

WHY THESE CEMETERIES ARE HERE

In 1803, a Yellow Fever epidemic killed nearly 200 Alexandria residents. Fearing that crowded in-town burial grounds were spreading disease, city officials banned new burials on any land not designated before March 27, 1804.

Local churches and burial associations responded by establishing cemeteries just outside city limits on a 52-acre tract known as Spring Garden Farm. Over time, these grounds expanded side by side — forming what is now the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex. Incorporated into Alexandria during the 1915 annexation, thirteen adjoining cemeteries now preserve more than two centuries of American history.

THE THIRTEEN CEMETERIES

Established 1796–1933

These adjoining burial grounds reflect Alexandria's diverse religious, civic, and cultural communities. Numbers correspond to cemetery locations on the map.

1. Douglass Memorial Cemetery (1895) — 1421 Wilkes St
2. Christ Church Cemetery (1808) — 1501 Wilkes St
3. Trinity Cemetery (1809) — 1503 Wilkes St
4. Black Baptist Cemetery (1885) — 500 Holland Ln
5. Alexandria National Cemetery (1862) — 1450 Wilkes St
6. Methodist Protestant Cemetery (1833) — 1500 Wilkes St
7. Presbyterian Cemetery (1809) — 600 Hamilton Ln. Gate access code required. Email: cemetery@opmh.org
8. Union Cemetery (1860) — 1400 Wilkes St
9. Agudas Achim Cemetery (1933) — 700 S. Payne St
10. Penny Hill Cemetery (1796) — S. Payne St & Jefferson St
11. Home of Peace Cemetery (1860) — 600 block S. Payne St
12. St. Paul's Cemetery (1809) — 601 Hamilton Ln
13. Bethel Cemetery (1885) — 1300 Wilkes St & 13a. Little Bethel (date unknown) — located within former Union Cemetery grounds

VISITOR GUIDELINES

- Open daily from dawn to dusk
- Wear sturdy shoes — terrain is uneven in areas
- Stay on paths; avoid walking on graves
- Do not touch, lean on, or rub historic stones
- Respect active funeral services
- Photography is welcome — please be considerate

ABOUT GRAVESTONE STORIES

Gravestone Stories is dedicated to researching, preserving, and sharing the lives buried within Alexandria's historic cemeteries. Explore 300+ burial biographies, five interactive maps, and 80+ research blogs at:

gravestonestories.com

WANT A GUIDED TOUR? Expert-led walking tours available. Book online or scan the QR code below.



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The Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex

A Self-Guided Walking Map

1475–1501 Wilkes Street
Alexandria, Virginia

35,000+ Stories

13 Historic Cemeteries

One Walkable Landscape

Together, they form the most historic cluster of cemeteries in the United States.

Explore these historic grounds — where Revolutionary patriots, Civil War soldiers, civic leaders, and community builders rest within a single square mile.

Use this map to explore at your own pace.

Many of the stories on this map are explored in greater depth during expert-led Gravestone Stories tours.

This map courtesy of
Gravestone Stories
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NOTABLE BURIALS

Letters correspond to markers on the map.

Alexandria National Cemetery

A — U.S. Colored Troops. 249 U.S.C.T. soldiers are buried here, including six Buffalo Soldiers who later served in the Indian Wars.

B — *Black Diamond* Victims. Four civilians killed while pursuing John Wilkes Booth following Lincoln's assassination — among the least-known casualties of that tragedy.

Christ Church Episcopal Cemetery

C — George Gilpin. Revolutionary officer, Washington's close friend, and pallbearer — his grave was lost for generations and rediscovered using ground-penetrating radar.

D — Major Samuel Cooper & General Samuel Cooper. Major Samuel Cooper participated in the Boston Tea Party at age 16. His son became General Samuel Cooper, the highest-ranking officer in the Confederate Army.

E — James Mason. U.S. Senator and author of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act. Mason later served as a Confederate envoy whose forcible removal from the British mail ship *RMS Trent* nearly drew Britain into the Civil War against the United States.

Methodist Protestant Cemetery

F — Joseph Bruin. One of Alexandria's most active slave traders, Bruin's slave pen inspired *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and his role in the 1848 *Pearl* Incident sent dozens of freedom seekers back into bondage.

Presbyterian Cemetery

G — Dennis Ramsay. Revolutionary War veteran and pallbearer at George Washington's funeral.

St. Paul's Cemetery

H — The Female Stranger. Alexandria's most visited grave — she arrived at Gadsby's Tavern in 1816, died mysteriously, and was buried without her name ever being revealed.

I — Wilmer McLean. To escape the Civil War, McLean moved from Manassas to Appomattox — only to have Lee surrender to Grant in his front parlor on April 9, 1865.

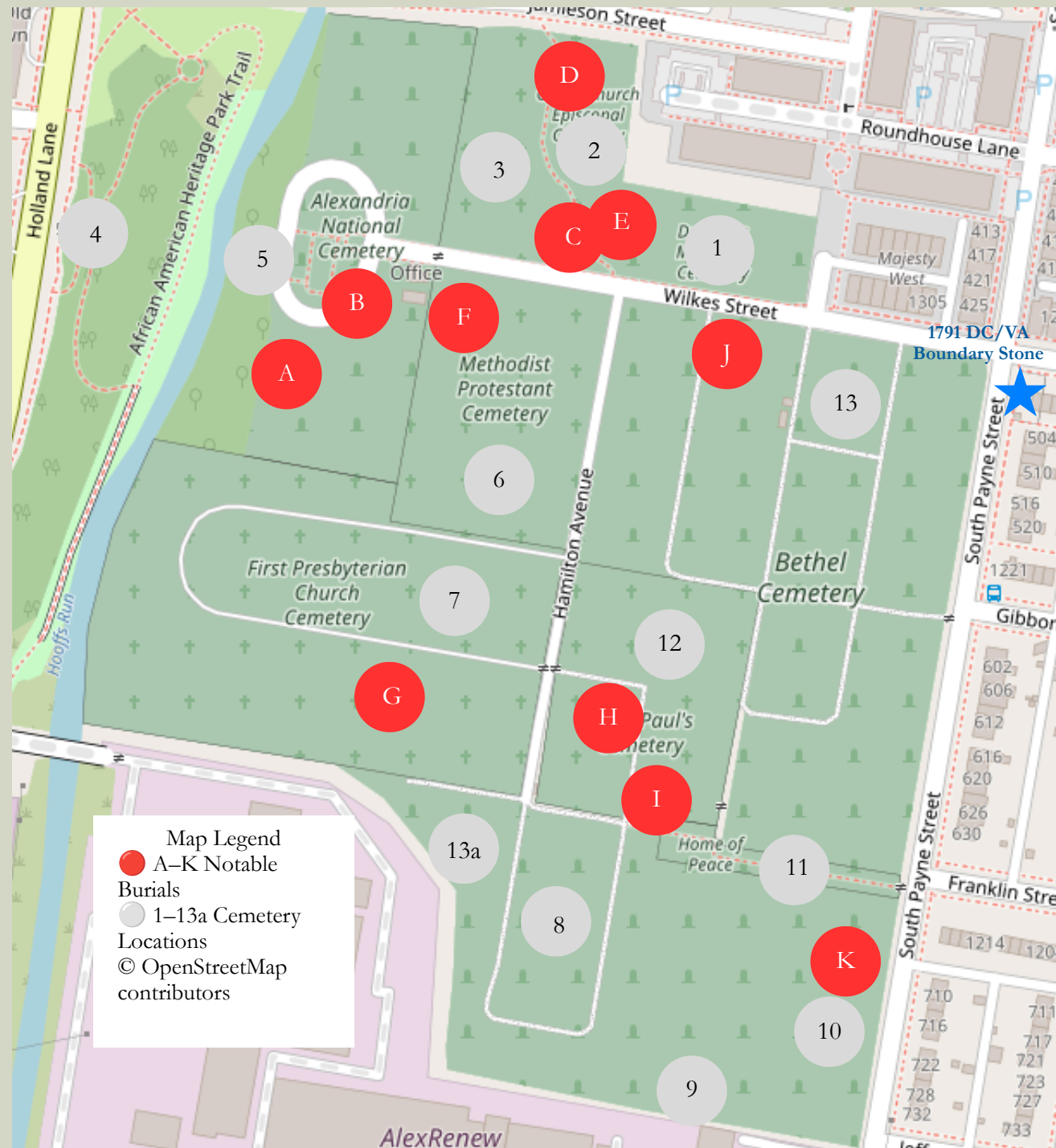
Bethel Cemetery

J — Julius Campbell. Co-captain of the 1971 T.C. Williams state championship football team — the true story behind *Remember the Titans*.

Penny Hill Cemetery

K — Joseph H. McCoy. Lynched on April 23, 1897, following false accusations — one of Alexandria's most painful and least-told stories. His exact location within Penny Hill Cemetery is unknown.

Map of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex



Map Legend
● A–K Notable Burials
● 1–13a Cemetery Locations
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