

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 religious activities because of religious
the colonial government. N
recorded of this group, so
adjustments to be at peace
church.

A group of Baptists appeared
County in the early 1700's, and
letter to the Baptist church
England, requesting missionaries
and evangelize among the
associational meeting in England
shared and two men were commis
Virginia to work in 1714. One
died in voyage across the At
Norden did make it to Prince
Isle of Wight counties to de
into organized churches with el
1715, two requests were mad
government for the establishmen
(called because they were a
houses of worship. The Kentish
in England gave financial s
selection of suitable leader
missionaries to go to Virginia

Norden stayed ten years in
process of returning to Engl
Because of his efforts, the Fi
was established in Virginia in
in 1727, with Richard Jones as
It was from this congregat
Sojourner came. He later left
for North Carolina to establish

The Isle of Wight congregat
finally the remaining people w
church in North Carolina. Bapt
to spread and from one of these
Kehukee Church, the Kehukee
organized in 1765 for mutual fe
Baptist churches, which were 1