Plundered!

On August 29, 1814, Alexandria surrendered to the British forces. The terms of surrender protected American homes but gave the enemy flour, cotton, tobacco, and other goods as well as military supplies and weapons. On September 3, the occupiers sailed away in seven British vessels and 14 American merchant ships, including some raised from the river bottom where Alexandrians had sunk them to keep them from the enemy.

We yielded to superior power. Our weakness has been our crime.”

Letter signed by citizens of Alexandria, supporting the decision to surrender.

British Demands

In exchange for sparing people and property, the British would take Alexandria’s ships, weapons, and goods meant for export. The Alexandria Common Council adopted a resolution accepting the demands.