



Town of Southampton ~ Civil War Veterans

Peter French

Hometown: Sag Harbor.

French served in the 81st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, known as the “Mohawk Rangers,” in Companies D & H.

In November 1861, at the age of 23, he mustered in with the rank of 1st Lieutenant and was later promoted to the rank of Colonel.

He is buried in Oakland Cemetery, Sag Harbor.



1861~1865



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Colonel Peter French.

Colonel Peter French, a native of this place—a son of Peter French, who formerly lived in Riverhead but spent most of his life in Sag-Harbor, died at the residence of Mrs. Stephen B. French, at 116 East 19th street, New-York, last Saturday, in the 75th year of his age. The funeral service was held from his late residence Sunday evening, and the following day his body was cremated at Fresh Pond, L. I., and the remains brought here Tuesday and placed in the grave of his first wife.

Mr. French was twice married. The first time to Miss Mary Sherry, the eldest daughter of John Sherry, deceased, and the second time to Miss Kate Williamson of Poughkeepsie, who also died some years ago. He is survived by Miss Josephine B. French, his only living sister, and two daughters by his second wife, Miss Barbara and Miss Katherine French. Colonel French was the youngest brother of Hannibal French, a merchant and whaling agent of this Port and afterwards and for many years the postmaster, A. Smith French, who was one of the old whaling captains, and Stephen B. French, also a merchant and whaling agent here, and afterwards County Treasurer and one of the Police Commissioners of the City of New-York.

Colonel French has had somewhat of a checkered career. When the young men of the North were called to arms in defence of the flag when the Civil War broke upon it, Mr. French responded as a member of the 81st N. Y. Volunteers, distinguishing himself for bravery from that until the four years of strife ended, and when mustered out he was breveted a Colonel. While in the service he was an aide-de-camp to General Emary and was also with General Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley.

Returning to Sag-Harbor at the close

Shenandoah Valley.

Returning to Sag-Harbor at the close of the war, he accepted the position of superintendent of the Hampton Flouring Mills, which position he held until that plant was burned. He was then appointed by President Arthur as the first collector of the Port of Alaska and was stationed at Sitka. Later he was appointed to a position on the clerical force of the New-York Appraisers' office; after this he was engaged in mining ventures in Washington and Alaska, and then again returned to the Appraiser's office, where he remained as long as his health would allow.

With the passing of Colonel French the friends of his boyhood days must realize the fact that the gordian is rapidly closing, and that while many have passed on to the great beyond before him, the remainder will soon, in all human probability, join the ranks of those who have preceded.

Thus is life!



French, Peter
Oakland Cemetery, Sag Harbor