

A GRAVE INTEREST

Joy Neighbors



As an avowed “Tombstone Tourist,” Joy Neighbors has an avid interest in cemeteries, history and genealogy. She has written the popular cemetery blog, *A Grave Interest* for a decade, and her first book, *The Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide* has been published by Penguin Random House. She enjoys speaks around the country on cemetery research and genealogy.

A former journalist and broadcaster, Joy works as a freelance magazine writer and playwright. She’s just finished a full-length play about Kentucky civil rights activist Alberta Jones, and is seeking production for another play about Kentucky pioneer heroine Jane Todd Crawford- the first woman to undergo abdominal (ovarian) surgery. Both plays came about thanks to tombstones.

Always intrigued by the hint of stories in the cemetery, Joy began researching both women based on their gravestones. From there, it took a few years of research and a lot of writing, but now each woman is eulogized in a full-length play. She is currently working on a TV pilot based on Crawford’s life and times.

Joy has been active in family research for almost two decades. She is currently researching her Mayflower line, which has become a bit daunting thanks to an 10th generation renegade relation who married one woman and then moved away to live with another. (Scandal!) Of course, the second wife is her lineage line but proving it ...? That’s what makes genealogy fun!