



*Lee-Fendall House*  
MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Presents a Tour  
of the  
**Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex**

Including

The historic 1809 Presbyterian Cemetery  
&  
other cemeteries associated with the

**Lee-Fendall House**

Tour led by

Superintendent of the Presbyterian Cemetery, and member  
Board of Directors, Lee-Fendall House

David Heiby

# Historical Background

## Lee-Fendall House

The Lee-Fendall House was built in 1785 and has witnessed over 200 years of local and national history. The house tells an expansive story that illustrates how life in Alexandria has changed and how the city has been shaped over time. This story includes the early days of America when the Fendall & Lee families fueled the region's growth following the American Revolution. It uncovers the experiences of enslaved and free African Americans who worked in the house during the antebellum period. It explores the house's service as a Union hospital during the Civil War. It reveals the challenges individuals and society faced during Reconstruction. It shows the changes Prohibition brought for liquor dealers like the Downham family. Finally, it embraces the fight for workers' rights by the house's last owner, labor leader John L. Lewis.

The final resting places of many families associated with the Lee-Fendall House are in the historic Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex, including the Fendalls, Lees, Cazenoves, Flemings, and Downhams.

## The Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex

1803 a yellow fever epidemic swept through Alexandria in the District of Columbia. The epidemic was described by Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, Superintendent of Yellow Fever Quarantine in Alexandria, as:

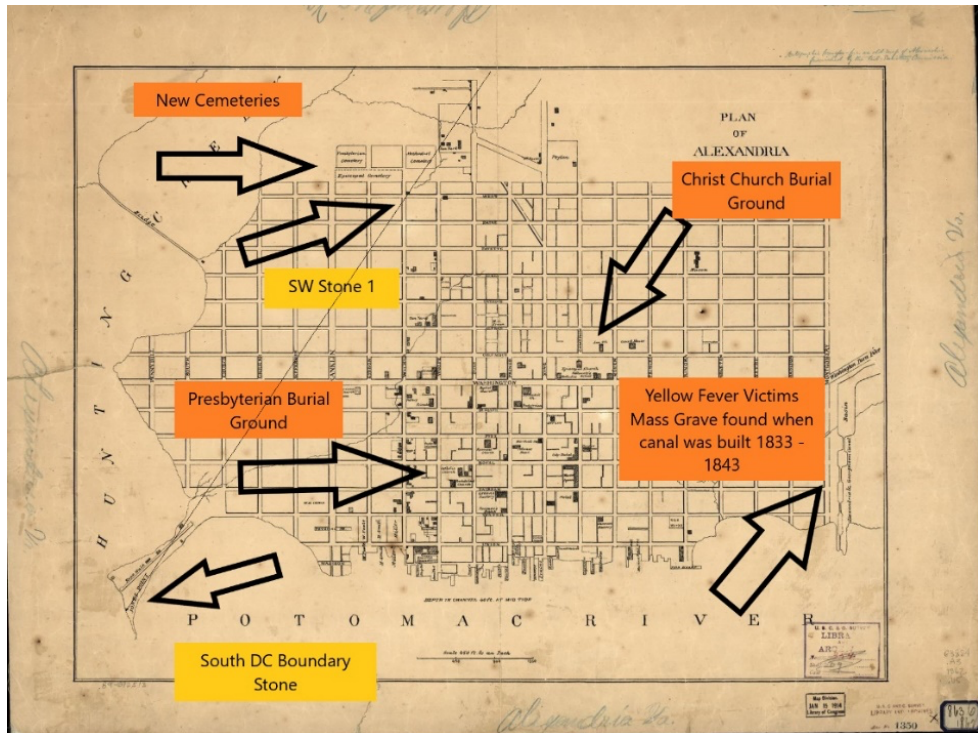
*"Upwards of one-half of the 6,000 inhabitants left the city. In spite of the fact that "it was singularly limited in its operations" the epidemic continued throughout the summer and was responsible for the death of more than two hundred persons. Dr. Dick attributed it to a very large mass of oyster shells, many of them containing oysters which were found to be in a state of putrefaction, emitting a nauseous effluvium which could be detected from afar. Dr. B. H. Hall also gave an account of this 1803 epidemic, agreeing that it was not imported."*

During that summer, donkey/horse carts would go through the town each morning and pick up the bodies of those that died the previous night. The Intown burial grounds at Christ Church, the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and the Quaker Burial Ground were overwhelmed.

According to the appendix that was published in a sermon by The Reverend James Muir, D. D. titled "Death Abolished: A Sermon," he stated that between August and October of 1803, "one hundred and twenty people were buried in Penny Hill, forty-one at the [Episcopal](#) burying ground, fourteen at the [Presbyterian](#), about ten at the new burying ground in Fairfax Street, in the burying ground belonging to the [Quakers](#) and [Roman Catholics](#) perhaps three in each. This amounts to one hundred and ninety-one." Many others were dumped in mass graves that have long been forgotten.

Believing that decomposing bodies spread the disease through well water, The Common Council decreed that “graves” were not to be dug “*in any ground within the corporation not opened or allotted before the twenty-seventh of March, eighteen hundred and four.*”

Churches then established “new” cemeteries outside the District of Columbia boundary line in Spring Garden Farm, then Fairfax County, VA. The location was also near Alexandria’s municipal cemetery **Penny Hill** which, starting in 1796, was where paupers and the poor were buried.



Even with the 1804 stoppage, the epidemic continued. In 1809, the town council issued another edict banning all burials inside the town limits.

In 1847, Alexandria was retroceded back to Virginia. In 1915, needing additional room, Alexandria annexed 1300 acres from Fairfax County. The Wilkes Street complex was included within those annexed acres.

The complex now has thirteen separate cemeteries consisting of a mix of Christian, Jewish, and burial associations. The second oldest national cemetery is also located within the complex.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The first national cemetery is the Unites States Soldiers and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery in Northwest DC. It was started shortly after the First Battle of Bull Run (Union name) or First Manassas (Confederate name) in 1861. The Alexandria National Cemetery is considered the second oldest federal cemetery held its first burials in 1862. When it ran out of room, federal authorities started burying war dead in the rose garden of the Lee family estate located a few miles north. Originally, 110 acres, that cemetery now consists of 639 acres. The Alexandria National Cemetery is considered the first desegregation cemetery in the federal system. United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T) were interred there by order of the Military in 1865.

# Bibliography of selected people buried in the Wilkes Street Complex

## Christ Church Cemetery

1. **Edmund Jennings Lee I** (May 20, 1772 – May 30, 1843) was a prominent lawyer and politician in Alexandria, Virginia. A member of the Lee family of Virginia, he lived at the Lee-Fendall House for some time. In 1796, Edmund married Sarah Lee, daughter of Richard Henry Lee, who was the delegate from Virginia who introduced the motion of Independence in the Second Continental Congress (*That these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.*)

They had nine children. Financial setbacks forced him to sell the house in 1833. In 1836, his son, **Edmund Jennings Lee II** (1797–1877), bought the **Lee-Fendall House** and let his father and mother live until they paid him back in 1839. (Jennings II is buried in the Elmwood Cemetery in Shepherdstown, WV).

Lee I was elected to the Alexandria Common Council from the third ward in 1809. 1810 he became the Common Council's President but resigned in June 1810. Lee was later re-elected to the Council and served on several committees. He was elected Mayor of Alexandria in March 1815 and served for three years. Austerity characterized his administration; even Lee's friends were prosecuted for gambling. After stepping down as Mayor in 1818, Lee influenced the community considerably. Appointed Clerk of the Circuit Court for Alexandria County in July 1818, he served until retiring in 1840.

Besides his public service and legal careers, Lee also worked for his community's religious, educational, and social welfare. He served on the vestry at Christ Church for many years. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Alexandria Academy in August 1818. Established in 1785, the Academy was one of Virginia's first free schools and received an endowment from George Washington at his death in 1799. Lee was an early member of the American Colonization Society, an organization concerned about free blacks in America and advocated sending them back to Africa.



Figure 1: Edmund Jennings Lee I and Sarah Lee

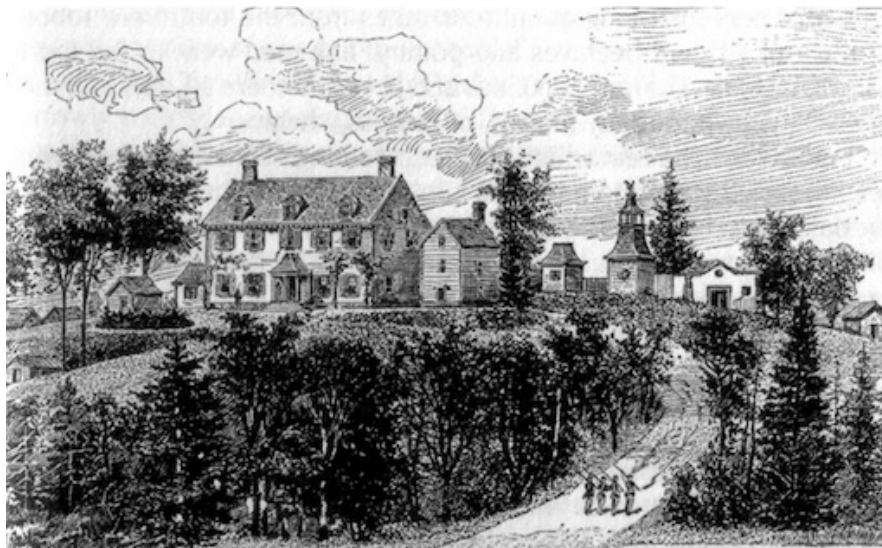


2: Edmund Jennings Lee II and Sally Lee

2. **Sarah Caldwell Lee** (November 27, 1775 – May 8, 1837) was born in Chantilly, Fairfax, Virginia. Her father, Richard Henry Lee, was 43, and her mother, Anne Gaskins, was 30. She married **Edmund Jennings Lee I** in 1789 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. They were the parents of at least nine sons and five daughters.
3. **Sarah “Sally” Lee** (1801 – April 14, 1879) lived in the Lee-Fendall House with her parents. After her father's death, Sally and her sister Hannah Lee Stewart inherited the house. They eventually sold the house to the husband of their close relative, **Harriet Stuart Cazenove**.
4. **Ann Harriotte Lee Lloyd** (March 6, 1799 – September 9, 1863) She was the 1st cousin of Robert E. Lee. Married to John Lloyd and lived at 609 Oronoco Street, Alexandria.



5. **Major Samuel Cooper** (June 13, 1757 – August 19, 1840) Participated in the December 16, 1773 Boston Tea Party and wrote one of four known accounts of that night. Fought at Bunker Hill, Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth battles during the American Revolutionary War. He was a revenue agent for New York City after the war. He moved to Georgetown, DC, when he retired and was buried in Christ Church Cemetery when he died. His son, **Samuel Cooper** (June 12, 1798 – December 3, 1876), was a highly decorated United States Army officer. He resigned his commission in March 1861 and was immediately commissioned as a Brigadier General, Adjutant, and Inspector General of the Confederate Army. In 1862 he was promoted to Full General and was the highest-ranking officer in the Confederate Army, reporting directly to Confederate President Jefferson Davis. His last official act was to preserve the official records of the Confederate Army, turning them over to the United States Government at the war's end.
  
6. **John Mason** (April 4, 1766 – March 19, 1849), the son of George Mason IV, was a merchant and banker who owned and operated several businesses. He built a home on Anlostan Island (now known as Theodore Roosevelt Island) on the Virginia side of the Potomac River between Washington and Georgetown. In addition to his merchant affairs, Mason was appointed the first commanding Brigadier General of the District of Columbia Militia, today known as the District of Columbia National Guard. He held that post from 1802 until 1811. During the War of 1812, he was the Commissioner General of Prisoners and helped President Madison and other officials escape into Virginia when the British captured Washington on August 24, 1814. Mason was the official who sent Georgetown lawyer and sometime poet Francis Scott Key on the mission that began a chain of events that led to the Star-Spangled Banner.



Clermont Plantation was in Cameron Valley, just west of Alexandria was the home of John and Anna Mason. The house was confiscated during the American Civil War and used as a Contraband smallpox hospital. A disgruntled worker burned the house after it was sold under the Doolittle Act for the owner's failure to pay property tax in person. At that time, it was owned by French Forrest (October 4, 1796 – November 22, 1866). John Mason owned the house before Forrest.

7. **James Murray Mason** (November 3, 1798 – February 14, 1874) The son of John Mason and the grandson of George Mason of Gunston Hall. Described as arrogant, domineering, and unconventional, he was a staunch state rights advocate who firmly believed slavery was the cornerstone of Southern society. Before the American Civil War, he was a U.S. Congressman and U.S. Senator. He is best known for writing the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, which required officials and citizens of free states to cooperate and assist in capturing fugitive slaves that ran away to escape slavery. He is also known for the Trent Affair, a diplomatic crisis between the United States and Great Britain at the beginning of the American Civil War. Mason was expelled from the Senate in 1861 and was appointed delegate to the Provisional Congress of the Confederacy from Virginia. He was also appointed Commissioner of the Confederacy to Great Britain and France and tasked with getting those two countries to recognize the new southern confederacy. While en route to Great Britain, he and fellow commissioner John Slidell of Louisiana were forcibly removed from the British mail steamer RMS Trent on the high seas by the USS San Jacinto, violating international law. Mason and Slidell were taken to Fort Warren in Boston, Massachusetts. The act enraged the British, who threatened to start a war against the United States. Lincoln realized he couldn't fight two wars at once, had Mason and Slidell released, and allowed them to continue to Europe on their mission.
  
8. **Sydney Smith Lee** (September 2, 1802 – July 22, 1869) He is one of twenty-six members of the Lee family that are buried in Christ Church Cemetery—the older brother of Robert. E. Lee was a celebrated United States naval officer who, among other exploits, commanded the *USS Mississippi*, the flagship of Commodore Perry, when he opened Japan in 1853.

The highlight of Lee's career was when he was one of three Naval officers who escorted the Japanese delegation during their official 1860 visit to the United States. Chosen because he was a person "of polished manner, of good address and high society with official rank," Lee, along with Captain Samuel Francis Du Pont, son of a diplomat, and a hero of the Mexican War, along with David D. Porter, whom the late Commodore Perry commended for bravery and "zeal," the trio spent six weeks escorting the Japanese through official Washington, including a dinner at the "President's Mansion" and a reception in the East Room on May 17, 1860, where President Buchanan and his cabinet received them along with scores of others who wanted to attend the most significant reception of the year. Since Dutch was the only Western language known to the Japanese, all talks were conducted by translating Japanese Dutch into American English and back again during the visit.



Captain Du Pont (center), leader of the commission escorting the Japanese during their 1860 visit, with Commander Sydney Smith Lee (left) and Lt. David D. Porter (right). Photo by Mathew Brady.

When Virginia declared it had succeeded in April 1861, he resigned his post and was formally dismissed on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was then commissioned as a Commander in the Confederate Navy and put in command of the Gosport Navy Yard. In 1863, he denounced South Carolina for getting the South “*into the snarl of succession,*” and he grumbled that they should “*be hanged . . . How I did want to stay in the old navy!*”

### The Alexandria National Cemetery

1. **Charles W. Needham** (Died June 30, 1863), Member 1st Mass Cavalry, was Mortally Wounded at the Battle of Aldie on June 17th.

On June 17, 1863, the Massachusetts men clashed against units of Fitzhugh Lee’s Virginia cavalry brigade under the command of Thomas Mumford during the opening stages of the Gettysburg Campaign. 1After the four-hour battle,



Mumford's troops were forced to withdraw, which resulted in a Union victory. However, the 1st Cavalry suffered horrendous casualties during the fight losing 167 men (20 killed, 57 wounded, and 90 captured) that day out of 294 engaged in action.

Among the wounded was Major Henry Lee Higginson, who, in 1881, founded the [Boston Symphony Orchestra](#). After the battle, Major Higginson, Needham, and the other wounded members of the 1st Mass were put on the United States Military Railroad Train and transported to Alexandria over the Orange & Alexandria Railroad tracks.

Needham was sent to the [Lee-Fendall House](#) on Oronoco Street, where he died on June 30, 1863. The Lee-Fendall House was a branch hospital of the Grosvenor Military Hospital located at 414 N. Washington Street during the latter part of the war. Records in the National Archives indicate that 87 Union soldiers died in The Lee-Fendall House while in use as a hospital between 1863 and 1865. The house was also the site of the first successful blood transfusion in the United States, which was also used by Edwin Bentley, Chief Surgeon of the Military Hospitals in occupied Alexandria, as his quarters.

On June 17, 1891, veterans of the 1st Massachusetts dedicated a monument on the battlefield to honor those who died or were mortally wounded in the battle. It is the first regimental monument erected by Union soldiers on a Southern battlefield. On the weather-beaten west side is the name of Charles Needham, who died in the Lee-Fendall House in June 1863. He was buried in **875**.



1st Mass Regimental Monument in Aldie, Virginia.

2. **Private Adolphus Jacobs** (Died on August 14, 1864), A *U.S.C.T. Soldier* mortally wounded in the *Battle of the Crater*.

Shot through the hip at the Battle of the Crater, he wrote home from Alexandria a month later: *"I never got over the hurt i received at the Charge at petersburgh but i am as Well as far as health is concerned as i ever was."*

While the war continued, African American troops, then known as United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T), died in either the Grace Church Branch Hospital located in the 200 block of South Patrick Street or the L'Ouverture Hospital in the 1300 block of Duke Street, were buried in the Contraband and Freedmens Cemetery. This upset surviving U.S.C.T. soldiers, who demanded that blacks be honored by being buried in the Soldiers' Cemetery in the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex.

On December 27, 1864, 443 soldiers signed a petition objecting to being called "Contrabands." They requested "...the same privileges and rights of burial in every way with our fellow soldiers who differ only in color..." and that black soldiers who had died in Alexandria that were buried in the [Contraband and Freedmens Cemetery](#) be removed and be reburied next to their white brothers-in-arms in the Soldier's Cemetery on Wilkes Street. The petition was addressed to Major Edwin Bentley, Surgeon in Charge of the military hospitals in Alexandria. Major Bentley lived in the [Lee-Fendall House](#), which was, at that time, a branch of the Grosvenor Branch Hospital.



Post-war picture of Edward Bentley (July 3, 1824 – February 5, 1817). In September 1862, Bentley was placed in charge of the Third Division U.S. Army General Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia, and, in 1864, all the area hospitals, including L'Ouverture Hospital. This hospital was designated for treating African American and Native American soldiers. He later helped found the Medical Department of Arkansas Industrial University, which opened on October 7, 1879. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery—  
Photo from the UAMS Library Historical Research Center.

After receiving the petition, the United States Government agreed and ordered that 118 U.S. Colored Troops previously buried in the Contraband and Freedmans Cemetery be disinterred and reburied in the Soldier's Cemetery along with U. S. Colored Troops who died afterward. Gladwin refused the order and was dismissed in mid-January 1865.

Chaplin James English Ferree, originally a Captain with the 9th Illinois Infantry, then later assigned as a Hospital Chaplin in Washington, was promoted to Acting Superintendent of Contrabands, L'Ouverture Hospital, and was assigned Gladwin's responsibilities after the latter was dismissed. Ferree was promoted to the Superintendent of the Virginia Freedman Bureau in July 1865. In January 1865, the government started burying deceased members of the U. S. Colored Troop in the Soldiers' Cemetery. The government also disinterred those previously buried in the Contraband Cemetery and reburied them in the Soldier's Cemetery.

Private Jacobs never recovered and died in the L'Ouverture Hospital on August 14, 1864, at 22, and was buried in the Contrabands cemetery. On January 20, 1865, he was disinterred and reburied in the Soldier's Cemetery in **B:3348**.

Later, twenty-three signers of the petition died and were buried in the Soldier's Cemetery too.

### The Presbyterian Cemetery

1. **George David Appich** (December 28, 1833 – November 17, 1855) was one of seven men killed the night of November 17, 1855, as a member of the **Star Fire Company** fighting a fire at the Dowell China Shop in the 100 Blk of King Street (building no longer standing). It is said that over 5000 people attended his burial. The name is on the Fire Fighters Obelisk at the entrance of Ivy Hill Cemetery on King Street. They are remembered each fall during services and for other firefighters who died in the line of duty, including those on 9/11. (43:99)
2. **Lt. John Fowle** (November 3, 1789 – April 25, 1838) was Killed in the explosion of the steamship Moselle on the Ohio River on April 25, 1838. Former Commandant of West Point 1833 – 1837. The explosion and subsequent deaths shocked the country leading to federal regulations on steam boilers, which are followed to this day. (43:107)
3. **Anthony Charles Cazenove** (April 6, 1775 – October 16, 1852) was a French Huguenot who fled to Geneva, Switzerland, then to the United States, where he settled in Alexandria in 1797 and became a leading citizen. They caught yellow fever during the 1803 epidemic but survived. Spoke only French. Escorted Marque de Lafayette to Washington's grave on October 17, 1824, and hosted him at home. One of the last Alexandrians to wear a waistcoat and breeches along with a cock hat. (43:107 Obelisk)
4. **Harriet E. Stuart** (1823 – December 23, 1896) and **Louis Albert Cazenove. Sr.** (November 29, 1807 – March 6, 1852) Louis is the son of Anthony Charles Cazenove. He married **Harriet E. Tuberville Stuart**, the great-granddaughter of **Richard Henry Lee**, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, in 1850. He buys what is now called the **Lee-Fendall House** in Alexandria as a wedding present, adding the Greek Revival and Italianate emblems seen today. Copies of their wedding portraits are hanging in the parlor of the house. He died in 1852, just two years after the wedding (43:104, box tomb). She dies Dec 13, 1896 (B:109)



Figure 3: Harriet and Louis Cazenove

5. **Thomas Fleming** (January 25, 1851 – January 28, 1922), **John Patton Fleming** (April 14, 1898 – January 28, 1922), and **Mary Lee Fleming** (April 7, 1892 – January 28, 1922). All three were killed in the Knickerbocker Theatre Disaster on January 28, 1922, in Washington, DC. They braved a blizzard that Saturday night to attend a showing of the silent film "Get Rich Quick Wallingford" at the Knickerbocker Theatre. The theatre roof collapsed, killing 98 people and injuring 133 others. The Flemings were descendants of Dr. Robert Fleming Fleming (the use of the double Fleming is common in the family), who bought the **Lee-Fendall House** in 1870. According to the family, the Flemings are also related to Richard Bland Lee and Thomas Jefferson. (B:198)
  
6. **Robert Allison, Jr.** (1787 – September 5, 1814) A member of the **Meeting House** who was killed on September 5, 1814, during the Battle of the White House, along with fellow member **Samuel Bowman** - grave since lost - while a member of 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the District of Columbia Militia, during an engagement with seven British ships that captured and sacked Alexandria between August 29 and Sept 1, 1814. The 5-day river battle between September 1 and 5, 1814, is considered the prelude to the September 12 – 14, 1814 Battle of Baltimore. Allison was also the great-grandson of William Ramsay, founder of Alexandria (42:74)
  
7. **Dennis Ramsay** (1756 – September 1, 1810) Son of William Ramsay, one of the founders of Alexandria and first Mayor. Born and raised in the Ramsay House, Alexandria's official visitors center located at King and N. Fairfax. A Colonel during the American Revolutionary War and a member of the Virginia Line. Mayor of Alexandria, like his father and highly active in the town as a council member and alderman, among other duties. He was a merchant and tavern keeper and mayor, who in that role, gave the town's farewell speech, which was written by Light Horse Harry Lee, of which a copy is in the Lee-Fendall House at Wise's Tavern when longtime friends and neighbors said goodbye to George Washington when he left Alexandria before being sworn in as the First President of the United States. He was also one of the "Midnight Justices" appointed by President John Adams, whom President Jefferson refused to seat.

He also was an honorary Pall Bearer at Washington's funeral (42:72).



8. **Robert Young** (December 27 – October 27, 1824), Bank President, merchant, Consul to the Port of Havana (under Jefferson), a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Commanded the Cavalry at Washington’s funeral. Commanded Alexandria Militia at the Battle of the White House. Built 1315 Duke Street, which, after his death, became the Alexandria headquarters of the notorious slavers Isaac Franklin and John Armfield. His daughter marries **Phillip Richard Fendall II**. (42:53, obelisk)
9. **Phillip Richard Fendall II** (December 18, 1794 – February 16, 1868) was **Born and raised in the Lee-Fendall House**, built by his father, Philip Richard Fendall, in 1785. His father was a delegate to the Maryland Convention of 1775 and was close friends with George Washington. In tribute to his father’s friendship with Washington, Philip Fendall II was a significant supporter of the building of the Washington Monument. His name is on a bronze plaque at the base of the Washington Monument. He collaborated with his uncle, Richard Bland Lee, who oversaw rebuilding the new US Capitol, which was burned in the War of 1812.

Friend of and clerk for Henry Clay, Secretary of State under President John Quincy Adams. President of the Jamestown Society. Officer of the American Colonization Society, which advocated setting up a colony (Liberia) outside of America for formerly enslaved people to “enjoy” their freedom on their land. District Attorney for the District of Columbia. During the Civil War, he attempted to pay federal authorities the \$97.02 tax due on Arlington House and plantation for his cousin Mary Lee, which was refused, leading to the confiscation and use as a federal cemetery after 1864. He married Robert Young’s daughter Elizabeth Mary Young (October 7, 1804 – October 7, 1859) on March 31, 1827. The celebrated English novelist **Charles Dickens** said that Elizabeth Fendall was “the most interesting woman he met in the United States” (42:53, obelisk).

**Phillip Richard Fendall III** (1832-1879) Attended the United States Naval Academy and was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant on October 17, 1857. He sided with the North during the American Civil War. (42:53) His brother, James Robert Young Fendall, was a Confederate States Marine Corps lieutenant.



Figure 4: Philip Richard Fendall II and Phillip Richard Fendall III

- 10. John Thomas Newton** (May 20, 1794 – July 28, 1857) Served in the US Navy for 48 years beginning in 1809. He was a Lt. on the *USS Hornet*, which sank the *HMS Peacock* off the coast of South America during the War of 1812 and was awarded a Silver Medal by the US Congress (a Gold Medal was given to the ship's commander, Captain James Lawrence). Alexandria's citizens also gave him a sword for gallantry in the War of 1812. Commander of the *USS Missouri*, a steam frigate sidewheeler, on its historic crossing of the Atlantic Ocean to Gibraltar, which accidentally burns to the waterline on August 26, 1843. Newton was court-martialed and cashiered from the Navy for this, thus establishing the US Navy tradition that the captain is responsible for everything that happens on a ship. He later returns to the Navy, obtains the rank of Commodore, and dies while on active duty in Washington. His sister marries the Wise family. (42:45, Obelisk)
- 11. Francis Lee Smith** (November 25, 1808 – May 10, 1877) The Lee family lawyer lived in Alexandria's largest home at 510 Wolfe Street, which still stands, but fled to Richmond when the town was occupied on May 24, 1861. Because he does not pay taxes to the authorities in person, the land he owns across the street from St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, now 1001 S. Washington Street, is confiscated in 1864 to be used as a cemetery for African Americans. From 1864 – 1869 Contrabands, Freedmen and United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T) were buried in the cemetery. In 1865, after a petition was submitted to the US Government by surviving African American Soldiers in Alexandria, 249 U.S.C.T. Soldiers were disinterred and reburied in Alexandria's Soldiers Cemetery, which shares a common boundary with The Presbyterian Cemetery. That cemetery, now called The Alexandria National Cemetery, is the second oldest National Cemetery and predates Arlington. After the Civil War, Smith, a cousin of the Lees, advised them to forget about trying to get back to Arlington since he, too, failed at reclaiming his land where the Contraband Cemetery stood. However, Francis Lee Smith, Jr. (October 1845 – August 25, 1916) believes his father is wrong. He sued the US Government for illegally confiscating the Lee land and won because **Phillip Fendall Lee** tried to pay the tax on Arlington

House. The US Government eventually bought Arlington and the land for \$125,000 in the 1880s. (42:44)

- 12. Emanuel Ethelbert Downham (E.E.)** (March 23, 1839 – September 17, 1921) was Born in New Jersey. They arrived in Alexandria in 1862, selling whiskey to Union Troops. In 1865, he married **Sarah Miranda Price** (April 2, 1845 – November 10, 1937), the daughter of Alexandria merchant/shoemaker **George E. Price** (September 3, 1806 – July 17, 1860) and **Mary A. Price** (January 14, 1814 – April 30, 1890) both in 42:18. He ran a wholesale and retail liquor store in the lower end of King Street. He served twice on the city council before being elected to five consecutive two-year terms on the Board of Aldermen. After the death of John Smoot, the mayor of Alexandria, by heart attack on Christmas Eve 1887, he was selected as the interim mayor. He was elected outright in 1890 and served four years before stepping down. His son, Robert Downham, bought the **Lee-Fendall House** in 1903 from Mary and Robert Fleming. That same year, Downham became the president of the Friendship Fire Company. He was also a Shriner and Knights Templar and raised funds for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. He died in 1921. (25:22)



**ALEXANDRIA, VA.**  
E. E. DOWNHAM. H. GREEN.  
**E. E. DOWNHAM & CO.,**  
WHOLESALE  
**LIQUOR DEALERS,**  
No. 13 KING STREET,  
**ALEXANDRIA, VA.**

Figure 5: E.E. Downham & Co. Advertisement

- 13. Robert Brockett, Sr.** (1752 – March 28, 1829) A native of Lanarkshire, Scotland, who immigrated to Alexandria in 1784, Brockett was a well-known master builder and brick mason who built numerous brick buildings in town, including Gadsby's Tavern and 301, 303, 305 and 307 N. Washington Street. (41:9, Box tomb)

### St. Paul's Cemetery

- 1. Abraham Charles Myers** (May 14, 1811 – January 29, 1889) Was a military officer in the United States and the Confederacy. A veteran of the Seminole Wars, he was eventually transferred to the Quartermaster Department. His future father-in-law, General David Twiggs, named Fort Myers, Florida, after him as a wedding gift. Like his father-in-law, who surrendered the Federal forces under his command in Texas to the Confederacy at the beginning of the Civil War,

Myers did the same to his base in New Orleans, Louisiana, before immediately resigning from the US Army. He was appointed as the Quarter-Master General of the Confederate Army in 1861. His tenure was marked mainly by incompetence, and he was ousted in early 1864. Bitter at how he was treated, he left the country and took his family to Germany, where they stayed until 1876. His son, Lieutenant General John Twiggs Myers, was in charge of the US Marines during the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900.

2. **Wilmer McLean** (May 3, 1814 – June 5, 1882), Son of the founder of St. Paul's Church Alexandria, where they were sugar merchants, McLean married Virginia Hooe Mason, widow of John Seddon Mason<sup>12</sup>, in 1853. Her dowery includes the 1200-acre farm called Yorkshire near Bull Run in Prince William County. There, Wilmer and Virginia raise their son, three daughters, and Virginia's two daughters with Mason. On July 18, 1861, as both the Confederate and the Union armies were converging for the First Battle of Bull Run (First Battle of Manassas), Union cannons fired at Yorkshire, which was being used as the headquarters of Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard. They scored a direct hit on the summer kitchen.

On July 21, 1861, the opposing armies clashed nearby at Manassas. Afterward, Yorkshire was used as a hospital and a temporary prison for captured Union soldiers and New York Congressman Alfred Ely ii, who was arrested along with scores of other spectators watching the battle. Fed up with the destruction to the farm, McLean, and his family, shortly afterward, left Manassas and moved 120 miles away to the tiny hamlet of Appomattox Courthouse to sit out the war. Four years later, on Sunday, April 9, 1865, after seeing no way out of a hopeless situation, Charles Marshall, an aide to General Robert E. Lee, approached McLean asking for his help in finding a place where the general could surrender his army to Union General Ulysses Grant's army. McLean reluctantly offered his home. In McLean's parlor, Lee surrendered to Grant that afternoon, ending the American Civil War. Union soldiers, looking for souvenirs, immediately stripped the house and took away most everything, including the children's stuffed dolls. Destitute and unable to pay his bills due to worthless Confederate currency, McLean and his family moved to Alexandria after the war. Through his friendship with John Mosby, the famed Confederate raider, McLean got a job working with the federal government. For the rest of his life, McLean would tell everyone he met that *"the American Civil War started in my front yard and ended in my parlor."*



O'Sullivan, Timothy H., 1840-1882, photographer. *Library of Congress*

- 3. The Female Stranger** (February 1793 – October 14, 1816) In September 1816, a couple landed on a ship from the West Indies and checked into Gadsby's Tavern. She wore a black veil and was sick from typhoid or yellow fever. They only spoke French and were accompanied by a valet and a maid. While checking in, they asked that their names remain anonymous. Doctor Samuel Richards attended to the female stranger with the help of **Elizabeth Tretcher Stuart** (1795 – November 26, 1854), buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery (42:60). Mrs. Stuart described her as young and very beautiful. Sadly, she died on October 14<sup>th</sup> in her husband's arms, who purchased a plot in St. Paul's Cemetery and, after her funeral, a monument to be placed over her grave. The husband, the valet, and the maid then disappear, never to be seen again. The payment of \$1500 in English currency for everything, including lodging, food, medical care, the funeral, plot, and monument, was counterfeit. Who were they? Neither the tavern keeper, Dr. Richards nor Elizabeth Stuart knew. Some thought that she was Aaron Burr's daughter, Theodosia, who, while on the way to visit her disgraced father in Europe, was lost in a shipwreck in 1813, only to reappear in Alexandria four years later after escaping from pirates. Others thought she was the illegitimate daughter of Alexander Hamilton and Maria Reynolds (the so-called Reynolds Affair). Others have said that the couple were swindlers, especially after he was reportedly seen in Sing-Sing Prison years later going by the name of "Clermont" – the name of the plot on the cemetery map. Still, others believe that she was from a well-off family who, after running away with her poor lover, ended up in Alexandria while trying to keep a few steps ahead of detectives sent to take her back to the family fold. No matter what the actual story is, several decades later, rumors started popping up in newspapers around the country about the "Mysterious Female Stranger" buried in St. Paul's Cemetery. As the story grew and grew, her grave has become the most visited grave in Alexandria, especially each October on the anniversary of her death. It is said that her ghost haunts room number 8 in Gadsby's Tavern to this day.



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*For additional stories, please follow my blog Gravestone Stories*  
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<sup>1</sup> Not the same Mason family of Stafford and Gunston Hall, Fairfax County.