

the senior officer of the Army in June 1815, and on June 1821, was appointed to the newly created post of commanding general, a post he held until his death. R57/150-152

10. COMMODORE ISAAC CHAUNCEY (1772–1840) entered the merchant service at an early age, and by 19 had his own command. In June 1799 he entered the Navy with a commission as first lieutenant of the frigate President. He later commanded the USS *Chesapeake*, *New York*, *John Adams*, *Madison*, *General Pike*, as well as the New York Navy Yard. During the War of 1812, he commanded the naval forces on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, building a navy and complimentary port facilities in quick order. Chauncey enjoyed early successes in the naval battles but later failed to support land forces at critical junctures, leading to General Brown’s retreat at York. R51/S165 CENOTAPH

11. GENERAL JOHN MCNEILL (1784–1850), born in New Hampshire, was of herculean frame and stentorian voice. He entered the army in 1812 as a captain of infantry under General Scott and saw battles at Niagara Straits, Chippewa and Bridgewater. McNeill commanded the advancing brigades in those battles through murderous fire, calling upon his troops to “give it to them—take vengeance on them, boys.” He was wounded in close order combat by canister shot. R53/248

With thanks to archivist and historian, Sandy Schmidt, whose decade of dedicated research produced over 25,000 obituaries on our web site, without which we could not tell the stories of the hundreds of individuals who make up the tapestry of heritage at Historic Congressional Cemetery.

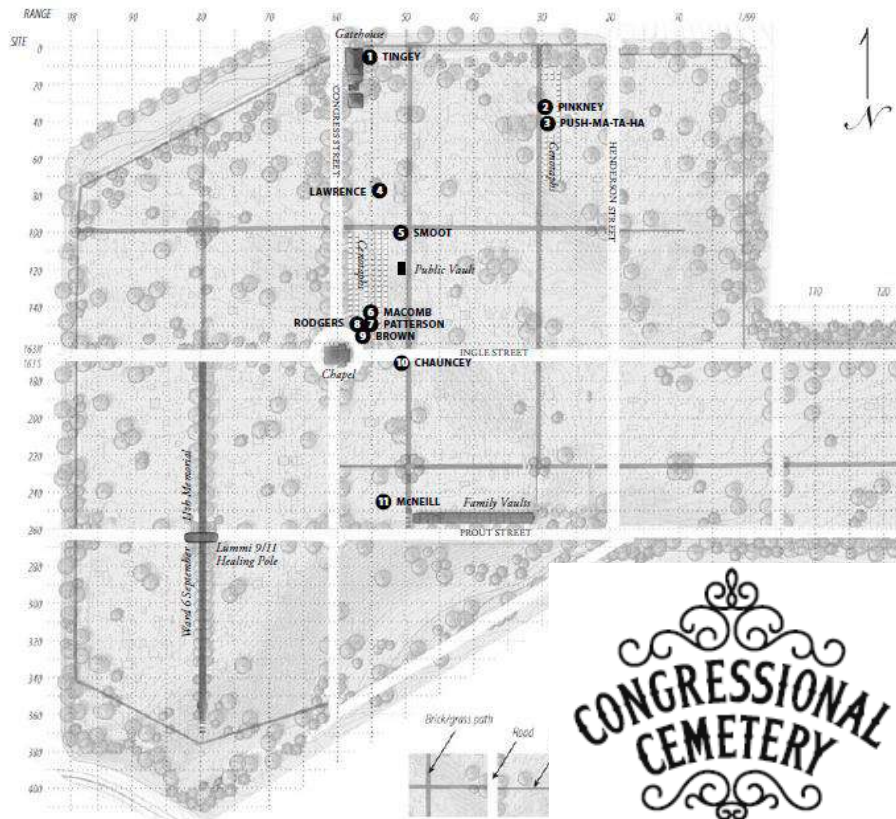
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A WORD OF CAUTION: *The centuries have made many grave markers and sites unstable.*

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.

Founded in 1807 as Washington Parish Burial Ground, Congressional Cemetery soon became America’s first de facto national cemetery, predating Arlington Cemetery by 70 years. By the 1830s, several decades of congressional appropriations for infrastructure gave rise to the popular name “Congressional Cemetery.” The Cemetery grew from 4.5 to 32.5 acres, and holds more than 55,000 individuals in 30,000 burial sites, marked by 14,000 headstones. The federal government owns 800 sites, including 165 cenotaphs which honor members of Congress.

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization 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, dog walkers, and armed forces personnel each year to restore and maintain this national treasure. Established in 1976, the Association is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We welcome you to become a member of the association to help us continue our third century of service to the Nation’s Capital.



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Walking Tour
THE WAR OF 1812



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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. Surrounding you are the men and women who shaped the new capital and gave substance to the new nation—congressmen and tradesmen, diplomats and domestics, explorers and architects, soldiers and musicians. Nineteenth century America was largely a seafaring nation. Ports lining the Atlantic coast gathered inland agricultural products and disbursed

European manufactured wares. Times were good: merchants, traders, seamen and shipwrights prospered, while Great Britain’s supremacy over the open seas vanquished the navies and merchant marines of continental kingdoms at war with her. Short of deck hands and disdainful of the former Colonies, British men-of-war routinely boarded American merchant marine ships to “impress” those whom they considered British subjects. Economic consequences and outraged pride led to calls for war. On June 18, 1812, America declared war on Great Britain, the world’s only superpower. The seemingly few and far-between conflicts of the War of 1812 led to a complacency that resulted in the burning of Washington in 1814, but there were a number of intense battles in which tremendous courage saved the day—and America’s continued independence. As you walk the trail of this self-guided 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. Also refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers to help locate each gravesite.

1. COMMANDANT THOMAS TINGEY (1750–1829), son of an English clergyman, served in the British Navy until 1771, then entered the merchant marine. He immigrated to America after the Revolutionary War and commanded ships in the American merchant service, eventually joining the U.S. Navy. In January 1800, Benjamin Stoddert ordered Captain Tingey to Washington to supervise construction of a 74-gun ship, and the improvement of the Navy Yard. A prominent citizen, he helped establish the Congressional Cemetery. During the British invasion in August 1814, he was the last officer to leave the city and the first to return. As the British entered the city, he ordered Mordecai Booth to torch the Navy Yard. R57/S1

2. ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM PINKNEY (1764–1822), reared in Maryland, studied the Classics, medicine, and law. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates and Senate through four non-contiguous sessions, the state Executive Council, and as state Attorney General.

Appointed to the diplomatic corps, he represented U.S. interests in Great Britain, Russia and Italy during separate appointments. Named Attorney General under



Madison in 1811, he became an earnest advocate for the War of 1812, to the point of leading a company of riflemen while still

the nation's Attorney General and getting wounded in the Battle of Bladensburg. After the War he again served in the diplomatic corps until his appointment to fill a U.S. Senate seat in 1819. R29/35-37

3. BRIGADIER GENERAL PUSH-MATA-HA (1764–1824) was, at 20 years, a Choctaw War Chief and great hunter. He led the Choctaws to battle with the Cherokees but was defeated and escaped to Spanish territories. Upon his return, he again led the Choctaws in a series of small wars with the Creek and Cherokee tribes. In the War of 1812, he was the first to lead a party against the British and their Indian allies (Creeks and Seminoles), and joined the southern army with 500 of his own warriors. He took part in 24 battles and served directly under General Jackson in the Pensacola campaign, winning Jackson's admiration for his leadership and skillful discipline of his "wild" warriors. In 1824 he was a member of a deputation sent to Washington to visit the President, for the purpose of strengthening the friendship between the Choctaws and the American people. He died of diphtheria while on that mission, on December 24, 1824. R31/41-42

4. COLONEL WILLIAM LAWRENCE (–1841), a native of Calvert County, Maryland, entered the service of his country as a platoon officer in 1808, and by regular promotion attained the rank of Colonel.

He commanded at Fort Bowyer 1814 as a major when attacked by a British fleet and a land force of 1500 marines and Indians. He succeeded in repelling them after a severe conflict of nearly four hours, with a battalion of only 200 men, for which he received a brevet of lieutenant colonel. On the heels of defeat at New Orleans, in February 1815, the entire British army and fleet attacked again, and after five nights and four days without cessation, being wounded badly himself, Lawrence was compelled to surrender. He was released just as the news of peace arrived. R54/78

5. COMMODORE JOSEPH SMOOT (–1857) joined the Navy as Midshipman on USS *Hornet* in 1811 and served thereon throughout the War of 1812. The *Hornet* captured a number of valuable prizes, including engaging the HMS *Peacock* in 1813, and capturing *Penguin* in 1815 after an engagement of 22 minutes. Congress commended the commander, officers and crew by Resolution, and the commander was presented with a gold medal and the other officers with silver medals. Smoot also served on the USS *Nonsuch*, *Despatch*, *Macedonian*, *United States*, *Grampus*, *Erie*, *Levant*, and other vessels. R52/103

6. GENERAL ALEXANDER MACOMB (1782–1841) was born in Detroit to a merchant family. Macomb joined the New York Company of Militia at age 16, advancing to 1st Lieutenant in Corps of Engineers, the newly created unit which



constituted the U.S. Military Academy of that time. He was one of the first two student officers to complete training at West Point,

later becoming Chief Engineer in charge of coast fortifications in the Carolinas and Georgia. In the War of 1812, as Brigadier General, he defeated the British at Plattsburg, though outnumbered ten to one, and was signally honored by Congress and made Brevet Major General. In 1821 he went to Washington as head of the Corps of Engineers and was designated Commanding General of the U.S. Army in 1828. R55/147-149

7. COMMODORE DANIEL TODD PATTERSON (1785–1839), born on Long Island, NY, became Acting Midshipman at age 14 on the USS *Delaware*. In 1803 he joined the *Philadelphia* under Captain

Bainbridge. He sailed for the Mediterranean and was taken prisoner when the *Philadelphia* was stranded and captured for two years by the Tripolitans. During the War of 1812, he commanded the flotilla of gunboats that destroyed the fortifications of the pirate Jean Lafitte at Baratavia Bay, Louisiana, capturing many guns, six schooners and several smaller craft. During 1814–1815 the naval forces under Commodore Patterson cooperated with General Jackson in the defense of New Orleans. In later years he commanded the Mediterranean Squadron and the Washington Navy Yard. R55/150-152

8. COMMODORE JOHN RODGERS (1773–1839) was the son of one of the most celebrated naval families in U.S. history. After spending 11 years in the merchant service, Rodgers entered the Navy as second lieutenant aboard the *Constellation*. His seamanship earned him promotion to captain and the command of several sailing ships during the Tripolean Wars, during which he extracted a treaty with Tripoli abolishing the payment of tribute and a similar agreement from the Bey of Tunis. During the War of 1812, he was the ranking active officer of the Navy and performed particularly well against British merchant shipping. He was senior officer of the Navy for many years and in 1823 he served for a short period as Secretary of the Navy. R56/S152

9. MAJOR GENERAL JACOB BROWN (1775–1828) descended from a line of Quaker farmers. In 1800 he took up farming on the shore of Lake Ontario, founding the town of Brownville. He became active in the state militia and took command of the New York frontier at the outbreak of the War of 1812. After successfully repelling British attacks at Ogdensburg and Sackett's Harbor he rose to brigadier general in 1813. At the battle of Lundy's Lane, Brown was wounded badly and forced to retire, giving up his ultimate objective, the capture of York (now Toronto). Brown became