

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 12 July 1809

TO MILLERS – I have invented a machine called a WHEAT RUBBER, for which I obtained a patent on the first day of this month. The machine may be seen in operation in the mill of Nathaniel Ellicott, Occoquan. Those millers, who feel an interest in investigating its merit and have not an opportunity of visiting Occoquan, may be fully informed by application to Mr. Ellicott. My WHEAT-RUBBER, I do verily believe is upon entire new principles, the cost of erecting it a trifle, the materials of which it is composed easily attainable in any part of our country, and the plan simple in the extreme: any workman of common capacity will be able to erect it from description only. Practical millers know, that in a great proportion of the wheat that comes to market (from the manner it is stacked in fields by the farmer and exposed to the weather) a number of sprouted and unsound grains mingle with the mass, and has eluded the ingenuity of the miller to separate it from the sound grain – they also know those unsound grains injure materially the taste and color of flour --- my machine not only frees the wheat of stone, onion, cockle, dirt, &c. but does absolutely take from it every unsound grain, from what cause so

ever it may have been injured, as my machine will not let any unsound wheat pass it – millers may have their screen wire much finer than hitherto used, and thereby save considerably --- it will also be found that the grain in passing the rubber, is polished, and that even the eyes of the wheat is picked perfectly clean of dust or dirt. Some instances having occurred of certificates being obtained, saying much more in favor of a new invention than the public are willing to admit after trial – I hope it will be a sufficient apology for my taking a different course. My price for the privilege of using the rubber is fifty dollars for each pair of wheat stones the mill contains. Letters directed to me post paid shall be attended to.

James Deneale
Dumfries, Va. July 10, 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 4 Sep 1817

TANNERS ATTEND! – On the 19th day of the ninth month, (September) if fair, if not, the next fair day, I shall sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder, on the premises, my TAN YARD & DWELLING HOUSE, at the town of Occoquan. The tan yard consists of 44 vats, a good currying shop, patent bark mill, hide mill, extensive bark houses, &c and is supplied by a never failing spring. Chestnut bark is plenty at 87 per cord, and hides are brought by water from Baltimore, Alexandria, and elsewhere, to the spot. The dwelling house is large and convenient, with a good meat house, dairy, &c. One third of the purchase money will be required in sixty

days, the balance in one or two years, with interest from the date, but a discount of 10 per cent will be made for cash.

Jacob Janney
Occoquan, Va. August 28, 1817

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 1 Oct 1829

GRAIN AND PLASTER – The subscribers have formed a co-partnership, and will transact business at Alexandria and Occoquan, under the name of J. & J. H. Janney. They invite the call of persons who bring grain for sale to either of those markets. Farmers will at all times be furnished at Occoquan with plaster either in the rock or ground, on very moderate terms.

Joseph Janney, Jun.
John H. Janney
July 12, 1829

Alexandria Gazette 12 Jul 1830

WOOL CARDING & MANUFACTURE AT OCCOQUAN - The public is respectfully informed that we have produced a first rate CARD, and engaged an experienced CARDER, and are now ready to receive WOOL, which we will endeavor to prepare in a manner satisfactory to those who may favor us with custom.

The wool must be delivered at the mill in a clear condition, and free from sticks, stones, or any substance that would injure the card. We would the cases prefer to furnish the grease and grease it. The terms will be, eight cents per pound for wool one color, and ten cents per pound for mixed.

Besides the business which we may expect from the immediate neighborhood, we invite it from a distance and thing we can offer superior inducements. Persons who have wheat, will always find here a reason and excellent market; and they can very conveniently send their parcels of wool at the same time.

The manufacturing establishment will furnish them with cotton yarns, seine twine, and cloths, upon variable terms. The abundance of our water power will enable us to prepare the parcels without delay.

J. & J. H. Janney
Occoquan, Va.

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 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 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 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