

TWO TRINIDAD NONAGENARIANS CELEBRATE 91ST BIRTHDAY

U.S. CIVIL WAR VETERAN

WOMAN WHO SAW DIAMOND JUBILEE

TWO Trinidad pioneers, both hardy nonagenarians, are at present receiving congratulations on having attained the ripe old age of 91.

Still hale and hearty and possessing an optimistic outlook on the years that lie before him, Mr. Nathaniel Ferguson Graham, aged veteran of the American Civil War of Independence and ex-Mining and Mechanical Engineer, yesterday celebrated his 91st birthday anniversary in the company of his wife, several daughters and sons-in-law and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives residing in Port-of-Spain.

The second nonagenarian to celebrate her 91st birthday anniversary, was Mrs. Louisa Boissiere, wife of the late Mr. Auguste Boissiere and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Parker of Port-of-Spain.

Mrs. Boissiere, whose husband died more than five years ago, recollects having taken part in the "Diamond Jubilee" celebrations in Port-of-Spain, as well as numerous other public functions in the history of the Colony.

Despite her advanced age, Mrs. Boissiere is able to go about without any assistance and maintains the idea that she is able to live long enough to celebrate her 100th birthday anniversary.

Freedom from worry, a philosophical outlook on life and a moderate regime of living, Mr. Graham believes, are the principal factors to which he attributes his sound health and longevity.

In reviewing his career in Trinidad as a constructor, Mr. Graham disclosed that he erected more than a hundred business houses and private dwellings in Port-of-Spain alone.



MR. GRAHAM

miles of railway lines for the Venezuelan Republic.

Mr. Graham took up residence in Port-of-Spain in 1882 but revisited Venezuela on many occasions since. He was also at one time, since settling down in Trinidad, engaged in agricultural pursuits and other industries of the island.

In the year 1912, some 47 years after he was discharged from the American Army, Mr. Graham drew his first pension as a retired soldier, which he still enjoys.

"I believe I am the oldest Free Mason in the West Indies," Mr. Graham takes pride in telling his friends.

He was made a member of Walton Lodge, No. 559, of New York, in the year 1886, fully 50 years ago. He does not claim to follow any particular denomination of the Christian Faith but maintains that he believes in all that Christ taught and did.

OLD AGE SCHOOL.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR VETERAN BURIED

MR. Nathaniel Ferguson Graham, a veteran of the American Civil War, who celebrated his 91st birthday on August 13, died yesterday at 3.30 a.m. at the Colonial Hospital, and was buried in Lapeyrouse Cemetery in the afternoon.

Despite his age this noted nonagenarian of the island was frequently to be seen about the streets of the city with his familiar jaunty stride.

Mr. Graham, who has lived in Trinidad for the past 54 years, has quite vivid recollections of the American Civil War.

Before settling in Trinidad, Mr. Graham spent four years as a superintendent of the El Caliao Mining Company in Venezuela.

During his sojourn in the neighbouring republic, he had built 95 miles of railway for the Government.

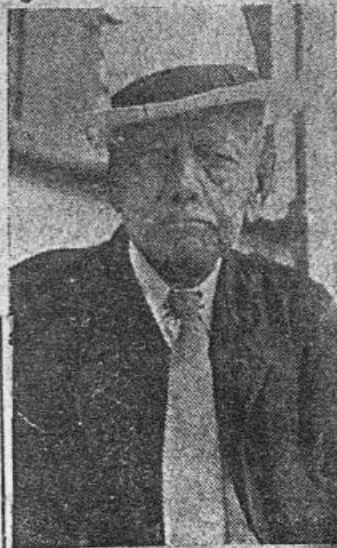
During his years of work as a constructor in Trinidad, Mr. Graham erected over 100 business houses and private dwellings alone.

Included among these are some of the city's most familiar places

He also erected the Princes Town Police Station.

Mr. Graham was thought to be the oldest Freemason in the West Indies, having been made a mem-

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THE LATE MR. NAT GRAHAM. FLORAL TRIBUTES

Among those who sent wreaths were his loving wife, Agnes, Hubert, Louisa, Ted, Lily, Mabel, Edwin, Joan, Ann, Barbara, Clifford, Dick, John and Marion (grandchildren); Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hope Ross, the Committee of the Working Girls' Hostel, Miss Dorothy Eckel, Mr. and Mrs. William Boyd and family, Mrs. Reeves and Miss Maud Reeves, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Vanier.

MOURNERS

He leaves to mourn their loss: Mrs. Nathaniel Graham—(nee Baptiste, wife), the Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Poole, son-in-law and daughter; the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Heath (America), (son-in-law and daughter); Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Gammon, (son-in-law and daughter); Miss Graham (daughter); Joyce, Joan, Dick and John Gammon; Miss Barbara Heath, and Miss Marian Heath (America); Miss Ann Poole and Mr. Richard Gammon, (grand-children).

BEARERS

The bearers were Mr. E. R. Gammon, Mr. R. G. Gammon, Mr. H. O. Ferreira, Mr. T. Boyd, Mr. F. Ferreira, and Mr. W. A. Cuthbertson.

THE FOLLOWERS

Among the followers were, Mr. P. Anduze, Miss M. Black, Mrs. C. Fitzwilliam, Mr. A. Quesnel, Mrs. W. Boyd, Mrs. S. Ferreira, Miss J. Hunter, Mr. W. G. Colverhouse.

Mrs. S. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. McCutcheon, Mrs. G. A. Durity, Mr. F. Power, Mrs. L. Power, Mrs. G. Radix, Misses M. and C. Ferreira, Mr. and Mrs. J. de Silva, Mr. G. C. Grant, Miss B. Betancourt, Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbertson.

Mr. E. Gerald, Miss J. Sheperd, Mrs. L. C. Sheperd, Mrs. L. de E. Usa, Mr. H. Hutchinson, Mr. J. C. Stauble, Mr. H. O. Inniss, Miss N. Inniss, Dr. McKechnie, Miss R. Gamble, Miss G. Inniss, Miss W. Vincent-Brown.

Mrs. A. T. Vanier, Mrs. A. T. Gammon, Mrs. B. Alvarado, Miss T. Edghill, Mr. T. J. Gately, Rev. Davidson, Mr. G. Ferreira, Mrs. J. Forbes, Mr. R. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. E. Ferreira, Miss Z. Piggot, Miss G. Ferreira, Mr. C. Hope Ross.

Miss L. Medina, Mrs. L. G. Thomas, Miss R. Graham, Miss O. Graham, Master C. Graham, Miss U. Geoffroy, Miss P. King, Miss G. Vieira, Mrs. N. Springer, Mr. D. Rampersad, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Ferreira, Mr. V. Wharton, Mr. H. G. de la Costa, Dr. R. A. Steele.

Mr. L. L. Roberts, Mr. L. Pupadas, Mr. G. Toy Loy, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Mahony, Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright, Mr. H. Wainwright, Mr. L. G. Thomas, Miss E. Wainwright, and Miss B. Wainwright, Mr. C. B. Franklin, Mrs. W. Ram-

U.S. CIVIL WAR VETERAN BURIED

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ber of Walton Lodge, No. 559 of New York, in 1886.

The funeral took place from Mr. Graham's home, No. 7, Abercromby Street, at 4.30 p.m., and proceeded to the Lapeyrouse Cemetery where the interment took place in the family allotment, after a short but impressive burial service was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Poole, Mr. Graham's son-in-law.

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Included among these are the Ice House block, Hotel de Paris, the Davidson and Todd building, Miller's Store, the Transfer Station in Park Street, Soubllette's Pharmacy, and a large two-storeyed building at 56 Edward Street.

He also constructed the Police Station in Princes Town.

The life story of Trinidad's "grand old man" reads much like the average adventure novel, especially considering that he is of a very modest nature and refuses to discuss some of the more dangerous episodes in connection with his career as a soldier.

Whether by accident or design he has the right to call himself a Scotsman cannot be proved, but it is said that his parents at first lived in America, but returned to Glasgow shortly before he was born.

When but nine months old, the Scottish-born member of the Graham family was taken to New York, where he was schooled and qualified as a Mining and Mechanical Engineer, which vocation he followed invariably throughout the remainder of his life, except for his three years' service in the American Army.

CIVIL WAR REMINISCENCES

In 1862, while still in his 'teens, Mr. Graham joined the militia, in which he remained until 1865. During this time he took part in numerous engagements in connection with the struggles between North and South. He has quite a vivid recollection of the battle between the first two ironclads, the "Monitor" and the "Merri-mac" in what is known as the Peninsula campaign in Chesapeake Bay.

Before settling in Trinidad, Mr. Graham visited Venezuela at intervals over a period of fifteen years and was for more than four years Superintendent of El Callao Mining Company.

During his sojourn in that part of South America, he built over 95

TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1936.

10, 1861; promoted corporal, no date; re-enlisted as a veteran, February 20, 1864; promoted sergeant, June 21, 1864; killed in action, December 7, 1864, at Deveaux Neck, S. C.

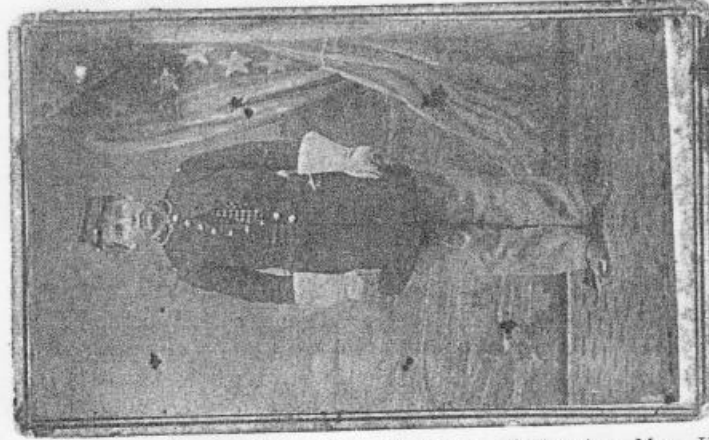
FRIER, CORNELIUS—Age, 24 years. Enlisted at New York City, to serve 3 years, and mustered in as private, Co. L, August 27, 1863; discharged for disability, August 5, 1864, at Beaufort, S. C.

FULLER, JOHN A. H.—Age, 34 years. Enlisted, October 5, 1861, at Callicoon Depot, to serve 3 years; mustered in as private, Co. L, November 4, 1861; died of catarrh of the brain, January 9, 1862, at Washington, D. C.

GARRABRANT, ELIAS P.—Age, 21 years. Enlisted at New York City, to serve 3 years, and mustered in as private, Co. L, October 25, 1863; mustered out with company, October 17, 1865, at Charleston, S. C.

GEER, JR., JOSEPH—Age, 30 years. Enlisted, October 5, 1861, at Callicoon Depot, to serve 3 years; mustered in as private, Co. L, November 4, 1861; deserted, January 24, 1862, at Washington, D. C.

GILL, ROBERT B.—Age, 19 years. Enlisted, December 10, 1861,



GRAHAM, NATHANIEL—Age, 16 years. Enlisted at New Kent Court House, Va., to serve 3 years, and mustered in as musician, Co. L, May 15, 1862; re-enlisted as a veteran, March 31, 1864; returned to company as private, no date; mustered out with company, October 17, 1865, at Charleston, S. C.