

REAR ADMIRAL WARD IS DEAD AT ROSLYN

Owner of Famous Rose Gardens
a Victim of Heart Disease
in His 67th Year.

ORIGINATED NEW VARIETIES

Retired Naval Veteran Who Won
Honors in War with Spain
Spoke Five Languages.

Rear Admiral Aaron Ward, U. S. N., retired, died yesterday at Willowmere, his home in Roslyn, N. Y., from heart disease. He had been ill for several months, but his condition did not become critical until three days ago. His wife and two daughters, Hilda Ward, a well known artist, and Mrs. Edna Capps, the wife of Admiral Capps, survive him.

Rear Admiral Ward was born in Philadelphia on Oct. 10, 1851. Although his father was General Ward B. Burnett, who served as a Colonel for the Second New York Volunteers in the Mexican War, he took the name of his grandfather, Aaron Ward, a Major General of the New York Militia many years ago. He was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1867, after having gone to school in Cannstatt, Germany, and attended the Lycée Bonaparte, in France. He was graduated almost at the head of his class four years later, and was assigned to the ship California, then at a Pacific station. In 1874 he went to the ship Brooklyn in the West Indies, and the following year to the Franklin on the European station. He was detailed to the Naval Academy in 1876 as an instructor in French.

While officer of the deck on the training ship Constitution, to which he had been assigned in 1879, he averted a collision between that vessel and the large schooner Elizabeth S. Lee, by daring navigation. From 1888 until 1892 he was naval attaché at Paris, Berlin, and Petrograd.

During the Spanish-American War, Lieutenant Ward commanded the converted yacht Wasp, which led several ships of the flying squadron over mines which had been placed in the narrow channel opening into the bay overlooked by Nipe, almost opposite Santiago. The American fleet sank a Spanish cruiser in the bay, rescued all its men in small boats, silenced the batteries at Nipe, and took Holguin, with its garrison of 5,000 Spaniards. For this Lieutenant Ward was advanced in rank. Later he was in command of the cruiser Pennsylvania and was supervisor of the Harbor of New York in 1908-1909. He became Rear Admiral on Jan. 9, 1910.

After his retirement in 1912, Rear Admiral Ward lived in Roslyn, where he spent his time cultivating roses. His garden was known throughout this country and Europe. He kept a log in which he recorded the date of planting of each rose bush, and its progress. He was accustomed in the Summer to rise at 5 o'clock in the morning to cultivate his flowers. He wrote a little book called "One Year of Rose Work," the proceeds of which he gave to the American Ambulance Fund. In his garden he had more than 3,000 rose bushes, and when he exhibited it for charitable purposes persons came from great distances to see it. The well known specimen Mrs. Aaron Ward, was named for his wife, who studied rose culture under M. Pernet, the famous French floriculturist. The Rear Admiral kept a ship barometer in his garden to guide him in his planting and cultivating.

In 1914 Rear Admiral Ward commanded the relief ship Red Cross sent to Europe by the American Red Cross with physicians and nurses to aid the sick and wounded. Emperor Francis Joseph awarded him the Medal of Merit in December for the Red Cross aid he had brought to Austria-Hungary.

The Rear Admiral was an authority on torpedoes and high explosives, and was one of the most proficient linguists in the navy, conversing fluently in five languages, one of which was the Russian.

Simple funeral services will be held at Roslyn tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn.