

Graham, Edward Kidder, Jr. ^[1]

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by Rosamond Putzel, 1986

31 Jan. 1911–13 Mar. 1976

Edward Kidder Graham, Jr., educator and college administrator, was born in Chapel Hill, the son of [E. K. Graham](#) ^[2], president of [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[3], and of Susan Williams Moses Graham. [Frank Porter Graham](#) ^[4] was his cousin. Orphaned at the age of seven, he was raised in the family of his uncle by marriage, [Louis Graves](#) ^[5], founder and editor of the *Chapel Hill Weekly*. Graham attended the Chapel Hill public schools, the [Asheville School](#) ^[6], and Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. He received the A.B. (1933) and A.M. (1934) degrees from The University of North Carolina. For further graduate study, he went to [Cornell University](#) ^[7], which granted him a Ph.D. in medieval history in 1938. For three years (1937–40) he was assistant to the president of Cornell, and for seven years (1940–47) he was secretary to that university.

Thereafter Graham served on the faculties of numerous educational institutions. At Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., from 1947 to 1950, he was successively dean of students, assistant dean of the faculty, and dean of the faculty. In 1950 he was appointed chancellor of the Woman's College of the [University of North Carolina at Greensboro](#) ^[8], where he remained for six years. From 1956 to 1960 he was dean of the College of Liberal Arts, dean of the College of General Education, and acting dean of the Graduate School at Boston University. He left to become vice-chancellor and dean of the faculty at Denver University. In 1963, Graham was named president of the College Center of Finger Lakes, an organization consisting of seven colleges in northern New York State. Later he was dean of the faculty at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, N.Y. In semiretirement, while pursuing a personal interest in creative writing, he served as consultant for Hampton (Va.) Institute and for New York State University at Albany.

Graham was a president of the Association for Higher Education, a member of the national selection committee for Fulbright awards (1953), a consultant for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (1953), and an adviser for the National Student Association (1954–56). He was a member of the American Historical Association and of the Medieval Academy of America. Graham was a [Democrat](#) ^[9] and an [Episcopalian](#) ^[10].

He was married first in 1935 to Elizabeth Ann McFadyen, of Concord, N.C., by whom he had three children: Susan (b. 1938), Julia Graves (b. 1941), and Edward Kidder (b. 1945). His second wife, Elvira Prondecki, survived him when he died in Elsmere, N.Y. He was buried in the old Chapel Hill Cemetery.

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Raleigh News and Observer, 7 Sept. 1963.

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Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press,^[16]

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