NAME AUTHORITY

This listing provides full names, life dates, and occupations or roles of many personages mentioned in this volume. It omits individuals noted in passing or not readily verifiable in standard authorities. For names beginning with De, D', La, Le, L', Van, Von, or similar variations, see the main alphabetical root.

Abercrombie, Robert, Sir (1740-1827), British veteran who became a lieutenant-colonel in 1773. He was at the side of Cornwallis in October 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown.

Almy, Mary Gould (1735-1808), an ardent Loyalist who kept a journal for her husband fighting on the American side. The journal published in 1881 in the Newport Historical Magazine depicts her familial depravations against the backdrop of her strong political views.

Angell, Israel, Colonel (1740-1832), commander of the Second Rhode Island Continental Regiment, 1778-81.

Arnold, Benedict, General (1741-1801), American general who plotted to obtain the command of West Point in order to surrender it to the British. The unmasking of his plan led to his disgrace and defection.

Barras, Jacques-Melchior Saint-Laurent, Comte de (1752-1839), commanded the 74-gun Zéle under d'Estaing at Newport in 1778. On receiving news of the death of de Ternay in December 1780, he was ordered from France to take command of the squadron and returned to Newport in May 1781.

Barton, William, Lieutenant-Colonel (1748-1833), native of Warren, Rhode Island. On July 9th, 1777, he led a night raid on a farm serving as British headquarters on West Main Road in Middletown, effecting the capture of British General Richard Prescott.

Berthier, Louis-Alexandre (1753-1815), French captain attached to the Soissonais Regiment who served as an assistant-quartermaster-general in 1780-81. With his younger brother Charles-Louis-Jean Berthier (1759-1783), he produced an important map of Revolutionary Rhode Island. Later, Berthier became Napoleon’s first Marshal and chief-of-staff.

Béville, Pierre-François, Chevalier de, French officer who became a brigadier-general in 1778, quartermaster-general in 1780, and major-general in December 1781.
Biron, Duc, see Lauzun.

Blanchard, Claude (1742-1803), the chief commissary of Rochambeau, active in establishing hospitals and obtaining supplies for the French army.

Blaskowitz, Charles (active 1760-1823), British military surveyor who charted the coast of Rhode Island to assess Newport as a site for a possible British naval base. His 1777 map of Providence and Newport is the most important survey of the area issued during the Revolution.

Bougainville, Louis-Antoine, Comte de (1729-1811), famous as the first French explorer to circumnavigate the globe in 1766-69. He served as a navy captain commanding the 74-gun Guerrier under d’Estaing at Newport in 1778. In 1780-82, he commanded the 80-gun Auguste in de Grasse’s fleet in the West Indies and at the Battle of the Chesapeake Capes off the Virginia coast.

Bourg, see Cromot Dubourg.

Bourne, Benjamin (1755-1808), a quartermaster in the Second Rhode Island Continental Regiment in 1776 who later served as a State Representative from 1790-96.

Bowen, Ephraim (1753-1841), one of the so-called Gaspee Raiders responsible for sinking the British custom ship Gaspee on June 10th, 1772. The British schooner was in Narragansett Bay near Warwick, Rhode Island when the Gaspee Raiders boarded it late at night on June 9th and set it afire as a protest against British anti-smuggling policy. Bowen later joined the Continental Army and became a deputy-quartermaster-general.

Breese, John (ca. 1737-1799), British consul to Newport during the Revolution.

Broglie, Charles-Louis-Victor, Prince de (1756-1794), second colonel in the Saintonge Regiment who came to America on the Gloire after the Battle of Yorktown in October 1781. Broglie joined the army of Rochambeau in September 1782, returning with it to France.

Byron, John, Vice Admiral (1723-1786), British naval officer who relieved Admiral Lord Richard Howe in command of the North American station in 1778. D’Estaing defeated Byron in an action off Grenada in 1779. He was the grandfather of the celebrated Romantic poet Lord Byron (1788-1824).

Capellis, Hippolyte-Louis-Antoine, Comte de, and Marquis de Fort (d. 1813), French navy lieutenant of the frigate Danaé. He served in 1780-81 as an aide major d’escadre or assistant commodore to the fleets of de Ternay and Destouches.
Champlin, Margaret (Peggy) (1764-1841), daughter of a prominent Newport merchant. At the age of just sixteen, Peggy Champlin caught the eye of French soldiers when she danced with George Washington at a ball honoring Rochambeau. She later married Dr. Benjamin Mason of Newport.

Chastellux, François-Jean de Beauvoir, Chevalier de (later Marquis) (1734-1788), one of three French major-generals sent with Rochambeau to America in 1779. He was a member of the French Academy and correspondent of Virginia statesman Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826). Chastellux’s memoir *Travels in North America in the Years 1780, 1781, and 1782* is considered one of the best descriptions of life in the United States during this period. The French naval press in Newport printed the initial part of this book in 1781.

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Choisy, Claude-Gabriel, Marquis de (b. 1723), French brigadier-general in 1780 who remained in Newport to guard the fleet and stores until August 1781.

Clinton, Henry, Sir (1738?-1795), British general who distinguished himself at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775 and occupied Newport in 1776. He succeeded Sir William Howe as commander-in-chief in North America, 1778-81.

Clinton, James, Brigadier-General (1736-1812), an American army officer, son of an Irish immigrant and father of De Witt Clinton (1769-1828). James Clinton commanded the Northern Department of the Continental Army in 1780.

Closen-Haydenburg, Hans Christoph Friedrich Ignatz Ludwig, Baron von (1752-1830), second captain in the Deux-Ponts Regiment and an aide-de-camp to Rochambeau. He authored a journal of the 1780-81 French campaign, including a description of his stay in Newport.

Cooke, Nicholas, Governor (1717-1782), a Providence politician who held the office of deputy-governor from May to October 1775 before becoming governor from October 1775 to May 1778.

Corday, Charlotte (Marie-Anne Charlotte Corday d’Armont) (1768-1793), French Revolutionary heroine guillotined for the assassination of Jean-Paul Marat (1743-1793).

Cornell, Ezekiel (1733-1800), native of Scituate, Rhode Island present at the siege of Boston in 1775. He later commanded a Massachusetts brigade that protected Rhode Island during its British occupation.

Cornwallis, Charles, 1st Marquis, (1738-1805), British army officer who opposed British taxation of the colonies but nonetheless accepted a junior command in the British Army in America. He served under Sir William Howe and later as second-
in-command to Sir Henry Clinton. He defeated Gates at Camden in 1780 and surrendered his army on October 19th, 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown, ruining the British war effort.

**Corny, Louis-Dominique-Éthis de (1736-1790)**, French lawyer who accompanied Lafayette to America in 1780 in order to prepare the arrival of French forces. Health problems forced his return to France in early 1781.

**Coste, Jean-François (1741-1819)**, chief physician in the army of Rochambeau.

**Crèvecoeur, Jean-François-Louis, Comte de Clermont (1752-ca. 1824)**, French officer under Rochambeau, serving as lieutenant of the Auxonne Regiment, Royal Corps of Artillery.

Cromot Dubourg, Marie-François-Joseph-Maxime, Baron du Bourg (1756-1836), often referred to as Du Bourg. He served as an aide to Rochambeau from his arrival in Newport in May 1781 until that October at the Battle of Yorktown. Trained as an engineer-cartographer, he was one of several who prepared maps of the campaign.

**Crooke, Robert**, Newport merchant and member of the town council at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. In 1779, he chaired a committee to report on property abandoned by the British and later served as deputy-quartermaster-general and collector of imports at Newport.

**Custine-Sarrebeck, Adam-Philippe, Comte de (1740-1793)**, French colonel in the Saintonge Regiment during the American Revolution who later, as a general, suffered embarrassing defeats in the French Revolutionary Wars and died by guillotine.

Deane, Silas (1737-1789), Connecticut political leader in the American Revolution, who served as American Agent in France from 1776. In Paris, he assumed responsibility for recruiting foreign officers for the Continental Army, including the Marquis de Lafayette and Baron de Kalb, but Congress did not accept all of his recommendations.

Desandrouins, Jean-Nicolas, Vicomte de (1729-1792), French colonel in the Corps of Engineers who commanded the engineers in Rochambeau’s army in 1780-81.


D'Estaing, see Estaing.
Destouches, Charles-René-Dominique Gochet, Chevalier (1727-1794), French naval captain commanding the Neptune. He was interim commander of the French squadron at Newport from the death of de Ternay in December 1780 until de Barras relieved him in May 1781.

D'Éthis, see Corny.

Deux-Ponts, Christian, Marquis de (1752-1817), colonel of the Royal Deux-Ponts, one of four regiments that served under Rochambeau in 1780-81. His younger brother Guillaume served as lieutenant-colonel of the same regiment.

Deux-Ponts, Guillaume, Comte de (1754-1807), served with Rochambeau as second colonel of the Deux-Ponts Regiment and distinguished himself in October 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown.

Dohla, Johann Conrad (1750-1820), Hessian soldier whose diary provides insight into the Hessian mercenary support of the British during the occupation of Newport.

Du Bourg, see Cromot.

Dupont d'Aubevoyne, see Lauberdières.

Du Rousseau de Fayolle, see Rousseau de Fayolle.


Estaing, Jean-Baptiste-Charles-Henri-Hector, Comte d', and Marquis de Saillans (1729-1794), French admiral commanding a squadron sent to aid the newly independent United States in 1778. The appearance of the British fleet and a hurricane thwarted a plan for him to join with General John Sullivan to take British-held Newport in August 1778 during the Battle of Rhode Island. In 1779, he captured St. Vincent and Grenada, but was unsuccessful at Savannah, Georgia. In 1780, he played a key role in persuading Louis XVI to send Rochambeau and his army to North America.

Fayolle, see Rousseau de Fayolle.

Fersen, Hans Axel, Count von (1755-1810), one of several Swedish officers who served in the French army. Son of a Swedish field marshal, he became the senior aide-de-camp to Rochambeau and rose to command the Royal Suédois Regiment. He was later second colonel of the Deux-Ponts Regiment. A favorite (and rumored lover) of Marie Antoinette, Fersen spearheaded the failed attempt to smuggle her and Louis XVI out of Paris to Varennes in 1791.
Gage, Thomas, General (1721-1787), British general who accompanied the expedition of General Edward Braddock (1695?-1755) in 1755. He became military governor of Montreal in 1760, commander-in-chief of British forces in North America in 1763, and governor of Massachusetts in 1774. He sent British forces to Lexington and Concord in 1775.

Gallatin, Gaspard-Gabriel, Baron (1758-1838), a French chronicler of the stay of Rochambeau in Newport.

Gates, Horatio, General (1728-1806), born in Essex, England, he served in America during the French and Indian War and afterwards purchased an estate in Virginia. He sided with the colonists and became adjutant-general of the Continental Army in 1775. Two years later, he commanded the Northern Department and defeated the British at Saratoga. After this, he attempted to supplant Washington as commander-in-chief. Appointed commander of the Southern Army in July 1780, Gates suffered defeat by Cornwallis at Camden, South Carolina. General Nathanael Greene succeeded him.


Goddard, Thomas (1765-1858), cabinet-maker and son of the founder of the Townsend-Goddard dynasty of furniture makers, John Goddard (1723/24-1785). The house of Thomas Goddard stood on the site now occupied by the Sanford-Covell Villa Marina at 72 Washington Street. Moved to 81 Second Street in 1869, this house still stands.

Granchain, Jacques-Constant, Liberge de (1744-1805), a French captain and geographer.

Grasse, François-Joseph-Paul, Comte de, and Marquis de Tilly (1722-1788), French admiral whose fleet prevented the British Royal Navy from making contact with Lord Cornwallis in 1781.

Graves, Thomas, Baron (1725?-1802), British admiral. In September 1781, De Grasse routed Graves and his fleet at the Battle of the Chesapeake Capes off the Virginia coast, contributing to the surrender of Cornwallis in October at the Battle of Yorktown.

Greene, Christopher, Colonel (1737-1781), a native of Warwick, Rhode Island and cousin of Nathanael Greene. He served as an officer in the Battle of Rhode Island.
Comte de Grasse, *wood engraving.*
Island in August 1778, where he commanded a regiment of African-American troops composed of former slaves freed to serve in the army.

Greene, Nathanael, Major-General (1742-1786), a native Rhode Islander who fought in the north before being appointed in October 1780 to succeed Horatio Gates as commander of the Continental Army in the southern states.

Hancock, John (1737-1793), a native of Braintree (now Quincy), Massachusetts. Graduated from Harvard, he became the richest merchant in Boston and served as President of the Continental Congress from 1774-77. In that position, he was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence. Hancock remained a member of Congress until becoming governor of Massachusetts in 1780, a post held until his death.

Hatch, Jabez (1709-1785), barrack-master under Rochambeau in Newport for the housing of French personnel during the French occupation.

Heath, William, Major-General (1737-1814), Massachusetts native placed in charge of Boston and vicinity in 1777-78. As commander of the eastern district of the Continental Army, he was ordered to Rhode Island in 1780 to prepare for the arrival of French forces.

Hopkins, Stephen (1707-1785), a native of Scituate, Rhode Island, who became a state representative and delegate to the Continental Congress. A noted statesman and patriot, he was one of the first to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Howe, Richard, 1st Earl (1726-1799), British admiral and older brother of Sir William Howe, he first distinguished himself during the Seven Years War. He commanded the North American Station from 1776-78. He conducted a masterly defensive campaign off Newport in 1778 against the superior naval forces under d'Estaing. Admiral Howe was made First Lord of the Admiralty in 1783.

Howe, William, Sir (1729-1814), British general who served as commander-in-chief of British Forces in North America from July 1775 to May 1778. He led the advance on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec under Major-General James Wolfe (1727-1759) in September 1759, and won the battles of Bunker Hill in 1775 and Brandywine in 1777. Sir Henry Clinton succeeded him in 1778.

Humphreys, David, General (1752-1818), American officer appointed aide-de-camp to George Washington in 1780. He distinguished himself in October 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown.
Hunter, Mary Robinson (1787-1863), wife of William Hunter. Her diary kept during the posting of her husband as envoy to Brazil offers a unique perspective on her times.

Hunter, William (1774-1849), a Newport lawyer and politician who later served as U.S. envoy to Brazil. In 1805, he purchased a house confiscated from the loyalist Colonel Joseph Wanton Jr. on Water Street (now 54 Washington Street) that became French Naval Headquarters in 1780-81. The house is now a museum property of the Preservation Society of Newport County.

Kalb, Johann, Baron de (1721-1780), a German noble who became a French army officer and later an administrator in the Continental Army.

Knox, Henry, General (1750-1806), Boston-born hero of the Battle of Dorchester Heights in March 1776. He later was instrumental in planning the defenses of Connecticut and Rhode Island and in founding the Society of the Cincinnati.

Lafayette, Marie-Joseph-Paul-Roch-Yves Gilbert de Motier, Marquis de (1757-1834), a French noble and army captain who at age twenty-one joined the American army during the Revolution. He received a commission as a major-general from Silas Deane and played a key role in persuading Louis XVI to send Rochambeau and his army to America, a decisive event for the American war effort.

Latouche-Tréville, Louis-René-Madeleine Levassor, Vicomte de (1745-1804), commander of the frigate Hermione. He transported Lafayette to America and operated under the orders of de Ternay and then La Pérouse during the expedition to Canada. He distinguished himself under de Grasse in blockading Chesapeake Bay.

Lauberdières, Louis-François-Bertrand du Pont d’Aubevoye, Comte de (1759-1837), nephew and aide-de-camp to Rochambeau with rank of captain in the Saintonge Regiment. He later became a general under Napoleon Bonaparte.

Laurens, John, Colonel (1754-1782), son of founding father Henry Laurens (1724-1792). John Laurens served as an American aide-de-camp to George Washington. He became president of the Continental Congress in 1778-79 and was sent to France in 1781.

Lauzun, Armand-Louis de Gontaut, Duc de (later Duc de Biron) (1747-1793), French military commander in the American Revolution serving as the colonel-proprietor-inspector of the Legion of Foreign Volunteers. He later supported the French Revolution but nonetheless died by guillotine in the Reign of Terror.

La Valernais, see Villemarais.
Lincoln, Benjamin, General (1733-1810), Massachusetts native named commander of troops in the Boston area in 1776. Appointed Southern Regiment Commander in 1778, he was forced to surrender Charleston, South Carolina, in May 1780. He later played a key role on October 20th, 1781 in the victory at the Battle of Yorktown.

Livingston, William (1723-1790), American representative in the First Continental Congress of 1774 and a delegate to the Second Continental Congress of 1775-76. He commanded the New Jersey militia in 1776 and won election as first governor of the state in 1777, a position held until his death in 1790.

Lossberg, Friedrich Wilhelm von, General, Hessian commander with British forces in Rhode Island in 1778-79.

Lovell, James (1737-1814), American patriot imprisoned by the British for much of the Revolutionary War. He later held a seat on the Continental Congress.

MacKenzie, Frederick (d. 1824), British officer of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who kept a detailed diary during his stay in America from 1775-81.

Malsburg, Friedrich von der, Hessian soldier in the von Dittfurth Regiment and First Hessian Division with British forces in North America in 1776.

Marchant, Henry (1741-1796), lawyer and colonial agent who served as Rhode Island State Attorney General from 1771-77, a Delegate for Rhode Island to the Continental Congress from 1777-79, and a judge in the U.S. District court for Rhode Island from 1790-96.

Mauroy, Charles-Louis, Vicomte du, French officer enlisted by Silas Deane as a major-general to serve in the Continental Army. He arrived in America on June 13th, 1777, only to find himself unemployed, leading to his rapid return to France.

Morton, Mary (Mollie) Robinson (1757-1829), wife of John Morton (1734-1828) and daughter of Thomas and Sarah Robinson. In 1780, she became close to the Vicomte de Noailles during his billeting at her house on Water Street (now 64 Washington Street).

Noailles, Louis-Marie-Antoine, Vicomte de (1756-1804), French officer and brother-in-law of the Marquis de Lafayette. De Noailles was lieutenant-colonel of the Soissonais, one of the four regiments that arrived with Rochambeau at Newport in July 1780. During his yearlong stay in Newport, de Noailles had his residence and headquarters in the house of Thomas Robinson on Water Street (now 64 Washington Street).

O’Hara, Charles, General (1740-1802), British brigadier-general who served with Lord Cornwallis in the Southern Campaign in 1780. Gravely wounded by Continental
troops while fighting in March 1781 at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina, he surrendered in October 1781 to General Benjamin Lincoln at the Battle of Yorktown.

Otis, James (1725-1783), American political activist before the Revolution who helped to formulate colonial grievances against the British government during the 1760s.

Percy, Hugh, Earl (1742-1817), Major-General who led the British retreat from the Battle of Lexington in 1775. He commanded British troops in Newport from 1776-77.

Pérouse, Jean-François de Galaup, Comte de la (1741-1788), commander of the Amazone in d’Estaing’s fleet at Savannah in 1779. He also commanded the frigate Astrée at Newport and Boston in 1780-81, and attacked British forts in Hudson Bay to the north of Lake Superior. His voyage of exploration to the Pacific in 1785 led him to both the northwest coast of America and the northeast coast of Asia. He was shipwrecked and died in the Pacific in 1788.

Pickering, Thomas (1745-1829), American political leader and Continental Army officer who served in 1777 as adjutant-general to Washington and in 1780-85 as a quartermaster-general.

Pigot, Robert, Sir (1720-1796), British soldier famous for commanding the left wing of the British force at the battle of Bunker Hill. He became a major-general in 1777 and had a command in Rhode Island in 1778.

Prescott, Richard, General (1725-1788), British officer who was third-in-command of the expedition against Rhode Island. His capture on July 9th, 1777 by Lieutenant-Colonel William Barton took place in a night raid on a farm on West Main Road in Middletown.

Revere, Paul (1735-1818), American silversmith and political leader in the Revolution, best known for his ride on the night of April 18th, 1775 to warn of a British military expedition that turned out to be the start of the American Revolution.

Robinson, Sarah (1733-1817), wife of Thomas, active in Newport Quaker circles as the clerk of the Woman’s Monthly Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

Robinson, Thomas (1731-1817), purchaser in 1760 of an earlier house on Water Street (now 64 Washington Street) that he subsequently doubled in size. This became the residence and headquarters of the Vicomte de Noailles during the French occupation of Newport in 1780-81. Robinson was a strong proponent of abolition.
Rochambeau, Donatien-Marie-Joseph de Vimeur, Vicomte de (1750-1813), son of the Comte de Rochambeau. He served as a second colonel in the Bourbonnais Regiment. While his father remained in Newport in 1780-81, he returned to France to appeal for more supplies and reinforcements for the French in Rhode Island.

Rochambeau, Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de (1725-1807), French lieutenant-general sent in 1780 in command of troops to help support the American colonists under George Washington. In alliance with Washington, Rochambeau led the French forces to victory in October 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown, earning the thanks of Congress and elevating him to the status of a major American Revolutionary hero. His headquarters during the French occupation of Newport in 1780-81 was the William Vernon house.

Rousseau de Fayolle, Pierre du (1746-1780), friend of the Marquis de Lafayette. Silas Deane recommended that Lafayette commission Rousseau de Fayolle as a lieutenant-colonel in the Continental Army. Even though Congress did not accept the recommendation, Rousseau de Fayolle served as a personal aide-de-camp to Lafayette. While attempting to board the frigate Hermione in Newport harbor, Rousseau de Fayolle was killed in an accident. His burial at Trinity Church took place with military honors.

Saint-Simon-Montbléru, Claude-Anne du Rouvroy, Marquis de (1743-1819), French major-general commanding the army from the West Indies. De Grasse’s fleet transported him to Yorktown. His younger brother, Claude de Rouvroy, Baron of Saint-Simon (1752-1811) was also at the Battle of Yorktown in October 1781 as a volunteer on the side of the American colonists. His cousin, Charles Henri de Saint-Simon (1760-1825), served in America from 1779-82, and went on to become a noted French socialist philosopher.

Sears, George (1735-1801), appointed in 1784 to the Committee of Council that adopted the Federal Constitution.

Ségur, Philippe-Henri, Marquis de (1724-1801), French captain who sailed for America on the Gloire and replaced de Noailles in the Soissonais Regiment in 1782.

Serle, Ambrose (1742-1812), Secretary from 1776-78 to the British commander of the North American Station, Admiral Lord Richard Howe.

Stiles, Ezra, Reverend Dr. (1727-1795), noted Newport Congregational minister who later became president of Yale University. His diaries provide an important source of primary information on Newport during the British and French occupations.

Suffren de Saint-Tropez, Pierre-André, Captain (1729-1788), French naval hero who commanded the 64-gun Fantasque at Newport under d’Estaing in 1778. Shortly afterward, following his promotion to rear admiral, Suffren conducted a highly

https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol72/iss249/12
successful series of campaigns in the Indian Ocean, becoming one of the most famous officers in French naval history.

Sullivan, John, Major-General (1740-1795), patriot, soldier, and politician from New Hampshire who headed the American forces that besieged Newport in 1778 as part of the Battle of Rhode Island.

Talbot, Silas, Major (1751-1813), an officer in the Rhode Island militia. He later served as privateer and captain in the U.S. Navy, becoming the second commanding officer of the USS Constitution. In October 1778, he made the daring capture of the British 8-gun schooner Pigot in Narragansett Bay.

Tarlé, Benoit-Joseph de (1735-1797), French lieutenant-colonel in 1780 who held the rank of adjutant-major-general in America.
Ternay, Charles-Louis d’Arsac, Chevalier de (1723-1780), French naval commander who, as chef d’escadre or commodore, transported Rochambeau and his army to America. He died in Newport of malignant fever on December 15th, 1780 at the shore-based headquarters of the French fleet, the Hunter House at 54 Washington Street. After an elaborate funeral procession, the interment of de Ternay took place at Trinity Church, where King Louis XVI ordered a monument erected to his memory.

Thynne, Thomas, 3rd Viscount Weymouth (1734-1796), British Secretary of State for the Northern Department in 1768. He was transferred to the Southern Department that same year and remained in that post until 1770. He returned to the same post in 1775 and retained it until 1779.

Touche-Tréville, see Latouche.

Trumbull, Jonathan, Governor (1710-1785), governor of Connecticut from 1769-84. He was an ardent supporter of George Washington and the only colonial governor to continue in office during the Revolutionary War.

Valernais, see Villemarais.


Vernon, William (1729-1806), purchaser in 1772 of the former house of Metcalf Bowler on the corner of Clarke and Mary Streets. He was a member of the Continental Navy Board of the Eastern Department and gave up his house in 1780-81 to serve as headquarters for Rochambeau during the French occupation of Newport.

Villemarais (or Villemarets), Lieutenant de Frégate (d. 1780), misidentified in local Newport records as Lieutenant de la Valernais. Villemarais was one of the numerous French auxiliary naval officers with wartime commissions (called officiers bleus). He held one of the intermediate ranks typically given to such officers and served under Latouche-Tréville in the frigate Hermione, where he was wounded on June 7th, 1780 in the engagement with HMS Iris. Brought to Newport and put ashore at the hospital on Goat Island, Villemarais died on July 22nd 1780. Like two other French officers, Rousseau de Fayolle and de Ternay, he was buried at Trinity Church.
Vioménil, Antoine-Charles du Houx, Baron de (1725-1793), French lieutenant-general who came to America as second-in-command to Rochambeau in 1780, became a major-general in 1781, and commanded a key French assault that October at the Battle of Yorktown. With the departure of Rochambeau in December 1782, Vioménil assumed top command. He died from a wound received in Paris while defending King Louis XVI from a mob on the eve of the Reign of Terror in 1792. His son Charles-Gabriel du Houx, chevalier de Vioménil (1767-1831?) served as his aide-de-camp.

Vioménil, Charles-Joseph-Hyacinthe de Houx, Comte de (later Marquis de) (1734-1827), major-general ranking third in the hierarchy of Rochambeau’s army. He was the younger brother of Antoine-Charles du Houx, Baron de Vioménil.

Von Closen, see Closen.

Wallace, James, Sir (1731-1803), British captain dispatched to Narragansett Bay on the HMS Rose in 1774 in order to suppress the lucrative privateering trade that made Newport the fourth wealthiest city in the colonies. He later commanded a small British fleet operating out of Newport and the HMS Experiment under Admiral Lord Richard Howe in 1778. In Rhode Island, Wallace is still remembered locally for firing at Bristol on October 7, 1775, but he went on to become an admiral during the wars of the French Revolution. He later served as governor of Newfoundland.

Wanton, Joseph, Jr., Colonel (1730-1780), purchaser in 1756 of the merchant mansion on Water Street (now 54 Washington Street) later owned by William Hunter, and now known as Hunter House. The French confiscated this mansion for their Naval Headquarters in 1780-81. De Ternay and died of an attack of malignant fever inside this house after being brought ashore from his flagship, Duc de Bourgogne.

Ward, Samuel, Lieutenant-Colonel (1756-1832), a native of Westerly, Rhode Island, who distinguished himself in the Quebec expedition of 1775 and led the First Rhode Island Continental Regiment in the Battle of Rhode Island in August 1778.

Washington, George (1732-1799), Virginia-born soldier and politician elected commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in May 1775. His policy of aggressively harassing the British became the decisive strategy in their defeat, finally effected with the assistance of French allies in October 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown. Instrumental after the Revolution in formulating the Constitution, he became first President of the United States by the unanimous vote of the Constitutional Convention held at Philadelphia in 1787.

Weymouth, Lord, see Thynne, Thomas.
Lord Charles Cornwallis, wood engraving.