

the front door. As the Intelligencer was known to be the Government organ, the printing establishment was put to flame and completely destroyed by the advancing British troops.

R55/S168

### 11. DORTHEA (DOLLEY) MADISON (1768–1849)

The wife of President James Madison, she served as First Lady from 1809 until 1817. She first married John Todd, Jr. (1764–1793), a lawyer who was instrumental in keeping her father out of bankruptcy. The couple had two sons, John Payne (1792–1852) and William Temple (b./d. 1793). Her husband and their youngest son, William Temple, died in 1793 of a yellow fever. Dolley Todd married James Madison in 1794. Dolley Madison was noted as a gracious hostess, whose sassy, ebullient personality seemed at odds with her Quaker upbringing. Her most lasting achievement was her rescue of valuable treasures, including state papers and a Gilbert Stuart painting of President George Washington from the White House before it was burned by the British army in 1814. First Lady Madison was temporarily interred in the Public Vault until she could be moved to her final resting place.

#### PUBLIC VAULT



Mrs James Madison from an original by Gilbert Stuart c.1804-1855, LC-USZ62-68175

MRS. JAMES MADISON,

(DOLLEY PAYNE)

From an original picture by Gilbert Stuart, in possession of Richard Childs Esq., M.D., Washington



**A WORD OF CAUTION:** The centuries have made many grave markers and sites unstable. Please be careful near grave markers and watch where you step: depressions and sink holes lie hidden in grass, and footstones and corner markers can trip the unwary.

*Join us!*

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1976 and dedicated to the restoration, interpretation, and management of Congressional Cemetery. It is predominantly a volunteer-based organization relying on over 400 neighbors, history buffs, conservators, dogwalkers, and armed forces personnel each year to help restore and maintain this national treasure. In 1979, the Association succeeded in having Congressional Cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It became a National Historic Landmark in 2011. Please join the Association or make a donation and help in the third century of service to the Nation's Capital.



### Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

1801 E Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003

202-543-0539 | Fax 202-543-5966

EMAIL: [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org)

[www.congressionalcemetery.org](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org)

Funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided in part by the Congressional Cemetery Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the Congress of the United States and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The property is owned by Christ Church Washington Parish.



ESTABLISHED 1807

### Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

## Walking Tour THE BURNING OF WASHINGTON

History comes to life in Congressional Cemetery. The creak and clang of the wrought iron gate signals your arrival into the early decades of our national heritage.

The English war was a distant quiet thunder on the finger lakes of New York when the residents of the U.S. capital settled in for the sweltering mid-summer heat of Washington. In August 1814, the British struck. Retaliating for the American burning of York (which was at the time the capital of Canada), the British attacked Washington, setting fire to the magnificent Capitol Building, the White House and many other public buildings. President Madison and what was left of the government fled the city while First Lady Dolley Madison frantically cut George Washington's portrait from its frame at the White House. Not far away, Stephen Pleasanton, a Treasury clerk, gathered documents to safeguard them against the flames: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the papers of George Washington. On the riverfront, Commodore Thomas Tingey, builder of the Navy Yard and the last U.S. officer in the city, finally gave the order to burn the Navy Yard.

This BURNING OF DC TOUR highlights just a few of the hundreds of fascinating people buried in Congressional Cemetery. As you walk the trail of this self-guided letterboxing tour, note the artistry and craftsmanship of the memorial stone carvings and try to decipher the cultural language of the iconography.

The following are numbered to correspond with the map on the back. Please also refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers to help locate each grave site.

**1. THOMAS TINGEY (1750–1829)**

He was one of the founders of the Congressional Cemetery and first Commandant of the Navy Yard. He and his family lived in the Commandant's house for so many years that, at his death, it was found he had willed the house to his family. Although the family moved out, the Captain's ghost has refused to budge.

**R57/S1**



An 1814 engraving by William Strickland of artwork by George Munger is titled, "A view of the Presidents [sic] house in the city of Washington after the conflagration of the 24th August 1814."

**2. MORDECAI BOOTH (1765–1831)**

For many years, he was the principle clerk in the Commandant's office of the Navy Yard. As the Capitol Building went up in flames during the British invasion of August 1814, Commodore Tingey gave Booth the order to burn the Navy Yard to keep it out of British hands.

**R53/S2 NO MARKER**



A British wood engraving, "The taking of the city of Washington in America," shows the view from the Potomac River of the city under attack by Major General Ross, August 24, 1814.

**3. GRIFFITH COOMBE (1765–1845)**

One of the best-known men in the early days of Washington, he was also a very successful man of business. His wife was Mary Pleasonton, sister to Stephen (see #7). His residence at the corner of Georgia (now Potomac) Avenue and Third Street Southeast was one of the first and finest houses in Washington. When the British were advancing upon Washington in August 1814, General Winder and his small army retreated from Maryland into the city and encamped on the Navy Yard Common. He chose the house of Griffith Coombe for his headquarters where he received the President and his cabinet and war councils before he left with his troops for Bladensburg.

**R50/S20-29**

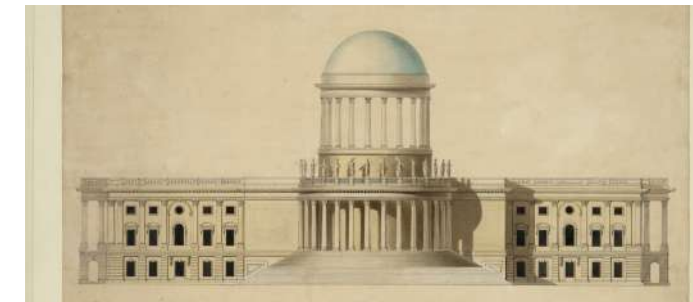


An 1814 British cartoon shows President James Madison and probably John Armstrong, Secretary of War, with bundles of papers, fleeing from Washington, with burning buildings behind them.

**4. DR. WILLIAM THORNTON (1759–1828)**

Born in the West Indies, he studied medicine in Scotland. He entered a contest to design the U.S. Capitol exterior and won. He later designed the Octagon House. Summoned by Martha Washington in George Washington's final hours, he arrived too late, but still suggested a warm lamb's blood transfusion, which was not undertaken. During the War of 1812, while the British were setting the city to flames, he personally appealed to the British officers to spare the Patent Office, of which he was Superintendent, and the resident models of patented devices.

**R33/S39**



Thornton's winning design for the Capitol, "west elevation, high dome" submitted in 1793.

**5. GEORGE WATTERSTON (1783–1854)**

As the war with England raged around the city, Watterston marched with Captain Benjamin Burch's company to meet the British at nearby Bladensburg. He returned to the city to find his own house pillaged, the Capitol in ruins, and the fledgling Library of Congress within the Capitol building destroyed. In 1815, President Madison appointed George Watterston as the first full-time Librarian of Congress.

**WATTERSTON VAULT**



Library of Congress LC-USZ62-6007

**6. MARY J. INGLE CAMPBELL (1801–1839)**

She was born in the Ingle homestead on New Jersey Avenue to one of the most prominent families in the city. At the age of eleven, Mary Campbell witnessed the torching of the city during the British invasion in the War of 1812. Her recollections describe the terrific rainstorm that helped drown the fires set by the British, and the actions taken by citizens to quench the flames and care for injured British soldiers left behind, as well as her discussions with the British Commander Admiral Cockburn.

**R37/S213**



George Munger's drawing of the U.S. Capitol after burning by the British, including fire damage to the Senate and House wings, damaged colonnade in the House of Representatives shored up with firewood to prevent collapse, and the shell of the rotunda with the façade and roof missing.

Library of Congress LC-DIG-gpmnsca-23076

**7. STEPHEN PLEASANTON (1776–1855)**

As clerk in the Treasury Department during the War of 1812, upon hearing rumors that the British were nearby, he and others obtained course linen bags into which they placed the original Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, most of the international treaties and national laws, and General Washington's Revolutionary War papers, together with many other documents. Despite the great demand for wagons or anything with wheels, Pleasonton found some carts and

Library of Congress LC-DIG-gpmnsca-19888

amid the general panic, carted the bags to a mill beyond Georgetown. In the middle of the night he decided this location lacked security and rose to take the documents by horseback to Leesburg, 35 miles away.

**R43/S244**

**8. PATRICK CROWLEY (1798–1860)**

An apprentice at the *National Intelligencer* when the British made their raid on this city in 1814, he recorded the sacking and destruction of public buildings. He noted that General Ross was praised for the respect he showed to citizens who did not interfere with his troops, but that Admiral Cockburn was despised for his indifference of citizens' rights. Mr. Francis Key sent a manuscript copy of "The Star Spangled Banner" to the *Intelligencer* and gave permission to Crowley to print it on slips of paper to distribute. Crowley made about two hundred dollars by its sale on the streets.

**R84/S231**

**9. WILLIAM WINSTON SEATON (1785–1866)**

In his youth, he was referred to as the "most elegant young man in Virginia." He became co-owner with Joseph Gales of the *National Intelligencer*. The British troops burned the newspaper's offices in retaliation for their harsh criticism of the British. Seaton served in the battle of Bladensburg. Later in life he served as the Mayor of Washington for five terms (1840–1850).

**R57/S165**



Brady-Hand Collection Library of Congress LC-BH824-5318

**10. JOSEPH GALES (1786–1860)**

He moved to Washington around 1807 to join the *National Intelligencer*. A few years later, he and his brother-in-law, William Seaton, became the owners of the paper. Joseph and Juliana Gales were on a trip to Raleigh at the time of the British invasion in 1814. Their city house at Ninth and E Streets narrowly escaped being burnt when the housekeeper had presence of mind to close all the shutters and put a sign "For Rent" on

G. P. Alexander Healy, Artist, www.senate.gov

