

Exploring the Cemetery: Stained Glass 10

Just one named window is left. It is on the north side of the church and was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Frank and Ivan Frank.



Thomas Frank (1862-1928) was the son of John and Catherine (Masterson) Frank and was married to....(Wait for it!)....Alice Ravegum (1863-1941), daughter of immigrants John and Elizabeth (Huss) Ravegum.

Thomas Frank, the oldest of several children, was living in Rothsville with his parents in 1870. It seems that shortly thereafter his family moved to the Manheim area because when his younger sisters Levina and Lizzie died in 1872 and 1873, respectively, they were buried at Kreider's Church of the Brethren. Also, in 1880, at age 18, Thomas was Assistant Postmaster in Manheim, apparently in charge of the telegraph. He also served as telegraph operator at Lancaster Junction.

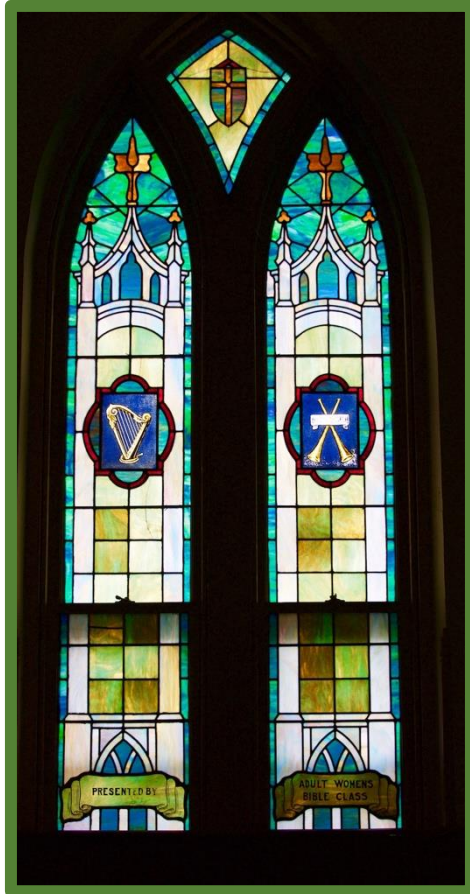
According to his obituary, he had moved to Disston by 1887. This makes sense since he married Alice Ravegum, whose parents were in that area. It is also confirmed by the burial of a stillborn child in the cemetery in March 1887.

Tom and Alice Franks' only other child was Ivan Frank, also mentioned in the window. Ivan was born in 1890 and died in 1930 of diabetes. He never married and, like his parents, worked as a cigar roller. Thomas, Alice, and Ivan are all buried in Section 1 of the main cemetery, as are Thomas's brother Abner and his wife, Viola (Buchen) Frank.

I began this window project to find out about and honor the people mentioned in them. But I also wanted to discover when the windows might have been installed. I could find very little in the church records concerning the project. On September 28, 1902 the Church Council minutes record as follows: "On motion it was ordered that Window Glass in Church windows can be changed by putting [*sic*] in Stained glass By his or her expense." That's all I could find out about the windows in the minutes.

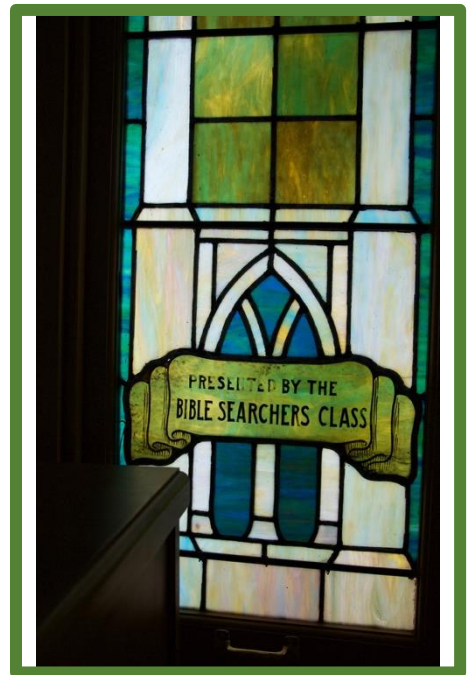


So I decided to study this by looking at the year of death for the commemorated persons. The earliest dedicatees are Isaac and Susan Grube, 1913 and 1909 respectively. Frank Ressler and Leah Habecker both died in 1916. Samuel Styer died in 1922. David Habecker, 1923. Elizabeth Ressler and James Leibold, both 1924. Thomas Frank, who died in 1928, was apparently alive at the time that the window described above was purchased. Thus, it appears that the windows were installed sometime in the mid to late 1920s.



There are a four other windows I have not mentioned that were funded by various church groups: The Bible Searchers Class, the Adult Womens Bible Class, The Willing Workers Class, and the God's Workers Class. I did describe The Ladies Aid Society in a previous article.

To summarize, the windows are approaching 100 years of service to the congregation and have held up well. Although anything that old may need a little help now and then.



Clockwise from left: The Adult Women's Bible Class, the Bible Searchers Class, God's Workers Class, and the Willing

Workers Class windows.

