



Town of Southampton ~ Civil War Veterans

## Oscar F. Stanton

Hometown: Sag Harbor

Rear Admiral Stanton, U.S.N. served in the United States Navy in command of the steamer USS *Tioga* (1862) and the Unadilla-class gunboat USS *Pinola* (1863-1864).

He is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, New London, CT.



1861~1865



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Real Admiral Oscar F. Stanton

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## ADMIRAL STANTON DIES IN 90th YEAR

Was Midshipman With Captain Perry  
in '53 When Japanese Treaty  
Was Signed

The following account of the death of Rear Admiral Oscar F. Stanton, U. S. N., appeared in a recent issue of a New London paper. Admiral Stanton was born in Sag Harbor and his father was one of the first keepers of Montauk light-house:

Rear Admiral Oscar F. Stanton, U. S. N., retired, died Saturday night at his home, 30 Granite street, New London.

A distinguished officer, with a decidedly picturesque career, Admiral Stanton, for several weeks fought a losing battle against death, and his colorful life came to an end two weeks before he hoped to celebrate his 90th birthday.

Two months ago Admiral Stanton became ill from grip, but he apparently rallied until eight days ago, when a relapse occurred and his condition became more grave as the days wore on.

His unusual career in the navy was marked by two outstanding events. As commander of the U. S. S. Pinola, of the West Coast blockade squadron, he served under Rear Admiral Farragut in the historical battle of Mobile Bay.

Years before, when he was just out of the naval academy, he sailed as midshipman with Capt. Matthew C. Perry in the expedition of '53 when treaties were issued to Japan by President Fillmore.

That was the first service young Stanton entered on for his country, but since then he had performed many and the high regard with which he was held in the many organizations with which he was connected has manifested the faithfulness and diligence with which he performed his duties.

Oscar F. Stanton was born in Sag Harbor, July 18, 1834, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Latham. His father was an architect and builder, a native of Stonington, who, earlier in his life, had left Connecticut soil.

As a boy, Stanton attended the local public schools in Sag Harbor and the Sag Harbor academy. Following his graduation from the latter institution he entered the U. S. Naval academy at Annapolis, and went

upon the Perry expedition to Japan before he had been awarded his commission.

He was first assigned to the U. S. S. Susquehanna but preferring the sailing vessel secured his transfer to the Saratoga. In 1855, two years after his graduation from the naval academy he became a "master," and in the following year a lieutenant.

The trying years of the Civil War were spent aboard the famous old ship St. Mary's, the Marion, and during the Union naval activities on the James river, aboard the Tioga, in the capacity of lieutenant commander.

From the Civil War period until his retirement in 1894, Admiral Stanton's activities and assignments were numerous and varied. He continued to rise rapidly in rank and was possessed of marked ability for the execution of authority.

For a time he was instructor at Annapolis and then became commander on various naval vessels including the Tahoma, Purveyor, Vandalia, Monocacy and the Yantic.

At the Norfolk navy yard he won the rank of captain and was executive officer of the Naval home there. For three years prior to 1884 he commanded the flagship Tennessee and during the two subsequent years he was in command of the naval station at Brooklyn.

In 1890 he was made commandant of the naval station at Newport where he became a commodore and in the rank of rear admiral he retired from the service when he was in command of the North Atlantic squadron.

In his retirement Admiral Stanton showed something of his noble character. Two of his classmates at Annapolis were commodores and were in line for promotion to rear admiralship when vacancies occurred.

In order that these men might rise in rank before the age limit overtook them, Admiral Stanton retired from the service. An act of congress in that year made it necessary for him to retire within two years, but he retired early for the benefit of his former classmates, after forty-four years of service in the navy.

Among his local fraternal affiliations were his membership in the Thames club, the John Winthrop club and the Northwest Hose company, of which he was a charter member. He also was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, The Army-Navy club, the Gideon Wells Naval chapter of New Haven, the Naval Academy Graduates' association. The Associated Veterans of Farragut's fleet, the Naval Historical Society and the Society of American Wars.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. William S. Burnell of this city; a grandson, Stanton Latham of Springfield, Mass., and two sisters, Miss Mary E. Stanton and Mrs. H. A. Booth of Sag Harbor. His wife, formerly Miss Charlotte E. Gardiner, a native of Gardiner's Island, died here in 1916.

A military escort from the submarine base escorted the body of Admiral Stanton from the church to Cedar Grove cemetery. The funeral was held at the First Church of Christ.

Six companies of U. S. sailors and a company of U. S. Marines in command of Lieut. H. A. Flanigan, will be the escort, headed by a band from the U. S. Navy Yard in New York.

Thomas Edwards of this village was the first one in the First Church New London, at the funeral. He was well acquainted with the deceased. Mr. Edwards informs us that Miss Stanton taught in the private school in the old Miller place, now owned by Mrs. K. Van Rensselaer, on Main street.

*The East Hampton Star, July, 18, 1924.*