

Republican Journal & Dumfries Advertiser 11 Feb 1796

LAND FOR SALE pursuant to a decree of the Worshipful Court of Prince William will be sold on Monday the 7th day of March next at Mr. Smock's Tavern in Dumfries, at twelve o'clock for ready money, a parcel of land containing Five Hundred Acres situated in the said County about six or seven miles from Dumfries and the same distance from the Occoquan Mills. The tract is adjoining the lands of Mr. James Peake who will be able to satisfy the enquiry of any person respecting the lands who wishes to become a purchaser.

A. Lithgow
J. Lawson
February 3, 1796

Republican Journal & Dumfries Advertiser 11 Aug 1796

LANDS for SALE by virtue of a power of attorney which is of record in Prince William County, from Mrs. Catherine Douglass of Scotland, and her daughter. The subscriber will sell that valuable and very productive farm on Cedar Run in the said county which is conveyed by Robert Brent, deceased, and Ann his wife to the executors on James Douglas for the purposes in his will mentioned being part of the well known Brenton Tract.

It contains about 850 acres of which a small part is under lease, during the life of an old lady. The whole of the farm is enclosed and divided into 3 fields. On one of which will be sown this season 200 bushels of wheat of the first quality. A small part only of this land remains in woods; but if the purchaser or purchasers shall choose along with this farm will be sold 150 acres near it, 101 of which are supposed to be heavily covered with timber valuable for building as well as fencing, both these tracts are within 14 miles of Dumfries, and 18 from Occoquan Mills. It is to be the choice of the purchaser, he may, with this farm buy the SLAVES which are valuable. The stock and farm utensils.

Alexander Henderson
Dumfries Va. 20 Aug 1796

Alexandria Gazette 5 Dec 1803

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN – that we intend to petition the next General Assembly of Virginia, for a law to establish a town at the Occoquan Mills, in the County of Prince William, under certain regulations.

Ellicott, Campbell & Wheeler
Occoquan Mills, Va.
October 5, 1803

Alexandria Gazette 19 Jun 1809

VALUABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE – Pursuant to a deed of trust made by Elisha Janney to the subscriber for the benefit of his creditors, will be exposed to public sale, before the tavern door of Zachariah Ward, in the town of Occoquan, at twelve o'clock, on Friday, the twenty-first day of next month.

THAT VALUABLE MILL – SEAT, the property of the said Janney, situated in the said town of Occoquan. On this site was erected, about ten years ago a spacious three story brick mill house, which ever since has been occupied as a manufacturing mill until about five weeks ago it was destroyed by fire, the stone work of the mill and a considerable part of the brick work still stands and would be found sufficiently substantial to erect new work upon it – considerable part

of the iron work would also answer for a new mill, which might with these aids be erected in time to grind the growing crop of wheat. The advantages appertaining to this valuable property which in the driest season never wants water, are so generally known as hardly to need a particular enumeration. Suffice it to state, that it is situated in a healthy and flourishing little town at the falls of Occoquan River, about 16 miles south of Alexandria, on the great stage road leading from north to south, in the heart of a fine wheat country, and has navigable tide water to the mill door where vessels may come of sufficient burthen to carry 400 to 500 barrels of flour.

ALSO at the same place will be exposed to sale THE TANKARD and the improvement thereon, which are calculated for the carrying on the tanning business to advantage and on a large scale, together with the stock of leather, &c. on hand. Also will be exposed for sale, at the same time and place, ONE UNDIVIDED MOIETY of a tract of land, containing about 500 acres, situated on the north side of the Occoquan River, very valuable from the quantity of fine timber which it contains.

TERMS OF SALE for the real property will be, ten per cent on the purchase money payable within 60 days by negotiable notes well endorsed, for the residue a credit will be given of one, two, and three years on equal payments. A deed of trust upon the property to secure the payments will be required. For further particulars, those who may desire to purchase will be pleased to apply to Mr. Nathaniel Ellicott, at Occoquan, or to the subscriber at Bush Hill near Alexandria.

Richard M. Scott, Trustee
June 19, 1809

Alexandria Gazette 4 May 1810

FOR SALE at the town of Occoquan, on the 26th day of May next at Public Auction, that VALUABLE MILL SEAT, late the property of the Elisha Janney, situated in the said town of Occoquan, on this site was erected, about eleven years ago a spacious three story brick mill house, which ever since has been occupied as a manufacturing mill until about twelve months ago it was destroyed by fire, the stones and bricks of the former walls, and the iron work of the building are upon the spot, and would answer for a new mill, which might with these aids, be erected in time to grind the growing crop of wheat.

The advantages appertaining to this valuable property which in the driest season never wants water, are so generally known as hardly to need a particular enumeration. Suffice it to state, that it is situated in a healthy and flourishing little town at the falls of Occoquan River, about 16 miles south of Alexandria, on the great stage road leading from north to south, in the heart of a fine wheat country, and has navigable tide water to the mill door where vessels may come of sufficient burthen to carry 500 barrels of flour. With this valuable seat for water works of any description, there may be had about 250 acres of well timbered land, lying on the opposite side of the river.

For this property one tenth of the purchase money will be required in hand, and the residue in three equal annual payments, with interest from the day of sale.

Richard M. Scott,
Trustee for Creditors of E. Janney
April 25, 1810

Alexandria Gazette 9 Oct 1811

OCCOQUAN MILLS – The proprietors offer for sale this valuable estate, consisting of LANDS, MILLS, MILL – SEATS, DWELLING HOUSES, STORES & other valuable property, all upon navigation and convenient to market.

To those who are unacquainted with the premises it may be stated that they are situated at the Falls of Occoquan River, in Virginia, which empties into the Potomac, 16 miles below Alexandria and about 8 or 10 below Mount Vernon, the seat of the late General Washington.

At no one spot, probably, can there be united more advantages for flour mills, or any kind of manufactory or mechanical operations requiring the agency of water; the stream is large, generally affording enough for twenty water wheels at a time, contiguous to several of the finest wheat counties in Virginia, and being upon navigation has, besides, the whole range of the river Potomac on both sides to its mouth a distance of at least 100 miles. The great mail stage road from north to south passes through it, a post office at the spot and a daily mail throughout the year affords early and constant information of the state of markets and whatever else may be interesting. The buildings here in after described, with several others built and owned by different people, gives to the place the appearance of a handsome little village, remarked by strangers for the romantic scenery around it, and by its inhabitants for the unequalled celebrity of its air.

First in importance of the buildings is a very complete Merchant Mill with all the most approved modern machinery for the manufactory of flour, of which article it has and can make twenty thousand barrels a year with ease. Next is a Country Toll Mill, which has given annually three to four hundred barrels of Indian Corn and other grain from its toll alone; there is also a Mill for pounding and grinding Plaster Paris, an article in much request throughout the neighboring counties; a well constructed Saw Mill in good repair; and a Toll Bridge that produces twelve hundred and fifty to fifteen hundred dollars a year; besides which there are several well fitted Store Houses, six or eight Dwellings suitable for tradesmen exclusive of their Work Shops, and Stablage for at least fifty head of horses and cattle. The whole is overlooked by a large commodious Stone Mansion House, with every office suitable for the residence of a genteel family; and at the door is a never-failing Spring of fine Water.

Unimproved, are several valuable Mill Seats, two of which immediately adjoin the present and are supplied with water from the same race and dam; besides these (as there is nearly thirty feet more head and fall of water than has ever yet been found necessary to use in the present works) other mills may be erected so much above, as not to interfere with those already mentioned. Indeed 52 feet fall, which there is here, would admit of all the water being worked twice over if desired.

There is, belonging to the estate, near one thousand acres of land, some adjoining and none of it very distant from the mills, mostly in wood and some parts pretty well timbered; through immediately adjoining, are some well improved productive Meadows and Grain Land & several enclosed Town Lots. If it be asked why so desirable and productive a property should be offered for sale, it may be answered “that the advanced age and distance residence of two of the partners make a narrower circle of concerns desirable to them, and all the parties are desirous to pay off their debts.”

Any person inclined to purchase will find the price reasonable, and the time of payment for a large proportion of the purchase money will be made as easy as the purchaser could expect or wish.

For further particulars application may be made to James Campbell, at Petersburg; Samuel G. Griffite, Esquire, of Baltimore; James Taylor Jun. Esq. of Norfolk; or on the premises to Nathaniel Ellicott and Luke Wheeler, the latter of whom will remain a few weeks at this place, to assist in effecting the object of this advertisement.

Ellicott, Campbell & Wheeler
27 September 1811

Alexandria Gazette 19 Jul 1815

FOR SALE the tract of land lying on the south side of Occoquan River, within one mile of the Occoquan Mill, in the county of Prince William and state of Virginia, known as the Swan Point tract, containing two hundred and forty four acres.

On this land 140 acres are arable, and the whole under good enclosures, from slight experiments which have been made, it is believed that no land can be more easily improved, being particularly adapted to the growth of clover, aided by the Plaster of Paris. It is highly recommended by its convenience to the markets of Dumfries and Alexandria, being distant from the former but ten, and from the latter sixteen miles. The neighbourhood is healthy and society good.

For information relative to said land and improvements, any person wishing to purchase, is referred to Mr. Zachariah Ward who is the present occupant. Any farther information may be obtained on application to either of the subscribers, living in Prince William County.

Bernard Hooe Jun.

John Hooe

July 12, 1815

Alexandria Gazette 12 Oct 1826

MILLERS WANTED – The subscriber wishes to employ two persons in the capacity of second hands. To such as can come well recommended for their sobriety and industry, good wages will be given. Apply to Thomas & Samuel Canby, Occoquan Mills, or to the subscriber in Alexandria, who wishes to purchase WHEAT at the Occoquan Mills, also at his mill on Accotink, and in Alexandria; at all of which places the highest market price will be paid.

Jona. Janney

Alexandria Gazette 30 May 1832

OCCOQUAN MILLS &c. FOR SALE – We offer for sale the whole of our property situated upon the River Occoquan, in Virginia, sixteen miles south of Alexandria, viz.

NO.1 – A FLOUR MILL of great power, with the appendages of a Country Mill, Saw Mill, Plaster Mill, and Wool Card. It has been for many years in active operation, is within reach of an extensive and fertile wheat country, and has a great and increasing custom. If desired, the establishment is easily convertible into Cotton, Wool, or other Factories. The Merchant Mill is a stone building, 76 feet by 47 feet, and there is ample room for the erection of other works. The site has the whole power of the River Occoquan, and a fall of 23 feet. There is already in the Village a large cotton factory in successful operation. There is Sloop navigation immediately from the Mill Door to the Cities in the District of Columbia. White labor is abundant, and said to be cheaper than in the Northern States. The situation has been long remarkable for its healthfulness.

NO.2 – A number of HOUSES and LOTS in the Village of Occoquan, all of which are rented. Also a number of unimproved lots.

NO.3 – A TOLL BRIDGE across the River Occoquan, on the great mail route from Washington to the Southern States, with all the rights and privileges vested by the act of the Virginia Assembly of December 17, 1795.

NO.4 – About THREE HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND, adjoining the Village of Occoquan, a small part of which is improved, and produces excellent crops of grain and hay.

NO.5 – UNIMPROVED MILL SEATS, above our Dam, with the whole power of the River Occoquan.

The Terms of payment will be liberal. Should it be desired, the part designated No. 1 may be had separately, and we will retain the rest of the property. Persons desirous to purchase, are invited to an inspection of the property, or to address, by letter.

Jos. Janney Jr. Occoquan or
John H. Janney, Alexandria
April 26, 1832

Alexandria Gazette 1 May 1836

OCCOQUAN COTTON FACTORY – FOR SALE OR RENT – The Co-Partnership between the subscribers being about to be dissolved, we offer for sale the above named valuable property.

The Factory is situated at the head of sloop navigation on the Occoquan River, in Prince William County, Va., 16 miles from Alexandria and 22 from Washington City. The House is substantially built of stone, and contains 1088 Spindles with a large proportion of Carding Machinery of the best kind and in good order. It has Twine Machinery just completed, capable of converting nearly half the Yarn into Seine Twine, and there is room in the Building for Looms and power to operate them. The local advantages of this Factory are great, being in a neighborhood where white help can be had in abundance. The situation is healthy, the water-power very valuable, and the cost of transportation by water to the District of Columbia, is moderate.

Terms of sale will be made known by application to the subscribers, who may be addressed by letter directed to Occoquan, Prince William County, Va. If not sold in a short time, we will rent it to a manufacturer who can come well recommended.

S. M. & S. H. Janney

Petersburg Intelligencer, National Intelligencer, Globe, Baltimore Patriot, U. S Gazette of Philadelphia, Journal of Commerce of N. Y. will copy the above and send their bills to advertisers.

Alexandria Gazette 25 Feb 1842

THE OCCOQUAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY – Offer for sale, their Cotton Mills, situated on the Occoquan River, Prince William County, Va. about 16 miles SW of Alexandria, DC. These works have valuable water privileges, there being an ample supply to drive the machinery, and tide water communication with the cities of the District of Columbia.

The Factory is a new and substantial stone buildings, covered with slate. There are 1088 spindles, 12 looms, and all the necessary cards, speeders, drawing frames, lappers and pickers. There is also ample machinery for the manufacture of seine twine, for which the Potomac

Fisheries afford a large market. The Terms of sale will be liberal. Application to be made to Joseph Janney, President of the Company, at Occoquan, Va. or to

William Fowle & Son
Alexandria, D. C.

Alexandria Gazette 21 Apr 1842

BY GEORGE WHITE – STOCK OF THE OCCOQUAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AT AUCTION – By virtue of a transfer made by Messr. Samuel M. Janney and Samuel H. Janney on the 14th of November, 1837 to the subscriber, will be offered at Public Auction on Saturday the 23rd day of April next, at 12 o'clock M., at the Tavern Door of George P. Wise in Alexandria, sixteen shares of stock in the Occoquan Manufacturing Company, on each of which, the sum of \$100 is said to have been paid. The terms of sale will be cash.

Alexandria Gazette 10 Aug 1843

PUBLIC SALE OF REAL PROPERTY – HARTFORD, the residence of the late Robert Weir, will be sold on the premises, to the highest bidder, on Thursday, the 10th day of August next. This very desirable and beautiful estate lies in Prince William County, Va., and adjoins the lands of Col John Gibson; and others, within three miles of Brentsville, the county seat of Prince William, and immediately on the main road leading from Warrenton to Occoquan Mills, about fourteen miles below the former, and 22 above the latter place. At these Mills, the crops of this farm are usually disposed of. It contains about 675 acres, 20 acres of rich upland meadow, now well set in timothy and other grasses. The arable land is all in good heart, and in a high state of improvement. The fields not in cultivation, are set in clover, and under good fencing. The improvements are a comfortable and convenient dwelling house, (with a basement story,) kitchen, laundry, dairy, smokehouse, ice house, &c. and a large barn and granary, under one roof; together with ample stallage, all are in good repair. In the yard is a well of good water, adjoining which, is a vineyard, of more than one acre, and a beautiful lawn of several acres, shaded with majestic oaks, and other trees. The garden, which is ample, and very productive, is beautifully laid out, and filled with choice fruit, and a great variety of shrubbery. In a word any person feeling disposed to purchase a beautiful and productive estate, in a remarkably healthy region, a wealthy and intelligent neighborhood, in eastern Virginia, would do well to attend the sale of this land. Those that feel disposed to purchase are respectfully invited to view the property before the day of sale. One fourth of the purchase money will be required on the execution of the deed. On the balance, a very liberal credit will be given. The purchaser giving bond with good personal security, and a deed of trust on the land, to secure the deferred payment.

By the executors of Robert Weir, dec'd
Prince William County, Va.

Alexandria Gazette 27 Jun 1844

FOR RENT – THE OCCOQUAN MILLS – This well known and desirable property has seven pairs of Burrs for manufacturing wheat; also a Plaister Mill and Saw Mill, and a valuable Country Mill. It is the market of a country which furnishes supplies of wheat at the door, and the water privileges are very valuable. Apply only through the Occoquan Post Office to

Joseph Janney

John Janney

Alexandria Gazette 18 Nov 1858

OCCOQUAN MILLS FOR SALE – The above well known MILLS are offered for sale. They are situated in the town of Occoquan, Prince William county, Virginia, at the head of tide water, on the Occoquan River, and have water carriage to Alexandria, (from which they are distant about sixteen miles by land,) by means of the Occoquan and Potomac Rivers. In the Merchant or Flouring Mill we run three pairs of five and a half, and three pairs of five feet FRENCH BURRS.

The north wall of the MILL stands on the Occoquan River, so that vessels deliver grain into the Mill, and Flour is lowered by block and tackle into their holds.

There is also a GRIST MILL, with one pair of BURRS, a SAW MILL, and PLASTER MILL. The water wheels are all twenty feet high, and overshot. The water power and privileges are known to be the most valuable between the Potomac and Rappahannock. There is excellent opportunity to select any quality of wheat in the Alexandria market, and the supplies derived from the neighboring county are considerable. The situation is as healthy, perhaps, as any in the world.

We will sell the Mills, or separately, a FRAME DWELLING, used as the Miller's House and a LARGE STONE MANSION with all the necessary out-buildings, GARDEN, ORCHARD, &c. and beautifully situated. Possession given on the first of July, 1859. Apply to JOS. JANNEY & COMPANY, Occoquan Post Office, Prince William County, Virginia.

Alexandria Gazette 3 May 1859

OCCOQUAN MILLS AT PUBLIC AUCTION – The above well known MILLS will be offered for sale by auction on Wednesday, June 1, 1859, at 12 o'clock, M. in front of the Mayor's Office, Alexandria. They are situated in the town of Occoquan, Prince William County, Virginia, at the head of tide water, on the Occoquan River, and have water carriage to Alexandria, (from which they are distant about sixteen miles by land,) by means of the Occoquan and Potomac Rivers. In the Merchant or Flouring Mill we run three pairs of five and a half, and three pairs of five feet FRENCH BURRS.

On the north wall of the MILL stands on the Occoquan River, so that vessels deliver grain into the Mill, and Flour is lowered by block and tackle into their holds.

There is also a GRIST MILL, with one pair of BURRS, a SAW MILL, and PLASTER MILL. The water wheels are all twenty feet high, and overshot. The water power and privileges are known to be the most valuable between the Potomac and Rappahannock.

There is excellent opportunity to select any quality of wheat in the Alexandria market, and the supplies derived from the neighboring county are considerable. The situation is as healthy, perhaps, as any in the world.

At the same time will be offered for sale, a FRAME DWELLING, used as the Miller's House and a LARGE STONE MANSION, with all the necessary out-buildings, GARDEN, ORCHARD, &c. and beautifully situated. Possession given immediately.

TERMS: - One fourth of the purchase money to be paid in hand, the balance in three equal installments, at one, two, and three years, with interest, to be secured by a deed of trust.

Joseph Janney & Company
Alexandria, Va.

Alexandria Gazette 28 July 1870

OCCOQUAN, Va., - Occoquan situated on Occoquan River about five miles from where that stream empties in the Occoquan Bay, and within seven miles of the Potomac, whose broad and beautiful bosom, dotted with the sail of a hundred vessel's is plainly seen from the granite hills that tower a hundred and fifty feet above and around the town. The town was incorporated in 1804. By a recent act of the Legislature, trustees have been appointed, whose duty will be to levy a tax to keep the streets in order, and for other purposes, and have charge of the corporation property. The town contains some sixty or seventy dwellings, built of stone, brick and wood. It has a fine merchant mill, a saw mill on the most extensive scale; four stores (not cake shops,) well filled with all kinds of goods, each employing several clerks whose appearances indicate that they have sufficient to do to keep them wide awake. There are also two employing several hands, and, we might add, that the work turned out is of a superior quality of workmanship. There is also a good hotel in the place.

The town is watered by two springs, three fourths of a mile distant, the waters of which are conveyed in iron pipes through the different streets.

Occoquan River is navigable at this point for small steamboats, pungies &c., several of which are kept constantly employed conveying flour, grain, wood, barrels, &c. to the cities of Alexandria, Washington, and Georgetown markets – the entire business being in the hands of the merchants of the town.

Above the town a few rods, stands the ruins of a cotton factory that once furnished employment for fifty or sixty hands. This factory was established in 1828 by Samuel H. Janney (now of Loudoun County, an Indian Agent for the Government,) and Samuel H. Janney, who ran it up to about 1858, when the business was suspended because it did not pay. The building, with its contents, consisting of machinery, was burned during the war by an incendiary. Its walls still stand a monument of the former prosperity of the town.

About a quarter of a mile above the factory on the banks of Occoquan and almost hidden by the growth of trees, are the ruins of an iron forge, a mill and two stores, whose walls once echoed with busy life and the clear ring of the tilt hammer, but which ceased to be a hundred years ago.

As we stood upon the moss covered rocks, that form what is now left of those old buildings, and listened to the waters of the Occoquan as they dashed and foamed madly over the great grey rocks that form the falls, we felt as if we were upon enchanted ground. Above our head and a few feet back of those old broken walls, great shafts of granite shoots up fifty or sixty feet high, bidding defiance to the dashing waters at their feet, and seeming to say, “thus far shall you come and no farther.” The falls are about one mile in length and very much resemble the Great Falls of the Potomac; the scenery on either side being much more romantic and picturesque than that of the Potomac.

The Fredericksburg and Alexandria Railroad, which is now being surveyed, and which it is hoped, will be speedily completed will add greatly to the business of the town and perhaps more than restore its former prosperity, as it will cause the now thinly settled country surrounding it to fill up with useful and industrious people.

There can be a sufficient amount of water power obtained here to run a thousand looms, or as many run of burrs, and we have no doubt that are long capitalist will avail themselves of the immense fortune that awaits them.

The place is perfectly healthy, in fact, to use Dr. Powell's language, (the only physician in the place) it is distressingly healthy. – PRINCE WILLIAM ADVOCATE