

Steamboats on the Cape Fear River



Prometheus

The "Prometheus", a small stern-wheeler was built by Otway Burns, a naval hero and privateer during the War of 1812. It was known as the third such boat in the region to steam down the Cape Fear River between Wilmington and Smithville. However, the vessel could not stand against the strong coastal currents at the mouth of the river and had to be put into retirement several years after its first voyage, but not before having the distinct honor of ferrying President James Monroe from Wilmington to Smithville.