The following books represent some of the titles held by the Library of Congress that were destroyed in 1814 when the British burned the Capitol. These rare books, which cover such wide-ranging subjects as battlefield strategies, agriculture, medicine, travel, and legal and political thought, offer interesting insights into the interests of early congressmen. For more information on these titles, click here.

Adams, John Quincy. Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory: Delivered to the Classes of Senior and Junior Sophisters in Harvard University by Late Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory. 2 vols. Cambridge, MA: Hilliard and Metcalf, 1810.


Bartram, William. Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the Extensive Territories of the Muscogulges, or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws; Containing an Account of the Soil and Natural Productions of Those Regions; Together with Observations on the Manners of the Indians. 2nd ed. Dublin: J. Moore, 1793.


Kirby, Ephraim. Reports of Cases Adjudged in the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut from the Year 1785 to May 1788. With Some Determinations in the Supreme Court of Errors. Litchfield, CT: Collier & Adam, 1789.


Petyt, William. *Miscellanea Parliamentaria: Containing Presidents 1. Of Freedom from Arrests, 2. Of Censures: 1. Upon Such as Have Wrote Books to the Dishonour of the Lords of


Rush, Benjamin. Account of the Bilious Remitting Yellow Fever as It Appeared in the City of Philadelphia, in the Year 1793. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Thomas Dobson, 1794.


Schlegel, Johan. Neutral Rights; Or an Impartial Examination of the Right of Search of Neutral Vessels under Convoy, and of Judgment Pronounced by the English Court of Admiralty, the 11th June, 1799, in the Case of the Swedish Convoy: With Some Additions and Corrections. Philadelphia: Aurora Office, 1801.


Stephen, James. War in Disguise or the Frauds of the Neutral Flags. New York: Hopkins and Seymour, 1806.


Williams, Samuel. The Natural and Civil History of Vermont. Walpole, Newhampshire: Isaiah Thomas and David Carlisle, 1794.