

Theophilus Weeks



No Picture Available

Born: 1708 Massachusetts

Married: Grace Green

Died: 1772 NC

Parents: Benjamin Weeks & Mary Chase



History of Swansboro North Carolina

At the mouth of the White Oak River on the Intracoastal Waterway sits the little town of Swansboro. Numerous fishing and pleasure boats call Swansboro home because the Atlantic Ocean is easily accessible traveling through Bogue Sound. So how did this "Friendly City by the Sea" get its start?

Around 1730, Swansboro started as a small settlement at the mouth of the White Oak River. Jonathan and Grace Green settled here from Massachusetts. Mr. Green died a short time later and Grace married Theophilus Weeks, who had settled in Hadnot Creek. The Weeks family were farmers then tavern owners and then Mr. Weeks was appointed port inspector. Weeks then sold a portion of his land which, in 1783, was incorporated as the colonial port town of Swansborough. It was so named in honor of Samuel Swann, former speaker of the North Carolina House of Commons.

Swansborough was situated near numerous pine forests and was able to produce much of the materials needed for shipbuilding. So, naturally, shipbuilding became its major industry. Captain Otway Burns was the town's most famous ship builder. He was famous for building the first steamboat constructed in North Carolina, the Prometheus and also had served as Commander of the privateer ship the Sanddragon. The town prospered until the end of civil war.

By the time of the Great Depression, the shipping industry as well as the town's lumber industry declined. In order to maintain a living, the town began to use the sea and the land in other ways. The commercial fishing industry was developed as well as a farming industry. Today, Swansboro is still popular for these.

<http://www.swansboroncrealestate.com/swansboro-nc-history.html>

A Sketch of the Life of Theophilus Weeks, Founder of the Town of Swansboro

Theophilus Weeks, son of Benjamin and Mary Chase Weeks, was born at Falmouth, Massachusetts, in 1708. Sometime in 1730 Benjamin Weeks moved his family from Falmouth to Carteret County, North Carolina, settling along Hadnot's Creek, a tributary of the White Oak River. Apparently about the same time, another Falmouth family—that of Jonathan Green, Sr.—moved to the White Oak River area and settled on the land where the town of Swansboro eventually began. Very little is known about Jonathan Green, Sr., except that he moved to his new home along with his wife Grace and his older brother, Isaac Green. Jonathan and Grace Green had a son named Jonathan, Jr., but it is not presently known whether Jonathan, Jr., was born in Massachusetts or in North Carolina. In 1730, the two brothers, Isaac and Jonathan Green, jointly bought their new plantation on the White Oak.

Meanwhile, Theophilus Weeks appears to have lived in his father's household until 1735. By that year, Jonathan Green, Sr., had died of some unknown cause at the early age of approximately 35 years old; and Theophilus Weeks had married the widow, Grace Green. Weeks moved to the Onslow County side of the river upon marrying the Widow Green, and they made their home in the house that had earlier been the home of Jonathan Green, Sr. In due time Weeks bought the half interest of Isaac Green, who thereafter returned to Massachusetts. Thus, by purchase from Isaac Green and by intermarriage with Jonathan Green's widow, Theophilus Weeks came into full possession and control of the plantation on the Onslow County side of the mouth of the White Oak River.

In addition to his stepson, Jonathan Green, Jr., Theophilus Weeks's family increased by four sons born to him and his wife Grace. Their four sons were Benjamin Weeks, Silas Weeks, Silvanus Weeks, and Archelaus Weeks, whose name sometimes appears incorrectly as Archibald Weeks. If Jonathan Green, Jr., should ever prove to have been born in Massachusetts before his parents moved to North Carolina, then Theophilus and Grace's son, Benjamin Weeks, would be the first child of European descent ever born on the site of what became the town of Swansboro. Not much is known about the occupation of Theophilus Weeks prior to 1751. In January of 1741 (New Style), Weeks recorded his stock mark, which indicated agricultural interests. In 1747 Weeks mortgaged to Col. John Starkey for slightly over 200 pounds the land he had bought of Isaac Green. There is no indication of the use Weeks made of the borrowed money, but he evidently paid it off by the end of 1748. In 1751 Weeks petitioned the Onslow Court for permission to operate an ordinary (18th century term for tavern or inn) and was licensed to "keep an ordinary at his now dwelling place," which suggests that port activity was thriving at the mouth of the White Oak and that Weeks' plantation was a favorite spot for the seafarers to visit.

Three years later in 1754, the Onslow Regiment of Militia was organized in response to the French and Indian War. The regiment was divided into four companies, and Theophilus Weeks was commissioned a sergeant in Capt. Stephen Lee's Company of the Onslow Regiment of Militia. His service as one of the original officers in the regiment indicates a more-than-usual capacity for leadership and public responsibility.

In 1757 Theophilus Weeks was appointed the first inspector of exports for Bogue Inlet. Though the record for some years is incomplete, there is every indication that Weeks held the office of inspector continuously from 1757 until his death in 1772. It is significant that there is no record of any complaint ever having been lodged against him with respect to the administration of his official duties. Nor was he ever involved in any lawsuit or uncomplimentary situation so far as the record reveals. From all indications, Theophilus Weeks was a prime example of the unassuming, hardworking, solid citizen upon whom our great democracy was built.

No record has come to light which reflects the religious affiliation of Theophilus Weeks. However, he is known to have had an eminent Puritan minister in his ancestry, and the fact that other members of the Weeks family in the Hadnot's Creek area were deeply involved in the early Baptist movement suggests the strong possibility that Theophilus was also numbered among them.

While there are additional references to his keeping an ordinary and serving as inspector, the most significant accomplishment of Weeks's life came just about a year before his death. It is not known exactly when Theophilus Weeks decided to start a town on his plantation called "The Wharf." He may have toyed with the idea for years, but it seems certain that he had finalized the plan of a town by sometime early in 1771 or possibly even in 1770. The earliest Swansboro lot for which there is a deed from Theophilus Weeks on record is lot number 6, which Theophilus and Grace Weeks sold to Edward Starkey on May 11, 1771. Strangely enough, that deed refers to an adjoining lot as belonging to a Mr. Lee, though no deed from Weeks to Lee is recorded. The deed from Weeks to Starkey, however, does prove that as early as May of 1771 a plan of the town existed and that the lots in the town had already been assigned their numbers. That the establishment of a town on his property was the idea of Theophilus Weeks is further supported by the deed to Mrs. Mary Pitts for lot number 11. Mrs. Pitts received the deed for what was called "lot number 11 in the plan of a town laid out by Theophilus Weeks. 1½ It is, therefore, clear that the town that became Swansboro was the idea of Theophilus Weeks, who thereby earned the title of 1½ Founder of the Town of Swansboro. 1½

As laid out by Weeks, the new town contained a total of 48 lots and 6 streets. The lots were arranged in three tiers with 16 lots to the tier. Of the 6 streets, 3 streets ran basically north to south and 3 ran basically east to west. Those streets today are known as, Front, Water, Elm, Moore, Main, and Church streets, though 4 of the 6 streets have been greatly extended as the town has grown. All of the original lots measured 60 feet in width and 200 feet in length, except that those lots on the north side of Front Street were intended to extend across the street to the rivershore. Seven of the 48 lots were called "water lots" because in varying amounts a part of each of those 7 water lots lay beneath the water. The 7 water lots were known in the plan of the town as lots number 10 through 16. All of the streets in the town were laid out to be 30 feet wide, except for Front and Broad streets, which were 40 feet wide. The Broad Street shown on the early maps of Swansboro should not be confused with the present-day Broad Street. What Theophilus Weeks called Broad Street is today known as Main Street and was the end of the old county road which ran from Onslow Courthouse (as Jacksonville was formerly called) to Weeks's wharf where he inspected exports leaving the White Oak River area.

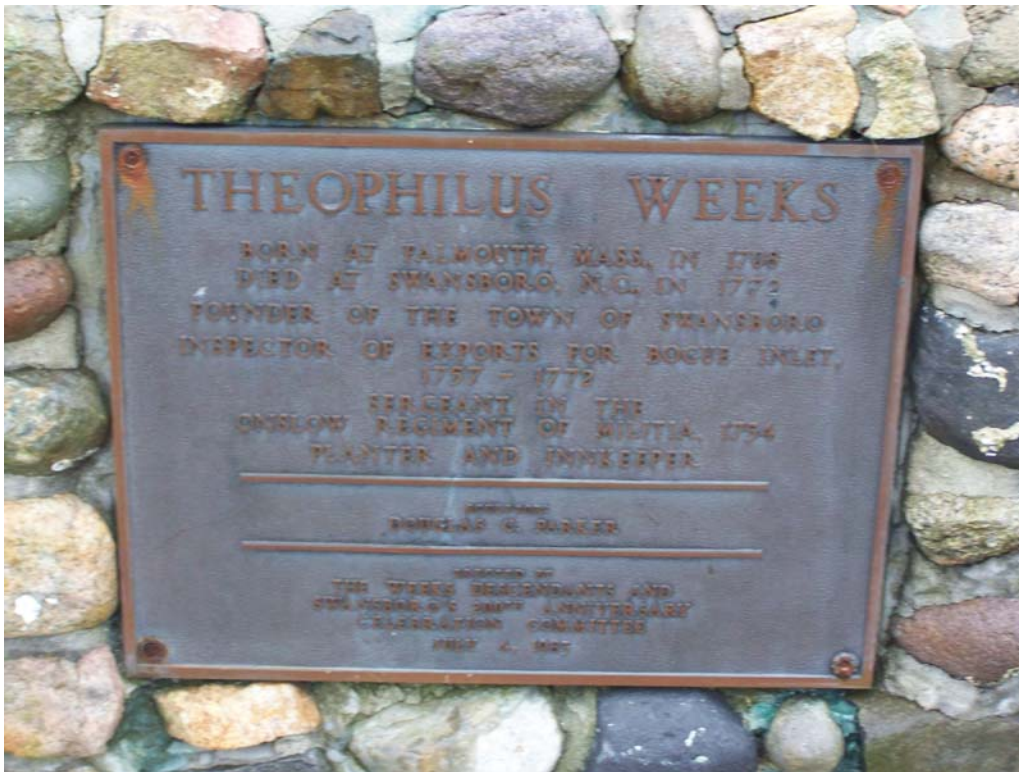
The sale of lots in the new town continued slowly, and only a few of the original 48 lots had been sold when Theophilus Weeks died. From the deed records, it is known that the Weeks home stood on the west side of Broad Street (now Main Street) somewhere between Front and Water streets. In the plat of the town, the lot on which Weeks's home sat received the number 7. Because Weeks had a wharf nearby where vessels tied up to have their cargoes inspected, one of the earliest names for the town was Weeks's Wharf. Some called the town Weeks's Point, and still others called it "New Town." In one petition, the town was called "New Town-upon-Bogue." During the Revolutionary War years, the most common name for the town was Bogue. In 1783, when the town was established by law, the General Assembly put an end to the confusion over names by bypassing all the earlier names and officially naming the town Swansborough, which has since been shortened to Swansboro.

The precise date and cause of Theophilus Weeks's death is unknown, though it appears to have occurred in early January, 1772. On January 1, 1772, Theophilus and Grace Weeks signed a deed to Archibald Gillespie for half an acre of land. That was the last deed Theophilus ever signed. When the Onslow Court met just a few days later, one of the actions taken by the court was to appoint Archibald Gillespie inspector for Bogue Inlet "in the room of Theophilus Weeks, deceased."

While Theophilus Weeks lived and died a subject of the king of England, he was the father of patriots. Of his four sons, two - Silas and Silvanus - died as soldiers in the American Revolution. In his final years, Theophilus Weeks founded a new town and left behind him sons who would help to found a new nation. It is

appropriate that the bill legally erecting the town which Weeks had founded was passed by the General Assembly in the same year that Great Britain officially recognized American independence. Tucker R. Littleton

[Note: This biography of Theophilus Weeks was extracted from a guide that was sold to tourists visiting Swansboro. The old buildings of downtown Swansboro have been converted to gift shops, boutiques, restaurants and other tourist-oriented establishments in order to attract the trade of visitors to the North Carolina outerbanks. The author of this guide, Tucker R. Littleton, was probably himself a descendant of Benjamin Weeks.]



Plaques are in Swansboro, NC, honoring Theophilus Weeks, Founder. Information found at Ancestry.com.

JONATHAN GREEN JR. HOUSE circa 1770



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (Daniel Pezzoni 1989): Jonathan Green House circa late 18th century - One and one-half story, three-bay coastal cottage with hall-parlor plan, rear shed rooms and engaged front porch. The house has ballast stone

foundation piers, chimneys with paved shoulder dormers (possibly late 19th century), interior with a fine Federal mantel and an enclosed stair. The documentary evidence is confusing as to the early owners of the lot upon which this house was built, but

Jonathan Green, son of Swansboro's earliest settler, may have owned the lot in the 1770s and is a likely candidate for the house's builder. Another possibility is Colonel Reuben Grant, who owned the lot at the end of the 18th century, the period when the house probably received its interior detailing. **(Silas Weeks was most likely born in this house or on the plantation 1737)**

HISTORY NOTE: In 1730 Ebenezer Harker sold 441 acres, land on the west side of White Oak River he had acquired from the Lords Proprietors in 1713, to two brothers from Massachusetts Bay--Jonathan and Isaac Green. Jonathan Green and his wife Grace lived on their half of the land; Isaac appears to have remained in Massachusetts. **By 1735** Jonathan Green had died, leaving his widow with half of the land. In October 1735, Theophilus Weeks, who had also come from Massachusetts about 1730, married Green's widow and was given (by court order) administration of the deceased estate. Theophilus Green bought the other half of the Green brother's plantation from Isaac Green (in Massachusetts).

Before his death in 1771 Theophilus Weeks sold off part of his farm as lots for a new town. The 48 lots measured 200 x 60 feet with three streets running north and south, and three streets running east and west. Lots were given or willed to his son Benjamin Weeks (7, 23 and 39 on the west side of Main Street) and to his stepson Jonathan Green Jr. (8, 24 and 40). If he did not inherit the house and lot, Jonathan Green Jr. apparently built a house on lot #40 before his death in 1784. The sheriff of the county sold lot #40 to pay off a debt the deceased owed to Mrs. Mary Pitts. (from "Chain of Title" listing found in the Jonathan Green Jr. House - October 1962.)



This copy of the original 48-lot town grid was found in a Green House scrapbook.

In another book, "Abstracts of the Records of Onslow County North Carolina" 1734-1850, Vol. 1, by Zae Gwynn, 1961, we find the following information that confirm the purchase of half of the Green plantation owned by Isaac Green, son of Jonathan Green, deceased, by Theophilus Weeks on 6 July 1736. and records showing the sale of lots divided by Theophilus Weeks. Theophilus Weeks owned the other half upon marriage to the widow of Jonathan Green, Grace.

6—Isaac Green of New England deeds to Theophilus Weeks for 150 pounds 220 acres, part of 440 on west side of Whiteoak River occupied by me. Tests: Samuel and Emanuel Jones.

Above information from page 12 of Abstract book.

The information below shows that on 25 May 1747, Theophilus sells the same land he purchased from Isaac for a 50 pound profit.

57—May 25, 1747. Theophilus Weeks to John Starkey for 200 pounds 10 shillings land whereon sd. Weeks now lives, 222 acres. Land bought of Isaac Green at mouth of Whiteoak River. (This is mortgage to run til Dec. 25, 1748.) Wts: Ralph Eves, James Alkins.

Above information from page 42 of Abstract book.

The information below shows that on 13 June 1771, we see Theophilus is now selling lots from his half of the land he became administrator of when he married Grace. These lots later became the area of the town named Swansboro.

36—June 13, 1771. Theophilus Weeks to Ezekiel Hunter of Carteret Co., N. C., for 10 pounds lot N. 5, joining Thomas Britton's fronting Third Street, 60 feet front and 200 feet depth. Signed Theo and Grace Weeks. Tests: Archelus Weeks, Jonothan Green.

36—June 13, 1771. Theophilus Weeks to Ezekiel Hunter of Carteret Co., N. C., for 10 pounds lot No. 2, joining John Backhouse. Tests: Archelus Weeks, Jonathan Green.

36—Theophilus Weeks to Libbus Hunter of Carteret Co., N. C., for 28 pounds 12 shillings, lot joining John Starkey. Tests: Archelus Weeks, Jonothan Green.

Above information from page 202 of Abstract book.

The information below: Dated 2 Oct 1773, shows that even after the death of Theophilus Weeks in Jan 1772, records show that his son, Benjamin, and his wife, Grace, continue to sell lots.

85—Oct. 2, 1773. Benjm. Weeks, Grace Weeks, Edward Marcy regards estate of Theophilus Weeks deceased, sell to John Lovitt for pounds 17 shillings, Lots 15 and 31. Tests: Archibald Gillesp, Ephriam Swift, Archibald Weeks.

The information above from page 213 of Abstract book.

From the Onslow County Court Minutes 1732-1743(#3), we find Theophilus Weeks petitioning the court for administration of the property through his marriage to Grace Green, widow of Jonathan Green.

At a Court held for Onslow Precinct on Oct. 7, 1735.

Present his Majesties Justices= Edward Mashborne, James Foyle, John Starkey.

- 1) From the Judgement of John Starkey & Abraham Mitchell, Esq. upon an approval by Mr. Alexander Grant plaintiff agst. Thomas Sheperd defendant for 5 pds. by warrant, it is ordered the sd. Sheperd pay to the plaintiff 5 pds. currency with costs alias execution issue agst. the estate of the sd. defendant for the sd. debts & costs.
*Court adjourns till 8:00 tomorrow morning.
- 1) John Starkey Esq. returns a bond into the court for James Green performing the Will of John Williamson dec'd. Jacob Lewis & Richard Farr being security for the sd. Green in sum of 1000 pds. to the sd. John Starkey Esq. who was last executor in the sd. Will & guardian to the children of the sd. deceased.
- 2) Ordered a summons issue out for Capt. Daniel Tildon & Mr. Ralph Eves to appear next court to answer the complaint of Bridgett Clansby.
- 3) On petition of Theophilus Weeks it is ordered he have letters administration on the estate of Jonathan Green dec'd. the sd. Theophilus marrying Grace the widow of sd. deceased & produces Gersham Howland & John Huggins security in a bond according to law lodged in the Clerk's office fees paid.
- 4) A Power of Attorney from Thomas Stevens to John Huggins proved by oath of Benjamin Stevens & on petition of John Huggins is ordered to be recorded.
- 5) Charles Ratliff returns an inventory of the estate of Edward Wingfield dec'd. & proved the same by oath.
- 6) Charles Ratliff _____ estate of Joseph Mumford dec'd. _____ proved by oath of sd. Ratliff Nathaniel Averitt swearing in open court _____ pays 5 shillings lodged in Clerk's hand.
- 7) John Starkey Esq. agst. Thomas Stevens original action for 25:0:0 & the plaintiff & defendent laying cause before the court the marshal was ordered to impanel a jury to return the following jury: Michel Clark, James Henderson Jr., Edward Wood, William Collings, James Henderson Sr., Richard Farr, Nathaniel Averitt, Job Brooks, Francis Cole, William Maynor, Ebenezer Holms, John Huggins who being sworn upon hearing the evidence return their verdict thus: we the jury lawfully sworn in cause between Mr. John Starkey Esq. & plaintiff & Mr. Thomas Stevens defendant we do own & all of us agree that the servant woman attached in the hands of Phinehas Stevens now in custody of Thomas Owen constable is the proper estate of the sd. Thomas Stevens & that the sd. Thomas Stevens is justly indebted to the sd. John Starkey in the sum

Information above from the book, "Onslow County Court Minutes 1732-1743, Vol 1, (1985). A project of the Onslow County 400th Anniversary Celebration Committee, pg 40.

More information from this book follows

Through the book, 'Onslow County Court Minutes 1744-1754', Vol 2, pg 28, we find Theophilus Weeks serving on a Grand Jury in Onslow County the first Wednesday in the year 1746.

1. Grand Jury called and sworn viz. = Richard Farr, Benjamin Esom, Robert Sanders, Alexander Grant, Theophilus Weeks, Joseph Hall, Samuel Jones, William Howard, Francis Sumner, William Ambrose, John Johnson, Philip Phinsinger, Philip Oman (Aman)?, Isaac Evans, Joseph Walls, John Simpson, Dannis Oman (Aman)?, John Russell.

Again we see him called to serve on a Grand Jury on the first Tuesday of April, 1747 from page 35.

2. The grand Jury called and sworn as follows viz = Zachariah Fields, Stephen Costin, James Walton, Robert Wallace, Patrick Robertson, David Bumpus, William Johnson, Peter Pory, William Marchment, Stephen Dampier, Nathan Morgan, Alexander Grant, Theophilus Weeks, Solomon Grant.

Below records the verdict on a case brought before a Grand Jury Theophilus Weeks served on July 4, 1749.

4. In an action upon the case wherein William Wickliffe is plaintiff and Nathaniel Weeks defendant. The jury returns their verdict thus: we of the jury find for the plaintiff the sum of 5:2:8 proc. and on motion of the plaintiffs attorney the same is admitted to record. Jury sworn: Anthony Lewis, Thomas King, Theophilus Weeks, Henry Rhodes, Jacob Huggins, William Oldfield, Stephen Dampier, Mathew Lewis, William Hunter, John Holmes, Abraham Lewis, Thomas Hicks.

Above information found on page 58.

Below records Theophilus Weeks petition to open a "Ordinary" (Tavern) at his house in June 1752.

1. On petition of Theophilus Weeks that he may have liberty to keep ordinary at his now dwelling house in the sd. county and produces Emanuel Jones and Richard Stevens securities.

Above information found on page 71

On April 5, 1757, Theophilus Weeks is ordered to be Inspector for Bogue Inlet.

23. Ordered that Richard Ward be Inspector for Bear inlet and Theophilus Weeks be Inspector for Bouge (Bogue) Inlet. Ordered that the clerk prepare bonds and see them executed. Bonds executed and acknowledged and qualified the Inspectors by taking the oath.

Above information found on page 20, "Onslow County Court Minutes 1755-1765", Vol 3.

COLONIAL SOLDIERS OF THE SOUTH, 1732-1774

List of Captain Stephen Lee's Company, White Oak River, Onslow County, North Carolina, commanded by Colonel John Starkey, March 12, 1754 (Cont'd)

Nr	Rank	Name	Remarks
76	Serjeant	Weeks, Theophilus	
77	"	Charlescraft, Anthony	
78	"	Howell, John	
79	"	Fitts, Richard	
80	Corporal	Badcock, Peter	
81	"	Spearman, Samuel	
82	Drummer	Brook, James	
83	Clerk	Hay, Char:s	

Attest: Charles Hay, Clerk
 [Note: The company was to meet at Jonathan Milton's, on New River on April 2, 1754 for a general muster.]
 [NCAR:Mil 1-46]

Muster Roll of Captain John Shackelford's Company, Onslow County.

Theophilus Weeks military info from the book, "Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774", by Murtie Clark (1986) pg 738

LAND GRANTS

277—Webb, William. Nov. 9, 1784. 200 acres. Book 25, page 3.
 64—Weeks, Theophilus. Apr. 6, 1745. 100 acres. Book 5, page 259.

LAND GRANTS (1712-1800) 810

120—Weeks, Theophilus. Apr. 6, 1745. 100 acres. Book 10, page 101.
 153—Weeks, Theophilus. Apr. 10, 1761. 50 acres. Book 13, page 282.
 153—Weeks, Theophilus. Apr. 10, 1761. 270 acres. Book 13, page 282.
 170—Weeks, Theophilus. Apr. 10, 1761. 50 acres. Book 15, page 355.
 170—Weeks, Theophilus. Apr. 10, 1761. 270 acres. Book 15, page 355.
 227—Weeks, Theophilus. May 4, 1769. 31 acres. Book 20, page 443.
 683—Welch, Winiford. Nov. 26, 1799. 50 acres. Book 103, page

Above information from the book, "Records of Onslow County, North Carolina, Vol 1" by Zae Hargett Gwynn, pgs 818 -819 of the Land Grants (1712-1800) section.

Below is a copy of one of the original land grants from 10 Apr 1761 mentioned above.

Theophilus Weeks 270 acres
 Feb 20

This Mann Represents 270 Acres of Land in Onslow County between Owen Jones and Richd: Stephens' lines Beginning at a pine S: 40 Et: 38 Chrs to a pine near Jones' line Thence up his line N: 63 Et: 48 Chrs to a pine by a pond N: 23 Et: 30 E. to a Stake by Savannah N: 6 W: 22 Chrs to a pine N: 37 W: 20 Chrs to a pine near a branch S: Stephens' line and down his lines to the first Station

Survey for Theophilus Weeks Feb 9 1761
 J. Skibbon D.S.

Pictures of Swansboro taken spring 2011





Picture of Green home above taken in early 1900's



Picture above and information on next page is found in the book, "The Architectural History of Onslow County, North Carolina", by J Daniel Pezzoni, pgs 82-83, 1998

More information on the Green House

82 THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF ONSLOW COUNTY

Jonathan Green Jr. House

114 Elm Street

Swansboro

Late 1700s or early 1800s

The Green House is one of Onslow's best-known landmarks. Swansboro historian Tucker Littleton believed the coastal cottage was built for Jonathan Green Jr., the son of the town site's first settler. Green died in 1779, which would make the house as old as the neighboring Ringware House—or older—if the house was indeed Green's. A date of construction in the late 1700s or early 1800s is supported by the Georgian styling of a fireplace mantel with an architrave surround surmounted by a frieze with concave ends—a treatment also seen in the early Smith-Ervin House, located at the head of the White Oak River, and encountered in Beaufort houses as late as the 1810s. Another early feature is the chimney on the east gable end, with a Flemish-bond stack that rises from a ballast-stone base to paved double shoulders. (The house foundation, too, is built of ballast stones.) Gabled dormers, added or remodeled at the turn of the twentieth century, grace the front of the roof, and the

porch is supported by classical columns that appear to be original or early in date.

A later owner of the property was Reuben Grant, a merchant and Queens Creek mill owner who represented the county in the state general assembly on several occasions before his death in 1793. Owners during the first half of the nineteenth century included such local luminaries as merchant William P. Ferrand and planter David W. Sanders of Palo Alto. In 1853 the house was purchased by Caleb S. Hewitt, headmaster at the Swansboro Academy, and it has remained in the Hewitt and related Underseth families ever since. One detail dating to the Hewitt ownership is a patent (1858) cast-iron rim lock depicting a huntsman and hound.

The Green House continues to divulge fascinating secrets. During recent renovation work old iron tools were found inside a wall. One of the tools—a broken spoonlike implement—had been bored with a hole, suggesting that it was hung around the neck as a charm. The items may have been left behind by some careless workman two or more centuries ago, or they may have been deliberately placed in the wall cavity as a sort of architectural talisman.



Mantel

Tools found in
house walls

Below is an article from the "Carteret News-Times" dated 25 October 1989

Swansboro history is told

Carteret County News-Times Oct. 25, 1989

Mrs. Clyde E. Baucom addressed the Otway Burns Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution at the Oct. 4th meeting at Flying Bridge Restaurant in Cedar Point. Her illustrated presentation was titled "A Walk Through Time in Swansboro." Mrs. Baucom was born and grew up in the Swansboro area and has been involved in many historical and civic events.

The land where Swansboro is located today was once an Indian village. Archeological evidence would indicate that these aboriginals were Algonquins who inhabited the village and surrounding areas along the "Weetock" River, (the Indian name for White Oak River), for hundreds of years. In 1711 these Weetock Indians joined the Tuscarora tribe in their war against the Swiss and German settlers of New Bern, and never returned to this area.

The village site was opened for land grants in 1713. In 1730 Jonathan Green and his brother, Isaac, from Falmouth, Mass., bought the tract. Jonathan and his wife, Grace, cleared a portion of land at the mouth of the White Oak River and built their home. It was on what is now the east side of Main Street between Front and Water Streets, opposite the Gray Dolphin Dress Shop.

In 1735 Jonathan died of unknown causes and Grace married Theophilus Weeks of Carteret County, also a former resident of Falmouth, Mass. Following their marriage, Weeks came to live on the Green Plantation. Weeks was a man of vision and immediately began to develop the plantation and engaged in some farming. He built and opened a wharf near their home for shipping purposes. The wharf was located at the end of present-day Main Street. In 1751, Weeks petitioned the Onslow County Court for permission to operate an ordinary inn or boarding house in their home, as the port activity was progressing and the Weeks' homestead was a favorite spot for seafarers to visit.

By this time, Isaac Green had sold his interest in the Green Plantation to the Weeks couple. The chief means of transportation at this time was by water. Other settlers were arriving in the area, first from New England states, then Maryland, Virginia and northeastern North Carolina.

Port activity began to flourish in 1757 and Weeks was appointed "Inspector of Exports" for Bogue Inlet.

About 1770 Weeks conceived the idea of starting a town on the plantation. At the point of land where his own home and wharf were located, he laid out six streets and 48 lots, each lot 60 feet by 200 feet. The lots were arranged in tiers; three streets ran north to south and three ran east to west. Today those streets are known as Front, Water, Elm, Moore, Main and Church.

Front and Main were 40 feet wide and the others were 30 feet wide. On May 11, 1771 the first lot, #6, was sold to Edward Starkey; a little later lot #11 was sold to Mary Pitts. The town destined to become Swansboro was off to a slow but impressive beginning. Weeks died in 1772, but he is rightfully remembered as the founder of Swansboro.

Just before the laying out of the town in 1770, Jonathan Green, Jr. built his home, which is still standing at 114 Elm Street. It is the oldest house in Swansboro and is known as the Underneath House.

On May 6, 1783 the N.C. General Assembly passed a bill legally establishing the town and doing away with all former names (The Wharf, New Town and Bogue) and gave it the name of Swansborough, in honor of Samuel Swann, who represented Onslow County in the Legislature from 1738 to 1762. Later the name was shortened to Swansboro, and in writing the charter of 1895 this name was made official.

With the steady increase in shipping, Swansboro soon became an economic and cultural center. During the Revolutionary War period, the port town took on even more importance. A warehouse for the supply of the Continental Line was established at the mouth of the river. There is evidence of privateering out of the local port during this period, and a military post company was organized to protect the coast. Several salt works were established in the area to produce salt from the sea water. This expanding port activity led to the creation of a separate customs district called Port of Swansborough, which included all the inlets in Onslow County.

Ship building became an important industry in the late 1700s. Otway Burns, well known privateer during the War of 1812, built the Prometheus on the Swansboro waterfront in 1818. The Prometheus was the first steamboat actually constructed in North Carolina. Although Burns was living in Beaufort at this time, he still owned lot #6 in Swansboro and wanted to use the skilled shipbuilders in Swansboro to construct his ship.

The first half of the 1800s was a period of prosperity for export-import trade. Many merchants built their stores along the waterfront. The chief exports were pitch, tar and turpentine; later lumber and cotton became chief exports. William F. Farrand was perhaps the town's wealthiest merchant; he is best known for having built the "Old Brick Store" at the corner of Main and Front streets. Besides serving as a store, it has also been used as a church, school, auction house, post office and drug store up until 1934.

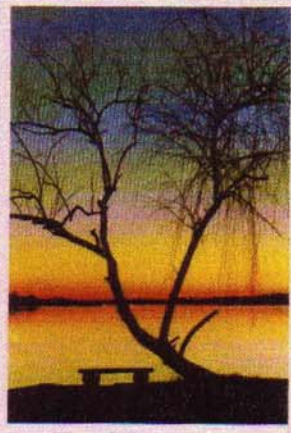
Another merchant of note was Robert Spence McLean who operated a general merchandise store, is in the building owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Russell, now "Russell's Olde Tyme Shoppe," on Front Street.

The Civil War brought hardship and devastation to Swansboro. A fort was built on Huggins Island to defend Bogue Inlet and Swansboro. At the onset of the war it was captured and burned. The Union Army was intent on destroying the salt works, and in doing so they raided and captured Swansboro for brief periods in 1862 and 1864.

The Reconstruction years were difficult. With the shipping business curtailed and much of their property destroyed, the wealthier and more influential citizens moved away, and the chief industries became fishing and the lumber trade. The Swansboro Land and Lumber Company was located where Casper's Marina now stands. It employed a large number of local men, and for a while there was considerable growth and prosperity which reached its peak in the first two decades of the 1900s. Other operating lumber mills were the Swindells and Weeks.

Then came World War I, the Great Depression and World War II. The establishment of the U.S. Marine Corps Base brought a measure of prosperity and civil service employment.

Below info is from a Swansboro, NC brochure from the dedication of the Ottway Burns statue, May 1993.

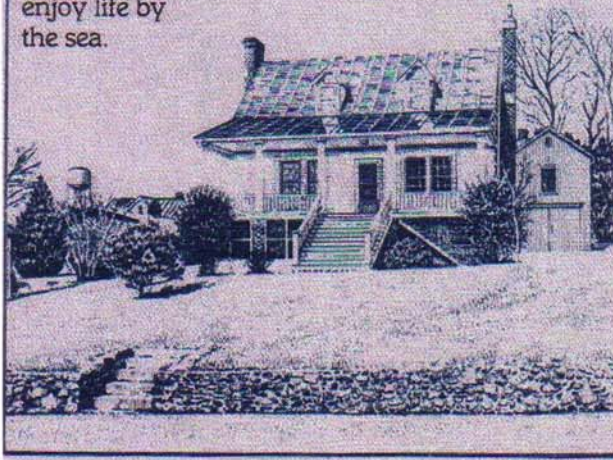


Swansboro's Heritage . . .

Once the site of an Algonkian Indian village, Swansboro's present day history began around 1730 when Jonathan and Grace Green established the first permanent settlement here. About 10 years later prominent landowner Theophilus Weeks divided a portion of his plantation into 48 lots with 6 streets and the development of this Colonial Port Town officially began. The town was incorporated in 1783 as Swannsborough in honor of Samuel Swann, former Speaker of the North Carolina House of Commons and longtime Onslow County Representative.

The bustling port of Swannsborough continued to prosper with various commercial enterprises until the end of the Civil War. Gradually, the merchants were replaced by a hearty breed of fishermen and farmers. Then, during World War II came the neighboring Marine Corps Bases at Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, fostering a new economic growth.

Today, Swansboro is a water-oriented community situated directly on the Intracoastal Waterway and bordering the White Oak River. Blessed with a mild climate and perfect location, Swansboro offers a comfortable home port for those who enjoy life by the sea.



Additional information on Theophilus Weeks found at Wikipedia.com

Theophilus Weeks (1708 – January 1772) was an early settler in the British colony of Province of North Carolina. He served as a soldier in the French and Indian War, and he was the founder of the town of Swansboro, North Carolina. He was born in Falmouth, Massachusetts about 1708, and came to North Carolina around 1730 with his family, settling on Hadnots Creek.

At about the same time, another group from Falmouth, Jonathan Green, Sr., his brother Isaac Green, and their families, settled on the other side of the White Oak River, in what is now Onslow County (Onslow was formed from New Hanover and Carteret counties in 1734). The White Oak River forms the boundary between Onslow and Carteret counties.

Jonathan Green, Sr., died about 1735, at the age of about 35 years. On 7 October 1735, Theophilus Weeks married his widow, Grace, and moved into the Green plantation. In time, he bought out Isaac Green's half interest in the property and the latter returned to Massachusetts. The plantation was located on the Onslow (west) side of the mouth of the White Oak River, and was named "The Wharf." Theophilus and Grace had at least four children.

At a court held 5 April 1743, Theophilus proved rights for eight white persons belonging to his family. It is likely that he must have had a daughter or two, although their names are not known.

The religious affiliation of Theophilus Weeks is not known, however, he is descended from the Reverend John Robinson, pastor of the Pilgrims in Holland. Considering that many other members of the Weeks family in the Hadnots Creek area were deeply involved in the early Baptist movement, it is probable that Theophilus Weeks and his family were among them.

Not much is known about the occupation of Theophilus Weeks prior to 1751. In January 1741 (New Style), he recorded his stock mark, which indicated agricultural interests. In 1747 he borrowed some £200 from Colonel John Starkey, and used the land he had purchased from Isaac Green as security. This loan was evidently repaid by the end of the next year. There is no indication of the use Weeks made of the borrowed money.

Record is also found of his receiving two land grants in Onslow County on 6 April 1745, for 100 acres (0.40 km²) each. On 10 April 1761, four additional grants totaling 640 acres (2.6 km²), and on 4 May 1769, an additional 31 acres (130,000 m²) were received.

In 1754 the Onslow Regiment of Militia was organized in response to the French and Indian Wars. The regiment was divided into four companies, and Theophilus Weeks became a sergeant in Captain Stephen Lee's company of Colonel John Starkey's Onslow Regiment of Militia. He is listed on a unit roster dated 12 March 1754. It was to meet at Jonathan Milton's residence on New River for a general muster.

In 1751 Weeks petitioned the Onslow Court for permission to operate an ordinary,^[1] and he did receive a license to "keep an ordinary at his now dwelling place." The White Oak River flows into Bogue Inlet, and this suggests that port activity was thriving at the mouth of the river, and that the Weeks' plantation was a favorite place for seafarers to visit. He was appointed inspector of exports for Bogue Inlet in 1757, and he held that position for the rest of his life. It is significant that there is no record of any complaint ever having been lodged against him with respect to the administration of his official duties, nor do the records show that he was ever involved in a lawsuit or uncomplimentary situation.

Probably the greatest accomplishment of his life came with the founding of the town of Swansboro. His plantation, The Wharf, was an ideal location for trade and navigation, and as commerce increased, he saw the advantage it offered as a seaport.

It is not known exactly when he decided to establish a town on his property. It is possible that he considered the

idea for years. His plans were finalized early in 1771, or possibly the year before.

The settlement was laid out with six streets, and contained forty-eight lots. The lots were arranged in three tiers, with sixteen lots each. Three of the streets ran basically north and south, and the other three east and west. They are known today as Front, Water, Elm, Moore, Main (originally Broad), and Church Streets. A county road extended northeastward from Broad Street to the Onslow Courthouse (which no longer exists, as the Onslow county seat is now at Jacksonville). All the streets were thirty feet (9m) wide, except Front and Broad Streets, which were forty feet (12m). All the original lots were 60 x 200 feet (61 m), except on the north side of Front Street. These seven water lots (numbers 10-16) extended across it to the river.

Sale of the lots went slowly, and only five of the forty-eight had been sold when Theophilus died. The Weeks home was on the west side of Broad Street (now Main), lot #7, somewhere between Front and Water Streets, just up from the wharf so he could see the ships as they came in. A dock was located nearby where ships tied up for him to inspect their cargo. Lot #6 was sold to Edward Starkey on 11 May 1771, and Lots #2 and #5 were sold to Ezekiel Hunter. Lot #11 was sold to Mrs. Mary Pitts, who received the deed for what was called "lot number 11 in the plan of a town laid out by Theophilus Weeks." One of the town's original houses, that of Jonathan Green, Jr.'s son, Samuel, is still standing.

The town was known by several names during its early years. Some people referred to it as Weeks Point, Weeks Landing, Weeks Wharf, The Wharf, and others as New Town. In one petition, it is called "New Town upon Bogue." It was generally called Bogue during the Revolutionary War era. The confusion was finally settled in 1783, when it was incorporated and an act of the General Assembly officially named it Swansborough, in honor of Samuel Swann, Speaker of the colonial assembly and official representative of Onslow in the Assembly. The name was later shortened to Swansboro.

The exact date and cause of Theophilus Weeks' death are unknown. It was probably in early January, 1772. He last appears in the public records on 1 January 1772, when he and his wife sold 0.5-acre (2,000 m²) to Archibald Gillespie. When the Onslow Court met a few days later, Gillespie was appointed inspector for Bogue Inlet, "in the room of Theophilus Weeks, deceased." His wife, Grace, died in August 1792.

Swansboro celebrated its bicentennial in 1983. About 150 people were on hand, of whom 85 were descendants of him or his brother, Jabez. As part of the Fourth of July celebration, a memorial marker was dedicated to him as Swansboro's founder.

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1. ^ "A restaurant, public house, or dining room serving all guests and customers the same standard meal or fare" (from Online Dictionary
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