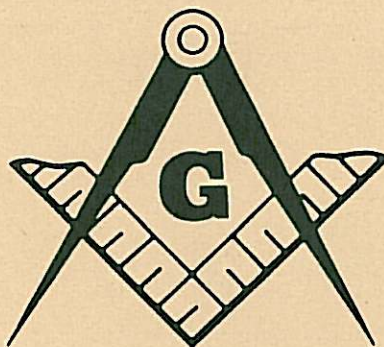


A SHORT HISTORY OF
FREEMASONS
IN THE
ST. MARYS AREA



*Prepared under the supervision of
the Historical Committee of
St. Marys Lodge No. 109*

John Bailey
Al Pearson

Quentin McArthur - Worshipful Master

1985

*Dedicated to my uncle,
Lee Thomas and Luther Bryant,
knowing these men
stimulated my interest in Freemasonry.*

A SHORT HISTORY OF FREEMASONS IN THE ST. MARYS AREA

It is very difficult to establish an exact point in which Freemasons made their first appearance in the St. Marys area. The records of the old forts, their inhabitants, and early settlers have long since disappeared. St. Marys, resting at the mouth of the river of the same name, has a history dating back far beyond the planting of the first English city in the area now known as Georgia. We know that General James Oglethorpe, founder of the colony and the first Masonic Lodge in Georgia, had a military interest in the area, but there are not records known of any established lodges this far south during the Colonial era.¹

The era from the Revolutionary War to 1815 is also very sketchy concerning Freemasons in the St. Marys area; however, there are some facts known. Georgia gave land grants to Revolutionary soldiers as partial payment for their services in the war. One such grant was given to Nathaniel Greene. Greene is thought to have been a member of a Rhode Island lodge and may have been a member of several military lodges during the war. General Greene wore a Masonic medal presented to him by the Marquis de Lafayette prior to Greene's transfer to the South. As payment for Greene's services at the Battle of Savannah and other campaigns in Georgia, he was awarded several plantations in Georgia, including one on Cumberland Island just east of St. Marys. The Greene plantation was also the first place of internment of another famous Freemason, General Henry (Lighthorse Harry) Lee, father of another famous general, Robert E. Lee. General Lighthorse Harry Lee had served with Greene during the Revolutionary War and died on the plantation while returning from the Bahamas in 1818. He was a member of Hiram Lodge # 59 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Brother Lee coined the phrase "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his country men" in describing General George Washington. General Lee's remains were moved in 1919 to Lexington, Virginia. The corner stone of the Nathaniel Greene monument was laid by the Grand Lodge of Georgia and Lafayette in 1825.²

In the 1802 edition of Thomas S. Webb's **Freemasons Monitor**, St. Marys was listed as being the home of Camden Lodge #16. The lodge was also listed in the 1810 revision of the **Monitor**. The **Savannah Advertiser** also recorded a very moving Masonic pageant which occurred in St. Marys in 1800 when the county received news of the death of soldier and statesman Brother George Washington. According to the article, on February 3, 1800, the Masonic brethren took part in a procession in honor of General and President George Washington, which included a white horse, coffin, military officials, and six Masonic pall bearers. A local official read a eulogy to the lost leader. Masonic pall bearers for the occasion included Brothers James Seagrove, Thomas King, Thomas Martin, John Burrows, Elihu Hubbard and Richard Carnes. The brothers then planted four oak trees near the town well. One oak survives today and is known locally as the Washington Oak.³

There are no surviving records for the five year period between 1810 and 1815 concerning Freemasons in the St. Marys area. For some unknown reason, St. Marys Lodge #16's charter lapsed and the lodge disappeared. In 1815 however, the lodge rechartered as St. Marys Lodge #30. The initial members included leading members of the community such as Brother Daniel Copps, who served as the first Worshipful Master, Brother Thomas H. Miller the Secretary Pro-tem, Brother Francis Young, and Brother Louis Dufour, a leading Catholic merchant in St. Marys, who was born in Dunkirk, France.

The St. Marys lodge met ...

On Saturday the 17th day of June A.D. 5815 (1815) by virtue of a warrant from the most Worshipful Samuel Howard, deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons, State of Georgia, directed to us ... to assemble together as a lodge of Regular Master Masons to be called St. Marys Lodge.

The Lodge assembled at the home of Brother Ezekiel Hundall, the Treasurer of the lodge and agreed to "meet every Saturday previous to the full moon of each month." The next order of business was to hear petitions and place the Entered Apprentice degree on Elias Stallings, John R. Demontt, and Archibald Clark. Initiation fee was one dollar.⁴

The St. Marys Lodge continued to make progress. On August 19, 1815, the lodge conferred its first masters degree on Brother Elias Stallings. Brother S. Betts, the Worshipful Master of San Fernando Lodge, attended this event. In September the lodge conferred the Fellowcraft Degree on a Mr. R. Sands and the Masters Degree on Brother Archibald Clark. Three members attended from San Fernando Lodge on this occasion.⁵

The St. Marys Lodge also had dealings with the Grand Lodge of Georgia as any subordinate lodge must. In 1815 Brother Ezekiel Hudall was to represent the St. Marys Lodge at Grand Lodge; however, he was unable to attend. The lodge then sent a letter containing the fees owed by the St. Marys Lodge to Grand Lodge to brothers Ulric Tobler and William Davis, both of Savannah, including a proxy vote and a request to "pray for a warrant of constitution." Brother Tobler was from Hiram Lodge #2 of Savannah and had been Deputy Grand Master from 1806-1809. Brother Davis had served as Grand Secretary in 1805 and as Grand Treasurer from 1806-1808.⁶

In August of 1815 the St. Marys Lodge formed a by-laws committee. There were 16 original by-laws which covered decorum, time and place of meetings, finance, fees and fines, time of service in the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees before advancement, and officers and their duties. According to by-law #7, "The fees for initiation shall be twenty dollars, for passage to a Fellowcraft, ten dollars, and for raising to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, ten dollars..." The 10th by-law required every mason visiting the lodge more than once to pay twenty-five cents, "Members of the Grand Lodge only accepted." According to by-law #15, the Tyler was paid one dollar a meeting and fifty cents for each degree given "as compensation for his services." At the close of 1815, St. Marys Lodge had fifteen members.

In the spring of 1816 a major dispute arose in the lodge over the order of the Worshipful Master for the Treasurer to pay seventy-five dollars to the Stewards for the purchase of "certain articles that were indispensable." The treasurer, Brother Ezekiel Hundall, refused to pay the bill observing there were no funds in hand for these expenses. As a result of the dispute, Brother Hundall was charged with conduct "unmasonic and contrary to the institutions of this society." Included in the unmasonic conduct charges against Brother Hundall was that as Treasurer, he did not pay lodge bills and that he actually slandered the lodge by telling creditors he had loaned the lodge large sums of money. Hundall even told a brother mason he would hold the lodge jewels until he was paid what was owed to him by the lodge. After the charges were expressed, it was ordered that ...

a special lodge beholden tomorrow morning (May 5, 1816) at nine o'clock and that Brother Hundall to be notified to appear and answer to certain charges exhibited against him.

The following day the lodge opened as ordered; however, after "having remained open a considerable time without receiving any communication from Brother Hundall" the lodge voted to expel him. The Lodge appointed Brother Louis Dufour as Treasurer, and asked Brother Dufour, Brother F. Young, Jr. Warden, and Brother Archibald Clark, Secretary, to obtain from Brother Hundall all "books and papers belonging to the lodge." Grand Lodge was informed of the expulsion of Mr. Hundall.⁷

The summer of 1816 also witnessed a problem so often realized in early America, that of problems with the mail. Several letters were sent to Grand Lodge concerning the receipt of St. Marys Lodge's dues; however, no reply was received. The Brethren of St. Marys Lodge also purchased eighty-two dollars worth of tickets in the "Grand Masonic Lottery of Baltimore", and the degree work continued.⁸

A major personality of St. Marys Lodge in the 1820's was Major Archibald Clark. Brother Clark was a local lawyer and town official in St. Marys. He served as United States customs official for the port of St. Marys and was taken prisoner by the British in the War of 1812. He served in the militia. Brother Clark owned the large two-story house across from the town pump and Washington Oak where he once entertained college friend Vice President Aaron Burr after Burr's duel with Alexander Hamilton. It is quite possible that this house also served as a meeting place for the lodge after the expulsion of Mr. Hundall, although the records only state "lodgeroom" and are not specific as to the location of such. Major Clark was

initiated into Freemasonry at the initial meeting of the St. Marys Lodge in 1815, raised to Master Mason on September 16, 1815, and served as Worshipful Master in 1824.⁹

The problem of a meeting place for St. Marys Lodge seemed to be solved in 1821 when a committee was appointed by the lodge to work with the Library Society of St. Marys toward the construction of a building which would house both civic organizations. Several Masonic Brothers donated money in advance to the project; however, by Christmas 1822 the project was abandoned and all monies refunded to the lodge members. Also in 1820 the number of the St. Marys Lodge was changed from Lodge #30 to Lodge #7. The renumbering of St. Marys Lodge was part of the renumbering of the state lodges done in 1820 as a result of added up-country lodges and the lapse of some twenty charters in the state. The charter of St. Marys Lodge #7 was forfeited in 1829 and the records ended.¹⁰

The twenty-five year period between 1825 and 1850 was a difficult time for Freemasonry in Georgia and across America. On the national scene, a party calling itself the Anti-Masonic Party rose out of the questionable disappearance and death of a New York brickmason, William Morgan, in 1826. Several masons were implicated, and several prison terms for the offense were given. A wave of hysteria swept the nation. By the 1832 presidential election of the Anti-Masonic party, backed by clergy, Democrats, and newspaper editors, was able to capture 7 electoral votes establishing itself as the first third party in American history. In Georgia the number of lodges being chartered decreased and the number of lapsed charters increased. The interest declined to an all time low in 1833 and 1834 when the Grand Lodge of Georgia could not establish a quorum to conduct the regular business of the Grand Lodge.¹¹

By 1850 Freemasonry had recovered from the setbacks of the last three decades, and the Grand Lodge of Georgia established four districts each with a Deputy Grand Master to oversee and aid subordinate lodges in the district. Camden County was located in District One and Brother John Hunter of Solomons Lodge #1 was Deputy Grand Master. 1850 was the year in which St. Marys Lodge #126 was reconstituted, and Brother E. Richardson served as first Worshipful Master. Brother John Bessent served as Secretary of the Lodge and Captain Henry W. Clark served as Treasurer. Family records of Captain Clark show he left St. Marys around 1854 and became affiliated with Solomons Lodge #20 in Jacksonville, Florida.¹²

Four years after the rechartering of St. Marys Lodge #126, Charlton County was created out of the western section of Camden County. On March 1, 1854, Traders Hill Masonic Lodge was created southwest of present day Folkston. By 1855 the lodge had 7 members and Rev. F.M. Smith, a local pastor, was serving as Worshipful Master.¹³

St. Marys Lodge #126 was one of the scenes of true fraternal love during one of our nation's darkest periods, the War Between the States. St. Marys suffered from Union raiding parties on several occasions during the war. During one such raid a Union soldier found the charter of St. Marys Lodge and the Master's gavel on the floor of the lodge. He took them North for safekeeping until the war ended, and they were returned with a letter of explanation. The letter and box containing the charter and gavel came from The Old Colony Lodge of Hanover, Massachusetts, to the Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, and then to St. Marys Lodge #126. The letter, dated 1865, stated that

...the fortunes of war, have strangely made us keeper of some time past of your charter and Masters gavel of your worshipful Lodge; and now that the channels of peaceful communication between the Northern and Southern section of our country are open again at the close of an unhappy Civil War, we desire to return the same to you with every expression of fraternal interest and good will; and to transmit therewith our sentiments of undiminished friendship....

The letter also explained the circumstances under which the charter and Masters gavel were secured. They were taken by a federal engineer from a federal gunboat on blockade duty off the Georgia-Florida coast who entered St. Marys after the village had been shelled and all inhabitants fled. He entered the lodge-room, saw the charter and Masters gavel, became fearful "lest they should fall into the hands of the unworthy, or be entirely lost," and took them to the boat. On being ordered north, "he improved the first oppor-

tunity to commit them to the strict care of a sister lodge, for the purpose,...of their ultimate restoration to the place from which they were taken."

The Massachusetts Brethren expressed good wishes to their brother masons in the South, stated how Freemasonry had "hovered like God's Angel of Mercy over the battle field," and stressed the need for "brotherly love and charity" now that the strife was over and the sword returned to its scabbard. It was signed by three Brothers, Joshua Young, Enos Loring, and Dela Whiton who forwarded it through Charles Moore the Grand Secretary of Massachusetts.

The charter and Master's gavel were accepted on behalf of St. Marys Lodge #126 by Grand Secretary J. Emmett Blackshear of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. The items were accepted with great pleasure, and Grand Secretary Blackshear replied in February of 1866 that "such acts and expressions are well calculated to strengthen that cement which unites us all ... in the bonds of union and friendship." The charter and Master's gavel were sent by Grand Lodge to the Worshipful Master of St. Marys Lodge, brother Richard D. Fox.¹⁴

The St. Marys Lodge #126 continued to exist and function as a lodge until forfeiture of its charter in 1876. Brothers Richard D. Fox and E.A. McWhorter served as Worshipful Masters from 1868 to 1876. Brothers John Bessent, Lawrence Lippman, and J.J. Rudolph served as Secretary for the same years. Other known members of this lodge include Brothers T.L. Burns, John C. Ley and Thomas D. Hawkins.¹⁵

Between 1877 and 1904 no Masonic lodge existed in St. Marys. On November 1, 1905, however, a lodge was constituted in St. Marys as Camden Lodge #476 with Brother L.S. Simpson as Worshipful Master, W.H. Peeples as Sr. Warden, J.N. Carleton as Jr. Warden, and C.F. Goolsby as Secretary. The lodge met in what seems to have been a building prepared for that purpose. The cornerstone to this building was found in 1982 and indicated that the building was completed in 1905, and the building committee consisted of R.W. McCants, Samuel Bealey, W.H. Rudolph and T.W. Godley.¹⁶

Camden Lodge #476 was located on the site of the present lodge near downtown St. Marys. The lodge included as its officers many of the area's leading citizens including Brothers L.S. Simpson, C.F. Goolsby, Charles R. Bullock, J.B. Smith, Samuel Bealey, R.W. McCants, Roy L. King, R.W. Hoff, and J.B. Rudolph who served as Secretary from 1912 until 1922. Brother W.R. Briggs was Worshipful Master in 1930 when the lodge building in St. Marys was destroyed by a fire and the lodge moved to Kingsland.¹⁷

As the lodge moved to Kingsland the United States plunged into a depression which hindered the growth of Freemasonry in Camden County. Many members of the local lodge were unable to pay their dues. In May, 1930, a motion was approved to allow brothers who were two years in arrears in their dues to pay six dollars and be reinstated. Also the records show very few petitions for initiation and many for reinstatement after payment of lapsed dues.¹⁸ The financial hardship can be shown by an incident involving the lodge's contribution to the Orphans Home in the spring of 1933. The brothers agreed to send three-fourths of a crate of eggs to the home. Brother R.W. Simpson, the Worshipful Master, was to donate one-fourth of the crate, and brothers R.W. McCants, R.W. Smith, and Samuel Bealey were to donate sixty cents each toward paying for the eggs.¹⁹

The lodges in Camden County also participated in the attempt to establish Lodges of Research in Georgia during the 1930's. These lodges were to promote education and instruction across Georgia, and each Lodge of Research was to exist together with a mother lodge. There were two Lodges of Research in Camden County. Lodge of Research #9 in Woodbine had nine active members, and Lodge of Research #13 in St. Marys had eight active members. While no proof exists as to who the actual members of these lodges were, it is quite certain that Brother J.C. Perry, Jr. of Woodbine and Brother Samuel Bealey of St. Marys were members of their respective Lodges of Research.²⁰

A leading personality of the area in this era was Brother Samuel Bealey. Brother Bealey served as superintendent of Dungeness and represented St. Marys as School Trustee of district #29. Brother Bealey served as Worshipful Master of Camden Lodge #476 from 1914-1917, as Secretary from 1934-1943, and as the first

Worshipful Master of St. Marys Lodge #109 in 1946. While serving as Secretary of Lodge #476 he often took minutes of the meetings on the back of left over ballots from the 1934 Democratic White Primary which included Eugene Talmadge as a Gubernatorial candidate. Brother Bealey often rowed a boat from Cumberland Island to attend lodge. It was Brother Bealey who raked through the remains of the 1905 lodge after the fire and found the Tyler's sword treasured by the St. Marys lodge for many years. Brother Bealey always carried a picture of the 1905 lodge in the rim of his hat. He was also affiliated with the Knights Templars and the Shrine Club of Savannah.²¹

On September 9, 1946, St. Marys Lodge was formed at the request of twenty-two masons in the St. Marys area. Grand Sr. Warden J. Clayton Perry, Jr. of Woodbine Lodge #326 delivered the dispensation from Grand Lodge to establish the lodge, and he served as Worshipful Master at the opening of the lodge. Brother Samuel Bealey was elected as the Worshipful Master. The lodge went to work hearing petitions for initiation, setting dues, and fees, and bestowing degrees. On October 11, 1946, at a special called meeting, the lodge raised Brother T.E. Rowland to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. This was the first Masters Degree issued in St. Marys Lodge #109. By the end of October 1946, St. Marys Lodge was issued the number 109 by Grand Lodge.

On November 26, 1946, the lodge voted to build a lodge at the site of the old 1905 lodge that was destroyed by fire in 1930. On a close vote the motion carried. The new lodge was finally completed in 1959.²²

The laying of the cornerstone in the present lodge on June 29, 1959, was a major event in the history of St. Marys Lodge #109. Guests for the ceremony included the Grand Master in 1959, Brother R.M. Vandergriff; E.A. McWhorter the Sr. Grand Warden; C.W. Anderson the Grand Treasurer; and J. Clayton Perry, Jr. of Woodbine, a past Grand Master. The Worshipful Master of the lodge in 1959 was Brother A.G. Intravia, and Brother Noel D. Lewis was Secretary. The Grand Master and other guests were treated to a "fine chicken dinner" by the wives of the brothers in the lodge hall, and short talks were made by the guests wishing the brethren of St. Marys Lodge #109 much happiness in their newly constructed lodge.²³

The need for a local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star became apparent in 1960; however, all motions toward this end were tabled until 1961. On January 5, 1961, Brother Roy Norton made the motion which initiated an Eastern Star Chapter in St. Marys. The motion was passed, and a meeting to discuss the organization of an Eastern Star Chapter was set for 8:30 on January 19, 1961. By February, 1961, the Order of the Eastern Star was granted a dispensation from Grand Worthy Patron Hawley to form a chapter in St. Marys. The Santa Maria Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was constituted on September 17, 1961, and Sister Hazel Giddens served as the first Worthy Matron. There were 34 charter members.

The Santa Maria Chapter of the Eastern Star has been active in several areas including improving the physical appearance of the lodge. These projects included the paneling of the lodge, installing carpet in the lodge room, and the purchase in 1985 of nice oak chairs for officers of the Order of the Eastern Star and the lodge.²⁴

The St. Marys Lodge 109 continued through the 1960's and 1970's as an active part of the community. The lodge sponsored Boy Scout Troop 218 which won awards in both local and council competitions. In 1963 the lodge sponsored an Explorer Post.

Today the lodge has local fund raisers such as the fall fried chicken dinner which everyone enjoys. Several brothers are active in area Shrine Clubs. The lodge participated in the local Freedom Celebration of February 2, 1985, by reenacting the planting of the Washington Oak first planted in 1800.

There are currently 112 members. Brother Quentin McArthur is the present Worshipful Master and Brother John Golf is the present Secretary.²⁵

APPENDIX I
(Known Masters of Lodges in the St. Marys - Kingsland area)

St. Marys/Camden Lodge #30 & #7 1815-1829)*

1815	Daniel Copps	1823	Lewis Levy
1816	Daniel Copps	1824	Archibald Clark
1817	T.H. Miller	1825	M.H. Hubbert
1818	T.H. Miller	1826	M.H. Hubbert
1819	T.H. Miller	1827	No Records
1820	E. Richardson	1828	No Records
1821	Lewis Levy	1829	No Records
1822	Isaac Crews		

St. Marys Lodge #129 1850-1876**

1850	E. Richardson	1855	R.D. Fox
1851	Richard D. Fox	1856-1861	R.D. Fox
1852	John Bessent	1862-1867	No Records
1853	R.D. Fox	1868-1870	R.D. Fox
1854	John C. Ley	1871-1876	E.A. McWhorter

Camden Lodge #476

Located in St. Marys from 1905-1930 when it was destroyed by fire and moved to Kingsland.**

1905	L.S. Simpson	1932	Theodore DuBose
1906	L.S. Simpson	1933	W.R. Simpson
1907	L.S. Simpson	1934	W.R. Simpson
1908	J.B. Smith	1935	W.R. Simpson
1909	J.B. Smith	1936	W.R. Simpson
1910	J.B. Smith	1937	Henry Y. Simpson
1911	J.B. Smith	1938	H.Y. Simpson
1912	Samuel Bealey	1939	R.V. Alford
1913	S. Bealey	1940	Alois Trey
1914	S. Bealey	1941	R.V. Alford
1915	S. Bealey	1942	M.A. Brown
1916	S. Bealey	1943	R.V. Alford
1917	S. Bealey	1944	W.R. Simpson
1918	S. Begalsky	1945	John Goff
1919	S. Begalsky	1946	J.A. Armistead
1920	S. Begalsky	1947	E.R. McKendree
1921	R.W. McCants	1948	W.J. Boyce
1922	Roy L. King	1949	James A. Miller
1923	Roy L. King	1950	Geo. Washington Howard
1924	R.W. McCants	1951	A.L. Boone
1925	R.W. McCants	1952	Eldred Peeples
1926	R.W. McCants	1953	C.O. Giddens
1927	R.W. McCants	1954	J.T. Crosby
1928	Robert W. Hoff	1955	Woodrow Bruce
1929	Robert W. Hoff	1956	Robert G. Bruce
1930	W.R. Briggs	1957	Howard M. Peeples
1931	W.R. Briggs	1958	Thomas G. Casey

1959	J. Alex Parsons	1973	Thomas G. Casey
1960	E.W. Nobles	1974	Robert G. Bruce
1961	Howard H. Davis	1975	Leland Brooks
1962	N.A. Barlow, Jr.	1976	Woodrow W. Bruce, Jr.
1963	Wayne Thomas	1977	Henry E. Watson
1964	Jimmy R. Johnson	1978	John P. Bruce
1965	Robert G. Bruce	1979	Homer R. Edenfield
1966	Floyd R. McKendree	1980	Wm. Nichols Casey
1967	Geo. W. Howard	1981	L. Paul Maynard
1968	Maurice G. Sweat	1982	Hubert D. Harper
1969	G.A. Gross	1983	Charles R. Crocker
1970	Anthony C. Lucre	1984	John W. Young
1971	E.E. Wainwright	1985	W.O. Smith
1972	Bobby E. Knight		

St. Marys Lodge #109**

1946	Samuel Bealey	1966	Wm. N. Kinsey
1947	John Goff	1967	Joe Aldridge
1948	L.J. Luckey	1968	Alvin Aldridge
1949	W.A. Love	1969	L.N. McGhin
1950	R.B. Waters	1970	James McGhin
1951	R.C. Richter	1971	William Youmans
1952	V.W. Gay	1972	John Pafford
1953	John Goff	1973	Troy Wise
1954	C.E. Simmons	1974	Geo. Leo Wells
1955	C.E. Simmons	1975	C.E. Roberson
1956	C.E. Simmons	1976	John Tyre
1957	N.D. Lewis	1977	John Tyre
1958	J.T. Stanfield	1978	Joe Aldridge
1959	A.J. Intravia	1979	John Bailey
1960	H. Lee Henderson	1980	Joe Stover
1961	John L. Pafford	1981	Joe Aldridge
1962	R.L. Dyals	1982	C.E. Roberson
1963	Roy D. Norton	1983	Larry Murphy
1964	L.G. Clark, Jr.	1984	Gordon Phillips
1965	Robert Shad	1985	Quentin McArthur

**From the 1815-1829 Records.*

***From the Records of Grand Lodge.*

APPENDIX II

Worthy Matrons and Patrons of the Santa Maria Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star

	Worthy Matron	Worthy Patron
1961	Hazel Giddens	Truman Pease
1962	Ann Hunter	Truman Pease
1963	Frieda Herring	Truman Pease
1964	Netha Grooms	Roy D. Norton
1965	Estell Aldridge	Joe Aldridge
1966	Estell Aldridge	Joe Aldridge
1967	Juanita Golf	John Golf
1968	Iris Norton	Roy D. Norton
1969	Mary Stanfield	J. Troy Stanfield
1970	Agnes McArthur	Alvin Aldridge
1971	Joan Holland	Joe Aldridge
1972	Joan Holland	Joe Aldridge
1973	Estell Aldridge	Truman Pease
1974	Ann Wells	Leo Wells
1975	Juanita Golf	Joe Aldridge
1976	Estell Aldridge	Joe Aldridge
1977	Agnes McArthur	A.J. Bruyese
1978	Joan Holland	Joe Aldridge
1979	Thelma Stansell	Charles Roberson
1980	Estell Aldridge	William Kinsey
1981	Joyce Crews	Walter Crews
1982	Emily Wise	Troy Wise
1983	Frances Roberson	Charles Roberson
1984	Ruth Robertson	James Barnard
1985	Bettye Howard	Allen Howard

APPENDIX III

Present Officers of St. Marys Lodge #109 - 1985

Worshipful Master	Quentin McArthur
Senior Warden	Grant Clark
Junior Warden	Brian Murphy
Senior Deacon	Charles Howell
Junior Deacon	Roger Lane
Senior Steward	Al Pearson
Junior Steward	John Lloyd
Secretary	John Golf
Treasurer	Joe Aldridge
Chaplin	John Tyre
Tyler	Larry Murphy

FOOTNOTES

- ¹W.H. Rosier & F.L. Pearson, **The Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free & Accepted Masons 1786-1980**. Masonic Print Shop, Macon, Ga. 1983, p. 1-29.
- ²W.R. Denslow, **10,000 Famous Freemasons**, Vol. 1 & 2, Mo. Lodge of Research, p. 141 & 68; also Clifford Dowdey, **Lee, Bonanza** Books, N.Y. p. 3-38; Rev. George White, **Historical Collection of Georgia**, Putney & Russell Pub. 1854, p. 287; and Rosier & Pearson, **Grand Lodge**, p. 52-53.
- ³Rosier & Pearson, **Grand Lodge**, p. 31; and Camden Co. **Tribune** 27 Aug. 1954 p. 1-5. (Reprint from Savannah Advertiser 21 Feb. 1800 p. 3).
- ⁴M. Reddick, **A History of Camden Co., Ga.** (E. Bailey-ed.) Camden Co. Hist. Comm. p. 148 & 174; Rosier & Pearson, **Grand Lodge**, p. 286; Folks Huxford, **Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia**. Vol. 5, Jesup Sentinel Press, Jesup, Ga. p. 132; and Records of Camden Lodge 1815-1829.
- ⁵Records 1815-1829.
- ⁶Records 1815-1829; and Rosier & Pearson, **Grand Lodge**, p. 27, 35, & 246-247.
- ⁷Records 1815-1829.
- ⁸**Ibid.**
- ⁹**Ibid.** and Bailey, **History** p. 148 (also conversations with Mrs. Bailey and other local persons.)
- ¹⁰Records 1815-1829; and Rosier & Pearson, **Grand Lodge**, p. 41 & 283.
- ¹¹Rosier & Pearson, **Grand Lodge**, p. 41-69; and G. Kirkland, **American History I**, Monarch Press, N.Y. p. 152.
- ¹²Rosier & Pearson, **Grand Lodge**, p. 79; Records of Grand Lodge - 1850 and Huxford, **Pioneers Vol. 6**, p. 49-51.
- ¹³Historic Markers in Charlton Co. (Traders Hill Marker on Ga. 23 & the marker on the Courthouse law.); an Rosier & Pearson **Grand Lodge**; p. 225.
- ¹⁴Rosier & Pearson, **Grand Lodge**, p. 96; Bailey, **History**, p. 31; and **One Hundred Years of Old Colony Lodge A.F. & A.M.**, Boston, Mass. 1894., p. 92-94.
- ¹⁵Records of Grand Lodge, 1850-1876.
- ¹⁶Records of Grand Lodge, 1905-1935; Camden Co. **Tribune** 19 Aug. 1982; and Bailey, **History**, p. 142.
- ¹⁷Records of **Grand Lodge**, 1905-1935; and Bailey, **History**, 142.
- ¹⁸Records of Camden Lodge #476, 1930-1939.
- ¹⁹**Ibid.**
- ²⁰Rosier & Pearson, **Grand Lodge**, p. 174.
- ²¹Bailey, **History**, p. 316; Records of Lodge #476, 1930-1939; Records of Grand Lodge 1905-1947; Records of St. Marys Lodge #109 1946-1980; and oral history as told by John Golf.
- ²²Records of St. Marys Lodge #109, 1946-1980.
- ²³**Ibid.**; **The Masonic Messenger** of June 1959; and the Camden Co. **Tribune**, of July 1959, p. 1.
- ²⁴Records of St. Marys Lodge #109, 1960-1969; Records of Santa Maria Ch. O.E.S. 1960-1969; and E. Bailey, **History**, p. 174.
- ²⁵Records, 1960-1985.

BIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY

In compiling this history of Lodge #109 two publications were of great value both in the initial research and the indepth writing. Mrs. Marguerite Reddick, **A History of Camden County, Ga.**, edited by Eloise Bailey and Virginia Proctor (Camden Co. Historical Commission, 1976) was of great value in the area of local history as were conversations with Mrs. Bailey. The recent book by W.H. Rosier and Dr. F.L. Pearson, **The Grand Lodge of Ga., Free and Accepted Masons 1786-1980**, (Grand Lodge of Ga. Pub. Macon, Ga. 1983) was invaluable in that the book contains vital information on early lodges and excellent charts and information on Freemasons all over Georgia.

Other secondary sources include: Historic Markers in Charlton Co. on Ga. Hwy. 23, and the courthouse lawn; Folks Huxford, **Pioneers of Wiregrass Ga.**, (Jesup Sentinel Press, Jesup, Ga. 1975); William R. Den-slow ed. **10,000 Famous Freemasons**, (Mo. Lodge of Research, 1958-1961); Clifford Dowdey, **Lee** (Bonanza Books, N.Y., N.Y. 1965); and Gerald Kirkland, **American History I-Colonial Times to Recon-struction**, (Monarch Press, N.Y., N.Y., 1972).

The primary material for this work came from several sources: Rev. Geo. White, **Historical Collection of Ga.** (Putney & Russell Pub. N.Y., N.Y. 1854); The Camden Co. **Tribune** from 1954-1982, including the reprint from The Savannah **Advertiser** of 21 Feb. 1800; and the collection of materials **One Hundred Years of Old Colony Lodge, A.F. & A.M.**, (Hingham Press, Boston, Mass. 1894) which contained the let-ters sent to us on the return of the charter and gavel after the War Between the States.

Most records of St. Marys Lodge #126 (1850-1875) and Camden Lodge #16 (1800) were lost, and the records of Camden Lodge #476 from 1905-1930 were lost in the fire which destroyed the lodge in 1930. The records of St. Marys Lodge #30 & 7 (1815-1829) miraculously survived and were a surprise to all. The records of Camden Lodge #476 were utilized as were the records of St. Marys Lodge #109. Also thanks to John Golf for his oral history of Sam Bealey, and his wife, Juanita, for the information on the Eastern Star Chapter in St. Marys.

A special thanks to the Office of the Grand Secretary for providing past returns of the lodges in the area and a copy of the **Masonic Messenger** of July 1959. They were most helpful.

About the Author

R.A. Pearson was born in Bainbridge, Ga., and attended high school there. He attended Valdosta State College from 1972-1978 where he earned a B.S. and M.Ed. in Secondary Education and History. He now teaches Ga. History at Camden Middle School. Al Pearson was raised to a Master Mason in July of 1984.



The Washington Oak planted in 1800 by the Masons of Camden Lodge #16 (Photo from Terrarium Cultural Productions)



The home of Archibald Clark, Customs Official, leading citizen and Freemason in the first part of the 19th Century in St. Marys. (Photo T.C.P.)



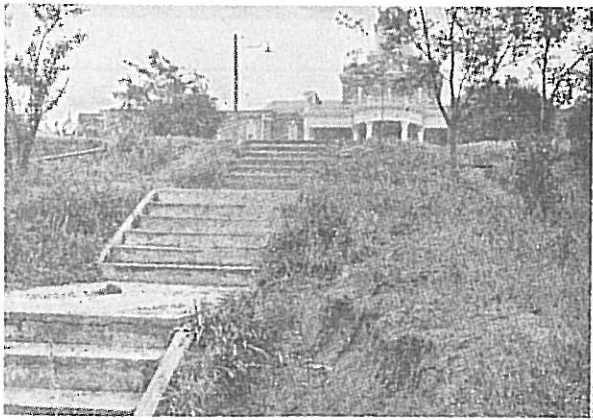
Brother Lewis Dufour, born in Dunkirk France, St. Marys merchant, and charter member of St. Marys Lodge #30 in 1815. (Courtesy Eloise Bailey Collection)



The 1905 Camden Lodge #476. This lodge was destroyed by fire in 1930. (Courtesy Eloise Bailey Collection)



Cornerstone of the 1905 Lodge found in 1982 by Gregory Zamites. (Photo courtesy T.C.P.)



Masonic Home Club Project card sent to Sam Bealey for 1930-1931.

KINGSLAND, GA. Oct 16 1937 No. _____

STATE BANK OF KINGSLAND 64-856

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Frank F. Baker \$35⁷⁵-

Thirty Five DOLLARS

FOR Grand Lodge dues Samuel Bealey dr Sect

ST. MARYS, GEORGIA Oct 14 1937 No. _____

The Bank of Camden County 64-803

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Frank F. Baker \$31⁷⁵-

Thirty One DOLLARS

FOR Lodge dues Samuel Bealey dr

THE SOUTHERN STATES PRINTING CO. GRIFFIN, GA.

Cancelled checks signed by Sam Bealey.

GENERAL CHARITY MESSENGER

GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA, F. & A. M.
OFFICE OF GRAND SECRETARY

Macon, Ga., 10/14/1939

Received from Camden Lodge No. 476

Twenty Six Dollars

on account

Frank D. Baker
GRAND SECRETARY.

Masonic Home Print Shop, Macon, Ga.

GRAND SECRETARY'S RECEIPT TO SUBORDINATE LODGE

GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA, F. & A. M.
OFFICE OF GRAND SECRETARY

MACON, GA., Oct 15, 1943 No. 5955

RECEIVED FROM Camden LODGE NO. 476

Twenty Six DOLLARS

ON ACCOUNT

GENERAL FUND _____ \$

CHARITY FUND _____ \$

MESSENGER FUND _____ \$

MANUAL & PAMPHLET FUND _____ \$

GEO. WASHINGTON MEMORIAL _____ \$

Max Service Assn.
Samuel W. Lane
Thom

GRAND SECRETARY

GRAND SECRETARY'S RECEIPT TO SUBORDINATE LODGE

GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA, F. & A. M.
OFFICE OF GRAND SECRETARY

Macon, Ga., Oct 24, 1939

Received from Camden Lodge No. 476

Twenty Six Dollars

on account

Frank D. Baker
GRAND SECRETARY.

Masonic Home Print Shop, Macon, Ga.

GRAND SECRETARY'S RECEIPT TO SUBORDINATE LODGE

Receipts for Lodge #476 from Grand Lodge



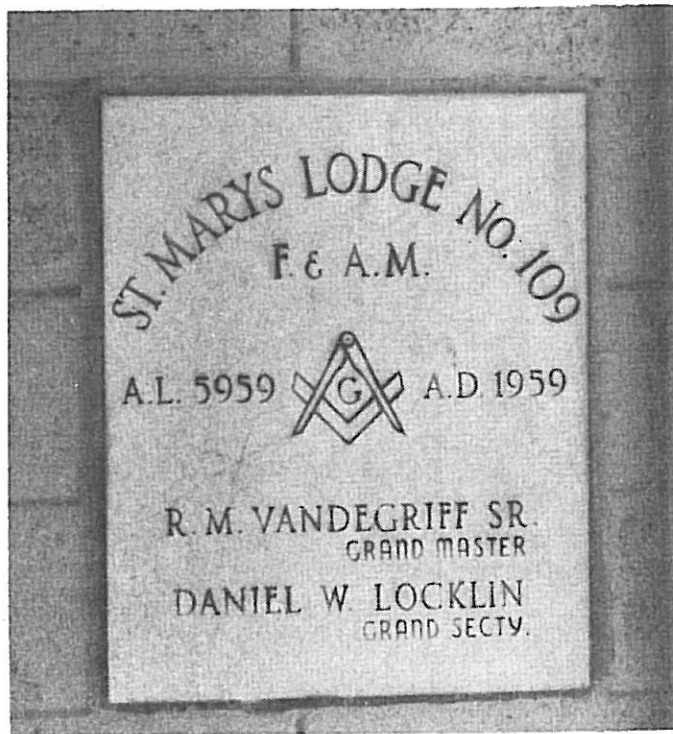
Masonic Home post card from the 1930's. Cost to mail, 1¢.



Cornerstone Ceremony June 27, 1959. Pictured are from left to right: J.C. Perry of Woodbine, E.A. McWhorter, W.G. Penn, R.M. Vandergriff (Grand Master, 1959), E. Descombe Wells, J. C. Kaufman. In the doorway C.W. Anderson and Dan Locklin. (Photo courtesy of Camden Co. Tribune)



St. Marys Lodge #109.



Cornerstone of St. Marys Lodge #109. (Photo T. C. P.)



Present Worshipful Master Mr. Quentin McArthur, Sr. Warden Grand Clark, and Jr. Warden Brian Murphy.



Sister Ruth Robertson (seated), Sister Estell Aldridge and Worshipful Master Quentin McArthur enjoy the new officers chairs purchased in 1985 by the Santa Maria Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and St. Marys Lodge #109. (Photo courtesy T.C.P.)



Brothers of St. Marys Lodge #109 reenact the Planting of the Washington Oak done in 1800 by Lodge #16. Masonic Pall bearers include: John Tyer, John Bailey, Atwell Dean, L.G. Clark, Bill Clark, and Ralph Cox; walking Wayne Hamon. (Photo courtesy of Camden County Tribune)



Brothers of the Lodge fry chicken as a fund raiser for Lodge and Eastern Star projects. (Photo courtesy T.C.P.)

OFFICIAL BALLOT

STATE OF GEORGIA DEMOCRATIC
WHITE PRIMARY

September 12th, 1934

Prepared in Accordance with the Rules of the
State Democratic Executive Committee

(ERASE THE NAMES OF THOSE FOR WHOM YOU DO
NOT VOTE)

FOR GOVERNOR
(Vote for One)

ED GILLIAM
CLAUDE PITTMAN
EUGENE TALMADGE

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
JOHN B. WILSON

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
(Vote for One)

HOWELL COBB
M. J. YEOMANS

FOR STATE TREASURER
GEORGE B. HAMILTON

FOR COMPTROLLER GENERAL
(Vote for One)

MADISON BELL
W. B. HARRISON

FOR COMMISSIONER OF
AGRICULTURE
(Vote for One)

G. C. ADAMS
TOM LINDER
COLUMBUS ROBERTS
J. T. SISK
J. M. SUTTON

FOR STATE SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT
M. D. COLLINS

FOR COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE
AND LABOR
HAL M. STANLEY

FOR PRISON COMMISSIONER
(To succeed Vivian L. Stanley)

(Vote for One)
U. B. SAMMONS
VIVIAN L. STANLEY
HILL C. TUGGLE

FOR PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSIONER
(To succeed J. B. (Tobe) Daniel)

(Vote for One)
J. B. (TOBE) DANIEL
WALTER R. McDONALD

FOR PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSIONER
(To succeed Jud P. Wilhoit)

(Vote for One)
JAMES A. PERRY
ROBERT N. SPRINGFIELD
JUD P. WILHOIT

FOR CHIEF JUSTICE, SUPREME
COURT

(To succeed Richard B. Russell for full term
beginning January 1, 1935)
RICHARD B. RUSSELL

FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME
COURT

(To succeed Marcus W. Beck for full term
beginning January 1, 1935)
MARCUS W. BECK

FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME
COURT

(To succeed John B. Hutcheson for the un-
expired term of H. Warner Hill, deceased)
(Vote for One)

JULE WIMBERLY FELTON
JOHN B. HUTCHESON
MONROE STEPHENS

FOR JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS
(To succeed Hugh J. MacIntyre for Unex-
pired Term of Roscoe Luke, resigned)
HUGH J. MACINTYRE

FOR JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS
(To succeed Hugh J. MacIntyre for full
term beginning January 1, 1935)

(Vote for One)
HUGH J. MACINTYRE
JOE QUILLIAN

FOR JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS
(To succeed I. H. Sutton for full term
beginning January 1, 1935)

(Vote for One)
BUFORD BOYKIN
I. H. SUTTON

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE EIGHTH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF
GEORGIA

(Vote for One)
BRASWELL DEEN
E. E. DEKLE
W. BEN GIBBS
W. C. LANKFORD
A. D. WILLIAMS

FOR JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR
COURTS OF THE BRUNSWICK
CIRCUIT

(Vote for One)
GORDON KNOX
W. C. LITTLE
J. H. THOMAS

FOR STATE SENATOR FROM THE
FOURTH DISTRICT
(Vote for One)

C. J. COLE
HOMER EDENFIELD

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM
CAMDEN COUNTY
(Vote for One)

Q. L. CLAXTON
JOHN A. DYAL

FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN
(For for Two)

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER
AT LARGE
(Vote for One)

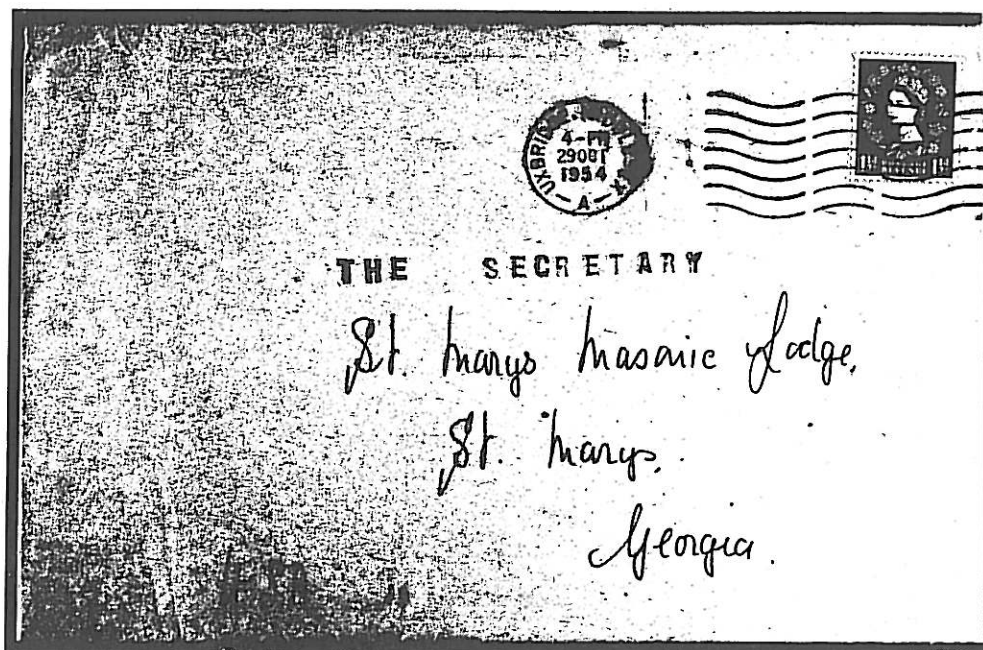
C. L. MCCARTHY
J. C. PROCTOR

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER
NORTH SIDE
(Vote for One)

ARCHIE A. BUIE
J. A. BUIE

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER
SOUTH SIDE
J. F. BAILEY, JR.

ATTEST OFFICIAL—ELEANOR ORR, Secretary State
Democratic Executive Committee, 231 State Capitol,
Atlanta, Georgia.



MASONS, YOU ARE BEING ACCUSED

- OF holding views and belonging to a society that is ANTI-CHRIST, and Anti-Christian in its ritual.
- OF giving preference to fellow Masons in business and politics.
- OF taking oaths that are incompatible with your being true citizens and loyal members of your community and your country.
- OF racial discrimination and
- OF many other charges that you must be ready to answer in a clear, concise and authoritative way.

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BY 'VINDEK'

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EVANGELIST — ADVENTIST — METHODIST
CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST — LATTER DAY SAINT
QUAKER — THEOSOPHIST — OR ARE YOU
A JEW — OR A FREE THINKER ?

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or any equivalent currency.

An answer to a 1954 attack on Freemasons mailed to the St. Marys lodge from England.

The following individuals and families are patrons of this history.

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D.J. Aldridge, Past Master of St. Marys Lodge
Alvin Aldridge, Past Master of St. Marys Lodge
Edwin Johnson, St. Marys Lodge
J. Troy Stanfield, Past Master of St. Marys Lodge
J. Lloyd and Sharon Crews, St. Marys, Ga.
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Jackie and Gloese Lewis, Past Master of Woodbine Lodge
Newton E. and Eliza Jane Crews, Camden Lodge and O.E.S. #146
J.R. and Fadma Williams, Camden Lodge and O.E.S. #146
Pete and Jaunelle Mann, Kingsland, Ga.
Timmy and Julie Mann, Kingsland, Ga.
Charlie B. Payne, Woodbine Lodge
Mack Wimpey, St. Marys, Ga.
Ruth Robertson, Past Matron of Santa Maria O.E.S.
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crews, St. Marys, Ga.
Wayne and Connie Brooks, St. Marys, Ga.
Roger and Debbie Lane, St. Marys, Ga.
Dick and Brenda Rowell, St. Marys, Ga.

The following Businesses and Lodges are also patrons of this work.

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Camden Lodge #476
Clark's Pharmacy
Donini's Florist and Nursery
Harrison Realty
Boiler Services and Repair