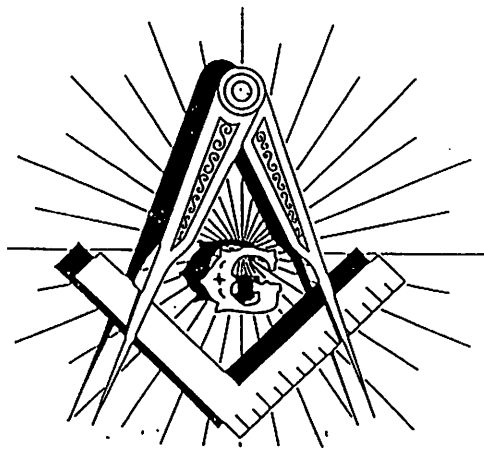


FREEMASONRY

IN

LIBERTY COUNTY



By

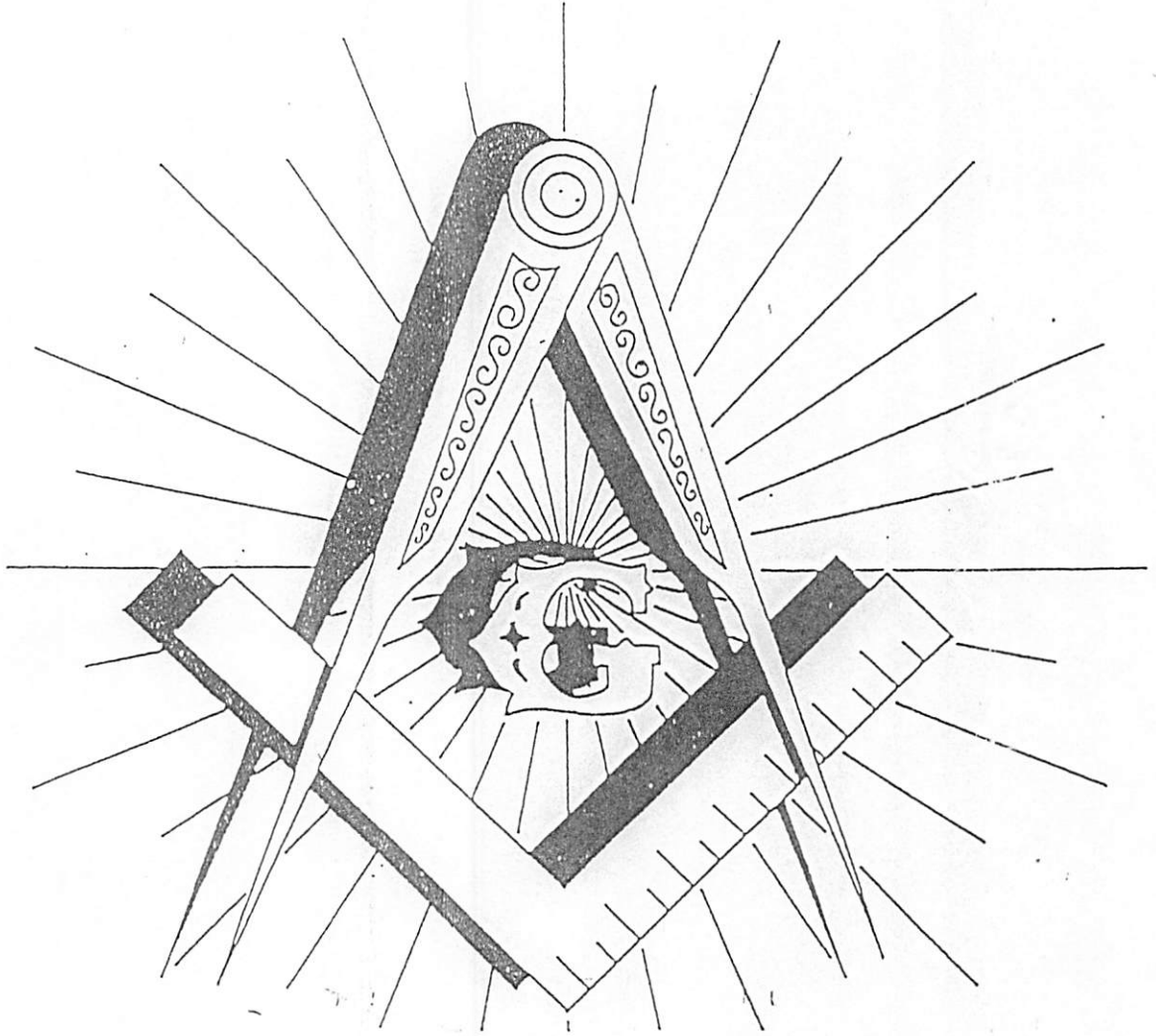
William Rosier, P. M.

Hinesville Lodge No. 271, F & A M

To Brother Paul Caswell
a fine judge, great
Mason and Friend.

Bill Davis

Freemasonry
in



Liberty County, Ga.

Compiled by William Rosier, P.M.

FREEMASONRY IN LIBERTY COUNTY
INDEX

Liberty County in Brief	1
First Masonic Meeting in Georgia	3
St. Johns Lodge No. 6, F&AM	5
Liberty Union Lodge No. 96, F&AM	7
Altamaha Lodge No. 227, F&AM	9
Bay View Lodge No. 227, F&AM	11
Willie Lodge No. 606, F&AM	12
Button Gwinnett Chapter No. 497, OES	13
Hinesville Lodge No. 271, F&AM	15
Worshipful Masters	19
James D. Zorn, Samuel Bradwell	21
Fifty Year Members	23
Courthouse Cornerstone, Visitors	26
Hinesville Lodge Centennial	27
Honors, Plaudits	28
Southeastern (Ga) Masonic Convention	30
Picnics, Outings, Disasters	31
Masonic Historical Marker, Sunbury	32
Items From the Minute Book	34
Maps of Hinesville, 1837, 1918	38
Lodge Buildings	40



A BRIEF SKETCH OF LIBERTY COUNTY

Although scattered settlers lived in the area now comprising Liberty County, the first group of residents to receive land grants came from South Carolina in 1752. They were descendents from the Puritans of Massachusetts and received land between what later became the town of Sunbury and Midway. The area was referred to as the Midway District. At that time Counties and Parishes had not been established.

In 1758 the Coastal town of Sunbury was established and during the same year the state was divided into eight Parishes. The Midway District was named St. John's Parish comprising approximately the same lands of the present Liberty County except for the western boundry which then ran to the Altamaha River. West of the Altamaha was still Indian country. Midway was the religious center and never became a town until the Twentieth Century. It is still very small.

The Parishes were converted into Counties before the end of the Revolutionary War. In 1777 St. John's Parish was renamed Liberty County due to their patriotism and early effort to gain independence from British rule. Sunbury was designated the County seat.

In addition to St. John's Parish, Liberty County was given the Parishes of St. James and St. Andrews, they being all the lands south of St. John's Parish to the Altamaha River and also including St. Simons Island. In 1792 McIntosh County was created from the southern portion of Liberty and St. Simons Island was consolidated with Glynn County.

Just before and following the Revolution, Sunbury became a thriving seaport and it was predicted to rival Savannah as Georgia's primary seaport. However, about 1800 it began to decline and eventually became one of the "Dead Towns of Georgia". Settlers were moving west and in 1798 Riceboro, about 15 miles to the west, became the center of population and by vote of the residents became the County Seat. The western part of the County continued to attract newcomers and in 1837 Hinesville was laid out as a new town to replace Riceboro as the County Seat.

In 1920 Long County was established from the western portion of Liberty County and the northwestern part of McIntosh County. Ludowici, 12 miles to the west of Hinesville became the County Seat of Long County.

Until 1940 Liberty County was a farming, timber and turpentine producer with small towns and low population. Then when war loomed upon the horizon, Camp Stewart was created by the War Department. It encompassed 179,000 acres in Liberty, Bryan, Long and Evans Counties, most of which came from Liberty County. With the garrison adjacent to Hinesville, considerable growth resulted

resulted during and following World War Two. The effects of the military post also created growth in adjacent areas although relative small compared to Hinesville.

Famous names abound in the history of the County. Two of the three signers of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia; two Generals of Colonial Wars; five Governors; three U. S. Senators; educators; missionaries; authors; judges; and many Ministers of the Gospel called Liberty County their home. A number of the above were members of the Fraternity.



MIDWAY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This building erected in 1792, was the fourth Church erected by the Puritans who settled Midway District in 1752, the first permanent Church was burned by the British in 1778. It remains as a classic example of a Colonial New England House of Worship, never having been modernized by the addition of heating system or artificial lights. The Cemetery is nearby. A National Register Site.

THE FIRST MASONIC MEETING IN GEORGIA

The first group of permanent settlers in Georgia sailed up the Savannah River and established a settlement which became the town of Savannah. This contingent of slightly more than 100 men, women and children arrived on February 1, 1733, under the leadership of James Oglethorpe. The following year a letter published in the Charleston Gazette told of Mr. (Governor) Oglethorpe and a party of men, in two large yawls, making an exploratory trip down the coast as far as the Altamaha River. The account told that they stopped at Medway (sic) for a short visit.

Masonic tradition states the spot was a bluff on the Midway River, which, in later years became the town of Sunbury in Liberty County. While there, the tradition continues, the first Masonic lodge meeting in Georgia was conducted under a large oak tree. Governor Oglethorpe presided as Worshipful Master.

Another Masonic tradition concerns the same oak tree at Sunbury. During the American Revolution War, a number of American Officers were held prisoners at Sunbury by the British. Several of the Americans were members of the Union Society in Savannah, a benevolent organization which later reestablished the Bethesda Home for Boys in Savannah. The home and the society are still very active today. The Society's By-laws required a quorum to meet annually on March 21 or forfeit their charter. Four of the prisoners, members of the society, fearing a quorum of four could not assemble in British held Savannah, decided to conduct a meeting if possible. These four, all being Masons, approached a British Officer, also a member of the Fraternity, requested he use his influence to obtain permission for them to retire and conduct the meeting. Permission was granted, the meeting was conducted, officer elected and the charter preserved. The meeting was conducted under the same oak tree at which the first Masonic meeting took place. In later years, it was believed, had not those prisoners conducted the meeting, the society would have died and hundreds of boys would have suffered.

The oak tree, which is now perpetuated in the memory of those two organizations, continued to live in the center of Sunbury throughout the town's days of glory and until Sunbury became a ghost town. Over a century after the first Masonic event occurred the tree met its untimely death. A rabbit, while being chased by a lad, took refuge in a hollow of the tree. The lad, with no harm intended, built a fire at the base to smoke the rabbit from the tree. It proved to be a fatal blow from which the tree died. This occurred about 1840.

Mr. John Stephens, a resident of the area, knowing of the two societies veneration for the tree, rescued a portion from which a gavel was made for presentation to Solomon's Lodge in Savannah; also an alms box was made and presented to Bethesda Home for Boys. Both items are highly treasured today. In

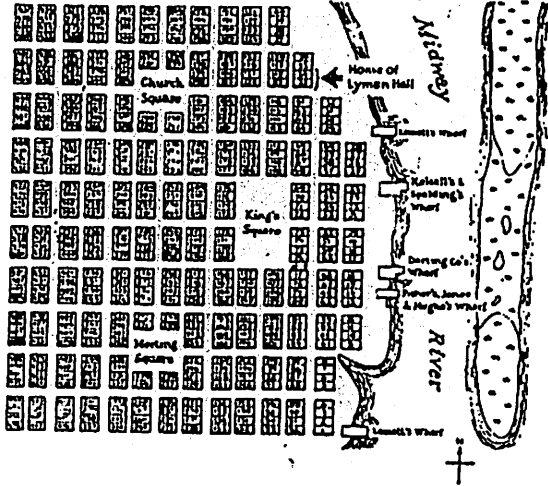
addition, a small block of the wood was deposited in the corner-
stone of the Fulaski Monument in Savannah, with a notation of
the tradition. This was in 1853.

Sunbury



DEAD TOWN OF SUNBURY, GEORGIA

Plan for Town of SUNBURY, GA.



ST JOHN'S LODGE NUMBER SIX

Sunbury, Georgia

There is a deed recorded in the Liberty County Court House executed in 1805 which states that a Masonic Lodge, St. John's No. 6 of Sunbury was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, April 21, 1777. Although the numbers were spelled out, not using figures, it is extremely unlikely that the above statement is correct. First, at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Masonic authority in Georgia was controlled by the Grand Lodge of England. This body appointed Provincial Grand Masters for Georgia, none of whom were known to issue a valid charter. Shortly prior to the above date, in 1775, two charters were issued to Savannah Lodges by the Grand Lodge of England. They were assigned numbers 465 and 481. Second, the Grand Lodge of Georgia did not come into existence until 1786, at which time they began with the number one. The following year, 1787, they issued a charter to St. John's Lodge in Sunbury assigning number six. It would be logical to believe this was the lodge referred to in the above deed.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to deny a lodge did exist during 1786 at Sunbury. Apparently a clandestine lodge or one working under a charter issued by a Grand Body other than England or Georgia. Perhaps South Carolina whose records were destroyed during the war. A reference to the Sunbury Lodge is recorded in the minutes of Solomon's Lodge of Savannah of April 28, 1786 which states, "Brother John Grant having illegally made a Mason in a spurious lodge held at Sunbury made application to be regularly made in this lodge and being vouched for by Bro. W. M. and Daniel McGarvin was accordingly made an Entered Apprentice."

Now for the known facts of St. John's Lodge Number 6. The present Grand Lodge of Georgia came into existence in December of 1786. On December 27, 1786, the Grand Lodge issued charters and installed officers of Solomon's Lodge Number 1, Hiram Lodge Number 2 and St. Louis Lodge Number 4. The first two were in Savannah and St. Louis Lodge located in Washington, Georgia. Lodge Number 3 was in Augusta and their officers were not present for installation. Number 5 was another lodge in Washington and it may have been chartered at that time or later, the records do not indicate.

In the archives of the Grand Lodge of Georgia is an old document comprising a report, dated November 29, 1787, from St. John's Lodge Number 6, Sunbury. The document consist of the names of the members of the lodge and a date by each name. The earliest date is April 21, 1787. Later reports reveal it was the date the brother was admitted into the lodge, which in this case indicated there were no members prior to April 21, 1787, exactly ten years after the date shown on the aforementioned deed. Since there is more than one original document to verify chartering and assigning the number six in 1787, the author feels an error was made when the writer of the deed, in 1805, used the year of 1777 for the origin of the lodge number 6 at Sunbury.

Today, visitors to the site of Sunbury will see an historical marker erected by the Grand Lodge in 1957 which states the date of constituting St. John's Lodge was April 21, 1777. Inquiries regarding the marker reveal the information came from the deed records and without knowledge of other documents in the Grand Lodge archives. The purpose of the deed was to convey, for one cent, a town lot to the lodge for the purpose constructing a lodge building. It came from Brother John Couper of St. Simons Island, a former resident of Sunbury and a member of St. John's Lodge. He had moved from Sunbury a number of years previously.

It is unknown if the building was constructed and no records have been uncovered subsequent to that date showing the continued existence of the lodge. It is definitely known the lodge closed prior to 1816. The Grand Lodge now shows on their records the date of charter as being April 21, 1787.

The report of St. John's Lodge of November 29, 1787 listed the following names:

*Andrew Maybank, Sr.	John Harty	Peter Bishop
*Peter Danworth	John Lawson, Sr.	Stephen Filer, Jr.
*James Powell	John Mitchell, Jr.	Joseph Cobb
*John Blackstock	David Gage	Allen Wardwell
*Adam Alexander	Daniel Stewart	John Graves
John Dallas	Jonathan Holden	Elesha Miller
Alexander McIver	Eliher Lyman	James Mace
John Couper	Edward Price	Francis Coddington

* These appear to be charter members. They entered April 21, 1787.

Other residents of Sunbury known to have been members of St. John's Lodge Number 6 were:

John Lawton, Jr.	James James, Jr.	Philip Schmidt
Andrew Maybank, Jr.	Gilbert Harison	Charles Irvine
Joseph Way, Jr.	John Mann	Stephen Baker
William Ward	Thomas Gswald	John Girardeau
John Pray	John Pomeroy	Henry Myers
William White	Myndart Yaneron	James Halmar
William Maxwell, Jr.	Stafford Sommerall	James Marshall
William Lambert	John Alston	Charles Sandie
William Paacock	John Behlheimer	James Roberts
Nathan Dryer	Samuel Law	James Milchanson
Thomas Lanchester	John Jones	Joseph Jones
John Ross	Alexander Forrester	

LIBERTY UNION LODGE NUMBER 96, F&AM

Approximately four decades passed during which no Masonic lodge existed in Liberty County. Sunbury declined after the County seat was moved to Riceboro in 1792, but Riceboro never became a town of importance. The population shifted toward the interior to new and higher ground whereby Walthourville and Taylors Creek made steady gains. Taylors Creek was a crossroad of the Sunbury Road traveling northwest from Sunbury to the up-state sections, and the Hencart Road traveled from Savannah, southwest toward the Gulf. This made Taylors Creek a small trading center.

Liberty County, during 1837, extended westward to the Altamaha River creating a long journey for those to the west to transact legal business in Riceboro, therefore it was voted to move the Court House to the fledgling town of Hinesville. This village only had a few families, whereas Taylors Creek, eight miles to the north, had a progressive Methodist Church, a Baptist Church, stores, a good school, and The Taylor's Creek Union Academy. Although it appeared unfeasible to the authorities to locate the Court House at Taylors Creek, the Masons decided Taylors Creek would be the most appropriate community to establish a lodge. This was accomplished in 1849. A supposition as to the meeting place would be the second floor of the Academy, history does not tell.

Liberty Union Lodge Number 49 was chartered by the Grand Lodge October 31, 1849, with 25 charter members. During the first year the lodge initiated 13, passed 12, raised 13, and received two by dimits. Their meetings were on the second Friday of each month. Seven years later the membership had more than doubled with 64 on the roll. However, after only eleven years of progressive existance, their report of 1860 was the last submitted to the Grand Lodge. It is true the Civil War created great turmoil but afterwards no one responded to the inquiries from the Grand Lodge, so, in 1866, the charter was declared forfeited.

The last report gave Brother J. E. McFail as Worshipful Master and signed by James D. Zorn, Secretary. Brother Zorn, following the war, became a leader in organizing Hinesville Lodge, in 1868 and became their first Worshipful Master.

Taylors Creek continued as a progressive community until World War II, although it was never incorporated as a town. In 1940, it was within the bounds of the proposed Fort Stewart, thereby causing all the families to find new homes and all structures were moved from the area or torn down. All that remains is the cemetery which is kept in excellent condition by the army. It is located about eight miles north of Hinesville near State Highway 119.

The following were reported as members of Liberty Union Lodge on their first report to Grand Lodge in 1850:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| M. D. Mooney, WM | Jacob Delk |
| M. J. Moody, SW | B. B. King |
| J. S. Bradwell, JW | D. J. Baggs |
| D. S. Baggs, Treas. | J. W. Baggs |
| S. S. Moody, Sect. | John W. Hodges |
| W. B. Smith, SD | J. A. W. Germel |
| A. Hodges, JD | John Delk |
| Rev. H. Paggett, Chap. | A. C. Dunham |
| J. H. Smith, Tyler | A. D. Floyd |
| E. H. Bacon | W. J. Rivetson |
| W. P. Girardeau | N. J. Clark |
| B. W. Allen | W. Morison |
| J. M. Hires | Daniel Sulivant |
| Isham Peacock | R. Peacock |
| Isaac Moody | John Danberley |
| E. R. Hodges | John Shaw |

The following were reported as members of Liberty Union Lodge on their last report to Grand Lodge in 1860:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| J. F. McPhail, WM | James D. Zorn, SEC. | |
| David J. Baggs, SW | B. J. Simms, SD | |
| Joshua Smith, J.W. | V. Gill, JD | |
| Samuel Horn, TR | J. Butler, Tyler | |
| Rev. H. Padgett | John H. Smith | W. Simms |
| Rev. I. Newton | J. H. Deloach | E. Stafford |
| Rev. I. J. Brinson | John Nevill | E. S. Moody |
| Rev. W. B. Miller | W. P. Girardeau | J. W. Sikes |
| Rev. W. L. Geiger | W. Simmons | Samuel Swindle |
| Rev. Lewis Price | S. H. Harrill | W. G. Gill |
| A. W. Smith | James Shoman | W. C. Handley FC |
| Dr. A. B. Daniel | W. G. Shuman | E. A. Elarbee FC |
| W. B. Moody | A. J. Gibson | J. A. Murrow FC |
| Jacob Delk | Richard Thompson | W. Kennedy FC |
| M. J. Moody | A. J. Strickland | W. Elarbee FC |
| H. W. Mattox | W. H. Edwards | Dr. A. M. Franser FC |
| John Jones | John Lowther | John E. Mann FC |
| R. Denison | J. W. Moore | Lewis Smith FC |
| A. C. Dunham | Jacob Smith | P. W. Moon FC |
| Joseph Way | J. J. Smith | E. Kennedy EA |
| D. S. Baggs | J. R. Brewer | Thomas Harn EA |
| J. S. Moody | Wm. Hughes, Jr. | W. Norman EA |
| John Dubberly | John B. Moody | M. Blich EA |
| N. B. Stafford | C. Fletcher | E. Wilkerson EA |
| A. J. Baggs | | |

Initiated 1, Passed 1, Dues \$5.00. Regular meetings held on 2nd Friday in each month at 3 O'clock PM.

ALTAMAHA LODGE NUMBER 227 F & A M

Johnston Station - Ludowici
McIntosh, Liberty and Long Counties

A peculiarity of this lodge is that it was located in three counties and two towns without ever making a move. It was chartered as being located at Johnston Station, McIntosh County. The name of Johnston Station was changed to Ludowici about 1905. Darien, over 30 miles southeast, was the county seat and the poor roads made it extremely difficult to transact legal business. Hinesville, only 12 miles northeast, was the county seat of Liberty County, and much more convenient so the residents petitioned to be made a part of Liberty County. Then in 1920 it was decided to divide Liberty County creating a new county from the western section. Thus Long County was established with Ludowici as the County seat.

Altamaha Lodge Number 227 was chartered by the Grand Lodge October 28, 1858 with 23 charter members and Brother W. D. Baggs named as Worshipful Master. Two years later the membership more than doubled as there were 49 names on the annual report. It only took five additional years for the membership to double again, at which time they reported 105 members. This was 1865. Some of those came from Liberty Union Lodge when it failed to resume work after the Civil War. In 1868 Hinesville Lodge was chartered and a number of members dimitted to the new lodge. Also the 1870s were a time of hardship in the state and by 1880 the membership had declined drastically to 22 members; which was followed by a slow but steady increase, with the exception of the depression of the 1930s. A peak of 106 brothers were counted on the roll in 1960 and unfortunately, another decline followed. In 1982 the membership consisted of 46 members.

At the end of the first year, 1859, the following brothers were on the roll of Altamaha Lodge:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| E. R. Hodges, Master | | R. H. Peacock, Sect |
| D. F. Sullivan, SW | | B. P. Harrington, SD |
| James M. Smith, JW | | James W. Baggs, JD |
| Jacob Howard, Treas | | W. A. Morrison, Tyler |
| John Shaw | W. M. Austin | J. S. Dean |
| James M. Ownes | J. W. B. Howard | W. B. Baxter |
| A. J. Baggs | J. J. Garrason | R. C. Standiford |
| J. S. Fletcher | J. L. Johnston | J. J. Jenkins |
| J. W. Hires | Caleb Pendarvis | J. B. Whilden |
| W. W. Standley | George E. Brewer | N. B. Ward |
| J. M. Johnston | H. H. Baxter | J. C. Fletcher |
| A. R. Johnston | W. T. Thorpe | W. T. Zorn |

Altamaha Lodge No.227 (Cont)

William Pendarvis
J. J. Allen
F. J. Chapman (FC)
James Byran, (EA)

William S. Parker (EA)
William B. Nelson (EA)
M. D. Harris (EA)

The meetings of the lodge was conducted on the first Friday after the full moon each month. This was to permit moonlight for the members to find their way home after the meetings. It must be remembered transportation was by walking or horseback in those days. The lodge now meets on the second Thursday of each month.

BAY VIEW LODGE NUMBER 410 F&AM
SMILEY (LIBERTY COUNTY) GEORGIA

Bay View Lodge Number 410 was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, October 28, 1896. It was located on the Hinesville to Glenville road approximately 12 miles northwest of Hinesville. The road is now Georgia Highway 196. The building was near Smiley's Crossroads not far from the present Liberty-Long County line. The Post Office was Smiley, Georgia which no longer exist.

The first Worshipful Master was J. M. Smiley and the Secretary was D. A. Smiley. The following year D. N. Cameron presided in the East. Bay View Lodge continued to be active for 31 years, then as the great depression was beginning in 1929, it returned its charter to the Grand Lodge. By that time the Model T Ford had arrived and with the lodges at Ludcwici and Hinesville, the members dimitted to those lodges.

During its existance many joint meetings were conducted with those three lodges and it was customary for members of all three lodges to attend the funeral of a deceased brother.

The following were officers and members at the end of the first year:

James M. Smiley	WM	M. M. Smith	SD
C. N. Long	SW	W. S. Delk	JD
A. F. Deloach	JW	A. B. Long	SS
W. C. Long	Treas.	C. N. Wilkinson	JS
D. A. Smiley	Sect.	J. G. Hines	Tyler

MEMBERS

C. J. Bryant	C. N. Long
J. G. Baggett	W. R. Sullivan
W. A. Caison	G. D. Stafford
W. H. Delk	H. A. Swindle

WILLIE LODGE NUMBER 606 F&AM

WILLIE, GEORGIA

The town of Willie met its demise at the same time as Taylors Creek and for the same reason, the activation and construction of Fort Stewart. Although a Methodist Church was in the town no cemetery existed so today no landmark remains. This is not to say the citizens of Willie did not die, but the town and the one church had a relative short life and the older cemeteries were utilized for burials. The army removed or destroyed all buildings, structures, etc., except cemeteries therefore no signs exist today to indicate the locale of Willie.

The town was born in 1910 when the Savannah and Southern Railroad was constructed primarily to carry lumber to the Seaboard Railroad line. This short railroad crossed the "Old Sunbury Road", now Ft. Stewart road 17, at a spot approximately one mile west of Georgia highway 119. A depot was built in 1910 and in 1911 a post office was activated and given the name of Willie. Shortly thereafter the town was laid out and lots sold followed by construction of stores and homes.

Willie Lodge No. 606 obtained a dispensation from the Grand Master on April 8, 1911. A Charter was authorized at the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in October and the Charter was issued bearing the date of November 2, 1911. Meetings were conducted in a small Court House but they apparently moved to the second floor of the new school building completed shortly after the lodge was chartered.

The first Worshipful Master was H. E. Gill, who formerly was a member of Ivena Lodge Number 258 of Donaldsonville. The report for the first year indicated 23 members. Three years later (1914) they reported 26 members. By 1920 the membership had grown to 50 and was the same in 1922, it being the last year a report was submitted to Grand Lodge. After five years of failing to submit a report or send a representative to Grand Lodge, their Charter was revoked.

The following were officers and members on the first Annual report:

Homer F. Gill, Worshipful Master	Grover T. Tutin	Secretary
Archie Tutin, Senior Warden	J. S. Pinholster	Sr. Deacon
James H. Smith Junior Warden	Charles V. Tutin	Jr. Deacon
William G. Tutin Treasurer	William R. Floyd	Tyler

MEMBERS

Elies Burton	Fred W. Elarber	W. A. Strickland
W.A.L. Clonts	Joseph L. Futch	James A. Smith
M. E. Dukes	Sidney S. Boyd	J. W. Turner
Walter T. Davis	Aaron E. Polk	Walter T. Davis
James A. Darsey	B. E. Stibbs	R. A. Phillips

BUTTON GWINNETT CHAPTER NUMBER 497

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

Hinesville, GA.

The Order of the Eastern Star is a fraternal benevolent organization dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness. It's membership in the State of Georgia as of December 31, 1968 was 31,364 which consisted of affiliated Master Masons in good standing, the wives, daughters, legally adopted daughters, mothers widows, sisters, half-sisters, grand daughters, step-mothers and step-sisters, of affiliated Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased were in good standing at the time of their death, each of whom had attained to at least the age of eighteen years. The history of Eastern Star in Georgia dates back to February 21, 1901 with the first Chapter being located at nearby Brunswick.

The history of the Order in Liberty County dates back to 1920 when Hinesville Chapter No. 166 located in Hinesville was chartered. In 1922, the Chapter surrendered it's charter and the final report forwarded to the office of the Grand Secretary shows the membership at the time of surrendering the charter as being 22 with Mrs. J. A. Jackson serving as Worthy Matron and Mrs. Hessie Dawson, Secretary.

The Laura Fraser Chapter was instituted in Hinesville on February 7, 1945 with 35 members. This group decided that it would not be possible to continue and be a chartered Chapter, therefore, the Laura Fraser Chapter was never constituted. Surrender date is known as June 17, 1946.

The present chapter located in Hinesville is the Button Gwinnett Chapter No. 497 which was instituted on April 30, 1961. in the Bradwell Institute School Cafeteria with forty charter members. The Instituting Officer was Mr. Norman R. Hawley, Worthy Grand Patron, State of Georgia, 1960-1961. The records indicate the charter members were as follows:

Mrs. Mary Louis Backert	Mr. George W. Dunham
Mr. William M. Backert	Mr. Lonnie Dunn
Mr. Asa Bailey, Jr.	Mrs. Vashti Dunn
Mrs. Dorothy Bailey	Mrs. Eva Dykes
Mrs. Joann Boatright	Mrs. Sarah H. Carrison
Mrs. Martha S. Brown	Mrs. Anne Varina Hodges
Mrs. Eloise Busby	Mr. William C. Hodges
Mrs. Davis Darsey	Mrs. Opal R. Jenkins
Mr. Ralph Darsey	Mrs. Blance G. Kent
Mrs. Ruby Doyal	Mr. Harvey O. Lane
Mr. H. C. Driggers, Jr.	Mrs. Martha Lane
Mrs. Joann W. Driggers	Mr. Leo Lehman

Mrs. Lieselotte Lehman
 Mr. Cleve Marchant
 Mrs. Lorelle Marchant
 Mrs. Francis Riggins
 Mr. Orel R. Riggins
 Mr. Harvey Teal
 Mrs. Katherine Teal
 Mrs. Ruby Tucker

Mr. Willis Tucker
 Mrs. Gwendolyn S. Walker
 Mrs. Charlcie Weissert
 Mrs. Edna Welch
 Mrs. Theo Wilkinson
 Mr. Lloyd K. Busby
 Mrs. Erlyne H. Clark
 Mrs. Dora Louise Coffey

Button Gwinnett Chapter was chartered on June 14, 1961 with the charter being signed by Mrs. Joanna Walters, Worthy Grand Matron and Mr. Norman R. Hawley, Worthy Grand Patron, State of Georgia, 1960-1961. The Chapter worked under dispensation until September 10, 1961 at which time it was constituted by Mrs. Dorothy King, Worthy Grand Matron, 1961-1962, and given the number 497 with 59 members on the roll of membership at the time of Constituting. Mrs. Davis Darsey was installed as Worthy Matron of Button Gwinnett Chapter, Mr. Cleve Marchant, Worthy Patron and Mr. Willis Tucker, Secretary.

Being in a very historical section of the state, the name Button Gwinnett was decided by the charter members to be the name of the chapter in honor of the noted statesman and signer of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia. St. Catherine's Island, 35 miles east of Hinesville, was the home of Button Gwinnett, which is located near Sunbury, the site of the first Masonic gathering in Georgia.

Many members have served the chapter well through their inspiring and Christian leadership as Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons during the years and today, the membership continues to hold high the torch inherited by the noted Statesman of Button Gwinnett and spread their light throughout the county through generous benevolent work, relief and truth. However, many members have passed away since being constituted in 1961 but in 1970 the Chapter had 105 members with thirty of the original Charter members still on the roll of membership.

The members of Button Gwinnett Chapter No. 497 put their faith in God to continue in every good work and has as it's motto: "Trust in the Lord and do good."

Submitted by: Mrs. Ruby Tucker, Past Matron.

HINESVILLE LODGE NUMBER 271, F & A. M.

Hinesville, GA.

Hinesville Lodge, similar to most other Masonic Lodges having existed for over a century, has experienced some wonderful occasions as well as some periods of great disappointments. Throughout its entire existence, it has continued its benevolences, not only to its members and widows, but to the entire community. Unfortunately, there is a period of the first twelve years during which the minutes of the lodge are missing, 1869 to 1880. Nevertheless, the Grand Lodge records provides sufficient information to fill the voids.

Grand Lodge records reveal the lodge was chartered October 29, 1868, and the report for the first year list 27 members with James D. Zorn serving as Worshipful Master. The previous year Brother Zorn was Secretary of Altamaha Lodge in Ludowici. The final report submitted by Liberty Union Lodge at Taylor's Creek, in 1880, also gave Brother Zorn as their Secretary. He was reelected Worshipful Master of Hinesville for 26 of the next 31 years, by far the longest time anyone served as Master of this lodge.

The Grand Lodge, in 1868, authorized Brother Zorn "to collect the jewels and other property of Liberty Union Lodge, late Number 96, whose charter is forfeited, and use said jewels, etc., in the new lodge chartered as Hinesville Lodge No. 271.." It would be logical to believe the meetings were conducted in Hinesville but in 1878 the Grand Master stated in Grand Lodge, "The Brethren of Hinesville Lodge NO. 271 are occupying the the hall of Old Liberty Union Lodge No. 96 (Taylors Creek) whose Charter is forfeited...and they desire to sell it and they applied to me for that purpose."

The first report to Grand Lodge consisted of the following 27 members:

- *James D. Zorn, Worshipful Master *Henry K, Wheeler, Jr. Warden
- *Jeremiah L. Shaw Senior Warden Willie W. Zorn Secretary

MEMBERS

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| *Jesse Brewer | J. R. Brewer | C. R. Holcomb |
| *J. E. Butler | J. C. Fudge | *W. T. Zorn |
| N. Brown | S. D. Bradwell | *G. W. Shaw |
| *J. O. Darsey | *J. H. Brewer | S. S. Swindall |
| W. A/ Kennedy | J. E. Zoucks | Rev. W. M. Watts |
| *J. N. Mobley | D. C. Shuptrine | Rev. J. W. Watts |
| E. V. Martin | W. P. Guardeau | E. Wells |
| J. A. Mobley | *W. M. Brewer | |

* Dimitted from Altamaha Lodge to become Charter member.

Being chartered shortly after the termination of the Civil War, growth was slow as would be expected during reconstruction days. Twenty years later the membership consisted of thirtysix brothers. Another twenty years (1908) there were 57 members.

Then, after another twenty years (1928) the number on the roll had almost doubled to 100. The depression of the 1930s took its toll so until the late forties there was small change. When Camp Stewart (now Fort Stewart) was reactivated in 1950 the enrollment was 139. A steady growth ensued.

1955	191 members	1975	221 members
1960	224 members	1980	241 members
1965	237 members	1982	284 members
1970	233 members	1983	284 members

The building at Taylors Creek was sold and the lodge moved to Hinesville. They erected a two story frame building on what is now East South Street and approximately across the street from the brick building now owned by the lodge. The two story building was mandatory as the Grand Lodge prohibited Masonic meetings from being conducted on the ground floor of a building. This edict was only lifted after air conditioning became prevalent and windows could be eliminated in a lodge room.

Some members can remember when prior to air conditioning the windows were opened to gain a little cool air on hot summer evenings. Occasionally a degree member would be called down for heckling a candidate too loud for making a faus pas. It was feared the folks on the street below would become unduly excited at the commotion.

The lower floor of the building was rented to Brother S. D. Bradwell, publisher of the Hinesville Gazette. He also established Bradwell Institute and became principal of that famous Institution of learning. Brother Bradwell was the second Worshipful Master of the lodge. The next location was to the second floor of a frame building on the southeast corner of Main and South Street, lot number 48. The lodge became part owner of this building.

In 1917 the Hinesville Bank constructed a brick building on Midway Street, opposite the Court House. The lodge rented the second floor of the bank building and moved. October 18th, 1923. At the first meeting a degree team came from Reidsville and conferred the Master Masons Degree. They spent the night at the Hines House, for which lodging the lodge paid twelve dollars. The new lodge room was dedicated March 7, 1924. In 1925 members of the lodge obtained a lease from the bank, for the sum of \$1,100, it being for a duration of 99 years with an option to renew. The lodge's interest in the old frame building was sold in 1939.

It was twelve years later, in 1951, when a lot at 112 East South Street was purchased from Past Master T. W. Welborn at a cost of \$4,000. Plans were drawn for the construction of a two story, concrete and brick building measuring 42 feet by 92 feet, the lower floor to be rental property consisting of

two stores and a suite of offices for doctors. The upper floor would be the lodge room. Due to limited finances the ground floor was initially undertaken at an estimated cost of \$65,000. The final cost was \$75,000. Percy Perkins of Savannah was retained as architect with total fees of \$1,700. Construction was contracted to Watson and Yeager Construction Company of Jesup. Work was completed in 1967 and the cornerstone was laid by the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

It was anticipated the rent would pay the maintenance and notes on the building but due to overrun of the cost and unexpected taxes it was necessary for the lodge to periodically supplement the building funds. Some critical times existed until 1980 when the last note was paid. Now the time arrived to prepare to add the upper floor to the building in keeping with the dignity of the fraternity as the building being used had deteriorated almost beyond use.

Disappointment prevailed. An estimate was obtained for the cost of the second floor in accordance with the original architects plans. The estimate was over \$100,000. With interest fluctuating around fifteen percent, the net income from the rents would not pay the interest. Plans to build were postponed indefinitely.

A few years prior to the pay off of the notes, Button Gwinnett Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, constructed a frame building on Highway 196 (E. G. Miles Parkway) at the city limits of Hinesville. In 1979 as the old bank building became completely inadequate the lodge arranged to share the building of the Eastern Star by paying rent of \$75 per month and the utilities. The lodge moved to the Star building with the expectation of constructing a modern lodge in the near future when financial conditions permitted. In 1981 the lease on the old building was terminated, and the rights to the lodge room conveyed to Leroy Fairman, who had purchased the building from the bank. The bank had moved into larger quarters on Main Street.

In October of 1984 the Eastern Star Chapter proposed that Hinesville Lodge buy their building and property. An agreement was reached whereby the lodge would purchase the building for a sum of \$35,000 payable at \$3,500 per year. No interest was charged. Upon unanimous approval of the members of both organizations the papers were signed on December 12, 1984 conveying the property to Hinesville Lodge. It was stipulated that Button Gwinnett Chapter would continue to use the building for their meetings without payment of rent or utilities.

The regular meeting days, as may be expected, has varied throughout the years. When constituted, the stated meetings were the first Friday of each month at 3:00 PM. Some years later the time was moved forward to 10:00 A. M. Unlike Altamaha Lodge in Ludowici, Hinesville was not a so-called "Moon Lodge" that is, meet each month near the full moon in the evenings, providing the brethren moonlight to return home after lodge.

By advancing the time to 10 AM the work could be completed in sufficient time for the members to return home before dark. Many times all three degrees were conferred at a single meeting. Of course, a dinner break was given during which fine fellowship was enjoyed. At a particular meeting on December 6, 1913, the lodge elected officers, installed the officers, conducted examinations and conferred all three degrees. The brethren had a wonderful day.

The daylight meetings continued until 1914 when the hour was changed to 7:00 P.M., apparently still the first Friday.

No mention was made concerning the problem created by having to walk home in the dark when there was no moonlight. Lights in the lodge consisted of oil lamps and candles. When renting the lodge room to the Knights of Pythias, it was noted in the minutes they were required to pay one dollar per month and in addition furnish their own oil, lamps, lamp shades, etc. In 1921 electric wiring was installed and electricity was supplied by Brother Padrick for one dollar each meeting. Commercial power did not arrive in Hinesville until a number of years later.

In 1987 the lodge was showing a slow but consistent growth in membership. There was a gain of over fifty members during the preceding ten years, whereas Masonic leaders are greatly concerned over losses in membership in the State and Nation. Also the financial condition of the lodge is in good condition and it is expected the building fund will soon be sufficient so a modern lodge temple will be a reality.

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS - HINESVILLE LODGE NO. 271

1916	W. W. Zorn	1868	James D. Zorn
1917	C. L. Robinson	1869	"
1918	J. Madison Smith	1870	"
1919	"	1871	S. D. Bradwell
1920	W. C. Hodges	1872	James D. Zorn
1921	"	1873	"
1922	"	1874	"
1923	M. M. Quattleben	1875	Jesse Brewer
1924	J. W. Lockett	1876	James D. Zorn
1925	W. C. Hodges	1877	"
1926	T. W. Welborn	1878	"
1927	J. B. Fraser	1879	"
1928	"	1880	"
1929	T. H. McDowell	1881	Jesse Brewer
1930	D. F. Martin	1882	"
1931	J. B. McCall	1883	John E. Shepherd
1932	A. G. Overman	1884	James D. Zorn
1933	Fraser F. Rambo	1885	"
1934	"	1886	"
1935	J. Madison Smith	1887	"
1936	"	1888	H. R. Moody
1937	J. M. Heath	1889	James D. Zorn
1938	J. Madison Smith	1890	"
1939	Fraser F. Rambo	1891	"
1940	W. C. Hodges	1892	"
1941	"	1893	"
1942	"	1894	"
1943	J. H. Heath	1895	"
1944	T. W. Welborn	1896	"
1945	Fraser F. Rambo	1897	"
1946	A. G. Overman	1898	"
1947	Freeman L. Smith	1899	"
1948	A. A. Caison	1900	W. W. Zorn
1949	William E. Wims	1901	"
1950	Hoke S. Youmans	1902	"
1951	"	1903	"
1952	Paul E. Caswell	1904	J. C. Mobley
1953	Grady Wedencamp	1905	W. W. Zorn
1954	William H. Roster	1906	"
1955	M. P. Phillips	1907	"
1956	Asa M. Bailey, Jr.	1908	"
1957	Daniel M. Harkæroad	1909	"
1958	Asa M. Bailey, Sr.	1910	J. C. Mobley
1959	Arnold C. Poole	1911	"
1960	Orel R. Riggin	1912	W. W. Zorn
1961	George W. Dunham	1913	L. T. Way
1962	Leroy Morgan	1914	O. C. Darsey
1963	"	1915	A. C. Todd

(WM, 2)

(Worshipful Masters (cont.))

1964 C. J. Bruce	1987 John Summerall
1965 Asa M. Bailey, Jr.	1988 William Pilon
1966 Mallie Golden	1989 Howard
1967 Marion K. Anthony	1990 Carlton James
1968 Theo Gillis	1991 Paul Hawkins
1969 Bobby Fordham	1992 L G. McDonald
1970 Nathan Sadowsky	1993 Bobby Leach
1971 Pershing Priester	1994 Myron Booth
1972 Albert Nelson	1995 Marvin Miller
1973 Charles Robinson	
1974 Pershing Priester	
1975 Albert Nelson	
1976 Albert Nelson	
1977 Everette Booth	
1978 Lee Bilbrey	
1979 Harry Smith	
1980 Thomas Arthur	
1981 Dale Smith	
1982 Leland Hamlin	
1983 Leon Holton	
1984 John Seward	
1985 Harry Owens	
1986 Doneld Moody	



JAMES D. ZORN

October 23, 1834

June 12, 1914

FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF HINESVILLE LODGE

James Zorn was one of the leaders in organizing Hinesville Lodge in 1868. The preceeding year he was Secretary of Altamaha Lodge in Ludowici and when the Civil War began he was Secretary of Liberty Union Lodge at Taylors Creek. The preceeding year, 1858, he was not shown as a member so it may be surmised he was newly raised at the age of 26. When a dispensation was issued to Hinesville Lodge it was logical to elect Brother Zorn as their first Worshipful Master. He was so well liked that the brethren reelected him 26 times during the next 31 years.

Worshipful Brother Zorn was born October 23, 1834 in Liberty County, near Gum Branch. His profession was surveying and there were few corners of old Liberty County that were strangers to Brother Zorn. He inherited the love of surveying from his father and passed it on to one of his sons. There were four sons, all of whom were members of the Craft and all were devoted Masons.

Early in the Civil War he enlisted in Company D, Fifth Georgia Calvery Volunteers under Captain William Huges, and served the South throughout the entire conflict.

Brother Zorn represented Hinesville Lodge in the Grand Lodge for many years and his knowledge and love of the Fraternity was recognized when he was appointed to the important Jurisprudence Committee of that Body.

On rounding out the Nineteenth Century Brother Zorn, then at the age of 68 stepped down to allow the younger generation to carry on the work of the lodge. His nephew, W. W. Zorn, moved into the East and served there for eleven years of the following fifteen. In 1913 it is noted that the lodge "sent Brother Zorn a box of cigars with a letter of sympathy on his declining years." The following year on June 13, 1914, at the age of 80 he was laid to rest in the Gum Branch Cemetery with many Masons paying their last respect with the Masonic formalities. Hinesville Lodge will ever be grateful for James D. Zorn and his family for their contribution to the Fraternity and Community.

SAMUEL DOUSE BRADWELL

January 5, 1840

1903

The second brother to serve as Worshipful Master of Hinesville Lodge was Samuel D. Bradwell for whom Bradwell Institute is named. In fact, he founded Bradwell Institute following the Civil War, replacing the pre-war Hinesville Institute whose Principal was his father. Also, in 1870, Brother Bradwell founded the Hinesville Gazette, the forerunner of the current Coastal Courier.

Brother Bradwell was a Charter member of Liberty Union Lodge Number 96 at Taylors Creek and after the war he became a Charter member of Hinesville Lodge. He served as Worshipful Master in 1871 following which he served as Treasurer for many years. He dimitted from the lodge in 1902 after having moved to Athens to assume the Presidency of the State Normal College.

Brother Bradwell was Commissioned Captain of the Liberty Volunteers during the Civil War and engaged in three major battles during which time he suffered one wound. His father Colonel James Bradwell, also served in the Civil War and was a member of Liberty Union Lodge. Brother Bradwell's grandfather was an officer in the War of 1812.

He served as State Senator during the years of 1888-89 and was State Commissioner during the period of 1891 to 1895 when he accepted the position in Athens.

Brother Bradwell was born January 5, 1840, attended Hinesville Institute and Oglethorpe College. Later in life he moved to Florida and his death came at the age of 63 in 1903. His name continues to live in Hinesville with Bradwell Institute, Bradwell Park and Bradwell Street.

Note: Unfortunately space does not permit writing biographies of all the 50 plus other Worshipful Masters of Hinesville Ldgc. A few years ago a questionnaire was sent to all Past Masters or descendents requesting biographical information. Replies were received from almost all which are filed in the records of the lodge.

FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS

The following members of Hinesville Lodge have completed more than fifty years as a Master Mason and were so recognized by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia by being presented a gold lapel pin, a fifty year apron and a Certificate of Recognition.

James D. Zorn, Past Master
 David I. Dawson, Past Master
 Henry Lowe
 Alonzo Overman, Past Master
 J. Madison Smith, Past Master
 James H. Heath, Past Master
 Fraser F. Rambo, Past Master
 Fred L. Ginter

MS

MM

The following is a copy of a Fifty Year Certificate:

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA
 FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

To All Freemasons Wheresoever Dispersed On The Face Of The Globe

This is to certify that our well-beloved brother

(Name)

Has been a MASTER MASON for more than

F I F T Y Y E A R S

As a visible token of their fraternal love and grateful appreciation, this certificate is presented to him by his Brethren, the Masons of Georgia, with the fervent hope that his years of service to the Craft will continue to increase.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed and affixed the seal of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, in the City of Macon.

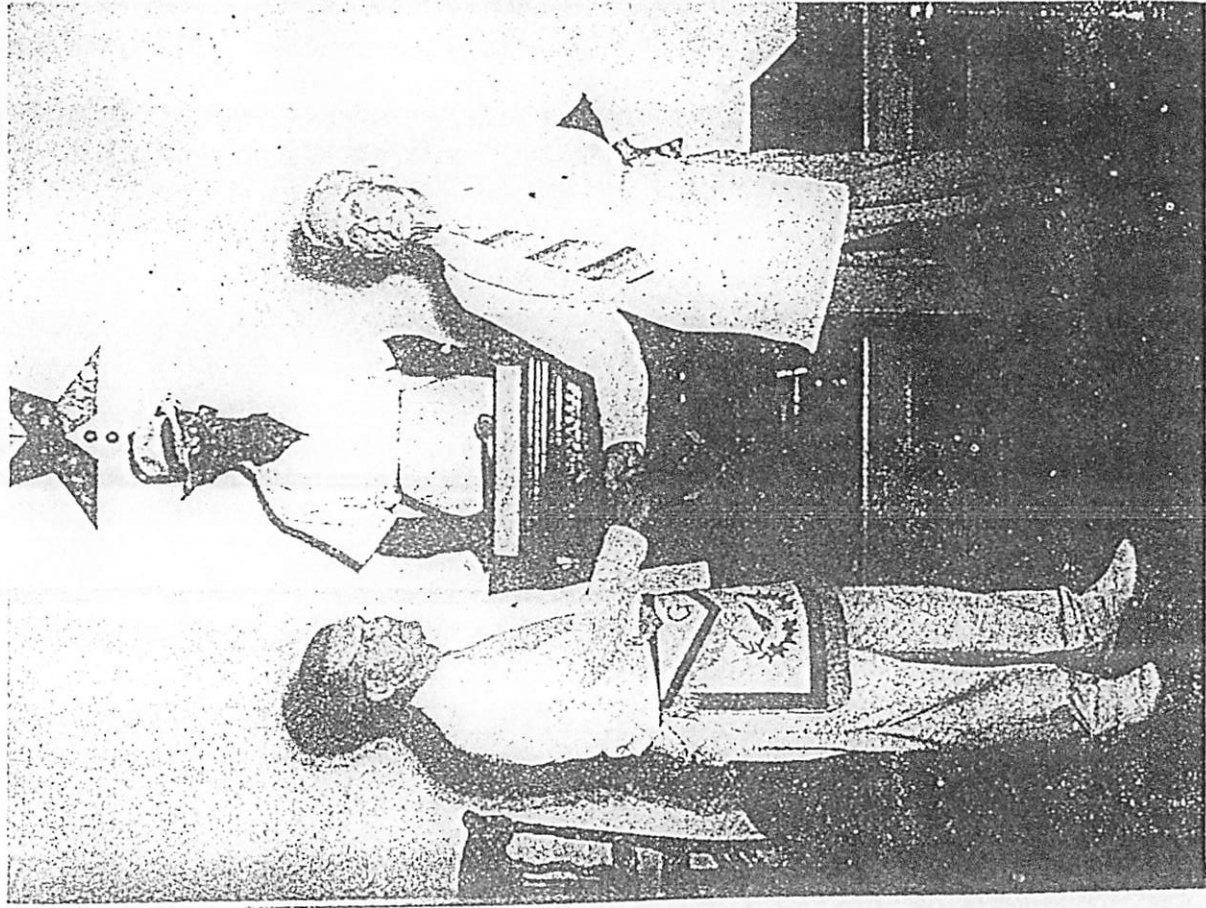
GRAND LODGE SEAL

Attest:

(Signature)

(Grand Secretary)

HINESVILLE 50-YEAR MEMBER



Brother J. C. Kaufman, Third Grand Steward, representing the Grand Master, congratulates Brother David I. Dawson, member of Hinesville Lodge No. 1234, upon receiving 50-Year Button. In the center is Brother Hoke S. Youmans, M. of Hinesville Lodge.

Brother Dawson was Raised in Bay View Lodge in December of 1899. In 1929 Bay View Lodge went dark and Brother Dawson dimitted to Hinesville as a Past Master. He served Hinesville as Secretary for 8 years and Chaplain for 11 years. He was an excellent ritualist.

Hinesville



At a ladies night meeting of Hinesville Lodge No. 271, the ninety-six year old Tyler, Fred Ginter, was presented an autographed copy of the **Grand Lodge of Georgia, F&AM, 1786-1980**. As a token of appreciation to Brother Ginter for faithfully serving Freemasonry and his brethren for over 74 years, a copy of the newly published history of the Grand Lodge was presented to him by William Rosier, one of the authors.

After expressing his appreciation, Brother Ginter said, "If the good Lord is willing, I will be present next January to receive one of those special 75 year awards presented by the Grand Lodge." Although not as active as he was 60 or 70 years ago, he still drives his car to the lodge and guards the outer door.

Brother Ginter, a native of Pennsylvania, was raised in Olive Lodge No. 210, Mt. Ephrims, Ohio, on January 10, 1910. He demitted to Hinesville Lodge No. 271 in 1927. With the exception of time in the military service on the Mexican border and World War One, he has been a faithful member of the Lodge. The officers and members of Hinesville Lodge are proud of his achievements and devotion to the craft and are planning a big celebration when he is awarded the coveted pin and apron next January. Will he be present? "I never felt better in my life," he replied.

LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF LIBERTY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

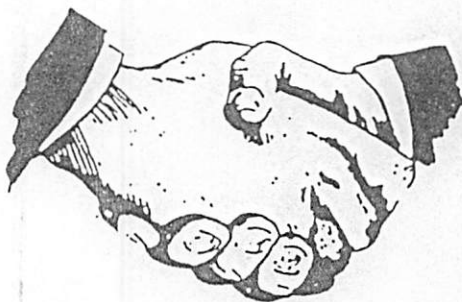
When the town of Hinesville was laid out in 1826 the center of town was the Court House Square. A frame building was constructed and served for many years. In 1826 a masonry building was constructed including fire proof vaults and modern in every respect. Upon completion the cornerstone was laid under auspices of the Grand Lodge of Georgia assisted by members of Hinesville Lodge.

The presiding officer was Nathan H. Ballard, Past Grand Master. He was assisted by the following Hinesville Lodge members: T. W. Welborn, W. C. Hodges, J. M. Smith, D. F. Martin, all of whom were Past Masters of the Lodge. B. H. Gibson served as Chaplain.

VISITATIONS

Since Hinesville is somewhat off the beaten path, only a relative few Grand Master and Past Grand Masters visited the lodge. Nevertheless, when special occasions occurred, they were happy to meet with the lodge. It is likely that some visits were not recorded. Those Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters known to have visited were:

1919	John L. Travis	Past Grand Master
1926	Nathan H. Ballard	Grand Master
1940	J. Everett Thrift	Grand Master
1940	David L. Shannon	Past Grand Master
1950	Henry L. Brown	Grand Master (1952)
1957	Henry C. Stephens	Grand Master
1959	Edwin A. McWhorter	Grand Master (Several Visits)
1959	Robert M. Vandegriff	Grand Master
1960	E. Descomb Well	Past Grand Master (Several Visits)
1960	John C. Kaufman	Past Grand Master (Several Visits)
1968	Raymond B. Muse	Grand Master



CENTENNIAL OF HINESVILLE LODGE

Suppers, barbecues and especially oyster roasts were common during the early days of the lodge, but it was not until the twentieth century that Family Nights became prevalent. Among the greatest was the Celebration of the Centennial of the Lodge, June 22, 1968, the lodge having been chartered in 1868. Brother Theo Gillis was Worshipful Master in 1968 and instrumental in promoting the event.

The Bacon Primary School dining room was filled to capacity with Masons and their families who partook of a delicious dinner prepared by the school's lunch room staff. The speaker for the evening was M. W. Brother Raymond B. Muse, Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, who gave an inspiring talk. Brother Muse also presented a 50 year pin and apron to Brother J. H. Heath. Brother Heath was raised in 1918 in Sibble Lodge No. 417, Wilcox County, and came to Hinesville in 1926. An unexpected treat was a talk by the witty Grand Lecturer, P. Y. Luther, a member of Meridian Sun Lodge in Griffin. He had accompanied Brother Muse and his Lady to the meeting. Brother Luther was extremely spry for his 82 years and included in his talk was a poem enjoyed by everyone present. The poem follows:

My hair is white and I'm almost blind
 The days of my youth are far behind
 My neck is stiff, I can't turn my head
 Can't hear one-half that's being said.
 My legs are wobbly, can hardly walk,
 And this is the message I want you to get,
 I'm still a-kicking, and I ain't dead yet.

My joints are stiff, won't move in their sockets
 And nary a dime is in my pocket,
 So maybe you think I'm a total wreck,
 (To tell the truth I do look like heck)
 But still I do have a whole lot of fun
 And my heart with joy is still'overrun.
 I've lots of good friends so kind and so sweet,
 And still many more that I'll never meet.
 Oh, this is a wonderful world of ours,
 Shade and sunshine and beautiful flowers,
 So you just take it from me, and you bet,
 I'm glad I'm living and I ain't dead yet.

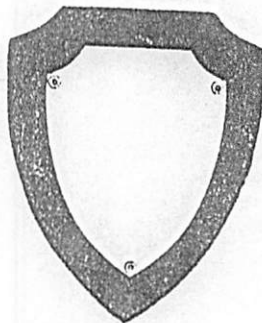
I've got corns of my feet and ingrowing nails,
 And do they hurt? Here plain language fails,
 To tell you my troubles would take too long,
 If I tried you surely would give me the gong.
 I go to church and Sunday School to
 For I love the story that is ever new,
 And when I reach the end of my row,
 I hope to my heavenly home I will go.
 And then when I leave this house of clay,
 If you listen closely, I'm apt to say
 Well folks, I've left you, but don't you forget
 I've just passed on, but I'm not dead yet.

HONORS - PLAUDITS

A number of Hinesville Lodge members have been honored by receiving appointments to serve the Grand Lodge or honored in the higher degrees of Masonry.

The minutes of the lodge does not contain such information, therefore it is possible some names or appointments may be overlooked. A list of the known honors follows:

James D. Zorn, Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee.
 W. C. Hodges, Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee
 W. C. Hodges, President Georgia Secretary's Association
 W. C. Hodges, General Welfare Committee of Grand Lodge
 W. C. Hodges, Master, First Masonic District Convention
 W. C. Hodges, President, Southeastern Masonic Association
 J. Madison Smith, President, Southeastern Masonic Assn.
 Fred Mindeldorf, Sr., KCCH, Scottish Rite Masons
 M. M. Quattlebaum, High Priest, Royal Arch Masons
 M. M. Quattlebaum, Illustrious Master, R & S. M.
 M. M. Quattlebaum, Illustrious Grand Master, Royal Arch Masons
 Fraser Rambo, President, Southeastern Masonic Association
 Pershing Priester, Member, First District Trial Commission.
 William Rosier, Sect. G. L. Educational and Historical Comm.
 William Rosier, Grand Lodge Bicentennial Comm. Sect.
 William Rosier, Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Award
 William Rosier, G. L. Dewey Harold Wollstein Award
 William Rosier, KCCH, Scottish Rite Masons
 Albert Nelson, KCCH, 33^o Scottish Rite Bodies
 Albert Nelson, Worshipful Master, First Masonic District
 William Rosier, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of
 Georgia near the Grand Lodge of West. Australia
 William Pilon First District Custodian
 Carlton James District Deputy of the Grand Master.



Dewey Harold Wollstein Award

Brother William H. Rosier received the most prestigious award that can be presented a brother at Grand Lodge. He became the third member of our Grand Lodge to receive the Dewey Harold Wollstein Award. Grand Master Walter W. Thompson, Sr. presented this award of awards to a most deserving brother.

Brother William H. Rosier was born on August 3, 1908 in Atlanta, Georgia. He attended the public schools there and during World War II he served for four years in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theatre. After the war Brother Rosier was employed at Fort Stewart as a Civil Service supervisor in the Electronic Maintenance Shop until his retirement in 1973.

Brother Rosier's grandfather, Brother John H. Rosier was the person for whom John H. Rosier Lodge No. 608 was named. And Brother John H. Rosier served as Master of Clarksville Lodge No. 325. He was the father of Brother Edward M. Rosier who served as Master of John H. Rosier Lodge No. 608. Brother Edward M. Rosier was the father of Brother William H. Rosier who has served as Master of Hinesville Lodge No. 271, Brother Merrill A. Rosier who served as Master of Hospitality Lodge No. 128 in Wethersfield, Connecticut and J. Harry Rosier who was a Master Mason.

(Masonic Messenger, December 1985)

Brother E. Dean Rosier, the son of Brother William H. Rosier, served as Master of Albany Lodge No. 24. Since 1960 Brother William H. Rosier has served as Treasurer of Hinesville Lodge No. 271.

Brother "Bill" as we fondly know him is a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies of Savannah and Alee Shrine Temple. He is also a member of Georgia Chapter No. 3, Georgia Council No. 2 and Palestine Commandery No. 7. He is a member of Lodge of Research No. 6 of Atlanta and Past Master of Lodge of Research No. 1 of Savannah. He belongs to **The Philalethes Society**. Brother Rosier has been a member of the Educational and Historical Commission for several years and has served as Secretary for twelve years. He is Secretary of the Bicentennial Committee and in 1982 was the recipient of the Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Award.

Brother Rosier has published more than thirty articles in the **Masonic Messenger**. He has compiled biographies of Georgia's Past Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries. He is co-author of **History of The Grand Lodge of Georgia, F & A M. 1786-1980** and he was an historical advisor for the Grand Lodge movie **Living Stones**.



Brother William H. Rosier

Brother William H. Rosier is married to the former Miss Barrie Dean and they have a son, Brother E. Dean Rosier. Our brother has distinguished himself in every facet of Masonic activity. A superb ritualist he has coached candidates, given lectures and done all the many things that a true servant of Masonry performs in his lodge, home, community and church. He is noted for his humility and he is a friend to all he meets. Our brother has brought much honor to our fraternity. And it is with great pride that we welcome him to the rank of Georgia's greatest Masonic Scholars; well done our brother, well done.

THE SOUTHEASTERN MASONIC ASSOCIATION

The Southeastern (Georgia) Masonic Association was formed November 21, 1945, consisting of several lodges between Savannah and Brunswick. Those included Hinesville No. 271, Live Oak No. 137, Darien; Altamaha Number 227, Ludowici; Pembroke Number 469, Pembroke; Philadelphia Number 73, Glenville; Bryan Number 303, Richmond Hill; and Rising Sun Number 32, Reidsville. The meetings were rotated among the lodges, meeting once each quarter. The host lodge would prepare a supper which was always a delight. Seafood, barbecue, chicken, etc., were the usual entree with all the trimmings and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Sweet potato pie was a favorite dessert.

Outside speakers were invited although many fine talks were contributed by local members. Little business was transacted as the meetings were primarily for good, wholesome Masonic fellowship. The meetings were usually closed but at times the ladies would be invited to participate.

In 1940 Brother J. Everett Thrift, Grand Master, wrote for the Masonic Messenger, of attending on of the meeting conducted at Hinesville. The article follows:

December 19, 1940.

Past Grand Master David L. Shannon, the Grand Treasurer and his wife, the Grand Master and his wife. attended the District Masonic Association at Hinesville, Georgia. Arriving in Hinesville from Savannah at 7:30 in time for a fish supper. which was one of the best we ever tasted. The brethren and ladies from the various lodges of the District were present for the regular Quarterly meeting. An interesting program was arranged.

Judge Paul E. Caswell made the welcome address. Brother Hugh Hodges made a beautiful response. The musical selections were extra good. New officers were elected. The Grand Master made a short address. The Brethren are making a real contribution to Masonry in the Southeastern Section of the State. Hinesville is home of Brother W. C. Hodges who is a member of the General Welfare Committee of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

PICNICS - OUTINGS

For a number of years, Brother W. C. Hodges, a Past Master and Secretary for many years, invited the brethren to his summer cottage at Shellman Bluff, to enjoy a wonderful evening of fellowship and a banquet of seafood fresh from the ocean.

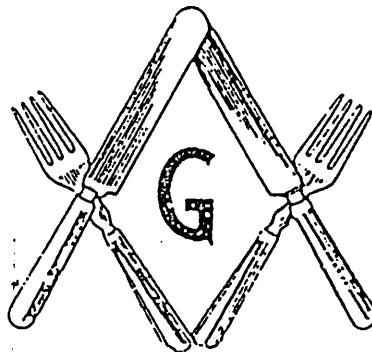
Another treat was provided by Brother John Stevens who provided an all day outing at beautiful Springfield Plantation. Activities consisted of fishing, yarching, airplane sight-seeing trips, golf and of course a bountiful seafood dinner. This outing was talked about for many weeks by the members participating.

In the early days the lodge would occasionally adjourn and have a cook-out on the grounds of Bradwell Inatitute which, in those days was located where the city park is now located. Oyster roast were the most common and delicious treats.

DISASTERS

Since the birth of Hinesville Lodge, Liberty County has never witnessed a serious disaster although hurricanes and toranados have inflicted considerable property damage at various times. However, the brethren of Hinesville Lodge has always responded, when the need arose, to aid the distressed, both near and afar. During the greater portion of its existance the treasury seldom contained more than that required to pay necessary obligations but when the treasury was depleted a hat was passed and funds sent to the needy. Seldom were these acts recorded on the records of the lodge.

The lodge always made generous donations to the Children's Home in Macon. Also aided were the victims of the San Francisco earthquake, Galveston Hurricane, Brunswick Yellow Fever epidemic, and numerous others.



MASONIC HISTORICAL MARKER

Sunbury, Georgia

At Sunbury, October 12, 1958, a Masonic Historical Marker was dedicated commemorating St. Johns Lodge No. 6, as one of the first lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia following its creation in 1786.

Participating in the unveiling ceremonies were John C. Kaufman, Grand Master of Masons in Georgia; Dewey H. Wollstein, Past Grand Master and Chairman of the Educational and Historical Commission of the Grand Lodge; Descomb Wells, Past Grand Master; Henry L. Brown, Past Grand Master, C. D. Hollingsworth, Member of the Educational and Historical Commission; and Asa Bailey, Sr., Worshipful Master of Hinesville Lodge.

Judge and Brother W. C. Hodges, Past Master and Secretary of Hinesville Lodge served as Master of Ceremonies.

The property upon which the marker stood was a triangle formed by two roads within the bounds of the former town of Sunbury now classed as one of the Dead Towns of Georgia. The triangle was landscaped and donated by Mr. Allen Stevens, of Sunbury. The Masonic Marker was flanked upon either side by Markers, erected by the State of Georgia briefly telling of the former town, and some of its historical significance and residents.

Sunbury is approximately 20 miles east of Hinesville in Liberty County.

The text upon the Masonic Marker reads:

SAINT JOHN'S LODGE NUMBER SIX
(Erected by the Grand Lodge of Georgia in 1957)

1 Saint Johns Lodge Number Six, of Sunbury, Free and Accepted Masons, was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, April 21, 1777, in Masonry 5777. Under an act of the Legislature of Georgia February 6, 1776, the Grand Lodge was Incorporated and given power to corporate bodies under their jurisdiction. Under this new authority, the Grand Lodge, on June 5, 1802, "On motion ordered that Saint Johns Lodge Number Six, Sunbury, hold their charter on paying arrearage dues."

Annual returns were made to the Grand Lodge back to 1787 and the lodge was admitted to full participation with the following officers recognized: Adam Alexander, Worshipful Master; William Peacock, Senior Warden; Andrew Maybank, Junior Warden; Thomas Lancaster, Treasurer; Daniel Stewart, Secretary; Nathan Dryer, Senior Deacon; John Bahlheimer, Junior Deacon; James Roberts, Stewart; Samuel Law, Stewart; and George C. Summerall, Tyler.

On November 4, 1805, John and Rebecca Couper gave to the Lodge, lot No. 77, of the Town of Sunbury, situated a few hundred feet north of this marker, upon which to erect a lodge building.



(Erected in 1957, this marker is located at Sunbury, about ten miles east of Midway. Midway is on U. S. Highway 17, about 30 miles south of Savannah.)

Extracts from a lease from The Hinesville Bank to the Hinesville Lodge Np. 271 F. & A. M. May 2, 1924.

Lease dated 2nd Day of May 1924, between Hinesville Bank and J. W. Lockett, W.M., George H. Keen, S.W., and T. W. Welborn, J.W., as Trustees of Hinesville Lodge No. 271 of Free and Accepted Masons.

The Hinesville Bank, at a Directors meeting, April 1924, authorized its President, D. F. Martin to execute a 99 year lease on the upper story of Hinesville Bank to the Hinesville Lodge F. & A. M., as follows:

The lease is for a term of 99 years and a renewal right of 99 additional years and at a price of \$1,100, the Lodge to make all necessary repairs and rearrangements for their purpose....to consist of the entire upper story of the present bank building....the lodge to also have the rights to extend the present building over the vacant lot or space at the rear of the building.....

The building being situated on the Northeast corner of Lot Number 41, fronting 25 feet on Midway Street and running back along Middle Street to a stake 40 feet....

The said party of the first part shall keep and maintain all necessary lateral and support and foundation sufficient to fully support and protect the upper story of said building...at all times and for the life of this lease and extensions....and that Hinesville Bank and said Hinesville Lodge No. 271, shall each bear one half of the expense of the repair or rebuilding the roof over the building. It shall be the duty of Hinesville Bank to make the repairs at any time the same may become necessary or to replace said roof at and with the consent of Hinesville Lodge, or without such consent in the event such repairs become necessary and to charge the said party with one half of the repair expenses.

The lodge shall have the right to...erect stairway but shall not interfere with the present building. At the termination of 99 years, but upon payment of Five Dollars at the expiration of this lease, the party of the first part are hereby bound to renew or extend the lease for an additional period of 99 years under the same conditions and restriction.

That the lease may be transferred or assigned by the party of the second part and any transferee or assignee hereof shall take the same subject to the same limitations, conditions and restrictions as the same is now held and hereby granted to the second parties, Provided, however, that if at any time the parties of the second part shall desire to sell or transfer this lease, the party of the first part shall have the refusal of the same (AND VICE VERSA).

It is agreed that the purpose of this lease is that the said parties of the second part may use the upper story for a meeting place for said lodge, but in the event of non-use or abandonment of the same as a Masonic Lodge, that the said second party shall have and they are given the right to use the same for any other purpose provided the use thereof does not in any manner reasonably interfere or hinder the party of the first part in the free use of the lower floor.

Signed by D. F. Martin, President, Hinesville Bank, under date above.

FROM THE MINUTE BOOKS OF HINESVILLE LODGE

3/3/1883.

Resolved that any member spitting on the floor of this lodge shall be fined ten cents for each and every violation of the above resolution.

2/7/1890.

It was moved and carried that this lodge confer the Masonic burial rites at the grave of Brother John. E. Shepherd, deceased at Taylors Creek Church on the second Sabbath in March next, immediately after the services in the church and the secretary instructed to write Altamaha Lodge, Bryan Lodge, Rising Sun Lodge, and Philadelphia Lodge to participate with us in the services.

(Brother Shepherd was Worshipful Master in 1883. He died January 9th).

3/7/1890.

The Tyler was paid \$2.50 for past years service.

12/5/1890.

The Tyler was paid four dollars. The Secretary six dollars.

7/3/1891.

The secretary was authorized to purchase Stewards rods, Deacons rods, ballot box, setting maul, gavels, Masters and Wardens columns.

(All above are known to have been replaced except the ballot box and maul).

1/1/1892.

Brother W. A. Cason, having had his barn with its contents, consisting of his crop of last year, consumed by fire, on motion of the lodge, donated to him the sum of ten dollars.

3/4/1892.

The lodge purchased two dozen chairs.

(In 1945 four long benches were provided for the craft. Some officers chairs were straight chairs with deer skin seats which appeared to be home made).

10/6/1893.

An appeal having been received from the Grand Master to aid the sufferers of Yellow Fever in Brunswick, the sum of five dollars was contributed for that purpose, and two dollars for the Yellow Fever sufferers in Jesup.

6/6/1900.

A bill was paid to the Caswell Hotel for eight meals. \$2.00.

1/5/1894.

Motion passed that the lodge donate \$7.50 toward a tombstone for the grave of our deceased brother J. D. Zorn, Jr.

(He was the son of the first Worshipful Master of the lodge).

1/5/1894.

Brother Wheeler was appointed to purchase half a dozen candles for the lodge. *(This was done many times. No artificial burning tapers were used in their lodge. Electricity did not arrive until 1921).*

5/4/1906.

An appeal by the Grand Master in behalf of the sufferers of San Francisco (earthquake). Paid two dollars from the treasury and a collection of three dollars.

4/6/1945.

A set of candlesticks for the three lesser lights were presented to the lodge. *(The donors name not given. Candlestick still used in 1987)*

7/18/1947.

A window fan was purchased for the lodge.
(Previously, two oscillating fans were mounted on the wall).

9/17/1948.

New staffs were presented by Brother W. R. Paschal.

2/18/1949.

Upon motion, all smoking was prohibited until new cuspidors could be obtained.

10/21/1949.

The annual dues were raised from three dollars to \$3.25. The twenty-five cents increase to pay for subscription to the Masonic Messenger.

11/18/1949.

Brother W. R. Paschal presented a new altar to the lodge.
(This handsome altar, in use in 1983, was made and installed by Brother Paschal, who was in service at Fort Stewart).

5/5/1950.

The lodge voted to buy 24 theatre type seats to replace the wooden benches.

5/7/1952.

The lodge was entertained at Springfield Plantation by its owner, Brother John P. Stevens, with a bountiful oyster roast, supplemented with roast turkey, baked ham, dressing, giblet gravy, several vegetables, hot biscuits, salads, coffee and tea.

Airplane rides were taken from his private landing strip, traveling over the rivers and islands of Coastal Georgia. Fishing and golf rounded out the exciting day.

8/2/1957.

Brother Harvey C. Stephens, Grand Master, visited the lodge at a regular meeting. He was entertained during the day by a fishing trip with Brother Hoke Yoemans and later entertained with dinner at the Officers Club at Fort Stewart and a conducted tour of the post by car and aircraft. Brother Shankman was the host at Fort Stewart. Also present were Daniel Locklin, Grand Secretary and Austin Phillips, Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch.
(This was the first known official visit of a Grand Master while in office).

9/18/1958.

The lodge postponed all business so the members could attend the Centennial of Altamaha Lodge Number 227 at Ludowici.

8/15/1958.

Brother E. D. Wells, Past Grand Master, and member of the Educational and Historical Commission of the Grand Lodge, visited and requested the lodge sponsor the erection of a Masonic Historical Marker at Sunbury in Liberty County.

10/12/1958.

A Masonic Historical Marker commemorating St. John's Lodge Number 6, at Sunbury, was dedicated on this day by members of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, The Educational and Historical Commission of the Grand Lodge, and Hinesville Lodge Number 271. The marker was unveiled by Brother John. C. Kaufman, Grand Master. The Master of Ceremonies was Brother W. C. Hodges, Past Master of Hinesville Lodge. The site was donated and landscaped by Mr. Allen Stevens, of Sunbury.

The committee from Hinesville Lodge consisted of Asa Bailey, Sr., Worshipful Master, Asa Bailey, Jr., Past Master, Paul E. Caswell, Past Master, and Brother Atkinson.

12/5/1958.

Brother R.M. Vandegriff, Grand Master, visited the lodge on this date. Following the election of officers, and a turkey dinner at which the families were invited, Brother Vandegriff installed the officers for the ensuing year. Brother Rosier, Past Master served as Grand Marshal.

(Brother Vandegriff was Past Master of John Rosier Lodge Number 608, Atlanta, which lodge was named after the grandfather of Brother Rosier. Brother Ed Rosier, also Past Master of John Rosier Lodge and son of John Rosier, was also present).

11/19/1959.

Hinesville Lodge withdrew its membership with the Southeastern Association.

4/17/1959.

The lodge voted to purchase a window air conditioner. Since the windows were in bad condition, they were removed and the openings bricked up. A fire escape door and ladder was installed.

2/16/1961.

The lodge voted to contribute one dollar for each member, thereby achieving one hundred percent in the campaign for the Georgie Washington Masonic Memorial.

5/5/1961.

The lodge purchased a butane gas tank for \$75 and a gas heater to replace the fuel oil heater.

12/19/1961.

Brother Edwin McWhorter, Past Grand Master, installed the officers following a supper at which the ladies were guest.

5/3/1963.

It was voted to change the meetings from the first and third Fridays to the first and third Thursday evenings.

10/4/1963.

The committee reported completion of purchase of the lot on South Street for the construction of a new Masonic Temple. The price was \$4,000. It was purchased from Past Master Dr. T. W. Welborn.

5/5/1964.

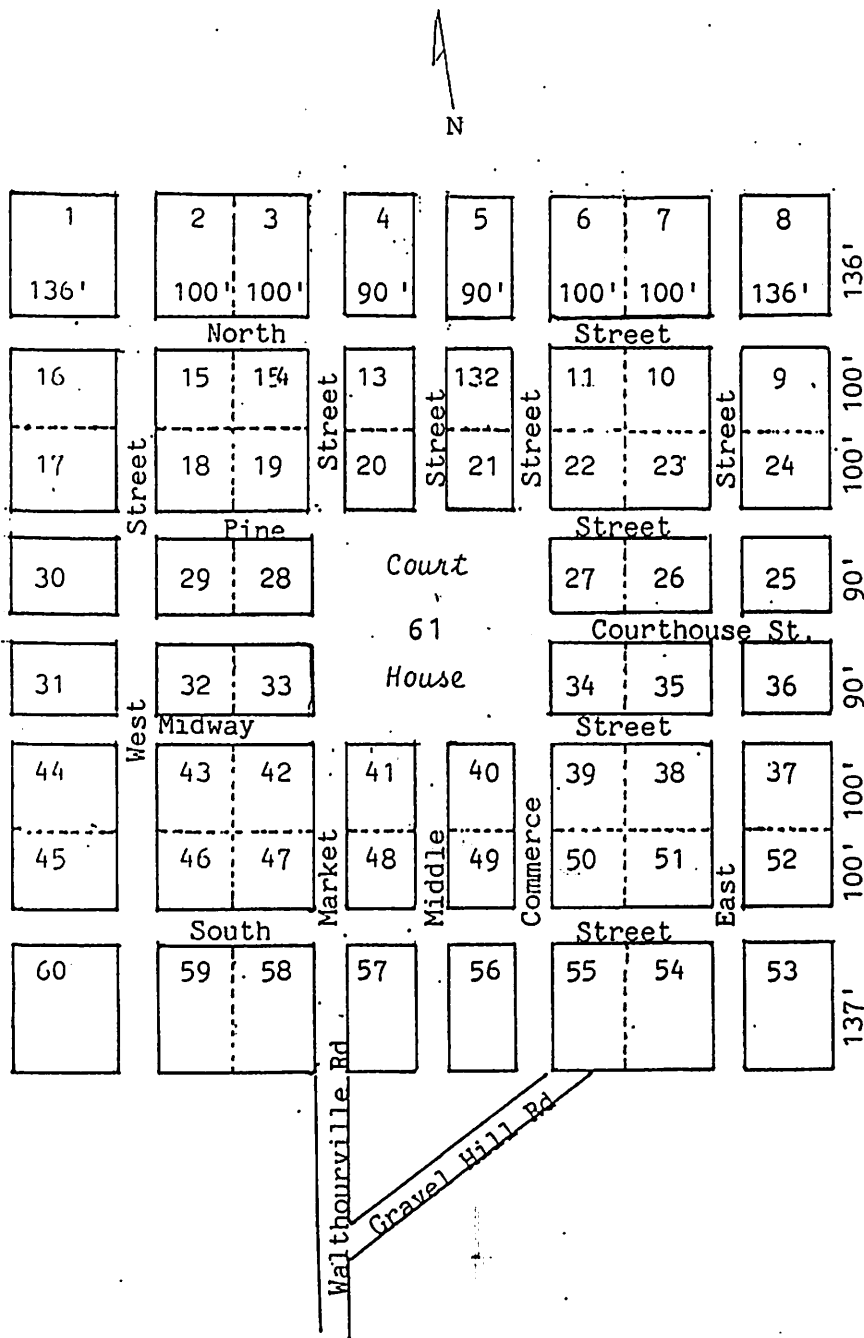
The building committee was given permission to contract for the construction of the ground floor of the proposed Masonic Temple.

HINESVILLE GEORGIA

AS SURVEYED 15 MARCH 1837

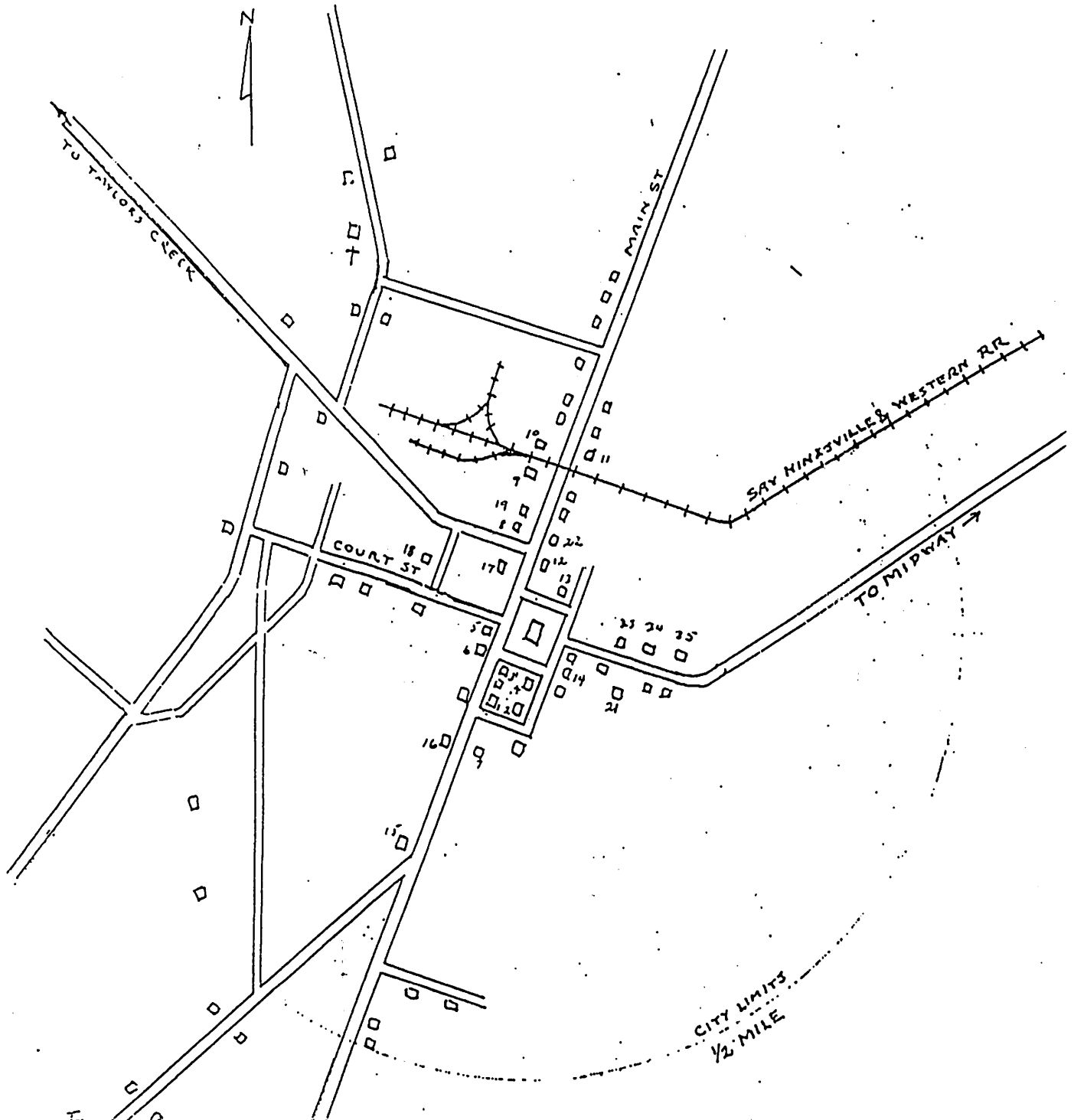
LOTS SOLD FROM \$5.50 to \$75.

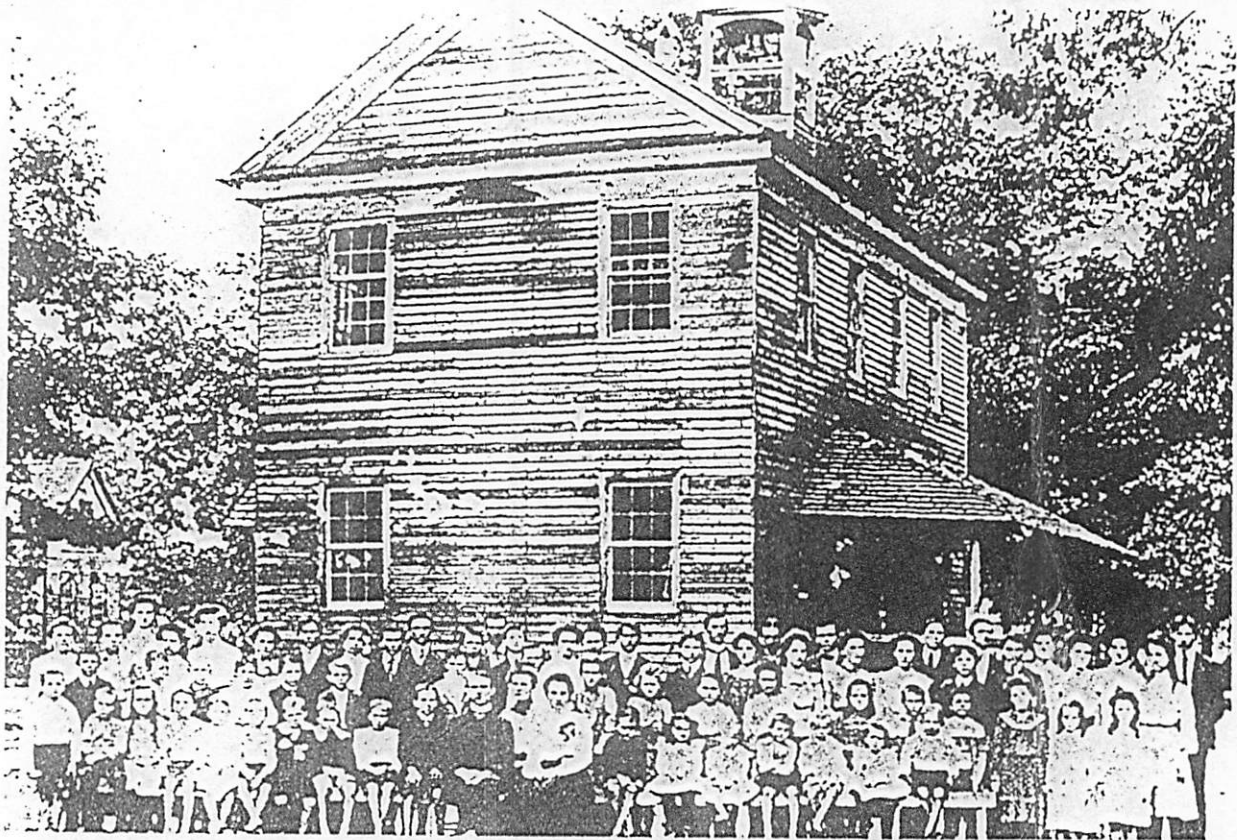
- | LOT | NAME |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Reserved |
| 2. | Angus Martin |
| 3. | " " |
| 4. | Andrew Floyd |
| 5. | James Brewer |
| 6. | " " |
| 7. | " " |
| 8. | Reserved |
| 9. | Edward Way |
| 10. | Robert Hendry |
| 11. | " " |
| 12. | Reserved |
| 13. | Enoch Daniel |
| 14. | William Hope |
| 15. | " " |
| 16. | " " |
| 17. | Edwin H. Bacon |
| 18. | 19. "William Hope |
| 20. | Enoch Daniel |
| 21. | Reserved |
| 22.23. | Robert Hendry |
| 24. | Edward Way |
| 25.26.27. | James Martin |
| 28.29. | Robert Hendry |
| 30. | Robert Hendry |
| 31.32.33. | Charlton Hines |
| 34.35. | William Hope |
| 36. | William Way |
| 37. | L. B. Daniel |
| 38.39. | William Holpe |
| 40. | Res. Methodist Church |
| 41. | William Way |
| 41-47 | Charlton Hines |
| 48. | William Way |
| 49. | Reserved- School |
| 50.51. | William Hope |
| 52. | L. B. Daniel |
| 53. | Robert Hendry |
| 54. | Rhesa Floyd |
| 55. | Robert Hendry |
| 56. 57. | William Way |
| 58. | Edwin H. Bacon |
| 59.60. | John Shaw |
| 61 | COURT HOUSE SQUARE |



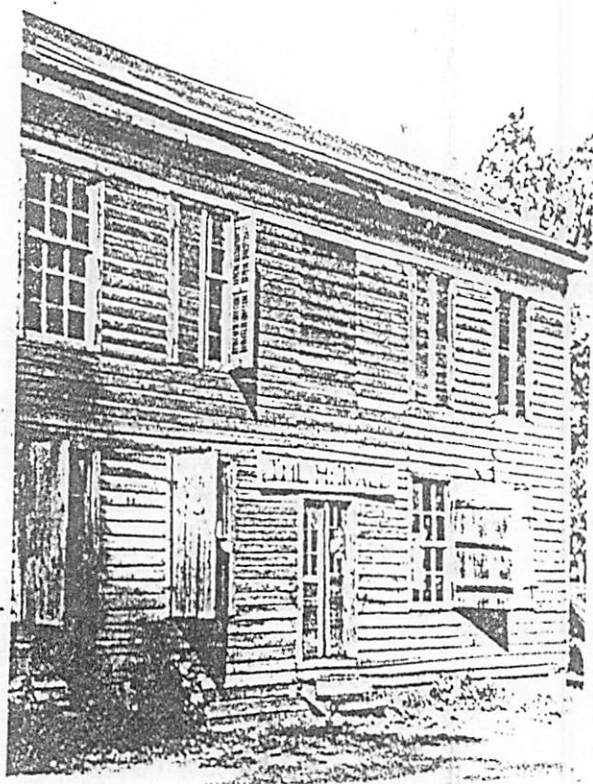
HINESVILLE GEORGIA. 1918

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Liberty County Herald
HINESVILLE LODGE NO. 271 | 6. Railroad Station | 18. Miller Residence |
| 2. School | 10. Ford Dealer | 19. |
| 3. Gas Station | 11. Groover Residence | 20. Colored Church |
| 4. Methodist Church | 12. Ryon Residence | 21. |
| 5. Hines Store | 13. Ryon Store | 22. |
| 6. Hines Residence | 14. Brewton Law Office | 23. Lang Hotel |
| 7. Dr. Layton Residence | 15. Dr. Hendry Residence | 24. Darsey Residence |
| 8. McCall Residence
(Post Office) | 16. Bagley Residence | 25. Fraser Residence |
| | 17. Miller Store | |

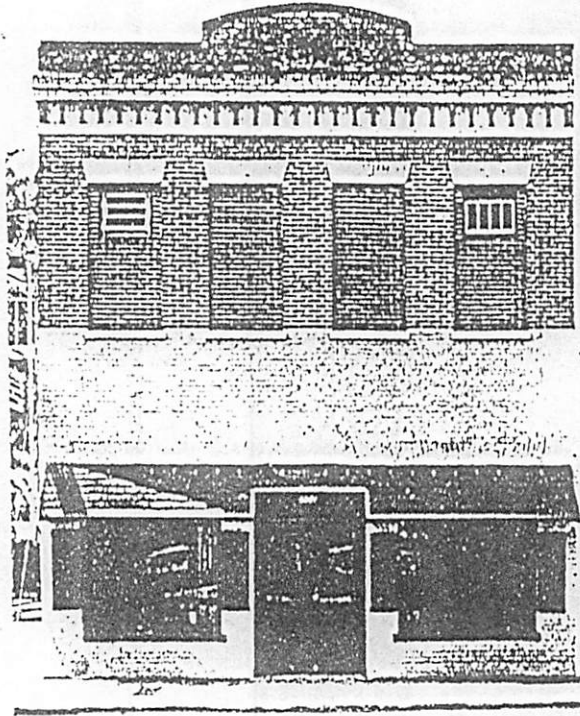




Taylor's Creek Union Academy of which the second floor is believed to be the lodge room of Hinesville Lodge No. 271. Probably the lodge room of Liberty Union Lodge No. 96.



Hinesville Lodge net on the second floor of this building. The Liberty County Herald occupied the ground floor.



The Hinesville Bank building on Midway Street opposite the Court House. The lodge leased the second floor for 99 years. Meetings were conducted in the building from 1923 until 1979, a total of 56 years.

St. John's Lodge No. 6, F. & A. M.
Sunbury

Masonic tradition informs us that shortly after arriving from England, James Ogletorpe and a few of his friends made a scouting trip by boat south of Savannah. Arriving at a beautiful bluff on the Midway River near St. Catherine's sound they disembarked for a short stay. It was there, under a spreading live oak, the first Masonic Lodge meeting in Georgia was opened. Documents to substantiate the meeting are nonexistent. We must assume the next generation who told of the meeting for the records, knew the facts.

Some 45 years later four members of Solomon's Lodge No. 1, while prisoners of the British during the Revolutionary War, gathered under the same oak tree in order to conduct a meeting of the Union Society of Savannah and elected Officers to protect the Charter of that great benevolent organization. At that time the town of Sunbury had grown around the oak tree; a town which was beginning to rival Savannah in trade with the Northern States and across the seas. The venerable oak remained until the 1840's when a boy chased a rabbit up a hollow, then built a fire to smoke the rabbit out. The tree was killed.

Brother J. H. Estill related to Solomon's Lodge in 1885, that a lodge existed in Sunbury just prior to or shortly after the Revolution, for "in the old records of Solomon's Lodge a Brother Bowen was reinstated, he having been a member of a spurious Lodge at Sunbury." We also find in the minutes of Solomon's Lodge for April 28, 1786, that "Brother John Grant, having been a member of a spurious lodge at Sunbury, made application in this Lodge." At that time Hiram Lodge No. 42, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, was also called a spurious or clandestine Lodge. It was later Hiram Lodge No. 2 of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

Brother John Couper of St. Simons Island, formerly of Sunbury, in 1805 deeded lot #77 in Sunbury to St. John's Lodge No. 6 for the sum of one cent. In one deed, recorded in Liberty County, it is stated that St. John's Lodge No. 6 was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia on April 21, 1777. This is a point of much contention and learned historians believe it should be April 21, 1787, ten years later. It definitely was not a typographical error for the date was spelled out complete several times. Without giving details, bits of information lead us to believe April 21, 1787, four months after the Grand Lodge

was formally organized, to be the correct date. This does not explain the existence of a so-called "spurious" lodge at Sunbury.

In the office of the Grand Lodge is a file of "ancient documents." Among them is a report dated 6 December 1787 from St. John's Lodge #6, Sunbury, showing the officers and members, containing 27 names. Also in the Savannah newspaper, the Georgia Gazette for December 6, 1787, St. John's Lodge No. 6 was shown as having representatives at Grand Lodge. Therefore, it was a legally constituted lodge in 1787 working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

The Ancient Documents also have reports for 1788, 1790, 1802, and 1803. From these we find the membership rose to 37, then on May 30, 1803 the roll had decreased to 16. Sunbury and its Masonic Lodge had begun their decline. Although Brother Couper gave the property for a Masonic Temple in 1805, records do not indicate a building was constructed.

In 1796 the County Seat was removed from Sunbury. A severe hurricane caused the residents to realize Sunbury was very vulnerable to the Coastal storms; more so than Savannah, Darien, or Brunswick as those towns had better natural protection from the elements. As the population migrated farther inland Sunbury and St. John's Lodge lost their importance. The last known listing of the lodge was 1807. It could have survived a few more years as records from the turn of the Century until 1818 are almost extinct. In 1818 there was no St. John's Lodge No. 6. In the mid 1840's almost the only reminder of the town was the stately oak tree under which Georgia Masonry was said to have been born. Then it disappeared. Mr. John Stevens, a local resident, knowing of the tradition of the first Masonic meeting and of the Union Society meeting, obtained a block of the fallen tree and sent it to Brother Sheftall in Savannah.

Some ten years later Brother Sheftall's niece, Mrs. Perla Sheftall Solomons, presented Solomon's Lodge with a gavel made from the oak, then presented the Union Society with an alms box made from the tree. A third piece of the wood was deposited in the cornerstone of the monument erected to Count Casimir Pulaski, who gave his life fighting for our freedom.

(Contributed by Brother William Rosier, Secretary, Education and Historical Commission)

Southeastern Masonic Conference

The brethren of Georgia were well-represented by Grand Lodge Officers at the Southeastern Masonic Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1978. Representing the Grand Lodge of Georgia were: Grand Master William L. Barrineau, Jr., Deputy Grand Master J. Kirk Nicholson, Jr., Junior Grand Warden William Eugene Hargraves and Grand Secretary Carl F. Lester, Jr. The Grand Delegation was graciously complimented by the attendance of Mrs. Barrineau, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Hargraves and Mrs. Lester. Also in attendance was the editor of the Masonic Messenger.

The Conference theme was: Masonic Education: To Increase Attendance at Lodge Meetings and to Improve Interest in Masonry: To Minimize Losses for N. P. O. D. and After Entered Apprentice Degree. The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana served as the host for the Conference. Grand Master Arthur Retif and his Grand Lodge Officers and their ladies worked diligently and graciously to make the Conference the success that it was.

Our Grand Master, William L. Barrineau, Jr. presented a thoroughly researched and cogent paper on "The Role and Responsibility of Grand Lodge Officers in a Program of Masonic Education". There was much food for thought in all of the programs presented as the participants addressed themselves to timely subjects.

Grand Master Retif and his lovely lady entertained most graciously at a reception for the delegates. The Rainbow Girls made a splendid contribution when they served at a luncheon at the Masonic Temple. And who can forget the delightful evening spent as the guests of Farhad Grotto. A splendid seafood fest - Cajun style - a Cajun story teller and a Cajun band were well-received. The hospitality was southern at its best.

Next year's Conference meets in Nashville, Tennessee.

A Brother

When you stray from the proper path;
And build upon the sand,
A brother will come to your relief;
And extend a helping hand.

Wise counsel he will give to you;
And comfort to your mind,
He'll humbly kneel with you in prayer
'Til happiness you'll find.

He seeks not favors or reward;
For his unselfish deed,
Brotherly love, morality, and relief,
Is his Masonic creed.

RLW