SIXTH ANNUAL

STATE CONVENTION

OF THE

American Legion

EAST GREENWICH
RHODE ISLAND



AUGUST 15 and 16, 1924



Of Interest....

We wish to express our appreciation to the Townspeople for their aid, which has enabled us to extend to our Comrades an invitation to hold the State Convention here in East Greenwich, and to enjoy a few days amongst a people to whom this Post is indebted for many expressions of interest.

AMERICAN LEGION POST No. 15



Welcome American Legion

The East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce bids you welcome. May your visit be an enjoyable one.

Our Historic Town, which has sent forth her noble Sons in the past for the preservation of our Great Country, feels honored by your presence. She greets you with a spirit of appreciation for your noble service to Country and with confidence for the future, fostered by your pledge of fidelity and love to all the fundamental principles which inspired your devotion and the supreme sacrifice of many of your comrades.

Our organization has for its object Civic Pride, and our efforts have resulted in organizing a Co-operative Bank, which has been a great assistance in helping our Town's growth.

Our "White Way" has stamped East Greenwich as one of the best illuminated Towns for its size in the Country.

Better sidewalks, planting of trees, efforts to induce Industry to locate, building of Homes, Mass Meetings for the better understanding of Community Needs are a part of our work.

We wish the American Legion every success, and trust that at some future time our Town will again be the Legion's selection.

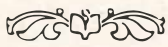
The East Greenwich
Chamber of Commerce

SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Rhode Island

VARNUM MEMORIAL ARMORY
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

August 15-16, 1924



FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH

9:30 A. M. Music

10:00 A. M. Call to order by Department Commander Wall

Invocation by Department Chaplain Hathaway

Advancement of Colors

Singing of "Star Spangled Banner" by Miss Ruth E. D. Lahan, of the New England Conservatory of Music

Reading of the Call of Convention by Department Adjutant Littlefield

Address of Welcome by George A. Loomis, representing the citizens of East Greenwich, and Howard V. Allen, of the Chamber of Commerce.

Response by Department Commander Wall.

Addresses:

Mrs. Franklin Lee Bishop, National President, American Legion Auxiliary.

The Department President, The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Rhode Island

E. J. Tandy, Officer-in-Charge, U. S. Veteran's Bureau, First District.

Percy J. Cantwell, Legion Liaison Representative, First District.

Greetings from Veterans' Organizations:
Grand Army of the Republic.
Spanish War Veterans.
Veterans of Foreign Wars.
Disabled American Veterans of the World War.

Addresses by distinguished guests.

Memorial Services:
Solo, "There is No Death,"
by Miss Ruth E. D. Lahan
Taps

Reports of Committees:
Credentials.

RECESS

2:00 P. M. Call to Order.

Report of Department Commander B. W. Wall.

Report of Department Adjutant R. B. Littlefield.

Presentation of Lester B. Carpenter Membership trophy to Cumberland Post No. 14 by the donor, Harry G. Carpenter.

Report of Department Treasurer A. B. Campbell.

Report of Department Historian Kenneth Lovell.

Report of Department Service Officer David Loiselle

Report of Department Publicity Officer Percy J. Cantwell

Reports of Committees:
Rules.
Finance.
Constitution and By-Laws.
Resolutions.
Time and place of next Convention.

Retirement of Colors.

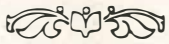
ADJOURNMENT.

At 1 o'clock a luncheon will be served to delegates and guests in Odd Fellows Hall.

After adjournment autos will be furnished to take the delegates and guests to the many places of historic interest in and near the town.

At 6:30 dinner will be served in Odd Fellows Hall.

In the evening a Convention Ball will be held in the Varnum Memorial Armory, to which the public is invited.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH

8:30 A. M. Music

9:00 A. M. Call to Order by Department Commander Wall.

Invocation by Department Chaplain Hathaway.

Advancement of Colors.

Address by
Edward E. Spafford, Department Commander The American Legion, Department of New York.

Introduction of John R. Quinn, National Commander of The American Legion by Department Commander B. W. Wall.

Address by John R. Quinn, National Commander of The American Legion.

Unfinished business.

New business.
Election of Department Officers.
Election of Department Executive Committee.
Election of National Delegates.

Retirement of Colors.

Benediction.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 12:30 the Delegates and guests will have luncheon in Odd Fellows Hall.

At 1:30 there will be a parade, through Main Street and then to the Academy Campus where National Commander John R. Quinn and other distinguished guests will address the assemblage.

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Benjamin F. Solomon

East Greenwich, R. I.

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¶We stand ready to protect the property, the merchandise and the valuables of the citizens of our commonwealth.

¶We stand ready to assist in the appraisement of local properties and to insure such properties against destruction and damage.

¶We stand ready to insure goods in stock and in transit against loss and pilferage.

¶We stand ready to protect the homes of our city and vicinity from fire and storm.

¶We stand ready to serve ANY firm and ANY individual.

¶We believe we are performing a genuine service to our community and trust that we may be of service to every reader of this message.

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Arctic, R. I.

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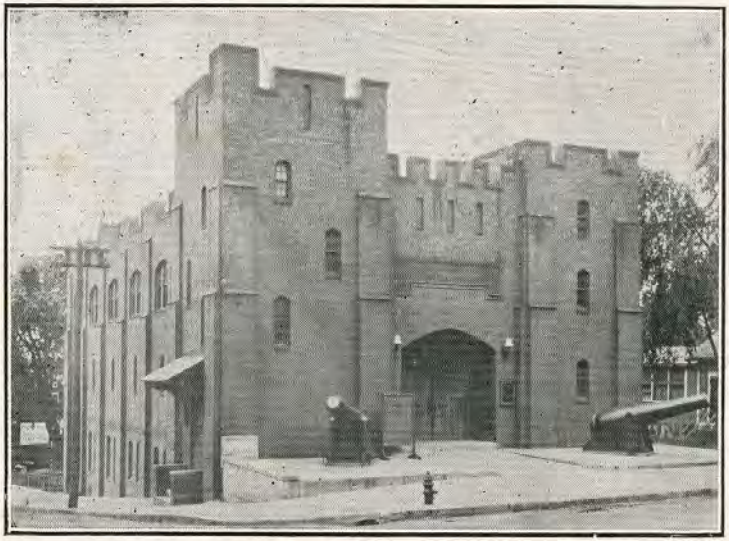
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VARNUM MEMORIAL ARMORY

Historic East Greenwich

EMILY GERTRUDE ARNOLD

Men of all times, who have served their country in time of war, have by these grateful countries been recompensed. So it was, on October 31st in the year 1667, when the General Assembly, "of ye Colony of his Majesty Charles II," met in the city of Newport, there arose a discussion as to the manner of gift they bestow upon the brave soldiers who had served so well in the recent King Phillip's War.

Poor little State of Rhode Island! Small indeed were her resources. Of one thing only did she have plenty, and that was land. Therefore they voted "that in some convenient place in the Narragansett County, five hundred acres are to be laid out in some place near the sea," and the present site of East Greenwich was chosen for the new town. Among the forty-eight men who received these first grants of land from a grateful State we find many a familiar name, as Weaver, Vaughn, Frye, Browne, Arnold, Gorton, Knight and others, all of whom have descendants still living on the lands of their forefathers.

GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE HOMESTEAD

One of the first houses to be built in the new settlement was about one and one-half miles from the center of the town, and stood near what is now known as Hunt's River. James Greene, son of John Greene, surgeon, who was the first of his name in the New World, built this house in 1684 and lived here until his death in 1698. The house is

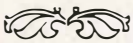


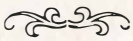
Champlin Lumber Company

BUILDING MATERIALS

Wharf and Yard
East Greenwich, R. I.

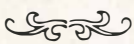
Yard and Mill
Centreville. R. I.





Compliments of

A. H. ESTEN



still standing, but so much has it been rebuilt and changed that hardly a trace of the original can be seen. James gave this goodly heritage to his son, Jabez, and when he died in 1740 without a will, his six sons held and shared the property in common, though his eldest son, James, could by the law have claimed it all.

The fourth son was named Nathanael. He married first his cousin, Phebe Greene, and second Mary Mott, and in the northeast room on the second floor of the old homestead at Potowomut "was born to Mary on the 27th day of the fifth month, 1742, about one or two o'clock in the afternoon, of the third day of the week," a son whom they called Nathanael. He it was who in later years became one of the greatest generals of the American Revolution.

It was a happy home to which the little Nathanael came. A Quaker household with father, mother and seven brothers to grow up with. The house plain, but substantial, with its big chimney in the center and large rooms on either side of the front door, stood on the top of a gentle rise of wooded ground, at the foot of which was a pond made by the damming of a small stream which flowed just here into a far-reaching arm of Narragansett Bay. A few yards below the dam, on the west side of the river, stood the grist mill in which the meal and flour for all the countryside was ground. Close by the mill, but on lower ground, was the forge, a large building with a broad shingled roof coming down so near the ground on the west side it was easy to climb upon to play. Two broad doors opened upon the river bank, where at a natural wharf lay the vessels—small sloops that brought iron and coal and later would carry away the justly famous anchors and chains that were made at the forge. Within were the separate forges, each with its own anvil, its own chimney and its own huge bellows. The anchor anvil stood in the middle directly under a great trip hammer which rose and fell at the turning of the water wheel.

Here worked Nathanael Greene, and after the hard day's toil was done he and his brothers would, in the warm summer weather, take a swim in the cool sea water or fish from the bridge which connected the two river banks.

Nathanael's father was a Quaker preacher, and for the Quakers the greatest gathering time of the year was Quarterly Meeting Day. For days before that date there was a bustle and air of busy importance. The housewife stocked her larder to overflowing with apple pies, pumpkin pies, huge mounds of brown bread and "all things nice." The cider barrels were tapped, and tradition tells us that even in that Quaker household many a merry jest or tale was told and received many a merry laugh.

Recreation meant for the boys mostly hard work; to see who could plow the straightest furrow, lift the heaviest weight, or make the finest haystack. With swimming and boating in the summer, skating in the winter on their little sheltered pond, or, most prized of all, a husking bee in the fall, where, in spite of the fact it was an abomination to the Quakers, they would sometimes wind up with a dance. This last was

THE CASINO

Narragansett Pier, R. I.

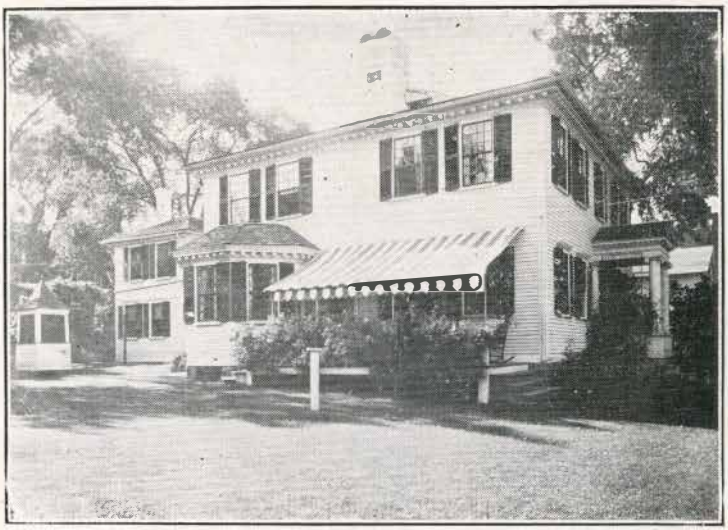
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a recreation Nathanael was most fond of, and many a time, after the household were all asleep, the boy would steal out of his window and walk a mile or two to take part in these countryside dances, slipping back in the wee small hours and no one the wiser. But, alas! one night as the truant returned, in the clear starlight he saw his father pacing up and down under the tell-tale window, and he did not seem to be working on his Sunday text, either, for in his hand was a horsewhip. The future great strategist considered all this from a distance, and then, slipping to the other side of the house, picked up some shingles which were lying on the ground, stuffed them inside his jacket, and under their protection took the expected punishment with a good deal of fortitude, not forgetting to put in an artistic Oh! and Ouch! now and then.



GENERAL VARNUM HOUSE

His father, being one of the strictest of Quakers, did not believe in education, so until he was quite a boy Nathanael had but little learning. One day, when out for a winter's ramble, he met a young man by the name of Giles, a collegian home on a visit to East Greenwich, and in the course of their conversation he talked of his college and studies. Nathanael Greene returned from that walk another boy, and though he still worked at the forge, his mind was full of questions, and he began to think for himself. He finally mustered up courage to ask his father for an education, and that Quaker preacher must have put a deal of thought and prayer into his decision, for he finally gave his consent.

Beyond the village of East Greenwich, on the bank of the Masqua-

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chugh River, stood a little plain building. Here every Sunday the Quaker preacher expounded the faith, whenever the spirit so moved, to his faithful followers. Close to this meeting house lived old Master Maxwell, a Scotchman and a teacher. To him Nathanael was sent to study Latin and geometry. Now his books became his constant companions; even while working at the forge he studied, and during the long winter evenings he would steal away to a little room over the kitchen, where he would not be interfered with for his reading.

Also part of these evenings were used in making toy anchors and other iron toys. Then when the great day came that the sloop sailed for Newport with her load of anchors and Nathanael was allowed to go for a day's excursion, great was his joy, for with the proceeds from the sale of these toys he was able to buy a new book to add to his few treasures.

And so he grew to manhood, this boy who later was to be one of the greatest leaders in the ensuing struggle with Great Britain. A cheerful, thoughtful young man, foremost in all labor of the farm or mill, liked by all, especially the young ladies, and in the simple life of this country home building up a splendid constitution which was later to stand him in good stead in the exposure and bitter experiences of the battle line.

About a year before the birth of Nathanael, the six brothers had built another forge on the Pawtuxet river in Coventry. This business had also grown until in 1770 it was decided one of the sons was needed to carry on the business there, and on Nathanael, who was his father's right-hand man, fell the choice. So he left the old homestead and built for himself a new home on the slope of a green hill in Coventry, and in four years time to this new home he brought his bride, Catherine Littlefield.

In the unrest and excitement of these days of the early seventies, none saw better what all these events were leading to than Nathanael Greene, and in the year after his marriage the future general spent much of his time organizing a company for the defence of Kent County in case of hostilities. It was called the Kentish Guards, and all the members were his friends and acquaintances. One of these strongest friends was James Mitchel Varnum, and when the list of officers was made out, Nathanael was slated for a lieutenancy. Now he had a very slight limp caused by a stiff knee, and some of the village critics thought it would impair the good looks of their company to have a limping officer in their ranks! Nathanael was thunderstruck and his friends were indignant. Indeed, Varnum talked of leaving the company, but this Nathanael would not hear of, and somehow the difficulty was patched up. When the alarm came on the 19th of April, 1775, Nathanael was in the ranks as a private when the Kentish Guards marched towards Boston. From this simple beginning Nathanael rose in rank until he became Major General and "was, next to Washington, the most brilliant soldier, strategist, tactician and fighter of the American Revolution."

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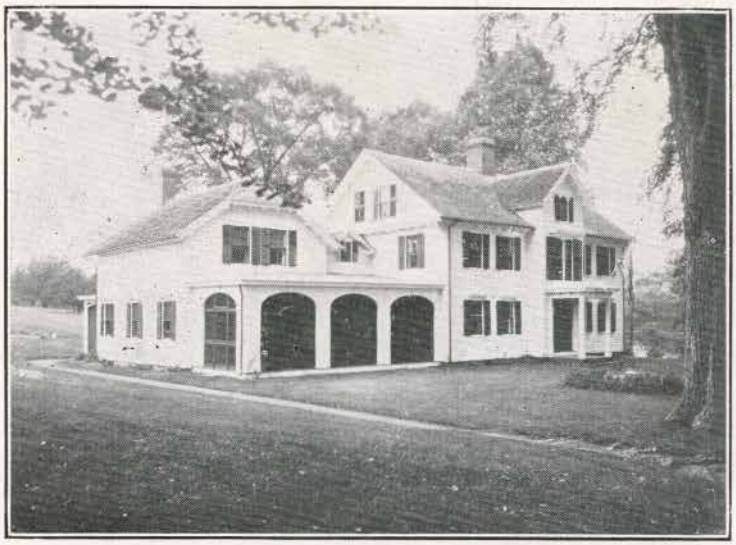
MAIN STREET

Telephone

Governor Greene Homestead

Another of the old Indian fighters was Benjamin Gorton, son of the famous Samuel Gorton, first settler in Rhode Island, and he also received a grant of land for his war services and built upon it his home in the year 1680. Fortunately for us, the old house, which stands on the north side of Division Street at the brow of the hill, has never been changed, only added to from time to time, as the growing needs of another generation made it necessary. What is now the east end was originally the old house, and the huge rough field stone chimney was built on the outside of the west end.

Benjamin's oldest daughter, Mary, married Samuel Greene, son of Deputy Governor John Greene, and he purchased of his father-in-law



GENERAL GREENE HOMESTEAD

in 1718 this old farm. He lived here only a short time, and two years later, after his death, his son, William, inherited the property. Now interesting events began to happen in the old house, for in 1740 William Greene was appointed Deputy Governor, which position he held for three years, and afterward for eleven years was Governor "of ye Colony of Rhode Island," dying in office January 23, 1758.

In the rear of the house is a little low building called the coach house. Here was kept the Governor's coach; and can you not imagine the rumbling and crashing, the creaking and groaning of this old vehicle as the horses dashed down Division Street and turned into the Post Road on the way to the Assembly in Providence? Think of the stately old Governor, in his white wig, ruffles of lace and satin small cloths, sitting in lonely state in the stuffy interior and trying to keep his dignity

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in spite of the bumps that rough road was giving him. Or, if the Assembly convened at Newport, Rhode Island's other capital, a dash being made for the shore where the packet awaited to convey His Excellency to the City-by-the-Sea.

During the year 1758, the west portion of the house was built by the Governor's son, William, in view of his approaching marriage to Catherine Ray, daughter of Simeon Ray of Block Island. Now indeed does the old house come into its own, for its new owner in 1777 was elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the following year to that of Governor. Again we have a Governor William Greene, and he served for eight years. Eight of the most strenuous years Rhode Island ever has known, when she with the other colonies was fighting for her independence from Great Britain. The west room became the Governor's Council Room, and here came such revolutionary heroes as General Nathanael Greene, General Sullivan, Lafayette, Rochambeau and many other notable people who by their wise counsel helped to steer the affairs of state so that victory came, and we now enjoy "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

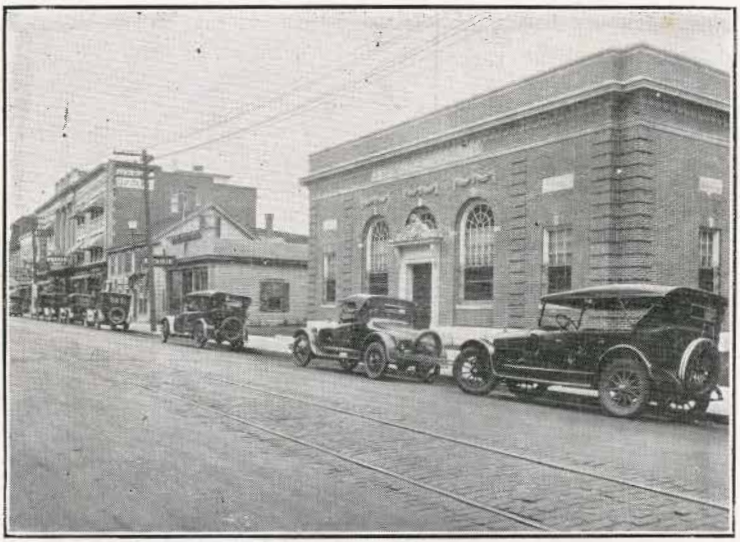
Not always did the old room echo to grave debates, but oftimes to joyous social occasions, and the greatest of these, no doubt, was the wedding of the brave young General Nathanael Greene and Mrs. William Greene's niece, Catherine Littlefield, on July 20, 1774.

Benjamin Franklin was another notable person who was a friend of the Governor and often visited in the old house. One of the windows on the west has, to this day, been called Franklin's window because he often sat here to admire the view which it gave of the beautiful countryside.

The next great man to own this old house was the Governor's oldest son, Ray, who graduated at Yale and afterwards studied law with that able lawyer, General James Mitchell Varnum. In 1794 he succeeded William Channing as Attorney General of Rhode Island, holding office until 1797, when he was elected United States Senator, holding this position until 1801, when he resigned owing to ill health.

Now again is the old place owned by a Governor, William Greene, for Ray's second son, William, who was born on January 1, 1797, inherited it. He was a graduate of Brown University and, like his father, studied law. History repeats itself, for now is the Civil War being fought, and in this time of strife and danger to our fair country again is a William Greene called to the helm, where he served as Lieutenant-Governor under General Burnside until 1867. He was the last of his name to live in the old house, and with him died the greatness of the family.

Of his two daughters, the youngest died when a child, and the eldest married Dr. Frederick C. Roelker. Their eldest son, William Greene Roelker, who married in 1854 Eleanor Jenks, had a son, William Greene Roelker, who is the present owner.



VIEW OF MAIN STREET, SHOWING NEW HOME OF UNION TRUST COMPANY

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Old Baptist Burying Ground

In the list of those first settlers in East Greenwich was the name of Clement Weaver, another King Phillip War veteran. In the year 1729 he gave a part of his land to the Six Principle Baptist Society, on which they were to build a meeting house, and this they did. It was a plain little building, in size about 30 x 40 feet, and was without a steeple. It never was painted on either the inside or out, and stood on the edge of Wine Street and faced the south. The little old church was blown down years ago in the great gale of 1825, never to be rebuilt, but there



TOWN HALL

does remain in the church yard a few stones which mark the resting place of some of the town's forefathers. We find that such men as the famous Elder John Gorton are buried here. He died in 1792 and the following inscription is found on his stone: "He was for 39 yrs. and 9 mo. ordained minister of the Baptist Church of this town." Also many who served in the Revolutionary War; as Sergeant Joseph Greene, a charter member of the Kentist Guards; Captain John Sprague, who fought at Bunker Hill; Dr. Joseph Joselyn, the Kentish Guards' first surgeon; Lawyer Archibald Campbell, who framed many an act for the

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General Assembly: Nathan Miller, who was such a fine bayonet maker that the people of the town framed a petition asking the Assembly that he might be exempt from military duty, which was granted, and many more soldiers who lie in unmarked graves. The old burying ground was purchased a few years ago by the General Nathanael Greene Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and it is to be preserved as one of the historic spots of the town.

General James Mitchell Varnum House

On Peirce Street there stands the pride of our village, the colonial mansion of James Mitchell Varnum. Varnum was born in Dracut, Massachusetts, on December 17, 1748, and when only sixteen years old entered Harvard and studied for three years. He then returned to Dracut to teach school for a year. This was in 1767. The next year he entered Rhode Island College (now Brown University) and graduated with the first class in 1769. The college was then situated at Warren, and during his senior year he fell in love with the beautiful Patty, eldest daughter of the Hon. Cromel Ihild, and married her on February 2, 1770.

Having a brilliant mind and being a great scholar, it was not strange that he fitted himself for a lawyer, and in 1771 we find he was admitted to the Bar and soon after decided to settle in East Greenwich. Here indeed he must have made friends, for John Peirce in a deed of August 16, 1773, for eighteen pounds, or about ninety dollars, conveys to him two lots of land, one in back of the Court House, the other west of it across Peirce Street, "and is the same lot on which the Grantee (Varnum) hath erected an house."

And now in the little village of East Greenwich, as in all the fair colonies in America, there came strenuous times. The British taxes and British arrogance could no longer be borne, and war became a word on every tongue. Who so enthusiastic as this fiery young lawer, can you not imagine him inspiring the young men of the town to form a military company? That is just what he did, and so the Kentish Guards came into existence and Varnum was elected their Captain. Within three hours after the news of Lexington had reached East Greenwich, Captain Varnum had assembled the Guards and started on the march for Boston town. On reaching Pawtucket they found that they were not needed, as the enemy had retired to their headquarters. Within the next week Varnum was appointed by the General Assembly to serve under General Nathanael Greene as Colonel, and they were to raise three regiments in the State, which they did, and then marched to Boston, where they took part in the seige of that town. Varnum's Regiment was then sent to New York, where they fought in the battles of Long Island and White Plain. Varnum was appointed, at this time, Brigadier General of the State militia, and in 1777 he was given the same office in the Continental Army, which brought him under the command of General Washington. As a General he took part in the

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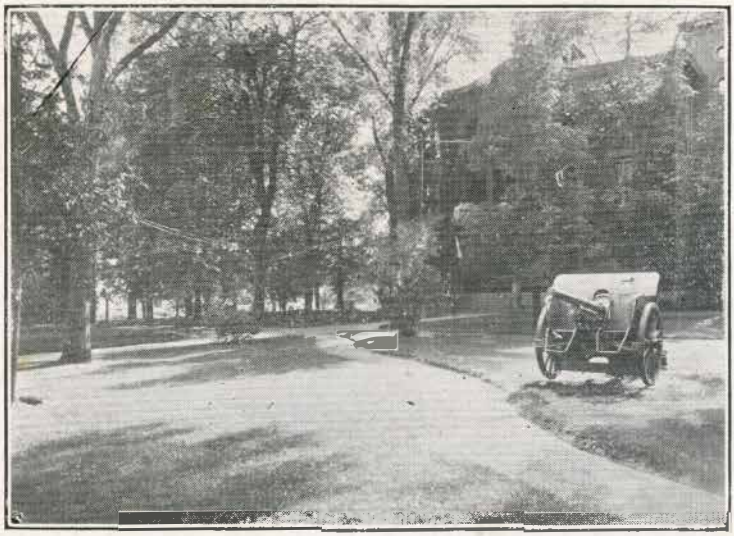
17 Years of Shoe Selling in East Greenwich

Has Proven it

Herman Silverman

Battle of Red Bank and all through the fighting in Delaware, and went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. Here he came in personal contact with Washington and became an ardent admirer of his, as shown by a letter written to his friend, General Greene, in which he says, "You have often heard me say and I assure you, I feel happy in the truth of it, that next to God Almighty and my country, I revere General Washington." After that dreadful winter at Valley Forge he returned to his home State and took part in the Battle of Rhode Island.

How do you think Mistress Patty Varnum must have felt all that hot summer's day in 1778? Can you not imagine her and her sister, Mrs. Turner, joined perhaps by Mary Brown, whose husband, Clark Brown, was also fighting behind those high breast works of Butts Hill, standing on the hill near their homes looking toward that distant



EAST GREENWICH ACADEMY

battlefield and watching each little puff of white smoke in shuddering fascination, for perhaps each little innocent white ball meant a bullet through the heart of a brave man, and might it not be their own beloved ones?

Yes, those were strenuous days in the little village of East Greenwich, and it was no wonder when, a month later, on a warm September morning, a strange sloop was sighted tacking into the Bay, a number of the good folk hurried down to the shore to see what manner of boat she might be. As she came up to the wharf at the foot of King Street and her passengers came ashore, the interested bystanders did indeed open their eyes. First there came a handsome young man clad in the buff and blue of an officer of the Continental Army. He had a high forehead, prominent dark eyes, large eyebrows, nose straight and rather

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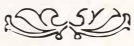
broad, perfectly white teeth and a fine head of hair. He turned to help several gentlemen ashore, whose uniforms were unknown to the town's people. It consisted of a green coat faced with red and laced with gold, breeches of buff, black silk stockings, a four-cornered cocked hat and large red silk sash. The last one to leave the deck was a young man of sharp features and prominent nose, who was dressed in the Continental buff and blue, and he was bowed ashore with very special attention by the first young man, who exclaimed, "My dear Marquis, welcome to East Greenwich and my home." The first speaker was General James Mitchell Varnum: his guest was the Marquis de La Fayette. Up steep King Street went the gay throng, and many a maid, peeping out her window, felt her heart flutter at sight of so much manly beauty and gorgeous uniforms. The beautiful Mistress Eleanor Fry from her home next to the Court House (this stood where the Central Hotel now does) watched also with eager interest, and imagine her delight when later in the day came an invitation from Mistress Varnum to take tea.

Wouldn't you like to go with her up the hill to the big square house, which looks much the same as now? No porch was over the door and no bay windows spoiled its simple lines. Entering the wide hall you find it goes through the house with a door to the west. Up the beautiful stairs you go, pausing a minute to look out the big window at the setting sun. Again you find a long hall with four rooms opening out of it, and you are ushered into the southeast chamber to lay off your bonnet and shawl. This is the General's room, and across the hall is the guest room, which is now at the disposal of the Marquis, whose body servant sleeps on a cot across the doorway each night. Going downstairs, you find such a gay scene. After tea, dancing begins. The stately minuet! Think of it being danced in those lovely old wainscoted rooms, each with its wide fireplace. Think of those dashing French officers and all the flashing of glance and demure smiles which would be cast their way by the pretty village girls. No wonder Mistress Eleanor Fry never forgot that night, and years afterwards would tell that a very delicate compliment was paid her that evening. After her death a bit of carefully folded paper, yellow with age, was found in her book. We wonder if this was the compliment?

"For man to bow to man below
Is called Idolatry I know,
But when Angelic forms appear
Like thine 'tis duty to revere."

After the ladies went, the gentlemen spent the rest of the night in gaiety, as gentlemen did in those days. There is now owned by the Cincinnati a punch bowl which was given by the Marquis de La Fayette to General Varnum. No doubt the Marquis after that night found he had use for one.

After he left the army, General Varnum remained in the old house, opening a law office in the southwest room. Here Ray Greene, Jacob Campbell and others came to study under him. He soon became one



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DRUGS CIGARS CANDY

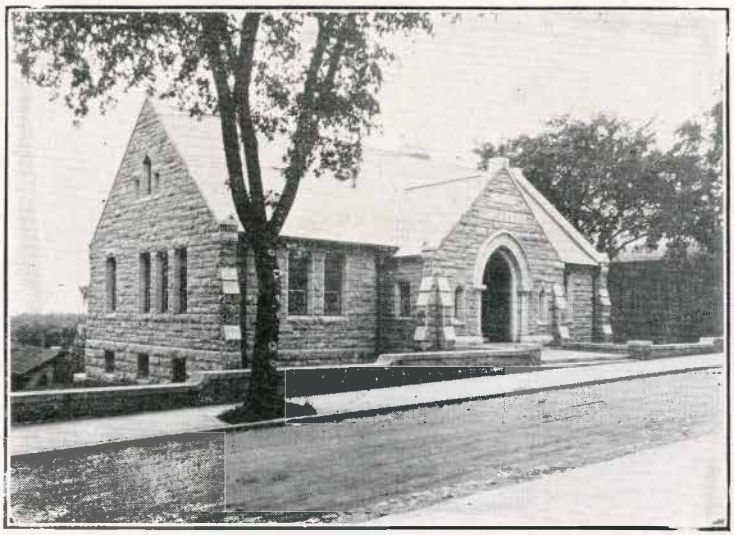


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of the most brilliant young lawyers in the State, also a dashing one, if we can believe the description given of his appearance at a famous trial. He is described as wearing a brick colored coat trimmed with gold lace, buckskin and small clothes with gold lace knee bands, silk stockings and boots. His deeply powdered hair was set off by a cocked hat, and his most fascinating smile also helped win the case.

Like many another young man who had had a taste of war, Varnum could not be content in his quiet home, and when the chance came he accepted a position as United States Judge in the new Northwest Territory. Traveling to his new post on horseback in the spring of 1788 with only one man for company, he settled in Marietta, in what is now the State of Ohio. His health had been impaired by the hardship of



FREELI BRARY

war, and this rough life only aggravated his trouble, so that in January, 1789, he died.

THE TURNER HOUSE

Across the street from the General Varnum house, at the head of Court House Lane, stands what is known as the Peter Turner house. This was built about 1774 by one John Shaw, house carpenter. Peter Turner was a comrade of General Varnum during the Revolutionary War; in fact, the General was his brother-in-law, as the two men married sisters. Fine service did this good man give in that war, for he was a most successful surgeon. To this day there is kept by one of his descendants a sword and spurs given to Dr. Turner by Count Donap, as he lay dying on the battlefield of Red Bank, in grateful remembrance of the aid given him in his last hour. After the war the Doctor opened

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STEDMAN'S BATTERY SHOP

an office in the basement of this old house and practiced up to the time of his death in 1822.

The Windmill Cottage

General Nathanael Greene had but two sons. The eldest was drowned when a boy of eighteen. The second son, Nathanael Ray Greene, who was born at Morristown, New Jersey, at that time headquarters of the Continental Army, married a Greenwich girl, Anna Ward Clarke. Of their two children, the youngest, George Washington Greene, is of interest to us.

At the corner of West and Division Streets is a fine old house built probably about 1818 by Jeremiah Gardiner and sold in 1866 to Henry W. Longfellow, our great American poet. He was a close friend of Professor Greene and he gave to him this house. Across the street stood an old windmill, where the Lutheran Church now stands, which stirred the poetic feelings of Longfellow. Shortly after the Civil War he bought it and had it moved over and attached to the west side of the house.

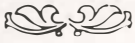
Professor Greene, who was United States Consul to Rome for ten years, was a great scholar and teacher, being for a number of years professor of modern languages at Brown University and afterwards lecturer of United States History at Cornell University. After he returned to East Greenwich, he wrote a number of books. The best known is a "History of Rhode Island" and "The Life of General Nathanael Greene," his illustrious grandfather.

Kentish Guards

In the year 1774 there was a petition sent to the Assembly by thirty-seven Greenwich young men. The name of James Mitchell Varnum heads the list: then comes the name of Christopher Greene, Nathanael Greene, Jr., followed by eight other men whose surname was Greene, Hopkins Cook, Clarke Brown and others, asking that they might form a company to be called the Kentish Guards. The petition was granted on October 31st. This company, which is still in existence, furnished more officers of importance for the Revolutionary Army than any other in New England and perhaps in the United States. One Major-General, Nathanael Greene; one Brigadier-General, James Mitchell Varnum; two Colonels, Christopher Greene and Archibald Cary; one Major, John S. Dexter, and one Captain, Thomas Arnold, besides a large number of inferior officers.

Fort Daniel

During the Revolutionary War, East Greenwich was in a dangerous position, and it was no doubt owing to the vigilance of the Kentish Guards that the town was not destroyed, for with the British at Newport it would have been an easy matter for them to send out a force to attack from the bay. So thought the folk at East Greenwich, and on the high bluff at the foot of Williams Street, on what is called the



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Henry Rhodes farm, they erected Fort Daniel, no trace of which now remains. The fort consisted of long earth works with holes once in so often for the cannon, of which there were eight or ten. After the war, two of these cannon were placed at the foot of Division on Main Street, one opposite the Casey, the other opposite the Mawney house. The Casey house was moved years ago to Spencer Avenue and is known as the Blodget place. The old cannon was carried to and placed in the earth, its nozzle pointed heavenward, and was used thereafter as a hitching post. Within the past year it has been given to the General Nathanael Greene Homestead at Coventry.

The Kentish Guards were located at Fort Daniel most of the time, but when the British fleet of sixteen ships of war arrived off Newport



KENTISH GUARDS ARMORY

in July, 1780, a troop of militia under Captain Robert Rhodes was sent to reinforce them, as so great an alarm was felt for the safety of the town.

Often were the Guards sent to Quonset Point, where the enemy threatened to land, and we have here that first order:

"East Greenwich, June 6, 1779.

"Order:

"A sergeant and six privates are to go immediately to Quonset Point with their arms and accoutrements to remain there until Tuesday morning and then return. They are to take what provisions they have on hand with them. The sergeant will draw Twenty-one gills of rum for himself and men for the Tower of Duty the sergeant will take Directions from Col Dyer as to placing Sentries the whole Guard are

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to be out from 12 Till Day Break each night The like number will go to the same place Tuesday afternoon and be Relieved in three days." Rum seems to have been more essential to this "Tower of Duty" than power!

Greenwich Privateers of the Revolution

While all these things were happening on the land, the stanch seamen of our town were not idle, and many roughly built ships were launched and sent out to capture British merchant ships. Successful they were ofttimes, taking as prizes ships several times their own size, and they were brought to port by these brave and resourceful sailors often against great odds.

One of these, a Captain Gazzee, fitted out the "Felicity," a small schooner, and with her captured a large English ship loaded with dry goods, brought her into our harbour and anchored her in the upper end of the Cove. It was said that the English captain shed tears of mortification and remarked that had he been captured by a respectable force, "he could have borne it with fortitude: but to be captured by a damned old squaw in a hog-trough was more than he could endure." Captain Gazzee was a Frenchman with a very dark complexion, hence the allusion to an Indian squaw.

Of all these vessels that sailed from Greenwich bay, some were as small as the "General Greene," which set sail on July 3. 1776. She was a thirty-ton sloop and carried four guns, twelve swivels, with thirty men aboard, and some were as large as the ship "Flora," which carried thirty-six guns and a hundred and twenty men. Greenwich fortunes were both made and lost in this hazardous business of privateering.

East Greenwich Academy

In the year 1802, Ethan Clarke, William Arnold, Peter Turner, Ray Greene and others procured a charter for a classical school which was to be established at East Greenwich and was to be called Kent Academy. At first there was but one building, and the expense of building it was met by selling shares at $32 each. The list of fifty-eight subscribers gives the names of many a Revolutionary soldier. Its site was on a high hill overlooking the bay and its cost was $3,733.55; and how well it has paid for itself! For it is still in use. It is the Spring Street school house, having been moved there in the year 1853 to make way for the substantial brick building which took its place.

At first, the school seems to have been sold to the Preceptor, as the head of the school was then called, and he fixed his own rates of tuition. Up to 1820 it was not a financial success, and we do not wonder at that fact when we see the rates of tuition for the quarter commencing the 21st of March, 1808:

"Reading and spelling, $2.00; Reading, Writing and Spelling, $2.25; Arithmetic and Book-Keeping, $2.50; English Grammar, $3.00," and other courses at the same prices.

The old school was used for many of the town affairs, as in 1805

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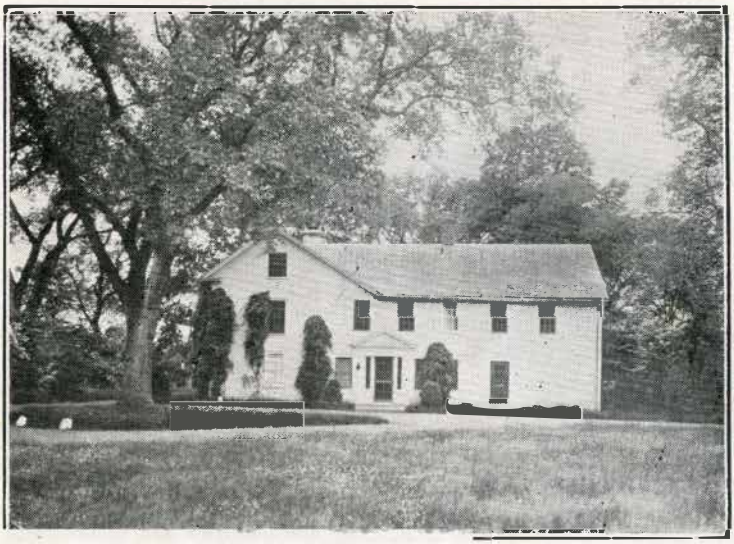
The new Standard Six Buick is the Outstanding Car for 1925.

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we find that the upper hall is to be let to Mr. Carpentier "for the purpose of a dancing school;" also on the same date Mr. Charles Miller "have liberty to teach a Singing School in the Academy for one Quarter." In 1824 the members of King Solomon's Lodge (Masons) were given use of two rooms in the Academy at a rent of $5.00 per year, and "if they choose to put Venetian blinds to the windows, of said chambers, they shall be remunerated that expense out of the rents, to be by them paid."

For over a century has this school stood for the best of culture and learning, not only in our town and state, but even "unto the utmost



GOVERNOR GREENE HOMESTEAD

parts of the earth." May this same record be kept for the century to come.

The Free Library

The first mention of a library in East Greenwich we find made in the early part of the eighteenth century, when Dr. Peter Turner is spoken of as a founder of the Social Library. This was a small collection of books of English literature which was kept in the basement of the Court House. Then in 1867 was founded our Free Library. A room in the house opposite the Town Hall first housed it until in 1870 was built what is now called the Royal Arcanum Hall. This was used until 1915, when the beautiful stone building at the corner of Church and Peirce Streets was given to the association by Daniel Albert Peirce.

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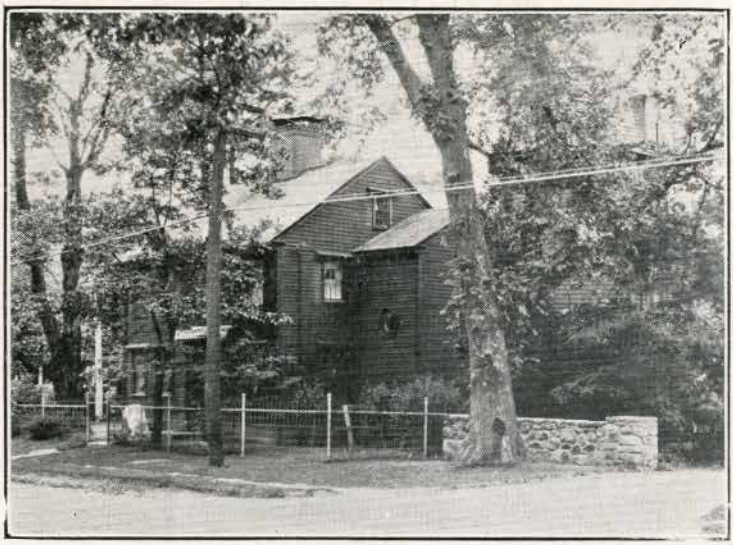
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Friends Meeting House

As early as 1659 a general meeting of the Friends or Quakers, as they were sometimes called, was held on the island of Rhode Island, and we find that a number of this sect lived in East Greenwich. For in 1699 at a "men and woman's meeting," held at the house of Jabez Greene, a committee was appointed to look into the matter of a site for a meeting house. This was built on land just south of Paine's Pond, and the first meeting held in it was "Ye 2d day of ye 7th month, 1700."

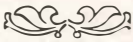
That first old church was torn down years ago, but its site we can



THE WINDMILL COTTAGE

still find by the graves which are now left and which then surrounded it. In 1804 the newer generation of Quakers desiring something better than this old meeting house, Sylvester Wicks bought of Ethan Clarke a lot of land on Peirce Street, and in the same year was the present meeting house built. It stood gable end to the street facing the south, and as one old Quaker said, "Sylvester Wickes ought to have been disowned for placing the meeting house so awkwardly." In 1850 it was moved to its present site, being turned around and facing the east: also it was given its first coat of paint.

Of this quiet sect few are left, but meetings are still held on the first day of the week in the old edifice, as they have been held for the past century.



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KENT COUNTY COURT HOUSE

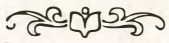
In 1750 the General Assembly of Rhode Island incorporated East Greenwich, West Greenwich, Warwick and Coventry into the County of Kent, making East Greenwich the county seat, and to this Warwick made great opposition and, in fact, is still making opposition after a hundred and seventy-four years. East Greenwich agreed to furnish a lot and to build a court house and jail, upon the condition that the General Assembly and the courts should be held here. John Peirce gave the land and the court house and jail were built the same year. The jail was in the dwelling house now standing opposite the Marlborough Street School: the court house on the site of the present one. In front of it at the foot of the steps, or at the head of King Street, were erected



KENT COUNTY COURT HOUSE

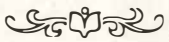
the pillory and whipping post where the punishment for the criminals of that day was meted out, and cruel indeed they were. In extreme cases branding on the cheek with hot irons was used, and the victim, stood in the pillory and watched, while in full view the iron was heating over a fire.

The life of the town centered around this old court house. Think what the scene must have been on that summer day of 1776, when the good folk of East Greenwich stood with bated breath and listened to the reading of the Declaration of Independence from the steps of this old building. Yes, and again their feeling of joy and thankfulness when they once more stood, seven years later, in this same spot and listened to the young lawyer, Jacob Campbell, reading the peace treaty between England and America.



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In 1805 both the jail and court house being found too small and inconvenient, the Legislature appropriated a sum to build the present beautiful court house, which is on the site of the old one, and a jail, which was built at the foot of King Street.

On the street's edge in front of the court house stands a memorial fountain to Dr. James Eldredge, one of our most beloved old physicians. This is the one time site of the old town pump which in colonial days was the water supply for the town, and good service it did, too, when in time of fire it was at one end of the bucket line.

Standing in the center of the court house green is a bronze and granite monument which a grateful town has dedicated to the memory of the men who served in the World's War, and on this are engraved a hundred and eighty-two names, of which five have stars beside them. Just back of this monument is a tall flagstaff from which floats our beautiful stars and stripes as it waves gently to and fro. Let it ever remind us, "lest we forget," that. while we gave time and money and strength so that always East Greenwich should go "over the top" in all its war-time work, these have made the greater sacrifice, for they gave themselves:

CYRIL BARLOW MOSHER

Killed in action at Belleau Woods June 18, 1918.

GEORGE EMERY CLEVELAND

Killed at Commune-Lucy-de-Bocaze, Ainsi, June 23, 1918.

VICTOR JOSEPH LORENSON

Killed on Toul sector while on voluntary observation duty. June 16, 1918.

FRED SPENCER MAGOON

Died of influenza at Base Hospital at Camp Upton, October 11, 1918.

RICHARD FRANCIS GRANT

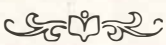
Killed in action at Chateau Thierry, July 23, 1918.





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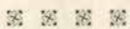
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