



THE

TINY PLANET TIMES

MUSINGS ABOUT NOTHING IN PARTICULAR

GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA

We recently went to Georgetown, South Carolina, to explore their historic areas. We have been through Georgetown on several occasions, but always managed to miss the waterfront and downtown. The main street was busy, but I suspect it gets even busier in full tourist season and when they hold the Wooden Boat Festival. For us, we had a leisurely walk up and down the boardwalk, had a very tasty brunch at a very small Mexican food cafe then declared an expedition to the local homemade ice cream shop was in order.

During our Mexican meal of Huevos Rancheros, with the offered extra spicy salsa, we struck up a conversation with a very nice Georgetown resident, a recent transplant from Miami. She made the move to Georgetown because of all the nice people and the small-town atmosphere. I can only imagine the culture shock, but she was tickled to be there. A social worker by trade, she works with folks that are addicted to fentanyl – one of the fastest growing issues in small towns like Georgetown. Her stories were too gut wrenching to repeat in a light hearted muse like The Tiny Planet Times but thank heaven for people like her who work in the drug abuse trenches.

Georgetown was first established in 1729 with the official port following in 1732. Naval stores



were the primary source of business in early Georgetown for many years. Pitch, turpentine, rosin and timber for shipbuilding were the primary trades items. However, European wars left the English without a good source of Royal Blue Indigo dye. Since the indigo plant grew wild all along the coastal plains of the Carolinas, (and still does) it was an easy decision to clear land and make way for cultivating indigo. Indigo is the rarest of dyes because blue is the most difficult color to produce in a dye. The end of the 18th century brought an end to the dye trade due to dye being mass produced in India and the East Indies. As prices fell, Georgetown planters turned to Rice cultivation.

Three Georgetown planters are certainly worth mentioning – Thomas Lynch, Jr., was one of the original signers of the Declaration of

Intendence; Christopher Gadsen is remembered for the flag he designed, “Don’t Tread on Me”; and of course, the most legendary of the Revolutionary fighters was Francis Marion, the “Swamp Fox” who almost single handedly defeated the British in the area. (Rent “The Patriot” if you’re looking for a bit of swamp fox action.)

We can also include a “George Washington Slept Here” in this list of Georgetown history highlights. In 1791, the victorious President recognized war heroes from the balcony of the Masonic Lodge in Georgetown while on his Southern victory tour.

Outside of Georgetown, we traveled a bit up the road to Prince Frederick’s Chapel ruins. Building started in 1859 but with the decline in the rice economy, parishioners moved to more populated areas and the church suffered from lack of maintenance. Not much is left but it did make for an interesting drone flight.



One other visit we made was to the Georgetown Maritime Museum. It’s on the small size but the displays were very interesting. Of most interest, was a pictorial history of General Foods heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post and husband E.F. Hutton’s sailing barque, the Hussar V. At the time of launch in April, 1931, she was the largest private yacht in the world.



Photo provided by Wikipedia

There’s too much of this yacht’s history to include here but it includes multiple husbands, a navy commission, the coast guard, dictators, Joan Collins, to name a few tidbits. The Hussar V served as a weather station during World War II, stationed in Georgetown. Much later, the Hussar V was recommissioned to “Sea Cloud” and is currently in service as a sailing cruise ship. Looks like you can book a seven-day Caribbean adventure starting around \$6,000. Have fun!

Thanks for visiting The Tiny Planet Times.

Kathie & Terry

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