
From: Jim Lewis
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 3:46 PM
To: RestonMasterPlanSpecialStudy
Subject: Unnamed cemetery #FX242
Attachments: DSCN4130.JPG; DSCN4137.JPG

To whom it may concern: As a well-recognized local historian who has conducted 35+ historical tours the past six years in the H.M. Rd. corridor, I would urge all efforts be made to preserve this unnamed cemetery as it has a direct connection with the family on whose property the Union's XII Corps encamped on June 17, 1863, on their way to the Battle of Gettysburg. That date lives in infamy as it turned out to be the hottest day of the year, and the fields caught on fire, stifling both men and beast. This event is depicted in a recently dedicated Va. State historical marker. (see attached)

In addition, this area was the scene of three native American sites, dating back some 3-6 thousand years ago.

In honor of this family's history and historical significance, it is recommended that this cemetery be afforded a large buffer zone around it in order to provide the protection it deserves.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter.

Jim Lewis

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FIELDS OF FIRE

On 17 June 1863, early in the Gettysburg Campaign, the Union XII Corps camped just north of here. The men left Fairfax Court House at daybreak, ate breakfast at Hunter's Mill, and halted by 11 AM because of extreme heat, 99 degrees in the shade. Devastated by sunstroke casualties two days earlier during the grueling 25-mile-long march north, the corps continued to suffer. Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams, the First Division commander, noted on the 17th that "the dry old grass of the fields and woods got on fire, and filled the air with smoke and additional heat."

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, 2014





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