

PRESS RELEASE
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Willard House & Clock Museum
The Center of Early American Clockmaking
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Willard House & Clock Museum Guest Lecture Series Just In Time for Halloween

“Vampires In New England? Myths and Realities of the Undead” with Old Sturbridge Village Historian and Curator, Tom Kelleher

North Grafton, MA: The Willard House & Clock Museum Guest Lecture Series unearthed an unexpected and intriguing story that goes back hundreds of years.

Subject matter expert, Tom Kelleher digs into some compelling questions. “Did some rural Yankees 200 years ago believe in vampires? It might not be what you expect!” explains Tom.

Tom raises more questions, like “Why did scores of early New Englanders open the graves of their sweethearts, sons, daughters, husbands, and wives? What were they looking for? What did they do with the dead bodies of their loved ones? What terror drove them to these extremes? And [what] about Count Dracula? This lively talk answers these questions and more.

Mr. Kelleher’s spooktacular lecture will take place on Thursday, October 30th from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at the Willard House & Clock Museum, 11 Willard Street, North Grafton.

Attendees are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes...and the museum will have treats.

The event is expected to fill up quickly so register at
<https://willardhouse.org/events/calendar/nevampires25>

About Tom Kelleher

Tom Kelleher is currently Historian, and Curator of Mechanical Arts at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, where he has worn many hats both literally and figuratively for over 40 years.

A past president of the international Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums, he regularly teaches and demonstrates at museums, parks, and historical societies around the country. Tom holds a Master's in history from the University of Connecticut, and writes often for a variety of magazines and journals, including *Early American Life*.

About Willard House and Clock Museum - Celebrating its 50th Anniversary

Located at 11 Willard Street in North Grafton, MA, Willard House and Clock Museum exhibits more than 90 Willard clocks in the birthplace and original workshop of the Willard clockmakers, along with family portraits, furnishings and other family heirlooms. The work of all three generations of Willard clockmakers, focusing on the famed brothers, Simon Willard and Aaron Willard are displayed. The Museum tour includes the original Willard House built in 1718, the original 1766 clock-making workshop, and three modern galleries.

Willard is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Visit the Willard House and Clock Museum website at www.willardhouse.org and follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

For more information about the museum, please contact Beverly Snow, Program Coordinator, at 508-839-3500.

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