

June 2016
Mill House
Monthly News



May 24, 2016

Occoquan Town Hall, 314 Mill Street

On Tuesday May 24, *DB's Plumbing & Drain* excavated an area in front of the Occoquan Town Hall, uncovering an old sewer line that had cracked and needed to be replaced. As they trenched an area parallel to the sidewalk that runs along Ellicott Street, they came upon a wall of bricks buried about 12-15 inches deep. These bricks were part of the original home that was constructed circa 1800.



Above: On the right, 314 Mill Street at the corner of Mill and Ellicott Streets.

Below: Another view of the home at 314 Mill Street when it was owned by the Underwood family.

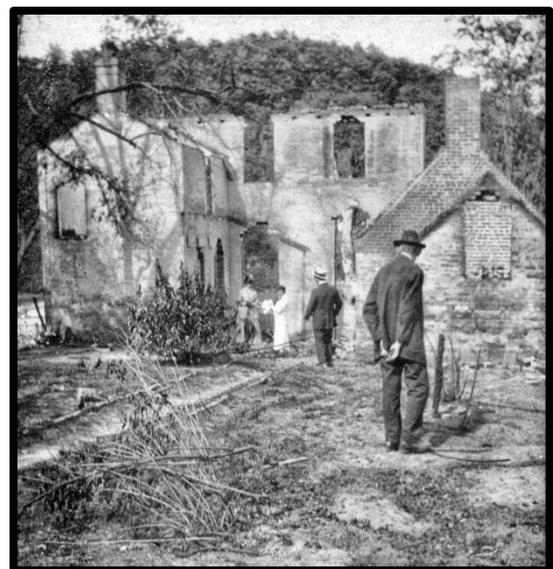
Both photos are circa 1900.



In 1805 Benniah Willet insured the house at 314 Mill Street for \$1800 with the Mutual Assurance Co. The house is described as a two story brick home 30'x20' and covered (roofing) with wood. The policy is reissued in 1827 and it now includes a 14'x12' addition on the rear of the house. (The house on Lot 22 on the 1804 plat shows a house with an addition so it's surprising that it's not included on the drawings for Benniah Willets policy)

On May 29th, 1829 John Underwood and his wife Ann purchased the property and it was owned by the Underwood family through the years until the 1916 fire in Occoquan destroyed the home.

In 1839 the heirs of John Underwood insure the property and it now includes a detached bake house, constructed of wood and brick, on the rear of the property. Below is an Underwood family photo showing the rear or south side of the property at 314 Mill after the 1916 fire. You can still see the main house, the addition to the rear and the detached building that was used as a bake house.



Below is a picture of the unearthed section of the building wall at 314 Mill Street, adjacent and running parallel to Ellicott Street.



The exposed section of wall was collapsing as work was being done to replace the pipes. It was quite amazing that the trench was adjacent to the brick wall and we were able to preserve two sections of it.

Occoquan Explorer

On June 2, 2016, Jackson, from Kansas, became our first "Occoquan Explorer". Jackson will enter kindergarten next year and completed two discovery sheets to earn his explorer pin. He had fun but wanted harder questions! We are proud of you Jackson!

Below: Jackson at the Mill House proudly wearing his "Occoquan Explorer" pin.



Above: The area being trenched.
Below: One of two sections of brick that were removed to preserve for display.



Mill House Museum
413 Mill Street, PO Box 65, Occoquan, VA, 22125
www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org
703-491-7525
Museum daily, 11a.m.-4p.m.

