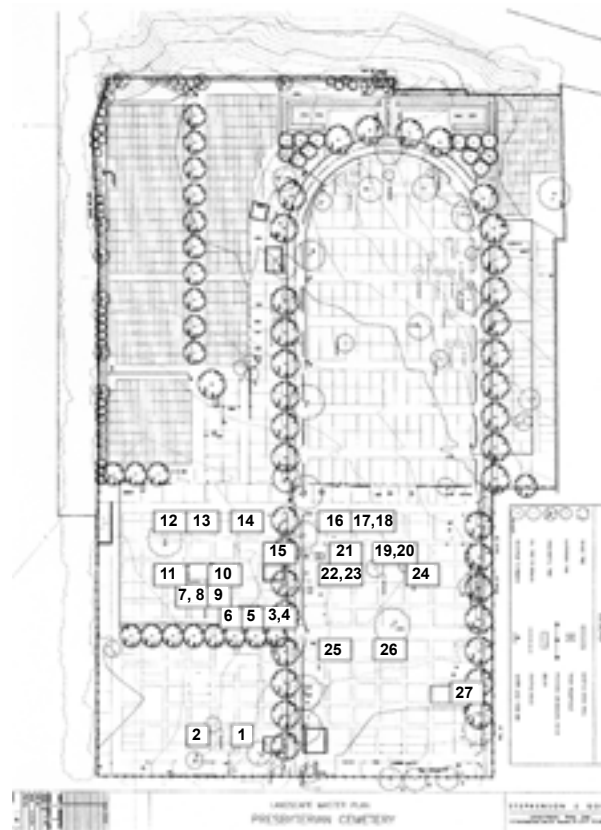


U. S. Congress for his part in this action. He held several other commands and ended his long career as Commodore of the U.S. Navy's Home Squadron. The obelisk marking his grave is pictured on the front of this brochure.

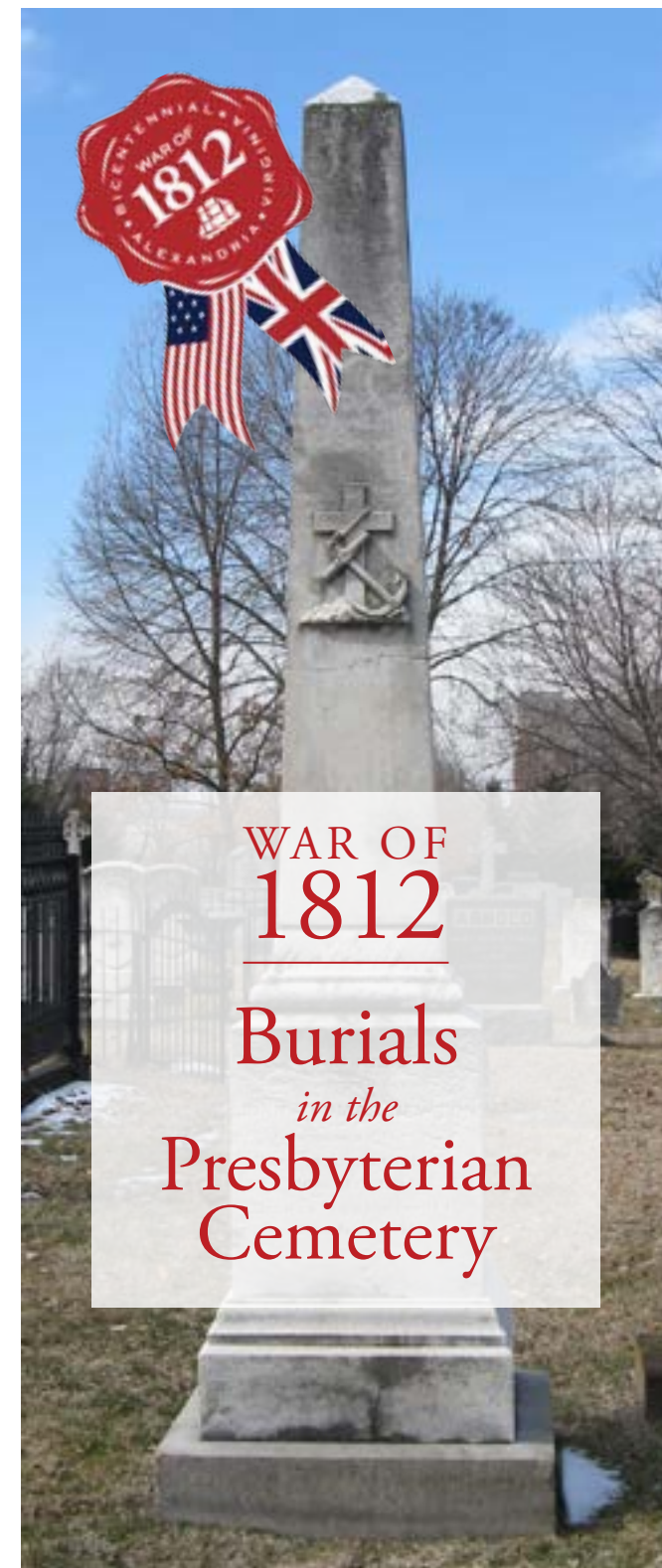
**Brig. Gen. Robert Young** (1768–1824) was an officer in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. In the latter, he commanded the 2nd Brigade, DC Militia, participating in the defense of Fort Washington and in the Battle of the White House near present-day Fort Belvoir, as well as providing a military escort for acting Secretary of War James Monroe.



- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Pvt. Josiah Hewes Davis     | 15. Pvt. David Dick       |
| 2. Pvt. John Richards.         | 16. 1st Sgt. Hugh Smith   |
| 3. Ens. John Harper            | 17. Pvt. Andrew Kennedy   |
| 4. Pvt. William Harper         | 18. William Bartleman     |
| 5. Pvt. John Cripps Vowell     | 19. Pvt. Robert Anderson  |
| 6. Lt. John Thomas Newton      | 20. Pvt. Peter M. Gregory |
| 7. Brig. Gen. Robert Young     | 21. Pvt. William Dunlap   |
| 8. Lt. Phillip Richard Fendall | 22. Capt. Chas. McKnight  |
| 9. Pvt. Joseph Harris          | 23. Capt. John McKnight   |
| 10. Pvt. Robert Nash           | 24. Lt. Leonard Adams     |
| 11. Thomas Vowell              | 25. Pvt. George Wise      |
| 12. Joseph Dean                | 26. Pvt. Presley Jacobs   |
| 13. Pvt. Robert Allison, Jr.   | 27. William Gregory       |
| 14. Pvt. Anthony Ramsay        |                           |

## *Presbyterian Cemetery & Columbarium*

600 Hamilton Lane, Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
 adjacent to the Alexandria National Cemetery  
 703.549.6670 ♦ [www.opmh.org](http://www.opmh.org)



## WAR OF 1812

### Burials *in the* Presbyterian Cemetery

**D**uring the Napoleonic Wars in Europe at the beginning of the 19th century, the British Royal Navy began to harass American shipping. Completely ignoring the sovereignty and neutrality of the United States, they interfered with American trade with France, intercepting and confiscating vessels and cargo, and impressing American sailors into service on British ships. Years of diplomatic efforts failed to curtail these actions, and the United States declared war on Britain on 18 June 1812.

While most of the military action during the next two years was concentrated along the border between the United States and Canada, a British naval force also blockaded the Atlantic seaports and sent raiding parties around the entire

Chesapeake Bay region. Encouraged by the weak resistance to these raids, in 1814 Britain dispatched a large force up the Bay to escalate the violence. Marching overland in the stifling summer heat from a Patuxent River landing, the British army sacked and burned Washington, DC, on 24-25 August.

A second force advanced simultaneously up the Potomac, forcing the abandonment and destruction of Fort Washington and menacing Alexandria. With no means of defense, the city capitulated on 27 August. As the British ships began their return a few days later, they were fired upon by hastily assembled groups of militia from the bluffs overlooking the river at the White House, a home near

present-day Fort Belvoir. A battle ensued, and several men were killed on both sides.

On 12 September 1814, some 4,800 redcoats landed near Baltimore. By this time, the Americans had been able to prepare defenses for the city, and the British attack was repulsed. Early the next morning, the British fleet began a bombardment of Fort McHenry that lasted into the night. This attack provided the inspiration for Francis Scott Key's "Star Spangled Banner." This attack, too, was repulsed, and by 14 September, the British began to withdraw.

The War of 1812 was formally ended by the Treaty of Ghent, signed on 24 December 1814.

## Burials in the Presbyterian Cemetery

Records indicate that some 48 members of the Meeting House congregation were veterans of the War of 1812. Nearly two-thirds are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery. Scores more congregants who are interred here served in support of the American war effort as civilians—as members of Alexandria's Common Council, Committee of Vigilance, and other capacities. The cemetery map included in this brochure indicates the locations of a number of these graves, and brief biographical sketches of a few of them are listed below.

**Robert Allison, Jr.** (1787–1814) and **Samuel Bowen** served as privates in the 1st Regiment, DC Militia. Both were killed on 5 Sept 1814 at the Battle of the White House and were buried the following day in the Presbyterian Cemetery in a service led by the Rev.

Dr. James Muir. Bowen's grave has since been lost.



**Charles McKnight** (1774–1853) served as a captain in the D.C. Militia for the Alexandria Independent Blues. Notably, he commanded the

last body of troops reviewed by General Washington.

**Lt. John T. Newton** (1794–1857) served on the USS Hornet, which sank HMS Peacock off the coast of South America. He was awarded a Silver Medal by the