

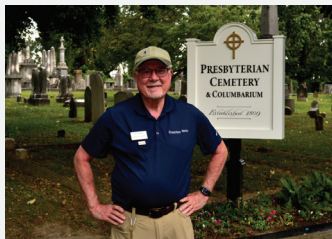
Buried in Plain Sight

- **Washington's lost pallbearer** rediscovered after 200 years
- **Martha Washington's enslaved chambermaid** who witnessed George Washington's final moments
- **The man** who sent Francis Scott Key on the mission that created our National Anthem
- **The teenage sailor** who witnessed Cook's death in the Pacific, then settled in Alexandria
- **The officer** whose mistake may have lost Gettysburg
- **The Soviet spy** whose betrayal cost 33,000 American lives in Korea - buried with a government-paid gravestone

They're all buried here—together.
And you've likely never heard their names.

Thirteen cemeteries. 35,000 lives.
More forgotten American history than anywhere else in the nation.

Walk with the **historian who** brought back over **300 forgotten lives.**



The stones remember. Come hear their stories.

GravestoneStories.com
Alexandria, VA

Know Before You Go

Best times to visit

Daylight hours, year-round

Location

1475-1501 Wilkes St, Alexandria, VA 22314

Photography

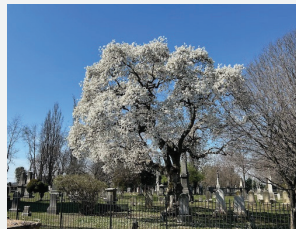
Welcome, but please be respectful

Accessibility

Paved access available in select areas
(Presbyterian & Alexandria National Cemeteries)

Did You Know?

The complex features Alexandria's densest tree canopies, including Virginia Champion trees like the Star Magnolia.



CONTACT + RESOURCES
GravestoneStories.com

Book Your Tour Today

Scan the QR code to reserve tickets instantly on Viator.

Or search for "**Gravestone Stories**" on **Tripadvisor.com**



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America's Most Historic Cemetery Complex



THE WILKES STREET
CEMETERY
COMPLEX
ALEXANDRIA, VA

1475-1501 Wilkes St, Alexandria, VA 22314

Where **George Washington's pallbearers, a Soviet spy, USCT soldiers, and Revolutionary patriots** rest among **13 cemeteries and 35,000 stories**—
America's most historic cemetery complex.

Join a Guided Tour or
Explore at Your Own Pace

GravestoneStories.com

Step Into History at the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex

Spanning **13 historic cemeteries within one walkable complex**, this historic landscape holds **Alexandria's most remarkable stories**. Let us guide you—or discover it on your own.

What You'll Experience:

- **Expert-Led 90-Minute Walking Tours** - Walk with historians and cemetery stewards who bring 300+ lost stories back to life.
- **Self-Guided Exploration** - Download brochures and launch our interactive maps at **GravestoneStories.com** to explore on your own.
- **Special Events & Talks** - Join engaging programs, living history, and educational events year-round.

Plan Your Visit:

- **Starting points** near Wilkes & Hamilton Streets
- **Street parking** available nearby
- **Brochures and interactive maps:** GravestoneStories.com

America's Most Historic Cemetery Complex

Thirteen cemeteries and 35,000 burials in one square mile.

★ 5.0 on TripAdvisor & Viator

"David Heiby revives the spirits interred within this cemetery."

Whose Stories Will You Discover?

Revolutionary Roots

- **Major Samuel Cooper** – Boston Tea Party rebel at age 16
- **Dennis Ramsay** – Established Presidential Protocol, Washington pallbearer

Struggle for Freedom

- **Alexandria's Slave Pens & the Pearl Incident** – Edmonson Sisters' escape, backdrop for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- **James M. Mason** – Author, Fugitive Slave Act; Confederate diplomat, Trent Affair

Civil War Era

- **Sydney S. Lee Sr.** – Confederate commodore, Robert E. Lee's brother
- **Sydney S. Lee Jr.** – *CSS Shenandoah*, last Confederate surrender
- **Wilmer McLean** – War began in his frontyard, ended in his parlor
- **1864 USCT Protest** – Led to first integrated military cemetery in America
- **Alexandria National Cemetery** – 3,900+ Union soldiers including 249 USCT
- **1865 Black Diamond Disaster** – Four men killed pursuing Lincoln's assassins

Legends, & Mysteries

- **The Female Stranger** – Alexandria's greatest mystery
- **John Wesley Hollensbury** – Builder of Alexandria's famous "Spite House"
- **Col. Abraham C. Myers** – Namesake of Fort Myers, Florida
- **Holmes Offley Paulding** – Discovered Custer's body at Little Bighorn
- **Julius Campbell Jr.** – Inspiration for *Remember the Titans*

They're all **buried here—together**. Think you know **American history? Think again.**

Welcome to **America's best-kept secrets.**

Explore 300+ burial profiles and 5 interactive maps at GravestoneStories.com

Origins of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex

A Cemetery Cluster Born from Crisis

In **1803**, a deadly **Yellow Fever epidemic** swept through Alexandria—then part of the newly formed District of Columbia—killing almost **200 residents**. Fearing that groundwater contamination from burial sites was fueling the epidemic's spread, city leaders **prohibited new burials** on any land not designated before **March 27, 1804**.

Churches Look Beyond the City

With burials banned inside town limits, Alexandria's churches secured cemetery land just beyond the boundary in **Fairfax County—on an 82-acre tract known as Spring Garden Farm**. These new sites joined the earlier **Penny Hill Cemetery (1796)** and soon grew into a **complex of sacred grounds**.

America's Most Historic Cemetery Complex

Today, the **Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex** spans **13 cemeteries**—Christian, Jewish, fraternal, and military. Among them is **Alexandria National Cemetery**, established in **1862** as the **first created by act of Congress during the Civil War**. Together these grounds hold more than **35,000 stories**. Once on the edge of town, the complex was annexed into Alexandria in 1915 and remains a **living outdoor museum of American history**.