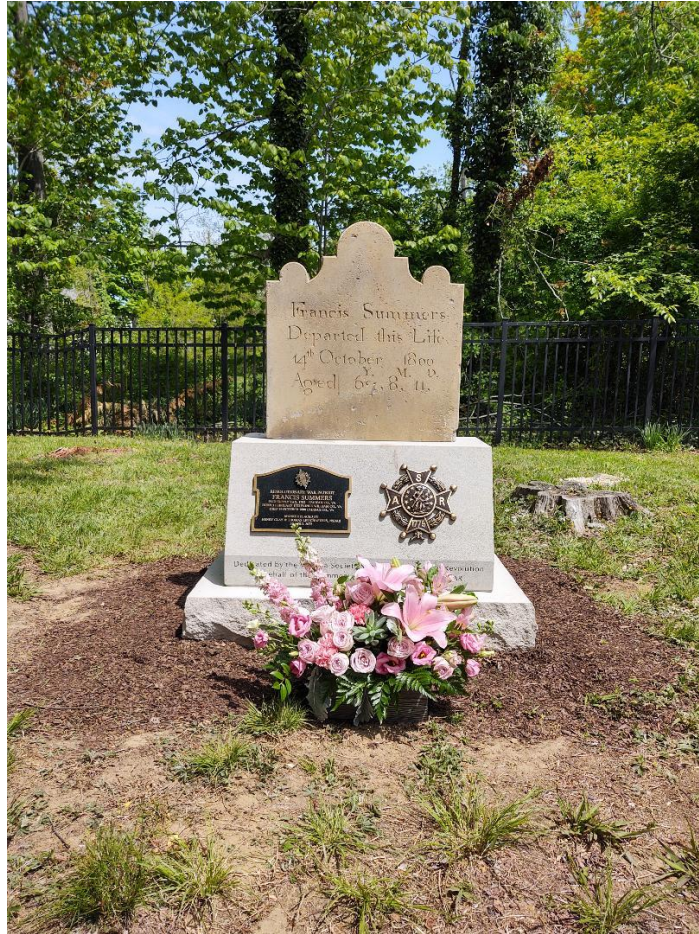


# Summers Family Cemetery: Building Relationships and Preserving the Past



*Figure 1: Francis Summers' headstone after conservation treatment and re-setting facilitated by the D.A.R.*

Summers Family Cemetery, located adjacent to 6250 Lincolnia Road between Deming Ave. and Barnum Lane in the Lincolnia area of Falls Church is a family cemetery dating from the Early National Period of American History. The small cemetery served as a burial ground for the Summers, Cowling, Crump, Duty, and Lee families and has burials dating from 1790 as the earliest, and 1930 as the most recent marked headstones.

In 2005 Summers family heirs deeded the property to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who then deeded it to the Park Authority in 2008. Beginning in 2013, the Park Authority partnered with the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association [www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org](http://www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org) to clean trash and brush from the cemetery. Later in 2014, a member of the Association worked with the Henry Clay Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution ([www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)) to formalize a cemetery adoption.

Since then, the Henry Clay and Thomas Lee chapters have conducted multiple clean up days and earlier this year, along with the Sons of the American Revolution, re-dedicated the cemetery after the completion of a multi-year fundraising and restoration project for the headstone of Francis Summers, a Revolutionary War Patriot who provided aid to the war effort. In addition, the DAR replaced the plaque at his marker outlining his patriotic service as well as having a sign for the cemetery fabricated.

This October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Henry Clay and Thomas Lee Chapters will once again be cleaning up Summers Family Cemetery, ensuring that it remains a place of reflection and pride for the community. Their work, coordinated with the Park Authority, allows members of the Henry Clay and Thomas Lee Chapters to reach their goals in historic preservation and is a great help to the Park Authority staff as cemeteries require specialized care.

If you are interested in cemetery preservation, please reach out through the Fairfax County Park Authority's Cemetery Survey website at:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/archaeology/cemeteries](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/archaeology/cemeteries)



Figure 2: Staff archaeologist Colleen Boyle conducts conservation treatment on historic fencing at Summers Family Cemetery.

