

John T. Frost

(- 21 May 1854)

Frost. At 4 1/2 o'clock on Sunday morning the 21st instant, John T Frost in the 89th year of his age. His funeral will take place at Mrs. Spriggs boarding house on C between 3rd and 4 1/2 street west at 10 o'clock this (Tuesday) morning the 23rd instant, the friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

Pitch, Anthony S., "**The Burning of Washington, The British Invasion of 1814**," p. 44

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But the basement offices in the House of Representatives were almost empty because nearly all of the clerks were young men. Only J.T. Frost, a newcomer over forty-five remained at his desk. In this moment of unparalleled crisis, a man of scant experience and weak authority was burdened with the need to make rapid decisions of national importance. He was sorely in need of the guiding hand of the clerk of the House of Representatives, Patrick Magruder, a former congressman and custodian of the Library of Congress. But Magruder had been ill for months and had acted on his doctor's advice to leave town and restore his health at mineral springs. No one was around to advise Frost on how and when to protect the volumes of House paperwork from enemy vandals. His colleagues, Samuel Hamilton and Brook Berry, had been plucked from their offices to serve in an artillery company.