

## Oliver Hazard Perry lot

Oliver Hazard Perry (1785-1819)

Elizabeth Champlin Mason Perry (1791-1858)

Oliver H Perry- died March 5, (1814)

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry (1785-1819)



Oliver Hazard Perry was born and raised in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, the son of Christopher Raymond Perry and older brother of Matthew Calbraith Perry. In his early years Oliver Perry had a gentle manner and a disregard for danger<sup>1</sup>. His education began locally and continued when the family relocated to Newport. In 1806 he was involved in building gunboats in Newport<sup>2</sup>. While his parents were traveling, twelve-year-old Oliver was in complete charge of his younger siblings. At the age of 13, he was warranted a midshipman in the United States Navy, and he would later serve during the Quasi-War with France and the Tripolitan War against the Barbary pirates. In 1809 he received his first command, the schooner *Revenge*. On May 5, 1811, he married Elizabeth Champlin Mason of Newport, Rhode Island.

His fame resulted from his participation in the War of 1812. Perry directed the construction of a fleet on Lake Erie and engaged and defeated the British in battle. "We have met the enemy and they are ours," is his most famous quote from the battle. President Monroe sent Perry on a diplomatic mission to Venezuela in 1819. While there, he contracted Yellow Fever and died.<sup>3</sup> Perry's body was buried in Trinidad, but his remains were returned to Newport in 1826. They were buried near family members in the Common Burying Ground and relocated to this lot in 1841 along with other family members.



Elizabeth Champlin Mason Perry (1791-1858)

Elizabeth Champlin Mason was born in Newport to Dr. Benjamin Mason and Margaret Champlin Mason. The Champlin family was active in Rhode Island for many generations as merchants and politicians. Elizabeth's brother, George Champlin Mason, was the father of the Newport architect who was named

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<sup>1</sup> Alexander Mackenzie, *Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry: Famous American Naval Hero, Victor of the Battle of Lake Erie, His Life and Achievements*, (Ohio: The Superior Printing Company, 1915), 8.

<sup>2</sup> David Curtis Skaggs, *Oliver Hazard Perry: Honor, Courage, and Patriotism in the U.S. Navy*, (Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2006), 35.

<sup>3</sup> "Oliver Hazard Perry", *Naval History and Heritage Command website*. [www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/people/historical-figures/oliver-hazard-perry](http://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/people/historical-figures/oliver-hazard-perry).

for him. Her family opposed her marriage to Perry,<sup>4</sup> but the marriage took place four years later. They were married by a Moravian minister in the Mason home<sup>5</sup> on May 14, 1811. Elizabeth and the growing family lived in the Mason home<sup>6</sup> until she and Oliver purchased a home in 1818 on Washington Square. Elizabeth directed the letters she had received from Oliver be burned upon her death<sup>7</sup>.

Oliver and Elizabeth had five children:

Christopher Grant Champlin Perry (April 2, 1812 – April 5, 1854)

Oliver Hazard Perry II (February 23, 1813 – March 4, 1814), died in infancy.

Lieutenant Oliver Hazard Perry, Jr. (February 23, 1815 – August 20, 1878)

Christopher Raymond Perry (June 29, 1816 – October 8, 1848)

Elizabeth Mason Perry Vinton (1819-1878)

#### Christopher Raymond Perry (1818- 1848)

Christopher was a son of Oliver H. and Elizabeth Perry and named for his grandfather. Born in Newport, he died at sea in the Gulf of Mexico at age 30. He was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment US Infantry and appears to have died unmarried and without children.

#### Oliver Hazard Perry (1815-1878)

Oliver was the second son of OH and Elizabeth Perry to bear his father's name. The first named OHP son died in infancy. He served as a lieutenant in the US Navy, known as Captain Perry, and married Elizabeth Ann Randolph (1816–1847) He married Mary Ann Moseley after Elizabeth's death. When he died, he was involved with building mills in Lowell, Massachusetts. This OHP is buried north of the fenced family lot.



CAPTAIN OLIVER HAZARD PERRY, U. S. N.  
Of Andover and Lowell, Mass.  
Born Feb. 23, 1815;  
Younger son of Commodore O. H. Perry

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<sup>4</sup> Skaggs 36.

<sup>5</sup> Skaggs 44.

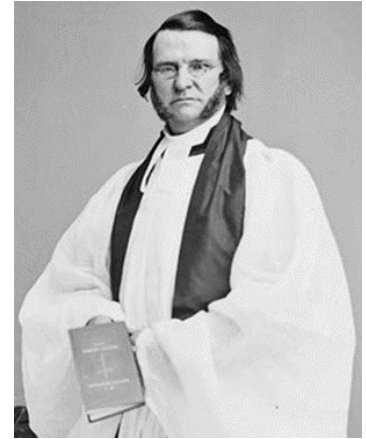
<sup>6</sup> Skaggs 151.

<sup>7</sup> Skaggs 151.

Elizabeth Mason Perry Vinton (1819-1878)



Elizabeth Vinton was the daughter of OHP and Elizabeth Perry, born in Newport after her father died in Venezuela. The family was living with the Masons and Elizabeth grew up in Newport. In 1841 she married Rev. Francis Vinton (1809-1872) a popular Episcopal clergyman in New York and Trinity Church in Newport.<sup>8</sup> The Vinton family is buried north of the OHP fenced site.



Francis Vinton (1809-1872)

Vinton was born in Newport, graduated from Williams College and West Point and then entered the General Theological Seminary in New York<sup>9</sup>. He married Elizabeth Mason Perry in 1841 and the couple had ten children:

Francis Vinton (1842-1881)- professor of music in Portland Oregon according to the 1880 US census

Henry Gilliant Vinton (1844-1860)

Elizabeth Perry Vinton (1846-1912)- died in Pomfret, CT. where she conducted a boarding school for girls with her sister Gertrude for many years.<sup>10</sup>

Grace Vinton (1848-1852)

Arthur Dudley Vinton (1852-1906) was an author and lawyer. He graduated from Columbia Law School in 1873 and went into partnership with George Griswold Frelinghuysen and Perry Belmont. Vinton invented an automatic railroad sign<sup>11</sup>.

Gertrude Vinton (1856-1934)

Reginald Vinton (1860)

Ludlow W Vinton (1861-1900)- The 1900 US Census states he was a boarder in same house as his brother Raymond. Ludlow as an unmarried bank clerk.

Paul Vinton (1863)

Raymond Perry Vinton (1865-1936)

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<sup>8</sup> Wikipedia, "Oliver Hazard Perry," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver\\_H.\\_Perry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_H._Perry).

<sup>9</sup> "Obituary Rev Francis Vinton, of Trinity," *New York Times* (30 September 1872), 4.

<sup>10</sup> "Putnam- Death of Miss Elizabeth Vinton," *Norwich Bulletin* (14 February 1912), 10.

<sup>11</sup> "Arthur D. Vinton," *Boston Evening Transcript* (14 September 1906), 2.

Raymond Perry Vinton (1865-1936)

Raymond is noted on US Federal Census as an unmarried architect boarding for some years in the same house as his brother Ludlow.

Christopher Grant Perry (1812-1854)  
Francis Muriel Sergeant Perry (1817-1903)  
Maragret Mason Perry (1829-1925)  
Frances Sergeant Perry Pepper (1848-1918)  
Thomas Sergeant Perry (1845-1928)  
Oliver Hazard Perry (1842-1913)

Christopher Grant Perry (April 2, 1812-April 7, 1854)

CG Perry was the oldest son of Oliver Hazard and Elizabeth Perry. He was commander of the Newport Artillery Company (1845-1854) and an attorney. Perry married Muriel Frances Sergeant of Philadelphia (great-granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin.) Their daughter, Margaret Mason Perry, married the artist, John LaFarge. CG Perry had been ill for three months and was traveling south to restore his health. He got as far as Philadelphia where he died. He was survived by his wife and 7 children.<sup>12</sup>



*Christopher Grant Perry*

Frances Muriel Sergeant Perry (1817-1903)

Frances was the wife of CG Perry. Her father was a Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judge and her mother was Benjamin Franklin's granddaughter. She married CG Perry on May 31, 1838. Frances is buried in Philadelphia.

Children of CG and Frances Perry:

Margaret Mason Perry (1839-1925)

Margaret was a daughter of CG and Frances Perry. She was born in Newport and married American artist, John LaFarge. They had possibly 8 children but some died in infancy. She died at 10 Sunnyside Place and is buried in St. Columba's Catholic cemetery in Middletown, RI.

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<sup>12</sup> *Herald of the Times* (13 April 1854), 1.



Frances Sergeant "Fanny" Perry Pepper (1848-1918)

Fanny was a daughter of CG and Frances Perry. She was born in Newport and later married Dr. William Pepper (1843-1898), dean of the medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. Pepper was President Grant's physician and founded the Philadelphia Free Library. She was survived by 4 sons (William, Thomas, Benjamin, Oliver) and is buried in Philadelphia.

Thomas Sergeant Perry (1845-1928)

Thomas was a son of CG and Frances Perry. Born in Newport, one of his childhood friends was Henry James. He was educated at Harvard, in Paris, and Berlin. He taught in a number of institutions, including Harvard. Perry also wrote literary criticisms, translated texts, and authored other works. He married American artist Lila Cabot in 1874 and the couple had three daughters. For many years he was a summer resident in Newport occupying the Perry house on Greenough Place. His last visit to Newport was 1913, when he and Mrs. LaFarge were representatives of the Perry family at the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie. He is buried in New Hampshire.



*Thomas S. Perry*

Oliver Hazard Perry (1842-1913)

Oliver was a son of CG and Frances Perry. He was born in Newport and the family lived in the Pell House on Mary Street. He was a painter and married Maria Louisa Moore, cousin to C. Clement Moore. The couple had three children who all graduated from Princeton. Oliver is buried in New York<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Recent Deaths," Oliver Hazard Perry, *Newport Mercury*, 19 April 1913, 1.