

# **FIRE DESTROYS HISTORIC HOME**

**Estate Been In Johnson Family Since 1770**

**Fire Started From Defective Flue**

The home of the late Joseph B. Johnson, at Clover Hill Farm, about a mile from Manassas, was totally destroyed by fire on Tuesday afternoon.

The fire, which broke out in an upper room, from a defective flue, had gained such headway by the time the fire department had arrived, that it was found utterly impossible to save the building, so attention was turned towards removing the furniture.

The estate, which has been one of the landmarks of Prince William County, came into the hands of the Johnson family in the year 1770. The old stone building, occupied by some of the members of the family since the fire, was in use at that time as a weaving house. This building, which was within fifty feet of the flames, was saved with much difficulty.

The building destroyed was erected in 1885 on the foundation of the old house destroyed during the Civil War, it in turn having been built prior to 1814, as relics from the National Museum were brought there and stored when the British burned Washington.

In the present fire a chest was burned which was used as a war chest during the war of 1812, by Capt. John H. dye, a member of the family.

Two of the original buildings of the farm are still standing, one being the old stone house occupied by the family from 1865 to 1885, and the other a building used as a slave cabin.

A number of pieces of antique furniture were destroyed on account of being too heavy to get out, but the greater part of the household goods was saved.

Manassas Journal

9 February 1923