



F. B. Hahn's grave

Credit findagrave.com.

Hahn, Franklin Van Buskirk (1809–1866)

MICHAEL W. CAMPBELL

Michael W. Campbell, Ph.D., is North American Division Archives, Statistics, and Research director. Previously, he was professor of church history and systematic theology at Southwestern Adventist University. An ordained minister, he pastored in Colorado and Kansas. He is assistant editor of *The Ellen G. White Encyclopedia* (Review and Herald, 2013) and currently is co-editor of the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Seventh-day Adventism*. He also taught at the Adventist International Institute for Advanced Studies (2013-18) and recently wrote the *Pocket Dictionary for Understanding Adventism* (Pacific Press, 2020).

Franklin Van Buskirk Hahn was a physician and Millerite leader who was instrumental in the early formulation, with [O. R. L. Crosier](#) (1820-1912) and [Hiram Edson](#) (1806-1882), in the study of the Seventh-day Adventist

Church's sanctuary doctrine.

Early Life

Franklin B. Hahn was born to Philip, Jr. (1769-1846) and Mary "Maria" Van Buskirk (1774-1828) Hahn in 1809.¹ He married Maria N. Davies (1810-1896), an immigrant from Wales, and they had seven children: Mary (1833-1916), Clara (1836-1914), Henrietta (1837-1842), Anna (1838-1921), Thomas (1842-1890), Franklin Davis (1843-1924), and Emma Jane (1848-1937). He was the grandson of Captain Philip Hahn (1736-1821), who commanded a company in the Sixth Battalion of the Pennsylvania militia (1777-1779) during the American Revolution.

Dr. Hahn was a member of the First Congregational Church of Canandaigua, New York (the town name came from a major Seneca settlement named "Kanandarque" meaning "chosen spot").² He served in a variety of local civic positions, including as president of the Canandaigua village corporation.³ In 1842, he was listed as secretary of the Ontario County, New York, Medical Society, and also served as a trustee of the society's library.⁴

Second Advent Message

In late 1843, Dr. Hahn rented a hall so that a young man he mentored, O. R. L. Crosier, could hold meetings. Afterwards, they accepted the Second Advent message.⁵ During the heyday of the Millerite revival, Hahn's home in Canandaigua (on the lakefront) was only about 15 miles southwest of Port Gibson, where Hiram Edson lived. His home served as a meeting place for local Second Advent believers. On his property, August 20-28, 1844, a [campmeeting](#) was held that included [Joseph Marsh](#) (1802-1863) and [Elon Galusha](#) (1790-1856).⁶ As the meetings concluded, Franklin and Maria were baptized in the nearby lake. Crosier as a young man had lost his father, an Irish immigrant who had come to America a decade earlier, and then, by age seven he had also lost his mother. Hahn and Edson had befriended Crosier as a youth in their community, and helped him as a prodigious Bible student. At various times, they each took turns providing him with a place to live.⁷

The Sanctuary Doctrine

During the winter of 1844-1845, the three intensely studied the sanctuary doctrine. It was at Dr. Hahn's home, as they sought new light, that some of the group's preliminary findings were written out. Afterwards, Hahn supported the publication of *The Day-Dawn*, published locally at Canandaigua, New York, where they first shared some of their new discoveries. Crosier provided the editing and Dr. Hahn raised funds and served as publisher.⁸ The March issue of the [Day-Dawn](#), no longer extant, was republished on the last page of the *Ontario Messenger* (March 26, 1845). In it they suggested an extended atonement by Jesus in the Most Holy Place in the sanctuary in heaven. This not only explained the delay in Christ's return on October 22, 1844, but it preserved their historicist framework as they continued to look for Christ's return. Apparently, the article was originally written on "fifty foolscap pages" and eventually published in a special extra edition of the [Day-Star](#) (based in

Cincinnati, Ohio) by Enoch Jacobs (1809-1894). One it was published, Edson and Hahn wrote: "We have prayerfully examined the subject presented by Brother Crosier in the light of God's word, and are fully satisfied it is meat in due season, and if properly examined and understood will settle many difficulties in the minds of many brethren at this time."⁹

By June 1846, Hahn reported receiving a letter from James White.¹⁰ Much later, in 1910, historian [Arthur W. Spalding](#) (1877-1953) recalled that [Joseph Bates](#) presented his views about the seventh-day Sabbath to Crosier and Hahn (presumably in 1846). While Crosier expressed caution, Hahn reportedly exclaimed: "That's the truth," and his wife, Maria, added, "It is the truth."¹¹ He wrote of his newfound faith and encouraged other readers of *The Day-Dawn* to read what "Bro. Joseph Bates has written" giving "the scriptural evidence on the subject."¹²

Final Years

By 1848, he reverted to the Sunday-keeping majority of Adventists.¹³ Then in 1854, he was reported running a drug store in Auburn, New York.¹⁴ In 1859, his name appears as living in Philadelphia, where he practiced medicine.¹⁵ During the American Civil War, he served as the "surgeon in charge" on the steamer *John Brook*.¹⁶ By January 1864, he was part of a committee in Philadelphia that recruited soldiers to fight for the Union.¹⁷ Franklin B. Hahn died October 8, 1866 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,¹⁸ and he is buried at West Avenue Cemetery in Canandaigua, New York.¹⁹

SOURCES

"Advent Camp Meeting." *Ontario Messenger*, July 31, 1844.

Burt, Merlin D. *Adventist Pioneer Places: New York & New England*. Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 2011.

Burt, Merlin D. "The *Day-Dawn* of Canandaigua, New York: Reprint of a Significant Millerite Adventist Journal." *Andrews University Seminary Studies* 44, no. 2 (Autumn 2006): 317-330.

Burt, Merlin D. "The Extended Atonement View in the *Day-Dawn* and the Emergence of Sabbatarian Adventism." *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, 44, no. 2 (Fall 2006): 331-339.

Burt, Merlin D. "The Historical Background, Interconnected Development, and Integration of the Doctrines of the Sanctuary and the Sabbath, and Ellen G. White's Role in Sabbatarian Adventism from 1844 to 1849." Ph.D. diss., Andrews University, 2002.

Campbell, Michael W., and Edward Martin Allen, *A Global History of Seventh-day Adventists*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2026.

Edson, Hiram, and F. B. Hahn, "To the Brethren and Sisters Scattered Abroad." *The Day-Star*, February 7, 1846.

"Franklin B. Hahn." Findagrave.com. Accessed July 23, 2026.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85212019/franklin_b-hahn

Fortin, Denis. "Ellen G. White's Influence in the Development of Adventist Beliefs and Practices." In *The Oxford Handbook of Seventh-day Adventism*, eds. M. W. Campbell, et. al. New York: Oxford University Press, 2024.

Froom, LeRoy Edwin. *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers: The Historical Development of Prophetic Interpretation*, 4 vols. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald, 1954.

Hahn, F. B. "Letter from Bro. Hahn." [September 10, 1845] *The Day-Star*, September 20, 1845.

Hahn, F. B. "Letter from Bro. Hahn." *The Day-Dawn*, July 18, 1846.

Hahn, F. B. "The Time is at Hand." *The Day-Dawn*, April 2, 1847.

Hahn, F. B. "Withdrawal From the Church." *Voice of Truth*, April 16, 1845.

Knight, George R. *Joseph Bates: The Real Founder of Seventh-day Adventism*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2004.

Poirier, Timothy L., ed. *The Ellen G. White Letters & Manuscripts*, vol. 1, 1845-1859. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2014.

Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia. Second revised edition. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1996. S.v. "Hahn, Franklin B."

Spalding, Arthur W. *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists*. 4 vols. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald, 1961-1962.

Strayer, Brian E. *Hiram Edson: The Man and the Myth*. Westlake Village, CA: Oak & Acorn, 2023.

United States Federal Census, 1850-1890. Ancestry.com.

NOTES

1. For genealogical details, see Ancestry.com, https://www.ancestry.com/invite-ui/accept?token=5mqpxncumMCxEOp-il_jxw9dfUNX8CeSN5sjcOJIAL4=.
2. Merlin D. Burt, "The Historical Background, Interconnected Development, and Integration of the Doctrines of the Sanctuary and the Sabbath, and Ellen G. White's Role in Sabbatarian Adventism from 1844 to 1849," (Ph.D. diss., Andrews University, 2002), 291. See LeRoy Edwin Froom, *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers: The Historical Development of Prophetic Interpretation* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald, 1954), 4:891. For more information on the history of the name Canandaigua, see: https://www.buffalospree.com/forever_young/features/canandaigua-the-chosen-place/article_2c589264-0c34-11ed-8854-a7aa94ec7a89.html. The earliest documented print record is for Franklin B. Hahn offering a

\$25 reward for a stolen pair of cattle with yoke in 1839. See "25 Dollars Reward," *The Times-Union*, August 28, 1839, 2. At that point he was based in Gorham, New York, just outside of the village of Canandaigua.

3. *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* [1996], "Hahn, Franklin B." 10:653.
4. *History of Ontario County*, 184; "Ontario Medical Society," *Geneva Courier*, August 9, 1842, 2.
5. As recounted by A. W. Spalding, "Light on the Sanctuary," 72. See Brian E. Strayer, *Hiram Edson: The Man and the Myth* (Westlake Village, CA: Oak & Acorn, 2023), 72-73, for context.
6. See *The Midnight Cry*, August 8, 1844, 32, and *The Advent Herald and Signs of the Times Reporter*, October 2, 1844, 67.
7. Froom, *Prophetic Faith*, 4:877.
8. See Alberto R. Timm, "Crosier (or Crozier), Owen Russell Loomis," in *The Ellen G. White Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed., eds. Denis Fortin and Jerry Moon (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2013), 354-355.
9. Edson Hiram, and F. B. Hahn, "To the Brethren and Sisters Scattered Abroad," *The Day-Star*, February 7, 1846, 44.
10. F. B. Hahn, "Letter from Bro. Hahn," *The Day-Dawn*, July 18, 1846, [3].
11. A. W. Spalding, "Light on the Sanctuary Adapted from the Manuscript of Hiram Edson," *The Youth's Instructor*, March 8, 1910, 5-6.
12. F. B. Hahn, "The Time is at Hand," *The Day-Dawn*, April 2, 1847, 6. A note immediately below Hahn's article observes that Bates had recently "revised and enlarged his work on the Sabbath."
13. *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* [1996], "Hahn, Franklin B." 10:653; G. R. Knight, *Joseph Bates: The Real Founder of Seventh-day Adventism* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2004), 99-101.
14. *Documents of the Assembly of the State of New York, Seventy-Eighth Session* (Albany: C. Van Benthuysen, 1855), 3:835.
15. "Removal---Doctor F. B. Hahn," *Sunday Dispatch* [Philadelphia], April 17, 1859, 2.
16. See under "The Steamer 'John Brook,'" *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 7, 1862, 8.
17. See under "Special Notices," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 23, 1864, 3.
18. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates Index, 1803-1915, accessed from [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).
19. "Franklin B. Hahn," findagrave.com, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85212019/franklin_b-hahn.

encyclopedia.adventist.org is an official website of the [Seventh-day Adventist World Church](#)

© 2020 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists 12501 Old Columbia Pike Silver Spring , MD 20904 USA 301-680-6000