

We have just completed nine days in the “Deep South” on our trip through the Southeastern United States.

We spent three days in New Orleans, most of which was in the French Quarter with its stately buildings, beautiful wrought iron work and its jazz tradition—not to mention its many fine restaurants. We ate at three of these as well as the famous Café du Monde which serves on coffee and beignets (doughnuts covered in powdered sugar). We also took a ride on one of the few remaining sternwheelers on the Mississippi and took a trolley through the Garden District with its huge mansions, tree-lined boulevards and two Universities.

Next we went via Panama City (just an overnight stop) to St Augustine, Florida. This is the oldest city in the United States, having been settled by the Spanish in 1565 and celebrated its 450th anniversary on the day of our visit. Here again there are some magnificent homes of the pre- and post- Civil War eras as well as much earlier buildings from Spanish colonial times. There are also many buildings built by or for Henry Morrison Flagler who was instrumental in making St Augustine a major tourist destination in the 19th century. Many of his buildings are now part of the Flagler University, a private Liberal Arts College.

From St Augustine we drove north along the coast to visit first Savannah and then Charleston. These are two very old and beautiful cities and again have dozens of beautiful historic buildings. Savannah is laid out on a grid system with many small parks and squares and each street is lined with live oak trees dripping with Spanish Moss. It is quintessential Antebellum South and straight out of “Gone With the Wind”.

Charleston, too, has its stately homes and nicely landscaped historic district and also has dozens of churches (each with very tall steeples) as a result of its long-standing tradition for religious tolerance. Since all denominations are represented it has earned the nickname of “The Holy City”.

But Charleston is just as famous for its history and its role in the Revolutionary War and, in particular, the American Civil War. It was the first state to secede after Lincoln’s election and is generally recognized as the trigger point for the War. It eventually re-joined the Union, of course, but even today it retains its Confederate leanings and is justly proud of its long and important role in United States history.

It is impossible to do justice to these four cities in a few words and with just a few pictures but that is all we have at the moment. Eventually, a full scale journal will appear on this web site.

We hope you enjoy whatever you view,

Bob and Molly

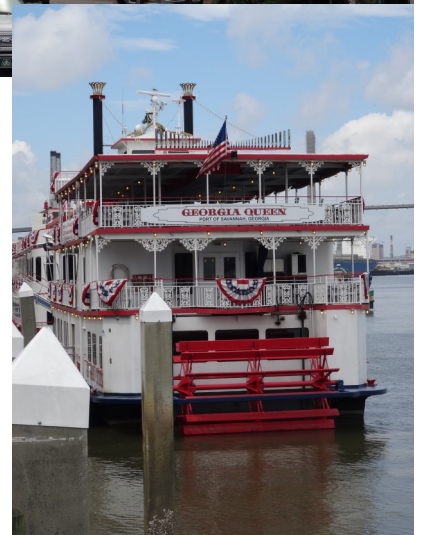
New Orleans



St Augustine



Savannah



Charleston



Fort Sumter

