

**Lake Fairfax Unnamed Cemetery #FX242:** The more we learn about this historic cemetery, the more we see what a fascinating piece of history this is for Fairfax County and pre-history for Reston, and the principles it was founded on. This cemetery involves a prominent Fairfax family, the issue of slavery, and how the family matriarch, Mildred Johnson, created a cemetery for those she lived with through treacherous Civil War politics.

- County records make no mention of what the county calls Unnamed Cemetery 242 in 1854 when Mildred Johnson was given a 100-acre stretch of land at the time of her husband Thorton Johnson's death. But when Mildred died, her 11 children sold the land to public auction in 1882 to split the proceeds. Most of the children already owned land adjacent to their parents' Fairfax property, covering much of what is now Reston, Herndon and parts of Vienna. County records note that of Mildred Johnson's 100-acre parcel included a cemetery that would not convey to the buyer Mary Chamblin.
- The Johnson family owned hundreds of acres of farmland in Fairfax in 1860 and were Union loyalists. War reparation records mention one son fighting for the Union and Mildred described sewing sacks for the Union. Mildred was captured by Confederate soldiers and accused of being an abolitionist. She was released after pointing out she owned slaves. (See photo and claim)
- Union soldiers camped on the Johnson family farm on their way to Gettysburg. They tore down fences and the siding of the family's schoolhouse for the wood for fires and took Mildred Johnson's horse. She and several children received war reparations as Union loyalists.
- One Johnson daughter married into the Money family and another into the Dyer family, becoming the wife the mayor of Herndon. Records show the children are not buried in this Unnamed cemetery (#242) but in Georgetown, and Brown's Chapel. The family could afford engraved granite markers.
- The longtime rumor among Hunt Club Cluster residents that this is a former slave cemetery holds up. The Johnson family had one female slave who lived with them for more than 20 years until after the Civil War and she had four children according to the 1860 slave census. While finding the names has been challenging, a freedman named Courtney Honesty, is known to have lived with various Johnson family members in the mid to late 1800s.
- Unnamed Cemetery 242 on what used to be the Johnson property appears to have been last surveyed by Fairfax County in 1994 and is on or adjacent to the Hunt Club property. It is described as having five field stones amid cedar trees, rose bushes, which are typical plantings at cemeteries in the mid 1800s . (see attachment A for surveyor's notes ) The cemetery is seen in 1937 aerial maps and noted in some tax and survey records.
- The past President of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association and historian for the Hunter Mill Defense League toured the Johnson property cemetery in December and took more recent photos, noted the plantings including periwinkle around the cemetery and another neighbor who lives on Hunt Club discovered another stone. (See photos)