

A City of Founders

When the Revolution ended, its survivors came home — and hundreds came home to Alexandria. The city that was George Washington's hometown became the resting place for an extraordinary concentration of the men and women who helped build the American republic.

162

DOCUMENTED
PATRIOTS

13

HISTORIC BURIAL
GROUNDS

46

WILKES ST.
COMPLEX

These 162 patriots span every role in the founding: Continental Army officers who fought at Valley Forge and Yorktown, merchant patriots who funded the cause, physicians who saved its soldiers, and tradesmen who served in local militias.

Many served directly with Washington — his physicians, pallbearers, business partners, and neighbors. To walk among their graves is to understand Washington not as a monument, but as a man.

CEMETERIES ON THIS TOUR

- ✦ Presbyterian Cemetery — 46 patriots
- ✦ Christ Church Cemetery (Wilkes St.)
- ✦ Trinity Methodist Cemetery
- ✦ Methodist Protestant Cemetery
- ✦ St. Paul's Cemetery
- ✦ Penny Hill Cemetery

Special tours of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House sanctuary and 18th-century burial grounds also available — one mile east in Old Town.

"More forgotten American history than anywhere else — finally told in the voices of those who lived it."

GRAVESTONE STORIES · GRAVESTONESTORIES.COM

Washington's Circle

SELECTED FIGURES FROM THE REGISTRY

WASHINGTON'S INNER CIRCLE

- **Col. George Gilpin** — Honorary pallbearer; grave lost 200 years, found by GPR in 2024
- **Col. Dennis Ramsay** — First to address Washington as "Mr. President"
- **Dr. James Craik** — Washington's personal physician; at his bedside when he died
- **Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick** — Read the burial service at Washington's funeral at Mount Vernon
- **Cavan Boa** — Washington's personal tailor; first burial at St. Mary's, 1798

FOUNDERS OF ALEXANDRIA

- **William Ramsay** — Co-founder and first Lord Mayor of Alexandria, 1749
- **John Carlyle** — Co-founder; his house was Braddock's 1755 headquarters
- **Robert Adam** — Signer of the Fairfax Resolves; Washington's merchant partner

BOSTON TEA PARTY PARTICIPANTS

- **Thomas Porter** — Participated at age 17; later a founding member of the Bank of Alexandria
- **Major Samuel Cooper** — Wrote one of four surviving first-person accounts of the event

WOMEN PATRIOTS

- **Ann Ball McCarty Ramsay** — Elected Treasurer of Alexandria; raised \$75,000+ for Washington's cause

FORGOTTEN PATRIOTS

- **John Pipsico** — Freeman of color; fought at Guilford Courthouse and Eutaw Springs
- **Joseph Harris** — Enslaved manservant of Dr. Craik; sued for and won his freedom
- **Unknown Kentucky Soldier** — Buried 1821; name, rank, and unit lost to history

This registry represents more than a decade of original research — the most comprehensive accounting of Revolutionary War burials in Alexandria ever assembled.

A GRAVESTONE STORIES WALKING TOUR

Among the Founders

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS
BURIED IN ALEXANDRIA

Walk among Washington's neighbors, physicians, pallbearers, and the men and women who built a nation — and never left.

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AT WILKES ST.
COMPLEX

"David Heiby effectively revives the spirits interred within this cemetery, ensuring that they reside in perfect harmony in death, a stark contrast to the discord they experienced during life."

WALTER D. · VIATOR, AUGUST 2025

Format Expert-led walking tour

Duration 90 minutes

Meet Wilkes St & Hamilton Ave, Alexandria, VA 22314

Group size Public & private groups available

Themes Military · Civic · Women · The Forgotten



Rated 5.0 · TripAdvisor, Viator & Google
#1 Cultural Experience in Alexandria



ABOUT

Gravestone Stories

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Gravestone Stories is a public history project dedicated to researching, preserving, and sharing the stories of those buried within Alexandria's historic cemeteries — particularly those forgotten or overlooked by mainstream history.

WHAT WE OFFER

- ◆ 400+ Burial Biographies — original primary source research
- ◆ 5 Interactive Maps — explore Alexandria's cemeteries digitally
- ◆ 80+ Research Articles — in-depth historical essays and discoveries
- ◆ Expert-Led Walking Tours — rated 5.0 on TripAdvisor & Viator
- ◆ Living History Programs — first-person portrayals & special events

RECOGNITION

TripAdvisor #1 Cultural Experience in Alexandria
Cited by Library of Virginia · Wikipedia · City of Alexandria
Featured in AARP · Emerging Civil War · Alexandria Times · The Zebra
Rated 5.0 — TripAdvisor, Viator & Google · Recommended 100%

OUR TOURS

- ◆ **Among the Founders** — Revolutionary War patriots
- ◆ **From Enslavement to Justice** — African American history
- ◆ **Wilkes Street Walking Tour** — 35,000 stories, one landscape
- ◆ **Old Presbyterian Meeting House** — Sanctuary & 18th-century burial grounds (special tours)

Meet · Wilkes St & Hamilton Ave, Alexandria, VA 22314

Hours · Open daily, dawn to dusk

gravestonestories.com

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What You'll Experience

A 90-MINUTE WALKING TOUR

This is not a ghost tour — it is a rigorous, research-driven walking experience through the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex. Among the Founders brings the stories of Washington's circle to life at the very graves where history rests.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE

<i>Format</i>	Expert-led narrative at each gravesite
<i>Duration</i>	Approximately 90 minutes
<i>Meet</i>	Wilkes St & Hamilton Ave, Alexandria, VA 22314
<i>Group Size</i>	Public tours · Private groups by arrangement
<i>Themes</i>	Military · Civic · Women · Forgotten Patriots
<i>Registry</i>	162 documented patriots · 13 burial sites

IDEAL FOR

- DAR, SAR, and hereditary patriotic organizations
- Heritage travelers and America 250 programming
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Faith communities and civic organizations
- Conference attendees and group sales programs
- Anyone curious about the world Washington actually lived in

BOOK YOUR TOUR

Public and private tours available year-round. Custom programming on request.

gravestonestories.com

YOUR GUIDE

David Heiby

PUBLIC HISTORIAN · FOUNDER, GRAVESTONE STORIES

David Heiby is not a scripted guide — he is the researcher who built the registry. As Superintendent of the Presbyterian Cemetery & Columbarium for more than a decade and founder of Gravestone Stories, he has documented more than 35,000 burials and produced the most comprehensive accounting of Revolutionary War burials in Alexandria ever assembled.

The 162-patriot registry was published in March 2026 and became the third most-viewed page on gravestonestories.com within its first week — the research foundation for Alexandria's America 250 commemoration.

In 2024, David led the team that rediscovered the lost grave of Colonel George Gilpin — one of Washington's six honorary pallbearers — using ground-penetrating radar, generating regional headlines.

ROLES & RECOGNITION

- ◆ Superintendent, Presbyterian Cemetery & Columbarium
- ◆ Treasurer, Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation
- ◆ Treasurer, Alexandria Historical Society
- ◆ Alexandria America 250 Committee Member
- ◆ Cited: Library of Virginia · Wikipedia · City of Alexandria
- ◆ Featured: AARP · Emerging Civil War · Alexandria Times
- ◆ Rated 5.0 — TripAdvisor, Viator & Google

SCHEDULE A PRIVATE GROUP TOUR

For DAR & SAR chapters, heritage organizations, educational groups, and conference programs. Customized for your audience and schedule.

gravestonestories.com/contact-our-team