

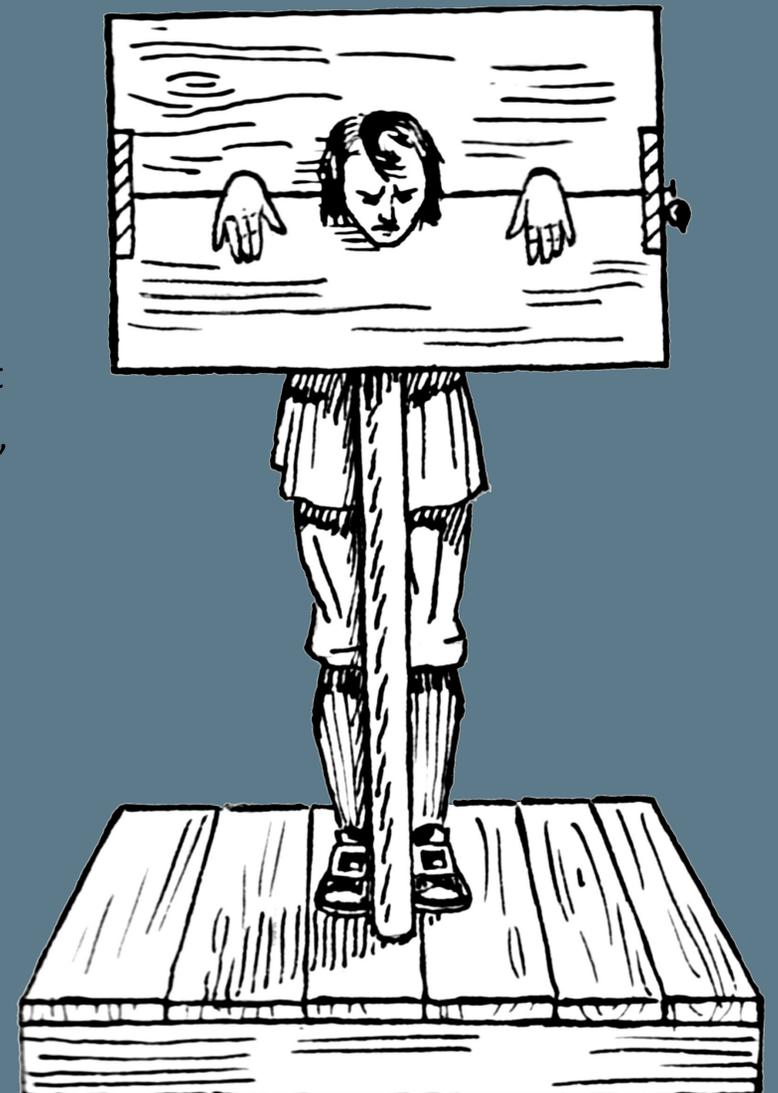
STOCKS AND PILLORY

Although less common today, public punishment used embarrassment and physical discomfort to deter people from committing crimes. The most common forms, stocks and pillories, held those convicted of crimes by their hands or feet so that they were on display in a public place. In Onslow County the Court ordered a stocks and whipping post to be constructed behind the first court house. Later a pillory was also included on the courthouse lot. Often people taunted prisoners, sometimes throwing items such as rotten food at them. This form of punishment fell out of favor during the nineteenth century. In 1872 the Onslow County Commissioners ordered that a public privy (a bathroom) be constructed from the timbers that had been used as the stocks and pillory.



Pillory

A pillory is a wooden framework used to imprison someone and expose them to public ridicule. Often people would spend a short time in the stocks, several hours, before being imprisoned. This position, bent over with your hands and head immobilized, could become quite painful without having projectiles tossed at you.



Stocks

Stocks differed from the pillory in that only the legs were immobilized. This position would also allow a prisoner to dodge items thrown by spectators. In 1735 Onslow Justices sentenced George Cogdell to a fine of twenty five shillings and three hours in the stocks for swearing in court.

