

Museum Around the Corner

Georgetown County Historical Society Museum

In 1798, the Georgetown Gazette began publication. Although it has changed names and editors many times over the years, Georgetown has the oldest, continuously published newspaper in South Carolina. Articles and advertisements from the Georgetown newspapers from the 19th century has brought some very interesting and strange incidents to light. The following are some examples from life in the 1800s that seem very odd to us today yet a few seem somewhat familiar.

November 6, 1799 The stage will start to Charleston at 12:00 and from Charleston to Georgetown on Sunday at 8:00. Seats to be taken at the Post Office.

February 20, 1801 Encyclopedia Brittanica for sale, \$200, or \$250 with Moroccan Leather cover.

November 11, 1801 Rickett's Circus to perform on the 12th.

September 11, 1819 Complaints of disrepair of town pumps, an offensive odor from the tanyard on Front Street.

July 8, 1837 All persons warned against taking bricks from the Fort. (*We have long searched for the location of the Fort used by the British.*)

December 9, 1840 Proclamation of the Governor setting Thursday, December 17 as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer. All labors and businesses occupations to be abstained from.

April 14, 1841 Reward of \$50 for information leading to the apprehension of the vandals who daubed black paint on the stores on the south side of Front Street.

October 21, 1844 Colonel Myers is erecting a fine new range of five brick buildings east of the Market. (*This may be the 600 block of Front Street. Fire destroyed this block on October 19, 1841*)

February 1, 1845 Letter to the Editor about disease aboard the Brig "Juno". Says the old fort at Waities Point was used as a quarantine.

July 31, 1850 Ice is now available at the Georgetown Ice House. (*Ice was brought in by ship in the winter from northern climates. A story was previously printed about a ship being lost carrying ice for J.H. Ford.*)

October 8, 1851 Letter about a monument (grave) to a sailor dated 1796 on North Island. No one seems to know anything about it.

January 21, 1852 The temperature is 12 degrees. Please forgive the lateness of this issue as the ink was frozen in the inkwells.

March 3, 1852 Ordinance is passed against burials in Lot 203 and 204 (corner of Broad and Church) or establishment of any burial site except those now used by congregations.

March 1, 1854 Notice – No one shall fly kites under penalty of up to \$12 fine. If unable to pay fine, corporal punishment not to exceed 24 lashes.

January 14, 1857 Valentines offered for sale. (*First time this occasion is mentioned*)

January 28, 1857 Ice has covered the upper reaches of Winyah Bay. Ice floes have impeded all navigation up the rivers.

These are but a few of the interesting advertisements and articles appearing in Georgetown newspapers over the years. More to come in future articles.