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But Begun in 1752, Broad Run Church was a brick Anglican church and one of the two churches in Dettingen Parish in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The other, Quantico Church was begun at the same time and was also financed with tobacco.

Dettingen Parish was formed in 1744 from Hamilton Parish. The boundaries of Dettingen Parish roughly corresponded to those of present Prince William County. Dettingen Parish, like of other pre-Revolutionary parishes in Virginia, was a civil as well as ecclesiastical division, for during much of the Virginia colony's history, churches were responsible for, among other civic duties, collecting ~~local~~ taxes to support the Church and other local government functions, caring for the poor and indigent, educating and apprenticing poor children, and processioning the boundaries of lands. Twelve vestrymen elected for 3-year terms carried out the above-named civil duties and were usually the most prominent men in a parish. In 1786, the Virginia legislature "disestablished" the Episcopal church by removing <sup>from the vestry</sup> all civil duties and the power to tax. By 1799, disestablishment was complete and magisterial districts had been created to manage the civil affairs

formerly vested in the Anglican Church.

The records of Dettingen Parish, which have been published, include

<sup>#</sup> <sup>the</sup> The Vestry Book (1745-1785), Minutes of the Meetings of the Overseer of the Poor (1788-1802), and Indentures (1749-1782). In this record book are many references to the church erected on Broad Run in 1752. The ~~Rectors~~<sup>Church's</sup> of Dettingen builders were William More and Gabriel Muffitt. The church, which is also referred to as "Broadrun Chaple," "Slaty Run Church," and "the church at Redmans" [Readmans, Redmons], was paid for in <sup>four</sup> ~~five~~ installments of approximately 20,000 lbs. of tobacco, from ~~1752~~ October 1752 to December 1755.

During the ~~same~~ time the church was being built <sup>in</sup> ~~at~~ the upper part of

the parish, the rector was Rev. James ~~Alexander~~ Scott, who also oversaw the erection of the Quantico Church, the companion church to Broad Run Church. Catharine ~~Boston~~ Bristoe was sexton at Broad Run Church and Joseph Thurman was clerk and reader.

Fairfax Harrison refers to the 18<sup>th</sup> century Virginia parishes as "working symbols of an ancient race inheritance."

Of the seven brick churches built in Old Prince William (the region incorporating Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier, <sup>Arlington,</sup> ~~and present~~ Prince William counties), only Pohick, Falls Church, and Christ Church still survive. The four lost churches are Quantico, Broad Run, Elk Run, and Payne's. "Their sites," according to Harrison, "are enduring bench marks of the highest reach of the tide of the old civilization of Virginia."

A contour line drawn through those sites may be taken as a boundary which, without changing his habit, the tidewater planter could not pass on his march to the Blue Ridge.

For beyond that boundary began the America of today." (Harrison, p. 300.) (cont.)

The church at Broad Run was supplanted after the turn of the century by a chapel at Brentsville. That chapel was in turn replaced in the 1840s by a stone church, St. James, now known as Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church. Broad Run Church had fallen to ruins by 1857, according to a contemporary comment by Bishop Meade. The Bishop's writings, published in part in the WPA guide ~~1944~~ to Prince William County, described the Broad Run Church as having several galleries which were erected by the vestry and sold to the old aristocratic families.

The site of the old church, which measured approximately 30 feet by 60 feet, is in the woods, surrounded by an old cemetery containing approximately 100 stones. The oldest marked grave is dated 1788. Some of the family names of those buried in the cemetery are Burroughs, Thompson, Lovelace, and Roseberry. One source mentions that the vestry had offices in the churchyard.