

# Thomas Krampf: A Chronology

## Early Life

1934 (Oct.9) born New York City (Polyclinic Hospital) while family was living in New Jersey

Father: [Charles] Melvin Krampf  
(family from Allegany, NY, great grandfather coming there from Germany)  
Worked as reporter for Olean Times Herald (early 1930's),  
then to New Jersey for the Asbury Park Press & the Freehold Transcript,  
later for United Press in NYC during WW2 years

Mother: Enez [Inez] Monsillo  
Modern language teacher; first generation Italian descent from Brooklyn

Sister: Gioia Krampf (b. Sept.10, 1933)

Family lived in Freehold, NJ until 10 or 11  
Both parents worked with the Freehold Raceway in various capacities

Family moved to Middletown, NJ. Graduated from High School there (class president)

## College & travels

1952-1956 Dartmouth College (B.A.: English major, Economics minor)

After graduation travelled in Europe (with money given by an uncle);  
first in France (Paris), then to Italy,  
a month in Rome looking for a newspaper job,  
then to Florence where he met his future wife Françoise Bonnamy

1956 (Fall) Draft board revokes ability to stay abroad; returns to USA.  
Period of waiting, moves into small room in Greenwich Village  
Caught in between being eligible & not being called, enlists

## Military

1956 (Fall) – 1958 (Fall) Army, first at Fort Benjamin Harrison (IN),  
then to Germany, worked for a time in a German coal yard

## Europe.1

- 1958 (Fall) Discharged from Army in Europe.  
Moved to Paris. Worked at Raymond Duncan's print shop (brother of Isadora Duncan),  
then at Brentano's Book Store for a year
- 1959 As is the custom in France was married in a civil ceremony (Oct.2), then in a religious  
ceremony (Oct3) to Françoise Bonnamy

## Brooklyn.1

- 1959 (end) Moves back to USA, to Brooklyn Heights (parents still in Middletown, NJ)  
Worked in sales & promotions for art section of McGraw Hill
- First child is born: Cecile (Oct.1, 1960)
- Second child is born: Gilda (Nov.16, 1961)
- Loses job. Begins to write (had wanted to do so earlier).  
Develops relationship with the city & riding subway (all day at times)
- Part time jobs; worked for Abraham & Strauss warehouse on docks in Brooklyn,  
later as doorman at Lenox Hill Hospital

## Europe.2 (The Fall)

- 1964 (Fall) Returns to France  
Françoise gets job with IBM at La Gaude; family lives in nearby Vence
- Suffers nervous breakdown; sent to civilian military hospital in Aix-en-Provence
- 1966 (Sept.22) The accident (falls from 4<sup>th</sup> floor window)  
Sent to Hospital of the Immaculate Conception (Marseilles) for a few months
- 1966 (Nov.) Flown back to USA in a body cast; V.A. hospital in East Orange, NJ for months,  
when released in a wheelchair, family living in East Orange

## Brooklyn.2 (Subway Prayer)

- 1967 Moved to Woodstock, NY, walking with braces & cane, worked at folk arts shop  
Moved back to Brooklyn Heights, worked as teacher with inner city children in  
Gowanus, later moving to that section of Brooklyn

1968 (late)/1969 (early) Suffered another breakdown. Sent to Kings County Hospital (Brooklyn), then to Beth Israel Medical Center (Manhattan), then to V.A. hospital in East Orange, NJ

Family buys house on Warren St. in Brooklyn. Françoise teaches at a Quaker school  
Third child is born: Françoise [Franny] (Aug.20, 1970)

## Western New York

1974 (end) Moves to Hinsdale, NY (Giles Hollow Road)

1976 *Subway Prayer and Other Poems of the Inner City*. Morning Star Press (New York City)

1987 *Satori West*. Ischua Books

1997 *Shadow Poems*. Ischua Books

2001 Teaching residency at Linenhall Arts Centre (Castlebar, Ireland)

2004 *Taking Time Out: Poems in Remembrance of Madness*. Salmon Poetry (County Clare, Ireland)

2006 Participant in 'Printemps des Poetes' [Springtime of the Poets] (La Rochelle, France)

2007 *Poems to My Wife and Other Women*. Salmon Poetry (County Clare, Ireland)

2013 *Selected Poems*. Salmon Poetry (County Clare, Ireland)