

Gravestone Stories

Gravestone Stories is a research-driven public history project and digital museum documenting Alexandria's historic burial grounds — including the more than 35,000 burials of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex — and the extraordinary lives behind the stones.

Built over more than a decade by public historian David Heiby, superintendent of the Presbyterian Cemetery & Columbarium, its research has been cited by Wikipedia, the Library of Virginia's *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, and the National Register nomination for the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex.



Where the stories are told — historian David Heiby on tour

FREE GUIDES & MAPS

Five free walking-tour brochures and a self-guided map of the Wilkes Street Complex — print them or save them to your phone.



gravestonestories.com/free-guides

The guides show you where.

The tours tell you why.

Book a Tour

Scan the code or visit the tour page for dates, tickets, and full details on every walk.



gravestonestories.com/tours

Wilkes Street Complex	Book on Viator
Rebellious Scoundrels	With the Old Presbyterian Meeting House
Lee-Fendall House	Via the museum
From Enslavement to Justice	Private inquiry

Private group tours, expert talks, and living-history programs are available for heritage organizations, museums, libraries, civic groups, and DAR & SAR chapters.

Group tours · gravestonestories.com/private-group-tour-request

Talks & programs · dave@gravestonestories.com · (703) 869-0872

★★★★★ 5.0 · TRIPADVISOR & VIATOR

“Dave’s knowledge of history is surpassed only by his enthusiasm.”

— Tripadvisor traveler

“A master storyteller who brings history to life.”

— Viator traveler

“We hit the jackpot when we booked this tour.”

— Tripadvisor traveler

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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA · VIRGINIA

GRAVESTONE STORIES

DIGITAL MUSEUM & WALKING TOURS

Walking Tours of Alexandria's Historic Cemeteries

*The stones remember.
Come hear their stories.*



FOUR WALKING TOURS INSIDE

Recognized by Visit Alexandria as an Official **AMERICA 250** Historical Resource

5.0 rated on Viator & Tripadvisor

#1 Cultural Experience in Alexandria

Historian-led · Original research

Seasonal public tours · Private groups by request

GRAVESTONESTORIES.COM

ONLY IN ALEXANDRIA · ONLY FROM GRAVESTONE STORIES



Every tour begins where the stories ended —
and brings the people back.

Led by the historian behind the research. No scripts borrowed,
no stories secondhand.

The Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex Tour

A Walk Through 52 Acres of Hallowed Ground

13 CEMETERIES · 35,000 BURIALS · 1 COMPLEX

Thirteen historic cemeteries cluster together in a single walkable complex. Our flagship 90-minute tour crosses centuries of American history — from the city's founding families to the people history nearly forgot.

BURIED IN PLAIN SIGHT

- ◆ **Washington's lost pallbearer** — rediscovered after 200 years
- ◆ **Martha Washington's enslaved chambermaid** — who witnessed George's final moments
- ◆ **The man who sent Francis Scott Key** on the mission that created our National Anthem
- ◆ **The Soviet spy** whose betrayal cost 33,000 American lives — buried with a government-paid gravestone

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

Book on Viator · public dates & tickets at
gravestonestories.com/tours



A Virginia Champion Star Magnolia in bloom over the complex

Alexandria's #1-rated cultural experience · 5.0 on Viator &
Tripadvisor

REVOLUTIONARY WAR WALKING TOUR

Rebellious Scoundrels: The Patriots of Alexandria's Presbyterian Meeting House

"These are a set of rebellious scoundrels..."

— Nicholas Cresswell, Loyalist diarist, 1774

He meant it as an insult. We wear it as a badge. Walk the 18th-century burial ground of today's Old Presbyterian Meeting House and its sanctuary, rebuilt in 1837 after fire claimed the 1775 original. Meet the congregation a Loyalist loved to hate, including Dr. James Craik, Washington's physician and lifelong friend, then pay your respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution, at rest here in Alexandria.

In partnership with the Old Presbyterian Meeting House ·
dates & details at gravestonestories.com/tours



From Enslavement to Justice

How African Americans Forced Change in Alexandria

Our most powerful walk — two years in the making. Across eight historic cemeteries, participants themselves give voice to twenty-three first-person narratives, read aloud at the gravesides of the men and women who fought their way from bondage to freedom and reshaped Alexandria doing it.

Hear their voices. Remember their stories. Offered a few times each year and for private groups.

By private inquiry · gravestonestories.com/tours



Telling the patriots' stories at the Meeting House

Walking tours last one to two hours

The Cemetery Stories of the Lee-Fendall House

From a Storied Home to the Stones That Remember It

One of Alexandria's most storied homes, and the graves of the people who filled it — Lees, Fendalls, and the families whose lives ran through its rooms for nearly two centuries. A partnership tour with the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden.

Tickets via the Lee-Fendall House Museum ·
leefendallhouse.org



Talks, Programs & Living History



Beyond the burial grounds: expert historical talks — from Alexandria's 162 documented Revolutionary War patriots to 52 Acres. 35,000 Lives. — plus living-history portrayals, including lantern tours of the Lee-Fendall House as Mayor E. E. Downham.

Book an appearance · dave@gravestonestories.com ·
(703) 869-0872

EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN

Can't join a tour today? Take the free self-guided walking map of the Wilkes Street Complex — eleven notable graves, keyed A–K.

gravestonestories.com/free-guides

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Comfortable shoes recommended · Photography welcome
Paved access available in select areas
Tours proceed in most weather

gravestonestories.com · Old Town Alexandria, Virginia