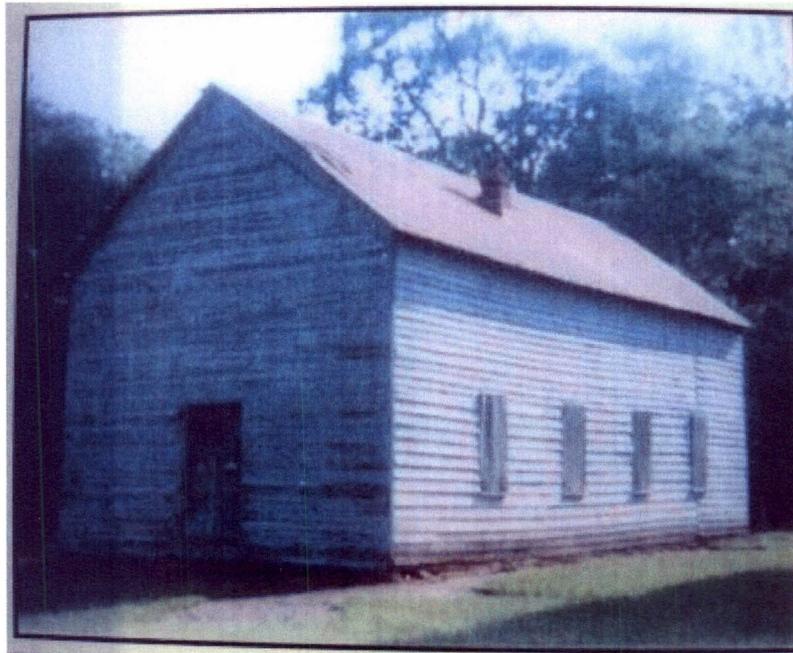


**History of Occoquan Baptist Church,
Prince William County Virginia**

(Also Known as Bacon Race and Oak Grove)

By

Darlene L. Hunter, CGSM



**Manassas, Virginia: Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC)
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Preface

The Occoquan Baptist Church, also known as Bacon Race and Oak Grove, was the first Baptist Church in Prince William County.

It became an important part of a group of Primitive Baptist Churches in Prince William County—Occoquan, Quantico and Beulah. These were called Smootite Churches, named for the charismatic Pastor (addressed as Elder), William M. Smoot, who preached at each of these Churches at different times from 1874 to 1938.

This history is based on information obtained from the Minutes of each of these Churches. In addition, Baptist Association Records, County Records, Civil War records and other historical accounts are added to the information in the Church Minutes to give a more complete picture of the Church and the times in which it existed.

An attempt has been made to list the names of major persons of the Church in this history—pastors, deacons, trustees, messengers to the Association meetings. However, consult the Church Minutes for the names of individual members of the Church and day to day events of the Church.

The following Minutes are available in the original and transcription for Occoquan Baptist Church:

- *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia, Also Known as Bacon Race Church and Oak Grove Church, April 26, 1794 to February 18, 1843*, transcribed by Darlene L. Hunter, CGSM (Manassas, Virginia: Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center [RELIC], June 2012).
- *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916, Prince William County Virginia, Also Known as Bacon Race Church and Oak Grave Church* transcribed by Darlene L. Hunter, CGSM (Manassas, Virginia: Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center [RELIC], September 2012).
- Occoquan Baptist Church Minutes (financial records) May 8, 1875 to November 12, 1886, bound with the *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia, Also Known as Bacon Race Church and Oak Grove Church, April 26, 1794 to February 18, 1843*, and indexed as B
- Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, July 7 1917 to July 14, 1940 bound with *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia, Also Known as Bacon Race Church and Oak Grove Church, April 26, 1794 to February 18, 1843*, and indexed as C.

Also available are copies of the minutes from the sister Churches:

- *Quantico Baptist Church, Prince William County, Virginia July 13, 1858 to March 25, 1911* transcribed by Darlene L. Hunter, CGSM (Manassas, Virginia: Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center [RELIC], January 2013).
- *Beulah Church Book Primitive Baptist Church Occoquan Virginia November 10, 1892-May 1940* transcribed by Darlene L. Hunter, CGSM (Manassas, Virginia: Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center [RELIC], May 2013).

The Occoquan Church Minutes 1794-1843; Financial Records 1875-1940 and Minutes 1917-1940 were loaned to RELIC by William A. Olson of Woodbridge Virginia. The records were photographed by Mike Veness, a volunteer for RELIC. The Beulah Church Minutes were also loaned to RELIC by Mr. Olson and photographed by Mike Veness.

The originals of the Occoquan Church Minutes 1868-1916 and the Quantico Baptist Church Minutes 1858 to 1911 are housed at the Primitive Baptist Church Library in Elon, North Carolina. Glen Berry photocopied all these records and provided them to RELIC. Also provided by the Primitive Baptist Library at Elon, North Carolina and Glen Berry is the copy of *Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by Elder William M. Smoot, Pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church, Prince William County Virginia, Baptisms 1874-1928; Marriages 1874-1936; Funerals 1878-1886, Funeral Book also contains Burials 1921-1955* indexed by Darlene L. Hunter, CGSM (Manassas, Virginia: Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center [RELIC], April 2013).

Copies of all the original records and the transcriptions are available in Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center [RELIC] at the Bull Run Regional Library, 8051 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, Virginia.

The picture on the title page was provided by William A. Olson and Sandra Anderson, Trustee of the Occoquan Baptist Church.

Darlene L. Hunter, CGSM
September 2013

Occoquan Baptist Church, Prince William County Virginia
By Darlene L. Hunter, CGSM
September 2013

The Occoquan Baptist Church, also known as Bacon Race, and later as the Oak Grove Meeting House¹, was a presence in Prince William County Virginia, for over 200 years. The Bacon Race Cemetery which adjoined the Church during its existence still marks its location today. The Meeting House and cemetery were located at present day Davis Ford Road and Bacon Race Road near what was called the Hoadly neighborhood.²

The first mention of a Church was in a record dated 28th day of February 1765 in which William Veale gave three acres of land to “Robert Moseley and the rest of the persons engaged with him by Subscription for the raising a sum of Money which they the s^d Subscribers have expended in the erecting and building of [a] Meeting House for Divine Service on my land in Prince William County near Bacon Race Ground”. The “three acres of Land including the afores^d Meeting house the bounds of Courses following”

“Beginning at a White Oak standing on the west side of the head of Bacon race ground and extending thence S^o 40^o W^t 22 po[les] to a small red Oak [] the South side of the s^d Meeting house thence N^o 50^o W^t 22 po. to a small red Oak in the head of a Valley, thence N^o 40^o E^t 22 po to a black Oak on a ridge in or near Asten’s Line, the[n] along or near the s^d Asten’s Line S^o 50^o E^t 22 po to the Beginning.”³

This deed was not recorded at the time but first found by Susan Rogers Morton⁴, the researcher for the WPA [*Works Projects Administration*], in the late 1930’s. She listed “Recently Discovered” deeds in an article in the *William and Mary Quarterly* in 1941. One of those deeds was “Deed of gift, 1765, William Veale of the Parish of Truro, money

¹ Occoquan Baptist Church was the name used in the early official Church records. Bacon Race Baptist Church was the local name used for the Occoquan Church. The name of Oak Grove Baptist Church was applied to the Church after 1883 to distinguish it from the Church [*later called Beulah*] which was built in the village of Occoquan.

² Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 91: 418-E. J. Davis and E. P. Davis, her husband to French S. Davis, deed, 65.44 acres of land situated near Hoadly, bounded on Manassas-Occoquan Road, west of Bacon Race Schoolhouse, the tract of 69.64 acres included the churchyard of 4.2 acres which was deducted from the sale. Hoadly was a post office in Prince William County with Postmasters listed from 1887 to 1932, Prince William County, Virginia Post Offices Listed Alphabetically by Post Office in RELIC Digital Library at <http://eservice.pwcgov.org/library/digitalLibrary/PDF/PWC%20Post%20Offices.pdf>, viewed 1 September 2013. Bacon Race School served the Hoadly neighborhood from about 1890-1923.”Hoadly was a loosely organized community in the Hoadly-Bacon Race-Davis Ford Road area of the county where the McCoart Administrative Center is now located from Lucy Walsh Phinney, *Yesterday’s Schools Public Elementary Education in Prince William County, Virginia 1869-1969* (author, 1993) Bacon Race School, 77.

³ Prince William County Loose Papers, Box 1111: 161, 162, William Veale, deed of gift, County Clerk’s Office, Manassas. Thanks to Ron Turner for all his help!

⁴ See Bev Veness & Don Wilson, “Susan Rogers Morton” in *Prince William Reliquary*, Volume 8, No. 3 (July 2009) 62-63 at http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/library/RELIC/Documents/Reliquary/PWR_3-2009.pdf, viewed 1 September 2013.

raised by subscription for building Bacon Race Church.”⁵ The record did not surface again until 2012 when Ron Turner, Prince William County historian, found it while indexing Courthouse loose papers to be digitized.

1765 was the beginning of the organization of the Baptist Church Associations in Northern Virginia. The Baptists of this area of Virginia belonged to the Philadelphia Baptist Association until October of 1765 when they were given leave to form their own association.⁶ Broad Run Baptist Church of Fauquier County [*a predecessor of Chappawamsic and Occoquan*] was one of the original members of the Virginia Association called Kettocton which was formed on 19 August 1766. At its beginning, there were four Baptist Churches in the Kettocton Association: Kettocton in Loudoun County, Mill Creek in Berkeley, Smith’s Creek in Shenandoah County and Broad Run of Fauquier.⁷

The Broad Run Baptist Church had been constituted on 3 December 1762.⁸ The Chappawamsic Baptist Church, immediate predecessor of Occoquan, was constituted on 22 November 1766 by members who were dismissed from the Broad Run Baptist Church in Fauquier County on 9 August 1766.⁹

There is an extant copy of the letter from the Kettocton Association to the Philadelphia Association which has a summary of the Kettocton minutes dated 17 August 1771. The minutes noted that the Chappawamsic Church in Stafford County had Daniel Fristoe as a minister and John Hampton was its messenger. They had 212 members. Broad Run in Farquair [*sic*] County had David Thomas as minister and sent William Stanton and Robert Sanders as messengers. No number for membership of Broad Run was included.¹⁰

The Occoquan Church was mentioned in the notebooks of Morgan Edwards, a Baptist historian, from the Philadelphia Association¹¹, who, in 1772, traveled the south visiting Baptist congregations. He compiled notebooks for each colony (Crozer Manuscripts) and then expanded them in larger volumes (Furman Manuscripts). The Edwards’ Virginia

⁵ Mrs. Susan Rogers Morton, contributor, “Prince William County Records Recently Discovered,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, Series 2, Volume 21 (1941, reprint, New York: Kraus Reprint Corporation, 1964) 183.

⁶ Garnett Ryland, *Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926* (Richmond, Virginia: The Virginia Baptist Board of Missions and Education, 1955) 17 from the Philadelphia Association Minutes, 95.

⁷ William Fristoe, *The History of the Kettocton Baptist Association 1766-1808* (Stephens City, Virginia: Commercial Press, republished in 1978) 1-2.

⁸ Richard Slatten, transcriber, “The Early Records of Broad Run Baptist Church, Fauquier County, Virginia, 1762-1783,” *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 26, No. 4 (November 1988) 285.

⁹ Richard Slatten, “The Early Records of Chappawamsic Baptist Church, Stafford County, Virginia, 1766-1844 Part 1: November 1766 – October 1770,” *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 27, No. 1 (February 1989) 39.

¹⁰ Robert G. Gardner, “Kettocton and Philadelphia Associations in the 18th Century,” *The Virginia Baptist Register*, Number 27 (1988): 1371-1372.

¹¹ John S. Moore, “Writers of Early Virginia Baptist History (1) Morgan Edwards,” *Virginia Baptist Register*, Number 11 (1972) pages 519-526.

history was not published during his lifetime but was finally published in the *Virginia Baptist Register* in 1979.¹²

At the time of Edwards' visit in 1772, the Occoquan Church was mentioned as a branch of the Chappawamsic Baptist Church of Stafford County.

“Chappawomsick—So called from a creek of the name running into Potowmack in Overwharton parish, county of Stafford...Consists of 3 branches, one near where is a house 40 feet by 24, built in 1766 on land given by Rev. Daniel Fristoe; the other at Occaquin; the third at Brentown in each of which is a house.”¹³

In Edwards' compiled history of Virginia Baptist Churches which is now found in the Furman manuscripts (online at Clemson University), Edwards named the three Churches—Chappawamsic, itself, Occoquan and Brentown, which made up Chappawamsic in 1772.¹⁴

Garnett Ryland, Baptist historian, stated that the Chappawamsic Church was constituted in 1766 by David Thomas and Marks with fifty-five members. Ryland also stated that Chappawamsic had Meeting Houses associated with it that later became independent Churches—Potomac (Hartwood) in Stafford, Brent Town in Fauquier in 1773, and Occoquan in Prince William in 1776.¹⁵

There was a petition in 1776 to the convention of Virginia from a Baptist Church at Occaquin, Pr. William County. On the 19th of May 1776, fifty persons signed the petition asking that they be allowed to worship God in their own way; maintain their own ministers and be married without paying Parsons of any other denomination.¹⁶ Note that the Established Church of Virginia before the Revolution was the Anglican Church.

Two early Church historians give the date of 1776 for the constitution of the Church. The Occoquan Church, under the care of Elder [*David*] Thomas, joined the Kettocton Association in 1776, according to William Fristoe.¹⁷ Robert Semple also stated in his Table of Kettocton Association Members that Occoquan was constituted in 1776 with 57

¹² John S. Moore, “Morgan Edwards' 1772 Virginia Notebook edited with Notes and Comments,” *The Virginia Baptist Register*, Number 18 (1979), pages 845-871.

¹³ Ibid: 862. The introduction to the article notes that the editor attempted to present the exact text of Edwards' notebooks with added details and corrections within brackets [page 845].

¹⁴ Morgan Edwards, “Materials Toward a History of the Baptists in the Provinces of Maryland, Virginia North Carolina South Carolina Georgia”, page 27 at <http://repository.clemson.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/jbt&CISOPTR=241&REC=1> , viewed 1 September 2013.

¹⁵ Ryland, *Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 18.

¹⁶ Jean Pickett Hall, “The Ten Thousand Name Petition” in *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, Volume 35, No. 2 (May 1997) 102 or <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/petitions/index.html> ; place-Prince William, petition of June 20, 1776, viewed 1 September 2013.

¹⁷ Fristoe, *The History of the Kettocton Baptist Association 1766-1808*: 5, <http://www.upbuild.org/article228/page2.html> viewed 1 September 2013.

members.¹⁸ However, by 1819 the Kectocon Association records say the constitution was 1778.¹⁹ The Occoquan Baptist Church Minutes 1868-1916 indicate that the Church was constituted in 1774.²⁰ The Occoquan Baptist Church noted the 150th anniversary of the organization of the Church in the minutes on 11 October 1924.²¹ This would indicate that the date of organization [*constitution of a separate church*] could have been as early as 1774.

Local Church and the Associations

Essential to understanding the significance of the different records of the early Baptist Church is the understanding that the local Church was the basic unit in the Baptist structure. The members of the business meeting of the local Church were the ruling body. The Business meeting was usually held once a month. Early Church Constitutions stated that the business was done by the adult white male members. The local business meeting chose trustees, deacons and pastors. Membership questions were handled by the local meeting. The meeting named messengers to the Association meetings.²² The extant minutes of the Occoquan Baptist Church were of this local business meeting.

The local Churches loosely banded together in Associations of like thinking churches. The Associations usually met once a year. A local Church was not obliged to follow the Association views and when they did not, they left the Association and joined or formed another. The Association records also provide a yearly record of the Church that may not be covered in the local Church minutes, such as membership, names of ministers, etc.

The Occoquan Baptist Church belonged to the following Associations:

Kectocon Association—c. 1776-1819

Columbia Association 1820-1836

Virginia Corresponding Meeting 1836-1889

Virginia Annual Meeting 1890-1938

Occoquan Baptist Church History Continued

The 1776 petition from a Baptist Church at “Occaçon” was mentioned above. Many of the signers of this petition were familiar names in the records of the later Occoquan

¹⁸ Robert Semple & George William Beale, *A History of the Baptists in Virginia* (Lafayette, Tennessee: Research & Archives, 1976, a reprint of 1894 edition of *A History of the Rise and Fall of the Baptist in Virginia* and a reprint of the 1810 edition) 387.

¹⁹ 1819 Kectocon Baptist Association Minutes, Kectocon Baptist Association Minutes 1792-1834, VBHS Acquisition #87-032 found at Virginia Baptist Historical Library, University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia. Thanks to Darlene Herod and the Virginia Baptist Historical Society Library for all their help with the Association records.

²⁰ Darlene L. Hunter, transcriber and indexer, *Occoquan Primitive Baptist Church Minutes, 1868-1916 Prince William County Virginia Also known as Bacon Race Church and Oak Grove Church* (Manassas, Virginia, RELIC [Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center], September, 2012) 1.

²¹ Darlene L. Hunter, transcriber and indexer, *Occoquan Church Book (Book 2) July 7, 1917-July 14, 1940*: (RELIC-Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center, June 2012) 12C.

²² W. Harrison Daniel, *Virginia Baptists, 1860-1902* (Bedford, Virginia: The Print Shop, 1987) 94.

Baptist Church—John Peak, John Hampton, James Peak, Obed Calvert, Senior and Junior, and Hammond Morris.²³

The Hammond Morris family preserved a letter of dismissal for Hammond Morris and his wife Mary being “formerly orderly members of the Baptist Church on the Occoquan in Prince William County Virginia”. This document stated that they wished to move and requested a recommendation from the Church. John Peake and John Hampton signed the letter from the Occoquan Church on 21 April 1778.²⁴

Early deeds mentioning the Meeting House are very few. The primary recorded deed referring to the Meeting House was made 25 February 1794. At that time, Rodham Blancett²⁵ and Jane his wife of Prince William County Virginia, deeded 1004 acres to William Fairfax, the executor of William Fairfax, Senior, deceased. Four acres were “excepted” [*left out*]²⁶ of this acreage so as to include the Meeting House & Meeting House Spring.²⁷

However, the Meeting House was not mentioned in any of the chain of title deeds which preceded this deed. The land that Blancett sold to William Fairfax was a combination of several pieces of land. The piece of interest was the tract of land granted to William Veale in 1777. The recitation of title in the Blancett to Fairfax deed continued by saying that Veale had sold his land to Alexander Henderson in 1779 and Henderson to Blancett in 1788.²⁸

The individual segments of the title mentioned in the Blanchett to Fairfax deed begin with William Veale’s Northern Neck Grant on 7 March 1777. This grant was for 248 acres in Prince William County. The land had been surveyed on 7 March 1747/8 for Morris Veale. Morris Veale did not comply with the “Advertisement of 1765” requiring persons who had a survey before 1764 to pay or forfeit.²⁹ However, Morris Veale had died in 1750, leaving the land, except for 100 acres, to son William. The other 100 acres was willed to John Veale who moved from the county in 1758 or 59 and disappeared. There was a copy of the will of Morris Vele [*sic*], while not in the extant Prince William

²³ Jean Pickett Hall, transcriber, “The Ten Thousand Name Petition” in *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, Volume 35, No. 2 (May 1997) 102. Legislative petitions from American Memory at Library of Virginia <http://memory.loc.gov/ndlpcoop/relpet/000/010/010001v.jpg> viewed 1 September 2013.

²⁴ W. R. Morris, “Folk Lore” of *Early Settlers of America and Their Ancestral Lineage* (Fancy Gap ?, Virginia: 1958): 181-182. Book found at RELIC, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, Virginia.

²⁵ Blanchett is spelled several different ways—also Blanchet or Blanseld.

²⁶ Exception is defined as an “Act of Excepting or excluding from a number designated or from a description” and “an act of excepting, omitting from mention or leaving out of consideration” from Henry Campbell Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary Definitions of the Terms and Phrases of American and English Jurisprudence, Ancient and Modern*, Sixth Edition (St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Company, 1990) 559.

²⁷ Prince William County Deed Book Y: 439-442, Rodham & Jane Blancett to William Fairfax, executor of William Fairfax deceased, recorded 7 October 1794, County Clerk’s Office, Manassas.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Virginia Northern Neck Grants I-291, William Veale grant, 248 acres, 7 March 1777, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

County Will Books, found in the wills from the Land Office.³⁰ The whole tract was then awarded to William Veale in 1777. The grant began at a white Oak standing at the head of Bakon [*sic*] Race being the corner Capt. Burdit Ashton”.³¹ No mention of a Meeting House.

William Veale sold the land in his 1777 grant along with other land to Alexander Henderson in 1779. The metes and bounds showed the beginning “at the head of Bakon race being corner to Capt Burditt Ashton”.³² No mention of the Meeting House.

On 4 February 1788, Alexander Henderson sold to Rhodam Blanchett 248 acres “Beginning at a white oak standing at the head of Bacon Race being corner tree to Capt Burdit Ashton”. The recitation of title noted that this was the same tract as the land granted to William Veale on 7 March 1777 and sold by Veale to Henderson on 2 February 1779.³³ No mention of the Meeting House.

While there was no mention of the Meeting House in the Veale to Henderson or the Henderson to Blanchett deeds, the Bacon Race Meeting House spring was a call in a survey to James Peak on 23 March 1788. The metes and bounds of this survey also mentioned a corner to William Veale.³⁴ Also two of the calls in Rodham “Blanseld’s [*sic*] Northern Neck grant, 16 June 1788, for 715 acres, were William Veale’s grant of 248 acres on 23 March 1777 and the Meeting House spring.³⁵ The survey of this tract on 25 August 1787 showed that Blanseld’s acreage began “at a white oak stump in the head of Bacon Race”. This call was also the beginning corner of the tract containing 248 acres granted to William Veal on 7 March 1777. Another call in this survey was a poplar in a branch near the Meeting House Spring.³⁶

Rhodam Blanchett appears to have acknowledged William Veale’s 1765 deed of gift of land for the Church when he excepted the land from his 1794 deed to William Fairfax, executor of William Fairfax, Senior.³⁷ Also important is that for a 1910 deed and a plat concerning the Church land and the property surrounding it, the exception in the Blanchett

³⁰ Virginia, Land Office, Wills from Virginia Land Office Records, A-Z 1656-1868, Morris Vele will-1750 Land Office Box Marked “Wills from Land Office Records”, alphabetical, Library of Virginia, Richmond. Thanks to Anne Taylor Brown, CG, for obtaining a copy.

³¹ Northern Neck Surveys 1739-1779: Prince William County (Minor, John, no. 259-Wickliffe, no 405, File No. 380, Veale, William, Prince William County, Warrant 1746/Survey 1747, 248 acres, FHL2027921.

³² Prince William County Virginia Deed Book T: 520-525, William Veale and wife, Lydia to Alexander Henderson, deed of lease and release, recorded 6 April 1779, County Clerk’s Office, Manassas.

³³ Prince William County Virginia Deed Book X: 81-84, Alexander Henderson to Rhodam Blanchett, deed of lease and release, recorded 5 February 1788, County Clerk’s Office, Manassas..

³⁴ Virginia Northern Neck Surveys Book I: 61, James Peak, 221 acres, survey 23 March 1780; Northern Neck Grant S:232, James Peak, 221 acres dated 13 June 1787, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

³⁵ Virginia Northern Neck Grants Book S-456-457, Rhodam Blanseld entry, 751 acres, 16 June 1788, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

³⁶ Virginia Northern Neck Surveys Book No. 1: 21-22, Rodham Blanseld survey, dated 23 August 1787, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

³⁷ Prince William County Deed Book Y: 439.

to Fairfax deed served as the proof of the ownership of the land where the Occoquan/Bacon Race Meeting House stood.³⁸

In this 1910 deed, the Davis', who at that time owned the surrounding land, deeded to the Trustees of the Occoquan Baptist Church, the land that had always been assumed (since the 1794 deed from Blancett to Fairfax) to belong to the Occoquan Baptist Church.³⁹ See the section on Later Deeds for the Church for a more detailed discussion of those later deeds.

Early Association Records Continued

The Association records continue to be the earliest look at the Churches. According to Garnett Ryland, the oldest surviving minutes of the Ketocton Baptist Association were from 1772 when Daniel Fristoe and William King were the messengers from Chappawamsic.⁴⁰

The Minutes of the Baptist Association [*Ketocton*] held at Brent Town on the 13th of August 1784 noted that Occoquan Meeting was represented by John Hampton and James Peake, messengers, and the Church had 24 members.⁴¹

In 1789, the Ketocton Association was divided into two associations-Ketocton and Chappawamsick. The two associations were divided by a line running from the Potomac a south course. The district above this line was Ketocton and below Chappawamsick.⁴² The districts met separately until 1792 when they reunited.⁴³

The first minutes of the Ketocton Association which are available at the Virginia Baptist Historical Library in Richmond, Virginia, are for 1792.⁴⁴ See Appendix A for a summary of Occoquan Church from the Ketocton Association Minutes.

The Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes, found at the Virginia Baptist Historical Society in Richmond, are available yearly from 1792 through 1820 when Occoquan left this Association. The membership of Occoquan reported in the Ketocton Association Minutes ran from a low of 36 in 1793 to a high of 108 in 1814. There were 78 members

³⁸ Prince William County Deed Book 69: 188, E.J. & E. P. Davis W. A. & Ida M. Davis to French S. & Grace A. Davis, deed and Plat attached drawn by C. D. S. Clarkson, surveyed 1910, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ryland, *Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 19, 20.

⁴¹ Robert G. Gardner, "Ketocton and Philadelphia Associations in the 18th Century, Part II" from *The Virginia Baptist Register*, Number 29 (1990) 1486. The endnote for this was #86 [page 1496]-"This document is in the form of two sheets, written on both sides, found in the Mrs. Irving McKesson Manuscript Collection, ABHS [American Baptist Historical Society], Rochester, NY, and is an original manuscript rather than a handwritten one." This location is as of 1990.

⁴² Semple, *History of the Baptists in Virginia*: 389.

⁴³ 1792 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes, page 3, found at Virginia Baptist Historical Library, University of Richmond, Richmond; Semple, *History of the Baptists in Virginia*, 389.

⁴⁴ 1792 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes, page 3, Virginia Baptist Historical Library, University of Richmond, Richmond.

in 1820, the last year Occoquan Church appeared in the Ketocton Association Minutes. Philip Spiller appeared to be the minister through this period.⁴⁵

On 18 August 1820, Occoquan, Frying Pan, Long Branch, Little River and Chappawamsic applied for letters of dismissal at the Ketocton Baptist Association Meeting. They were dismissed.⁴⁶

On 2 September 1820, the Occoquan Baptist Church noted in their minutes that they were appointing messengers to go to a new association called Columbia at Grove Meeting House in Fauquier County. Those messengers were George Carney and George Selectman.⁴⁷ William Pearson was to write the letter to the association.⁴⁸ The Churches joined the new Association because they felt that the Ketocton Association with thirty-nine Churches in eleven counties was unwieldy.⁴⁹

The meeting of the Columbia Association was held the 7th through the 9th of September 1820. It was noted in the Association minutes that Occoquan Baptist Church was represented by messengers George Carney and George Selecman. The minister of the church was Philip Spiller and the membership was 78.⁵⁰ See Appendix B for details of the Occoquan Church from the Columbia Association Records.

Beside Occoquan, Ryland identified Churches joining the Columbia Association as Grove and Long Branch in Fauquier; Chappawamsic, Hartwood and Rock Hill in Stafford, Shiloh in Fredericksburg, Mt. Pleasant and Frying Pan in Fairfax County; Little River in Loudoun and Nanjemoy in Maryland.⁵¹

In December 1820, the Occoquan Church minutes noted that Philip Spiller was not able to attend the Church meeting⁵² and noted Spiller's death on 6 January 1821.⁵³ See section on Pastors.

In February 1821, the Occoquan Baptist Church agreed to call Brother James Reid as pastor. James Reid was the pastor for Occoquan Baptist Church from 1821 through 1829,

⁴⁵ Ketocton Baptists Association Minutes 1792-1819, found at the Virginia Baptist Historical Library, Richmond.

⁴⁶ 1820 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes, page 4, Virginia Baptist Historical Library, University of Richmond, Richmond.

⁴⁷ Selectman also spelled Selecman. Name spelled as it was in the record.

⁴⁸ Darlene L. Hunter, transcriber, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes Prince William County Virginia, Also known as Bacon Race Church and Oak Grove Church, April 26, 1794 to February 18, 1843* (Manassas, Virginia: Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center –RELIC, Prince William Public Library System, June 2012: 54

⁴⁹ Ryland, *Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 199.

⁵⁰ 1820 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes, "Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855"; Virginia Baptist Historical Library. Richmond, Virginia.

⁵¹ Ryland, *Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 199 and note 32. Ryland did not mention Occoquan.

⁵² Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia April 26, 1794-February 1843* Page 55

⁵³ *Ibid*: 55.

according to the Columbia Association Minutes.⁵⁴ In 1822, John Mills and George Selectman were appointed trustees to superintend the repair of the meeting house.⁵⁵

There are membership lists in the minutes from the Occoquan Baptist Church in 1825 for both white male and female members. On the male list is James Peake, deceased on 13 December 1825.⁵⁶ James Peake's obituary in the *Alexandria Herald* stated that he died at his residence in Prince William County Virginia on the 13th of December 1825, aged 89 years 5 months and 11 days. He had been a regular member of the Baptist Church at Occoquan upwards of 50 years.⁵⁷ There was the name of James Peake who signed the 1776 Occoquan Baptist Church petition for religious freedom.⁵⁸

The Occoquan Baptist Church minutes ran until October 1831 and then there were none until April 1841.

The Occoquan Church was listed in the Columbia Baptist Association Minutes from 1820 to through 1836. The Occoquan membership as listed in the Columbia Association minutes was 78 members in 1820 to a high of 117 members in 1823, a low of 75 members in 1836.⁵⁹

In 1830 and 1831, the Columbia Association Minutes listed no established minister for the Occoquan Baptist Church.⁶⁰ In May 1831, the Occoquan Baptist Church called Brother Jacobs as pastor and Jacobs agreed to take charge.⁶¹ The Columbia Association Minutes show the minister of the Occoquan Church to be William Jacobs in 1832, 1833 and 1836.⁶² There were no letters from Occoquan noted in the Association Minutes of 1834 and 1835.

The 1830's was a time of upheaval and division among the Baptist Churches. Garnett Ryland in his history of *Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*⁶³ stated in his chapter on "The Anti-Movement 1831-1891" that it was a

"reaction against the spread of missionary activity, the promotion of education, Sunday schools and temperance and societies for the dissemination of the Bible and tracts."

⁵⁴ Columbia Baptist Association Minutes 1821-1839, at Virginia Baptist Historical Library, Richmond .

⁵⁵ Ibid: 61.

⁵⁶ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia April 26, 1794-February 1843* Page 77, 78.

⁵⁷ Pippenger, *Marriage and Death Notices from Alexandria, Virginia Newspapers, Volume I: 1784-1838*: 477, from *Alexandria Herald*, 17 Jan 1825, Tues., page 3.

⁵⁸ Jean Pickett Hall, transcriber, "The Ten Thousand Name Petition" in *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, Volume 35, No. 2 (May 1997) 102.

⁵⁹ Columbia Baptist Association Minutes 1821-1839, at Virginia Baptist Historical Library, Richmond.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia April 26, 1794-February 1843*:113.

⁶² 1832 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes, page 3; 1833 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes, page 3 and 1836 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes, page 3.

⁶³ Ryland, *The Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 243.

Ryland stated that the opposition was based on the belief in the absolute predestination of all things.⁶⁴

William F. Broaddus, from the Shiloh Association, believed in the spread of the gospel through missionary efforts. He had been sent, starting in 1825, as a corresponding messenger from Shiloh to the Ketocton Association and advocated a systematic method for raising money to aid in “supplying the destitute with the Word of Life”.⁶⁵

In 1833, Broaddus had presented himself to the Columbia Association as a corresponding member from Shiloh and there was a discussion as to whether he should be seated. The vote was 11 yes and 20 no.⁶⁶ In 1835 a query was sent to the Columbia Association from Frying Pan Church as to whether Columbia Association should remain in fellowship with Broaddus since they had refused to recognize him as a messenger. This question was submitted to the other Churches of the Association and they were asked to give their opinion in their letter to the next Association meeting.

In 1836 in the Church letters to the Columbia Association, eleven Churches by answers or silence showed disapproval of the query. Six Churches felt that the “difference ought to be a bar to fellowship and a proper cause for separation”.⁶⁷

The Columbia Baptist Association held their meeting at Grove Meeting House the 25th through the 27th of August 1836. The minutes showed that Occoquan sent David T. Arrington and James Davis as messengers and William Jacobs was their pastor.

The Church at Frying Pan noted their opposition to Elder Broaddus and announced their determination to withdraw from the Association. The Committee said that the Association was a voluntary body and any Church wishing to withdraw had leave to do so. A letter was presented by Brother [*Samuel*] Trott and signed by the messengers of the Churches at Hartwood, Frying Pan, Mt. Pleasant, White Oak and Occoquan withdrawing their connection with the Columbia Association. Those Churches were considered withdrawn.⁶⁸

William M. Smoot, a later prominent Occoquan Church pastor, tells that
“The Virginia Corresponding Meeting was organized at the meeting held with the Occoquan Church, October 29 and 30, 1836.
There were six Churches represented in this organization, viz., Frying Pan, Mount Pleasant, White Oak, Occoquan, Fredericksburg and Bethlehem.”⁶⁹

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid: 245, from Broaddus, Centennial Sermon, 23.

⁶⁶ Ibid: 248.

⁶⁷ Ibid: 249.

⁶⁸ 1836 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes, page 3, 6, and 7. A statement that one messenger from Elk Run agreed with the question is from the Columbia Association Minutes. Ryland said that only Hartwood, Frying Pan, Mt. Pleasant, White Oak and Occoquan withdrew from the Association.

⁶⁹ W. M. Smoot, *Reminiscences of the Baptist of Virginia* (Occoquan, Virginia: Office of the Sectarian, March 1902) 21. Elder William M. Smoot was pastor of Occoquan and several Primitive Baptist Churches in Northern Virginia. He was ordained in 1874 and served until his death in 1938. See section on Pastors.

Messengers to this Association meeting were George Selecman and James Davis of Occoquan, William Kidwell of Mount Pleasant, Benjamin Pridmore of Bethlehem. Frying Pan was represented by Elder Trott and Charles Gallatt.⁷⁰

Ryland notes that in October 1836, Frying Pan, Mt. Pleasant, White Oak and Occoquan which had withdrawn from the Columbia Association along with Bethlehem and a small group from Fredericksburg formed the Virginia Corresponding Meeting of Old School Baptists [*also called Primitive Baptists*]. Samuel Trott was elected Moderator and John Clark, Clerk.⁷¹

There are minutes existing for the Occoquan Baptist Church starting again on 17 April 1841. The meeting began with preaching by Brother Leachman and the minutes were signed by D. T. Arrington, clerk.⁷² The last Occoquan Minutes available in this collection were from 18 February 1843. At this meeting there was preaching by Brother Leachman.⁷³

Ryland noted that in the period 1850-52 there was another “disruption” in the Virginia Corresponding Meeting. It involved the views of Gilbert Beebe who was the editor of the *Sign of the Times*. This publication started in 1832 and Beebe advocated the absolute predestination of all things. Beebe was supported by Trott and Leachman. Opposing Beebe was John Clark who said that predestination applied to eternal salvation only. Churches in the Ebenezer Association and the Kettocton (all but two) agreed with Clark (who had three Churches) and withdrew from the Corresponding Association and joined the Kettocton.⁷⁴ There are no minutes for the Occoquan Baptist Church for this time period so their exact thoughts on this subject are not known. However, it appears that they remained in the Virginia Corresponding Meeting. Elder Smoot⁷⁵ stated that the “Corresponding Meeting of Virginia stood firm for truth in the contest of 1850-53”.⁷⁶

In 1850⁷⁷ and 1860⁷⁸, there were two Old School Baptist Churches listed in the Prince William County Social Statistics Census, each census listed 2 buildings for the Old School Baptist Church. In each of those censuses, there was also 1 New School Baptist Church with a building.

⁷⁰ Ibid: 22.

⁷¹ Ryland, *The Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 251.

⁷² Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia April 26, 1794-February 1843* Page 119.

⁷³ Ibid: 124.

⁷⁴ Ryland, *The Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 251.

⁷⁵ Elder William M. Smoot was pastor from 1874 until his death in 1938.

⁷⁶ Smoot, *Reminiscences of the Virginia Baptist* : 47.

⁷⁷ 1850 Social Statistics Census, Prince William County Virginia, page 282, taken 1 June 1850. Thanks to Bev Veness of RELIC for her help.

⁷⁸ 1860 Social Statistics Census, Prince William County Virginia, page 325, taken by Wm. A. Bryant. Thanks to Bev Veness of RELIC for her help.

At a meeting held at the Union Meeting House in Prince William County Virginia, 13 July 1858, an additional Old School Baptist Church was formed.⁷⁹ It would become the Quantico Old School Baptist Church and a member of the Occoquan Baptist Church family.

As this is a time period for which the Occoquan Baptist Church minutes are missing, the minutes of Quantico give a picture of the political unrest. On 13 June 1861, Brother Weedon was appointed to write the letter from Quantico to the Corresponding Association. On 18 July 1861, the Quantico Church met in their business meeting and the letter written by Brother George Weedon to the Corresponding Meeting was read and adopted. However, no messengers to the Corresponding Meeting were appointed "believing from the unsettled state of our Country the Association would not convene" The 8th of October 1865 was the date of the next minutes for the Quantico Baptist Church.⁸⁰ Note: The First Battle of Manassas was fought on 21 July 1861.⁸¹

The Civil War was hard on Prince William County and the Occoquan Baptist Church. Several times after the First Battle of Manassas, the Bacon Race Church and surrounding area was the site of a camp for Hampton's South Carolina Legion. On 16 August 1861, the Infantry and Artillery divisions of Hampton's Legion established a camp (called Camp Griffin) at Bacon Race. They were joined by other divisions of the Legion.⁸²

On 20 August 1861, Charles Woodward Hutson wrote a letter home which was dated Hampton's Legion in camp at Bacon Race Church.⁸³ On 29 August 1861, Lathan B. Austin enlisted at Camp Griffin in Company F, Hampton's Legion, South Carolina Volunteers.⁸⁴

On 20 September 1861, the Legion broke camp and established another opposite Freestone Point (called Camp Conner). Then on October 19th divisions of the Legion moved to Camp Butler which was situated near the old Camp Griffin. They were to guard the Legion hospital. The Legion soon moved to the Occoquan River to establish pickets.⁸⁵

⁷⁹ Darlene L. Hunter, transcriber, *Quantico Baptist Church, Prince William County, Virginia, July 13, 1858 to March 25, 1911* (Manassas, Virginia: RELIC (Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center, Bull Run Regional Library, 2013) 1. The original of these minutes are found at the Primitive Baptist Church Library, Elon, North Carolina. Thanks to Glen Berry for copying them. RELIC has a copy of the original.

⁸⁰ Ibid: 3.

⁸¹ A comprehensive military history of this time-John Hennessy, *First Battle of Manassas, An End to Innocence, July 18-21, 1861, 2nd Edition* (Lynchburg, Virginia: H. E. Howard, 1989)

⁸² Ron Crawley, *A Chronological History of the Hampton Legion Battalion of Cavalry* found at www.schistory.net/ironscouts/articles/hlcav.htm viewed 1 September 2013.

⁸³ Folder 3 of Charles Woodward Hutson Papers #362 Southern Historical Collection, The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁸⁴ South Carolina Confederate Service Records, Hampton Legion SC Volunteers, from Fold3.com, Confederate Service Records, South Carolina.

⁸⁵ Ron Crawley, *A Chronological History of the Hampton Legion Battalion of Cavalry* found at www.schistory.net/ironscouts/articles/hlcav.htm , viewed 1 September 2013.

The Legion hospital remained at Bacon Race Church along with the brigade storehouse. On 28 September 1861, Private Joseph D. Strange of Hampton's Legion, South Carolina Volunteers died at Bacon Race of measles and its effects.⁸⁶

The following was a report of Maj. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. Army, dated 23 March 1862, Camp Bartow, near Fredericksburg.

"Under my immediate command I had three batteries of artillery, leaving out two pieces with the Legion at Colchester (twelve guns and carriages). These guns were at Bacon Race church, Wolf run and Davis' Fords, on the Occoquan. There were seven transportation and two ammunition wagons...."

Several days before the retrograde movement I was appointed chief of staff to the brigade, and charged by Colonel Hampton with the withdrawal of the two regiments at Wolf Run Shoals and Davis' Ford, on the Occoquan (16th North Carolina Regiment, 14th Georgia Regiment) as also with the disposition of the public stores at Bacon Race Church, which was the depot for the troops on the Occoquan. ...

At Bacon Race church, at the time I took charge, several days before the movement, I found about 400 stands of arms, a quantity of ammunition, medical and quartermaster's stores; also about fifteen old wagons and harness (unserviceable). I succeeded in sending to Manassas, and in transporting this point with twelve wagons, which were put at my disposal the night before the movement and in the return transportation trains to Manassas, all the arms, ammunition, and stores of value. All that was destroyed were the old wagons and harness (which were unserviceable) a quantity of loose cartridges, amounting to several boxes and a quantity of private baggage. I should also state that a small amount of commissary stores were issued to the poor people in the vicinity by my order, there being no transportation for them."

Signed Stephen D. Lee, Major, Provisional Army Confederate States, Commanding Artillery Battalion, Occoquan, VA. [*Addressed*] to Lieut. T. G. Barker⁸⁷

On 21 March 1862, Col. Wade Hampton of the Confederate Army reported that he was about to withdraw the Confederate Forces in Northern Virginia. He stated that the brigade store-house was at Bacon Race Church, "9 miles from Manassas by the nearest road and by the only one we could use 12 miles. Here a very large amount of public and private property was accumulated." He received orders at 3:30 pm on March 7 to march at daylight the next day. The trains began to move at the hour designated.⁸⁸

As Bacon Race Church was on a road that was travelled often it continued to be mentioned in the *Official Records* after 1861.

⁸⁶ South Carolina Confederate Service Records, Hampton Legion SC Volunteers, from Fold3.com, Confederate Service Records, South Carolina.

⁸⁷ The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies: Series 1-Volume 5, page 535 from Making of America, Cornell University.

⁸⁸ Report of Col. Wade Hampton, C. S. Army, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series 1, Volume 5, Chapter 14, "Withdrawal of Confederate Forces" page 533 from Making of America series on line at Cornell University.

- On 6 December 1862, G. L. Willard, Colonel of the 125th New York Infantry, informed Lt. R. C. Schriber that he had a small cavalry picket at Bacon Race Church, with direction to patrol as far as Maple Valley.⁸⁹
- In a report dated 26 March 1863 from Wm P. Brinton, Captain, Commanding Post to Col. R. Butler Price, Commanding Cavalry South of Potomac.
We have traced the enemy as far as Bacon Race Church, supposing we must have been pressing them closely as we found carbines, Sabers, and pistols which had been left by the way.⁹⁰
- On 25 February 1864 a report of R. O. Taylor B Gen of Vol. dated Fairfax Courthouse, Virginia:
“A forced infantry sent after them has returned which went as far as Wolf Run Shoals. The commander of the party reports that he heard that the 4th Virginia Cavalry was encamped at Bacon Race”.⁹¹

Bacon Race Church appears to have suffered much devastation as did other buildings in Prince William County. Probably because of this, on 30 August 1868, the Occoquan Church Minutes show that several members of the Church agreed to unite with the Quantico Old School Baptist Church. They were James Arnold, James Davis, Thos Posey, John R. Arrington, D. T. Arrington, Sophia Arrington, Elizabeth Lynn, Margaret Posey and colored members--Benjamin and Celia. Susan Harrison's name was overlooked but later she became a member of Quantico also.⁹²

The 1870 Social Statistical Census, for Coles, Dumfries and Occoquan Townships, showed that there were 2 Baptist Churches in this District with only 1 building which would accommodate 200 people and was worth \$300.⁹³ As the Occoquan Baptist Church members had joined the Quantico Church in 1868, Occoquan was not the Baptist Church counted in this census. Because the census said 2 Baptist Churches and did not designate between Old School and New School, it would seem feasible that the Church building could have been the Union Church which both the Old School Baptists (Quantico) and New School Baptists used.

When the Quantico Baptist Church (Old School) was constituted in 1858, the meeting was held at the Union Church.⁹⁴ In October of 1873, Quantico Old School Baptist Church

⁸⁹ Report of G. L. Willard, Col. 125th New York Infantry to Lt. R. C. Schriber, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series 1, Volume 21, Chapter 23, “Correspondence, Etc.—Union”, page 833, from Making of America series online at Cornell University.

⁹⁰ *The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies: Series 1-Volume 25*, page 70 from Making of America, Cornell University.

⁹¹ *The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies: Series 1-Volume 33*, page 594 from Making of America, Cornell University.

⁹² Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916, Prince William County Virginia, Also Known as Bacon Race Church and Oak Grove Church* : 1. The original of these minutes are found at the Primitive Baptist Church Library, Elon, North Carolina. Many thanks to Glen Berry for copying them. RELIC has copies of the records.

⁹³ 1870 Social Statistics Census, Prince William County Virginia, Coles, Dumfries & Occoquan Townships, page 151.

⁹⁴ Hunter, *Quantico Baptist Church 1858-1911*: 1.

was considering buying the New School Baptist Church's interest in "our Meeting House". There was no decision made at that time.⁹⁵

As early as 1870 there was some discussion about the reconstitution of the Occoquan Church by people who lived in the neighborhood. In the spring of 1874, definite action was taken. During that time, new members had been baptized in the neighborhood of the Occoquan Church and a new Church built on the lot where the former Church had stood before its destruction during the war.⁹⁶

At the Library of Virginia there are minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting held 13 to 15 August 1873. The meeting was held at New Valley Church in Loudoun County. There was a letter from the Quantico Church with messengers George Pearson and William M. Smoot attending. Quantico had a total of 54 members. There was no mention of Occoquan.⁹⁷

On the 14th of August 1874, William M. Smoot was ordained by Elder J. L. Purington at the Corresponding Meeting held at Broad Run, Virginia. The Quantico Church had requested the ordination.⁹⁸

On the 3rd of September 1874, a petition was laid before the Quantico Church requesting letters for members wishing to be a part of the reconstitution of the Occoquan Church. Letters for this purpose were granted to James Davis, Thos. Posey, Wm. M. Smoot, Charles Dulany, Ths J. Simpson, Ann Posey, Maria Curtis, Ann Smoot, Mary Fairfax, Elizabeth Foster, Sopha Arrington, Susan J. Davis, Mary Moor, Margaret Posey, and Mary F L. Holland.⁹⁹ W^m A. B. Smith, Catharine Reed and Janie Lynn obtained letters also. There was a council held on 11 November 1874 to consider the reconstitution of Occoquan Church. W. M. Smoot, though granted a letter of dismissal, stayed with the Quantico Church. Elder J. L. Purington was the only preaching member present at the council and it was thought that W. M. Smoot could assist in the constitution if he remained a member of Quantico. There were seventeen members at the reconstitution.¹⁰⁰

The Occoquan Church of Primitive Baptist, Prince William County Virginia, was reconstituted on the 11th of November 1874 and T. J. Simpson was selected as Clerk Pro Tem and James Davis as Deacon. A call to Wm. M. Smoot was extended to take pastoral

⁹⁵ Hunter, *Quantico Baptist Church 1858-1911*: 22-25.

⁹⁶ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 1.

⁹⁷ Primitive Baptists, Virginia Corresponding Meeting, Minutes of the Virginia Meeting, VX6384.V8 V7, Library of Virginia, Richmond, 1873 Minutes.

⁹⁸ Darlene L. Hunter, indexer, *Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by Elder William M. Smoot, Pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church Prince William County Virginia, Baptisms 1874-1928, Marriages 1874-1936, Funerals 1878-1886* (Manassas, Virginia: RELIC, Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center, Bull Run Regional Library, 2013) 1. This book is a combination of three separate sets of records by Elder Smoot, Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals. They have been combined into one for ease of research. The ordination appears on the 1st page of the book and the first page of the Baptisms. The original of the records is found at the Primitive Baptist Church Library, Elon, North Carolina. Thanks to Glen Berry for copying the records.

⁹⁹ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 2

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid*, 2-3.

care of the Church and he accepted.¹⁰¹ The Articles of Faith of the Church were set forth in the Occoquan Minutes at this time.¹⁰²

Elder Smoot performed his first baptism at Frying Pan Church, Fairfax County Virginia, on 15 November 1875 when he baptized Clarissa Butler and two colored women, Hannah Newman and Letty Williams.¹⁰³

Elder J. L. Purington, the pastor that ordained William M. Smoot, died on 3 December 1874.¹⁰⁴ There was a Tribute of Love to him in the Occoquan Minutes on 23 January 1875.¹⁰⁵ There was a similar Tribute in the Quantico Minutes. This Tribute noted that Elder Purington was the pastor of six Churches—Alexandria, Ebenezer, Upper Broad Run, Mt. Zion, Quantico and Bethlehem of Virginia.¹⁰⁶

On 8 May 1875, William A. B. Smith, Thomas Posey and Thomas S. Simpson were appointed members of the Board of Trustees.¹⁰⁷ On 17 June 1875, Thomas Posey was appointed as Moderator and W. A. B. Smith as Clerk. T. J. Simpson was appointed to take charge of the House to open for meetings.¹⁰⁸ Occoquan Church requested in their letter to the Corresponding Meeting, admission to that Association in August of 1875.¹⁰⁹ On the 13th of November 1875, George Selecman was appointed as Deacon.¹¹⁰ By February 1876, T. J. Simpson was the Church Clerk.¹¹¹

The Church voted in July 1876 in favor of building an addition to the Church and Brother Smith was appointed to oversee the work and James Davis, George Selecman and Thomas Posey to collect the money.¹¹² At the meeting in August, the Church voted to have the house plastered.¹¹³

In May 1877, Brother Smith reported that he had gone to Brentsville to obtain the deed for the meeting house but that the County Clerk did not have time to look for the deed as it was court day.¹¹⁴ A committee later stated that the book in which the deed for the meeting house was recorded had been destroyed or otherwise removed from the County

¹⁰¹ Ibid: 5.

¹⁰² Ibid: 5-8.

¹⁰³ Hunter, *Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by Elder William M. Smoot*: 1.

¹⁰⁴ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 22.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid: 23-25.

¹⁰⁶ Hunter, *Quantico Baptist Church 1858-1911*: 33.

¹⁰⁷ *Occoquan Church Book, May 8, 1875 – November 12, 1886*: 2B. This was essentially an account book for the Occoquan Church; Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 27-28.

¹⁰⁸ *Occoquan Church Book, May 8, 1875 – November 12, 1886*: 3B.

¹⁰⁹ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 30.

¹¹⁰ Ibid: 32.

¹¹¹ Ibid: 34.

¹¹² Ibid: 35.

¹¹³ Ibid: 37.

¹¹⁴ Ibid: 41.

Records.¹¹⁵ Note: An unrecorded 1765 deed was found in the Loose Papers at the Courthouse.¹¹⁶

In September 1877, J. F. Grimes was appointed as Clerk of the Church.¹¹⁷ In November, the committee appointed to oversee the work on the meeting house reported that it was finished and the debt for the work was paid.¹¹⁸

The 1878 Corresponding Meeting was to be held at the Occoquan Church.¹¹⁹ In March 1879, Thomas Posey was chosen as Deacon.¹²⁰

There are minutes extant from the Virginia Corresponding Meeting held at Bethlehem Church in Prince William County on the 13th through the 15th of August 1879. Occoquan was represented by messengers Elder Wm. M. Smoot, Thomas Posey, Wm. Carter, Caleb Stone, and J. F. Grimes, membership 39. Quantico was represented by James M. Barbee, J. W. Chapman, L. A. Lynn, Ezekiel Lynn, and Magruder Keys, membership 29. Bethlehem was represented by F. A. Weedon, H. C. Steers, J. R. Kearns, D. T. Arrington, Eli Kidwell, B. T. Spindle and C. H. A. Weedon, membership 52. Elder J. N. Badger was Moderator of the Association meeting and Wm. M. Smoot was Clerk. A loving tribute and respect in memory of Deacons A. B. Weedon, James Davis and George Selecman, was adopted. Among the names and addresses of ministers attending was Elder Wm. M. Smoot, Occoquan, Prince Wm. Co., VA.¹²¹

The Virginia Corresponding Meeting met at Upper Broad Run Church on 17-19 August 1881. Occoquan Church was represented by Elder Wm. M. Smoot, J. F. Grimes, W. B. Smith and C. Stone, membership 53. Quantico was represented by James M. Barbee and J. W. Chapman, membership 25. Bethlehem was represented by H. C. Steers, B. T. Spindle, J. R. Kerns, and Wm. H. Francis, membership 52. A tribute of love and respect in memory of Elder G. Beebe, of New York, was adopted.¹²²

The Occoquan Baptist Church Minutes of 12 November 1881 show that brother J. W. Davis was appointed a trustee in place of Brother Thomas Posey who had died.¹²³ In February 1882, Brother Maxfield was chosen Deacon.¹²⁴

In the fall of 1882, the members of the Occoquan Baptist Church, living in the village of Occoquan, held a meeting. They discussed buying a lot and building a meeting house for

¹¹⁵ Ibid: 62.

¹¹⁶ Prince William County Loose Papers, Box 1111: 161, 162, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

¹¹⁷ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 49.

¹¹⁸ Ibid: 51.

¹¹⁹ Ibid: 50.

¹²⁰ Ibid: 61.

¹²¹ Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1879, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville Tennessee. This author is greatly indebted to the Southern Baptist Library for copies of these minutes housed in their collection.

¹²² Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1881, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville Tennessee.

¹²³ Hunter, *Occoquan Church Book, May 8, 1875 – November 12, 1886*: 8B.

¹²⁴ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 83.

the use of the Old School Baptist Church. The house and ground would be under the disposition and control of the Occoquan Old School Baptist Church.¹²⁵ On 10 March 1883, Brethren Orvis Maxfield, James W. Davis and John Clark were appointed Trustees of the proposed meeting house.¹²⁶

On 27 March 1883, there was a deed between Samuel K. Janney and Elizabeth Janney his wife of Alexandria, Virginia, and Elizabeth Janney of Loudoun County Virginia to Orvis Maxfield, J. W. Davis and John Clark of the County of Prince William Trustees for the Occoquan Old School Baptist Church of the town of Occoquan in the said County of Prince William. For \$60 the parties of the 1st part sold to the parties of the 2nd part a lot adjacent to the said town of Occoquan. It was on the west side of the road leading from Occoquan to Woodbridge and contained two acres one rod and thirty two poles.¹²⁷ This became Beulah Old School Baptist Church.¹²⁸

On the 15th through the 17th of August 1883, the meeting of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting was held at Mill Creek Church, Berkeley County, Virginia. Occoquan Baptist Church was represented by Elder Wm. M. Smoot and J. F. Grimes, membership was 58. Quantico was represented by Elder Wm. M. Smoot, membership 24. Bethlehem was represented by Elder J. N. Badger, membership was 63. Elder Wm. M. Smoot also represented Alexandria which had a membership of 20. Elder Wm. M. Smoot was appointed to write the Corresponding Circular for next year. Two of the Ministers belonging to the Corresponding Meeting were Elder Wm. M. Smoot, Occoquan, Virginia and Elder J. N. Badger, Buckland, Prince William County, Virginia.¹²⁹

Just as a sidelight, Mary Fairfax had been paid \$1 to \$1.50 sporadically by the Occoquan Baptist Church for services [*making fire and other services*] at the Occoquan Meeting House from February 1878 through July of 1883.¹³⁰ On 1 September 1883 there was a decree that the Occoquan Church at Bacon Race should hereafter be known as Oak Grove to distinguish it from the Meeting House being built at Occoquan [*village of Occoquan*].¹³¹ On 6 October 1883, Mary Fairfax was paid for her services at Oak Grove Meeting House.¹³²

In 1884, the Church at Oak Grove voted to place both the Oak Grove Church and the one in the village of Occoquan under one Board of Trustees. Therefore Brethren Orvis

¹²⁵ Hunter, *Occoquan Church Book, May 8, 1875 – November 12, 1886*: 148B

¹²⁶ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 88.

¹²⁷ Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 34: 153-154, Samuel & Elizabeth Janney, Elizabeth Janney to Orvis Maxfield, J. W. Davis and John Clark Trustees of the Occoquan Old School Baptist Church of the town of Occoquan, deed, recorded 4 May 1883, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

¹²⁸ See Darlene L. Hunter, transcriber, *Beulah Church Book, Primitive Baptist Church, Occoquan, Virginia November 10, 1892 – May 1940* (RELIC, Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, Virginia, 2013) for minutes of this Church which was a sister church to Occoquan. .

¹²⁹ Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1883, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville Tennessee.

¹³⁰ Hunter, *Occoquan Church Book, May 8, 1875 – November 12, 1886*: 5B-11B.

¹³¹ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 94.

¹³² Hunter, *Occoquan Church Book, May 8, 1875 – November 12, 1886*: 11B

Maxfield, James W. Davis and John W. Clark were to be the Trustees of both Churches.¹³³

On 11-13 August 1886, the Virginia Corresponding Association Meeting was held at Oak Grove.¹³⁴ In August 1887, the Virginia Corresponding Meeting met for three days, the first day at Oak Grove and the two last days at the village of Occoquan.¹³⁵

The Virginia Corresponding Meeting met the 15th through the 17th of August 1888 at the New Valley Church in Loudoun County Virginia. Occoquan was represented by Elder Wm. M. Smoot, Enoch Grimes and Albert Omeara, membership was 67. Quantico was represented by J. M. Barbee, membership was 24. Bethlehem was represented by H. C. Steers, Wm. H. Francis, G. W. Johnson, membership 61. Elder Wm. M. Smoot and Joseph Broders represented Alexandria, membership 14. A Minister of the Corresponding Meeting was Elder Wm. M. Smoot, Occoquan, Prince William County Virginia.¹³⁶

On 17 March 1888, the Quantico Old School Baptist Church Meeting proposed that a collection be taken up at their next meeting to pay for a piece of ground.¹³⁷

In May of 1888, there was a deed between John L. Keys to James M. Barbee, Ezekiel Lynn and John W. Chapman, Trustees for the use and benefit of the Primitive Baptist Church, and to their successors in office for \$20 land near Independent Hill in Prince William County. The metes and bounds began at a stone in the Warrenton and Dumfries road, another point was where the Bellefair Mill Road intersected the Warrenton and Dumfries Road. It was about 2 acres of land.¹³⁸ J. M. Barbee and J. W. Chapman represented Quantico Meeting at the Virginia Corresponding Meeting in 1881.¹³⁹

In August 1889, another division caused Occoquan Baptist Church to change Associations. It was on a question of correspondence with other associations. At the meeting of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, all ten churches, with the possible exception of Mill Creek, were represented. Occoquan was represented by Elder W. M. Smoot, Orvis Maxfield, Enoch Grimes, C. S. Stone, James Posey, James Clark and J. F. Grimes. Quantico was represented by Ezekial Lynn, J. M. Barbee, Sr., J. W. Chapman, and L. A. Lynn.¹⁴⁰

¹³³ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 98.

¹³⁴ Ibid: 112.

¹³⁵ Ibid: 117.

¹³⁶ Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1888, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville Tennessee.

¹³⁷ Hunter, *Quantico Baptist Church, Prince William County, Virginia July 13, 1858 to March 25, 1911* : 90.

¹³⁸ Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 38: 160, John L. Keys to James M. Barbee, Ezekiel Lynn and John W. Chapman, trustees for the use and benefit of the Primitive Baptist church, deed, recorded 11 June 1888, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

¹³⁹ Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1881, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville.

¹⁴⁰ William M. Smoot, *The Contest of 1886-89* (author, 1929) page 22, 23 from asweetsavor.info/contest/main.html : 22-23, viewed 1 September 2013.

Elder Smoot stated that the ten Churches in the Corresponding Meeting in August 1889 were Occoquan, Quantico and Bethlehem in Prince William, Frying Pan in Fairfax, Alexandria, in that city; Upper Broad Run, in Fauquier; Mt. Zion, Ebenezer and New Valley in Loudoun and Mill Creek in West Virginia.¹⁴¹

On 19 August 1889, the Virginia Annual Meeting was organized at Oak Grove. Occoquan was represented by Elder W. M. Smoot, Brethren Orvis Maxfield, Enoch Grimes, James Clark and James Posey. Quantico was represented by Ezekiel Lynn. Elder Wm. M. Smoot was moderator and Brother James Posey was clerk of the Association Meeting. Upon motion and second it was decided that the Association should be designated by the name Virginia Annual Meeting of Anti-Means, Old School Predestinarian Baptist.¹⁴²

Quantico and Occoquan were joined by a part of Frying Pan and Beulah, newly organized. The pastor of these churches, William M. Smoot set up a printing press in Occoquan and issued monthly from 1890 to his death [in 1938] *The Sectarian Devoted to the Cause of the Anti-Means, Old School, Predestinarian or Bible Baptists*.¹⁴³

Brother James Clark was appointed Trustee in place of James Davis in December 1889.¹⁴⁴ By July 1890, James Posey was the Church Clerk.¹⁴⁵

On the 28th of November 1892, the Beulah Church in the village of Occoquan was constituted.¹⁴⁶ The original members were James Clark, Mary L. Allen, D. T. Tavenner, Annie E. Garner, Janie E. Lynn, and Susie F. Hixson. Enoch Grimes was in the number requesting to be dismissed to the Beulah Church but he died a few days before the constitution of the Church.¹⁴⁷

In July 1893, it was approved that Brother Posey be appointed to write the letter to the Virginia Annual Meeting that the name of the meeting place in Fairfax County recently bought for the building of a Meeting House be changed from Sangster Cross Roads to Mt. Pleasant.¹⁴⁸ In August 1888, Brethren Maxfield, Dulaney and John Meyhugh of Fairfax County had been appointed Trustees for the Sangster Cross Roads Meeting House.¹⁴⁹ In 1908, the Oak Grove Church granted to the Frying Pan Church their right and interest in the lot at Mt. Pleasant.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴¹ Smoot, *Reminiscences of the Virginia Baptist*: 53.

¹⁴² Ibid: 71.

¹⁴³ Ryland, *The Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 251-252.

¹⁴⁴ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 137.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid: 142.

¹⁴⁶ Hunter, *Beulah Church Book, Primitive Baptist Church, Occoquan, Virginia November 10, 1892-May 1940*: page 1.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid: 6.

¹⁴⁸ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 160.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid: 122.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid: 207.

In December 1896, the meeting adopted the policy that the Moderator sign the minute of the meeting in absence of the Clerk. Wm. M. Smoot, Moderator, signed the minutes of this meeting.¹⁵¹

Later Deeds Concerning the Church

While deeds are sparse for the Occoquan Church, there are some later deeds that mention the area surrounding the Bacon Race Church and the Church itself.

On 5 May 1894, O. S. Davis was deeded a 50 acre tract of land being situated at Bacon Race Church and School House. The land was on the public road leading to Manassas and adjoining the lands of John Dyer, Hezzie Reid, J. H. Garner, Mrs. Davis and the old Warren Davis tract. The deed noted that the old School Baptist Church and the School House had been taken from the tract. O. S. Davis bought the tract at auction on 6 July 1891 for \$65. A Prince William County Court decree in May of 1891 in Chancery Court, *John A. Marshall guardian against Ethel Davis*, appointed E. E. Meredith and J. B. T. Thornton as special commissioners to sell this land. On 8 May 1893, J. B. T. Thornton and Edwin Nelson, Clerk of the Court, were appointed Special Commissioners to deliver a deed to O. S. Davis.¹⁵²

There was an affidavit from O. S. Davis in the Prince William County Chancery Case, *John A. Marshall versus Ethel Davis* noting that O. S. Davis had purchased the Bacon Race Tract at public sale. He then found that R. M. Davis had in his lifetime purchased this land and had neglected to get a deed.¹⁵³ G. W. Nutt surveyed the property, dated 19 July 1892. This survey showed 70 acres of land and with the notation “The above plat represents a tract of land charged to Mary F. Spence located near Bacon Race Pr. Wm. Co. surveyed for R. M. Davis estate having been purchased by the said R. M. Davis for delinquent tax for year 1888.” There is a note that O. S. Davis paid \$11.00 for the surveyor and 5 hands. [*This survey does not show Bacon Race Church.*]¹⁵⁴

On 8 August 1910 there is a deed between E.P. Davis and Emma Davis, his wife, Walter A. Davis and Grace A. Davis, all of Prince William County Virginia, to L. H. Potter, George M. Pierson and W. S. Smoot, trustees of the Occoquan Church of Anti-Means, Old School, Predestinarian Baptists. The deed stated that on 25 February 1794, Rodham Blancett and wife Jane conveyed to William Fairfax a tract of land containing 1000 acres with the reservation “including one thousand and four acres and the four acres is excepted so as to include the meeting house and meeting house spring”. The congregation of the Occoquan Church, then in 1794, “occupied said four acres of land and have continued from that time to the present time and do still continue at the present time to occupy, enjoy and use said four acres of land by the Congregation of said Church having been

¹⁵¹ Ibid: 178.

¹⁵² Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 46: 369, J. B. T. Thornton & Edwin Nelson to O. S. Davis, special warranty deed, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

¹⁵³ Petition of O. S. Davis, Prince William County Virginia Chancery Court Case—*John A Marshall vs Ethel Davis*, 1908-040, frame 48-49 of Chancery Court Records online at Library of Virginia.

¹⁵⁴ Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 42: 8, Plat and Survey of Spence Land to Davis, County Clerk's Office, Manassas

open, notorious and adverse for over one hundred and sixteen years”. ‘The said four acres of land referred to in said deed from Blancett and wife to Fairfax having always been universally understood to refer to the four acres of land on which said Occoquan Meeting House and Meeting House Spring are located and on which there is now also a Cemetery or Burying ground.’ Some years ago Oliver Davis, now deceased, acquired some 80 acres of said 1000 acre tract said 80 acres immediately surrounding and including said 4 acres on which the Meeting House, Meeting House Spring and Cemetery are located. Oliver Davis died leaving a widow, Emma Davis who intermarried with E. P. Davis after Oliver Davis’ death and two unmarried children, Walter A. Davis and Grace A. Davis. The deed identifies the Occoquan Church property as sometimes known as Oak Grove or Bacon Race Grounds. There is a plat included with this deed made by C. D. S. Clarkson, in 1910 which shows the O. S. Davis tract surrounding the Church lot and the Davis lot contained 69.64 acres.¹⁵⁵

The different members of the Davis family held the lot until 17 March 1961 when French S. Davis sold the land to Edward S. Reid. This deed stated that it was less and except 4.2 acres of the land which was conveyed by E. P. Davis and others to the Trustees of the Occoquan Church of Anti-Means, Old School Predestinarian Baptists by deed dated 8 August 1910 and recorded in Deed Book 60, page 149. The deed goes on to trace how French S. Davis acquired the land. The land conveyed was the same which was conveyed to French S. Davis and Grace A. Davis by E. J. Davis and others by deed dated October 12, 1916 and recorded in Deed Book 69, page 188. The said Grace A. Davis died intestate, without issue, leaving as her sole and only heir at law her mother, E. J. Davis, who conveyed the said land of which her daughter died seised and possessed to the said French S. Davis by deed dated November 16, 1932 and recorded in Deed Book 91, page 418. There is also excepted from this conveyance, a graveyard 30 feet by 30 feet adjoining the aforesaid Church lot and lying on the south side of the old road going to the land formerly owned by Dyer and located as indicated on the attached plat; said graveyard now includes the graves of Grace A. Davis, Emma Jane Davis and Louis Milstead. Copy of plat by C. D. S. Clarkson with cemetery marked.¹⁵⁶

Church History continued from 1900 to 1987

The Virginia Annual Meeting was held on the 15th through the 17th of August 1900 at Mt. Pleasant Church, Fairfax County Virginia. Letters from the Churches were read and the following tables prepared:

Occoquan, messengers-J. F. Grimes, Sunday of Meeting-2
Quantico, messengers-Ezekiel Lynn, Sunday of Meeting-4
Frying Pan, messengers-Oscar Moore, Sunday of Meeting-3
Beulah, messenger-Eld. W. M. Smoot, Sunday of Meeting-1

¹⁵⁵ Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 69: 188, E.J. & E. P. Davis W. A. & Ida M. Davis to French S. & Grace A. Davis, deed , plat attached by C. D. S. Clarkson, surveyed 1910, County Clerk’s Office, Manassas.

¹⁵⁶ Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 267, page 313, French S. Davis to Edward S. Reid, deed, recorded 20 March 1961, County Clerk’s Office, Manassas.

Elder W. M. Smoot was appointed to print and distribute the minutes.¹⁵⁷

The Virginia Annual Meeting of the Anti-Means, Old School, Predestinarian Baptist Church held with Occoquan Church at Mt. Pleasant, Fairfax County Virginia in 1906.

Letters from the Churches:

Occoquan-messenger-Elder W. M. Smoot, Sunday of meeting 2

Quantico-messenger-Ezekiel Lynn, Sunday of meeting 4

Frying Pan-messenger-L. H. Potter, Sunday of meeting 3

Beulah-Elder W. M. Smoot, Sunday of meeting-1

Washington-messenger J. F. Grimes, Sunday of meeting 5

Elder W. M. Smoot was appointed to print and distribute 125 copies of the minutes of this meeting

W. M. Smoot Moderator, L. H. Potter, Clerk

One of the Ministers present-Elder W. M. Smoot, Occoquan, Virginia.¹⁵⁸

It was noted in the Oak Grove Minutes of 18 August 1909 that the Church would be celebrating the 135th Anniversary of the organization of the Church.¹⁵⁹

On 2 June 1910 L. H. Potter, George Pierson and W. S. Smoot were appointed trustees of the Oak Grove Church.¹⁶⁰

The Virginia Annual Meeting was held 16-18 August 1911 with the Church at Frying Pan Spring, Fairfax County Virginia.

Churches-

Occoquan-messenger-Elder W. M. Smoot, M.S-2

Quantico-messenger-Ezekial Lynn [absent], M.S. 4

Frying Pan-messenger-L. H. Potter, M. S. 5

Beulah, Elder W. M. Smoot, M. S. 1

Washington-messenger J. F. Grimes, M. S. 3

Elder W. M. Smoot was appointed to print and distribute the minutes of this meeting.

W. M. Smoot Moderator, L. H. Potter, Clerk¹⁶¹

[*MS is meeting Sunday.*]

The next minutes of the Occoquan Baptist Church begin on 7 July 1917. A letter to the Annual Meeting to be held "with us" at the usual time in August was read and approved. Elder Smoot was appointed to bear the letter to the Annual Meeting.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁷ Old School Baptist Virginia. Virginia Annual Meeting Minutes. Occoquan, VA printed at Office of Sectarian, Call No. BX6384 V79 V7, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

¹⁵⁸ 1906 Minutes of the Virginia Annual Meeting of Anti- Means , Old School, Predestinarian Baptist, printed at Sectarian Building, Occoquan Virginia, held by the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

¹⁵⁹ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 210.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid: 211.

¹⁶¹ Old School Baptist Virginia. Virginia Annual Meeting Minutes. Occoquan, VA printed at Office of Sectarian, Call No. BX6384 V79 V7, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

¹⁶² Hunter, *Occoquan Church Book July 7, 1917-July 14, 1940*: 1C.

In July 1918, the Occoquan Baptist Church met and a letter to the Association at Frying Pan Spring was read and adopted and Elder W. M. Smoot was appointed to bear it as messenger.¹⁶³

In 1919, Elder Smoot wrote the reminder that only the records of the Church meetings were to be inserted in the book. The regular monthly meeting for preaching was held on the 2nd Sunday of each month.¹⁶⁴

On 1 July 1920, the Occoquan Baptist Church came together. A letter to the Virginia Annual Meeting to be held at Quantico in August was read and adopted. Elder W. M. Smoot was appointed messenger.¹⁶⁵

On 6 July 1922, the Occoquan Baptist Church met and Elder W M. Smoot was appointed Trustee of the Church property in place of W. S. Smoot. This made the Board of Trustees consist of W. M. Smoot, L. H. Potter and George M. Pierson. L. H. Potter was the Clerk.¹⁶⁶

On 5 April 1923, the Church rearranged the Board of Trustees by appointing W. S. Smoot and making the board consist of W. M. Smoot, W. S. Smoot and George M. Pierson. However they noted that Pierson's health might compel them to make another change.¹⁶⁷

On 9 August 1923, the Church met and rearranged the Board of Trustees again because of the serious infirmity of Brother George M. Pierson. The Board of Trustees became W. S. Smoot, W. M. Smoot and L. H. Potter. The sale of the Sangster Lot was discussed. The Church had given the land to Frying Pan Spring Church on 30 May 1908. The Board of Trustees requested that the Fairfax Court to execute a deed for the land known as Sangsters Cross roads to Earnest E. Taylor and Naomi E. Taylor his wife.¹⁶⁸

On 13 September 1924, the Church met and discussed the sale of two lots to Earnest E. Taylor. One lot contained one acre and one rod and thirteen perches and the other was located at Butt's Cross road in Lee Magisterial District, Fairfax County Virginia. Earnest E. Taylor was to purchase both lots for \$225.00. Lewis H. Potter, Walter Scott Smoot and William Middleton Smoot, Trustees of the Occoquan Old School Baptist Church, were authorized to sell the lots. The Church had formerly given the lots to Frying Pan Church and the money should be paid over to that Church through Elder W. M. Smoot who is now serving that church.¹⁶⁹

On 11 October 1924, the minutes of the Occoquan Baptist Church noted that this was the 150th anniversary of the organization of the Occoquan Church. The meeting was called to

¹⁶³ Ibid: 1C-2C.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid: 2C.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid: 3C.

¹⁶⁶ Ibid: 5C.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid: 6C.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid: 6C-7C.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid: 9-11C.

order by the Moderator [*W. M. Smoot*]. The time was spent mostly in reading extracts from the records of the Church dating from its earliest organization.¹⁷⁰

On 10 October 1925, it was a very cold windy day and the Church meeting was held at the residence of Phanetta Davis.¹⁷¹

On 11 October 1931, the Occoquan Baptist Church met and arranged for the amount of money left over from the painting of our Meeting House to be given to the Quantico Church to be used on the painting of their Meeting House.¹⁷²

In September 1934 Occoquan Meeting presented a suggestion to the Quantico and Beulah Churches and also the Church in Washington DC suggesting that the Churches dissolve as independent organizations and unite "with us" as separate branches of the one indivisible Church and as Occoquan Church was the oldest by far, they should be on the name of the Occoquan Church each of the four members thereof being branches of the same.¹⁷³

On 14 October 1934, notice was received by the Occoquan Church that Beulah, Quantico and the church at Washington DC accepted the suggestion of a union of these Churches. The three Churches named as separate branches "with us" of the Occoquan Church, preserving their records in each place.¹⁷⁴

On 12 August 1938, the minutes of the Occoquan Baptist Church contained the following:

Elder William Middleton Smoot died suddenly on Friday, August 12th 1938 at his home, Occoquan, Virginia, in his 91st year.

He was ordained August 1874. He was buried in the cemetery of the meeting house of the Occoquan Church which he had faithfully served 66 years, through snow, rain or storm.¹⁷⁵

On the 2nd Sunday in September of 1938, the minutes of the Occoquan Baptist Church noted that the members and quite a congregation of friends gathered at the Occoquan Meeting House and sang some hymns in honor of the Elder, then we all had lunch together.¹⁷⁶

Again on 10 September 1939 [*2nd Sunday*] and 14 July 1940 [*2nd Sunday*] the minutes of the Occoquan Baptist Church noted that the members and quite a congregation of friends gathered at the Occoquan Meeting House and sang some hymns in honor of the Elder,

¹⁷⁰ Ibid: 12C.

¹⁷¹ Ibid: 13C.

¹⁷² Ibid: 16C.

¹⁷³ Ibid: 17C.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid: 18C.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid: 20C.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid: 20C.

then we all had lunch together.¹⁷⁷ This is the end of the Occoquan Baptist Church Minutes.

On 14 February 1974 the Virginia State Highway Commission bought 1.3 acres from the Trustees of the Predestinarian Baptist Church for the construction of Route 663 [*Davis Ford Road*].¹⁷⁸

In February 1977, there was an article in the *Washington Post* noting the decline of the church property.

“the roof now has lost its shingles and the light and rain and snow filter through the large cracks to fall on the rotting family pews”

“The clapboards of the building are now weather-beaten and some are coming loose. To keep out the vandals the windows were boarded up years ago. The paint on the door is peeling and a ‘No Trespassing’ sign attempts to keep visitors out.

“The graveyard is kept up by families who have loved ones buried there and bright plastic flowers can be seen from the now well-traveled Davis Ford Road.”¹⁷⁹

On 25 December 1987, the Bacon Race/Oak Grove Baptist Church collapsed. An article in the *Washington Post* on 7 January 1988, told the sad story.

“Bacon Race Church, the weather-beaten landmark along David Ford road, succumbed to 50 years of neglect on Christmas Day when it ‘leaned over and died’.”

The old story is told in this article that on his death bed, W. M. Smoot said that he would return and no one was to preach in his Churches until he came back. Arthur Carter, one of the last living persons who had attended the Church, said that the story was not correct. Carter said that Smoot told him that the next minister would preach harder and better than he [*Smoot*]. Carter said that he didn’t want to get a new pastor after Smoot’s death.¹⁸⁰ However, it does not appear that any of the three Churches were used after 1938.

Pastors (Elders)

David Thomas was the pastor at the time of the organization of Occoquan Baptist Church.¹⁸¹ W. M. Smoot stated that Elder Thomas was among the first if not the very first pastor of Occoquan Church. Elder Thomas represented Occoquan as a messenger in

¹⁷⁷ Ibid: 20C.

¹⁷⁸ Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 725: 209, Virginia State Highway Commission to Trustees of Old School Predestinarian Baptist Church, County Clerk’s Office, Manassas. Map in State Hwy Book 8, pages 1 & 2 (1.3 acres)

¹⁷⁹ Eileen Mead, “He’s Promised To Return to Old Bacon Race Church”, *Washington Post*, 23 February 1977, article in the RELIC files, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, Virginia..

¹⁸⁰ Peter Pae, “100-Year-Old Church Falls Victim to Elements”, *Washington Post*, 7 January 1988, Page VA 12.

¹⁸¹ Fristoe, *The History of the Kettocton Baptist Association 1766-1808*; 5.

1776. He was born at the London Tract, Pennsylvania on 16 August 1732 and moved to Virginia in his 28th year.¹⁸²

The Occoquan Baptist Church belonged to the Kectocon Association in 1792 when the Association minutes become available and continued to belong until 1820 when the Church joined several others in the Columbia Association.¹⁸³ During this time, the pastor, for the most part, was Phillip Spiller. **Philip Spiller** died 6 January 1821. His obituary appeared in the *Alexandria Herald* on 15 January 1821 noting that Philip Spiller, the pastor of the Baptist Church, at Occoquan, died on 6 January 1821 in the 78th year of his age. He had been engaged upwards of 40 years in the Christian ministry. His funeral sermon would be delivered on the third Sunday in February at the Occoquan Meeting House by the Reverend James Reid.¹⁸⁴

Occoquan Church agreed to call **James Reid** to serve as their pastor in February 1821.¹⁸⁵ From 1821-1829, the listed pastor was James Reid.¹⁸⁶ In 1830, the Association records note that there is no established minister.¹⁸⁷

In May 1831, the Church called Brother Jacobs as pastor.¹⁸⁸ In 1832, 1833 and 1836, **William Jacobs** was listed as the minister in the Columbia Association records.¹⁸⁹

Lacking Church minutes [*fragments in 1840 and 1841 do not name ministers*] and Association Minutes from 1836, the names of the ministers [*Elders*] for Occoquan Baptist Church from 1836 until 1874 are unknown.

William Middleton Smoot (1848-1938¹⁹⁰) was ordained on the 14th of August 1874. He was ordained by Elder J. L. Purington at the Corresponding Meeting held at Broad Run, Virginia. The Quantico Church had requested the ordination.¹⁹¹

¹⁸² Smoot, *Reminiscences of the Virginia Baptist*: 30.

¹⁸³ Ryland, *Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 199 and note 32; *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia April 26, 1794 to February 18, 1843*, page 54; *Columbia Baptist Association Virginia 1820-1855*, found at Virginia Baptist Historical Library, University of Richmond, Richmond.

¹⁸⁴ Wesley E. Pippenger, *Marriage and Death Notices from Alexandria, Virginia Newspapers*, Volume I: 1784-1838 (Arlington, Virginia, author, 2005) 424 from *Alexandria Herald* 15 January 1821, Mon., page 3.

¹⁸⁵ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia April 26, 1794-February 1843*, page 55.

¹⁸⁶ "1821 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," *Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855*.

¹⁸⁷ "1830 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; *Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855*

¹⁸⁸ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia April 26, 1794-February 1843*, page 113.

¹⁸⁹ "1832 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; *Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855*

¹⁹⁰ Ronald R Turner, *Prince William County Virginia Cemeteries*, Bacon Race Church, alpha by last name; www.pwcvirginia.com/pwcvabookspublishedworks.htm .

¹⁹¹ Hunter, *Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by Elder William M. Smoot, Pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church Prince William County Virginia, Baptisms 1874-1928, Marriages 1874-1936, Funerals 1878-1886*

The 1873 Virginia Corresponding Meeting records do not show Occoquan Church but do show W. M. Smoot and George M. Pierson as the messengers from Quantico Church.¹⁹² Elder Smoot was extended a call and accepted the pastorship at the reconstitution of the Occoquan Church on 11 November 1874.¹⁹³ The 1879 minutes for the Virginia Corresponding Association and again in 1881 show Elder Wm. M. Smoot was one of the messengers from Occoquan.¹⁹⁴

In the 1883 meeting of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting held at Mill Creek Church, Berkeley County West Virginia, Elder Wm. M. Smoot was the messenger from Occoquan, Quantico and Alexandria.¹⁹⁵

In 1888 Elder W. M. Smoot was one of the messengers for the Occoquan Church and also one of the messengers for the Alexandria Church.¹⁹⁶

In 1889, William M. Smoot was an organizing force for the Virginia Annual Meeting. Garnett Ryland in his *The Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926* suggested that Smoot was the pastor of perhaps several of the Churches.

“The Occoquan and Quantico churches withdrew from the Corresponding Meeting and organized the Virginia Annual Meeting”

“They were joined later by a part of Frying Pan and by Beulah, newly organized. The pastor of these churches, William M. Smoot”¹⁹⁷

Elder Smoot was the editor and printer from 1890 until his death of *The Sectarian Devoted to the Cause of the Anti-Means, Old School, Predestinarian or Bible Baptists*.¹⁹⁸

W. M. Smoot was called to serve Beulah Church in the village of Occoquan when it organized on 3 December 1892 and he accepted.¹⁹⁹ He was a prominent pastor in Prince William County and the Primitive Baptist Churches under his ministry became known as Smootite Churches and his followers Smootites.²⁰⁰

The ordination appears on the 1st page of the book and the first page of the Baptisms. The original is at the Primitive Baptist Library, Elon, North Carolina.

¹⁹² Primitive Baptists, Virginia Corresponding Meeting, Minutes of the Virginia Meeting, VX6384.V8 V7, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

¹⁹³ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes 1868-1916*: 5.

¹⁹⁴ Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1879, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville Tennessee; Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1881, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville Tennessee.

¹⁹⁵ Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1883, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville Tennessee.

¹⁹⁶ Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1888, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville Tennessee.

¹⁹⁷ Ryland, *The Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926*: 251-252.

¹⁹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹⁹ Hunter, “A Church Book of the Church called Beulah, of Anti-Means, Old School, Predestinarian or Bible Baptist Occoquan, Prince William County Virginia” November 10, 1892-May 1940: 19.

²⁰⁰ Eileen Mead, “He Promised to Return to Old Bacon Race Church”, Washington Post, 23 February 1977.

As a personal note, William M. Smoot married Susie B. Cockerille in Fairfax County Virginia on 26 March 1897.²⁰¹

William M. Smoot published *The Sectarian Devoted to the Cause of the Anti-Means, Old School, Predestinarian or Bible Baptists* monthly from 1890 until his death in 1938.²⁰² This became the official publisher for the annual minutes of the Virginia Annual Meeting.²⁰³ Smoot also published a number of other books, including *Reminiscences of the Baptist of Virginia*.²⁰⁴

On 12 August 1938, the Occoquan Baptist Church minutes tell of the death of Elder William Middleton Smoot in his 91st year.²⁰⁵

His obituary was published in *The Manassas Journal Messenger*.²⁰⁶

“Notice of Death of William M. Smoot

There passed from among us in the Old town of Occoquan a man who will be missed by us all; a man who was a true and good neighbor and a patriotic American. Elder William M. Smoot a Land Mark to the oldest inhabitants of the community. He was Elder of what we commonly call the “Old School Baptists”. Whether we believed in his Theology or not, there is no question that Mr. Smoot was a good neighbor and was liked by all who were fortunate enough to have known him. He was laid to rest at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Hoadly, Va”, commonly known as Bacon Race Church. It is a very pretty last resting place surrounded by large live, oaks. A very restful and quiet place. We sympathize with all relatives of Mr. Smoot in this their time of bereavement.”

His obituary was also published in the *Washington Post*.²⁰⁷

“SMOOT, Elder William Middleton

Suddenly, on Friday, August 12, 1938, at his residence, Occoquan, Va, ELDER WILLIAM MIDDLETON SMOOT, aged 90 years. He is survived by Miss May Davis of New York City. Funeral on Sunday, August 14, at 2 pm at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Hoadley, Va. Interment church cemetery. Services by Hall’s Funeral Home, Occoquan, Va.”

W. M. Smoot of Occoquan, Prince William County Virginia, wrote his will on 18 April 1937. He wanted all of his property to be sold or held in trust by the Executor of his estate and to be reserved as a Fund to be known as “The Sectarian Order of Old School

²⁰¹ Constance K. Ring and Craig R. Scott, *Index to the Fairfax County Virginia Register of Marriages 1853-1933* (Lovettsville, Virginia: Willow Bend Books, 1997)129, from page 52 of the Register.

²⁰² Ryland, *The Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926* : 251-252.

²⁰³ Old School Baptist Virginia. Virginia Annual Meeting Minutes. Occoquan, VA for 1900 printed at Office of Sectarian, Call No. BX6384 V79 V7, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

²⁰⁴ W. M. Smoot, *Reminiscences of the Baptist of Virginia* (Occoquan, Virginia: Office of the Sectarian, 1902).

²⁰⁵ Ibid: 20C.

²⁰⁶ Occoquan Column, *The Manassas Journal Messenger*, 18 August 1938, page 3.

²⁰⁷ *The Washington Post*, 14 August 1938, page X6, from ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877-1995)

Baptist Fund". He wanted a fence kept around the Smoot Plot in Oak Grove Cemetery and the graves kept in good condition. After the settlement of his estate by his Executor the Fund should be turned over to the Occoquan Old School Predestinarian Baptist Church who was to appoint three sisters members of said Church as a committee to attend to its provisions. Frederick C. Carter was to be Executor of the will. The witnesses were Chas. A. Davis and Silas L. Reid. The will was proven on 15 August 1938.²⁰⁸

A List of Heirs All the Heirs of Elder William M. Smoot deceased was filed 19 September 1938.²⁰⁹ They were

Mrs. L. E. Nebergall	Niece	734 E. Church St, Marion, Ohio
Dr. Wm. Stemm	Nephew	North Vernon, Indiana
John R. Stemm	Nephew	West Lafayette Indiana
Mrs. C. C. Ripley	Niece	53 St. George Ave., Stamford, Conn.
Anthony E. Davis	Nephew	365 Leffett's Place, Brooklyn NY
Rhoda Campbell	Niece	North Syracuse, NY
Mae D. Campbell	Niece	North Syracuse, NY

The settlement of Smoot's estate filed and ordered recorded on 18 March 1940. It showed the sale of his farm to R. S. Hall.²¹⁰

Susie B. Smoot had died 25 April 1934 and left, by will, all of her estate to her husband W. M. Smoot. W. M. Smoot was appointed her Executor.²¹¹

Frederick C. Carter, Executor of the Estate of William M. Smoot, deceased, sold to Robert S. Hall about 74 acres for \$2500. The land was known as the Home Place where William M. Smoot resided at the time of his death. It was adjacent to the town of Occoquan, adjoining the Tanyard Hill road, Woodbridge-Occoquan Road, Woodbridge-Hoadley Road, and the lands of Moyer, Lynn, Bailey and other and being all of the residue of the Janney-Underwood land owned by the late William M. Smoot at his death.²¹²

William M. Smoot, who appears to have served many of the Old School Baptist Churches in the Virginia Annual Meeting and was publisher of *The Sectarian* for almost 50 years, left his estate in trust to the Occoquan Old School Predestinarian Baptist Church.

²⁰⁸ Prince William County Virginia Will Book 4: 284, will of W. M. Smoot, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²⁰⁹ Prince William County Virginia Will Book 4: 293, List of Heirs of William M. Smoot deceased, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²¹⁰ Prince William County Virginia Will Book 6: 119, Settlement of estate of W. M. Smoot, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²¹¹ Prince William County Virginia Will Book 3: 188, will of Susie B. Smoot, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²¹² Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 103: 137, Frederick C. Carter to Robert S. Hall, deed, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

Jackson Meeting House, a branch of Occoquan

The Jackson Meeting House was affiliated with Occoquan Baptist Church but never was constituted as a separate Church. It is mentioned in few records. The Meeting House probably was built between 1790 and 1796 on Samuel Jackson's property. It likely disappeared between 1834 and the Civil War. Jackson Meeting House appears to be located at the intersection of present day Hoadly Road and Route 234 (Dumfries Road). See below for details.

On May 2, 1798, Samuel and Mary Jackson deeded 3 acres for regard and love to the Baptist Society.

Beginning at a red oak saplin on the south side the road by the meeting house then S 77^d N 45 po to a Stone in the drane of the meeting house spring then S 13^d E 2 p^o to a white oak saplin then N 77^d E 45 P^o to a Stone on the South side of s^d road then down s^d road S 10^d W 12 p^o to a Stone on the South side of s^d road then down s^d road S 10^d W 12 p^o to the road leading from the Occoquan Mills then down the s^d road N 79 ½^d E 20 p^o to a stone, then N 10^d E 18 p^o to a double body'd red oak then N^o 80^d W 19 P^o to two red oak saplins then S 10^d W 9 p^o to the Beginning including about three acres..²¹³

There appears to have been a Meeting House there several years earlier when Samuel Jackson leased the land to Andrew Foster. On 18 June 1796, Samuel Jackson leased Andrew Foster 201 ¾ acres exclusive of the meeting house and three acres around it. The land was on the waters of Occoquan and waters of Powell's run and being a part of a larger tract of land granted to Thomas Reno, 531 acres.

Beginning at a white oak by an old lick thence south 32° W 36 poles S^o 17° W 112 po S 16° E 43 po to a white oak Stump N 75 ° W 70 po to a white oak S 18° W 34 po to a stooping white oak N 3° E 65 p^o N 61°. 15 W 160 p^o to a Black oak N 85°.30 E 60 p^o to a large white oak N 10°.30 E 136 po 15 links to a large white oak by a branch S^o 64. 30 E^t 190 to the Beginning, the said lot above containing two hundred and one acres and three quarters, exclusive of the Meeting House and the three acres around it.²¹⁴

There was no Meeting House mentioned when Samuel Jackson obtained this land in April 1790 from Charles Gray and Sibby his wife, Edward Higs & Elizabeth his wife and Francis Reno. This 204 ¾ acres on waters of Occoquan and the waters of Powell's Run was a part of larger tract granted to Thomas Renoe for 531 acres by Proprietor of Northern Neck 3 December 1742.

Beginning at a white oak by an old lick thence S^o 32° W 36 poles S^o 17° W 112 po S 16° E 43 po to a white oak Stump N 75 ° W 70 po to a white oak S 18° W 34 po to a stooping white oak N 3° E 65 p^o N^o 61°.15 W^t 160 p^o to a Black oak

²¹³ Prince William County Deed Book Z: 295, Samuel and Mary Jackson to Baptist Society, deed of gift, recorded 2 July 1798, County Clerk's Office, Manassas. Thanks to Charlotte Cain for her help.

²¹⁴ Prince William County Deed Book Z: 68, Samuel Jackson to Andrew Foster, farm let, recorded 2 January 1797, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

N 85°.30 East 60 p° to a large white oak N 10°.30 E 136 po 15 links to a large white oak by a branch S° 64. 30 Et 190 to the Beginning. The said lot contains two hundred and one acres and three quarters. The land was in Prince William County on the waters of Occoquan and waters of Powell's Run and being part of a larger tract of Land granted to a certain Thos. Reno for 531 acres.²¹⁵

The next mention of the Meeting House was on the 28th of February 1815, when Samuel Jackson wrote his will. He asked that the money arising from the sale of land to Benson Lynn, except what he gave to the Baptist Society would be applied to the payment of his debts. This will was proven 1 May 1815.²¹⁶ No deed from Samuel Jackson to Benson Lynn has been found to date in the recorded deeds.

Both the Bacon Race Meeting House and Jackson Meeting House appeared on the 1820 map by John Wood.²¹⁷

The meeting house was mentioned in the Occoquan Church Minutes in May 1824 when the Occoquan Church members questioned whether it would be advisable to sell the Jackson Meeting House and use the money to repair the Occoquan Church universally. Three members of the Occoquan Church, George Carney, James Arnold and John Tansil, were chosen to examine the deed to see if it was made to Occoquan Church or to the Baptists generally. In June, the Occoquan Church appointed Brothers Carney, Arnold and Tansil to "endeavor to suppress any further discussion about Jackson Meeting House & lot."²¹⁸ As is seen in the deed of gift from Samuel Jackson and wife for the Meeting House, it was deeded to the Baptist Society, not the Occoquan Church.²¹⁹ Occoquan Church did not hold the deed to Jackson Meeting House.

The Jackson Meeting House appeared on the Sperry-Rappahannock Turnpike map of 1834.²²⁰ There must have still been some kind of structure there at that time to be noted on the map.

The Jackson Meeting House was not mentioned in Benson Lynn's will, written on 17 April 1858. He left his dwelling house, all of his other houses and all the land on the south side of the Occoquan road and the east of the road leading to Laurence Coles to his daughters Mary F Norman, Mahalla M. Lynn and Lewellen S. Lynn during their single lives but should either or all marry then their interest to be equally divided between

²¹⁵ Prince William County Deed Book X: 363, Charles Gray and Sibby his wife, Edward Higs & Elizabeth his wife and Francis Reno to Samuel Jackson, deed of lease and release, recorded 5 April 1790, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²¹⁶ Prince William County Will Book K: 390, Samuel Jackson will, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²¹⁷ Prince William County Virginia map, surveyed and drawn under direction of John Wood, 1820, photocopy in RELIC, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas.

²¹⁸ Hunter, *Occoquan Baptist Church Meeting Minutes, Prince William County Virginia April 26, 1794-February 1843* Page 72.

²¹⁹ Prince William County Deed Book Z: 295, Samuel and Mary Jackson to Baptist Society, deed of gift, Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²²⁰ Sperryville and Rappahannock Turnpike map 634, map 2, quadrant 1, Library of Virginia, Richmond, surveyed April and May 1834.

Seymour Lynn, George F. Carney, Leland A Lynn, James E. Lynn and Alexander P. Lynn. His will was proven 3 January 1859.²²¹

The Civil War strategy necessitated the troops knowing where structures were located. The Jackson Meeting House was not shown on, at least, three maps of Prince William County from the Civil War time period. These maps indicate land owners and structures including Bacon Race Meeting House, the Lynn property and the John J. Beaver property [traced later].

- There is a map from the Library of Congress collection which shows structures and land owners, including the Beaver land, the Lynn land and Bacon Race Church. It does not show any Jackson Meeting House.²²²
- A map showing the surveys for military defenses, Northeastern Virginia Vicinity of Washington dated January 1 1862, showed Bacon Race Church, John Beavers and Benson Lynn.²²³ No Jackson Meeting House.
- Another Library of Congress map showing Fairfax County and parts of Loudoun and Prince William County by J. Paul Hoffman which was dated 24 March 1864 showed Bacon Race Church and the land of J. Beavers and B. Lynn.²²⁴

It would seem unlikely that the Meeting House was standing by 1860. One would wonder if the structure was gone and the acreage became a part of Benson Lynn's land.

Interestingly, the Jackson Meeting House was used as a locator on the land taxes for many years. The 1822 Land Tax showed the following tracts with the location- at or near the Jackson Meeting House:

- Reuben Calvert of Jackson, 173 acres, Jackson Meeting House
- Howson Hooe of French, 291 acres, near Jackson Meeting House
- Benson Lynn, of S. Jackson, 209 acres, Jackson Meeting House.²²⁵

The title for the Benson Lynn tract has already been discussed. The titles for the other two pieces are shown below.

Reuben Calvert bought the 173 acre tract mentioned in the 1822 Land Tax from Francis Jackson on 8 August 1803. The land was on the east or northeast side of the Long Branch of the Occoquan. It was a part of a Northern Neck Grant to Henry Felkins. One of its

²²¹ Prince William County Will Book R: 138, will of Benson Lynn, Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²²² Supplied Title [Prince William Fauquier and Stafford Counties Virginia] n.p. [ca 1861-1862] photocopy of Washington: Library of Congress reproduced from a copy stamped Division of Maps, June 30, 1938, LCCN G3883.P7 186-P7, copy in RELIC, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, Virginia. Don Wilson, Virginiana Librarian feels that it was drawn between July 1861 and March 1862.

²²³ Major George B. Davis, Leslie J. Perry, Joseph W. Kirkley compiled by Capt. Calvin D. Cowles, *The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War* (New York: The Fairfax Press, 1983, originally published: Atlas to accompany the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington D.C.: GPO, 1891) Plate VIII, Sheet 2, left frame

²²⁴ J. Paul Hoffmann, copier, A Map of Fairfax county and parts of Loudoun and Prince William Counties VA and the District of Columbia Topographical Office A N VA approved by S. Howell brown, 1st Lt Engs Troops on chg, Topographical Dept A. N. V. March 29, 1864, copy of Prince William County section at RELIC, Library of Congress, Washington, DC. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2002627423> .

²²⁵ 1822 A & B, 1st pt, Prince William County Virginia Land Tax, Lower District, microfilm at RELIC.

boundaries was the dividing line of Samuel Jackson and Stephen French.²²⁶ No Jackson Meeting House mentioned.

Howson Hooe bought the 291 acre tract from William and Martha French on 21 January 1818. It was ½ of the tract of land granted to Thomas Renoe on 3 December 1742. It was on Lick Branch of Occoquan, beginning at a large white oak corner to Samuel Jackson (now Linn). It was same land conveyed to Richard Stone and Stephen French and then to William French.²²⁷ No Jackson Meeting House mentioned.

To continue the recitation of title of the Hooe land mentioned in the 1822 Land Tax, on 2 September 1801, Richard Stone and Elizabeth his wife of Kentucky sold to Stephen French 235 acres on the Lick branch of the Occoquan and on the drain of the Long branch of Occoquan being ½ of the tract of land granted Thomas Renoe by Northern Neck Patent on 3 December 1742.²²⁸ No Jackson Meeting House mentioned.

Howson Hooe's land tax entry in 1825²²⁹ noted that the 291 acres was near Jackson's Meeting House, 8 miles east of the courthouse (Brentsville) and in 1830 the location changed to "in Forrest". See Eugene Scheel's 1992 Historic Prince William Map, indexed by Bev Veness, 2001 that shows The Forest [Token Forest] in D-5-c and F-5-a. This is to the north of Benson Lynn's tract and the spot where Scheel has placed the Jackson Meeting House.

The 1859 Prince William Land Tax showed the Benson Lynn estate with 365 acres, Jackson's Meeting House, 4 miles east of the Courthouse. John J. Beavers was also mentioned with a near Jackson Meeting House location, 53 acres, 5 miles east of the Courthouse.²³⁰ The entries of the Benson Lynn estate, with 365 acres, Jackson Meeting House, and John J. Beavers with 53 acres, near Jackson Meeting House, continue with the same in 1860 and 1861 Land Tax Lists. Both of these entries begin again in 1865 when the Land Tax resumed after the Civil War.²³¹

The title to the Beavers 53 acre tract mentioned in the 1858-1860 Land Tax Records showed that that **John J. Beavers** bought 53 acres on 5 November 1847 from the heirs of

²²⁶ Prince William County Deed Book 2: 286-287, Francis Jackson to Reuben Calvert, deed, recorded 6 December 1803, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²²⁷ Prince William County Deed Book 7: 7-8, William and Martha French to Howson Hooe, deed, recorded 20 May 1818, County Clerk's Office, Manassas. The deed from Stephen French to William French was on 21 April 1814 and is not extant. Prince William County Deed Book 5 1813-1816 is missing and the partial index surnames beginning M-Z would not cover this deed.

²²⁸ Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 1: 315-217, Richard and Elizabeth Stone to Stephen French, deed, recorded 7 September 1801, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²²⁹ Prince William County Virginia Land Tax, 1825, 1st part, alphabetical by first letter of last name, Howson Hooe entry, microfilm Prince William County Land Tax 1782-1892, reel 3, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas.

²³⁰ 1859 Prince William County Virginia Land Tax, John M. Payne list; 1861 Prince William County Virginia Land Tax, John M. Payne list, FHL 0029963.

²³¹ 1860 Prince William County Virginia Land Tax, page 15 from microfilm Prince William County Virginia Land Tax Books, 1860-1861; 1865-1870; 1861 Prince William County Virginia Land Tax, John M. Payne list; 1865 Prince William County Virginia Land Tax, John S. Storke list, FHL 0029963.

Reuben Calvert Jr. It was the land allotted to Reuben Calvert, Junior in the division of his Father's estate. Reuben Calvert, Junior's heirs were William W. Davis, R. S. Calvert, Benjamin Cooper, and Chloe Ann Cooper.²³² No mention of Jackson Meeting House.

John J. Beavers and wife Virginia C. sold on 22 March 1860 two tracts of land to William E. Lipscomb. The acreage of the land totaled 93 acres and one of those tracts Beavers had bought from the heirs of Reuben Calvert it contained 53 ½ acres and was noted in the 1859 land tax list to be near Jackson Meeting House. This deed was recorded 8 April 1860.²³³ No mention of Jackson Meeting House in the deed.

In 1866, a Chancery Court Case began between the Executor of Benson Lynn versus the heirs of Benson Lynn. The suit indicated that Benson Lynn had 365 acres at his death.²³⁴ The Benson Lynn estate continued to be taxed on the 365 acres, Jackson Meeting House location, through 1879. In 1880, the Benson Lynn estate location on the land tax lists changed from Jackson Meeting House to Mountain View.²³⁵ With that entry, the Jackson Meeting House disappeared from the Prince William County records.

²³² Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 20: 49, William W. Davis et al to John J. Beavers, deed, recorded 1 May 1847, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²³³ Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 25: 207, John J. Beavers and Virginia his wife to William E. Lipscomb, deed, County Clerk's Office, Manassas. Deed from Madden Renoe, dated 5 [sic] June 1855 for 39 ½ acres adjoining Beavers other land. It does not mention Jackson Meeting House. Prince William County Virginia Deed Book 23: 226, Deed was recorded 4 [sic] June 1855, County Clerk's Office, Manassas.

²³⁴ Virginia Memory Chancery Court Records-Prince William County Virginia Index Number 1880-17, Executors of Benson Lynn versus John H. Lynn
www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/full_case_Detail.asp?CFN=153-1880-017, viewed 1 September 2013.

²³⁵ 1879 Prince William County Land Tax, 2nd District, Jas. R. Sullivan, Commissioner, from 1879 Land Tax; 1880 Prince William County Land Tax, 2nd District, Jas. R. Sullivan, Commissioner, from 1880 Land Tax.

Appendix A
Listing for Occoquan Baptist Church from Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes

Date and Place	Church-messengers, minister	Statistics	Citation
13 Aug 1784	Occoquan, messengers-John Hampton, James Peake Brentown-Philip Spiller, James Dowdall Chappawamsic-John Fristoe, William King Broad Run-David Thomas, John Hunton	Membership-24 members –Occoquan 44 members-Brent Town 39 members- Chappawamsic Members – in Broad Run	Ketocton report to Philadelphia Association from Robert G. Gardner, “The Ketocton and Philadelphia Associations”, <i>Virginia Baptist Register</i> , Volume 29 (1990) page 1486.
17 Aug 1792 Meeting held at Long Branch.	Occoquan, messengers- <i>Philip Spiller</i> , James Peake, Obed Calvert	Baptized --, Received by letter-1; dismissed- 3; number of members- 37.	1792 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes, page 2; found at Virginia Baptist Historical Library, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia
1793	Occoquan-James Peake, Samuel Jackson-messengers	6 baptized; 6 dismissed, 1 dead, 36 members.	1793 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2
15 Aug 1794, held at Little River, Loudoun County	Occoquan PHILIP SPILLER, James Peake, Samuel Jackson- messengers	1 restored, 1 dismissed, 3 died, 43 membership.	1794 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2
Aug 1795, held at Goose Creek	Occoquan- + <i>Philip Spiller</i>	----- 43 membership	1795 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2
Aug 1796, held at Thumb Run	Occoquan –PHILIP SPILLER, William Simpson	37 total membership	1796 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 3
17 Aug 1797, held at Frying Pan	Occoquan-PHILIP SPILLER, James Peake	3 baptized, 2 restored, 3 dismissed, 39 total in church.	1797 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2
16 Aug 1798 Broad Run	Occoquan-PHILLIP SPILLER William Simpson,	1 rec'd by letter, 1 dead, 41 membership.	1798 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2
Aug 1799, held at Grove, Fauquier Co.	Occoquan-PHILLIP SPILLER Samuel Jackson	4 baptized, 2 dead, 44 fellowship.	1799 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2
Aug 1800, held at Back Lick	Occoquan-PHILLIP SPILLER James Peake, William Simpson	1 bapt. 1 dead, 44 fellowship	1800 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2
Aug 1801, at Happy Creek, Fred. Co VA	Occoquan-Samuel Jackson * [not present], James Peach [sic], William Bird	1 bapt. 1 dead, 44 fellowship	1801 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2
Aug 1802, at Little River, Loudoun Co	Occoquan * PHILLIP SPILLER, John King, John Mills	5 bapt, 48 under care, 1 excommunicated	1802 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2 nd page marked 3.
Aug 1803, held at Buck Marsh, Frederick Co VA	[handwritten note—study delinquent churches in this meeting] Occoquan Samuel Jackson & John King, not present [<i>not sure if it is Jackson or King</i>],	6 baptized, 1 excommunicated, 1 dead, 52 under care	1803 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2 nd page marked 3.
1804, held at Broad Run	Occoquan PHILLIP SPILLER [minister, not present] James Peake	3 bapt. 1 rec. by let., 2 dism. 51 in fellowship [nos hard to follow across]	1804 Ketocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2 nd page, marked 3

Date and Place	Church-messengers, minister	Statistics	Citation
Aug 1805, held Thumb run, Fauquier	Occoquan-Samuel Jackson James Peake	2 bapt, 1 dism. by letter, 1 died, 51 in fellowship	1805 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes: 2
Aug 1806, held at Frying Pan, Fairfax	Occoquan- Philip Spiller, John King,	9 bapt, 1 restored, 1 dism. by letter, 1 dead, 59 fellowship	1806 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes, page 2
Aug 1807, held at Opecon, Berkeley	Missing page 2 with Occoquan statistics-This is a handwritten transcription.		1807 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes:2
Aug 1808, held at Ebenezer, Loudoun Co	Occoquan-James Peake, John Mills	14 Baptised, 1 restored, 1 by letter, 4 by dismissal, 1 excommunicated, 3 dead, 71 in fellowship	1808 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes:2 nd page marked 3.
Aug 1809, held at New Valley, Loudoun Co	Occoquan-James Peake, John Mills,	1 bapt. 1 dism. 1 excomm. 1 dead ,69 in fellowship	1809 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes:2
Aug 1810, held at Waterlick, Shenandoah Co	Occoquan-Occoquan-Saml. Jackson, Wm. Webster,	5 bapt. 1 dism. 2 dec[eased], 62 in fellowship	1810 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes, 2 nd page
Aug 1811, held at Ebenezer	Occoquan-Jno. Mills, *William Bird	10 bapt, 1 restored, 3 dismissed, 1 dec., 69 in fellowship	1811 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes, 2 nd page
Aug 1812, held at Thumb Run	Occoquan-Phillip Spiller, Ja's McAboy	42 bapt, 1 restored, 1 rec. by letter, 4 dec, 105 in fellowship	1812 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes
Aug 1813, held at Bethel, Frederick Co	Occoquan-John Mills, J. McAboy	9 bapt, 1 rec. by letter, 4 dism..2 excom, 1 dec, 102 membership.	1813 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes:2 nd page, marked 3.
18 Aug 1814, held at Broad Run	Occoquan- <i>Phil. Spiller</i> , James M'Aboy	3 bapt, 1 rec by let. 3 dism. 1 excom., 108 in fellowship	1814 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes, printed page 3.
Aug 1815, held at Happy Creek, Frederick Co	Occoquan-John Mills, John Cochrell [sic]	5 bapt., 8 dism., 4 exc., 5 dec., 93 in fellowship	1815 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes
15 Aug 1816, held at Goose Creek	Occoquan- PHILLIP SPILLER John Sullivan Wm. Pearson. Minister-Phillip Spiller	3-stated day of preaching, 1 bapt, 6 dism., 1 dec., 85 total fellowship	1816 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes
Aug 1817, held at North Fork, Loudoun Co	Occoquan Prince William County, P. Spiller minister, James Sullivan & William Pearson-messenger s	2 dead, 4 ex, 5 dis., 1 restored, 76 membership	1817 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes, page 3.
Aug 1818, Grove, Fauquier Co	Occoquan, Prince William County, meetings 4 Sunday, minister-Philip Spiller, messengers-Geo. Selectman, John Tansil	2 dead, 1 excommunicated, 2 dismissed, 77 in fellowship, 6 baptized	1818 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes, page 3 & 4.
Aug 1819, held at Zion MH	Occoquan, Prince William County, messengers- G. Selectman, Geo. Carney, Minister- Ph. Spiller	3 rd Sunday, joined 1778, 3 baptized, 1 restored, 4 dismissed, 3 died, 74 total mem .	1819 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes

Date and Place	Church-messengers, minister	Statistics	Citation
17 Aug 1820, Back Marsh, Frederick Co	Occoquan, Prince William County, G. Selectman, John Fansel [<i>sic</i>], P. Spiller, minister.	10 bap, 2 dismissed., 2 disc, 2 dead, 78 total	1820 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes.
18 Aug 1820	“The following churches applied for letters of dismission. 1. Occoquan; 2. Frying pan; 3. Long Branch; 4. Little River; 5. Chappawamsic and they are hereby dismissed.”		1820 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes, dated 18 August 1820, page 4.
Aug 1821, Salem MH, Frederick Co VA	No Stats		1821 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes
Aug 1822, Ebenezer, Loudoun Co	There are statistics for other churches but no Occoquan.		1822 Kettocton Baptist Association Minutes

Appendix B
Listing of Occoquan Baptist Church from Columbia Association Minutes

Date	Church and messengers	Statistics	Citation
7-9 Sep 1820, Grove, Fauquier	Occoquan-Geo. Carney, Geo Selectman, messengers; * P. Spiller –minister.	3d day preaching, 10 bap, 2 dism. 2 exc., 2 dec., 78 membership, 1778-constituted	“1820 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855: 3, Virginia Baptist Historical Library, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia.
24-26 Aug 1821, held at Bethlehem MH, Prince William County	Occoquan- John Mills, William Pearson-messengers; Js. Reid-minister	3d day preach; 15 bap; 1 rec by letter, 1 restored, 1 exc., 6 dec., 88 total membership	“1821 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
23-25 Aug 1822, held at Mt. Pleasant, Fairfax Co	Occoquan- James Arnold, Jno Tansil- messengers; Js. Reid-minister;	3d day preach, 30 bap; 1 rec by letter, 1 exc., 1 dec.	“1822 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
21-23 Aug 1823, held at Rock Hill	Occoquan-Geo Selectman, George Carney-messengers, James Reid-min.,	6 bap, 1 rec by letter, 2 restored, 3 excluded, 4 dec., 117 members, constituted 1778., 3 rd Sunday	“1823 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” page 2; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
19-21 Aug 1824, Alexandria	Occoquan-Geo Selectman, George Carney, messengers; JAMES REID-minister	3rd day of preaching; 3 dism; 2 excluded; 4 dec; 108 total number	“1824 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” page 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
25-28 Aug 1825, held at Chappawamsick	Occoquan-George Carney, Geo. Selectman, messengers; <i>James Reid</i> – minister	3d day preaching; ---- - 108 total members.	“1825 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” page 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
24-26 Aug 1826, held at Long Branch	Occoquan-constituted 1778; George Carney, George Selectman, messengers; <i>James Reid</i> -minister	3d day of preaching, 3 bap; 2 rec by letter, 1 dism., 4 deceased; 108 total.	“1826 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” page 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
23-25 Aug 1827, held at Elk Run	Occoquan-constituted 1778; George Selectman, John Tansil; James Reid-minister	3d day of preaching; 2 bap; 1 restored; 2 dism; 4 excluded, 103 [108 maybe] total	“1827 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” page 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
21-23 Aug 1828, held at Nanjemoy, Charles Co MD	Occoquan-George Selectman, James Reid-ordained minister	2d day preaching; 2 rec by letter, 4 dis; 5 excluded; 94 total membership; 1778-constituted	“1828 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” page 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
20-22 Aug 1829, held at Little River, Loudoun	Occoquan-no messenger, James Reid-ordained minister	2d day of preaching, - ---, 94 total membership; 1778-constituted	“1829 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes,” page 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>

Date	Church and messengers	Statistics	Citation
19-21 Aug 1830, held at 1 st Church, Wash. City	Occoquan-William Jacobs, George Selectman; no settled pastor	2d-day of preaching, 1 bapt., 14 dism., 2 dec., 79 membership; 1778-constituted	"1830 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
25-28 Aug 1831, held at Mt. Pleasant	Occoquan-George Selectman, James Arnold, no settled pastor	3d-day of preaching; 2 bapt; 2 excluded; 79 total; 1778- constituted	"1831 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
23-26 Aug 1832; held at Bethlehem MH, Prince William Co	Occoquan-Prince William Co.; George Selectman, William Jacobs-messengers; William Jacobs-ordained minister	-- day of preaching; 1 bapt; 1 dism.; 1 dec; 79 membership; 1778 constituted	"1832 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
22-24 Aug 1833; held at Rock Hill, Stafford	Occoquan-Prince William Co; Prince William Co., William Jacobs, James Arnold- messengers; William Jacobs- ordained minister	3d-day of preaching; 2 bapt; 1 dis., 4 dec., 76 total membership	"1833 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
21-23 Aug 1834; held at Church of Chappawamsic in Dumfries	Occoquan-Prince William Co., no letter	Constituted 1778; 76 members	"1834 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
20-22 Aug 1835; held at Alexandria	Occoquan-Prince William Co., no letter	No statistics	"1835 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
25-27 Aug 1836; held at Grove	Occoquan-Prince William Co., David T. Arrington, James Davis, messengers; William Jacobs-ordained minister	3d-day of preaching; 3 bapt; 1 rec by letter; 1 restored; 1dism; 5dec; total 75 members	"1836 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>
Aug 1836	"A letter presented by Brother Trott, signed by messengers of churches at Harwood, Frying Pan, Mt. Pleasant, White Oak, Occoquan & one messenger from Elk Run withdrawing these churches from the Association." They were considered withdrawn.		1836 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes, page 7 #18; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855.</i>
1837, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Co	No Occoquan		"1837 Columbia Baptist Association Minutes," pg. 3; <i>Columbia Baptist Association Virginia Minutes 1820-1855</i>

Appendix C
Virginia Corresponding Meeting

Date	Church & Messengers	Statistics	Citation
13-15 Aug 1873	Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, held with New Valley Church Loudoun County Virginia. Wm. M. Smoot Clerk Letters from churches in correspondence Quantico—Messengers-George Pearson, Wm. M. Smoot, 3 bapt. 1 excluded, 4 died, 54 total membership No Occoquan		Primitive Baptists, Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1873 Minutes of the Virginia Meeting, VX6384.V8 V7 Library of Virginia, Richmond
13-15 Aug 1879	Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting Held at the Bethlehem Church Prince William County Virginia Occoquan was represented by Elder Wm. M. Smoot, Thomas Posey, Wm. Carter, Caleb Stone, J. F. Grimes. Wm. M. Smoot was clerk of the meeting. There was a memorial to Deacons, A. B. Weedon, James Davis, and George Selecman who had died in the year.	2 profession of faith, 4 died, 39 membership.	Virginia Corresponding Meeting of Primitive Baptists, Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1879, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville.
17-19 Aug 1881	Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting held at Upper Broad run Church, Fauquier County Virginia. Occoquan was represented by Elder Wm. M. Smoot, J. F. Grimes, W. B. Smith, C. Stone	10 bapt. Membership-53	Virginia Corresponding Meeting of Primitive Baptists, Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1881, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville.
15-17 Aug 1883	Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting held at Mill Creek Church, Berkeley County West Virginia. Occoquan was represented by Elder Wm. M. Smoot and J. F. Grimes. Quantico-Eld. Wm. M. Smoot, 2 bapt, 1 died, 24 members Alexandria, Eld. Wm. M. Smoot, 1 died 24 members	[Occoquan] 3 bapt, 1 rec'd by letter, total membership-58.	Virginia Corresponding Meeting of Primitive Baptists, Minutes of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 1883, held by the Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville.
Aug 1889	Meeting of the Virginia Corresponding Meeting Occoquan-Elder W. M. Smoot, Orvis Maxfield. Enoch Grimes, C. S. Stone, James Posey, James Clark, J. F. Grimes. Quantico-Ezekial Lynn, J. M. Barbee, Sr., J. W. Chapman, L. A. Lynn		William M. Smoot, <i>The Contest of 1886-1889</i> , author, page 22, 23 from asweetsavor.info/contest/main.html

Appendix D
Virginia Annual Meeting

Date	Church & Messengers	Statistics	Citation
19 Aug 1889	Organization of the Virginia Annual Meeting at Oak Grove. Following brethren were present as messengers, Occoquan-Elder W. M. Smoot, Brethren Orvis Maxfield, Enoch Grimes, James Clark, and James Posey Quantico-Brother Ezekiel Lynn Elder W. M. Smoot, Moderator and brother James Posey, Clerk To be known as Virginia Annual Meeting of Anti Means, Old School Predestinarian Baptist		William M. Smoot, <i>The Contest of 1886-1889</i> , author, page 22, 23 from asweetsavor.info/contest/main.html page 87
	Occoquan and Quantico were joined later by part of Frying Pan and Beulah, newly organized William M. Smoot, the pastor of these churches set up a printing press from which he issued monthly, from 1890 until his death in 1939, <i>The Sectarian Devoted to the Cause of the Anti-Means, old School, Predestinarian or Bible Baptists</i>		Garnett Ryland, <i>Baptists of Virginia 1699-1926</i> (Richmond, Virginia: The Virginia Baptist Board of Missions and Education, 1955) 251-252.
15-17 Aug 1900	Minutes of the Virginia Annual Meeting held at Mt. Pleasant, Fairfax County Virginia Letters Read Occoquan, messengers- J. F. Grimes Quantico, messengers-Ezekiel Lynn Frying Pan, messengers-Oscar Moore Beulah, messenger-Eld. W. M. Smoot	Occoquan-Sunday of meeting-2 Quantico-Sunday of meeting-4 Frying Pan, Sunday of meeting-3 Beulah, Sunday of meeting-1	Old School Baptist Virginia. Virginia Annual Meeting Minutes, 1900. Occoquan, VA printed at the Office of the Sectarian, Call No. BX6384 V 79 V7, Library of Virginia, Richmond Virginia.
15-17 Aug 1906	Minutes of the Virginia Annual Meeting held with Occoquan Church at Mt. Pleasant, Fairfax County Virginia Letters from the Churches Occoquan, messenger-Elder W. M. Smoot Quantico, messenger-Ezekiel Lynn Frying Pan, messenger-L. H. Potter Beulah, messenger-Elder W. M. Smoot Washington, messenger-J. F. Grimes	Occoquan-meeting 2 nd Sunday Quantico-4 th Frying Pan-3 rd Beulah-1 st Washington-5 th	Old School Baptist Virginia. Virginia Annual Meeting Minutes, 1906. Occoquan, VA printed at the Office of the Sectarian, Call No. BX6384 V 79 V7, Library of Virginia, Richmond Virginia.
16-18, 19 Aug 1911	Minutes of the Virginia Annual Meeting held with the church at Frying Pan Spring, Fairfax County Virginia Letters from Churches Occoquan, messenger-Eld. W. M. Smoot Quantico, messenger-Ezekial Lynn [absent] Frying Pan, messenger-L.H. Potter Beulah, messenger-Eld. W. M. Smoot Washington, messenger, J. F. Grimes	Meeting Sunday Occoquan-2 Quantico-4 Frying Pan-5 Beulah-1 Washington-3	Old School Baptist Virginia. Virginia Annual Meeting Minutes, 1911. Occoquan, VA printed at the Office of the Sectarian, Call No. BX6384 V 79 V7, Library of Virginia, Richmond Virginia.

Index to History of the Occoquan Baptist Church, Prince William County Virginia

- Anti-Movement, 9, 10
- Allen
Mary L, 20
- Arnold
James, 14, 32, 39, 40
- Arrington
David T/ D T, 10, 14, 17, 40
John R, 14
Sophia/Sopha, 14, 15
- Articles of Faith, 16
- Ashton
Burdit, Capt, 6
- Asten
----, 1
- Austin
Lauthan B, 12
- Bacon Race Meeting House Spring, 6, 21,
22
- Bacon Race School, 21
- Badger
J N, Elder, 17, 18
- Bailey
---, 30
- Baptist Associations
Chappawamsick, 7
Columbia, 4, 8-12, 27, 39-40
Ebenezer, 11
Ketocton, 2-4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 27, 36-38
Philadelphia, PA, 2, 36
Shiloh, 10
Virginia Annual Meeting, 4, 20, 22-
24, 28, 29, 42
Virginia Corresponding Meeting, 4,
10-12, 15-20, 27, 28, 41
- Barbee
James M, 17, 19
J M, Sr, 19, 41
- Barker,
T G, 13
- Beavers
John J, 34, 35
Virginia C, 35
- Beebe
Gilbert, 11, 17
- Bird
William, 36, 37
- Blancett/Blanchet/Blandseld
Jane, 5, 21, 22
Rhodam/Rodham, 5, 6, 21, 22
- Board of Trustees appointed, 16-18, 20, 23,
24
- Brinton
William P, Capt, 14
- Broaddus
William F, 10
- Broders
Joseph, 19
- Butler
Clarissa, 16
- Calvert
Obed, 36
Obed, Jr, 5
Obed, Sr, 5
R S, 35
Reuben, 33
Reuben, Jr, 35
- Campbell
Mae D, 30
Rhoda, 30
- Camps
Bartow, 13
Butler, 12
Conner, 12
Griffin, 12
- Carney
George, 8, 32, 37, 39
George F, 33
- Carter
Arthur, 26
Frederick C, 30
William, 17, 41
- Cemetery,
1, 22, 25, 26, 29, 30
- Chancery Court Case
Executor of Benson Lynn vs
heirs of Benson Lynn, 35
John A. Marshall guardian vs Ethel
Davis, 21
- Chapman
John W/J W, 17, 19, 41

Index to History of the Occoquan Baptist Church, Prince William County Virginia

- Clark
James, 19, 20, 41, 42
John, 11, 18
John W, 19
- Clarkson
C D S, 22
- Clerk selected, 15-17, 20
- Cockerille/Cochrell
John, 37
Susie B, 29
- Cole,
Laurence, 32
- Colored
-----, Benjamin, 14
-----, Celia, 14
- Cooper
Benjamin, 35
Chloe Ann, 35
- Creek/Run/Stream
Bacon/Bakon Race [Ground], 1, 6
Chappawamsic, 3
Lick Branch of Occoquan, 34
Long Branch of Occoquan, 33, 34
Powell's Run, 31, 32
- Crozer Manuscripts, 2
- Curtis
Maria, 15
- Davis,
---, 7
Anthony E, 30
Charles A, 30
E P, 21, 22
Emma/Emma J, 21, 22
Ethel, 21
French S, 22
Grace A, 21, 22
J W, 17
James, 10, 11, 14-17, 20, 40, 41
James W, 18, 19
May, 29
Mrs, 21
O S/Oliver S, 21, 22
Phanetta, 25
R M, 21
Susan J, 15
Walter A, 21, 22
- Davis cont.
Warren, 21
William W, 34
- Death
Peake, James, 9
Purington, J L, 16
Spiller, Philip, 8, 27
Smoot, Susie B, 30
Smoot, William Middleton, 25, 29
- Deed for
Bacon Race/Occoquan, 1, 2, 21, 22
Beulah, 18
Quantico, 19
- Deacon selected, 15-17
- Dowdall
James, 36
- Dulaney
Brother, 20
Charles, 15
- Dyer
John, 21
- Edwards
Morgan, 2, 3
- Fairfax
Mary, 15, 18
William, 5-7, 21, 22
William Sr deceased, 5, 6
- Felkins
Henry, 33
- Fords
Davis, 13
Wolf Run Shoals, 13, 14
- The Forest [Token Forest]. 34
- Foster
Andrew, 31
Elizabeth, 15
- Francis
Wm. H., 17, 19
- French
Martha, 34
Stephen, 34
William, 34
- Fristoe
Daniel, 2, 3, 7
John, 36
William, 3

Index to History of the Occoquan Baptist Church, Prince William County Virginia

- Furman Manuscripts, 2, 3
- Gallatt
Charles, 11
- Garner
Annie E, 20
J H, 21
- Gray
Charles, 31
Sibby, 31
- Grimes
Enoch, 19, 20, 41, 42
J F, 17-19, 22, 23, 41, 42
- Hall
R S/Robert S, 30
- Hampton's South Carolina Legion, 12
Brigade/Legion Hospital, 12, 13
Brigade Storehouse, 13
- Hampton
John, 2, 5, 7, 36
Wade, Col, 13
- Harrison
Susan, 14
- Higs/Higgs
Edward, 31
Elizabeth, 31
- Hixon
Susie F, 20
- Henderson
Alexander, 5, 6
- Hoffman
J. Paul, 34
- Holland
Mary F L, 15
- Hooe
Howson, 33, 34
- Hunton
John, 36
- Hutson
Charles, 12
- Jackson
Francis, 33
Mary, 31
Samuel, 31-34, 36, 37
- Jacobs
William. 9, 10, 40
- Janney
Elizabeth, 18
Samuel K, 18
Janney-Underwood land, 30
- Johnson
G W, 19
- Kearns/Kerns
J R, 17
- Keys
John L, 19
Magruder, 17
- Kidwell
Eli, 17
William, 11
- King
John, 36, 37
William, 7, 36
- Leachman
Brother, 11
- Lee
Stephen D, Maj, 13
- Lipscomb
William E, 35
- Lynn/Linn
---, 30, 34
Alexander P, 33
Benson, 32-34
Elizabeth, 14
Ezekiel, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 41, 42
James E, 33
Janie, 15
Janie E, 20
L A, 17, 19, 41
Leland A, 33
Lewellen S, 32
Mahalla M, 32
Seymour, 33
- McAboy
James, 37
- Marshall
John A, 21
- Marks
---, 3
- Maxfield
Brother, 17, 20
Orvis, 18-20, 41, 42

Index to History of the Occoquan Baptist Church, Prince William County Virginia

Maps

Civil War 1861, 1862, 1865, 33
Scheel, Eugene, 1992 Historic Prince William, 34
Sperry-Rappahannock Turnpike (1834), 32
Wood, John (1820). 32

Meeting Houses

Alexandria, 16, 18-20, 28, 39, 40, 41
Back Lick, 36
Back Marsh, Frederick Co, 38
Bethel, Frederick Co, 37
Bethlehem, 10, 11, 16-19, 20
Bethlehem of Prince William Co, 20, 39-41
Beulah, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 42
Brentown, 3, 36
Brent Town, 3, 7
Broad Run of Fauquier County, 2, 15, 27, 36, 37
Buck Marsh, Frederick Co VA, 36
Chappawamsic of Stafford County, 2, 3, 7, 8, 36, 38, 39
Chappawamsic in Dumfries, 40
Ebenezer, 16
Ebenezer, Loudoun Co, 20, 37, 38
Elk Run, 39, 40
Fredericksburg, 10, 11, 40
Frying Pan in Fairfax, 8, 10, 11, 16, 20, 22-24, 28, 36-38, 40,, 42
Goose Creek, 36, 37
Grove in Fauquier, 8, 10, 36, 37, 39, 40
Hartwood in Stafford County, 3, 8, 10, 40
Happy Creek, Frederick County VA, 36, 37
Jackson, 31-35
Ketocton of Loudoun County, 2
Little River of Loudoun County, 8, 36, 38, 39
Long Branch in Fauquier, 8, 36, 38, 39
Mill Creek of Berkeley, 2, 18-20, 28, 41

Meeting Houses cont.

Mt Pleasant in Fairfax, 8, 10, 11, 20, 22, 23, 39, 40, 42
Mt Zion, 16
Nanjemoy, Charles Co MD, 8, 39
New Valley in Loudoun, 15, 19, 20, 37, 41
North Fork, Loudoun Co, 37
[Village of] Occoquan, 18
Opecon, Berkeley Co, VA, 37
Potomac/Hartwood in Stafford, 3
Quantico, 12, 14-20, 22-25, 27, 28, 41, 42
Rock Hill in Stafford, 8, 39, 40
Salem, Frederick Co, 38
Sangster Cross Road, 20
Shiloh in Fredericksburg, 8
Smith's Creek of Shenandoah County, 2
Thumb Run, Fauquier, 36, 37
Union Meeting House, 12, 14
Upper Broad Run, 16, 17, 20, 41
Washington, 23, 25, 40
Waterlick, Shenandoah Co, 37
White Oak, 10, 40
Zion, 37

Meredith

E E, 21

Meyhugh

John of Fairfax County, 20

Mills

John, 9, 36, 37, 39

Milstead

Louis, 22

Moor/Moore

Mary, 15
Oscar, 22, 42

Morris

Hammond, 5
Mary, 5

Morton,

Susan Rogers, 1

Moseley

Robert, 1

Mountain View, 35

Index to History of the Occoquan Baptist Church, Prince William County Virginia

- Moyer
---, 30
- Nebergall
L. E., Mrs, 30
- Nelson
Edwin, 21
- New School Baptists, 15
- Newman
Hannah, 16
- Norman
Mary F, 32
- Northern Neck Grant
Blanseld, Rodham, 6
Felkins, Henry, 34
Peak, James, 6
Reno, Thomas, 31, 32, 34
Veale, William, 5
- Nutt
G W, 21
- Occoquan Church Deed of gift, 1, 2
Occoquan Church constitution, 3, 4
Occoquan Church union with Quantico, 14
Occoquan Church rebuilt, 15
Occoquan Church reconstitution, 15
Occoquan/Bacon Race renamed Oak Grove,
18
Occoquan 135th Anniversary, 23
Occoquan 150th Anniversary, 24
Occoquan union with Quantico, Beulah,
Washington churches, 25
Occoquan collapse, 26
- Omeara
Albert, 19
- Ordination
Smoot, William M, 15, 27
- Parish
Overwharton, 3
Truro, 1
- Pastor selected
Jacobs, William, 9, 27
Reid, James, 8, 27
Smoot, William M, 16, 27, 28
Thomas, David, 26, 27
- Peak/Peake/Peach
James, 5-7, 9, 36, 37
John, 5
- Pearson/Pierson
George, 15, 21, 23, 24, 28, 41
William, 8, 37, 39
- Pennsylvania, London Tract, 27
Petition to Virginia Convention (1776), 3
- Posey
Ann, 15
Brother, 20
James, 19, 20, 41, 42
Margaret, 14, 15
Thomas, 14-17, 41
- Potter
L H, 21, 23, 24, 42
- Price
R Butler, Col, 14
- Pridmore
Benjamin, 11
- Purington
J L, Elder, 15, 16, 27
- Reid/Reed
Catherine, 15
Edward S, 22
Hezzie, 21
James, 8, 27, 39
Silas L, 30
- Regiments
14th Georgia, 13
125th New York, 14
16th North Carolina, 13
4th Virginia, 14
- Reno
Francis, 31
Thomas, 31, 34
- Ripley
C C, Mrs, 30
- River
Occoquan, 12, 13, 31-33
Potomac/Potowmack, 3
- Roads
Bacon Race, 1
Bellefair Mill, 19
Davis Ford, 1, 26
Dumfries, 31
Hoadly, 31
Leading to old Dyer lot, 22
Leading to Laurence Coles, 32

Index to History of the Occoquan Baptist Church, Prince William County Virginia

Roads cont.

- Leading to Manassas, 21
 - Leading to Occoquan Mills, 31
 - Occoquan, 32
 - Occoquan to Woodbridge, 18, 30
 - Tanyard Hill, 30
 - Warrenton to Dumfries, 19
 - Woodbridge to Hoadly, 30
- Ryland
- Garnett, 3, 7-9
- Sanders
- Robert, 2
- Schriber
- R C Lt, 14
- “Sectarian”, 20, 28-30, 42
- Selecman/Selectman
- G, 38
 - George, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 37, 40, 41
- “Sign of the Times”, 11
- Semple
- Robert, 3
- Simpson
- Thomas J/T J, 15, 16
 - William, 36
- Smith
- Brother, 16
 - W B, 17, 41
 - Wm A B, 15-16
- Smoot
- Ann, 15
 - Susie B, 30
 - William M, 10, 11, 15-30, 41, 42
 - W S/Walter Scott, 21, 23, 24
- Smootites/Smootie Church, 29
- Southern Baptist Historic Library and Archives, Nashville, 41
- Spence
- Mary F, 21
- Sperry-Rappahannock Turnpike, 32
- Spiller
- Philip, 8, 27, 36-39
- Spindle
- B T, 17
- Stanton
- William, 2
- Steers
- H C, 17, 19
- Stemm
- John R, 30
 - Wm, Dr, 30
- Stone
- Caleb/Caleb S/C S, 17, 19, 41
 - Elizabeth, 34
 - Richard, 34
- Strange
- Joseph D, 13
- Sullivan
- James, 37
 - John, 37
- Tansil/Fansil
- John, 32, 37-39
- Tavener
- D T, 20
- Taylor
- Ernest E, 24
 - Naomi E, 24
 - R O, B Gen, 14
- Thomas
- David, 2, 3, 26, 36
- Thornton
- J B T, 21
- Towns/ areas
- Brentsville, 16, 34
 - Buckland, 18
 - Butts Cross Road, 24
 - Colchester, 13
 - Fairfax Courthouse, 14
 - Forest [Token Forest], 34
 - Hoadly, 1, 29
 - Independent Hill, 19
 - Maple Valley, 14
 - Manassas, 13
 - Occoquan, , 17, 18, 20, 25, 29-30
 - Sangster Cross Roads, 20, 24
- Trott
- Samuel, Elder, 10, 11
- Trustees, see Board of Trustees
- Turner
- Ron, 2

Index to History of the Occoquan Baptist Church, Prince William County Virginia

Veale/Vele

John, 5

Morris, 5

William, 1, 5, 6

Virginia Baptist Historical Library,

Richmond, 7, 36-40

Virginia State Highway Commission, 26

Webster

William, 37

Weedon

A B, 17, 41

C H A, 17

F A, 17

George, 12

Willard

G L, Col, 14

Williams

Letty, 16

Wood

John, 32