

FIRST GENERATION

1. **Henry Sterling of Providence Rhode Island** was born in 1726 near Londonderry, Ireland.¹ He resided Providence, Rhode Island in 1756 in Providence, Rhode Island.² He resided Sterling, Connecticut in May 1794 in Sterling, Windham, Connecticut.³ The town was formally called Voluntown, but was named after Dr. Sterling in May 1794. He died on May 19, 1810 in Providence, Rhode Island.⁴ He has Ancestral File number WBJG-C3.⁵

Henry Sterling was a physician, and a native of a town in and around Londonderry, Ireland. He settled in Providence, Rhode Island in 1756.

Henry has a staunch supporter of the American Revolution and aided the patriot cause with his advice and professional services. He was called on 10 Jun 1772 to the British armed ship Gaspee to attend the wounded commander of the vessel after it was destroyed by patriots from Providence.

The town of Sterling in Windham County, Connecticut, originally called Voluntown, was named after Dr. Sterling in May 1794, when he was a temporary resident there. He promised to give the town a library in return for the honor, but it appears that he failed to do so.

There are a few other Misc. Sterlings that might be related to this line -

Constance Sterling (c1760-1842) m. William Lovett, Providence, Apr 12, 1783. Constance Sterling is buried in the NY Marble Cemetery. She and William were married 12 Apr 1783 Providence RI.

John Sterling, drowned near Fisher's Island 9 Aug 1794.

Violet Starling, in Providence m. 27 Nov 1783, James Scoot.

Elizabeth Sterling, of Narragansett, m. 16 Jul 1732 Job Reade of Newport.

He was married to Patience Tew on October 29, 1758 in Providence, Rhode Island.^{6,7,8} **Patience Tew** was born in 1736.⁹ Ancestral File lists her birth as 1749. She was born about 1749 in Newport, Newport, Rhode Island.¹⁰ She died on January 4, 1801 in Providence, Rhode Island.¹¹ She has Ancestral File number WBK0-B3.¹²

Patience has quite a heritage according to the ancestral file. Her genealogy goes back over 20 generations. She is a first cousin to traitor Benedict Arnold.

According to a paper entitled "Arnold Line and Lineage," prepared and read by Ethel Zuick Luckey in 1930, the Arnold line can be traced back to Ynir, King of Gwentland (now part of Wales) who reigned about the middle of the twelfth century. This Ynir was paternally descended from Ynir, son of Cadwaladr, King of the Britons, who built the Town and Castle of Abergavenny in Monmouthshire, England. Llanfihangel Court, located in Abergavenny, is the ancient seat of the Arnolds. The first of the line to use the surname Arnold was Roger Arnold of Llanthony during the 1500's. His wife, Joan Gamage, daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage, Knight, Lord of Coytey, was descended from Alfred the Great, King of the Britons, who was born in 849. However, Luckey was in error when she stated that the father of William, the first of the line in the American Colonies, was Thomas. She was also in error, along with many others, when she stated that the Thomas Arnold who settled in Rhode Island was William's half brother.

An excellent source of information about the first five generations of this line of the Arnolds in America is the Arnold Memorial, by Elisha Stephen Arnold. Published in 1935, it corrects many of the errors made by earlier researchers about the first William Arnold, his parents, and his half brother, Thomas--who remained in England. The Arnold Memorial is required reading for anyone interested in the early generations of this line of the Arnold family in America.

References to William Arnold and his son, William Arnold can be found in the History of Warren, Rhode Island in the War of the Revolution, by Virginia Baker. Note that Warren, Rhode Island was previously a part of Swansea, Massachusetts, which accounts for L.H. Evert's statement, in his History of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, that William Arnold came from "Swansea" to Warren Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania in 1797.

Descendants of Henry Sterling of Providence Rhode Island

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An account of the migration of William Arnold from Rhode Island to Warren Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, and a record of his children, was recorded by Clement F. Heverly in Pioneer and Patriot Families of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, Volume I, pages 303 and 304. A similar account can be found on page 429 in the History of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, by L.H. Everts, which was published in 1878.

LINEAGE

WILLIAM ARNOLD, the son of Nicholas Arnold and Alice Gully, was born on 24 June 1587 in Ilchester, Somersetshire, England. He died in 1675 in Pawtuxet, Rhode Island. He married, before 1610, Christian Peak, the daughter of Thomas Peak of Muchelney, Somersetshire. She was baptized on 15 February 1583, and died after 1659 in Pawtuxet, Rhode Island.

William Arnold sailed from Dartmouth, England on 1 May 1635 with his wife and four children, together with a group of relatives and neighbors from Ilchester. They arrived in America on 24 June 1635--on William Arnold's 48th birthday. He settled in Hingham, Massachusetts until 20 April 1636, when he moved to Providence, Rhode Island. In 1638 he moved about five miles south of Providence on the Pawtuxet River, where he lived until his death in 1675--during the King Philip Indian War. He helped organize the first Baptist Church in the Colonies. He was one of the most prominent and influential of the settlers.

CHILDREN

1. Elizabeth, born 23 November 1611 in Ilchester, died about 1683 in Pawtuxet, married William Carpenter before 1635.
2. (Governor) Benedict I, born 21 December 1615 in Ilchester, died 19 June 1678 in Newport, Rhode Island, married Damaris Wescott on 17 December 1640 in Providence.
3. Joanna, born 27 February 1617 in Ilchester, died after 11 February 1693, married (1) Zachary Rhodes on 7 March 1646, (2) Samuel Reape.
4. Stephen, born 22 December 1622 in Ilchester, died 15 November 1699 at Pawtuxet, married Sarah Smith on 24 November 1646.

(Governor) BENEDICT ARNOLD I, the son of William Arnold and Christian Peak, was born on 21 December 1615 in Ilchester, Somersetshire, England. He died on 19 June 1678 in Newport, Rhode Island, and is buried in a plot "lieing between my dwelling house and my stone built wind mill" in the Town of Newport. He married Damaris Wescott, the daughter of Stukeley Wescott, on 17 December 1640. She is buried next to her husband.

Benedict Arnold came to the American Colonies with his parents in 1635. His wife to be, Damaris Wescott, was aboard the same ship. He was with his father in Hingham, Providence and Pawtuxet, Rhode Island. On 19 November 1651 he moved to Newport, where he lived for the rest of his life. In 1654 he was one of the Commissioners from Newport. He was Assistant from Newport from 1655 to 1661. On 19 May 1657 he succeeded Rodger Williams as President of the Colony, and held that office (with the exception of 1661, when he was Assistant) until the arrival of the New Charter from King Charles II in 1663. He was named the first Governor in the New Charter, and he held that office (with the exception of six years) until his death.

It was said that throughout his long and useful life he displayed talents of a brilliant order, which were ever employed for the welfare of his fellow men. His will is dated 24 December 1677. A Codicil was added on 10 February 1678. The will was proved in 1678. Longfellow immortalized the "stone built wind mill" near Governor Benedict's grave in "Skeleton in Armor."

CHILDREN

1. Benedict II, born on 10 February 1642 in Pawtuxet, Rhode Island, died 4 July 1727, married (1) Mary Turner on 9 March 1670, (2) Sarah Mumford, resided in Newport. (grandfather of General Benedict Arnold IV the traitor and also Patience Tew

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Henry Sterling of Providence Rhode Island and Patience Tew had the following children:

- 2 i. **Charlotte Sterling** died in June 1794 in Providence, Rhode Island.¹³
- +3 ii. **Henrietta Sterling.**
- 4 iii. **Henry P. Sterling** was born about 1765.¹⁴ He died in March 1800 in Providence, Rhode Island.¹⁵
Source Albert Sterling listed for this death is (Amer. Irish Hist. Soc. Publication, P. 69, Vol IV; Irish Rhode Islanders in the American Revolution, Rev. T.H. Murray, 1903; Austin's Vital Records of R.I. Vols. XIII, etc.)

It appears that Henry P. may have fought in the Revolutionary War.

SECOND GENERATION

3. **Henrietta Sterling** (Henry-1) died on September 19, 1821 in Gent, Rhode Island.¹⁶ Gent is near Port William.

She was married to Captain Samuel Allen Agu 1790 in Providence, Rhode Island.¹⁷ **Captain Samuel Allen** was born about 1760.¹⁸ "Captain Sam'l Allen in this town in 54th year. died Feb. 14, 1814." He died on February 14, 1814 in Providence, Rhode Island.¹⁹

Prepared by:

SOURCES

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17. Ibid. Pg. 1149.
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