

One last factor made the setting right for the establishment of a Baptist church on Virginia's soil. This was agriculture, which was the chief means of survival. Crops provided necessary food, plus a commodity to be sold to purchase needed goods. Small landowners raised crops of tobacco for profit, as well as the necessities for food to raise a family. These small landowners were often the mission fields for growth of a church with Baptist beliefs.

At the close of the seventeenth century, three groups of dissenters were in Virginia. The Quakers who worshipped without the use of sacraments were finally prohibited from assembling. Presbyterians came later as land was settled beyond the tidewater. Baptists, both Armenian (Christ died for all) and Calvinist (Christ died for the elect only) came to Virginia to escape persecution in England.

These groups were able to grow before the American Revolution because of four conditions. Religion was at a low ebb- not more than one colonist in twenty were members of the church. People were accustomed to formal religion-enthusiastic and zealous individuals were few, if nonexistent, to liven up worship in the church. The plantation system insulated colonists-community interests and religious instincts were deprived. The church had no healthy government-its form was peculiar and colonial. The vestrymen, who were usually politicians, ruled the church under the influence of the state. Therefore, as a result, these dissenters with their beliefs of religious liberty and independence began to influence the religious environment of the colony.

By the 1700's increasing numbers of people came from England and land was settled and developed west of the tidewater. Baptists were among this crowd. They generally had to conform in worship

and activities because of religion and the colonial government. No record of this group, so adjustments to be at peace church.

A group of Baptists appeared in County in the early 1700's, and a letter to the Baptist church in England, requesting missionaries and evangelize among the associational meeting in England shared and two men were commissioned to Virginia to work in 1714. One died in voyage across the Atlantic. Norden did make it to Prince George's County and the Isle of Wight counties to develop into organized churches with elders. In 1715, two requests were made to the government for the establishment of churches (called because they were a house of worship). The Kentish Association in England gave financial selection of suitable leaders and missionaries to go to Virginia.

Norden stayed ten years in the process of returning to England. Because of his efforts, the first Baptist church was established in Virginia in 1727, with Richard Jones as pastor. It was from this congregation that Sojourner came. He later left for North Carolina to establish churches.

The Isle of Wight congregation finally the remaining people who were in the church in North Carolina. Baptists spread and from one of these churches, the Kehukee Church, the Kehukee congregation was organized in 1765 for mutual fellowship. Baptist churches, which were 1