

WELCOME TO THE TOUR

Six Eras, One Address

The house at **614 Oronoco Street** was built in 1785 by Philip Richard Fendall — banker, lawyer, and close friend of George Washington — on land bought from his cousin Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee. Over nearly two centuries, it passed through six remarkable eras.

37

LEE FAMILY MEMBERS HERE

1,700

SOLDIERS TREATED IN THE HOUSE

17+

WASHINGTON VISITS

This walking tour traces those lives across four cemeteries of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex — from the Lees of Christ Church Cemetery, to the Civil War soldiers of the Alexandria National Cemetery, to the Fendalls, Cazenoves, Flemings, and Downhams of the Presbyterian Cemetery, to the time-permitting stops in St. Paul's.

WHY THIS TOUR

- ♦ **One address, woven through American history** — the founding, the Civil War, and the long road to justice.
- ♦ **Led by the researcher himself** — not a scripted guide, but the historian who documented these lives.
- ♦ **Connections you won't find elsewhere** — the people buried here were neighbors, rivals, and kin.

SIX ERAS, ONE HOUSE

1785–1827	The Fendalls — built the house; hosted Washington
1828–1850	The Edmund J. Lee Era — Mayor of Alexandria
1850–1870	The Cazenoves — added its Greek Revival style
1870–1903	The Flemings — Mary E. Lee bought it after the war
1903–1937	The Downhams — modernized the house
1937–1969	John L. Lewis — United Mine Workers president, its last resident

Lewis is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois — Abraham Lincoln's resting place — not within this complex.

GRAVESTONE STORIES · ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Plan Your Visit

THE ROUTE

- Christ Church Episcopal Cemetery
- Alexandria National Cemetery
- Presbyterian Cemetery
- St. Paul's Cemetery (if time allows)*

TOUR DETAILS

- ♦ **Meet:** Wilkes St. & Hamilton Ave. — 1475–1501 Wilkes Street — in the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex
- ♦ **Duration:** About 90 minutes · 1–1.5 miles, mostly flat
- ♦ **Terrain:** Uneven in areas — sturdy shoes advised
- ♦ **Parking:** Free — enter at 1300 Wilkes Street
- ♦ **Tickets:** Through the Lee-Fendall House Museum (Eventbrite)
- ♦ **Bring:** Water, camera, comfortable shoes

★★★★★

"Grave Dave, as he is known, was an amazing host and guide for this tour. He has clearly done extensive research... and he has made interesting connections among the people buried in this area."

— CAROLINE B. · VIATOR, MAY 2026

YOUR GUIDE

David Heiby is a public historian, Superintendent of the Presbyterian Cemetery, Treasurer of the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation, and founder of Gravestone Stories. He portrays E.E. Downham in living history programs.

400+

BURIAL BIOGRAPHIES

5.0

TRIPADVISOR & VIATOR

#1

CULTURAL EXP. ALEXANDRIA

Presented in partnership with the

Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden

leefendallhouse.org
gravestonestories.com

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A GRAVESTONE STORIES WALKING TOUR

WILKES STREET CEMETERY COMPLEX

The Cemetery Stories

BEHIND THE

Lee-Fendall House

The house still stands on Oronoco Street — but many of its people rest in the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex. Walk in the footsteps of the founders, soldiers, and families whose stories trace back to one remarkable address.



The Cazenove plot - Presbyterian Cemetery - Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex

14

TOUR STOPS

4

HISTORIC CEMETERIES

240+

YEARS OF HISTORY

David Heiby

PUBLIC HISTORIAN · SUPERINTENDENT, PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY
TREASURER · VIRGINIA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Christ Church Episcopal Cemetery

1501 Wilkes Street

1 William Holmes Fowle

In 1827, young Fowle challenged Louis Cazenove — who would later own the Lee-Fendall House — to a duel across the Potomac on Maryland soil. Fowle missed; Cazenove's shot left a permanent scar. Both survived and reconciled. Fowle became director of the O&A Railroad and president of the Bank of the Old Dominion.

2 The Edmund Jennings Lee Family

Lot 4 · Four family members



Edmund Jennings Lee I · Courtesy of the Lee-Fendall House

Edmund Lee I — brother of Light-Horse Harry Lee — was Mayor of Alexandria, 1815–1818. His wife **Sarah Caldwell Lee** was a daughter of Richard Henry Lee, who introduced the motion for Independence. The plot also holds **Francis Lightfoot Lee II** and **Sally Lee Bland** — all tied to 614 Oronoco. Their daughter Ann Harriotte Lee Lloyd and her husband John rest elsewhere in this cemetery.

3 Sydney Smith Lee

Lot 20:5 · Obelisk



Cmdr. Sydney Smith Lee (left) with Capt. Du Pont & Lt. Porter, 1860 · Mathew Brady · White House Historical Association

Robert E. Lee's older brother and closest friend. He escorted Japan's first delegation to the U.S. in 1860, then commanded Gosport Navy Yard — overseeing the conversion of the USS Merrimack into the CSS Virginia. Robert arrived two days too late for his 1869 funeral. His son **Sydney Smith Lee Jr.**, also in this plot, served aboard the CSS Shenandoah — whose surrender at Liverpool on Nov. 6, 1865 was the last formal surrender of Confederate forces.

Alexandria National Cemetery

1450 Wilkes Street · Founded July 1862

4 A Hospital Town

The Lee-Fendall House operated as the Grosvenor Branch military hospital, where roughly **1,700 soldiers were treated** and **104 died**. The Orange & Alexandria Railroad carried the wounded to Alexandria; its tracks became Jamison Avenue, along this cemetery's northern boundary.

5 Charles W. Needham

Grave 875

1st Massachusetts Cavalry. Mortally wounded at the Battle of Aldie, June 17, 1863 — fighting Fitzhugh Lee's brigade, son of Sydney Smith Lee. Died at the Lee-Fendall House. His name is on the first Union regimental monument on a Southern battlefield.

6–7 Williams & Swick

Sec. A, Site 1037 · Grave A:816-60

Solomon Williams (140th PA) died of infection after amputation, age 20. **Martin Swick** (126th OH) survived Belle Isle Prison and the Wilderness before a wound at Spotsylvania ended his life here. His descendant still has the Bible he carried.

8 USCT — The Petition

Murphy: B:3348 · Trout: Sec. B, Site 3478

Shadrack Murphy died Christmas Eve 1864, buried in the segregated Contraband Cemetery. Three days later, **443 U.S. Colored Troops** petitioned for equal burial rights — addressed to Dr. Edwin Bentley at the Lee-Fendall House. **Tobias Trout**, arrested for refusing to bury Murphy in the Freedmen's Cemetery, died April 15, 1865 — the same day as Lincoln. Today **249 USCT** rest here.

"...the same privileges and rights of burial in every way with our fellow soldiers who differ only in color..."

— USCT PETITION · DECEMBER 27, 1864

Dr. Edwin Bentley

Chief Surgeon · Lived at the Lee-Fendall House · Buried Arlington



Chief Surgeon of the hospital, Bentley lived in the Lee-Fendall House — site of the first recorded successful U.S. Army blood transfusion. In May 1864 his objection kept this cemetery active when officials favored Arlington. He later pioneered treatment for what we now call PTSD. *Courtesy of the Lee-Fendall House*

Presbyterian Cemetery

600 Hamilton Lane

9 The Cazenove Family

Lots 43:104, 43:107 & B:109



two years later. *Wedding portraits · Lee-Fendall House parlor*

A.C. Cazenove introduced Lafayette to Alexandria in 1824. **Louis Cazenove** bought the house as a wedding gift for Harriet Stuart, a granddaughter of Richard Henry Lee, adding its Greek Revival elements. He died of scarlet fever

10 The Fendall Family

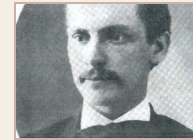
Lot 42:53 · Fendall Sr. story told here



Fendall Sr. built the house in 1785 on land from his cousin Light-Horse Harry Lee. He spent the Revolution in Europe with his cousin Arthur Lee, who helped secure the 1778 French alliance. His unmarked grave lies at nearby Ivy Hill Cemetery, found through research and ground-penetrating radar. Son **Fendall II** was a first cousin of Robert E. Lee. *Fendall II & III · Lee-Fendall House Museum*

11 The Fleming Family

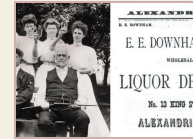
B:198



Thomas Fleming (pictured), his son John, and daughter Mary Lee died together in the Knickerbocker Theatre roof collapse, Jan. 28, 1922 — 98 killed under 28 inches of snow, the rescue led by Major George S. Patton. *Courtesy of the Fleming family*

12 E.E. Downham

Lot 25:22



Arrived 1862 selling whiskey to Union troops; Mayor 1887–1891. Son Robert bought the house in 1903, adding its first bathrooms and an oil furnace — later pulled out by coal man John L. Lewis. *Downham & Co. · Lee-Fendall House Museum*

St. Paul's Cemetery

601 Hamilton Lane

13 Wilmer McLean

Lot 268

The Civil War began in his front yard at Bull Run and ended in his parlor at Appomattox, where Lee surrendered to Grant in 1865.

14 Col. A.C. Myers & Marion

Next to the Fendall family

Fort Myers, Florida is named for him — an 1850 gift from his future father-in-law. Later Confederate Quartermaster General.