

Alexandria Gazette 21 Nov 1829

OCOQUAN COTTON FACTORY – The subscribers are now receiving from their factory at Occoquan, Va. regular supplies of cotton yarn, from No.4 to No. 18, which is warranted to be the very best quality, and will be furnished either at the factory or their store in Alexandria, on accommodating terms.

S. M. & J. Janney

The public are respectfully requested to keep in view, the distinction between the Occoquan Yarn and the Eastern Yarn, which is labeled as though it were manufactured by Jos. Janney & Co.

October 12, 1829

Alexandria Gazette 1 May 1836

OCOQUAN 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 22 Dec 1840

FOR SALE OR RENT – The Occoquan Manufacturing Company offer for sale, or rent, their Cotton Works, at Occoquan, Prince William County, Virginia. The factory is a substantial stone edifice within a few yards of navigable water, having easy communication with the cities of the District, and with Baltimore, also, by means of the Railroad. The machinery consists of 1200 spindles, 12 looms, and the necessary pickers, lappers, and cards. It has also frames, of approved construction, for making seine twine. Its water privilege is the whole power of the river Occoquan. Any one desiring to rent could now secure the services of the present manager, an experienced and skillful manufacturer, who would accept of certain yearly wages, or have his compensation in some way dependent upon the profits. Application may be made to

Joseph Janney, Jr.

President Occoquan Manufacturing Co.

Alexandria Gazette 04 Oct 1869

OCCOQUAN AND DUMFRIES, IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA – Occoquan is a business like, lively town of some thirty or thirty-five houses, and about two hundred and fifty inhabitants. Situated in a valley and surrounded by lofty hills, the village is not perceptible until you are fairly “on top” of it, and you catch the roar of the mill-wheel, the ring of the anvil and the mingled murmur of voices before the first house of the town can be seen. Occoquan River is certainly one of the most beautiful streams in the state. The scenery along its banks is wild and picturesque, on one side a noble forest stretching away as far as the eye can reach, on the other level and fertile plains which are yielding rich harvests to their owners. Above the Village on the South bank of the Occoquan are the ruins of a cotton mill burnt by the citizens during the war; there was also at this point a bridge which spanned the Occoquan and which was destroyed by Southern Troops. About 1000 cords of wood are lying on the banks of the river awaiting transportation to Washington.

Joseph T. Janney has a very large merchant mill here which turns out one hundred barrels of flour daily. He has lately added some very fine improved machinery joined with all the modern improvements; he has also constructed a saw mill and plaster mill.

Messrs. Hugh Hammill & Son are building a very fine steamer designed for freighting on the Potomac. It is 90 feet, length of keel, 24 feet beam.

Mr. A. T. Lynn keeps a comfortable house of entertainment for all who may favor him with their patronage. Improvements are being made by some of the citizens. W. H. Smoot, Esq., is beautifying his residence. Mr. John Gregg has erected a very pretty cottage. John Underwood Esq., ex U. S. Marshall of Virginia, has a very fine farm and residence just below the village. The Lodge of Good Templars number about eighty members and are in a flourishing condition. The water power is unsurpassed in the State, and if it was in the hands of some corporation, who would make good use of it, no doubt would bring forth untold wealth.

The town of DUMFRIES is one of the old historical relics of the past; a stranger entering the town unacquainted with its former history would little imagine that at one time it was a commercial town of considerable importance. Strolling through the place the eye rests upon the ruins of fine buildings that Dumfries once boasts of in its palmist days, glances along grass-grown and silent streets that once resounded with the hum and confusion of business, and you see even the former site of a bank that added to the prosperity of the old town. The main cause of the decreases of Dumfries was the filling up of the channel, debarring the navigation and thus destroying at one blow its name and fame as being one of the commercial ports of the country. It is rumored that the company that purchased the “Evansport” tract contemplate bringing about one hundred and fifty families, and building up a village at the mouth of Quantico. Very likely the ancient town of Dumfries will move its site to the same point and be once more on the banks of the Potomac, where it will no doubt in time resume a portion of its former prosperity and power. Socially speaking, nowhere will be found a more hospitable or entertaining community than at Dumfries, while it enjoys usual advantages in having at hand crabs, oysters, fish, and those delicacies, which we of the inland towns are deprived of – Manassas Gazette

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 14 Feb 1846

NOTICE – The Co-partnership heretofore existing under the firm of Perry & Ford in the Pocahontas Cotton Manufactory, in Occoquan, Prince William County, Va., is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

David Perry
Thomas C. Ford

Alexandria Gazette 14 Feb 1846

The subscribers having associated themselves under the firm of PERRY & HANNA, will continue the Pocahontas Cotton Factory at Occoquan, Va., in all its branches, and we hope to merit a continuance of the public favor heretofore so liberally bestowed. All persons indebted to the late firm of Perry & Ford will please make payment and those having claims will present them to the subscribers who are duly authorized to receive and settle the business of the same.

David Perry
Francis Hanna
Occoquan, Va.

Alexandria Gazette 10 Jun 1847

OCCOQUAN COTTON FACTORY FOR SALE – The undersigned, by virtue of a deed of trust executed by David Perry to Thomas C. Ford, dated the 6th day of December, 1843, and duly of record in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of Prince William County, will proceed on Saturday, the 19th day of June next, at the Market Square, in the town of Alexandria, to sell at public sale, the OCCOQUAN COTTON FACTORY, and Lot of Land on which the same is erected, with all the buildings, rights of way and of water privileges, and appurtenances, particularly described in said deed. The Factory is built of stone, covered with slate, 50 feet by 33 feet in the clear, and four stories high, (besides the picking house and cotton house) At the date of said deed it contained 1988 spindles, 4 twine machines, 27 carding engines, 3 drawing frames, 3 speeders, 1 lapper, 1 spreader, and 1 willow, with looms, spooling, beaming and sizing apparatus, and warping house. Considerable additions have been made to the machinery and apparatus, which by the express terms of the deed are liable to be sold with the other property. The Factory is advantageously situated, and is said to be in a state of thorough repair. A more particular description of the land attached to the Factory will be furnished on the day of sale. Terms Cash.

George D. Fowle, Trustee
J. B. Dangerfield, Trustee

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