

# *The Mill Racer*

*Volume XLX Spring 2015*



## **Notice of the Occoquan Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, June 11, 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Mill House Museum, 413 Mill Street, Occoquan, Virginia 22125

**Celebrate:** This year is the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mill House Museum! The museum opened its doors on June 13, 1970. Come help us mark the occasion and celebrate with an old fashioned Ice Cream Social!

**Dedicate:** Three historical markers placed at the following: the 1914 carbide bunker, the 1800's era carriage stone and the 1950's gearwheel from a *River Station* water basin.

**RSVP:** We look forward to seeing you! RSVP to Dolores at;

[curator@occoquanhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:curator@occoquanhistoricalsociety.org) or call the museum at 703-491-7525.

**Renew:** Membership fees are due in June.

\$20 renews a single or family membership for the 2015/2016 year.

Your dues help us continue our work and keep the museum doors open.

Pay online at; [www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org) or send a check made

payable to the **Occoquan Historical Society** to the following address;

**Mill House Museum, PO Box 65, 413 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125**

Thank you everyone!

**Save The Date!** Join OHS for our fall fundraiser at the **Bottle Stop** located at 311 Mill Street on Tuesday evening, **September 29, 2015.**

Great wine and a fund raiser too, can't wait!

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**River Mill Park:** Sod was laid during the week of May 11. The green grass is so beautiful to look at along the river! The park is projected to open in early 2016. Visit [www.occoquanva.gov](http://www.occoquanva.gov) to check on the progress of the park and updates on construction.



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### **It's our Mill House Museum 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

#### **Significant Dates of the Occoquan Historical Society & the Mill House Museum**

**March 27, 1969-** The first meeting for those interested in forming a historical society in Occoquan.

**April 22, 1969-** An organizational meeting is held, officers are elected and the name is chosen for the historical society.

**June 20, 1969-** Certificate of Incorporation is issued by the State Corporation Commission for *Historic Occoquan Inc.*

**July 14, 1969-** Officers are ratified from the April 22 meeting and June Randolph is elected President.

**June 13, 1970-** The Mill House Museum opens for the first time.

**November 1, 1970-** The Mill House Museum is marked by the Bill of Rights Chapter of the DAR.

**2008-** *Historic Occoquan Inc.* formally changes its name to *The Occoquan Historical Society Inc.*

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### **Three New Occoquan Historical Markers**

OHS recently finished a project that has taken many months of planning, paper work and production. Thanks to the continued efforts of Bobbie Frank, one of our OHS members, we have placed three new markers.

The first marker we installed on April 13, 2015 is for the town's carbide bunker. The bunker is located on the hill side next to the sidewalk in front of Rockledge Mansion on Mill Street. At the museum we answered many inquiries about what this structure had once been used for. Now we will all know it wasn't the town jail!



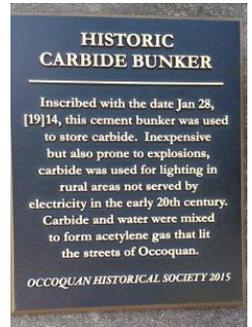
The carriage stone and marker are adjacent to the sidewalk in front of 402 Mill Street. The original structure at 402, destroyed in the 1916 fire, was the Occoquan Hotel, circa 1815, and later in the century the building was Dr. Powell's home and infirmary. Imagine all the people that alit from a carriage and stepped onto that old granite stone!

The gearwheel assembly and marker are adjacent to the sidewalk just west of the museum. This marker and the one for the carriage stone were installed on May 8, 2015.



### Historic Carbide Bunker

Inscribed with the date Jan 28, [19]14, this cement bunker was used to store carbide. Inexpensive but also prone to explosions, carbide was used for lighting in rural areas not served by electricity in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Carbide and water were mixed to form acetylene gas that lit the streets of Occoquan.



### Carriage Stone

Here, in front of the nineteenth century Occoquan Hotel, this granite carriage stone assisted travelers in and out of their horse drawn vehicles. The original building was destroyed in the 1916 Occoquan fire.



### Gearwheel Assembly

This gearwheel is from one of the five water basins used at the Occoquan River Station water processing plant. Up to 40 million gallons of water were processed here on a daily basis from 1965-2009.

