



## SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL SPONSORSHIP TIER NAMESAKES

THOMAS COLE (1)	\$7,500
SAMUEL PHILLIPS (2)	\$5,000
JOSHUA DAVIS (4)	\$2,000
JOSEPH BROWN (5)	\$1,000

### **THOMAS COLE** (146 Main St: historic home)

[https://www.independentri.com/view\\_from\\_swamptown/article\\_a8a7e862-aa6f-11ee-86ce-531338c14763.html](https://www.independentri.com/view_from_swamptown/article_a8a7e862-aa6f-11ee-86ce-531338c14763.html)

Capt. Thomas Cole of Wickford served eight years during the Revolution suffering alongside General Washington himself during that long cruel winter at Valley Forge. After that experience, he was sent back home with Col. Christopher Greene to raise train, and command a battalion of slaves, free blacks, and native people forever known as Rhode Island's Black Regiment. They served with honor at the Battles of Newport and Yorktown. He resigned his commission in 1782 and returned to Wickford a hero, returning to life as a house carpenter. In 1786, he built a colonial home on a piece of land purchased from Robert Sherman, that although sub-divided several times since, once went from Pleasant Street to Wickford Harbor.

### **SAMUEL PHILLIPS** (34 Pleasant St: historic home)

<https://battleofrhodeisland.org/two-fine-wickford-homes/#:~:text=Samuel%20Phillips%20was%20commissioned%20as,also%20served%20as%20a%20captain.>

Samuel Phillips was commissioned as a Captain in the First Rhode Island Regiment in 1776, after service initially in the Kentish Guard. He was later transferred to Col. Stanton's regiment in the Rhode Island Infantry where he also served as a captain.

On the night of July 9, 1777, Phillips and the regiment's second-in-command, Colonel Barton, led a volunteer expedition of 40 men across the Narragansett Bay to Portsmouth in five whaleboats and commando-style, successfully captured General Prescott, the commander of all British forces operating in the area. Barton and Phillips' mission was a success in part due to their knowledge that the British troops had seized a cargo of wine and spirits the night before. The capture of Prescott was a moral victory for the Americans and a blow to the British and their sense of superiority. After Phillips completed two years in the American Army, he amazingly then served four years in the fledgling US Navy on the warships Tartar, Mifflin, and Assurance. He completed his service to the country in 1783 and returned to Wickford.

### **JOSHUA DAVIS**

<https://www.rihs.org/mssinv/Mss629-11.htm>

Joshua continued the family grist mill and acquired the appellation of "Major" based on his service in the Revolution: in May, 1775 he was promoted to Major in the Rhode Island Colonial Militia for the 2nd Regiment of King's (Washington) County. In 1779, he was one of two deputies representing North Kingstown in the General Assembly. He was a Justice of the Peace for North Kingstown from 1774 to 1785.

### **JOSEPH BROWN**

<https://honoringourpatriots.dar.org/patriot-profiles/joseph-brown/#:~:text=Despite%20enslaved%20status%20before%20and,of%20North%20Kingstown%20C%20Rhode%20Island>

Despite being born a slave in North Kingstown in 1749, Joseph Brown enlisted in a regiment of the Marblehead (MA) militiamen under Capt. Francis Felton, and was deployed to guard the Massachusetts coastline in 1776. Promised his liberty if he served out his master's son's remaining time in his commitment to service when he left to go privateering, Brown served "ten months & twenty days" to receive his liberty. By 1790, he was gainfully employed and living as a free man in Marblehead, MA, eventually saving money with his wife to purchase their saltbox home and operating a tavern. Brown