

Graph Theory in America: the first hundred years

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In this talk I shall trace the history of graph theory from 1876, when J. J. Sylvester arrived at the newly formed Johns Hopkins University and introduced the word ‘graph’ to our subject, to 1976, with Appel & Haken’s proof of the four-color theorem. (This century coincides nicely with the first century of the nation.) As well as Sylvester, we shall also outline the contributions of Oswald Veblen, G. D. Birkhoff, Philip Franklin, Hassler Whitney, and many others.