 to 5, while the Akron Dispatch says he was elected for one year with the understanding that he was to retire next year. He is a Montgomery Township boy who has achieved considerable success as an educator and has been in Akron many years and superintendent thirteen. (sic)

Ashland Press, 5 Nov, 1896

Akron, OH. Nov. 2 - A fire alarm was sent in from box 54 at 7:50 p.m. last night to which companies 1 and 2 responded.

Professor Elias Fraunfelter, of 580 East Buchtell Ave. while going down stairs with a lighted lamp in his hand, stumbled and fell. The lamp exploded and set fire to the stairway. He was not seriously hurt and the blaze was extinguished before the department arrived.

Elias Fraunfelter died 8 August 1899. You might be interested to note that his great-grandfather Jacob Fraunfelter fought in the Revolutionary War in the Forks Township Militia under Capt. John Arndt. They saw action in the Battle of New York in 1776.

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2016 120researcher@gmail.com