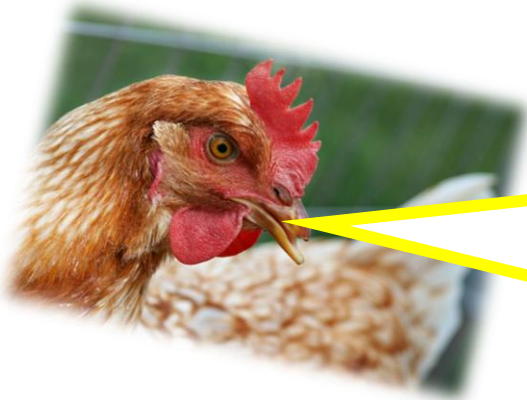


Mill House Monthly
September, 2018

A Publication of the Occoquan Historical Society



*Here's more news about the
Occoquan Historical Society's
"Finest Chicken Dinner"
fund raiser being held at
River Mill Park in Occoquan,
at 4p.m., on Sunday, October 7!*

Come join us on Sunday October 7, 4 p.m. at Occoquan's River Mill Park for a fundraiser benefiting the Occoquan Historical Society. Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant, the Bottle Stop Wine Bar, and VFW Post 7916 will compete for the title of "Occoquan's Finest Chicken Dinner", with the winner to be judged by you, our dinner guests at the fund raiser! Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at: www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org. The ticket price entitles you to chicken from each of the contestants, and strawberry ice cream from the **Pretentious Gourmet. Also included are side dishes, lemonade and ice cold water. Craft beer will also be available as a separate purchase.**

Tickets purchased in advance online are \$45 for anyone 13 years of age and older and \$25 for children 5 to 12 years of age (children 4 and under are free). Same day tickets may be purchased at the event for \$50 and \$30, respectively. No need for a printed ticket, just come join us on October 7, we will have your name on the entry list.

Bask in the beauty of River Mill Park, visit with friends, enjoy a fantastic dinner and help support your Occoquan Historical Society. See you soon!

Celebrating History

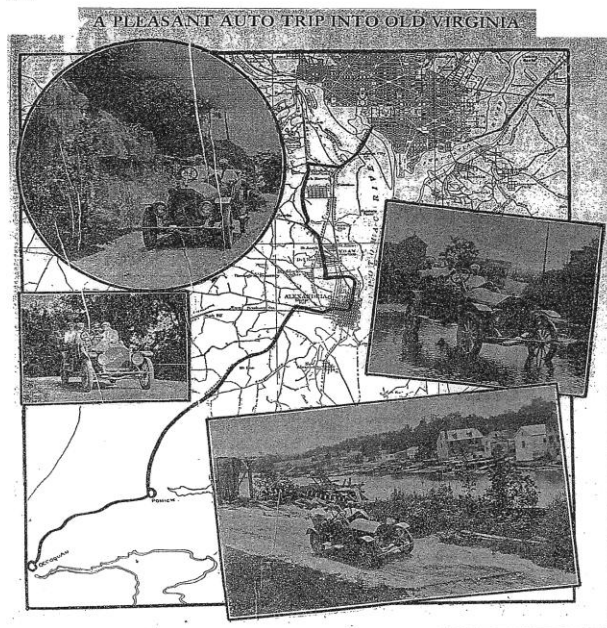
So why did we decide on a fine chicken dinner for our fund raiser? Occoquan dock was one of the beautiful river stops that the steamships made when they brought day trippers from Alexandria and Washington D.C. in the late 1800's. They advertised a stroll along the mill race and chicken dinners

at the local hotels. Those hotels at that time were the Alton on Mill Street and Edward Hammill's Commercial Hotel at the corner of Union and Mill Streets. Move ahead a few years and now those day trippers are driving cars to Occoquan. The article from the Washington Post printed on June 26, 1910, and shown below says in part; *Tiring of fishing and bathing, a fine chicken dinner can be obtained at the little hotel that the village affords.*

What about the creamy strawberry ice cream you will be enjoying? Ogle Harris was famous for his hand-churned strawberry ice cream that was sold at his *Harris Grocery*. He could have 15-20 gallons of it ready on a Sunday and by the end of the day it would all be gone! Ogle's store was located at 204 Washington Street from about 1915-1972.

So please come down and to River Mill Park on Sunday, October 7, and know you are not only supporting the Occoquan Historical Society but walking through history with those day-trippers of over a century ago. Part of the old mill race ran along the hill side of River Mill Park and on down the street to our Mill House Museum!

A PLEASANT AUTO TRIP INTO OLD VIRGINIA
The Washington Post (1877-1922); Jun 26, 1910; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post
 pg. A2



Frank Walter has many disciples among his automobileists. There is hardly a day that the fishing season has not, what an automobile party goes out for a day's enjoyment. While there are many good fishing grounds on both the lower and upper Potomac, many of these are so situated that it is almost out of the question to make the trip there and back without having more than a day from your business. Railroad facilities are on the best to the spots where the anglers can enjoy the sport to the best advantage. Occoquan, Va. is 25 miles from Washington, but long been known as an amount of the good fishing that abounds on the river by that name. Early one morning last week, while crossing at the Dutch Motor Company, in a motor-truck, accompanied by a representative of the Post and the staff aboard, I made the trip. The route lies out over the Long Bridge, and after turning to the right, passing under the railroad tracks, and to the left of the toll house, the party were on the direct road to Alexandria, soon before reaching the Virginia city, St. Asaph, the old river town, and later the river of one of the biggest boatmen in the country, where was frequented by more prominent men than any other of the district known in the world, saw nothing but a collection of buildings ready to erect of repair, the only evidence of the palace days. In passing Alexandria, the route takes you up past Old Christ Church, the square, George Washington, during his time, was built. Following through the city you go out what is known as the Little River turnpike. After following the road for a short distance to turn to the left and you are on what is known as the Old Tidewater road between Alexandria and Occoquan. There is no danger of losing your way on this road, for all that is necessary to do is to follow the course of the river. It was over this road that the British army, when it first reached Richmond, fighting every step of the 20 miles of the entire route and only reaching their destination after four years of war.

The road itself is in good shape; in fact better than some country roads. It dips and rises as it goes, but you make the turns coming down the side of the bluff alongside of Occoquan Creek on your way into the village. Fishing abounds here in the still waters of the creek below the town, and bass are said to abound in the rapids above the town. The creek falls about six hundred feet in a little less than a mile, and the rapids, as it is said to vary from between 100 to 150 feet in height, and along its rocky banks are many holes that are well protected from the sun and abound in bass.

Bathing, too, can be enjoyed here, for the water is plenty deep enough to afford an indulgence in this sport. Tiring of both fishing and bathing, a fine chicken dinner can be obtained at the little hotel that the village affords. After enjoying your sport and your meal and having taken a rest, the return journey to Washington can be made very comfortably in less than two hours, getting home here in plenty of time for the evening meal.

WASHINGTON TO OCCOQUAN, VA.
 10- The Washington Post building on west on Pennsylvania avenue. See to Potomac where you turn right.
 11- Keep straight ahead through monument grounds, passing base of arch.
 12- Turn left and pass yellow horse on right.
 13- Keep bridge over railroad and keep straight ahead.
 14- Keep straight ahead.
 15- Turn right.
 16- Turn left.
 17- Turn right.
 18- Turn right into King street, Alexandria.
 19- Turn right.
 20- Turn left at base of arch and follow monument wall all the way.
 21- Turn left at base of arch.
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Above are two photos recently donated to the Mill House Museum by Leah Munnis. Leah's father, Fred L. Wilson, took these on December 28, 1973. Both are titled the Occoquan Reservoir. The water motif is captioned from the area of the Pilot House Marina on Neabsco Creek. The beautiful old barns are a mystery as to their location. Leah said her dad loved to fish and would take pictures as he was out looking for fishing spots. An artist, Fred Wilson frequently displayed his paintings at the Occoquan Arts & Craft Shows.

Mill House Museum, PO Box 65, 413 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125
www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org 703-491-7525
Open Sunday through Saturday 11-4

