

- Aug. 24** British forces defeat the militia at Bladensburg and burn Washington. Alexandria cavalry from Gen. Robert Young’s brigade, scouting for Monroe, had fired the first shots at the invaders.
- Aug. 25** Through a violent storm, Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, the Rev. James Muir, and the Rev. William Holland Wilmer ride to Georgetown to seek terms from Rear Admiral Cockburn to spare the town.
- Aug. 28** City Council, Thomas Vowell among its members, votes to surrender to Captain James Alexander Gordon’s Potomac squadron. Occupation and plundering follow.
- Late Aug.** Monroe orders merchant Anthony Charles Cazenove to carry an intercepted British withdrawal order — the Codrington letter — secretly to the Committee of Vigilance; Gen. John Mason delivers it in person.
- Sept. 1** The dispatch ship *Fairy*, sent upriver to find Gordon’s flotilla, is fired on by a masked battery at the White House (Landing).
- Sept. 2–5** Gordon’s seven warships work back downriver against the militia batteries under Gen. Young. On September 5, with a favorable wind and a high tide, they run the White House; the heaviest and closest fighting comes between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m., and by 2:50 the ships are past. Alexandrians Robert Allison Jr. and Samuel Bowen of McKnight’s Independent Blues are killed; seven British sailors die and thirty-five are wounded, three captains among them.
- Sept. 6** By early morning the flotilla has passed the three-gun battery at Indian Head, around the bend on the Maryland shore, and is clear.
- Sept. 7** Admiral Cochrane, goaded by the American attack on the Potomac squadron, drops his plan to wait for November — the end of the sickly season and several thousand more troops from England — and resolves to strike Baltimore at once.
- Sept. 9** Gordon reports to Cochrane, who is elated at the outcome and at the twenty-one merchant vessels seized at Alexandria, laden with the town’s goods.
- Sept. 13–14** Fort McHenry withstands a 25-hour bombardment and Francis Scott Key writes the words that become the National Anthem.

READING THE MARKERS

Charles McKnight, Robert Young, William Bartleman, and Francis Peyton are named on the Revolutionary War plaques at the Presbyterian and St. Paul’s cemeteries, but all were born too late to have served in the Revolution; their service belongs to the War of 1812. Where the registry records a correction, the plaque is the error.

Gravestone Stories

A digital museum of Alexandria’s historic burial grounds

The roster in this guide comes from the War of 1812 registry at gravestonestories.com — original research in the Alexandria Library’s Special Collections, SAR and DAR records, Wesley Pippenger’s *Tombstone Inscriptions of Alexandria*, the unpublished manuscript of historian Donald C. Dahmann, the Muir Register of Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals (1789–1820), and T. Michael Miller’s *Artisans and Merchants of Alexandria*. The registry is updated as research continues; the online version is the most current.



Search the full registry

Filter all 59 individuals by cemetery, read the featured profiles, and follow the links to the Battle of the White House, General Mason, and the Cazenove papers. gravestonestories.com/war-of-1812-alexandria

Visiting. The Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex lies along Wilkes Street in Alexandria, Virginia, 22314 — thirteen burial grounds in one walkable landscape. The Presbyterian Cemetery, which holds most of the men in this guide, is at 600 Hamilton Avenue; street addresses for the other grounds appear on each roster heading. Plot numbers in the roster (section:plot) follow the cemetery’s own numbering; a free interactive cemetery map is at gravestonestories.com.

READING THE UNITS

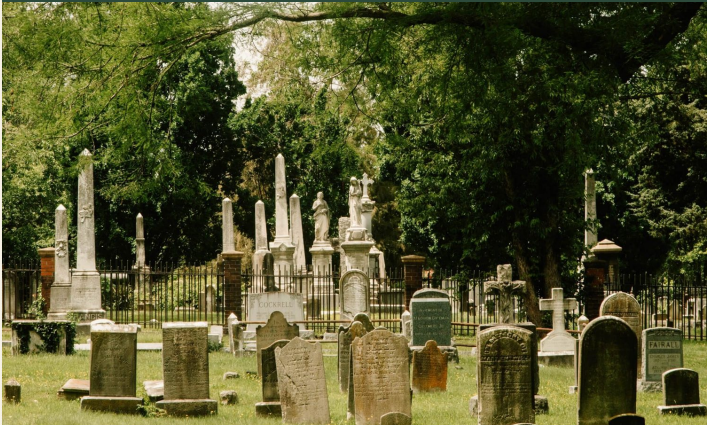
Alexandria belonged to the District of Columbia from 1801 until retrocession to Virginia in 1847, which is why most of these men served in District of Columbia Militia regiments rather than Virginia ones. The Alexandria Independent Blues were the town’s own volunteer company; a name in parentheses after a regiment is its commanding officer.

About the author. David Heiby is a public historian and superintendent of the Presbyterian Cemetery & Columbarium. He leads walking tours of the complex, writes a history column for the *Alexandria Gazette Packet*, and serves as treasurer of the Alexandria Historical Society and of the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation, which owns the Lee-Fendall House Museum — the house where Anthony Charles Cazenove died on October 16, 1852.

Published by Gravestone Stories, Alexandria, Virginia, 2026. Free to copy for educational and genealogical use. Cover photograph: gravestones in St. Paul’s Cemetery, with the Presbyterian Cemetery beyond — Anthony Charles Cazenove’s obelisk stands among them. Photo credit: Michelle Bartels — @soussiaphotography.

War of 1812
Buried in the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex

A roster of the Alexandria soldiers, sailors, physicians, and civic leaders of America’s second war for independence — and where to find them.



59	58	2	1875
DOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS	REST WITHIN THE COMPLEX	KILLED AT THE BATTLE OF THE WHITE HOUSE	LAST SURVIVOR DIED

“who fell in batle on the 5th Septr. 1814 at the white house in gallantly defending his country aged 27 years”

Gravestone of Robert Allison Jr., Presbyterian Cemetery · “battle” spelled with a single t, as cut

WHY THESE GRAVES MATTER

Every link in the chain *that produced the anthem*

The Star-Spangled Banner is usually told as a Baltimore story. Its opening chapters were written on the Potomac, and the men who wrote them lie within a quarter mile of one another in this complex.

Gen. Robert Young (1768–1824), Presbyterian 41:18, commanded the Second Brigade of the District of Columbia Militia. His cavalry fired the first shots at the British marching on Washington, and his militia stood at the White House on September 5.

Capt. Charles McKnight, Presbyterian Cemetery, led the Alexandria Independent Blues into that fight — the same company George Washington had last reviewed before his death. Two of his men did not come home.

Robert Allison Jr. (aged 27) and **Samuel Bowen**, both Presbyterian Cemetery, are the two Alexandrians known to have died in the engagement. Allison’s stone survives; Bowen’s grave has never been found.

Gen. John Mason (1766–1849), Christ Church Cemetery, son of George Mason, was Commissioner General of Prisoners. He dispatched Francis Scott Key under a flag of truce to negotiate for Dr. William Beanes — the mission that put Key aboard a truce ship as Fort McHenry was bombarded.

Anthony Charles Cazenove (1775–1852), Presbyterian 43:107, carried Monroe’s orders into occupied Alexandria, was accused of treason for it in 1815, and was vindicated only in 2026 when historian Catherine Weinraub found the family papers in Special Collections.

William Gregory (1789–1875), Presbyterian 44:141, a Kilmarnock-born private in the Blues, outlived them all. When he died in July 1875 he was the last man alive who had stood on that riverbank.

USING THIS ROSTER

Names are grouped by burial ground, alphabetically by surname, with dates, unit, and a plot reference (section:plot) where the record supplies them. Mason and Cazenove appear above as principals of the story and are documented on the website alongside the 59.

BEYOND THE COMPLEX

Ivy Hill Cemetery — **Eaches, Joseph** 1794–1857: Served in the war; mayor; Collector of the Port. Ivy Hill was carved from the Stump Hill land of Hugh Smith, buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery. 2823 King St., G:84:4

Jonathan Swift (1764–1824), merchant and consul, negotiated with the British for the city. Buried at Colross, 1824; grave unlocated, so not among the 59.

THE ROSTER

Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex *by burial ground*

The Presbyterian Cemetery, 600 Hamilton Avenue, holds thirty-eight of the fifty-nine — the largest concentration in the city. Established 1809; the ground was bought in 1813.

PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY, A–R		600 Hamilton Ave.
Adams, Leonard 1773–1856 — Lieutenant, 1st Regt., DC Militia. 41:17		
Allison, Robert, Jr. 1787–1814 — Independent Blues; killed at the White House, Sept. 5, 1814; grandson of founder William Ramsay. stone survives		
Anderson, Robert 1769–1833 — Private, 1st Regt., DC Militia; baker and merchant. 41:25		
Bartleman, William 1767–1842 — Last survivor of the original Alexandria Blues at his death; built 207 King St. On the SAR marker in error.		
Bowen, Samuel d. 1814 — Independent Blues; killed at the White House, Sept. 5, 1814; buried by Rev. Muir. no marker found		
Brockett, Maj. Robert 1792–1867 — Lieutenant in McKnight’s company; at the White House; builder. 44:148		
Conway, Capt. Robert 1790–1837 — Ensign at the White House, or 2nd Regt. Cavalry, DC Militia (records conflate father and son).		
Davis, Josiah Hewes — Veteran; ropewalk at Jones Point, ship chandlery on The Strand.		
Dean, Joseph 1763–1818 — Committee of Vigilance, 1814; merchant; trustee for the 1813 cemetery purchase. 42:75		
Dick, David 1766–1833 — Private, 1st Regt. (Hawkins), DC Militia; Irish-born shoemaker on Royal St. 42:70		
Douglass, James 1785–1847 — Private, 1st Regt., DC Militia; merchant, elder, Abolition Society. 41:24		
Dunlap, William — Irish-born merchant; married Ann Greer Crawford two days before her death, 1811.		
Fendall, Philip Richard, II 1794–1868 — Lieutenant, 4th Regt., Maryland Militia; son of the Lee-Fendall House builder.		
Fleming, James 1797–1828 — Alexandria Blues; buried with his father Andrew, a Rev. War veteran. 41:34		
Gardiner, William C. 1790–1844 — Private, 60th Regt., Virginia Militia; son-in-law of A. C. Cazenove. 43:104		
Gregory, Peter Mallard 1798–1817 — Private, 56th Regt., Virginia Militia; William’s brother, dead at 19. 41:25		
Gregory, William 1789–1875 — Alexandria Blues at the White House; its last survivor; bank president. 44:141, obelisk		
Harper, Capt. John 1783–1838 — Ensign, 9th Regt. (Boyd), Va. Militia; not the merchant of Captain’s Row. 42:43		
Harper, Dr. William — At the White House; son of Rev. War Capt. William Harper.		
Harris, Joseph d. 1848 — Private, 50th Regt., Virginia Militia; customs tide waiter. 42:54		
Jacobs, Presley 1774–1852 — Sergeant, Co. 1, 1st Regt., DC Militia; at the White House; brother of Thomas.		
Kennedy, Andrew Thomas 1788–1829 — Private, 1st Regt., DC Militia; tablet also names his father, buried in Philadelphia. 41:38		
Marsteller, Philip Gotthelp 1770–1842 — Private; son of Col. Philip Marsteller, Washington’s pallbearer; auctioneer. 41:29, 41:42		
McKnight, Capt. Charles — Commanded the Independent Blues at the White House; Eagle Tavern. On the Rev. War plaque in error.		
McKnight, Capt. John 1769–1834 — Corporal, 10th Maryland Militia; sea captain and harbor master; brother of Charles. 41:20		
Nash, Robert 1778–1814 — Private, 2nd Regt. (Columbian Horse), DC Militia; Scottish-born gunsmith.		
Newton, John Thomas 1793–1857 — Lieutenant, USS Hornet, at the defeat of HMS Peacock, 1813; Congressional silver medal; later Commodore. 42:45, obelisk		
Ramsay, Anthony 1792–1814 — Private, 1st Regt., DC Militia; died of fever Sept. 18, 1814, aged 21.		

PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY, R–Y	600 Hamilton Ave.
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Ramsay, William, Jr. 1787–1822 — Lieutenant, 1st Regt., DC Militia; Independent Blues; son of Col. Dennis Ramsay. 42:72
Richards, Dr. John c.1767–1843 — Private, 57th Regt., Va. Militia; physician who attended the Female Stranger, 1816. 43:116
Sanford, Thomas 1780–1852 — Private, Maj. King’s Detachment, DC Militia; sailmaker.
Smith, Hugh — First Sergeant, 1st Regt., DC Militia; councilman; his Stump Hill land became Ivy Hill Cemetery. 41:30
Smith, Thomas 1791–1844 — Private, 1st Regt., DC Militia; grocer; Wilkes Street Pottery.
Stewart, William 1767–1824 — Third Sergeant, Capt. Griffith’s infantry company. 42:64
Vowell, Dr. John D. 1794–1862 — Private; took over Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick’s practice, 1820.
Vowell, John C. 1766–1852 — Private, 1st Regt., DC Militia; chaired Lafayette’s 1824 reception.
Vowell, Thomas 1769–1845 — Councilman at the surrender vote, Aug. 28, 1814; Committee of Vigilance.
Young, Gen. Robert 1768–1824 — Brigadier General, 2nd Brigade, DC Militia; at the White House. On the SAR plaque in error. 41:18

CHRIST CHURCH CEMETERY	1501 Wilkes St.
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Carson, Dr. James — Veteran; led Lafayette’s 1824 procession to Mount Vernon.
Jacobs, Thomas 1770–1855 — Private, 1st Regt., DC Militia; tailor; brother of Presley.
Rock, Richard 1784–1835 — Third Lieutenant, Griffith’s infantry; possibly at the White House.
Thompson, Jonah 1758–1834 — Committee of Vigilance; mayor.
Thompson, Samuel Popham 1792–1826 — Private, 1st Regt., DC Militia; cornet, Dragoons; son of Jonah.
Towers, Thomas 1772–1820 — Private, 1st Regt., DC Militia; English-born livery keeper.
Washington, William H. 1799–1853 — Surgeon’s Mate, 2nd Brigade, DC Militia; apprenticed to Dr. Craik.

ST. PAUL’S CEMETERY	601 Hamilton Ave.
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Childs, Gen. Thomas 1796–1853 — West Point graduate who helped spike the British siege guns in the sortie from Fort Erie, Sept. 17, 1814; Mexican War brevet brigadier general; married Ann Eliza Coryton, niece of Adam Lynn. Lot 32, obelisk
Day, Horatio 1793–1836 — Private, Waugh’s Co., Conn.; spike marker by his wife’s stone. 2:54
Lynn, Adam, Jr. — Lieutenant Colonel, Alexandria Militia; silversmith.
Peyton, Francis 1764–1836 — Lieutenant Colonel, DC Militia; twice mayor. On the SAR marker in error.
Smith, Dr. Augustine J. 1774–1830 — Sergeant, 45th Md. Militia; physician and planter.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST	1503 Wilkes St.
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Abercrombie, Robert — Veteran; cabinetmaker; on the city’s 1812 marker.
Fugitt, George Gustavus c.1791–1868 — On the Trinity SAR marker in error.
Hunter, Robert W. 1787–1858 — Private, 60th Regt., Va. Militia; shipbuilder.
McCobb, Capt. John 1778–1818 — Private, 1st Mass. Militia; sea captain. Q:4
Robbins, Rev. Isaac 1770–1846 — Private, 5th Regt., Va. Militia; merchant.
Roberts, Robert B. 1776–1814 — Private, 56th Regt. (Taylor), Va. Militia.

Also in the complex — *Methodist Protestant, 1500 Wilkes St., and Washington Street United Methodist (Union), 1400 Wilkes St.:*

Mankin, Charles 1773–1840 — Sergeant, 1st Regt., DC Militia; cooper. Methodist Protestant
Bacon, Capt. Ebenezer 1797–1867 — Sea captain from Maine; served in the war. Washington St.