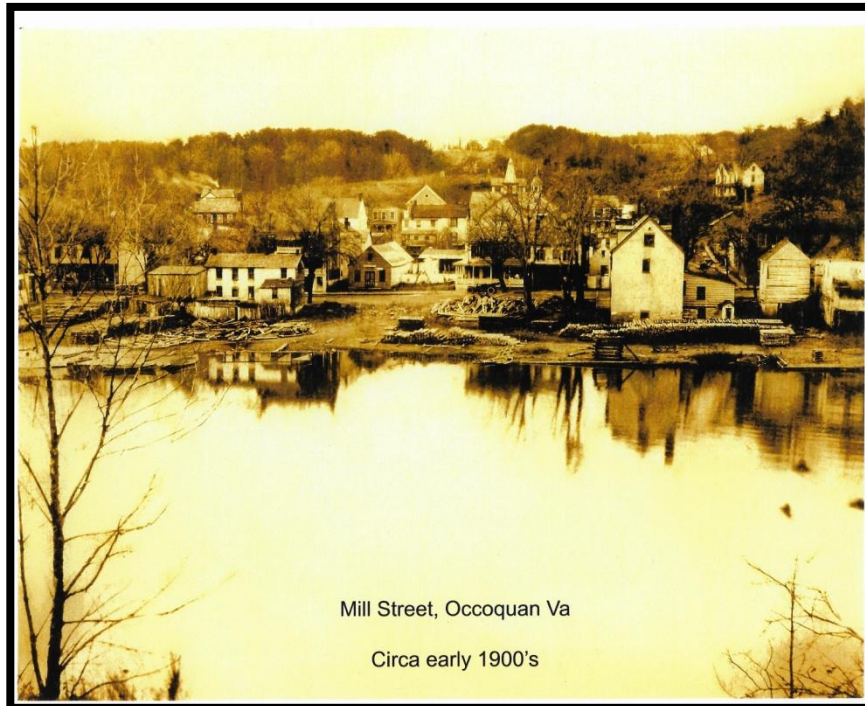


Mill House Monthly December, 2018

A Publication of the Occoquan Historical Society



Mill Street, Occoquan Va

Circa early 1900's

Addition to the Collection

Recently we received a two part donation from OHS member, Letty Lynn. On the left is a photograph printed on canvas. This is a copy of an original painting, given in trade to Letty's grandfather, William S. Lynn. The family story tells us that a German gentleman arrived in Occoquan by boat. The visitor was an artist and for supplies from the Lynn store he made payment with this rendering of the family home and store. In the center of the picture, partially covered by the tree is the Lynn family home. To the right of the home is the general store displaying the store's name, W.S. Lynn. These structures would have been on lots 23&24 of the 1804 town plat. In the background, on the left, is the Methodist Church which faced Commerce Street. The Underwood home is partially shown on the right. All these structures were destroyed in the 1916 fire.

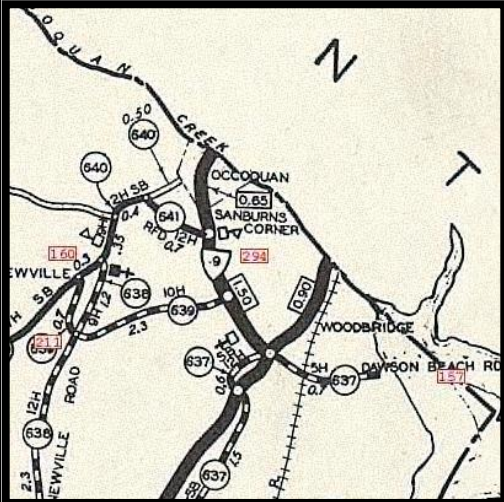
The companion to this painting is the photograph taken by Eunice (Lynn) Wingfield, daughter of William S. Lynn and Aunt to Letty Lynn. Taken from the north bank of the Occoquan River, this picture shows the

structures that are in the painting. Also in view along the riverbank are large quantities of lumber stacked and ready to be rafted up the Potomac River to markets.

Eagle Scout Project at Meadow Cemetery

Ethan Schmidt, of BSA Troop 1919, recently completed work at the Meadow Cemetery located on Poplar Lane. This work resulted in Ethan earning his Eagle award.

Nearly .2 of an acre was cleared of brush by Ethan's team. A fallen tree and old fencing were removed and benches were constructed as part of this project. Ethan was required to co-ordinate the work completed by a group that consisted of scouts, friends and family members for this project. Materials, tools, and permissions for the work were all coordinated by Ethan.



Information about the cemetery appeared in a July 22, 1937 WPA report, researched by Susan R. Morton. The map on the left was included with the report. No. 294 is the cemetery label. The report follows:

“1. Subject; The Old Cemetery (PW-294)

A. River Cemetery

Location: To the east of Route 9, ½ miles from Occoquan, Virginia, taking Route 9 and going ¼ mile, thence east towards the river about two hundred feet from any cleared spot to the left of the river's edge.

Owners: This appears to have been a part of the Champe grant from the Proprietor's Office, later sold to John Ballendine, and then coming into the hands of Henry Selecman. There is a record in Deed Book 37, folio 245, recording the sale of a tract of land here by William Selecman; the estate of Henry Selecman was sold to Corinth S. Giles; this was in 1887 and the graveyard was reserved. It appears to have been private property.

Description: It covers a large area, and there are several lots enclosed by iron fences, now rusted, and the gates are impossible to open. One lot is surrounded by a brick wall, but there is not a stone within that has any inscription. The honeysuckle and periwinkle are so thick that many of the stones are completely hidden, and it is only by stumbling over them that they are found. The thick growth and almost semidarkness make it very difficult to decipher the inscriptions that remain. It is located on a bluff by the side of the river, and directly opposite the Lorton reformatory across the river.

Historical Significance: The following are the inscriptions that it was possible to read:

1. Bohannon~ one large granite stone with nothing but that name.
2. Charles L. Swan, born February 1st, 1862 died January 8th, 1887. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, where my heart is, -----,to the rock,-----that is higher than I.
In loving remembrance of my beloved Father and Mother
3. John Wallace Greg, born 1810, died 1900 ----- brn 1808, died 1900.
4. In memory of Rachael, wife of Andrew Woolchiser born March 21st, 1819, died February 17th, 18—
5. Viola Carter, born May 1st, 1855, died June 28th, 1887. “Gone but not forgotten, we hope you are at rest as a prayer from her surviving children”
6. Minnie G. Posey, died 1878, aged 11 years.
7. In loving remembrance of John Thomas Turner, Oct. 16th, 1850, May 1911 “Dearest loved one we have laid thee in the peaceful grave's embrace. But they memory will be cherished till we see the Heavenly face.

8. In loving remembrance of Mary E. _____ Wife of Wm. Born Feb. 8th, 1828, died March 18th, 1889.

Name chipped off----- Gone Home!

“Farewell to our darling Mother dear, life is so sad without thee here, May we meet in Heaven above where all is peace and love.”

(The above were three were taken from stones enclosed by a high iron fence, as one name was Turner it is probable they were all of the same family.) “

More recently we have learned of two other burials at the Meadow Cemetery, Catherine Charlotte (Caldwell) Davis in 1872 and Virginia Duty in 1915.

The information about Virginia Duty came to light during research. From the Manassas Journal, December 3, 1915 page 5, transcribed and compiled by Morgan Breeden volunteer at the Relic, Bull Run Library, Manassas Virginia we have in part from Virginia Duty's obituary: *Her remains were laid to rest in the Meadow Cemetery beside her parents and brothers, amidst bowers of beautiful flowers which she loved so well.* That sentence tells us that Virginia's parents, David Duty and Jane (Hedges) Duty are buried at the Meadow along with two brothers Henry and James listed in the 1850 census.

Below are pictures of the benches made during Ethan Schmidt's project and the cemetery sign that was placed. On the far right, a picture of little Minnie's grave stone.



Thinking of a charitable donation before December 31, 2018 rolls around? The Occoquan Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Donations can be made through our web site at: www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org or a check mailed to: Occoquan Historical Society, PO Box 65, Occoquan, VA 22125.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us through the years as we placed historical markers in Occoquan, developed museum exhibits and conducted research. Your generosity is so appreciated!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



The Gazebo in Mamie Davis Park
Picture provided by Boyd Alexander

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

