GEN. GEORGE SEARS GREENE.
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The ancestors of Major-General George Sears Greene were among the early settlers of the State of Rhode Island and Providence plantations. He is the son of Caleb Greene, and his wife Sarah Robinson Greene, daughter of Thomas Greene. He was born in the village of Apponaug, Warwick, R. I., 6th May, 1801. His ancestor, John Greene, surgeon, the emigrant, came from Salisbury, England, where he was married. where his seven children were baptized, and where the records of his
marriage and of the baptisms of his children are extant on the Register of Saint Thomas's Church. The eldest son, Major John Greene, who was fifteen years old at the emigration, and as agent for the colony, often visited and tarried in England, used for his seal the arms of the Greenes of Northamptonshire, England, indicating, with other circumstances, a descent from that distinguished family. For three generations previous to the emigration, the ancestors of John Greene resided on their estate at Bowridge Hill, in the Parish of Gillingham, Dorsetshire.

His paternal ancestors resided for five generations in the village where he was born. They were farmers and owners and operators of a grist-mill, saw-mill, and fulling-mill, supplying the wants of the town and vicinity. After the embargo, which destroyed the commerce of the country, the water power was used by his father for a cotton manufactory. He had the advantages of a good proprietors' village school. At the age of fifteen he was, at Wrentham, Mass., placed under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Fisk, pastor of the Congregational Church in that town, and later under the tuition of the principal of the academy of that place, to prepare for a collegiate course; after completing these preliminary studies, he entered the store, for the sale of domestic goods, of Mr. Henry Jacobs, merchant, on Pearl Street, New York, where he passed an idle winter. There was then (with no railways, and the North River closed) scarcely any trade in the winter in that line. The prospect was discouraging for a mercantile future. Through the kindness of Major Thayer, the superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point, his name was presented to the Secretary of War, who gave him an appointment of Cadet in the United States Military Academy. He was admitted to the academy after being duly examined, 24th June, 1819. After the due course of study he was graduated second in his class, on 1st of July, 1823, and was commissioned Second Lieutenant of the Third Regiment of Artillery. In the last year of his academic course, in addition to the studies of his class, he performed the duties of Assistant Professor, and daily taught a section of cadets in mathematics. For the first four years after graduating, he was attached to the Military Academy: for three years he was Assistant Instructor in Mathematics, and subsequently Assistant Professor in the Department of Engineering. In 1827 he joined his regiment, and served at Bellona Arsenal, Va.; Fort Wollcott, Newport Harbor; Fort Independence, Boston Harbor; Fort Sullivan, Eastport, Maine, and on ordnance duty at Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta, Maine; with the incidental duties of Post-Quartermaster and Commissary. On 31st May, 1829, in due course, by casualties of the service, he was promoted to be First Lieutenant. In 1824 he was attached to the Artillery School of practice at Fort Monroe, Va., for a few months, as Assistant Professor of Mathematics, but the academic course was not then organized, and he returned to his position at West Point. In 1835 he was granted leave of absence to the date of his resignation, 30th June, 1836. On the acceptance of his resignation in 1835, he entered on the practice of his profession of civil engineer, and was engaged on the Wilmington and Andover Railway in Massachusetts, the humble beginning of the Boston and Portland Railway.

In 1837 he was one of the engineers appointed to survey and locate the railway from Charleston, S. C., to Cincinnati, Ohio; the great project to which the distinguished Senator, Robert Young Hayne, devoted
himself with energy, and died while prosecuting this great work, which, when completed, it was confidently hoped, would not only bring the products of the then great West to Charleston, as a market and entrepot; and by means of direct and advantageous intercourse, bring the people of the Northwest into sympathy with the political feelings and projects of the statesmen of South Carolina. Mr. Greene, with two parties in the field, surveyed and located the line of railway from a point between Flat-Rock and Ashville, down the hill-bound valley of the French Broad River to the Cumberland, and across the Cumberland Mountains into Kentucky; while other parties completed the surveys to Cincinnati and to Columbia, S. C.

Subsequently he was engaged in surveying the coal mines in the Alleghany Mountains in Maryland, and locating and constructing railways to convey the products of the mines to market; in constructing railways in Massachusetts, the Kennebec and Portland Railway in Maine, the Providence and Bristol Railway in Rhode Island.

In 1838 he was appointed engineer in charge of the extension of the Water Works of the Croton Aqueduct Department of the city of New York, and was engaged in constructing the new reservoir in the Central Park, and its appurtenances. On 20th January, 1862, he was commissioned by Gov. E. D. Morgan, Colonel of the 60th Regiment of New York Volunteer Infantry, then organized and in the service of the United States, of which he immediately took command, at the Relay House on the Baltimore and Washington Railway, which was thus stationed with other troops to keep open the communication between the capital and the East, through Maryland. 28th April, 1862, he was appointed, and on May 18, 1862, received the commission of Brigadier-General of Volunteers in the service of the United States, and joined the command of Major-General Banks in the Shenandoah Valley, on May 24, 1862, at Strasburgh; the next day, before being assigned to a brigade, the enemy, under the enterprising Jackson, attacked our outposts in our rear and forced a precipitate retreat to Winchester, where a slight resistance was made on 26th of May, 1862, and the retreat continued to the Potomac River and to Maryland.

Brigadier-General Greene, not being assigned to a command, served on the staff of the commanding general. In Maryland, he was assigned to the 3d Brigade, 2d Division (Augur's) of the 12th Army Corps; served in the Northern Virginia Campaign, July–August, 1862; engaged at the battle of Cedar Mountain 9th August, 1862, where the casualties of the service placed him in command of 2d Division of the 12th Army Corps. In command of his division, in skirmish near White Sulphur Springs, near Warrenton, Va., August 24, 1862, in the retreat to the heights opposite Washington; Pope's campaign, September, 1862, and Maryland campaign, September and October, 1862; battle of Antietam, September, 1862, where his division defeated the enemy in an attempt by them to capture a battery, with great loss to the enemy (he had a horse shot under him while at the front); and at defence of Harper's Ferry, Sept. 18–October 10, 1862. On sick leave of absence, Oct. 10 to 30, 1862; assumed command of his brigade, Oct. 30, 1862; in operations in Shenandoah Valley and near the Potomac, between Harper's Ferry and Acquia Creek, Nov. 1, 1862, to April 28, 1863; in the Rap-
pahannock campaign (Army of the Potomac), April, May, 1863; being engaged in the battle of Chancellorville, May 2 and 4, 1863; in Pennsylvania campaign (Army of the Potomac), June and July, 1863; being engaged in the battle of Gettysburgh, July 2 and 3, 1863, where his brigade was left to defend the right of our position at Culp's Hill; the Twelfth Corps, with the exception of his Third Brigade, having been moved from their position on the right about six o'clock in the afternoon of the 2d of July. Brigadier-General Greene's command was vigorously attacked by the enemy with superior forces, about the beginning of the nightfall, and a fierce attack continued till ten o'clock at night, when the attack ceased. At early dawn of the 3d of July the Twelfth Corps returned to drive the enemy from the position which they had taken in the night; and after a heavy cannonading, the position was occupied by our troops. The enemy attacked the Third Brigade at Culp's Hill, making repeated charges (from early in the morning till 10 A.M., when the fighting ceased), which were repulsed; about sixty prisoners were taken, who, being forced up to the lines, lay down and surrendered.

He received a contusion on the chest from a spent ball on the 3d of July; was engaged in pursuit of the enemy to Washington, Va., July, 1863; in guarding the line of the Rappahannock, August and September, 1863; in the movement of the Twelfth Army Corps to join the army of the Cumberland at Chattanooga, by rail through Washington, Cumberland, Md., Parkersburgh, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Nashville; in command at Murfreesboro', Tenn., Oct. 2-23; on march to Lookout Valley, October, 1863; combat at Wauhatchie, Oct. 28, 1863, where in a night attack he was severely wounded, being shot through the upper jaw and disabled from commanding; in hospital; on sick leave; and on court-martial duty to Jan. 25, 1865, when he joined a detachment at Newbern, N. C., on its way to reinforce General Sherman and open communication with him for supplies; at battle of Kinston, N. C., where, being unattached, he volunteered on staff of General Cox; he had a horse shot under him in this fight. In command of a brigade in opening communications between Kinston and Goldsborough. Assigned to command of a brigade in General Slocum's command and General Baird's division; commanded the advance-guard on the march to Raleigh, when a puerile resistance was made, with a howitzer and a few mounted men; the last attempt to oppose Sherman's army. On the arrival of the army and the departure of the troops to their homes, he was employed on court-martial duty till April, 1866, when, on the last day of that month, he was honorably discharged the service of the United States, having secured, on the 13th day of March, 1865, the commission of Major-General by Brevet of U. S. Volunteers for gallant and meritorious services during the rebellion.*

At the close of the war, Major-General Greene returned to the practice of his profession of civil engineer, and to the position previously

* The following law was enacted at the close of the war: "125. All persons who have served during the war as volunteers in the army of the United States, and have been honorably mustered out of the volunteer service, shall be entitled to bear the official title and upon occasions of ceremony to wear the uniform of the highest grade they have held by brevet or other commission in the volunteer service. Approved July 28, 1886, C. 299, S. V. 14, p. 337."
held by him in the Croton Aqueduct Department, and was engaged in completing the new reservoir and appurtenances, and in constructing the stone dam and new storage reservoir at Boyd's Corner in Putnam County.

On May 11, 1868, Mr. Alfred Wingate Craven, Engineer Commissioner of the Croton Aqueduct Department, resigned his office, after having had for more than twenty years the direction of the engineering of that important department, which included the water supply, the sewerage, the paving, and all work of construction and repairs connected therewith; the duties of which office he discharged with signal ability and faithfulness. Major-General Greene was appointed Mr. Craven's successor, and continued in office until the Croton Aqueduct Department was united with the Street Department, and formed the Department of Public Works, in 1871. He continued the practice of his profession, being engaged at various times; Chief-Engineer of the Board of Public Works of the District of Columbia, and made the plans for sewerage of the city of Washington; consulting engineer for surveying, laying out and improving the streets and parks of the town of Morrisania; Consulting Engineer for Yonkers Water Works, and on plan of water works for Troy and Detroit; on the plan for the new dam for the Croton Water Works; on plan of sewerage for the city of Providence; in making plans for the New York City Central Underground Railway; on plans for additional elevated railways for the city of New York; Consulting Engineer; Civil and Topographical Engineer; Engineer of Construction for work in 23d and 24th Wards under the Commissioners of Parks.

In 1886, he was chairman of a committee to investigate the plan for management and construction of the New Croton Aqueduct so far as the Engineering Department was responsible.

The committee sustained the engineering management, under Benjamin Silliman Church, Esq., Chief Engineer, which decision was approved of by the Croton Aqueduct Commission.

Major-General Greene early took a deep interest in genealogical researches, and has collected a large quantity of matter on that subject in connection with his own family, and of the families of all who are connected with his family by marriage, which includes a large portion of the original families of his native State. He was an early member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and has taken an active part in their proceedings. He served as President of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society from 1877 to 1881.