

Major General William Handy Ludlow

April 2, 1821 – September 26, 1890

Major General Ludlow was born in Yonkers, New York to Ezra and Rachel Ludlow. His father, Ezra, was an well-known New York City architect and builder and among his accomplishments was the building that housed the University of the City of New York (now New York University). William attended this school where he studied law. At 21 years of age, he married Frances Louisa Nicoll, one of two surviving children of William and Sarah Nicoll. She inherited the remaining acreage east of the Connetquot River of the Nicoll patents. After the wedding the couple settled in a home just north of St. John's Church which they named "Riverside." The marriage was blessed with six children with three of their sons rising to prominence in the history of the United States. William became active in New York State politics and was part of the Democrat party's inner circle. His law work often took him to Albany and in 1853 he entered the Assembly as an Assemblyman from Suffolk County. Upon taking the oath of office there was a vote for the position of Speaker, and he won that election serving for a year. In 1854 he ran for Lieutenant Governor alongside Horatio Seymour but lost the election. As a delegate to the 1860 Democrat party convention he struggled to hold the party together but was unable to do so leading the complete fracture of the party. When war came in 1861, he enlisted in the 73rd New York Volunteer Infantry (2nd New York Fire Zouaves) and was elected to the position of 2nd Lieutenant. Shortly thereafter he was transferred to duty as Aide-de-Camp on the staff of General Dix where he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He later served at Fort Monroe, Virginia in charge of prisoner exchanges. For his "faithful and meritorious services during the war," he was brevetted to the rank of Major General in 1865.

He returned home to Oakdale and while he retired from active politics he did serve on state-wide committees and also as President of the Tontine Life Insurance Company. The General lived the life of a country squire and elder statesman until his death on September 26, 1890. His beloved wife, Frances predeceased him by three years. They are both entombed together only feet from where the front door would have been of their beloved "Riverside."