

and activities because of religious restrictions of the colonial government. No persecution is recorded of this group, so probably they made adjustments to be at peace with the dominant church.

A group of Baptists appeared in Prince George County in the early 1700's, and soon addressed a letter to the Baptist church of Kent County, England, requesting missionaries to come to preach and evangelize among the people. At an associational meeting in England the request was shared and two men were commissioned to come to Virginia to work in 1714. One of the missionaries died in voyage across the Atlantic, but Robert Norden did make it to Prince George, Surry, and Isle of Wight counties to develop congregations into organized churches with elders as pastors. By 1715, two requests were made to the colonial government for the establishments of two Anabaptist (called because they were against pedobaptism) houses of worship. The Kentish Baptist Association in England gave financial support, encouraged selection of suitable leadership, and ordained missionaries to go to Virginia to create churches.

Norden stayed ten years in Virginia and in the process of returning to England died in 1725. Because of his efforts, the first Baptist church was established in Virginia in Isle of Wight County in 1727, with Richard Jones as its first pastor. It was from this congregation that William Sojourner came. He later left this congregation for North Carolina to establish a church.

The Isle of Wight congregation was short lived—finally the remaining people went to Sojourner's church in North Carolina. Baptist work here began to spread and from one of these congregations, the Kehukee Church, the Kehukee Association was organized in 1765 for mutual fellowship among the Baptist churches, which were located in Virginia