

THOMAS H. KEELS

Thomas H. Keels is a writer, lecturer, and commentator specializing in Philadelphia history and architecture. He is the author or co-author of seven books, including *Sesqui! Greed, Graft, and The Forgotten World's Fair of 1926*; *Wicked Philadelphia: Sin in the City of Brotherly Love*; *Philadelphia Graveyards and Cemeteries*; and *Forgotten Philadelphia: Lost Architecture of the Quaker City*. In Autumn 2026, The History Press will publish his eighth book: *Sinners and Scandals of Laurel Hill Cemetery*.

Tom has addressed many of Philadelphia's leading organizations, including the American Institute of Architects, Athenaeum of Philadelphia, Carpenters' Hall, Cosmopolitan Club, Curtis Institute of Music, Franklin Inn Club, Free Library of Philadelphia, Harvard Club of Philadelphia, Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, and Union League of Philadelphia.

Tom has appeared in numerous documentaries, including several episodes of *Philadelphia: The Great Experiment* and *In Pursuit: Philadelphia and the Making of America* (both by History Making Productions); *Philly Firsts* on WLVT (PBS39); and *World's Greatest Cemeteries* with Roberto Mighty. He has appeared on two episodes of *Mysteries at the Museum* on the Travel Channel. Other media appearances include NPR's *All Things Considered*; *Smithsonian Magazine* (online edition); *Counter Culture* with Grover Silcox on WLVT; *Radio Times* on WHY-FM; *Creatively Speaking* on WRTI-FM; *PA Books* on the Pennsylvania Cable Network; *Action News* on WPVI-TV; and *Good Day Philadelphia* on FOX-TV.

Tom's articles have appeared in the *Rittenhouse Sq. Revue*, *Chestnut Hill Local*, *Main Line Times*, *Springfield Sun*, *Philadelphia Style*, *Germantown Crier*, and the *Journal of the Historical Society of Montgomery County*. His articles on Philadelphia history can be viewed online at *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* and *Hidden City Philadelphia*.

A confirmed taphophile, Tom has been a tour guide at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia's premier Victorian necropolis, for thirty years. He has conducted classes on Philadelphia cemetery history for the Bucks County Community College Historic Preservation Program, Cheltenham Township Adult School, and Mount Airy Learning Tree.

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