



Soldiers Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church 306 N. Church Str., Salisbury, NC

Soldiers Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church has served Salisbury for nearly 150 years. Plans to organize a Methodist church of freedmen in Salisbury began one year before emancipation in 1864. Aid was provided by the Freedman's Bureau and an organization of worshippers began in 1865. The first service was held in a boot shop. Within months, because of growing demand, services were moved to the Freedman's Bureau where there was more room.

The church has had several names: Zion Society, Zion Chapel, Salisbury Society and Salisbury Station, Mt. Zion and finally Soldiers Memorial. In 1873 Thomas and Ellen Henderson sold a plot of land at the corner of Council and Liberty streets for the first church edifice, which had a frame structure. Beginning in 1882 the church became associated with the Zion Wesley Institute later to be know as Livingstone College. The first office for the president of Livingstone College was located at Soldiers Memorial Church.

In 1886 the first edifice was destroyed by a windstorm and plans for a new church building were laid but delayed. A new building was eventually erected in the 1890s in time to receive the stained glass windows in the early 1900s. In 1910 the elegant Victorian style pews were placed in the sanctuary.

Early History of Salisbury and Rowan County

1861-1865

“A Brief Chronological History of Black Salisbury Rowan”

Setting prior to 1860's:

The early literature of the church reflected the strong voice of authority certainly of the Christian Faith and a united front.

Protestants were predominate in the Salisbury-Rowan area.

Blacks were included in their congregations.

Presbyterians Church of Salisbury-August 4, 1821.

Children & adults (colored) were baptized by Rev. Jethro Rumble.

1830 – Rev. Harry Cowan-licensed to preach in 1828 by his Master Thomas Cowan.

Negro Baptist of NC-converted 1828.

Civil War

Salisbury Confederate Prison

1861 – Civil War begins

1861 – Salisbury Confederate Prison (1st prisoners arrive in December)

1864 – Smallpox Epidemic

Summer of 1864 – Stopped exchange of prisoners so prisons filled up.

1864 – Son of David Livingston, Rupert Vincent died.

1864 – Towards the end of the war, the Methodist A.M.E. advanced into the South. J.W. Hood arrived in New Bern, N.C. in January.

The A.M.E. Zion Church “North Carolina Conference” was organized December 17th.

Four A.M.E. Zion Churches organized 1865-67 in Rowan.

Christ Episcopal Church – Adults and Children baptized.

1864 – Toward close of war between the states, the church [Methodist] advanced into the south, sending down J.W. Hood, afterward Bishop, who arrived in New Bern, NC in January 1864...he received into the church 400 members.

1865 – The Freedman's Bureau was established. They established schools and hired teachers.

1865 – “At the Constitutional Convention...Negro citizens asked for passage of legislation to aid them as freedmen and to educate their children”.

1865 – Prisoners released

Subsequent years:

Many religious movements in Rowan County grew after the emancipation from 1866-1942—Baptist, Methodist & Methodist A.M.E., Presbyterians, Lutherans, Episcopalians, & Catholic. In 1867 Second Creek A.M.E. Zion Church was organized at Trots School House on Henry Trot's Farm.

Salisbury-Rowan had schools for Blacks conducted by the Freedmen of Philadelphia; parochial schools conducted by churches and missionaries; private schools conducted in homes; and much later a State supported Normal School; a public graded school; and

finally, Livingstone College of the A.M.E. Zion Church providing – a graded school, high school, normal school classical department, industrial department, and school of religion.

Assignment: A Brief History, pg. 106-112

LOOKING INTO THE SALISBURY CONFEDERATE PRISON

by Ed and Sue Curtis
21 March 2013

SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES IN PRISON'S HISTORY

2 Nov 1861	Confederate Government purchased the Maxwell Chambers Factory along with 16 acres from Davidson College to be used for the Salisbury Prison at a cost of \$15,000.
2 Dec 1861	Trinity College President Braxton Craven with some of his faculty and students, the Trinity Guards, arrived for duty at the Prison.
9 Dec 1861	The first prisoners entered - 120 Union soldiers transferred from Raleigh, NC.
Jan 1862	Dr. Josephus Hall appointed the 1 st Surgeon at the Salisbury Post and Prison.
22 Jul 1862	Dix-Hill Cartel stated that prisoners be paroled within 10 days after their capture but exchanges bogged down by 1863.
17 Feb 1863	Confederate Congress requires list of political prisoners from Salisbury.
Apr 1864	Gen. U.S. Grant stopped exchange of prisoners.
25 Nov 1864	Prison cannons used during attempted mass escape by prisoners.
1 Dec 1864	Confederate soldiers held in Prison allowed to return to military service.
13 Dec 1864	Brig. Gen. John H. Winder, Commissary General of Prisoners, inspected the Prison and wrote Adj. and Insp. Gen. S. Cooper in Richmond that the site of the Prison was objectionable and should be moved.
18 Dec 1864	Prisoners Junius H. Browne and Albert D. Richardson, <i>New York Tribune</i> newspaper journalists, who served as assistants in the hospital bluffed their way out of the Prison, and wrote about conditions.
20 Dec 1864	CSA Sec. of War Seddon accepted Winder's proposal to move the prisoners from Salisbury and issued an order stopping all repairs and construction on new buildings.
1 Feb 1865	NC Gov. Zebulon B. Vance urged Commandant Johnson to "do everything possible to relieve the suffering" at the Prison.
22 Feb 1865	5,149 prisoners informed that the sick (1,420) would be sent to Richmond by train and that the able-bodied (3,634) would be marched to Greensboro and sent by trains to Wilmington for exchange. Also released were citizen prisoners (76) and free Blacks (19).
12 Apr 1865	Prison burned by Gen. George Stoneman's Union troops.

LOCATION

The shape of the Prison was irregular. The main gate was located on East Bank Street across the railroad tracks.

SALISBURY PRISON COMMANDANTS

1. Dr. Braxton Craven
2. Maj. George Couper Gibbs
3. Capt. Archibald Campbell Godwin
4. Capt. Henry McCoy
5. Capt. Alexander Swift Galloway
6. Lt. Col. Frederic M. Kent
7. Capt. George Washington Alexander
8. Col. John Alexander Gilmer
9. Maj. John Henry Gee, M.D.
10. Brig. Gen. Bradley Tyler Johnson

OTHER INTERESTING CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Aaron T. Bliss – NY POW elected Governor of Michigan.
- ❖ Gov. Henry T. Clark – in office when Prison established.
- ❖ Luke Blackmer – local attorney helped escapees, kin to actor Sidney Blackmer.
- ❖ O'Connell brothers – 3 Catholic priests who visited the Prison.
- ❖ Dr. Richard O. Currey – Surgeon-in-Charge in 1864 with 8 assistants.
- ❖ Brodie Duke – member of the Durham, NC tobacco family, guard at Prison.
- ❖ Col. John Hoke – In charge of NC Senior Reserves used as guards in '64-'65 who escorted POWs to Wilmington.
- ❖ Maj. Gen. Robert F. Hoke – received Salisbury POWs for exchange at the Northeast Ferry while defending nearby Wilmington.
- ❖ Rev. A. W. Mangum – local Methodist minister who visited the Prison.
- ❖ Mason Morfit – Quartermaster and ancestor of tv personality Gary Moore.
- ❖ Sarah Johnson – Lived near Prison and cared for some prisoners in her home, received a Federal pension.
- ❖ Robert Livingstone – POW under alias Rupert Vincent, thought to have died in escape attempt of 1864, son of Dr. David Livingstone.
- ❖ George W. Whitman – NY POW and brother of poet Walt Whitman.

16TH ANNUAL SALISBURY CONFEDERATE PRISON SYMPOSIUM, APRIL 5-7, 2013

Enjoy hearing about the Confederate Military Prison located in Salisbury and those who were there. Registration \$65 thru March 16, \$75 afterwards. Banquet, 7 lectures, 2 Memorial Services, and a tour of the Prison site. Books and prints available. Contact Ed or Sue Curtis for more information 704-637-6411.

MISERY AND DEATH AT THE PRISON

Diseases included: Diarrhea, Pneumonia, Intermittent Fever, Scrobutus, Debility, Catarrh, Rheumatism, Dysentery, Typhoid Fever, Pleurisy, Smallpox, Dengue, and Scurvy. Gangrene from frostbite or wounds received prior to Salisbury or at Salisbury from guards or other prisoners. Beginning in the fall of 1864 there was a lack of shelter, fuel, medicine, food, water, clothing, sanitation, etc.

IMAGES OF THE PRISON

There is no known photograph. The first five images in the list below can be found in Louis Brown's The Salisbury Prison. The sixth one is in both Eye of the Storm and Images from the Storm. The next one can be found in the History of the 27th Regiment N.Y. Vols. The eighth was printed in 2001 in the quarterly newsletter, *The Prison Exchange*, from the cotton mill stock certificate.

1. Pvt. Charles A. Kraus, 1st MD Cav., 1886, lithograph
2. Sgt. Fred Wills, 20th MA Vols., Harper's Weekly, 1862
3. Sgt. Fred Wills, 20th MA Vols., discovered early 1950's
4. Maj. Otto Boetticher, 68th NY Vols., 1862, base ball game
5. Image of 1864 attempted escape.
6. Pvt. Robert Sneden, 40th NY Vols., watercolor.
7. Artist unknown, drawn by 1888
8. Cotton Factory blank Stock Certificate

GUARDS AND PRISONERS WERE FROM:

AL, CA, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VT, VA, WV, WI

SALISBURY CONFEDERATE PRISON ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 393, Salisbury, NC 28145-0393
website: www.salisburyprison.org
phone: 794-637-6411 email: southpaws@fibrant.com

Dedicated to preserving, sharing, and expanding the history of the Prison and those who were there. Membership \$10 per person from April 1 to March 31 and includes award-winning quarterly newsletter. Archaeological dig on Prison site in 2005 with WFU and shovel test in 2012. Members continue to write articles and books and give talks and slide presentations. Tours given of the Prison site and related areas. Copies of military records, pension papers, letters, images, etc. collected and shared in newsletter. Lot on Prison site acquired.

Join now!

BOOKS WITH REFERENCES TO THE PRISON OR THOSE WHO WERE THERE

- 📖 Sara Aull & Mary Brandon - Doctor Josephus Wells Hall, A Man of Energy ...
- 📖 Daniel W. Barefoot - Robert F. Hoke
- 📖 Benjamin F. Booth & Steve Meyer - Dark Days of the Rebellion, Life in Southern Military Prisons
- 📖 James S. Brawley - Rowan County a brief history
- 📖 Louis A. Brown - The Salisbury Prison, A Case Study of Confederate Military Prisons 1861-1865 Revised and Enlarged (available thru Hoke UDC)
- 📖 Junius Browne - Four Years in Secessia: Adventures Within And Beyond The ...
- 📖 Frances H. Casstevens - "Out of the Mouth of Hell": Civil War Prisons and Escapes
- 📖 Walter Clark - NC Regiments 1861-1865
- 📖 Robert E. Eberly, Jr. - Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth, Soldiering with the 8th Reg. PA Reserves
- 📖 Annette Gee Ford - The Captive, Major John H. Gee, Commandant of the Confederate Prison at Salisbury, NC 1864-1865 (available thru Hoke UDC)
- 📖 Asa Gage & Kathy Dhalle - Remembering Salisbury - Stories from the Prisoners of War, Letters to The National Tribune 1882 ...
- 📖 Webb Garrison - Civil War Hostages, Hostage Taking in the Civil War
- 📖 Jefferson J. Hammer - Frederic Augustus James's Civil War Diary, Sumter to Andersonville
- 📖 Galen D. Harrison - Prisoners' Mail from the American Civil War
- 📖 Chris J. Hartley - Stoneman's Raid 1865
- 📖 Beasey S. Henrix, Jr. - Tuskaloosa's Own, A Short History ... Units From Tuskaloosa County, Alabama
- 📖 George B. Kirsch - Baseball in Blue & Gray, The National Pastime during the Civil War
- 📖 Effie Leatherman - Midlin Times - Nelson S. Gardner, Civil War Unsung Hero
- 📖 Jo White Linn - First Presbyterian Church, Salisbury, NC and Its People 1821-1995
- 📖 Richard Masterson - Salisbury, Civil War Death Camp in NC (novel) (available thru Hoke UDC)
- 📖 R.M. Poteat - Henry Toole Clark: Civil War Governor of North Carolina
- 📖 George Raynor - Rebels and Yankees in Rowan Co
- 📖 Cheryl Reavis - The Prisoner (novel)
- 📖 Albert D. Richardson - The Secret Service, The Field, The Dungeon, and The Escape
- 📖 Arlene Showalter - Butternut Tears (novel)
- 📖 George W. Smith - Experiences of a Falmouth Boy In Rebel Prisons
- 📖 Robert K. Sneden - Eye of the Storm
- 📖 Lonnie R. Speer - Portals To Hell, The Military Prisons of the Civil War
- 📖 State of Pennsylvania - Pennsylvania at Salisbury
- 📖 State of Maine - Report of the Maine ... Monument Erected in Salisbury, NC
- 📖 Theresa Thomas - Tall Grey Gates (novel)
- 📖 U.S. Government Printing Office - Roll of Honor
- 📖 Ina W. Van Noppen - Stoneman's Last Raid