

## Betsy Jane Fairfax

(1856 – 14 Mar 1942)

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*The Evening Star, March 16, 1942, p. A2*

### **Swingle Family Servant For 3 Generations Dies**

Betsy Jane Fairfax, colored, 86 who served three generations of the Swingle family, died Saturday at Gallinger Hospital and will be buried today at Congressional Cemetery, following private services.

She made her home with Col. And Mrs. Charles S. Reed, 5437 Nebraska avenue N.W., caring for their children when she was with the Reeds in Honolulu. Born near Martinsburg, W. Va., her memory went back to the days of the Battle of Antietam.

The Swingle families, served by Betsy for some 80 years, included, besides Col. And Mrs. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Willard B. Swingle, 3917 Military road N.W.; Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Swingle, 6151 Thirtieth street N.W.; Dr. and Mrs. Charles C. Clark, 21 West Irving street, Chevy Chase, Md.; Mrs. Suzanne S. Cannon and Dr. and Mrs. D.B. Street, Jersey City, N.J.

Betsy received at one time a certificate from the District Federation of Women's Clubs commemorating her long and faithful service.

*The Washington Post, March 16, 1942, p. 7*

### **Ex-Slave Dies; Served Family for 80 Years**

Betsy Jane Fairfax, 86-year-old Negro, who was born in slavery and lived to receive from the District Federation of Women's Clubs a certificate commemorating her long and faithful service to three generations of the Swingle family, will be buried today in Congressional Cemetery. She died Saturday at the home of Col. And Mrs. Charles S. Reed, 5437 Nebraska Avenue Northwest.

Betsy, who was born near Martinsburg, W. Va., and whose memory reached back to the Battle of Antietam, spent several years with the Reeds in Honolulu, caring for their children. Col. Reed is now on duty with the Ordnance Department in Washington.

The Swingle families, served by Betsy for more than 80 years, included Mr. and Mrs. Willard B. Swingle, 3917 Military Road Northwest; Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Swingle, 6151 Thirtieth Street Northwest; Dr. and Mrs. Charles C. Clark, 21 West Irving Street, Chevy Chase, Md.; Mrs. Suzanne S. Cannon and Dr. and Mrs. D.B. Street, Jersey City, N.J., and Col. And Mrs. Reed.

Funeral services will be held at 8 p.m. Today from the Reed home, to be followed by burial in Congressional Cemetery in the Reed family plot.