

1810      DAVID LOW

MARRIED: On Monday evening last, by the Rev. Mr. Mairs, of Galway, Dr. David Low, late of the United States' Army, to Miss Juliet M'Burney, of this city.

Albany Register  
Friday,  
May 3, 1816.

DAVID LOW, M.D., 1810 non-graduate , a resident of Charlton, was a member of the Philomathean Society. (Died: 1844)

Philomathean Catalogue 1850

UCS1A181010W\_d.001



CLASS OF 1814

DAVID LOW

In the list of soldiers of the War of 1812 who went from Charlton, Saratoga Co., N. Y., is the name of David Low, M. D., " a surgeon and paymaster, who was very expert in performing surgical operations. At Plattsburg he is reported to have said that he had "taken off more limbs than any other man in the same length of time."

FROM History of Saratoga Co., N. Y. p. 322  
Bartlett Sylvester  
1878.

To Doctor Low, Assistant to the Apothecary General, who was attached to the division of the army, where orders called my services, many eoniums are due. In addition to his appropriate duty of issuing stores he, at all times, volunteered his services in the hospital, and was considered, in point of abilities, among the most efficient surgeons of the army.

FROM Medical Sketches of the Campaigns of 1812,13, 14 p.257  
James Mann  
Dedham 1816

Extract from Official Letters No. 1, dated General Hospital Malone, Jan. 31, 1814, to Doctor LeBarron, Apothecary General of the Army by James Mann, Hospital Surgeon.

"Sir-Your letter of the 20th inst was this day received. In answer to which I have to state, that your assistant, surgeon Low, upon reporting himself to the Commander in chief, with his instructions from you, was directed to perform duty under my orders at this place. As the hospital stores addressed to him had not arrived, and having but one mate doing duty with me at this post, his services were necessary in the hospital. Since which, having been advised the hospital stores had arrived, at French Mills, Doctor Low was released from duty here, and ordered to take charge of the stores and medicines, in conformity to your instructions; and is now at the Mills issuing stores and medicine to the several regiments. As soon as the regiments have received their supplies, more especially, as soon as the sick at the Mills can be accomodated at Malone, Doctor Low will be ordered to this post, where he will have an opportunity to do hospital duty. This is agreeable to his wishes, as well as mine; as he is very attentive to his duty, and a young gentleman of pleasing mamer.

From Medical Sketches--Mann p258



CLASS OF 1814

DAVID LOW

From Extract of a Letter addressed to Doctor Tilton, Surgeon-General of the Army, dated Plattsburgh, Hospital Department, September 3, 1814, by James Mann:

Doctor Low, assistant to the Apothecary General, has volunteered his services, and is also attached to one of the forts, p. 269

From Extract of a communication to Doctor Tilton by James Mann, dated Plattsburgh, November, 1814:

I would particularly mention-----and Low, assistant Apothecary General, who volunteered his services, for their attention and professional abilities, at a time, when the wounded of both fleets and army were placed under my charge; on whom, were performed, immediately after the action, more than thirty capital operations. p.271

FROM Medical Sketches of the Campaign of 1812, 13, 14 p.287  
James Mann  
Boston 1876

Extract from Official Letters No. 1, dated General Hospital Returns, Jan. 21, 1815, to Doctor LeBaron, Apothecary General of the Army by James Mann, Hospital Surgeon.

"Six-Your letter of the 20th inst was this day received. In answer to which I have to state, that your assistant, Surgeon Low, upon reporting himself to the Commander in chief, with his instructions from you, was directed to perform duty under my orders at this place. As the hospital stores addressed to him had not arrived, and having no one else doing duty with me at this post, his services were necessary in the hospital. Since which, having been advised the hospital stores had arrived, at French Mills, Surgeon Low was released from duty here, and ordered to take charge of the stores and medicines, in conformity to your instructions; and is now at the Mills keeping stores and medicines for the several regiments. As soon as the regiments have received their supplies, more especially, as soon as the sick at the Mills can be accommodated at Plattsburgh, Doctor Low will be ordered to that post, where he will have an opportunity to do hospital duty. There is great probability of his success, as well as mine; as he is very attentive to his duty, and a young gentleman of pleasing manners. From Medical Sketches--Mann 1876



Low, David  
From: Charlton, N.Y.



low

**War 1812**  
**No record found**

UCSLOF181010W-d-003



1810

DAVID LOW.

DIED:-In Schenectady on the 23rd inst, Mrs. Juliet Low, wife of Doct. David Low, of that city, aged 30.

FROM: Albany Argus,  
August 30, 1825.



WAR OF 1812 RECORDS

1810 DAVID LOW

In the list of soldiers of the War of 1812 who went from Charlton, Saratoga Co., N. Y., is the name of David Low, M. D., "a surgeon and paymaster, who was very expert in performing surgical operations. At Plattsburgh he is reported to have said that he had 'taken off more limbs than any other man in the same length of time.'" History of Saratoga County by Sylvester p. 322.

Extract from Official Letters No. 1, dated General Hospital, Malone, January 31, 1814 to Doctor Le Barron, Apothecary General of the Army by James Mann, Hospital Surgeon.

Sir- Your letter of the 20th inst was this day received. In answer to which I have to state, that your assistant, Surgeon Low, upon reporting himself to the Commander in Chief, with his instructions from you, was directed to perform duty under my orders at this place. As the hospital stores addressed to him had not arrived, and having but one mate doing duty with me at this post, his services were necessary in the hospital. Since which, having been advised the hospital stores had arrived at French Mills, Doctor Low was released from duty here, and ordered to take charge of the stores and medicines, in conformity to your instructions; and is now at the Mills issuing stores and medicine to the several regiments. As soon as the regiments have received their supplies, more especially, as soon as the sick at the Mills can be accomodated at Malone, Doctor Low will be ordered to this post, where he will have an opportunity to do hospital duty. This is agreeable to his wishes, as well as mine; as he is very attentive to his duty, and a young gentleman of pleasing manners. Medical Sketches of the Campaigns of 1812, 13, 14 by James Mann p. 258.

Extract from a Letter addressed to Doctor Tilton, Surgeon General of the Army, dated Plattsburgh, Hospital Dept., Sept. 3, 1814, by James Mann:

"Doctor Low, assistant to the Apothecary General, has volunteered his services, and is also attached to one of the forts." p. 269.

Extract of a communication to Doctor Tilton by James Mann, dated at Plattsburgh, November, 1814:

"I would particularly mention-----and Low, assistant Apothecary General, who volunteered his services, for their attention and professional abilities, at a time, when the wounded of both fleets and army were placed under my charge; on whom were performed immediately after the action, more than thirty capital operations. p. 271.



1810

DAVID LOW

Doctor David Low, died January 18, 1844, aged 51 years.

Juliet, wife of Doctor David Low, and daughter of Elizabeth McBurney, died August 23, 1825, aged 30 years.

FROM: Saratoga County Epitaphs  
Durkee  
Vol. 5 , p. 503.

Both buried in the Charlton Presbyterian Church Cemetery.



This Dr. Low is said to have established a world's record, at the Battle of Plattsburg. He cut off more arms and legs, than any other doctor in history. There is no record of how large a percent recovered. The method in those days, was rather crude. The victim was given a drink of liquor and a bullet to keep him from grinding his tongue. The doctor apparently merely went down the production line with his knife and saw.

In his later life, he found a paying business in supplying corpses to the Albany Medical School. For this I am indebted to Jim Collins. Jim's father worked as a farm hand for Dr. Low. He used to find bodies hidden in various places around the barn. He found several in an oat bin at times. Collins would not directly accuse his employer. Later he played a trick on the old doctor which made him convict himself.

Collins left the doctor's employ and was working at the Cromer Hotel. One cold winter's night, the doctor stopped at the tavern for a glass of refreshment. Although it was dark, Mr. Collins noticed a man sitting in the doctor's buggy. He spoke to the man and said as the old doctor had gone to get himself a drink, "why don't you join him?"

When the old man did not answer, Collins became irked. He took hold of the man and shook him. Then he discovered the man was a corpse tied up to the back of the seat. Collins was one of the greatest practical jokers who ever lived in Charlton. He quietly removed and hid the corpse. Then he climbed to his place and turned up his collar. .. Soon Dr. Low came out and drove east and through the village. He turned south at Taylor's Corners on to Valentine Road. As he was driving through some woods, he gave an involuntary shudder and remarked to himself, "Cold to-night." The supposed corpse replied "I'm not so cold." Whether it was the liquor or just plain pain, no one knows. He landed on the bare ground, with only one inch of snow, to break his fall. He received a broken shoulder.

Such an event could not be secret.

Stories and Pictures of Old Charlton, N. Y.

pp. 67-68

W.B. Taylor, Levi Packard, Perry Van

Pub. by W. Brown Taylor,

Middle Grove, N. Y.

1859

Dr. Low received an Hon. Degree of A. M. in 1826.



David Low

1810



David Low

1810