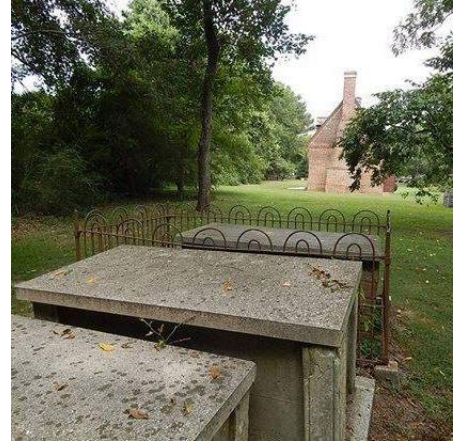


## Lynnhaven House Cemetery Holds Centuries of Secrets

By Miriam Jackson, Operational Assistant, Virginia Beach History Museums

The Lynnhaven House, which is located at 4409 Wishart Road, is an 18<sup>th</sup> century plantation house that displays vernacular architecture specific to the Princess Anne area. Unlike some manor houses, the Lynnhaven House was inhabited by a middle-class family, making it one of few homes in the Hampton Roads area to vary from the gentry architectural style. The House was built by the Thelaball family circa 1725, and remained within the family, eventually being inhabited by their cousins, the Bousch family. Currently, the Virginia Beach History Museums manages the House, as well as other historic sites in Virginia Beach. The Francis Land House, Thoroughgood House and Princess Anne County Training School/Union Kempsville High School Museum are also operated by the Virginia Beach History Museums.



One of the more interesting characteristics of the Lynnhaven House lies not within the home itself, but in the surrounding grounds. In the yard near the House lies a cemetery where four tomb boxes can be seen by guests. The tombs belong to past inhabitants of the site, and some of the epitaphs are still visible. However, archaeological evidence proves that there may be as many as five additional burials near these tomb boxes. Based on the evidence from the Chicora Foundation, the box tombs underwent reconstruction by masons in 1975, and additional excavations on the cemetery area were conducted in 1982. Based on this research by the Chicora Foundation, they determined that "reanalysis reveals that in addition to the four marked burials restored in 1975, there were four additional brick crypts or vaults, plus one burial that may, or may not, have been placed in a brick vault" (Trinkley, Hacker 2013). Today, the additional tombs are not visible. However, there is more than what meets the eye.

Although ghost stories are sparse for this site, it is widely assumed that there have been a few frights over the years. Past Museum Educators reported seeing glowing red eyes from the windows of the House, while guests have stated they have felt chilled while near the House or the surrounding cemetery. However, the most noteworthy spooky story involved an unexplained piece of vandalism. In October 2007, near Halloween, one of the box tomb ledgers, the large stone coverings on the tombs, was removed from its resting place. While it is unclear what caused the heavy stone slab to be moved from the top of the box tomb, we can infer that it was either due to curiosity or quite possibly a haunting sensation! Either way, it's clear that the vandalizers wanted to explore more of the unknown. Next time that you visit the Lynnhaven House Cemetery, be careful where you step, as much of the area surrounding the box tombs is hallowed ground.

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**ABOUT THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH'S HISTORY MUSEUMS:**

The City of Virginia Beach History Museums include the Thoroughgood House, the Francis Land House, the Lynnhaven House, and Princess Anne County Training School/Union Kempsville High School Museum. They are part of the City's Cultural Affairs Department. As part of the municipal government of the City of Virginia Beach, the Cultural Affairs Department engages residents and visitors through meaningful arts, heritage, and cultural experiences to connect and strengthen communities. Visit [www.museumsvb.org](http://www.museumsvb.org) for more information, and follow @VBHistoryMuseums on Facebook and Instagram, and @VBHistMuseums on Twitter, to stay up to date on all the events and news from Virginia Beach History Museums.

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