

Thomas Holdup Stevens

(1793 – 21 Jan 1841)

Stevens. Suddenly on Thursday morning, the 21st instant at his residence in the Navy Yard, Commodore Thomas Holdup Stevens, Commandant of the Navy Yard in this place in the 47th year of his age. The friends and acquaintances of the deceased are requested to attend his funeral on Saturday, January 23 at 11 o'clock.

National Intelligencer, Friday, January 22, 1841

Death of Commodore Stevens

The Naval Order which appears in another column will announce to our readers the decess-- sudden and unanticipated as it is afflicting--of Commodore Thomas Holdup Stevens, of the Navy. In the meridian of life, and in the enjoyment of the highest health, he retired to bed on Wednesday night, and before morning the angel of death had stricken him from the number of the living. We know not when any instance of those solemn dispensations which Providence orders, as it were, as admonitions of the uncertain tenure of existence, has struck upon us more painfully. Open-hearted, frank, and generous, we knew not a man who made his way so directly to the affections of all to whom he became known as this gallant and lamented officer; and proportionally keen is the sorrow for his loss and the sympathy which is universally felt for his large and estimable family.



THOMAS HOLDUP STEVENS.

Commodore Stevens was a native of Charleston, South Carolina, and entered the Navy in 1808, at the early age of fifteen. Young as he was, he had distinguished himself in the War of 1812, even before Perry's brilliant victory on Lake Erie, and he commanded one of the vessels in that ever-memorable battle. As a man, he was without reproach; and, as an officer, he was regarded as one of the brightest ornaments of the Navy in peace, as he had been one of its most gallant sons in war.

National Intelligencer, Monday, January 25, 1841

Funeral of the Late Com. Stevens

The remains of the late much-respected Commandant of the Washington Navy Yard were conveyed from the latter place to Congress Burial Ground, on Saturday last, for interment. The funeral service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Ryland, chaplain to the yard, amidst a large concourse of mourners and citizens, who united in paying the last tribute of respect to a brave officer and much esteemed fellow-citizens. Besides the officers of the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Army, who attended in full uniform, the corpse was followed to the grave by the Marine Corps, under the command of Capt. Twiggs, and the Washington Light Infantry, under the command of Capt. France, preceded by the Marine Band, playing a solemn dirge. After the funeral service, the usual military honors were paid by the Marine Corps to the departed Commodore.

The pall-bearers on the solemn occasion consisted of the Secretary of the Navy, Commodores Morris, Warrington, Wadsworth, Nicolson, General Towson, Colonel Henderson; the Mayor of Washington, General Weightman, and General Keim of Pennsylvania. The funeral was also attended by

the Secretary of War and several Members of Congress, who, together with many citizens, the great body of mechanics, and others attached to the Navy, were anxious to testify their sincere and cordial respect for the memory and character of the late Commodore Stevens.

Source??

Commodore Thomas Holdup Stevens
United States Navy

Was born in Charleston, S.C., February 22, 1795. Lost parents, whose name was Holdup, in early life, and was adopted by a citizen of Charleston who procured for him a midshipman's warrant in 1809. Volunteered for service on the Lakes in the beginning of the war of 1812, and was assigned to duty under Capt. Samuel Angus on the Niagara frontier. Was one of the leaders that captured the enemy's artillery in a night attack opposite Black Rock, Morgan's Run. Was one of a scaling party that dislodged the British grenadiers by burning their barracks at Fort Erie, and although wounded in the right hand, remained after the naval force had retreated, and with two other midshipmen and five seamen spiked the enemy's guns and recrossed Niagara River at a great risk in a leaky canoe; was made lieutenant for his bravery in this action on July 24, 1813. Commanded the sloop Trippe in the battle of Lake Erie and fought against the rear of the enemy's line, passing ahead of the Tigress and Porcupine and firing at the Queen Charlotte until she struck her colors, and, with Stephen Champlin, chasing and bringing back two of the enemy's vessels when they tried to escape. For these achievements was given a silver medal by Congress, and the citizens of Charleston presented him with a sword. In 1814 was ordered to command the frigate Java on a cruise to the Mediterranean. In 1815 changed his name to Stevens, which was that of his early benefactor. In 1819-20 attached to the frigate Constellation. Performed valuable service in suppressing piracy in the West Indies. Promoted to master commandant March 3, 1825. His last command was the Ontario sloop of the Mediterranean squadron in 1830-32. Was made captain, at that time the highest rank in the service, on January 27, 1836. In command of the station and navy yard at Washington until his sudden death on January 22, 1841.