

Alexander McWilliams

(- 31 Mar 1850)

The National Intelligencer, April 2, 1850

On Sunday morning, at half past eight a.m., Dr. Alexander McWilliams, in the 76th year of his age.

Dr. McWilliams was born in St. Mary's county, Maryland. He entered the Navy in 1801, and, having served during the Tripolitan war, resigned in 1806; since which time he has resided in this city in the practice of his profession. He was the oldest living practitioner of medicine in Washington, as he would have been the oldest surgeon in the Navy, had he remained in that service.

In all the relations of life he was justly respected. He was ever among the most forward in all enterprises for the benefit of the city, or for the diffusion of knowledge. He was one of the founders of the Columbian Institute as well as the National Institute. He spent his life in the unostentatious exercise of the impulses of his generous and noble heart, and in the indulgence of his free and strong tastes for natural science.

The Funeral of the deceased will take place from his late residence, near the Navy Yard, at four o'clock p.m. today. Friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.

The National Intelligencer, July 1, 1846

Street Outrage

We learn from Dr. Alexander McWilliams that, as he was riding in his gig last Sunday along Pennsylvania avenue, a colored man stopped him opposite Coleman's Hotel to ask him a professional question, which not being answered to the fellow's liking, he made use of very abusive and offensive language to the Doctor, and afterwards aimed a blow at him. Not content with this, the negro then tried to frighten the Doctor's horse, so as to cause him to run away with the gig. While this outrageous conduct was going on, the Doctor states, there were several persons on the pavement that saw him attacked by the negro, who stood aloof and offered no assistance. On inquiry it was ascertained that this colored desperado was the dangerous maniac who rode off at full gallop with Dr. Miller's horse some months ago, and who was afterwards sent to jail as a mischievous and dangerous person. It further appeared that this dangerous and crazy negro was afterwards discharged from prison through the intervention of the Grand Jury at a former term of the Court.

The Navy Yard Section During the Life of the Rev. William Ryland

Columbia Historical Society, Volume 4

Doctor Alexander McWilliams was another well-known citizen of the Navy Yard section who deserves mention. He was a skillful practitioner, and was one of the founders in 1819 of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. His residence--on I Street between Sixth and Seventh-- is still standing. One of Dr. McWilliam's daughters married the late Dr. Noble Young, so long known to the citizens of Washington.