

BARGE SAVANNAH

204' x 23.8' x 10.8'

Built Chesapeake City, Maryland - 1912

She was a wooden barge called a knot head barge because her stern looked like the knot of a tree.

Carried 900 tons of cargo.

She ran packaged Domino sugar in the inland waterways from Philadelphia, Pa. to Savannah, Georgia from there to Brunswick, Georgia to take on a load of rolled paper and back to Philadelphia.

She had a deck house aft. On the main deck level was the Captain's room with desk and chairs with a small safe under the desk. Adjoining this room on the starboard side was the Captain's bunk room with one-three quarter sized bunk which was larger than normal in case his wife came along. Aft of the Captain's Room was the Galley which had a cast iron cook stove that burned coal. There was a galley dining table and 6 chairs, a kitchen sink with a pitcher pump and the ice box was outside on the after deck. On the starboard side was a deck hand's bunk room with one bunk. There were no closets, just nails on which to hang clothes.

There was a closet toilet on the starboard side with an outside door. To flush the toilet there was a ten quart bucket that you threw overboard with a rope attached and hauled aboard and dumped into toilet. When the barge was moving under tow, you had to be careful it didn't pull you overboard.

On the upper deck forward was the wheel house from which the barge was steered. At the back of the wheel house was a bunk room which you entered from the wheel house. This room was used by the Cook and Deck Hand. You gained access to the upper deck by a permanently attached wooden ladder set at a slight angle and resting on the main deck. This ladder was located on the aft end of the deck house.

The barge had two masts with four booms powered by 2 gas windlasses, one long cargo hold with four hatches.

At this time the barge was towed by the tug Buddy, a small tug about the size of the Michigan with a steel hull and wood house owned by Frank Bray of Bray Towing Company of Norfolk, Virginia.