

# 'Rosemont' Burning Ends An Era

The destruction of Rosemont, a historic home located off Sudley Road, has raised the ire of several Manassas residents who view it as a continuation of the tearing down of places that should be preserved.

The Journal Messenger has received several complaints in recent days that the homestead—which once served as a Civil War Hospital—should not have been gutted.

(The building was burned down last week to make room for the new Manassas Presbyterian Church that will go up on the site.) At the

## Policemen Powers Are Broadened

WASHINGTON (AP) — The D.C. Court of Appeals has broadened policemen's power to enter a private home without a warrant.

In a decision Wednesday, a three-judge panel ruled that, under special circumstances, an officer may follow a person into his home even without "probable cause" to support his belief that a crime has occurred.

Probable cause ordinarily exists when an officer has facts to support a suspicion that a crime has been committed. When there is time, an officer presents these facts to a magistrate, who then decides whether to issue a warrant.

The appellate panel noted this rule, but said there are also special circumstances in which a "rule of reason" must be applied.

The decision is binding on all D.C. Superior Court judges. But D.C. public defender service lawyers said the opinion may be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Frederick Weisberg, chief of the service's appellate division, said the decision cuts into Fourth Amendment guarantees against unreasonable search and

time it was burned down under the watchful eyes of the Stonewall Jackson VFD who used it as a training session, it was one of the oldest homes in Manassas, according to the descendants of Rosemont.

"Who's to say that the Stone House and Ben Lomond mansion won't be the next to go," said one of the Lewis family descendants as she watched the structure go up in smoke.

Rosemont was originally owned by Captain William Montgomery and his wife Katherine Mars Montgomery, whom he met and married on board ship when coming to Virginia from England in 1758.

They first resided at

Dumfries but soon came to Manassas and built a home which they called "Rosemont," which was named after the old home of Captain Montgomery's family in Ireland. He then acquired several hundred acres of land around the homestead.

They had two children, a son Francis and a daughter Anne, who married William Lewis. Francis never married and "Rosemont," which he inherited from his father, was inherited by the children of his sister Anne. From the marriage of Anne Montgomery and William Lewis there descended many Lewises of Prince William and Fauquier Counties.

The original house, which

burned shortly after the Civil War, was rebuilt immediately and is the house which was recently destroyed, as was the old stone spring house. The spring house was the oldest structure on the farm having been built by Captain Montgomery.

The home was surrounded by many shrubs, huge trees and flowers. The front walk was lined with huge boxwood bushes. On one side of the house was a grape arbor. A stone walk led from the house under the grape arbor to the side of the yard and one could sit on benches on either side of the walk, a descendant said.

Built on a high hill, the house faced the

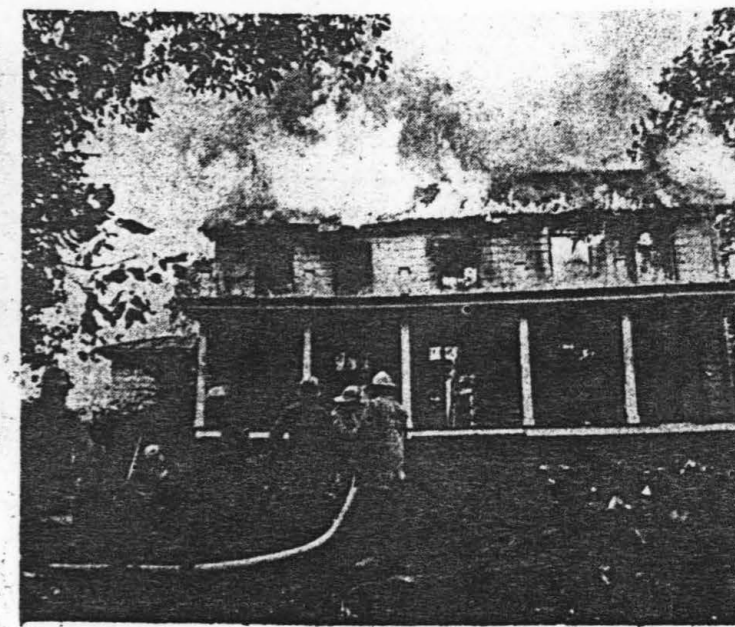


Rosemont As It Looked Recently

Montgomery-Lewis family cemetery in which many members of the family are buried. The first of these were William Montgomery, 1732-1803, and his wife, Katherine Mars Montgomery, 1742-1800.

Of the many acres once

belonging to "Rosemont," only two farms are still owned by the descendants of Rosemont. One is owned by the heirs of the late Francis Montgomery Lewis (a name carried through the generations) and the other by the heirs of the late



Rosemont As It Went Up in Flames

Percival Ashby Lewis. The widow of Charles Walton Lewis still owns a small portion of the property on which the original home was built. The site for the church was purchased from the latter.

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