

**James Johnson, Dan Henderson, Matilda Clark, Cornelia Gray,
Julius Augustine McClellan, Mary Johnson, and Three Women and a
Man Whose Names are Unknown**

Louisa Hunter was the daughter of George and Amelia Chapmen, wealthy owners of Summer Hill Plantation, just south of Abingdon Plantation (now National Airport). Louisa married Alexander Hunter, the US Marshall for the District of Columbia and the two bought the prestigious Abingdon Plantation in 1835.

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SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in Alexandria **in the County of** Alexandria **State**
of La. **, enumerated by me, on the** 3 **day of** Sept. **, 1860.** D. M. French. **Ass't Marshal**

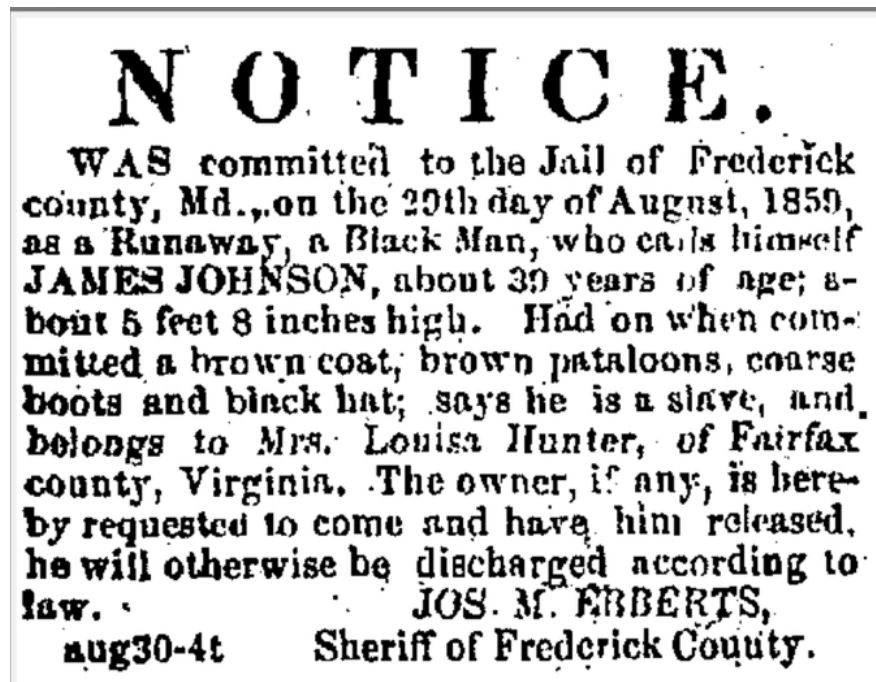
1	2	DESCRIPTION.			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Number of Slaves.	Age.	Sex.															
		1	44	M	B														
		1	23	M	B														
		1	17	F	B														
		1	15	M	B														
		1	11	M	B														
		1	8	M	B														
		1	35	M	B														
		1	13	F	B														
		1	20	M	B														
		1	40	M	B														
		1	48	M	B														
		2	32	M	B														
		1	22	M	B														
		1	18	F	M														
		1	14	F	M														
		1	12	F	M														
		1	8	M	B														
		1	2	M	B														
		1	26	M	B														
		1	2	F	B														
		1	21	M	B														
		1	27	F	B														
		1	5	M	M														
		1	3	M	M														
		1	43	F	M														
		1	11	M	M														
		1	8	M	M														
		1	5	M	M														
		1	2	M	M														
		1	45	M	B														
		1	50	F	B														
		1	60	M	B														
		1	50	M	B														
		1	34	M	B														
		1	32	F	B														
		1	64	F	B														
		1	25	F	B														
		1	30	F	B														
		1	17	F	B														
		1	1	M	M														

1860 Slave Schedule for Alexandria County (Arlington)

Upon Alexander Hunter's death in 1849, Abingdon was bequeathed to Hunter's nephew, also named Alexander Hunter. Louisa decided to purchase land along Columbia Pike between Glebe Road and Walter Reed Drive soon after. She enslaved at least 10 people to work her farm and perform the domestic tasks necessary to maintain her well-appointed home including lighting fires, making beds, washing clothes and linens,

sweeping and scrubbing floors, and dusting furniture. The 1860 Slave Schedule, part of the US Census, enumerated 9 of these individuals – 4 males and 5 females.

From all accounts, Hunter was a difficult personality, which may have been the last straw in 39-year-old James Johnson decision to seek freedom in the 1850s.



Evening Star, October 17, 1854

During the Civil War, Louisa fled Arlington to live in the District of Columbia with many of her enslaved people as Union troops occupied the area. Hunter was there in 1862, when President Lincoln signed the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act that freed all enslaved people living in the District of Columbia.

Enslavers who were southern sympathizers, like Louisa, ignored the act. In such cases enslaved individuals independently petitioned the federal government to be freed. Five of Hunter's bondspeople: Dan Henderson, 55, Matilda Clark, 40, Cornelia Gray 18 and her son Julius Augustine McClellan 1 year, and Mary Johnson, 55, signed petitions and were manumitted by the act. Louisa was not compensated for their release and moved to Richmond soon after. Because of these petitions (see next page), the names of several of Hunter's enslaved people have been preserved.

Once free, what became of the enslaved people who were forced to work for Louisa, is unclear. Perhaps future research will provide answers.

Petitions of the Enslaved Individuals of Louisa Hunter
DC Compensated Emancipation Act Petition, 1862

To John A Smith Esq
Clerk &c

You will please file and record
in your office the annexed statement and
schedule, under the provisions of an Act of
Congress, entitled "An Act for the relief of certain
persons held to service or labor in the District of
Columbia, approved April 16th 1862

Names	Age	Sex	Description
Dani Henderson	About 55	Male	Black
Matilda Clark	" 40	Female	Black
Cornelia	" 23	"	Black (light)
Her boy child 10 or 11 months old			
Mary Johnson	About 55	"	Bright mulatto

To JOHN A. SMITH Esq., Clerk of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia.

SIR:

Mrs General Louisa Hunter of *Alexandria County*
Virginia having claim to the service or labor of the undersigned, and having

refused or neglected to file in your office the statement in writing or schedule provided for in the 9th section of the Act of Congress, entitled "An act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in said District," approved April 16, 1862, you will please file this petition or schedule in lieu thereof, in pursuance of the provisions of an act supplementary to said act which said last mentioned act was approved July 12, 1862. This petitioner further state that the undersigned *have* resided in said District

Washington again and ha resided therein since the *16* day of *April* 1862, by and with the consent of *the* said *John A. Smith*

Name, *Cornelia Gray* Age, *18* Sex, *Female* Remarks, *Quaker*

Julius Augustus McClellan *male* *Admitted*

W. W. Hunter

Geo B. McClellan

Cornelia Gray

Julius Augustus McClellan

The US Army general, George B. McClellan, may have been the inspiration for Cornelia Gray's decision to name her son, Julius Augustus McClellan as seen in the above petition.