

Rhode Island's Own
"Real Sons"
of the American Revolution



Organized February 1, 1890

Compiled by
Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle
State President, 2008-2010

The Rhode Island Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution

2010

Rhode Island's Own
"Real Sons"
of the American Revolution

Since the founding of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in 1889, there have been 226 men that have joined, having the distinction of being the sons of men who were veterans of the American Revolution. There were 6 "Real Sons" in Rhode Island. (2.65%)

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has 760 "Real Daughters" and there are 26 in Rhode Island. (3.42%)

It is estimated that 350,000 men fought in the American Revolution. In 1864, there were only seven surviving veterans, all centenarians. All veterans of the American Revolution had died by 1870.

"Real Sons" joined the National Society as early as 1889, the year the Society was organized, and as late as 1926. The last "Real Son" died in 1941.

The Rhode Island Society's six "Real Sons" were:

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Joined</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Henry Allen Burlingame	1846	1921	1926	80
2. William Howe Church	1810	1901	1910	99
3. Esek Arnold Jillson	1808	1901	1901	93
4. Albert Franklin Kenyon	1833	1901	1918	84
5. Timothy Newell, M.D.	1820	1890	1901	81
6. Nathaniel Greene Totten	1823	1894	1897	73

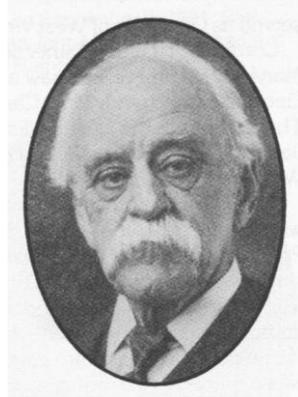
Source: *SAR Magazine*, Winter 1991, Vol. LXXXV, No. 3, pages 16-20
RI Society file copies of SAR Applications

*Compiled by
Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle
President, RI Society SAR
December 1, 2009*

Henry Allen Burlingame



*Eseck Burlingame
Revolutionary War Veteran*



*Henry Allen Burlingame
Son of Eseck & SAR Member*

National No. 34,919
State No. 641
Joined SAR: 20 April 1921
Residence: Pawtucket, RI
Born: Glocester, RI, 3 April 1846
Married: Voluntown, Conn., 6 April 1875, Alice Elizabeth Smith daughter of Alexander Campbell & Mary Maria (Congdon) Smith
Died: Pawtucket, RI, 19 October 1926
Buried: Chepachet Cemetery, Acotes Hill, Route 44, Glocester No. 23



Son of: Eseck & Asenath (Robbins) Burlingame of Glocester, RI:

Father's Service: "Eseck Burlingame, although never regularly enlisted, served in the Revolutionary War as a Minute Man, substituting, by subterfuge, for his brother Nathan Burlingame, who had regularly enlisted. In 1781, Nathan, being subject to call, and being sick consequently being unable to respond to the call, Eseck, at the time 16 years of age, took his brother's credentials, answered the call, and always answering to the name of

Nathan Burlingame, served during Nathan's absence, in 1781. Henry Allen Burlingame, son of Eseck, was about nine years of age when his father died. Eseck Burlingame frequently conversed with the members of his family in regard to his service in the War of the Revolution. Henry Allen Burlingame's sister, Lydia B. White, now deceased, has often told him of the facts stated above, as related to her and to other older members of the family, by her father." (Henry Allen Burlingame's SAR Application)

Providence Sunday Journal, May 2, 1926
Rhode Island's Real Son of the Revolution

Henry A. Burlingame of Pawtucket, Born in 1846, Was Youngest of 21 Children of Eseck Burlingame Who Served With Capt. Stephen Olney's Company of Minute Men

Rhode Island's only Real Son of the Revolution, Henry A. Burlingame, of 884 Central Avenue, Pawtucket, observed his 80th birthday on April 3. He is a son of Eseck Burlingame, who in 1781, at the age of 16 years, went from Gloucester to answer to his brother Nathan Burlingame's name, when the roll call was called in Capt. Stephen Olney's company of Minute Men. Eseck Burlingame was thrice married, and Henry A. Burlingame is his 21st and youngest child

There is but one other Real Son of the Revolution in New England, so far as is known. He is Osborne Allen of Dexter, ME, who is 90 years old.

Henry A. Burlingame as a lad attended the common schools of Gloucester, in which town he was born, April 3, 1846. His higher education was obtained at the old Lapham Institute in his native town, and at Bryant & Stratton school in Providence.

He explained that he resided in Rhode Island until he was 20 years old, when he went to Connecticut, and for the next 20 years kept books for several storekeepers in that State. It was through that occupation, he says, that he came to know many of the prominent businessmen of this city, as he conducted all the store correspondence and handled all the bills.

"I returned to Rhode Island in 1866: he continued, "to keep books for some the better know wholesale and retail grocers of Providence. But for a number of years I have lived in Pawtucket and have busied myself looking up real estate titles and searching land records.

"April 6, 1875, I married Miss Alice Elizabeth Smith of Griswold, Conn. We have three children – Mrs. Archer L. Kent, Mrs. Harold I. Adams and Miss Bertha M. Burlingame, who is at home with us.

"Although in my 81st year, I have had splendid health all my life until about 3 years ago. I now feel that I am recovering from my indisposition.

"My father was a cooper of the old fashioned type. While he made many barrels and other wooden receptacles at his shop in Gloucester, he went about the country making pails and barrels upon order. When people notified him that they wished coopering done, he sent them word to have all their stock on hand and he would come to them on particular dates. Thus he went from home at times for from 2 to 3 weeks, remaining away until the job he was asked to do was completed. I recall that he was of good physique and rugged constitution, and that his looks and activities belied his age.

“I used to take considerable interest in politics, having been the People’s Party candidate for State Senator District No. 2 in Connecticut, in 1885. I ran for congress in Rhode Island in 1892, was the party’s candidate for Governor in 1896, and that of the Liberty Party for Lieut. Governor in 1897. I attended the People’s Party Convention at St. Louis in 1896.”

Eseck Burlingame was thrice married, he was the father of 21 children, and Henry A. Burlingame, born to him when he was in his 82nd year, is the last surviving of all those offspring. He is a son of Eseck & Asenath (Robbins) Burlingame, both natives of that town; she of that part of it that was set off to Burrillville in 1806.

When the patriots of the New England Colonies rallied to repulse the British forces that landed at Boston, Nathan Burlingame, a Gloucester lad, sought to take up arms in defense of his country. But it was not until 1778 that he became of sufficient age to serve as a Minute Man, when he joined a company in command of Benijah Whipple, in Col. Chad Brown’s Regiment. From 1779 to 1782 inclusive, he served under Capt. Stephen Olney and Col. Chad Brown, a portion of each year whenever called to the post of duty.

There was one only of those duty calls to which he was unable to respond on account of sickness, and that his absence might not be noted, his younger brother Eseck, 16 years old, attended the roll call in 1781 and answered “here.”

Eseck Burlingame was tall and rather robust for one of his years, so his act of deception was not discovered by his superior officers, and there was no one in the company who would give him away. It is understood that he completed the entire period of duty, and then quietly returned to his home in Gloucester, intending to “keep mum.” But the fact of his volunteer service became a matter of town talk and history, so that in 1840, and on one later occasion, efforts were made to induce him to apply for a pension as a soldier of the Revolution. On both occasions he declined to sign applications, asserting that he only did his duty in filling his brother Nathan’s place in the ranks. The honor of his father’s family was at stake; it was up to him to prove that he was as much a patriot as was his brother Nathan.

OBITUARY: *New York Times*, Oct 21, 1926; Pg. 25.
"Special to the New York Times."

PAWTUCKET, R.I., Oct. 20. - With the fighting spirit inherited from his Minute Man father, **Henry A. Burlingame**, in his eighty-first year, faced a major operation last Saturday, convinced he would come through it successfully, but Rhode Island's last real son of the American Revolution succumbed today at the Memorial Hospital.

Nathan Burlingame, his uncle, was a Minute Man in Colonel Chad Brown's regiment and Captain Stephen Olney's company, but had to quit campaigning because of sickness. Eseck, his brother and Henry's father, equipped himself with his brother's musket, powder horn and credentials and, although only about 13 years old, managed to join another regiment.

Henry Burlingame was one of twenty-one children. He was born on April 3, 1846, when his father was 82 years old.

[Bruce MacGunnigle, RI Society SAR President, 2008-2010, is the great-grandson of Henry Allen Burlingame's sister, Mary Thornton (Burlingame) (Irons) Greene.]

William Howe Church

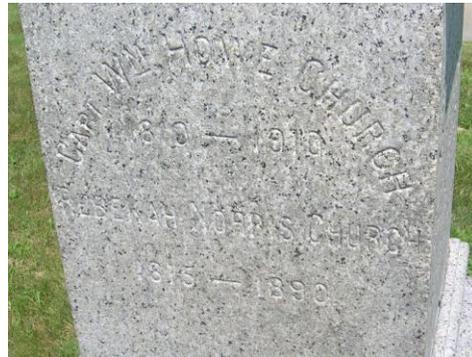


As a young man



90th Birthday

National No: 12,668
State No: 268
Joined SAR: 16 January 1901
Residence: Bristol, RI
Born: Bristol, 23 June 1810
Married: 18 August 1833 to Rebecca Norris of Newport
Died: Bristol, 18 April 1910; age 99y, 9m, 26d (VR Deaths 6:39)
Buried: Section 590, Mt. Carmel Ave., North Burial Ground, Hope Street, Bristol Historic Cemetery #1



Son of: Thomas & Mary (Tripp) Church, of Bristol

Father's Service: Thomas Church entered service in April 1777 as Private and discharged Sept. 1780, service 17 months. His entire service was rendered in and around Bristol, RI, in Capt. William Troop's Co., except for one month in Capt. Viall Allen's Co., Col. Miller's Regt, during Sullivan's Expedition, and one month in Capt. Remington's Co., Col. Miller's Regt at Newport in 1780. Pensioned. (1911 SAR Manual and letter from Pension Bureau filed with application)

The Bristol Phoenix, June 26, 1900, page 3
90th Birthday Observance

Capt. William Howe Church, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of this town, celebrated his ninetieth anniversary of his birth Saturday at the residence of his niece, Mrs. William H. Spooner, on Hope St. A large number of friends called to extend congratulations and best wishes to the captain, who is still in the full enjoyment of all his faculties, except his sight, which is failing somewhat.

The interior of the house was handsomely decorated. Many relatives from various R.I. towns and cities and from Taunton and New Bedford were present.

Capt. Church was assisted in receiving by his daughter Miss G. E. Church, and his granddaughters, the Misses Reba and Helen Church. The Misses Millie Church and Hattie Dodge were the waitresses.

Capt. Church is a retired ship master, and had command of many fine vessels, and has visited many of the principal ports in various parts of the world.

Among the old time friends of Capt. Church was Samuel O. Swan of this town, who went as a cabin boy with Capt. Church on the ship *Gov. Fenner*, which sailed from this port May 3, 1838, for a voyage to Europe.

The Bristol Phoenix, April 19, 1910, page 1

DEATH OF CAPT. WM. H. CHURCH

He Passed Away Last Evening at His Home on State Street –
Would Have Been a Centenarian on June 23

Capt. William Howe Church, the oldest male resident of Bristol, died last evening about 10:30 o'clock at his home, 80 State Street, after an illness which began on March 3. He was first taken ill with an attack of grippe, which so weakened his vitality that after passing the critical point, and apparently on the road to recovery, his advanced years were against him. In the early stages of his illness, he appeared to improve and his physician, Dr. C. J. Hasbrouck, stated that there was a chance for the recovery of his venerable patient, but for the past several weeks it was evident that he could not survive, and his death was hourly expected for some time. His strong constitution resisted the last call of nature to a remarkable degree, and his passing was like a little child falling asleep.

Capt. Church was born on Poppasquash, in this town, on June 23, 1810. His father, Thomas Church, was a soldier of the Revolution, a descendant of Benjamin Church of King Phillip fame. His mother's name was Miss Mary Tripp of Newport. His parents were married in 1792, and he was one of 11 children. A sister, Mrs. Betsey C. Wardwell, was an "original" D.A.R., died in 1906.

Capt. Church assisted his father on the farm, when not attending the village school, until he was 16 years old, when he went to sea on a whaling vessel. Three years later, he was promoted to first mate and at the age of 21 he was in command of a schooner. From that time he sailed as master of 33 vessels, schooners, barks, brigs, and full-rigged ships. Most of his voyages were to the West Indies, and while following the sea for 75 years he crossed the Atlantic but twice, when going to London.

Capt. Church married Aug. 18, 1833, to Miss Rebecca Norris, of Newport. Of the 6 children born, 2 are living, Lewis H. Church, clerk for Edward C. Paull,

grocer, corner of Hope and Franklin Streets, and a daughter, Miss Gertrude E. Church, a teacher in the 4th and 5th Grades, Oliver School. His wife died in 1888.

Capt Church was a member of the town council over 50 years ago. In 1859 he was elected Representative to the General Assembly from this town.

Capt. Church became a member of the First Congregational Church on May 7, 1837, and for the last 30 years of his life was one of the deacons of the church. Capt. Church was a very religious man, and always made it a point to attend divine service whenever he was in port in any part of the world.

At the time of the 115th Anniversary of the Bristol Train of Artillery, held June 18, 1909, Capt. Church was serenaded. The captain expressed keen delight in the honor accorded him, and cordially greeted the officers and military guests.

At his 99th birthday a delegation of 8 members of the Bristol Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, called on Capt. Church, and presented him with a basket of 99 roses and carnations, tied with the Continental colors, buff and blue. Capt Church was one of the most honored members of the chapter.

He joined the First Congregational Church in this town when a young man. He remembered seeing Halley's comet in 1835, when many people thought the world was coming to an end.

He had been a reader of the Phoenix since its establishment in 1837, up to within a few years, when his eyesight failed.

He always attributed his excellent health to the habits inculcated in him by his father, whose motto was "early to bed and early to rise," etc.

The Bristol Phoenix, April 22, 1910, page 2

FUNERAL OF CAPT. CHURCH

Services held in Memorial Chapel Yesterday Afternoon –
Body Escorted from Home by Bristol Train of Artillery

The funeral of Capt. William Howe Church was held yesterday afternoon with military honors, it being the expressed wish of Capt. Church that his body should be escorted to its last resting place by the Bristol Train of Artillery, he having been for many years its oldest member.

At 1:30 o'clock a short prayer service was held from his late residence on State Street, after which the body was taken to the memorial chapel of the First Congregational Church, where the funeral services were held. Rev. T. Newton Owen, pastor of the church, officiated, assisted by Rev. Henry A. Stevens, of Boston, a former pastor. The chapel was filled with mourning friends and relatives, who at the close of the impressive service viewed the deceased. The casket was banked with beautiful and expensive floral tributes, including [those] from the Bristol Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution; the Rhode Island Society, Sons of the American Revolution; the Superintendent and Clerk and teachers of the public schools; the Bristol Train of Artillery, and numerous individual tributes from New Bedford, Providence and this town.

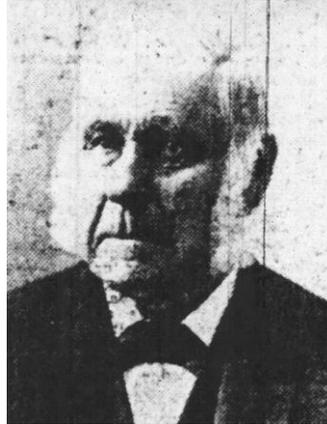
The bearers were John Post Reynolds, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Howard W. Church, of Bristol Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution; William H. Bell, a deacon of the First Congregational Church, and Col. Merton A. Cheesman of the Bristol Train of Artillery.

The ushers at the chapel were William Munro and George R. Fish, members of the Knights of King Arthur, of which Capt. Church was an honorary member.

A detachment from the Bristol Train of Artillery in command of Lieut. Col. S.W. Bourn, escorted the body to North Cemetery, where interment took place, fired a volley of three guns and sounded taps after the body had been lowered into the grave.

*“And when the stream which overflowed the soul was passed away,
A consciousness remained that it had left
Deposited upon the silent shore of memory
Images and precious thoughts
That shall not die and cannot be destroyed.”*

Esek Arnold Jillson



National No: 12,67

State No: 274

Joined SAR: 22 February 1901

Residence: Providence

Born: Providence, RI, 27 February 1808

Married: Providence, RI, 12 June 1836, Samantha M. Carpenter, daughter of Ezekiel Carpenter

Died: Providence, RI, 2 June 1901

Buried: Section CH, Alder Ave., North Burial Ground, North Main Street, Providence #1



Son of: Oliver & Nancy (Potter) Jillson of Attleboro, Mass.

Father's Service: Oliver Jillson was a private in Capt. Jacob Fuller's Company, Col John Jacob's Regiment, Mass. 1778, service 7 months. Seaman under Capt. Samuel Tucker, frigate "Boston" 32 guns 11 months. Sailing Master's Mate under Capt. Babcock in sloop "Gen. Mifflin" 22 guns, 1779; service over 2 years. In his last service his vessel was captured by the British frigate "Rolla" and he was sent to Portsmouth, England, and was imprisoned over 2 years. Pensioned. (1911 SAR Manuel)

The Providence Journal,

June 4, 1901, Page 2

OBITUARY

Esek Arnold Jillson, son of Oliver and Nancy (Potter) Jillson, who was born in this city Feb. 27, 1808, died here Sunday, aged 93 years, 3 months and 6 days. His father, Oliver, served in the Revolutionary War in both the army and navy. Mr. Jillson was educated in the public schools and afterwards learned the trade of carpenter. Many fine buildings standing in the city show evidence of his taste and faithful workmanship. Mr. Jillson was a member of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly in 1869-70, and for many years held the office of Surveyor and General Surveyor of Lumber.

In June 1836, he was married by Rev. Dr. Farley to Samantha S. Carpenter, daughter of Ezekiel Carpenter, and they went to live at what was to be his home for the remainder of his life. His only son, Charles D. Jillson, well remembered as Colonel of the Zouaves and the United Train of Artillery, died in 1886. Mr. Jillson was a member of the Rhode Island Historical Society in which he took great interest. He was also an original Son of the American Revolution. In early life he served on the board of the *Chancellor Livingston*, one of the first of the New York and Providence steamboats.

(The photo above is from his obituary.)

Albert Franklin Kenyon

National No: 14,232
State No: 282
Joined SAR: 17 July 1901
Residence: Providence
Born: Richmond, RI, 19 August 1833
Married: ca. 1857 to Maria C. Gardner, b. 1837, d. 1920 (SK002-B-0019)
Died: (probably) Providence, RI, 18 April 1918
Buried: Queens River Baptist Cemetery, Route 138, Pole #675, South Kingstown #2 (SK002-B-0019)



Son of: William & Mercy (Johnson) Kenyon of Richmond, RI

Father's Service: William Kenyon was an Orderly Sergeant in Capt. Sweets Company, Col. Cook's Regiment, RI, Aug. 1, 1776, service 4 months; in Capt. Adam's Company, Col. Elliot's Regiment, December 1776, service 8 months; in Capt. Clark's Company, Col. Dyer's Regiment, March 1778, service 2 months; in Capt. Green's Company, Col. Noyes' Regiment, July 1778, service 1 month; and served short terms in 1779 and 1780 aggregating 3 months. Pensioned. (1911 SAR Manuel)

"Albert F. Kenyon, of No. 113 Prairie Avenue, Providence, ...was born in Richmond, R.I., Aug. 17, 1833, being now in his 75th year. He is employed in the meter department of the Providence Gas Company, and works steadily. His father, the Revolutionary veteran, was seventy-seven years old when Albert was born, and it is to that fact that Mr. Kenyon owes his distinction as an original son of the American Revolution.

"Albert F. Kenyon spent his early schooldays in Richmond, R.I., and when eighteen years of age became a clerk in William Crandall's store at Shannock, R.I. For two years he sold dry goods on the road, was station agent at Shannock for

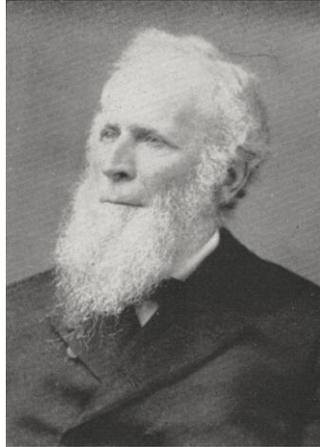
fifteen months, and at Kingston for eight years. In 1864, he came to Providence as clerk and agent for the Neptune Steamship Company, remaining in that position four years. For one year he traveled for the Binghampton Oil Company, for two years he was engaged in the restaurant business on Market Square, and for sixteen years was cashier and agent of the freight department of the old Boston and Providence line. He spent about ten years as foreman of the highway department of the city of Providence. Since 1896, despite his years, he has been the efficient foreman and inspector of the Providence Gas Co. On July 17, 1901, he became a member of the **Sons of the American Revolution**, and the certificate of membership occupies a conspicuous place on the wall of the sitting room of his home on Prairie Avenue. He is also a member of the United Order of American Mechanics.

“On June 14, 1854, Mr. Kenyon married at Kingston, R.I., Maris Case Gardiner, daughter of Henry and Mahala (Briggs) Gardiner, and to this union were born two children: Cordelia Howard, born July 15, 1857, died Feb. 23, 1862; and Charles Henry, born April 16, 1864, died Dec. 19, 1905. For a time the son was receiving clerk at the Providence station, then station agent at New London, and later at the Henderson street depot in Providence. For the last ten years of his life he [the son] was advance agent for a theatrical company, and was highly esteemed by his associates.”

Ref: *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island*, Chicago IL, Beers & Co., 1908, p. 973

Other: 1860 Providence Census: Albert F., age 26, Depot Master, Maria C., age 23, Delia H., age 2
1880 Providence Census: Albert F., age 46, Rail Road Treasurer, Maria C. age 42, Charles H., age 16

Timothy Newell, M.D.



National No. 6,809

State No: 9

Joined SAR: Charter Member, 1 February 1890

Residence: Providence

Born: Sturbridge, Mass., 29 March 1820

Married: September 9, 1867, Annie Potter Bates daughter of James W. Bates of South Kingstown

Died: Providence, RI, 20 June 1901

Buried: Riverside Cemetery, Historic Pawtucket Cemetery No. 7, corner of Pleasant Street and Alfred Stone Road Section 25, Lot S-7 (South end of cemetery). The cemetery office reports there is no stone for Dr. Newell, and this was confirmed by a site visit.

Son of: Stephen & Polly (May) Newell of Sturbridge, Mass.

Father's Service: Stephen Newell was a Private in Capt. Batchellor's Company, Col. Ezra Wood's Regiment, enlisted August 1, 1778, discharged December 31, 1778; Sergeant in Capt. Elias Pratt's Company of Guards, stationed at Rutland, enlisted April 17, 1779, served 2 months, 14 days; name appears on warrant to pay officers and men, on roll bearing date March 11, 1784 of Capt. Elias Pratt's Company; private in Capt. Abel Mason's Company in Col. Job Cushing's Regiment, August 13 to November 1777, from Sturbridge; arrived at Battleground about the same time Burgoyne surrendered, probably in Capt. Mason's Company. (1900 SAR Manuel)

Timothy Newell, son of Stephen and Polly (May) Newell, was born in Sturbridge, Mass., March 29, 1820, and died in Providence, June 20, 1901. His paternal grandparents were Isaac Newell, the second town clerk of Sturbridge, and Ruth Duin. He was educated at the Worcester Manual Labor High School and at Wilbraham Academy and spent two years at Brown University with the class of 1847. He commenced the study of medicine in 1846, at Pawtucket, his medical preceptors being Dr. Sylvanus Clapp and Dr. W. D. Buck. After two courses of lectures at Vermont Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1850, and subsequently one course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in

New York City, he began his professional life in the town of Cranston, R. I., in 1851.

Here he remained for a little over three years, after which he established himself in Providence, where he was located for the rest of his life. Dr. Newell served in the war of the Rebellion, being commissioned surgeon of the First Rhode Island Cavalry. He was taken prisoner at Savage Station in the Seven Days' battle in front of Richmond, June 30, 1862, and confined for several weeks in Libby Prison.

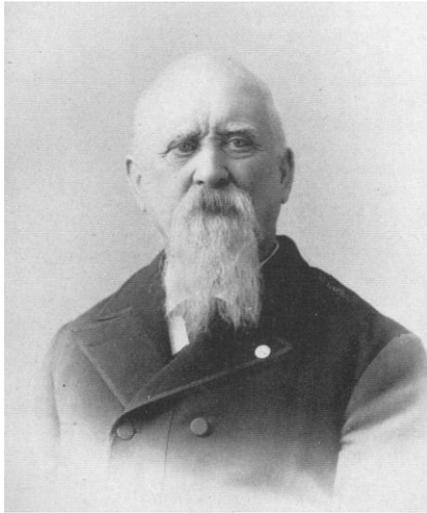
During his residence in Providence Dr. Newell was an ardent advocate of municipal improvement. When the plan of acquiring Davis Park was first spoken of, he entered heartily into the project and was largely instrumental in its final establishment. He was always interested in horticulture, and the old homestead on Smith Hill was considered a floral and arboreal paradisc. The preservation of the old cove was a subject especially dear to his heart and he often appeared in the public print in defense of the project. He issued several publications advocating municipal improvement, such as the pamphlets published by the Providence Public Parks Association. He also wrote considerable of interest to the medical profession.

Dr. Newell was a veteran member of many societies. He belonged to the **Sons of the American Revolution**, being the son of a revolutionary soldier and the only member of the Rhode Island society having such relationship. He was a member of the Rhode Island Medical Society, the Providence Medical Association and the Rhode Island Horticultural Society, an honorary member of the Metropolitan Public Garden Association of London, and a founder, secretary and treasurer of the Public Parks Association of Providence. He joined the Historical Society in 1895.

Dr. Newell married, September 9, 1867, Annie Potter [Bates], daughter of James W. Bates of South Kingstown, and left one son, Claude Potter Newell, born November 8, 1870.

Ref: *Proceedings of the Rhode Island Historical Society 1900- 1901*, Providence, Printed for the Society, 1902

Nathaniel Greene Totten



National No: 7,969

State No: 119

Joined SAR: 17 January 1894

Residence: Providence

Born: South Kingstown, 2 November 1823

Married: Providence, RI, 26 September 1847, Sarah G. Thompson, daughter of Noah Thompson of Portland Maine (v.r.), b. 27 April 1827, d. 13 August 1889 (PV001-BC-05644) (Stone recorded as Sarah J.)

Died: Providence, RI, 7 August 1897 (stone reads 2 August)

Buried: North Burial Ground, North Main Street, Providence #1 (PV001-BC-05644)

Son of: Levi & Susannah C. (Peckham) Totten, Goshen, NY

Father's Service: Levi Totten enlisted on February 22, 1776 as a private in Capt. Daniel Denton's Company of Goshen NY for 1 year in 3rd regiment Col. Rhodolph Ritzma; was in Battle of White Plains; served 6 months under Capt. John Minthorn in 1777; also with Capt. John Hawthorn in 1777; in 1778 served at West Point under Major Toppen, 2 tours, 2 others under Capt. Miller at Never Sink, and 1 month under Capt. Sayer; in 1779 served 1 tour under Lt. Armstrong, 1 month under Capt. Miller, and 2 months under Col. Hothorn at Poughkeepsie; was at Fort Montgomery when it was taken, and at the fight at Ramapo Bridge. (1911 SAR Manuel.)

Nathaniel Greene Totten: The death of Nathaniel G. Totten, causes this Society to mourn one of its most unique members. He was one of our most active Compatriots. He was a most modest man, and, at our banquets, never took his seat until the Committee had found him, and escorted him thither.

He was the son of a Revolutionary soldier, an honor shared with him by only one other member of this Society.

Mr. Totten was born in South Kingstown, November 2, 1823; his father was Levi Totten, and his mother Susannah C. Peckham. When about 30 years of age he came to Providence, and ran the engine at Moulton & Ingraham's planning mill, on Mill Street. The first steam fire engine was bought for the city, in 1859, and Mr. Totten was appointed assistant engineer; upon the advent of the second steam fire engine, Mr. Totten was appointed engineer in charge of it.

He continued in this position until 1870, when the Fire Alarm Telegraph was introduced, and he took charge of the battery room, on Richmond Street. Four years later he moved to the dome of the City Hall, and has occupied that elevated position, up to the time of his fatal illness. For 38 years he was connected with the city's fire department, and kept ward and watch over the city's safety. He presents a most worthy example of quiet application to duty, losing only a few weeks out of the 38 years on account of sickness. He was widely known in fire department circles, and was honored by all who knew him or came in contact with him.

Mr. Totten entered this Society January 17, 1894, through his father, Levi Totten, born in Goshen, N., 1753, died Scituate, RI., 1833. Levi Totten enlisted February 22, 1776, as private in Capt. Daniel Denton's Co., Goshen, NY. He re-enlisted many times, and served in the NY Continental line at White Plains, the fight at Ramapo Bridge, and the fall of Fort Montgomery.

Thus our friend and Compatriot, Nathaniel G. Totten, connected us directly back to Revolutionary times. His life and his father's, cover the space of 145 years, well over half the time since the Pilgrims landed.

Mr. Totten had an honorable ancestry, and leaves an honorable name. What better epitaph could any man desire?

[by] ROBERT P. BROWN

Ref: *Manual of the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution ... 1899*, Published by the Sons of the American Revolution. Rhode Island Society, Edward Field, 1900