

WINSOR FRY OF EAST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND
AND HIS DESCENDANTS (Part One)

Bruce C. MacGunnigle

Thomas³ Fry (*Thomas*²⁻¹) of East Greenwich, “well stricken in years,” had many descendants—five sons, four daughters, and a raft of grandchildren—to consider when he made his will in 1773. As a wealthy man, he had abundant material goods to leave them, and thus even his fourth son Joseph⁴ Fry received a notable legacy in land. He was to have the farm on which he then lived (the iconic Fry farm at 2153 South County Trail), half of another farm in East Greenwich, and two bog lots valuable for the hay they produced. The final part of Joseph’s inheritance was different. Thomas Fry specified: “I also give unto my son Joseph my Negro man named Windsor.”^[1] As we shall see, Winsor Fry was freed in the years between the making of the will and its proving, and never belonged to Joseph Fry. The intended bequest, however, remains the single clue to his life before the Revolution. Winsor Fry’s ancestry is unknown. What one nineteenth-century member of the white Fry family believed about slaves in the family appeared in Daniel Greene’s *History of East Greenwich*.^[2]

The town of East Greenwich previous to the revolutionary war had a large coasting trade, in which my grandfather, Benjamin Fry, was to some extent engaged. Among other enterprises, he imported a cargo of slaves from the coast of Africa, some of whose descendants still remain, bearing the name of Fry.

Whether or not the writer was correct, Winsor Fry appears to have been the progenitor of African American Fry families in East Greenwich. This article is the story of Winsor Fry and his service as a soldier for over seven years in the Rhode Island Continental Line of the United States of America, with an outline of his known descendants.

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1. East Greenwich Probate Records, East Greenwich Town Hall, 3:326–330. The will was made 22 Dec. 1773, but not proved until 9 Jan. 1782. A general outline of the white Fry family of East Greenwich appears in John O. Austin, *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* [1887] (repr., Baltimore Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969), 298–299. All variant spellings have been silently standardized to *Winsor* in this article.
 2. Benjamin Greene Fry, “A Genealogical Record of the Fry Family” quoted in Daniel H. Greene, *The History of the Town of East Greenwich and Adjacent Territory from 1677 to 1877* (n.p.: The Author, 1877), 251. Benjamin Fry did sell slaves: when Silas Casey manumitted Watt Prophet in 1786, he specified that Watt had been bought from Benjamin Fry (East Greenwich Town Council Records, East Greenwich Town Hall, 1784–1807: 44).

Winsor Fry, the only slave named in Thomas Fry's will in 1773, may have been the black boy under 16 in his master's household in 1774 when the census was taken, but it seems very unlikely.^[3] An East Greenwich native, Winsor might have been born into the household or purchased just before Thomas Fry made his will. By the time his master died in 1782, however, he had been free at least since the spring of 1775 and was a battle-hardened veteran of the Revolutionary War. No record of his manumission has been found. To enlist as he did in Capt. Thomas Holden's Company in Col. James Mitchell Varnum's Regiment of King's and Kent Counties in the Rhode Island Army of Observation in 1775, he had to be free.^[4] Although slaves had served in colonial militias in Rhode Island, General Washington had prohibited slaves from serving in the Continental Army. Winsor was not one of the slaves freed to join the so called "Black Regiment." That Rhode Island program, which was to include many freed slaves, was three years in the future at the time Winsor Fry joined the Continental Line.^[5] Even by June of 1777 Winsor appears to have been the only soldier of color in his unit.^[6] After the enlistment of freed slaves in 1778, muster rolls show that he served in units with many other men who have been identified as African American or Native American.^[7]

The first enlistment records for Winsor Fry date from 1777, although recorded in the book of consolidated Rhode Island Continental Line Regiment in 1781. They show that Winsor Fry was a 22-year-old laborer, born in East Greenwich and a resident of that town, 5 ft. 10½ in. tall, with black hair and a complexion

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3. Iain Bruce, "The 1774 Census of Rhode Island: East Greenwich and West Greenwich," *Rhode Island Roots*, Vol. 30, No. 3 (Sept. 2004), 143.
 4. Winsor Fry, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, [hereinafter Winsor Fry, Pension Application], S38.709, NARA series M804, roll 1031, Non-Selected Records, Deposition of Capt. Thomas Holden, 3 Apr. 1818. The precise date of enlistment is confused by Winsor's testimony that he enlisted in March 1775: the Army of Observation and Holden's commission date from 3 May 1775 (John R. Bartlett, *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations* [hereinafter Bartlett, *Recs. of R.I.*], 9 vols. [Providence, R.I.: State of Rhode Island, 1856–1865], 7:313, 317). For more on Varnum's Regiment (12th Continentals) see Anthony Walker, *So Few The Brave* (Newport, R.I.: Seaford Press, 1981), 98.
 5. John R. Bartlett, *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island* [note xx], 8:359, 360
 6. "A Return of the Men Inlisted by John Garzia in his Comp^y of Artillery in C^{ll} Rob^t Elliotts Regm^t June 4 1777..." (Revolutionary War Papers, R.I. State Archives, 1:44). Although shown on this list, Winsor himself was not recruited by Garzia but by "Coll. Carary" (Archibald Crary).
 7. These issues have been discussed in many places, most recently by Shirley L. Green, "Freeborn Men of Color: The Franck Brothers in Revolutionary North America, 1755–1820" [hereinafter Green, "Freeborn Men of Color"], PhD. Thesis, Bowling Green State University, 2011.

described as “mustee.”^[8] The word *Mustee* is of Spanish origin, and indicated that the person was of mixed Indian and white heritage. *Mustee* later came to mean the mixing of Native American, African American, and white heritage. Given the variety of other racial designations used for Winsor Fry (“a man of colour,” a “Negro man,” an “Indian man,” and a “black man”), the use of *mustee* in the military record should not be given undue weight. Race was interpreted by the recordkeeper, sometimes actually varying week to week. One unusual feature of the enlistment was its length: he enlisted for the duration of the war. That commitment did not mean that he did not have to re-enlist as the commissions for different units expired, however, and thus even more records were generated.^[9]

Winsor Fry left an extensive if occasionally contradictory service record in which General George Washington himself plays an important part. Readers unfamiliar with the endless reorganization of American military units during the Revolution may find a summary useful. As we have seen, Winsor Fry enlisted in May 1775—in the aftermath of the Battles of Lexington and Concord—as a private in Capt. Thomas Holden’s Company of Varnum’s Regiment in the Rhode Island Army of Observation. Holden later testified that Winsor Fry was with him when they “went to Boston to campaign.”^[10] In July 1775, when that unit’s ninety-day enlistment expired, the world was a different place. Most of the men joined a new unit, the 12th Continental Line Regiment, also under the

Winsor Fry’s reported service qualified him for ten Battle Stars:

1. Siege of Boston, July – December 1775
2. Battle of Long Island, 27 August 1776
3. Battle of Harlem Heights, 16 September 1776
4. Battle of White Plains, 28 October 1776
5. Second Battle of Trenton, 2 January 1777
6. Battle of Princeton, 3 January 1777
7. Battle of Red Bank (at Ft. Mercer, NJ), 22 October 1777
8. Battle of Monmouth (NJ), 28 June 1778
9. Battle of Rhode Island, 29 August 1778
10. Battle of Yorktown (VA), October 1781

8. Bruce C. MacGunnigle, *Regimental Book, Rhode Island Regiment for 1781* [hereinafter MacGunnigle, *R.I. Regiment 1781*] (East Greenwich, R.I.: RISSAR, 2011), 35.
9. For a condensed version of the records see *Forgotten Patriots; African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War* [hereinafter Grundset, *Forgotten Patriots*], ed. Eric Grundset (Washington, DC: National Society DAR, 2008), 214. Many muster rolls can be viewed online at Fold3.com.
10. Winsor Fry, Pension Application [note xx].

command of Varnum for a twelve-month enlistment. When Varnum's 12th Regiment finished its service in December 1775, Winsor Fry was among those who joined Varnum's new 9th Continental Line Regiment for the calendar year 1776.

In January 1777, the men of the old 9th Continental Line had completed their one-year enlistments, and most of them joined the new 1st Rhode Island Continental Line regiment. Winsor Fry's enlistment in that unit was signed on 20 February 1777, and he was specifically listed as a member of Capt. Ebenezer Flagg's Company from August 1777 through February 1778. These months include the Battle of Red Bank (at Ft. Mercer, NJ) that took place in Oct. 1777. Winsor Fry was listed as being sick in January and February 1778 while at Valley Forge. During those months his ultimate commander Gen. James Mitchell Varnum was responsible for convincing Washington at Valley Forge to approve a Rhode Island regiment that included former slaves freed to serve.

In February 1778 the original 1st Rhode Island Regiment was merged into the 2nd Rhode Island, and Winsor Fry served in that regiment in Capt. Flagg's Company, March and April 1778, in Capt. [Thomas] Arnold's Company May 1778, both months spent in Camp Valley Forge. By June 1778 he was at Camp Paramus in Capt. Jonathan Wallen's Company, July to September 1778; where he was listed as "on guard." He served in Capt. Thomas Cole's Company, October 1778 to February 1780, at some times in Newport and Providence.^[11]

This pattern of regular reenlistment and service was abruptly broken in early 1780, a period of relative calm during which Fry was close to home. Winsor Fry went AWOL in February or March and did not formally rejoin his unit until November.^[12] He alluded to this absence in his pension application: "I continued during the whole war between this country and Great Britain – and think I may say, without, during all that time having been absent but once."^[13] His transgression was not a simple matter of desertion, bad as that was, but something much more serious. Winsor must have been captured within a month or two of

11. Benjamin Cowell, *Spirit of '76 in Rhode Island* [hereinafter Cowell, *Spirit of '76*] [1850] (Baltimore, Md.: xx, 1973), 186. His service record is available at Fold3.com and Ancestry.com, with other documents at Rhode Island Historical Society and Rhode Island State Archives.

12. Records differ. His service record at the National Archives shows that Winsor Fry deserted 5 February 1780 and was retaken September 1780. The Regimental Book of the Consolidated RI Regiment specifies that he deserted 1 March 1780 and was retaken 1 Nov. 1780 (MacGunnigle, *R.I. Regiment 1781* [note xx], 111). The discrepancy may have arisen from the practice of balancing the regimental books on the first of each month. Shirley Green reconciles them by suggesting Winsor Fry may not have been in custody during the court martial (Green, "Freeborn Men of Color" [note xx], 196). If he "pleaded guilty," however, he seems likely to have been there.

13. Winsor Fry, Pension Application [note xx]

desertion for he faced a court martial in late March 1780. Here General George Washington stepped in, ordering that the case be retried following proper procedure.^[14] On 1 May 1780 in Newport “Windsor Fry, Soldier in Colonel Green's regiment” was again tried for “Entering the Commissary’s store, stealing from thence a quantity of Beef, Candles and Rum; also for breaking open two Wind Mills and Stealing a Quantity of Meal – pled Guilty.”^[15] On 28 May 1780 at Morristown, the court met for sentencing. In consideration of the “heinousness of his present Crimes together with his former bad conduct,” the court unanimously ordered his execution in June, subject to approval of higher authorities. Before that approval came, Winsor escaped in July and was not recaptured until around October 1st. General Washington then re-considered the request for a death sentence. He sent his final merciful response from headquarters near Passaic Falls, 21 October 1780 to Col. Christopher Greene: “As I never wish to inflict a punishment, especially capital, but for the sake of example, and as you seem to think the execution of Windsor Fry not so necessary upon that account now, as it was before, you have my consent to pardon him.”^[16]

A no doubt chastened Winsor Fry returned by November 1780 to his company at Rhode Island Village at Croton River, Westchester County, N.Y. His service record and depositions in his pension application show that he served honorably for the rest of the war. The Consolidated Rhode Island Regiment was created 1 February 1781, and Winsor Fry served in 1st Company of Foot, from February through July 1781.^[17] It was a terrible period for the Rhode Islanders: on 14 May 1781 his commanding officer Col. Christopher Greene—the man who accepted Washington’s advice and spared Fry’s life—and nine other soldiers were killed in action, two others were wounded, and 24 were taken prisoner. Winsor Fry was among those who survived unscathed. After fighting in the Battle of Yorktown 28 September 28 – 19 October 1781, he continued to serve until being furloughed on the General Order of 2 June 1783 and released at Saratoga, N.Y. on 15 June 1783.^[18] Presumably he walked the two hundred miles home.

14. A draft letter 12 Apr. 1780 from George Washington to Col. Christopher Greene mentions a letter of 27 March with results of the proceedings under General Cornell (*The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources 1745 – 1799* [hereinafter *Writings of George Washington*], ed. John C. Fitzpatrick (Washington, D.C.: Library Of Congress, 1937), Vol. 20, September 6, 1780 – December 20, 1780).

15. Ibid.

16. A draft letter from Washington to Greene, 21 Oct. 1780, responds to a letter of 14 Oct. 1780 (*Writings of George Washington* [note xx]).

17. Cowell, *Spirit of '76* [note xx], 222.

18. MacGunnigle, *R.I. Regiment 1781* [note xx], 125. In the sort of contradiction often found with this family, “Windson” Fry was counted at East Greenwich in the 1782 census of Rhode Island, head of a household of four (Katharine U. Waterman, “The 1782 Census of Rhode Island,” *NEHG Register*, 129:56).

During his years in the army Winsor Fry had evidently formed an unconventional marriage with Lucy Davis. While Lucy is recorded as the mother of his children about whom information exists, she and Winsor appear not to have been married in a ceremony that civil authorities recognized. Town fathers often had trouble with Native-American marriages: the lack of paperwork, the use of maiden names, and sometimes maintenance of separate households confused officials used to English traditions. In January 1790, the North Kingstown Town Council warned out “Lucy Davis an Indian or Mustee pregnant with child of a Bastard.”^[19] Winsor Fry, “an Indian man,” quickly solved the problem by asking the town council of East Greenwich, where he had legal residence, for certificates to North Kingstown for himself and Lucy Davis, “an Indian woman.” These certificates were granted 30 January 1790, and Winsor appears in North Kingstown in the 1790 census as head of a household of seven.^[20] A few years later the family moved to Exeter, once again on the basis of certificates from East Greenwich. On 22 February 1794 the East Greenwich Town Council gave certificates to Exeter to Winsor Fry and Lucy Davis, “an Indian Man & Indian woman.”^[21] Winsor Fry, a black man, was given another certificate to Exeter 28 November 1795.^[22] As we shall see, this document mattered to the fortunes of his son-in-law Caesar Clarke fifty years later. On 27 February 1796 the East Greenwich Town council paid Winsor Fry \$14.66 for keeping a black child called Margaret and for her doctor’s bills and funeral expenses.^[23] Further insight into his life will no doubt be found in accounts with Thomas Tillinghast, Jr., of East Greenwich when RIHS reopens.^[24] Winsor Fry was counted in Exeter in 1800 as head of a household of nine non-white persons.^[25] His absence from the 1810 and 1820 censuses suggests that by then he was no longer head of a household.

19. North Kingstown Town Council, 13:155.

20. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG, *Gleanings from Rhode Island Records: East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1775-1800* [hereinafter Bamberg, *East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1775-1800*], 78; 1790 U.S. Census, North Kingstown, Washington Co., R.I., roll 10, p. 90. No age or gender information is included. His son Solomon believed, rightly or wrongly, that he had been born in North Kingstown, probably by 1780 ((R.I. Vital Records, Deaths, 66:824).

21. Bamberg, *East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1775-1800* [note xx], 102

22. Bamberg, *East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1775-1800* [note xx], 111. Certificates sometimes needed to be renewed.

23. Bamberg, *East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1775-1800* [note xx], 113.

24. Thomas Tillinghast, Jr., Papers, Mss 755, Rhode Island Historical Society Library [hereinafter RIHS], Day Book 1797–1805, xx.

25. 1800 U.S. Census, “Washington” (Exeter), Washington Co., R.I., roll 46, p. 682. This census gives only the total number of people in the household.

When Winsor Fry applied for a military pension 3 April 1818, he was described as “now residing in North Kingstown.”^[26] Seven men—John Reynolds, William Hammond, John Hall, Stukely Brown, Jr., Richard Thomas, William Brown, and Capt. Thomas Arnold—sent a letter in support, saying that Winsor “was almost entirely Destitute of property (even to the upholding of life).” Although Winsor’s pension paperwork included a 1789 Bounty Land Warrant Record Card for one hundred acres, he had never received the land.^[27] He was granted Certificate No. 2491. Having moved back to East Greenwich, Winsor Fry reapplied 7 July 1820. A laborer with no property whatsoever, Winsor testified that he was “much out of health & broken down with infirmities” and that he would be dependent on charity without his pension. He appears in the list of East Greenwich pensioners of 1820.^[28]

Winsor Fry died intestate in East Greenwich on Saturday, 1 February 1823, and his probate was handled by the town.^[29] John G. Tibbetts of East Greenwich was appointed administrator for the estate of “Winsor Fry late of East Greenwich, a man of color, deceased.” Winsor Fry’s probate includes a running tab of expenses that Tibbetts, probably on behalf of the town, had incurred between 19 October 1822 and Winsor’s death in February 1823. The list included plenty of fish and meat; butter, fine salt, pepper, sugar, and molasses for flavoring; potatoes and meal to stretch out the diet; wood to keep him warm, candles for light; soap for washing, tobacco to smoke; and a rich variety of spirits. Winsor may have been too disabled to buy his own supplies or to collect his pension at the Pension Office in Providence. The final pension payment (“Item: Money Rec’d at the Pension office... \$39.48”) collected by Tibbetts, was what was due Winsor from 4 September 1822 to 1 February 1823.^[30] Valued at a mere \$41.23, even after the pension arrears, the estate was insolvent. Commissioners appointed by the court to receive and examine the claims against his estate advertised in the *Rhode Island American* for creditors, but reported back that there had been none.^[31]

Where was he buried? Clues to this final mystery involving Winsor Fry come from council records and deeds. On 2 November 1852, the East Greenwich Town Council named Richard Spencer, Thomas R. Tilley, and Thomas Bateman a committee to sell at auction the vacant lands & the “Training Field” belonging to

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- 26 Winsor Fry, Pension Application [note xx], Non-selected Records, testimony of Daniel Peirce, 4 Sept. 1818.
 - 27 Winsor Fry, Pension Application [note xx], Card 3216, dated 31 December 1789.
 - 28 Arnold, RIVR, 12:305.
 - 29 East Greenwich Probate, 6:230. Kathryn McPherson Gunning, *Selected Final Pension Payment Vouchers 1818-1864 Rhode Island* (Westminster, Md.: Willow Bend Books, 1999), 103.
 - 30 Kathryn McPherson Gunning, *Selected Final Pension Payment Vouchers 1818-1864 Rhode Island* (Westminster, Md.: Willow Bend Books, 1999), 103.
 - 31 *Rhode-Island American, and General Advertiser*, 15 Apr. 1823, p. [3].

this town.^[32] When the land was sold eight months later, on 14 July 1853, the deed to the Training Field included the reservation of “a right for Solomon Fry & his family to be buried in the burying ground upon said lot, meaning himself, wife and children only.”^[33] Every subsequent deed—1870, 1896, 1937, and 1967—contains the same reservation although the names eventually disappeared.^[34] The 1967 deed stipulates only that the land was conveyed “subject to the rights of others in the cemetery located at the southwesterly corner within described premises” and access to it. The Training Field, containing about four acres, today is bounded on the northeast by Cedar Ave., and on the east by Glenwood Cemetery. There are perhaps eight uninscribed, rough fieldstone grave markers in little burial ground, hidden in the deep leaves. The lot, registered in 2013 as East Greenwich Historic Cemetery 91, is overgrown with trees and brush.^[35]

Why was it so important to the town of East Greenwich when they sold the old Training Field on Cedar Avenue 161 years ago that only a black man named Solomon Fry, and his wife and children would have the right to be buried there? Solomon belonged to a tiny minority in his town, one of only sixteen men of color out of a total of 2,358 people in East Greenwich in 1850.^[36] Why, of all people, would Solomon Fry have this exclusive right bestowed upon him? The only explanation that comes to mind is that Winsor Fry, the former slave, who served in the Continental Line for seven years during the American Revolution, had been buried there, and that as a result, the right of burial was extended to his son Solomon and his immediate family. There must have been a strong compulsion for the town to make this commitment to Winsor Fry’s son Solomon. I’d like to think that they felt it was the right thing to do, given Winsor Fry’s service to the community. Ironically, after all the effort taken to preserve the family’s right to be buried at the Training Ground cemetery, Solomon Fry, his wife Hagar, and their children are buried at the East Greenwich Cemetery on First Avenue across from Eldredge School.

While the story of the family’s right of burial in the cemetery at the old training ground remains a mystery, the story of Winsor Fry as a freed slave who served Washington’s Army for seven years and received the thanks of his country in the form of a federal pension is a story that needs to be told many times over.

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32. East Greenwich Town Meetings, East Greenwich Town Hall, Vol. 5, meeting of Nov. 1852, no page numbers.
 33. East Greenwich Land Records, East Greenwich Town Hall, 15:481.
 34. East Greenwich Land Records, 18:329; 22:116; 30:6; 40:480.
 35. For an aerial view, see <http://rihistoriccemeteries.org/newsearchcemetery.aspx>.
 36. Of the 2,358 residents of East Greenwich in the 1850 Census, there were 2,317 whites and 41 people of color, sixteen of whom were men (from total sheet on Ancestry.com, EG page 57).

Genealogical Summary

Readers should note that births, marriages, and deaths for Winsor and his children were not registered with the towns before 1853. The unusual number of discrepancies in reported age suggests that family members themselves may not have known precisely where or when they were born. Ages should be considered approximate for everyone in this family. Gravestones are also scarce until the middle of the nineteenth century.

1. **WINSOR¹ FRY** was born in East Greenwich probably in the mid to late 1750s, of unknown parents,^[37] and died there 1 February 1823. He married, probably before 1780, **LUCY DAVIS**, whose death date is unknown. They are likely buried in East Greenwich Cemetery 91 under unmarked fieldstones.

Judicial inquiry in the 1850s led officials to speculate that there might have been two Winsors Frys in East Greenwich [see note xx]. A “Windson” Fry was indeed shown as head of a household of four blacks in East Greenwich in 1782, and the family—a man and woman over 50, a woman 16 to 22, and a girl under 16—does not fit what is known of the subject of this article.^[38] This possible second Winsor has not been found elsewhere, and no connection is known.

Children of Winsor¹ Fry and Lucy Davis, birth order unknown, probably several others:

2.
 - i. SOLOMON² FRY, b. by 1780.
 - ii. JUDITH FRY, d. prob. bef. 1850 when not counted in the census with her husband; m. ca. 1826 CAESAR CLARKE,^[39] b. Africa 1785–1796, d. East Greenwich 20 Sept. 1869.^[40] He is presently bur. in East Greenwich Cemetery 38 with members of the Ethan Clarke family, the graves having been removed from the vandalized Clarke Cemetery in Academy Field in 1947.^[41]

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37. Discrepancies in military records could be interpreted to mean a birth as early as 1753 and as late as 1758. His pension application says he was age 57 in 1820, allowing for a DOB of 1763. His reported age at death (60 in 1823) also suggests a DOB of 1763. That would have made him 10 in 1773 when Thomas Fry made his will. Fry’s use of the term “Negro man” strongly indicates a date of birth in the 1750s.
 38. 1782 Census of Rhode Island, Theodore Foster Papers, Rhode Island Historical Society, Mss 424, p. 206.
 39. The date of the marriage could not be determined precisely during the lawsuit in 1856, but witnesses testified that it occurred about thirty years before.
 40. R.I. Vital Records, Deaths, 69:884. His age in the death record—76—is contradicted elsewhere.
 41. His original stone is reported to have read “Caesar, aged 100” (see *Providence Journal*, 1905). One stone marker for the Clarke family in East Greenwich Cemetery now has all the names only and the story (photo at Find A Grave Memorial# 13425438).

Caesar Clarke, a well-known figure in East Greenwich for many years, figures extensively in an article by Thaire H. Adamson, “Elm Hill Estate, The Clarke House” that addresses many of the legends and contradictions in records.^[42] Caesar Clarke emerges from local tradition in the 1850 census, a 65-year-old man living in the household of Judge Brayton in Warwick.^[43] By 1856 the town councils of Warwick and East Greenwich were suing each other over responsibility for the pauper Caesar Clarke, who had been warned out by the town of Warwick in 1855 as he had never gained a legal settlement there. As the daughter of Winsor Fry, his wife Judith was deemed to have a settlement in East Greenwich that entitled Clarke to live there.^[44]

The East Greenwich Town Council resolved that “Cezar” had been the slave of Ethan Clarke and that he was the financial responsibility of that estate. They ordered that he be taken from the Asylum and cared for as stipulated in Clarke’s will.^[45] Ethan Clarke had died in 1833 in his early nineties, a wealthy man despite being a Revolutionary War pensioner.^[46] He left his “faithful and beloved servant” Caesar almost all of his wearing apparel and the use of two upstairs chambers in his house—rooms that Caesar then occupied—as long as he remained of “good habits” and respectable companions. This house is perhaps the most famous in East Greenwich: the James Mitchell Varnum House at 57 Peirce St.^[47] Clarke named two grandsons to support him if need be. What the will did not do was to free Caesar Clarke. Clearly he had been manumitted previously but remained with his former master on affectionate terms. No wife is

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42. *The East Greenwich Packet*, August 1987, Vol.11 No. 3. Adamson carefully collected previous sources, such as the *Providence Journal* article, Martha McPartland’s description in *The History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island* (1977) of Caesar as 6 ft. 3 in tall, always walking behind Ethan Clarke, and material in Arnold’s Clarke genealogy [exact author and title needed]. She discusses the wide variation in reported age and the possibility that Caesar Clarke served in the Revolution. The latter idea, based on his wearing a “Continental jacket” about town, may be a confusion with the Caesar Clarke of Warwick who did serve (Grundset, *Forgotten Patriots* [note xx], 210). The jacket might have been among the clothes inherited from Ethan Clarke, who routinely wore such a garment.
43. 1850 U.S. Census, Warwick, Kent Co., R.I., roll 841, p. 111A.
44. The determination was based on the residency certificate issued to Winsor Fry in 1795 (Samuel Ames, *Reports of Cases Heard and Determined in the Supreme Court of Rhode Island* [xx], (repr., Providence, R.I.: State of Rhode Island, 1902), Volume 4: “East Greenwich v. Warwick,” September Term 1856, 138–142 at 141).
45. East Greenwich Town Council Records, 7:227.
46. Gunning, *Final Pension Payments* [note xx], 62.
47. For history and photo of the house see MacGunnigle, *Historic East Greenwich* [note xx], 144–146.

mentioned in the will.^[48]

Caesar's second marriage at an advanced age to Judith's younger sister may have provided care and companionship for both.

- iii. MARY ELIZABETH ("BETSEY") FRY, b. ca. 1790 (from age, 73, at marriage), d. of apoplexy East Greenwich 11 May 1876, age 80;^[49] m. East Greenwich 1 Jan. 1863 CAESAR CLARKE (see ii).^[50]

She was probably the Betsey Fry, 55, who appears in the 1850 census as a blind woman living at the Asylum.^[51]

- iv. FRANCES FRY.

Frances Fry had a son with an unknown father named Wait. On 28 Jan. 1826 the East Greenwich Town Council ordered the clerk to draw up indentures binding out "as an apprentice, a poor child named James Fry alias James Wait, son of Frances Fry, daughter of Winsor Fry late of said East Greenwich deceased," to "Daniel Updike of said East Greenwich Inn Holder."^[52] Being lawfully settled in East Greenwich, James had become "chargeable" to the town, i.e., in need of support. The alternative surnames typically indicate illegitimacy. As Frances was not described as deceased, she was alive on that date and unmarried.

(to be continued)

48. East Greenwich Probate, 7:272.

49. She was recorded as Mary E. Clarke, dau. of Winsor Fry, when she died (East Greenwich Deaths, 4:42).

50. East Greenwich Marriages, East Greenwich Town Hall, 4:18.

51. 1850 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 841, 243B.

52. East Greenwich Town Council Records, 5-A: 545.

WINSOR FRY OF EAST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND
AND HIS DESCENDANTS (Part Two)

Bruce C. MacGunnigle

(continued from *Rhode Island Roots*, Vol. 41, No. 1)

The first part of this article presented very fragmentary information on the known children of Winsor¹ Fry and Lucy Davis. Solomon² Fry, their only known son and perhaps their first child, left many descendants and a wealth of documentation. While Solomon Fry never learned to read or write and spent his working life as a laborer, he was a successful man in certain ways. He had a long marriage and a close family. His children and grandchildren married into other African American families, especially the Prophets, in East Greenwich, strengthening links within the community. At least eight of his grandsons fought for the Union in the Civil War. Even though Solomon is not mentioned in the records, it is hard to imagine that he had nothing to do with the reservation in the Training Field deeds discussed in Part One.

Solomon Fry left a tangible mark on East Greenwich: he built two houses and owned another, all still standing in the historic district. In 1833 the heirs of Ichabod Northup, another African-American veteran of Revolution, sold him land with a house at 110 Division Street.^[1] On 10 November 1846 Solomon bought a tiny lot (a quarter of an acre) at 82 Division Street from merchant Nathaniel Greene and Hannah Wells (Eldredge) Greene of New York, NY, for \$100.^[2] Within the next ten years Solomon built a house on that lot, now beautifully restored.^[3] He and Hagar passed it on to their eldest son Job and his wife Emma on 9 June 1848.^[4] This couple and most of their children lived very close together on Division St., the east-west street that separates East Greenwich from its northern neighbor Warwick. The 1850 census lists Solomon and Hagar on the same page as their

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1. Bruce C. MacGunnigle, "Ichabod Northup, 'Soldier of the Revolution'" *Rhode Island Roots*, Vol. 34, No. 3 (Sept. 2008), 113–115. For more on the house, see Bruce C. MacGunnigle, *Strolling in Historic East Greenwich* [hereinafter MacGunnigle, *Historic East Greenwich*] (East Greenwich, R.I.: The Author, 2014), 37–38.
 2. East Greenwich Land Records, East Greenwich Town Hall, 15:26. This Nathaniel Greene, b. East Greenwich 1818, was the son of Nathaniel and grandson of Christopher Greene, a younger brother of Gen. Nathanael Greene. He m. Boston 1842 Hannah Wells Eldredge, b. Boston 1822 (Louise Brownell Clarke, *The Greenes of Rhode Island* [New York: George Sears Greene, Jr., and Francis Vinton Greene, 1903], 504).
 3. For more on the house see MacGunnigle, *Historic East Greenwich* [note xx], 30–31.
 4. East Greenwich Land Records, 15:110, show the price as \$50, but the deed was recorded later that month as a \$300 sale (East Greenwich Land Records, 15:111).

married adult children Job, Sarah, and Thomas and their families.^[5] In 1857, Solomon and Hagar (Sherman) Fry built another house on the eastern half of the lot and sold the older house on the western half of the land at 110 to their daughter Emeline Fry of Providence.^[6]

Even with more sources for Solomon and his descendants than for his father, dates are often contradictory, likely reflecting the lack of written records and, in some cases, the illiteracy of the person asked to provide information. Readers should take each of them as the author's best suggestion from a plethora of choices.

Genealogical Summary

2. **SOLOMON² FRY** (*Winsor^l*) was born in North Kingstown, Washington Co., R.I. probably by 1780 and died at East Greenwich 11 April 1866.^[7] He married **HAGAR SHERMAN**, who was born in Exeter, Washington Co., R.I. ca. 1774[?], the daughter of Cuff Sherman, and died at East Greenwich 18 September 1861.^[8] They are buried together in East Greenwich Historic Cemetery 38.^[9]

The circumstances of Solomon's birth remain somewhat clouded, both from the dislocations of war and issues connected to slavery. His birth, like those of his siblings, was never registered. His age was recorded in many contradictory ways.^[10] What is clear is that he was married and fathering children as early as 1801 or 1802, and thus must have been born no later than 1780, while his father was still serving in the army.

Children of Solomon² and Hagar (Sherman) Fry, probably others:

- i. **JOB³ FRY**, b. ca. 1800–1802, d. East Greenwich 2 May 1872, age 70, bur. East Greenwich Historic Cemetery 38;^[11] m. **EMMA** _____, b. Mass.

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5. 1850 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 841, 234A.
 6. East Greenwich Land Records, 13:423, 425; 16:308. See MacGunnigle, *Historic East Greenwich* [note xx], 35–36.
 7. Place of birth and death information, presumably supplied by his family, come from R.I. Vital Records, Deaths, 66:824. Rhode Island vital records after 1853 are kept both by the town hall and by the state. The latter can be accessed on microfilm at R.I. State Archives.
 8. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:13. The year of birth is doubtful.
 9. Find A Grave Memorial# 68998731 (Solomon); Find A Grave Memorial# 68998671 (Hagar).
 10. He was said to be 85 in the 1865 R.I. State Census. R.I. State Archives (2:160); age 80 at second marriage in 1863; an impossible age 87 at death in 1866 on gravestone; 78 in state death records above. Although some records show an apparent fourteen-year gap in age between Solomon and his wife Hagar, the 1850 census lists both of them as exactly 65 years old (1850 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 841, p. 234A).
 11. Find A Grave Memorial# 76265304. amyproferes@gmail.com

ca. 1795,^[12] d. of consumption Sept. 1860, age 64, bur with her husband.^[13]

Both Job and Emma belonged briefly to the Methodist Episcopal Church of East Greenwich, although not at the same time. Emma was baptized there in November 1834, but was said in the records to have removed to Providence in fall of 1835. Job joined by “profession” in 1857 but was excluded in 1863.^[14]

Around 1855 Job and Emma took in an illegitimate three-year-old boy, Henry S. Fry. Having become “much attached to the child,” they successfully petitioned the General Assembly to be allowed to adopt him four years later. In their petition they said that his father was unknown and his mother was then in New Orleans.^[15]

Emma made her will 7 July 1857, perhaps because she owned some property, and it was proved 29 December 1860.^[16]

In his last years Job Fry needed help from his town and relatives. George Burlingame became “guardian of the person and estate of Job Fry of East Greenwich RI” and on 11 April 1870 sold the 82 Division St. property to Frank Prophet, Job’s nephew by marriage. Prophet paid \$1,000 and promised to pay taxes, keep the property in good condition, provide care for Job Fry, and arrange a decent burial for him.^[17] The 1870 census, taken a few months later, shows Job, 70, and his younger sister Sarah (Fry) Boyd, 68, living with Sarah’s daughter Celia (Fry) Prophet, son-in-law Franklin G. Prophet, and their children, presumably in this house.^[18]

Adoptive child of Job and Emma (_____) Fry:

1. *Henry S. Fry*, b. East Greenwich ca. 1852, illegitimate son of

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12. Birth information from 1850 census (1850 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 841, p. 234A.
 13. Find A Grave Memorial# 76265348.
 14. James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island 1636-1850* [hereinafter Arnold, RIVR] (21 vols., Providence, R.I.: Narragansett Historical Publishing Company, 1891-1912), 11:493.
 15. Job and Emma Fry, Petition to the General Assembly, R.I. State Archives, 21 Jan. 1859. The petition does not mention the mother by name. Job and Emma both signed their names. Henry appeared with his adoptive parents in 1860 but in censuses after Emma’s death) he was working as a young servant. Henry left East Greenwich for Newport when an adult.
 16. East Greenwich Probate Records, 8:295. It was unusual for a married woman to make her will. The very brief will mentions only her husband.
 17. East Greenwich Land Records, 18:321. The sale was authorized by the East Greenwich Court of Probate.
 18. 1870 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 1471, p. 210B.

Elizabeth Fry and an unknown father, d. Newport 3 Nov. 1893;^[19] m., by M. Van Howe, pastor of the Union Congregational Church, Newport 1878 Charlotte A.M. Smith, b. ca. 1854 Middletown, Conn., dau. of Henry and Eliza (Freeman) Smith, **d. after 1897** when listed in a directory.^[20]

3. ii. CELIA FRY, b. ca. 1802.
4. iii. ANN FRY, b. East Greenwich ca. 1806, d. after 1870 census.
5. iv. THOMAS FRY, b. East Greenwich ca. 1812.
- v. JAMES FRY, b. East Greenwich ca. 1816 (“CFM 3:77”?); m. by 1837 MARY ANN MCABBE, b. R.I. ca. 1815.^[21]

Children of James and Mary Ann (McAbbe) Fry, b. East Greenwich:
 1. *Alfred F. Fry*, b. 12 Dec. 1838,^[22] d. of apoplexy at East Greenwich 3 Mar. 1900, age 61 years, two months, 21 days,^[23] bur. East Greenwich Cemetery 38;^[24] m1 by 1860 Ellen _____, b. Connecticut ca. 1840;^[25] m2 Boston, Mass., 25 Apr. 1869 Annie A. Camrell, b. Scotland 14 May 1844, dau. of James and Mary (_____) Camrell,^[26] d. East Greenwich 30 Oct. 1902,^[27] bur. with her husband.^[28]

His gravestone notes that Alfred served in Company E of the 5th Mass. Cavalry in the Civil War. His military record, available at Ancestry.com, shows him rising steadily through the ranks from private to sergeant-major after enlisting at Taunton, Mass. 16 Feb.

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19. R.I. Vital Records, Deaths, 93:662. His mother’s name is known only from his death record. In the 1880 census Henry said that both his parents had been born in Louisiana (1880 Census, Newport, Newport Co., R.I., roll 1210, p. 131C, E.D. 091).
 20. R.I. Vital Records, Marriages, 78:576. Approximate year of Charlotte’s birth from 1880 Census, above. Her father was born in Pennsylvania, her mother in Connecticut.
 21. Mary Ann’s maiden name come from the marriage record of her daughter Anstris (East Greenwich Marriages, 4:47). Years of birth estimated from 1850 census (1850 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent, Co. R.I., roll 841, p. 226B).
 22. East Greenwich Births, 3:62.
 23. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:90.
 24. MacGunnigle, *East Greenwich Cemeteries* [note xx], 60. Photo at Find A Grave Memorial# 17030901. The gravestone was provided by veterans’ services in 1938 (NARA, Applications for Headstones for U.S. military veterans, 1925-1941; National Archives mf M1916, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General; Record Group 92).
 25. 1860 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 1203, p. 69.
 26. Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts, Marriage Records, 1840-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013. Original data: Massachusetts Vital Records, 1840–1911. NEHGS, Boston, Mass. Precise date of birth from her gravestone. The marriage record conflicts with the death record (below) which shows her maiden name as Cameron and he parents as Duncan and Jennie.
 27. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:95.
 28. MacGunnigle, *East Greenwich Cemeteries* [note xx], 60). See photo for Find A Grave Memorial# 17030931.

1864 and finally mustering out 31 Oct 1865 at in Clarksville, Texas.^[29] He received a pension from 1890, and Annie a widow's pension after his death.^[30] A blacksmith when he married, Alfred was a "bill poster" when he died. It is interesting to note that his first wife was black, his second white.

2. *William Fry*, b. ca. 1841.

3. *Anstress E. Fry*, b. ca. 1846, d. North Kingstown, Washington Co., R.I. 9 May 1910;^[31] m1 JAMES E. TAYLOR, b. Exeter, R.I. ca. 1847, son of John and Ann (Fry) Taylor, d. 1875–1877;^[32] m2, by Gilbert Robbins, "Pastor of Baptist Church," East Greenwich 20 Oct. 1878 to Thomas George, b. Augusta, Ga. ca. 1837, son of Alexander and Emeline (Marks) George,^[33] d. Providence 5 Nov. 1897, bur. Providence Historic Cemetery 1, North Burial Ground where his marker notes service in Co G 31st US "Col Trps" [Colored Troops] during the Civil War.^[34]

- vi. EMELINE FRY, b. East Greenwich probably ca. 1821, d. there 16 Feb. 1903;^[35] m., by Baptist pastor William Thompson, Providence 9 June 1859 to JAMES B. CHAMBERS,^[36] b. Boston, Mass. ca. 1823, son of Thomas and Jane (_____) Chambers, d. of heart disease East Greenwich 23 Aug. 1888.^[37]

Estimates for Emeline Fry's year of birth range from 1808 to 1830, but her age at marriage (38 in 1859) seems the most reliable clue. In any case, she was, by the standards of the day, a middle-aged spinster when she bought a house from her parents in 1857. She may have been younger, as she had a daughter Amy Chambers who was born ca.

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29. NARA, Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who Served with the United States Colored Troops: 1st–5th United States Colored Cavalry, 5th Massachusetts Cavalry (Colored), 6th United States Colored Cavalry, series M1817, roll 81.
30. Alfred Fry (Certificate No. 927,702); Annie A. Fry (Certificate No. 493,107).
31. North Kingstown Deaths, 5:1.
32. The 1850 census shows James as a 4-year-old with his parents and many older siblings in Exeter (1850 U.S. Census, Exeter, Washington Co., R.I., roll 847, p.235A). In 1875 James and Anstress were living in North Kingstown with son Frank, 6, several Taylor brothers, and his mother (1875 Rhode Island Census, 8:57).
33. East Greenwich Marriages, 4:47.
34. Photos of marker and veterans section at Find A Grave Memorial# 24045765.
35. When Emeline (Fry) Chambers, died in 1903, having outlived almost all of her relatives, her death record gave her age as 95, when it seems likely she was only 82 (East Greenwich Deaths, 4:96).
36. R.I. Vital Records, 59:672. The bride was 38; the groom, 37. This record is hard to find because Emeline's surname is mistakenly given as *Terry*.
37. R.I. Vital Records, Deaths, 88:549.

1866.^[38] The 1865 Rhode Island census lists them in East Greenwich directly after households that included Job Fry and Solomon Fry.^[39] By 1880 James was working as a laborer despite his rheumatism, and Emeline as a cook.^[40] About seven weeks after Emeline's death, the mortgage holder Nathaniel G. Carpenter sold the property on 6 April 1903.^[41]

3. SARAH³ FRY (*Solomon², Winsor¹*) was born in East Greenwich ca. 1802, the daughter of Solomon and Hagar (Sherman) Fry, and died there 30 October 1886.^[42] She married by 1829 (birth of child) **WARREN BOYD**, who died before 1850. Although Sarah had a long widowhood and worked hard to support her family, she lived surrounded by family.

Children of Warren and Sarah (Fry) Boyd, born East Greenwich:

- i. SOLOMON BOYD, b. 1830–1832, d. East Greenwich 10 Dec. 1876, age 46,^[43] bur. “Village Cemetery” in East Greenwich;^[44] m1 by 1851 JULIA PROFFIT (child b. 1852), b. Warwick ca. 1835,^[45] d. by 1863;^[46] m2 by 1870 MARY _____, b. R.I. ca. 1840, **d. by 1876**.^[47]

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38. The only child ever shown in this household, Amy was still living in 1885 (1885 Rhode Island State Census, 14: 326).
 39. 1865 Rhode Island State Census, 2:160. This census shows Emeline's place of birth as North Kingstown.
 40. 1880 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 1209, p. 168A, E.D. 074.
 41. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:96; East Greenwich Land Records, 24:124. Although no relationship is expressed in the 1857 deed, the 1903 sale specifies that it was property Emeline bought from her father. See the essay “A Mini-Biography of Emma Jane Powell” in *A History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, as Published in The East Greenwich Packet*, ed. Thaire H. Adamson [1996], (repr., East Greenwich, R.I.: The East Greenwich Preservation Society, 2012), 136.
 42. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:62. Sarah's age varies widely in census records, suggesting years of birth that range between 1801 and 1810.
 43. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:42.
 44. Although the government authorized the gravestone, no such marker has been recorded anywhere in East Greenwich (Ancestry.com. Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1879–1903 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2007).
 45. Solomon Boyd, the son of Solomon and Julia, d. in East Greenwich 9 Oct. 1858 at nine days (East Greenwich Deaths, 4:42). A Robert Boyd d. 13 July 1880, supposedly age 30, son of Solomon and Julia (Proffit) Boyd (East Greenwich Deaths, 4:50). A dau. Adelia was b. 16 Oct. 1860 (East Greenwich Births, 4:16).
 46. He said he was single when he registered for the Civil War draft in June 1863 (Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registrations, 1863-1865. NM-65, entry 172, 620 volumes. ARC ID: 4213514. Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau [Civil War], Record Group 110. National Archives at Washington, D.C.).
 47. In 1870 they were living in the household of Solomon's younger brother Wanton and family (1870 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 1471, p. 193B). Mary was

By 1850 when he was 16, Solomon Boyd was already earning his living, working as a laborer in the household of Ardelessa Updike.^[48] By 1860 he was living with his wife Julia and two children in East Greenwich.^[49] Solomon Boyd, giving his age as 30, enlisted in the U.S. Navy at New London, Conn. 26 Sept. 1862 and served until 31 July 1865. After time on a receiving ship in Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston, he sailed on the steam sloop of war *Dacotah* and then on the side-wheel steamer *Nansemond*.^[50] The year before he died, Solomon Boyd, 49, was counted as a “laborer at barn” in the East Greenwich household of Samuel L. Tillinghast, “trial justice.”^[51]

- ii. WANTON BOYD, b. ca. 1837, d. Providence, R.I. 11 Nov. 1912, age 75,^[52] bur. next to his grandfather Solomon Fry in East Greenwich Cemetery 38;^[53] m1 betw. 1860 (when he was single) and 1863 (birth of a child) SUSAN NOKA, believed by family tradition to have been b. Charlestown, Washington Co., R.I., a descendant of Chief Tim Ninegret of the Narragansetts;^[54] m2, by Benjamin Phelan, “minister of the gospel,” Providence 20 Sept. 1866 to FRANCES (“FANNIE”) A. REED, b. Providence ca. 1851, dau. of Thomas and Hannah (_____) Reed,^[55] d. in the Apponaug neighborhood of Warwick 20 May 1895;^[56] m3, by F.H. Hill, Providence 24 Oct. 1896 to the widow

not counted with him in the 1875 census [note xx], and Solomon’s death record [note xx] said that he was a widower.

48. 1850 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 841, 218B.
 49. 1860 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 1203, p. 69.
 50. Kenneth S. Carlson, “United States Navy – Rhode Island Civil Participatory Record,” database at R.I. State Archives. Muster rolls from the *Dacotah* 1 Jan. 1863 and from the *Nansemond* 1 Oct. 1864 agree in showing him as 5 ft. 6 in. tall (Ancestry.com. *Web: US, African American Civil War Sailor Index, 1861-1865* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014).
 51. 1875 R.I. State Census, 5:53. He was illiterate.
 52. Providence Vital Records, Deaths, 24: 202.
 53. MacGunnigle, *East Greenwich Cemeteries* [note xx], 79. Photo of gravestone at Find A Grave Memorial# 60234562.
 54. 1860 Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I. roll 1203, p. 76; first wife’s name from marriage record of their son William Edward Boyd 21 Nov. 1886 [we can get this from RISA].
 55. Frances was 16 when she married (R.I. Vital Records, Marriages, 66:420).
 56. Births of twelve children of this marriage in Providence 1867 to 1889 and the death of the thirteenth were registered in East Greenwich. The first child of this marriage was born Feb. 1867 (East Greenwich Births, 4:27). The last, Mildred died 30 Aug. 1890 at the age of one month (East Greenwich Deaths, 4:71). Two of the children were baptized at St. Luke’s Church in East Greenwich 3 May 1883 (Arnold, RIVR, 11:535).

ELLEN (ROSS) BERRY,^[57] b. Nova Scotia, Canada ca. 1851, d. after 1925 when she was lodging in Providence.^[58]

Wanton Boyd served one year, eleven months, and 21 days in the Civil War in Company F of the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry.^[59]

- iii. CECILA BOYD, b. 4 July 1840, d. 4 Aug. 1895, age 56 years, bur. East Greenwich Cemetery 38;^[60] m. by 1863 FRANKLIN GREEN PROFFITT, b. at East Greenwich 1 Nov. 1838, son of Philip and Lucy (Fry) Proffitt, d. 26 Division St., East Greenwich 27 Feb. 1920, age 87 years, three months, 26 days, bur. with his wife.^[61]

Franklin G. Proffit went to sea in 1859, and at the age of 19 he was described as 5 ft. 7³/₄ in. tall, black in complexion with dark hazel eyes and black curly hair.^[62] When he registered for the draft in 1863 in Warwick, he was 30 and married, a coachman by trade.^[63] The Proffitts lived most of their lives in the house Celia's grandfather had built at 82 Division St., and in 1918 Franklin passed it on to his daughter Clara Louise (Proffit) Fry and her husband Albertus Fry.^[64]

- iv. CATHERINE SOPHIA BOYD, b. East Greenwich ca. 1838, d. aft. 1880 (census); m1, by Rev. Benjamin Phelan, Warwick, R.I., 29 Mar. 1855

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57. Recorded in East Greenwich Marriages, 4:96. In 1910 Ellen said that she had come to the United States in 1885 (1910 U.S. Census, Providence Ward 7, Providence Co., R.I., roll 1444, p. 6A, E.D. 0222).
58. 1925 Rhode Island State Census, 12:18. She had been a servant in a private family in 1920 (1920 U.S. Census, Providence, Ward 7, Providence Co., R.I., roll 1677, p. 5B, E.D. 258).
59. The unit is noted on his gravestone; the length in the 1890 Veterans Schedule (1890 East Greenwich, Kent, R.I., roll 92, p. 3; E.D. 168). The 5th Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment (African) was organized at Camp Meigs, Readville, Mass. The unit was on duty at City Point, Va., as infantry until 16 June 1864, then involved in the siege of Petersburg June 16–28. By 30 June they had moved to Point Lookout, Md., where they guarded prisoners until March 1865. After the surrender they served in various places in Virginia (Richmond, near Petersburg, back at City Point, and at Camp Lincoln) until June 16 when they were ordered to Texas and duty at Clarksville until October. Wanton mustered out 31 October 1865. See www.mycivilwar.com/regiments/usa-ma/ma_cav_reg_05.htm.
60. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:81. MacGunnigle, *East Greenwich Cemeteries* [note xx], 75. Photo at Find A Grave Memorial# 57905506.
61. Parents and all death information from East Greenwich Deaths, 5:11. MacGunnigle, *East Greenwich Cemeteries* [note xx], 75. Place of birth from Protection Certificate in next note.
62. Jeffrey Howe, "Black and Indian Sailors from Rhode Island: From Providence Customs House Records (Part 3: K-Z)," *Rhode Island Roots*, Vol. 33, No. (March 2007), 39.
63. NARA, Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registration Records (Provost Marshal General's Bureau; Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865); Record Group 110, Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War); Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865 (Civil War Union Draft Records); ARC Identifier: 4213514; Archive Volume 1.
64. East Greenwich Land Records, Vol. 26, Page 176

to BENJAMIN G. HOLDEN, b. Warwick ca. 1835, son of Cato Holden,^[65] d. and bur. Danville, Va.; m2 East Greenwich 5 Mar. 1867 THOMAS PROFITT, b. ca. 1836, son of William and Freelove (_____) Profitt.^[66]

A married farmer living in Vernon, Conn., Benjamin Holden enlisted in nearby Hartford as a private in Company D, U.S. Colored Troops 31st Infantry Regiment on 13 Feb 1864.^[67] From March through June 1864 he served in the ambulance corps, retrieving wounded and killed soldiers. His commanding officer testified that Benjamin was severely wounded in action before Petersburg, Va. 30th July 1864 and “presumed killed” that day. In fact, Confederate records show that he was captured and sent to a hospital in Danville, Va. where he died 17 Nov. 1864.^[68] With the help of her guardian William Townsend, Catherine applied for a widow’s pension 17 June 1865 (Certificate No. 98.312) and received Certificate No. 69.562. She applied in 1867 for a minor’s pension for her daughter Isabella, b. in East Greenwich 12 Feb. 1857, and received certificate No. 106.636.^[69]

In 1880 Catherine was living in Providence with her second husband, Thomas Prophet, a coachman.^[70]

4. ANN³ FRY, was born in East Greenwich about 1812 (at least between 1806 and 1813), daughter of Solomon and Hagar (Sherman) Fry, and died in Exeter, Washington Co., R.I. 31 April 1892.^[71] She married by 1833 (ch. b. 1834) **JOHN TAYLOR**, who was born in North Kingstown, Washington Co., R.I. betw. 1791 and 1798 and died betw. 1870 and 1875.^[72]

Children of John and Ann (Fry) Taylor:

- i. JOHN H. TAYLOR, b. ca. 1834; m. by June 1863 when he registered for the draft.
- ii. HARRIET A. TAYLOR, b. East Greenwich ca. 1837, d. Exeter 2 Aug.

65. Arnold, RIVR, 1:1:67; R.I. Vital Records, Marriages, 55:354. A clue to Benjamin’s ancestry may lie in a bequest to him in the will of Vilette Carr of Newport, made 1847, proved 1857 (Newport Wills and Probate, Newport City Hall, 17:738–740).

66. East Greenwich Marriages, 4:22.

67. Connecticut: Record of Service of Men during War of Rebellion

68. See his extensive record in NARA, Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with the United States Colored Troops: Infantry Organizations, 31st through 35th, Mf Series M1992, roll 7.

69. General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934. NARA mf series T288, roll 221. East Greenwich Births, 4:9.

70. 1880 U.S. Census, Providence, Providence Co., R.I., roll 1212, p. 16B, E.D. 034.

71. Exeter Deaths, 1:35.

72. Place of birth from the 1865 R.I. State Census, 4:60. He was counted in the 1870 U.S. Census, but Ann was a widow in 1875 (1875 R.I. State Census, 8:57).

1912;^[73] m., by Elder Pardon Tillinghast, Exeter 24 May 1858 to WELCOME ROBINSON, b. Exeter ca. 1836 (from age at marriage), son of William and Susanna (_____) Robinson.^[74]

In 1880 they were living in Exeter, where Welcome worked as a farm laborer, with five children between the ages of 17 and 9.^[75] The 1910 census shows Harriet Robinson, 65, living with her grandchildren on Long St. at the corner of Castle in East Greenwich.^[76] She reported that she was the mother of twelve children, seven still living.

- iii. PRINCE ALBERT TAYLOR, b. in the Wakefield neighborhood of South Kingstown ca. 1842, d. Narragansett, Washington Co., R.I., 19 June 1906, age 64,^[77] bur. South Kingstown Historic Cemetery 37, Oakdell Cemetery in the Peace Dale neighborhood;^[78] m1, by Elder Pardon Tillinghast, Exeter 10 Aug. 1861 LAURANIA (BROWN) POTTER, b. R.I. ca. 1844, dau. of Clark Brown,^[79] d. of cancer South Kingstown, 9 Dec. 1895, age 51.^[80] He m2 Providence 25 Jan. 1900 MARTHA (BROWN) (PIERCE) BLANC, b. ca. 1843, dau. of Clark and Fidelia (_____) Brown, presumably the sister of his first wife.^[81] Martha d. after 1920 when living with family in Worcester, Mass.^[82]
- Drafted 9 July 1863 into in Co. D. of the 11th U.S. Colored Infantry, he served until mustered out in New Orleans 3 Oct. 1865.^[83]
- iv. JAMES E. TAYLOR, b. Exeter ca. 1847, d. 1870–1877; m. by 1869 his cousin ANSTRIS⁴ FRY (*James³ Solomon² Winsor¹*), who remarried in

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73. R.I. Vital Records, Exeter Deaths, Aug. 1912, #75. She is listed in the “new residents” section.
74. R.I. Vital Records, Marriages, 58:694. Although both were described as white in their marriage record, they were called black in censuses and other official documents.
75. 1880 U.S. Census, Exeter, Washington Co., R.I., roll 1210, p. 282D, E.D. 152.
76. 1910 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 1436, p. 27A, E.D. 0011. This woman was definitely the widow of Welcome Robinson (*The East Greenwich City Directory, 1907*, p. 72).
77. R.I. Vital Records, Narragansett Deaths, June 1906, #82.
78. His veteran’s stone has no dates but notes service (John E. Sterling and James L. Wheaton, IV, *Historical Cemeteries of South Kingstown, Rhode Island*, ed. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg [hereinafter Sterling and Watson, *SK Cemeteries*] [Greenville, R.I.: RIGS, 2004], 179.
79. Arnold, RIVR, 5:3:32.
80. R.I. Vital Records, Deaths, 95:706.
81. It was his second marriage, her third. Martha is shown as divorced (R.I. Vital Records, Marriages, 00:487).
82. 1920 U.S. Census, Worcester, Ward 3, Worcester Co., Mass., roll 751, p. 10B, E.D. 237. Directories show her at the same address from soon after Prince’s death.
83. His full service record in NARA, Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with the United States Colored Troops: Artillery Organizations, Mf Series M1818, roll 212 is available on Ancestry.com.

1878. See p. xx.

- v. LYMAN FRANCIS TAYLOR, b. Exeter ca. 1848, d. Richmond, Washington Co., R.I., 9 May 1919, age 79 years, two months, and 13 days,^[84] bur. South Kingstown Historic Cemetery 83, the Taylor-Rooms-Reynolds lot.^[85] He m. North Kingstown 26 Mar. 1870 HULDAY ANN ROMES, b. in the Wickford neighborhood of North Kingstown June 1844, dau. of William and Elizabeth F. (_____) Romes^[86] d. “river” in the Wakefield neighborhood of South Kingstown 1 Apr. 1927, bur., prob. without a gravestone, in “West Kingston.”^[87]
- Lyman served in the Mass. 5th Cavalry and received a pension (#1096971) starting 8 Nov. 1890; his widow collected a pension after his death (#885665).^[88]
- vi. [unnamed dau], 3 months old in 1850 census.
- vii. WARREN WALTER TAYLOR, b. Exeter ca. 1855, d. after an automobile accident on Tower Hill Road, “Belleville” in North Kingstown 19 Sept. 1928;^[89] m. after 1880 ESTHER _____ b. R.I. ca. 1845, d. after 1910.^[90]

At first it appeared that there were two sons Warren W. and Walter about the same age, who were counted with the family, but never together. The hypothesis of this article is that it was one son who

84. R.I. Vital Records, Deaths 1919, p. 288.

85. The three marked gravestones in this lot are for African American veterans of the Civil War (Sterling and Watson, *SK Cemeteries* [note xx], 378). See Applications for Headstones for U.S. military veterans, 1925-1941; Mf A1, 2110-C; Record Group, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group #92 for details.

86. R.I. Vital Records, Marriages, 70:824. Month of Huldah’s birth from 1900 U.S. Census, South Kingstown, Washington Co, R.I., roll 1513, p. 1A, E.D. 0238. Huldah said that her four children were all dead.

87. R.I. Vital Records, South Kingstown Deaths, Apr. 1927, #2.

88. He was 5 ft., 3 in. tall, a farm laborer who said he was 21, when he enlisted 25 Aug. 1864 (see his service record in NARA, Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who Served with the United States Colored Troops: 1st through 5th United States Colored Cavalry, 5th Massachusetts Cavalry (Colored), 6th United States Colored Cavalry, Mf series M1817, roll 91). General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934. Washington, D.C.: NARA, T288, roll 465.

89. By the time he died, he had lost touch with his family: his sketchy information was provided by a nephew Henry Taylor (R.I. Vital Records, North Kingstown Deaths, Sept. 1928, #1). Although Warren was then believed to be 85, his occupation was “laborer on state road gang.” His death certificate says that he was buried in North Kingstown Historic Cemetery 26, Elm Grove Cemetery.

90. Warren Taylor was shown as single in the state census of 1875 and the U.S. census of 1880 (1875 R.I. Census, 8:57; 1880 U.S. Census, South Kingstown, Washington Co., R.I., roll 1210; p. 387A; E.D. 158). Esther was with him in 1910, but by 1915 Warren was boarding with another family (1910 U.S. Census, North Kingstown, Washington Co., R.I., roll 1445, p. 13A, E.D. 0304).

sometimes used his middle name.

- viii. GEORGE WASHINGTON TAYLOR, b. North Kingstown May 1856, living 1900; m., by M.R. Phetteplace, minister of the gospel, South Kingstown 19 Mar. 1887 to KATIE C. HULL, b. Newport Mar. 1870, dau. of George and Annie (_____) Hull, d. aft. 1900.^[91]
- ix. LILLA TAYLOR, b. Exeter ca. 1863, living 1865 census. No further record.

5. THOMAS³ FRY (*Solomon², Winsor¹*) was born in East Greenwich ca. 1812, the son of Solomon and Hagar (Sherman) Fry, and died there 11 May 1862.^[92] He married by 1836 (child born) **JOANNAH PROFFITT**, who was born in Warwick, R.I. ca. 1814[?], the daughter of Joseph and Susan (_____) Proffitt, and died in East Greenwich 23 May 1905, age 96.^[93]

Children of Thomas W. and Joanna (Proffitt) Fry:^[94]

- i. JOHN ANTHONY P. FRY, b. ca. 1836, d. Westerly, Washington Co., R.I. 14 Apr. 1910, age 74 years, two months;^[95] bur. Westerly Historic Cemetery 8, River Bend Cemetery;^[96] m1 Warwick 6 Nov. 1867 RACHEL ANN KNIGHT,^[97] b. Lynn, Essex Co., Mass. 4 Aug. 1851, dau. of William and Rachel Ann (_____) Knight,^[98] d. of cancer East Greenwich 5 Oct. 1891, age 38 years, two months, one day;^[99] m2 East Greenwich a white widow KEZIA SAWYER (MOORE) SCOTT,^[100] b. Framingham, Middlesex Co., Mass. 3 July 1838, dau. of John and Susanna (Sawyer) Moore,^[101] d. of exhaustion East Greenwich 21

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- 91. When they married, George was living in Rocky Brook, Katie in Kingston (R.I. Vital Records, Marriages, 87:496). The 1900 U.S. Census (South Kingstown, Washington Co, R.I., roll 1513, p. 1B, E.D. 0238) shows that Katty had borne a single child who had died.
 - 92. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:15.
 - 93. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:100. As with many members of this family, there is contradictory evidence of when she was born. In 1900 she said she was born in May 1820 (1900 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 1504, p. 15B; E.D. 0194).
 - 94. Years of birth for 1–6 estimated from 1850 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 841, p. 234A; year of birth for 7 from the 1865 R.I. State Census. In 1900 Johanna Fry said she had borne ten children, six of whom were living.
 - 95. 1910 R.I. Deaths, Westerly, 293.
 - 96. He has a Civil War stone, noting his service in Company F of the R.I. 14th Heavy Artillery (reading of Gertrude Barrington for R.I. Historic Cemeteries Database).
 - 97. R.I. Vital Records, Marriages, 67:452.
 - 98. Massachusetts Vital Records, 1840-1915, Mass. State Archives, 51:184. Her marriage record gives her place of birth as Salem; her death record gives it as Boston.
 - 99. R.I. Vital Records, Deaths, 91:604.
 - 100. R.I. Vital Records, Marriages, 94:342.
 - 101. *Vital Records of Framingham, Massachusetts to the Year 1850*, comp. Thomas W. Baldwin (Boston, Mass.: NEHGS, 1911), 1:143. The parents, including the mother's maiden name, are given in the marriage record above.

Aug. 1895, age 57 years, one month, 18 days.^[102]

John Fry, 30, b. Warwick, a hostler, enlisted at Providence Feb. 1865 in Co. F of the 11th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery and was mustered out in New Orleans in Oct. 1865.^[103]

- ii. HARRISON FRY, b. ca. 1838, d. after 1865 census when he was still single and living at home.^[104]
- iii. WILLIAM THOMAS FRY, b. ca. 1843, d. Providence 29 Jan. 1921,^[105] bur. in the veterans' section of Providence Historic Cemetery 1, North Burial Ground;^[106] m., by Joseph M. Allen, pastor of the 2nd Baptist Church of North Kingstown, in North Kingstown 27 July 1867 to ROSANNA ANGANET (WAITE) WATSON, b. Exeter ca. 1850, dau. of Jacob and Harriet S. () Waite, widow of Richard Watson,^[107] d. 570 No. Main St., Providence, 28 Jan. 1926.^[108]
By the time William married the very young widow Rosanna, he had served in the Civil War, in Co. F of Mass. 5th Cavalry like his cousins.^[109] In 1900 they were living in East Greenwich where William was a scallop fisherman.^[110] By 1920 they were in Providence, living with their son James.^[111]
- iv. JULIA FRY, b. ca. 1844, d. East Greenwich 9 July 1932; unnm.^[112]
- v. EMELINE FRY, b. ca. 1846–1851, d. Providence 5 Aug. 1931, bur. Providence Historic Cemetery 1, North Burial Ground without a gravestone;^[113] m. Warwick 22 July 1874 PEMBROKE POWELL, b.

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- 102. R.I. Vital Records, Deaths, 95:686. She belonged to St. Luke's Church in East Greenwich at her death (Arnold, RIVR, 11:581).
 - 103. NARA, Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with the United States Colored Troops: Artillery Organizations, Mf series, M1818, roll 196. His service was credited to East Greenwich.
 - 104. 1865 Rhode Island Census, 2:145.
 - 105. R.I. Vital Records, Providence Deaths, Jan. 1921, #126.
 - 106. Photos of the marker and section at Find A Grave Memorial# 15392799.
 - 107. Rosanna was 15 when she married 61-year-old Richard Watson, 16 when she married William Fry (R.I. VRs, Marriages, 65:696; 67:808).
 - 108. R.I. Vital Records, Providence, Jan. 1922, #322.
 - 109. William T. Fry, 19, 5 ft. 2 in. tall, enlisted as a sailor in Roxbury, Mass. in Feb. 1864, but served in the army, rising to the rank of sergeant. See his record at Ancestry.com. *U.S., Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1863-1865* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: *Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers*. Washington D.C.: NARA. He received a pension from 3 May 1904 to his death (Certificate 1105935); Rosanna filed for a widow's pension a month after he died (Certificate 901810).
 - 110. Rosanna reported that she was the mother of eight children, only four of whom were still living (1900 U.S. Census, East Greenwich, Kent Co., R.I., roll 1504, p. 23A, E.D. 0194).
 - 111. 1920 U.S. Census, Providence, Ward 2, Providence Co., R.I., roll 1678, p. 19B; E.D.176.
 - 112. East Greenwich Deaths, 7:19.
 - 113. R.I. Vital Records, Providence Deaths, Aug. 1931, #26.

Prince William Co., Va. 14 Sept. 1847, son of Randall and Maria (____) Powell,^[114] d. Providence 28 Apr. 1938, bur. North Burial Ground without a gravestone.^[115]

Pembroke's death record noted Civil War service, although that has not been verified. He worked in Providence as a barber most of his life after marrying Emeline, for decades side-by-side with his son Pembroke, Jr.

- vi. SARAH ELIZABETH FRY, b. ca. 1849, d. Providence, 21 Sept. 1907; un^m.^[116]
- vii. LUCY FRY, b. ca. 1855, d. aft. 1875 when still living with her widowed mother.^[117]
- viii. [son], b. Feb. 1856, d. 25 Aug. 1856.^[118]

114. R.I. VRs, Marriages, 74:516. Date of birth from death record, below. 1935 Rhode Island Census, which shows Pembroke still operating a barbershop at the age of 89, living with his son Pembroke, Jr. at 28 Cranston St., Providence.

115. R.I. Vital Records, Providence Deaths, Apr. 1938, #284. The informant was his daughter Emma Scott.

116. 1907 Deaths, Providence, 223.

117. 1875 Rhode Island Census, 5:28.

118. East Greenwich Deaths, 4:5.