

Island Annex

We are Family

GR

EK

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JG

St. Mary's

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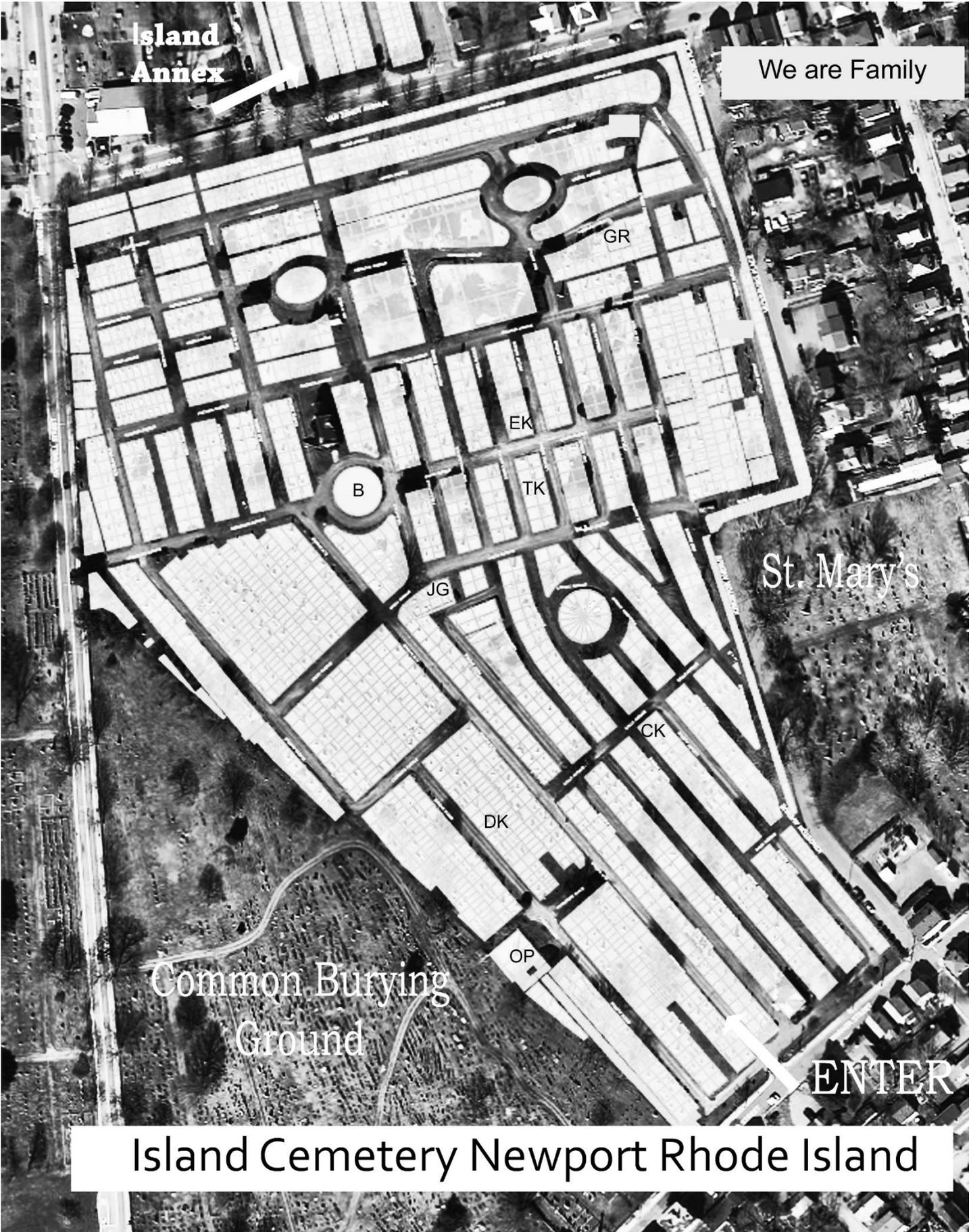
DK

Common Burying Ground

OP

ENTER

Island Cemetery Newport Rhode Island



We Are Family

Many families are buried in Island Cemetery and have stories worth sharing. The families selected to be included in this tour may have had remarkable stories, may have been prominent in Newport, and/or may have had multiple branches that married into other notable families. There will likely be more family stories worthy of sharing in the future.

The Perry family

Edmund Perry was the first member of the family to arrive in America in 1630 from Devonshire, England. He was an educated Quaker who spoke publicly about his beliefs which led to his departure from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts. There he found equal opposition to his beliefs which prompted him to move to South Kington, Rhode Islandⁱ.

His great-grandson, Freeman Perry (1732-1813) married Mercy Hazard in 1756, she the daughter of Oliver Hazard. Freeman was educated in the law and served in the colonial Assembly and as judge of the court of the Common Pleas. Freeman and Mercy were the last members of the Perry family to be members of the Society of Friends.

Captain Christopher Raymond Perry (1761-1818) map B

The couple's third son, **Christopher Raymond Perry** (1761-1818), was born December 4, 1761 in Kington, Rhode Island. He served during the Revolution both on sea and on land in a corps known as the Kington Reds. While serving on ship as a privateer, he was captured during battle and imprisoned for three months on the Jersey prison ship anchored in New York. After escaping the Jersey, he continued to serve on ships and was later captured and imprisoned for 18 months in Ireland. He was able to escape and make his way back to the colonies.ⁱⁱ

After the war, Christopher Perry earned his living on the sea. He was returning from a voyage to Ireland when he met Sarah Alexander (1768-1830), an Irish-born Scottish woman enroute to Philadelphia. A year later (1784) the couple was married in Philadelphia before settling in South Kington. The Perry estate in South Kington covered about 200 acres that included a family burial ground.

Their first child, **Oliver Hazard Perry**, was born August 23, 1785ⁱⁱⁱ. Other children followed: Raymond Henry Jones Perry (1789-1826), Sarah Wallace Perry (1791-1851), Matthew Calbraith Perry (1794-1858), Anna Maria Perry Rogers (1785-1858), Jane Tweedy Perry Butler (1799-1875), James Alexander Perry (1801-1822), and Nathaniel Hazard Perry (1802-1832).

The family moved to 37 Walnut Street in Newport in 1794, about the time of Matthew's birth, and this was their home for the remainder of their lives. Christopher and Sarah were buried in the family burial plot in Kington.

Commodore Matthew C. Perry (1794-1858) map B

Matthew Calbraith Perry was born in Newport, Rhode Island. His father, Christopher Raymond Perry, and four brothers were active in the early United States Navy. Matthew Perry grew up in Newport where the family were members of Trinity Church^{iv}. Perry entered the Navy in 1809 and in 1814 while stationed in New York, married Jane Slidell, daughter of John Slidell, a prominent banker and merchant^v. Their children were:

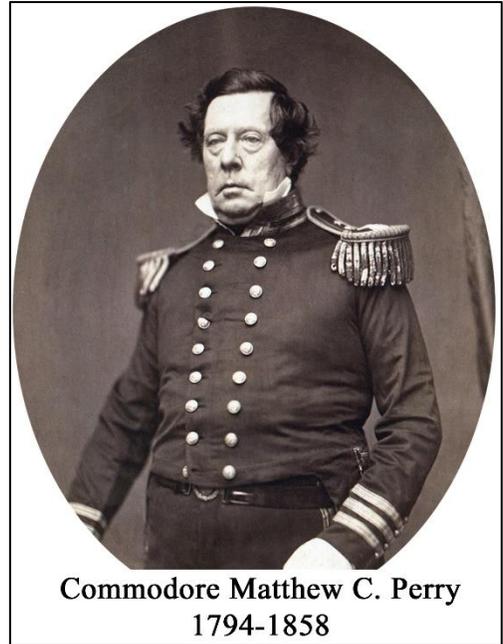
- Jane Slidell Perry (c. 1817–1880)
- Sarah Perry (1818–1905), who married Col. Robert Smith Rodgers (1809–1891)
- Jane Hazard Perry (1819–1881), who married John Hone (1819–1891) and Frederic de Peyster (1796–1882)

- Matthew Calbraith Perry (1821–1873), a captain in the United States Navy and veteran of the Mexican War and the Civil War.
- Susan Murgatroyde Perry (c. 1825–1896)
- Oliver Hazard Perry (c. 1825–1870)
- William Frederick Perry (1828–1884), a 2nd Lieutenant, United States Marine Corps, 1847–1848.
- Caroline Slidell Perry Belmont (1829–1892), who married financier August **Belmont**.
- Isabella Bolton Perry (1834–1912), who married George T. **Tiffany**
- Anna Rodgers Perry (c. 1838–1839)^{vi}

During his career, Matthew Perry was stationed off the coast of Africa and was involved in establishing the first settlement of free blacks in Liberia. He was appointed to the Brooklyn Navy Yard when not assigned overseas. His most distinguished service was the 1852-1854 expedition to Japan that opened trading with that country.^{vii}

Perry died in New York City and his funeral took place at St. Mark's Church. His body was placed in the Slidell family vault.

Two of Matthew's daughters played an important role in the final resting place of Perry family members. Caroline Slidell Perry was a delicate beauty known to her family as "Tiny".^{viii} She met August Belmont in 1849 and the couple married that fall. Her sister, Isabella Bolton Perry, married George T. Tiffany on August 17th 1864. In 1865 Island Cemetery sold a large circular burial plot to August Belmont and George Tiffany. It was likely the two Perry sisters were the force behind the purchase of the burial lot. In 1865 George Tiffany also purchased the Perry land in South Kingston, Rhode Island^{ix} It is likely at that time that the remains of their grandparents, Christopher Raymond and Sarah Perry, were relocated to Island Cemetery. Matthew Perry's remains were moved from New York to Island Cemetery in 1866.



Commodore Matthew C. Perry
1794-1858

The Belmont family (map B)



August Belmont (1816-1890) immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1837. He was the representative of the Rothschild Banking family in America and earned his fortune in New York City. Well-dressed, well-mannered and a devoted family man, Belmont married Caroline Slidell Perry in 1849 and his ties to Newport were established. Belmont was involved in politics and served as chair of the Democratic Party for many years. He was interested in thoroughbred horse racing and is the namesake for the Belmont Stakes, the oldest leg of the Triple Crown. Belmont had the chapel in Island Cemetery built in memory of his daughter Jane Pauline Belmont and gifted it to the cemetery for use by the public.

The Belmont children were:

Perry Belmont (1851-1947)

August Belmont, Jr. (1853-1924)

Fredericka Belmont Howland (1854-1900)

Jane Pauline (Jennie) Belmont (1856-1875)

Oliver Hazard Perry Belmont (1858-1908)

Raymond Rogers Belmont (1863-1887)



Perry Belmont (1851-1947)

Born in New York, Belmont was later educated at Harvard, the University of Berlin and Columbia Law School. Belmont served as a U.S. Congressman from New York (1880-1888) and the U.S. minister to Spain (1889). Belmont created a social stir when in 1889 he married Jessie Robbins Sloane who had been divorced just a few hours before the nuptials were exchanged. Belmont inherited, owned, but never lived in Belcourt. He died in Newport Hospital at the age of 97. In 1937 he was instrumental in obtaining the Rochambeau statue for the City of Newport. ^x

August Belmont, Jr. (1853-1924)

August Belmont was born in New York to August Belmont Sr. and Caroline Slidell Perry. He was educated at Exeter Academy and Harvard College. In 1875, after graduating from college, he joined his father in business. He was known for his work in finance and horse racing. He organized and financed the New York Subway and also financed the construction of the Cape Cod Canal.

He married twice, first to Elizabeth (Bessie) Hamilton Morgan (in 1881). The couple had three sons, August (died 1919), Raymond and Morgan. Elizabeth died in 1898 and Belmont married Eleanor Robson in 1910.

Belmont was considered the greatest private breeders of thoroughbred race horses in America.

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Fredericka Belmont Howland (1854-1902)

Fredricka Belmont was born in Holland, grew up, and married Samuel S. Howland (1848-1925) in 1877 at Trinity Church in Newport. Howland was the son of Gardiner Greene Howland, one of the founders of the China trade company of Howland and Aspinwall. The other founder of the company, Samuel Shaw Howland, brother of Gardiner, had two daughters that married well with Newport connections. Caroline Howland married Charles Handy Russell, a merchant from Providence, and Catherine Clinton Howland married Richard Morris Hunt, architect.

Records indicate she is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in New York. The marker here (with an incorrect death year) may have been erected by a family member in her memory.

Jane Pauline (Jennie) Belmont (1856-1875)

Jane Belmont was a much-loved member of the Belmont family and had been ill for a good part of her life. Her 19 years of life were memorialized in the form of the chapel her family gifted to the Island Cemetery for use by the public.

Raymond Rogers Belmont (1863-1887)

Raymond, son of August and Caroline Belmont, accidentally shot himself in the basement of his family home in New York.

Oliver Hazard Perry Belmont (1858-1908) is not buried in Island Cemetery with his family but his life connects the Belmont family to the Rives family in Newport.



As a young man, Oliver Hazard Perry Belmont lacked the motivation to make a success out of himself. He was named after his famous uncle, and his parents, August and Caroline Perry Belmont, hoped he would be as successful in the Navy as his uncle had been. Unfortunately, OHP Belmont found life at Annapolis confining and wanted out. On one of his breaks from school, he met Sara Swan Whiting, who debuted in New York society in 1880, and became infatuated with her. He begged his parents to allow him to leave the Naval Academy and marry Whiting, but his parents thought both of them were too immature. August Belmont set up a two-year apprenticeship for his son with the Rothschilds Bank and told him if he still felt the same way after the two years were up, he could marry Whiting.^{xii}

On his way to his apprenticeship in Bremen, OHP Belmont stopped in Paris where he met Whiting and her family. He proposed marriage and she accepted. August Belmont Jr. visited his brother in Paris and tried to talk him out of it but to no avail. He wrote a letter to his parents to advise them that they should allow the marriage to go ahead or be faced with more serious problems. They reluctantly consented.^{xiii}

OHP Belmont and Sara Whiting wed on December 27th, 1882 at Swanhurst, her parents' Bellevue Avenue home in Newport, with a number of Mrs. Astor's 400 in attendance. The couple sailed for a two-year honeymoon in January, and Sara's mother and two sisters accompanied them.^{xiv} A few days into their stay in Paris, OHP Belmont asked his bride if they could have their own apartment rather than continue to live with members of her family. When she refused, he left and stayed away for six weeks. During that time Sara discovered she was pregnant, but by the time Oliver returned, she and her family had sailed for home. He followed, hoping to patch things up, but Sara had already made up her mind that she wanted a divorce.^{xv}

At the beginning of September 1883, Sara Whiting Belmont gave birth to a daughter she named Natica. OHP Belmont was stopped from seeing his daughter, and for the rest of his life, he denied that Natica was his daughter. Sara Belmont raised Natica on her own but had lots of moral support from New York and Newport society women including Caroline Astor.^{xvi}

Sara obtained her divorce from OHP Belmont in 1885 and four years later married George Lockhart Rives, whom she had known all her life. Rives wanted to raise Natica as his own, so he adopted her and gave her the surname Rives.^{xvii}

Natica Caroline Rives matured into a popular young lady and was often the subject of newspaper articles in both New York and Newport in part because she was often in the company of an Astor or a Vanderbilt, and the fact that she was Oliver Belmont's daughter was commonly known. She and her parents were part of Mrs.

Astor's 400, and newspapers around the country fed the average citizen's curiosity with stories of these young debutantes' activities, fashion, and friends.^{xviii}

Natica's closest friend was Cynthia Roche, whose family owned the Elm Court estate on Bellevue Avenue. Roche began seeing Arthur S. Burden, whose family owned the Burden Iron Works in Troy, New York. Burden's brother Williams often accompanied him when he called on Roche, and soon Williams Burden and Natica Rives were seeing each other. After Cynthia Roche and Arthur Burden married in 1906, Natica felt increasing pressure to marry Williams Burden and became ill. He visited her many times to press his suit, and finally Mrs. Rives consented to the marriage. The ceremony at the Rives mansion was small and the couple left for their honeymoon in July of 1907.^{xix} When they returned six months later, they moved into Burden's mother's home on Fifth Avenue in New York. On February 22, 1908, Natica was found dead in her bedroom. She had apparently been reading by the light of a gas lamp which malfunctioned during the night and she was asphyxiated. The incident was ruled an accident by the coroner, but the prevailing rumor was that she had committed suicide.

Natica Rives Burden's funeral was attended by many members of New York society including Natica's biological father, OHP Belmont. After the ceremony, her body was taken by train to the Burden family plot in Troy, New York for burial.^{xx}

The Tiffany family (map B)

Isabella Bolton Perry Tiffany (1834–1912)

Isabella was the daughter of Matthew C. and Jane S. Perry. She and her sister, Mrs. August Belmont, were instrumental in the purchase of the burial circle in Island cemetery and the relocation of their grandparents remains to the site.

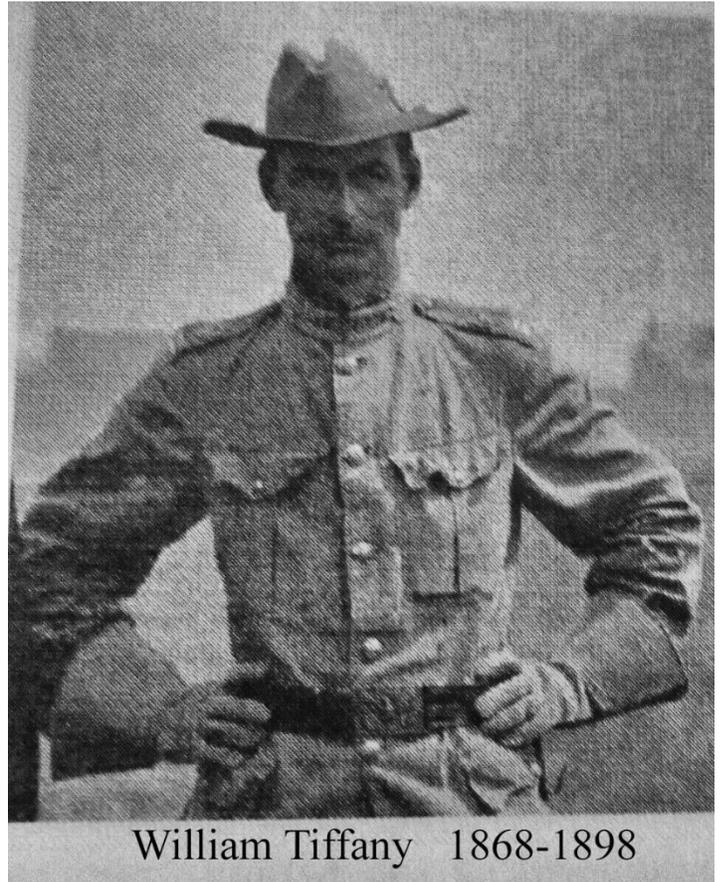
George Tiffany (1805-1886)

George Tiffany was a Baltimore merchant who married Isabella Perry. The couple lived at Gravel Court located on Narragansett Avenue and Clay Street. One of their children, George Jr, died in 1878 when he drowned in the waters near Cliff Walk. George Tiffany was the grandson of Ebenezer Tiffany. Another of his grandsons was Charles Lewis Tiffany who in 1837 founded the jewelry business in New York, Tiffany and Company.

William Tiffany (1868-1898)

William Tiffany was born in Newport, later moved in the highest social circles of New York, and was always impeccably attired. He, like many in his social set, heeded the call for volunteers to join Roosevelt's regiment and serve in the Spanish American war^{xxi}. He took part in the Battle of las Guasimas, San Juan Hill, and the Siege of Santiago de Cuba. Tiffany took ill while serving and was transported to Boston where his condition worsened, and he died in the Parker House attended by family members and his fiancé.

"I am greatly shocked and grieved at poor young Tiffany's death. He was one of the most gallant and efficient officers we had, a man of dauntless courage and absorbed attention to duty. I grew to rely on him more and more, and all of us will mourn him both as a staunch friend and tried comrade-in-arms. There is a peculiar element of sadness in the fate of these young fellows, who have reached the shore for which they longed only to die." Colonel Theodore Roosevelt



William Tiffany 1868-1898

Perry Tiffany 1866-1928

Perry, son of George and Isabella Tiffany, was born in Newport, married a daughter of Theodore Havemeyer, and died in Paris, France. He and his second wife, Olive, had relocated to work with the French Red Cross during the war. After the war he went to Dutch Guiana where he had mining interests^{xxii}

George Tiffany 1886-1946

Son of Belmont Tiffany and grandson of George Tiffany and Isabella Bolton Perry Tiffany, George Tiffany was a student at Harvard when WWI was declared. He enlisted and was trained as a pilot and was one of the first American flyers to reach France. He was shot down and held in a German prison camp before escaping. He served during WWII and achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel.^{xxiii}

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry (1785-1819) map OP



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^{xxiv}. His education began locally and continued when the family relocated to Newport. 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.^{xxv}

Oliver and Elizabeth had five children:

1. Brigadier General Christopher Grant Champlin Perry, RIM (April 2, 1812 – April 5, 1854) was commander of the Artillery Company of Newport from 1845-1854. He married Muriel Frances Sergeant of Philadelphia (great-granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin.) Their daughter, Margaret Mason Perry, married the artist John LaFarge. Perry was a doctor.
2. Oliver Hazard Perry II (February 23, 1813 – March 4, 1814), died in infancy.
3. Lieutenant Oliver Hazard Perry, Jr., USN (February 23, 1815 – August 20, 1878), m. 1) Elizabeth Ann Randolph (1816–1847) (Virginia Randolph family) and m. 2) Mary Ann Moseley. When he died, he was involved with mills in Lowell, Massachusetts. One of his children was Oliver Hazard Perry.
4. First Lieutenant Christopher Raymond Perry, USA (June 29, 1816 – October 8, 1848), never married.
5. Elizabeth Mason Perry, m., as his 2nd wife, the Reverend Francis Vinton, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Newport.^{xxvi}

Elizabeth Champlin Mason Perry (1791-1858) map OP

Elizabeth Champlin Mason was born in Newport to 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 for him. The architectural work of the younger Mason defines Newport to this day. (For more about GCM, visit the Architects’ tour).



The Belmont/Rives connection



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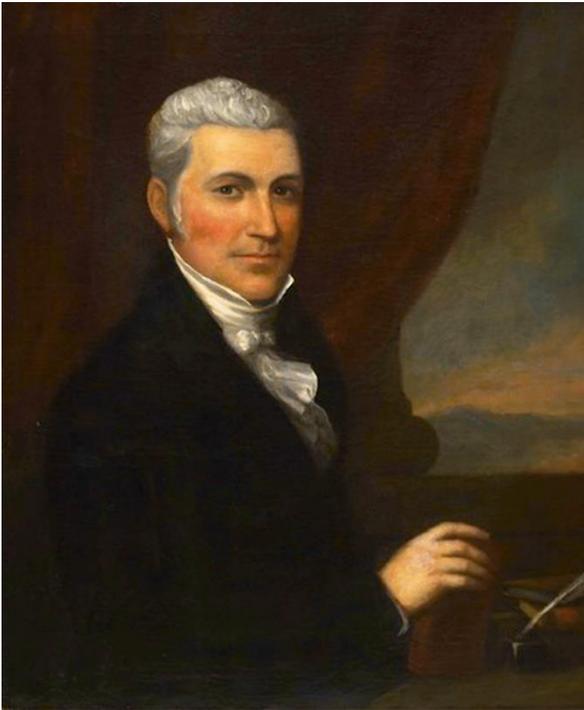
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The Rives- King Connection

George Lockhart Rives had a sister, Ella Louisa who married David King, Jr. (1839-1894) in 1874.

The King Family

Dr. David King, George Gordon King and wife and daughter (map location DK)



The marble monument for **Dr. David King** (1774-1836) is an example of a false sarcophagus that was popular in the last quarter of the 19th century^{xxxvi} Dr. King was one of the first burials in Island Cemetery and the sarcophagus was added later by one or more of his sons since two of Dr. King's sons made millions in the China Trade. The false sarcophagus is called that since the body of the deceased is buried in the ground and not entombed in the sarcophagus.

The sarcophagus, which often has feet to give it more height and grandeur, is highly ornamented with winged cherubs signifying carrying the soul to heaven. On the back we have a poppy stem which signifies a deep sleep.

Dr. King is credited with giving the first smallpox inoculation in the state of Rhode Island and for his support of the Rhode Island Medical Society. He is also credited with reinvigorating interest in the Redwood Library and served as its president

from 1830 until his death in 1836.^{xxxvii} His portrait, which is in the collection of the Redwood Library, was painted by his cousin, artist Charles Bird King.

In the same is the grave of Dr. King's oldest son, **George Gordon King**, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1849-1853. His marble box tomb is placed over the grave and does not contain his body. Next to the tomb is a stone very typical of the mid-Victorian era for Mr. King's wife and infant daughter who both died in 1853.

The flowers on the stone signify the brevity of life.^{xxxviii} This is particularly appropriate since Mrs. King died at 27 and her daughter at less than 1 year. The garland seems to be made of roses, symbolizing purity, and morning glories symbolizing resurrection.^{xxxix}

Dr. David King (1812-1882) map location TK

Dr. David King was born in Newport in 1812. He graduated from Brown in 1831 and received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia in 1834. He returned to Newport in 1837 and married Sarah Gibbs Wheaton, and they had seven children. King was one of the founders of the Rhode Island Medical Society and heavily involved in the formation of the American Medical Society.

In addition to his medical practice, King served Newport as a vestryman at Trinity Church, president of the Redwood Library from 1849-1859, and the president of the Island Cemetery Company from 1848-1882.^{xl}

EDWARD KING (1815-1875) map location EK

Edward King was the third of four sons born to Dr. David King and Ann Gordon King in Newport. He was educated at Brown University and went on to become a partner in Russell and Sons, the largest firm in the China Trade. At that time large shippers like Russell and Company brought tea and silks which commanded high prices when sold in the United States.

King became a supervisor of cargo on a ship taking a number of trips to Canton, and each trip took eighteen months. The work was grueling while in Canton but paid so well that the men who functioned as supervisors of cargo could retire by the age of 30 having made a fortune.^{xli}

In a truly prophetic letter from Canton to his family in Newport, Edward King wrote:

“I am of the opinion that real estate in Newport will increase in value considerably in the course of a few years, and, if I were Papa, I would not sell my land except at a good price at present. Strangers will build cottages, and if factories succeed considerable addition to the population will take place. The government will no doubt in a few years have a navy yard there; perhaps not a large one at first but by degrees it will be extended...before this can come to pass, business must thrive and commerce must flourish, her wharves must be crowded with merchandise and her harbour with vessels...”^{xlii}

King retired in 1842 when he was just 29 and had amassed a fortune close to today’s equivalent of \$10 million. He hired Richard Upjohn to build his Italianate mansion on a hillside along Bowery Street with a fine view of the harbor. This was the first but certainly not the last Italianate structure built in Newport and replaced the previously popular gothic style country house.^{xliii}

King invested heavily in real estate in Newport and was a business partner of Alfred Smith when Smith needed capital to expand Bellevue Avenue south.^{xliv} Between 1844 and his death in 1875, King was involved in about 180 real estate transactions in the city of Newport, many with his fellow Newporter, JNA Griswold.

King died at the age of 60 in 1875 leaving his family well-provided for. The house remained in the family until 1912 when King’s son, George Gordon King, gifted the mansion to the city. It was used as the Newport Library until 1968 when it became the city’s senior center.



The family of Edward King poses on the back porch of their mansion around 1873. Edward King (1815-1875) sits at the center. His wife, Mary Augusta LeRoy King (1829-1905), is at the left. Their children from left to right are Alexander Mercer (1869-1885), Edith Edgar (1864-1891), LeRoy (1857-1895), Mary LeRoy (1862-1904), Edward Augustus (1852-1876), Elizabeth Stuyvesant (1855-1878), and George Gordon (1859-1922).¹ Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are from the collection of the Edward King House, Newport.

WILLIAM HENRY KING (1819-1897) map location TK

W.H. King was the youngest son of Dr. David King, who had moved to Newport from Raynham, Massachusetts in 1799. After graduating from Brown, William Henry King entered the China Trade to join his brothers Edward and David at the firm of Russell and Company. Unlike his brothers, who returned to Newport in less than 10 years, he remained in the trade in China for close to 15 years. In the early 1860's some of his brothers' letters contained warnings about alcohol abuse, and some historians claim that W.H. King may have become addicted to opium while in China. Whatever the case, his behavior became more erratic.

In 1864 William Henry King returned to Newport and purchased Kingscote from the family of George Noble Jones. By 1865, however, he was a merchant in Syracuse, New York, and in 1866, his brothers traveled to Troy, New York to stop him from marrying a woman they thought was a fortune hunter. They subsequently had him committed to the McLean Asylum in Boston. He spent the remainder of his life in asylums, suffering from paranoid delusions.^{xlv}

DAVID KING JR. (1839-1894) map location TK

David King Jr was born in Newport in 1839 to Dr. David King and his wife, Sara Gibbs Wheaton King. He was the first David King in his family to choose something other than the medical profession. Instead, he heeded the advice of his two uncles, Edward and William Henry King, and entered the China Trade at the age of 19.

By the following year, he was working for Russell and Company and earning a handsome salary. In 1870 he married Helen Van Cortlandt Morris, but she died a year later from dysentery while pregnant with their child.

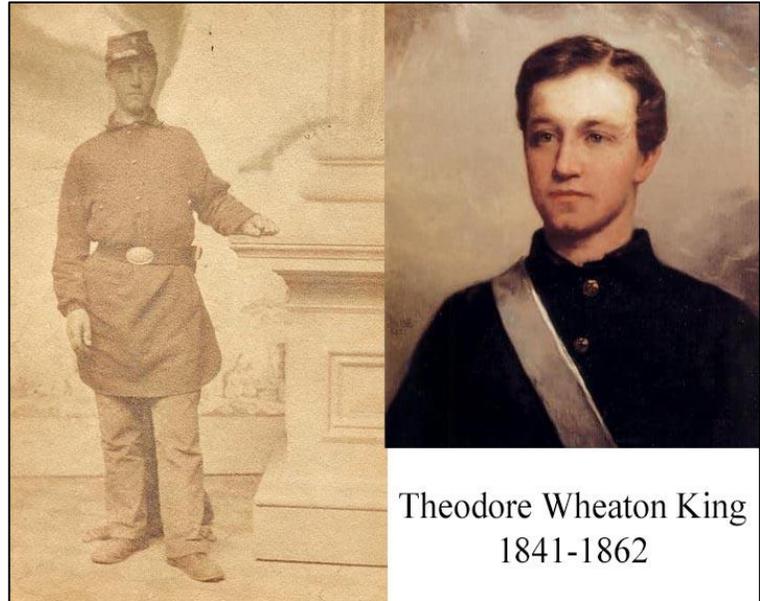
David King returned to the United States in 1873 and a year later, married Ella Louise Rives, the sister of George Lockhart Rives. The couple had two children, Philip and Maud Gwendolyn. Like other high society couples, they spent the winter seasons in New York City and the summers in Newport at Kingscote, which belonged to David's uncle. While in Newport, King was active as a Trustee for Newport Hospital and a member of the Redwood Library, Newport Reading Room, Newport Casino, and the Redwood Library.



Later in their marriage, the couple spent their winters in Washington, D.C. due to David King's intermittent political appointments. He died suddenly in 1894 at the age of 55 from peritonitis after a case of appendicitis.^{xlvi}

THEODORE WHEATON KING (1841-1862) map location TK

Five days after the Civil War broke out, Newporter Theodore Wheaton King, signed up to serve in the Company F of the Newport Regiment for a period of three months. On July 21, 1861, he was shot in the hip/thigh during the first Battle of Bull Run. Left lying on the battlefield, King was taken to a Confederate prison hospital in Richmond, Virginia. The King family tried to get word on his condition and travelled to Richmond to try to find their son.^{xlvii} Infection and dysentery took their toll, and in February of 1862, on his way back to Newport, Theodore Wheaton King died in Philadelphia with his parents at his side.^{xlviii}



CLARENCE KING (1842-1901) map location CK

Clarence King was distantly related to the more well-known King family of Newport, sharing a common ancestor many generations before. King's father, James Rivers King, was also prominent in the China Trade.



Clarence King was born in Newport to James Rivers King and Florence (Little) King. James King was in the China Trade and died in China when Clarence was just six, so he was brought up primarily by his mother and his grandmother, Sophia Little, a strong Abolitionist. After King's mother married again, his stepfather sent him to the Sheffield Scientific School, which was connected to Yale. He studied geography and decided on a career in the field.

In 1862, King traveled to the West to do geological surveys, sometimes without pay. His surveys as well as those of others were consolidated in 1879 by the U.S. Congress to

create the United States Geological Survey. King was chosen as its first director and held that position for almost two years.^{xlix}

King joined a number of social clubs in New York and entertained members with his stories of life in the West. He was a real star of the Gilded Age, but his lavish lifestyle caused him to accrue great debt. In a bizarre twist, King assumed the identity of James Todd, a black steelworker who lived with his black common law wife, Ada Copeland, and their five children. He managed to keep his real identity a secret from her and his family a

secret from his New York society acquaintances. Just before his death in Arizona, King wrote a letter to Ada confessing the truth about his identity. He is buried in Newport next to his mother.ⁱ

Zebulon King (1750-1789) map location ZK

Zebulon King was uncle to the original Dr. David King, who settled in Newport in 1799.

Zebulon King was born and raised in Massachusetts. In 1778 he enlisted in the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment and served through 1783, becoming a lieutenant and finally a captain. He married Deborah Bird at Trinity Church in Newport in 1784. As a soldier in the American Revolution, King was entitled to and applied for a land grant of 300 acres in Ohio. A few years after arriving there, Zebulon King was killed by Native-Americans. Although his name appears on his wife's stone in Island Cemetery, he is likely buried in Ohio.^{li}

In a somewhat ironic twist, King's only son, Charles Bird King (self-portrait on right), became an artist who specialized in painting portraits of Native-Americans.



THE GRISWOLD FAMILY (map location JG)

John Noble Alsop Griswold was born in New York City in 1822 to a family who built boats for shipping companies before also getting into the China Trade in 1835. In 1847 John Griswold moved to China to handle the overseas part of the business, and he is listed as a partner in the firm of Russell and Company from 1848-1851.^{lii}

When John Griswold returned to New York about 1851, he was a wealthy man and began to invest in railroads and real estate. He also met his future wife, **Jane Emmet**. In March of 1860, the couple took their wedding vows at St. Mark's in the Bowery and left for an extended honeymoon in Europe.^{liiii}

While they were in Paris, they met with Richard Morris Hunt and asked him to build them a house in Newport, Rhode Island. The Griswold House, now the Newport Art Museum, was Hunt's first commission in Newport. The Griswolds spent summers in Newport, where JNA Griswold used his time investing money in properties in the summer resort.^{liv}



Between 1861 and 1870, the couple had five children, two girls and three boys. Minnie Griswold married John Murray Forbes, a former China Trade associate of her father, in 1882.^{lv} She was just 19 while he was 32. The couple split their time between New York and Morristown, New Jersey. Two of their children are buried here in the Griswold plot.

Florence Griswold was among the Newporters who married Englishmen and were known as “Dollar Princesses.” Her husband, Horatio Robert Odo Cross, was not a nobleman but an army surgeon 21 years Florence’s senior. They spent the bulk of their lives in England.^{lvi}

The three sons of JNA and Jane Griswold, all buried here in the Griswold family plot, predeceased their parents. Richard Alsop Griswold, born in 1863, died just over a year after he was born.

John Noble Griswold, born in 1865, most likely graduated from Columbia College and then attended graduate school there majoring in the field of mining. In the 1890’s he moved to Colorado Springs where he died in 1895 of pneumonia just shy of his 30th birthday.^{lvii}

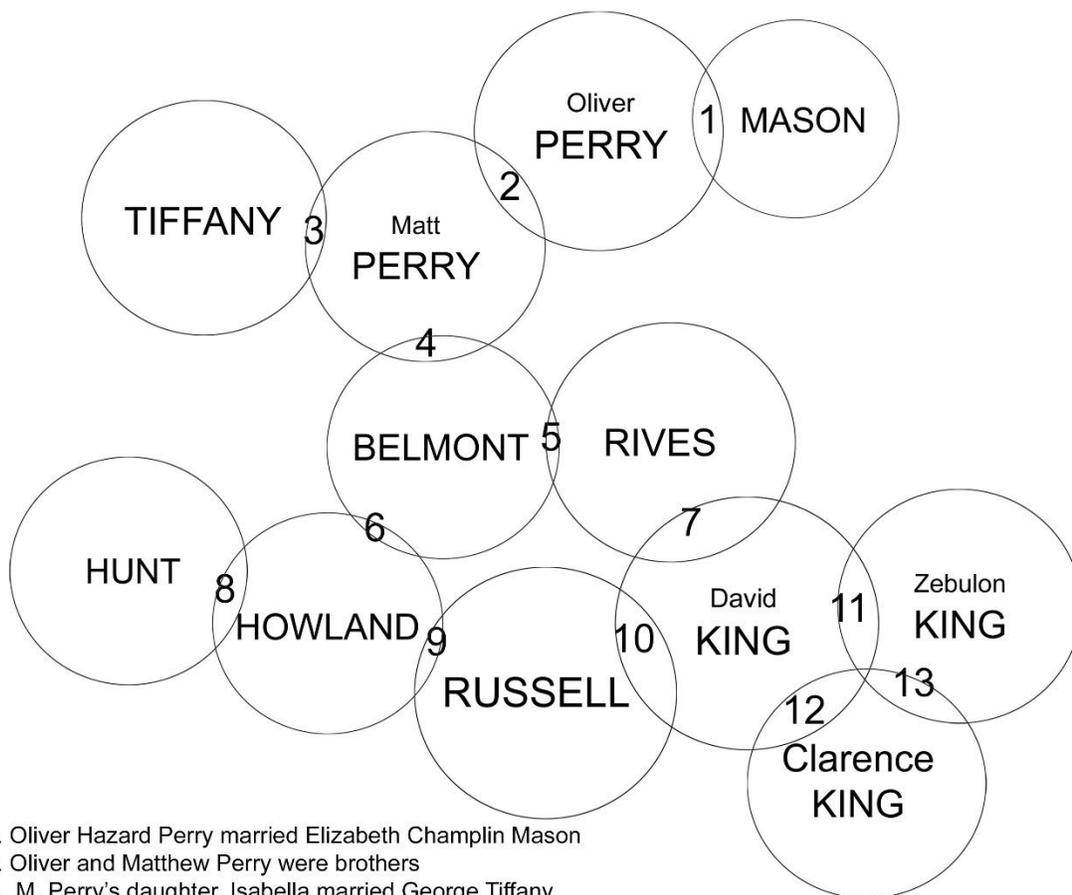
The Griswold’s youngest son, **Addis Evers Griswold**, distinguished himself in both academics and the arts while attending Harvard. He studied for a while in England but returned to attend law school. In 1900 he graduated with his law degree and passed the bar in New York. He practiced law for two years and then had a nervous breakdown.^{lviii}

Jane Griswold had always blamed her husband for pushing their sons too hard, and the couple separated about 1892. She believed her husband was responsible for the premature death of their son John in 1895 and for Addis’s nervous breakdown in 1902. She moved Addis to a friend’s estate in Pelham, New York and placed him under the care of nurses. On December 23rd, Addis pretended to go to sleep and after the nurse dozed off, he ran to the nearby railroad track where he was struck and killed.^{lix}

Jane Griswold made a life for herself separate from her husband and joined an artists’ colony in the Catskills. While there, she wrote a book called *The Lost Wedding Ring*, featuring a Mrs. Boy, whose story was exactly that of Jane Griswold. Mrs. Boy, like Jane Griswold, “...decided against taking her divorce, although amply justified...by thus bringing scandal” on the family. The modern woman, according to the novel’s protagonist, could stand on her own feet and not obey her husband as they promised in their marriage vows.^{lx}



While Jane Griswold lived her life in New York pursuing her own interests, JNA Griswold spent his time in Newport. In January 1909, Mrs. Griswold died in at her home in New York. JNA Griswold died 8 months later at his home on Bellevue Avenue.^{lxi} Although the couple had not lived together for nearly 20 years, they were buried side by side in the Griswold plot in Island Cemetery. Both pedestals were originally topped with crosses that have been lost over the years.



1. Oliver Hazard Perry married Elizabeth Champlin Mason
2. Oliver and Matthew Perry were brothers
3. M. Perry's daughter, Isabella married George Tiffany
4. M. Perry's daughter married August Belmont
5. Sara Swan Whiting married OHP Belmont and later George L. Rives
6. Frederika Belmont married Samuel S. Howland
7. David King, Jr. married Ella Louise Rives
8. Catherine Howland married Richard Morris Hunt
9. Caroline Howland married Charles Handy Russell
10. Charles Howland Russell married Ethel King
11. The father of Zebulon King was the brother of the father of David King
12. Relatives of Clarence King were in the China trade and related to David King
13. Zebulon and Clarence shared relatives

ⁱ Alexander Slidell Mackenzie, *Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry: Famous American Naval Hero, Victor of the Battle of Lake Erie-His Life and Achievements*, (New York: The Werner Company, 1910), 3.

ⁱⁱ Alexander Slidell Mackenzie, *Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry: Famous American Naval Hero, Victor of the Battle of Lake Erie, His Life and Achievements*, (Akron, Ohio: The Superior Printing Company, 1915), 12.

ⁱⁱⁱ David Curtis Skaggs, *Oliver Hazard Perry*, (Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2006), 4.

^{iv} John H. Schroeder, *Matthew Calbraith Perry: Antebellum Sailor and Diplomat*, (Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2001), 6.

^v Schroeder, 18.

^{vi} Wikipedia, "Matthew C. Perry," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_C._Perry

^{vii} "Death of Commodore M.C. Perry", *New York Times* (5 March 1858), 4.

^{viii} Schroeder, 155.

^{ix} National Register of Historic Places Nomination form, 3.

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- xxii "Perry Tiffany Dead," *New York Times* (1 July 1928), 25.
- xxiii "George Tiffany, 50, Found Dead in Bed," *New York Times* (29 November 1946), 25.
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- xxvi Wikipedia, "Oliver Hazard Perry," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_H._Perry.
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