



# Alabama Freemasons

## ALOR Established



On August 30, 2010, Most Worshipful Grand Master Larry A. Hancock issued a Warrant for the establishment of the Alabama Lodge of Research (pictured above). The purpose of the Alabama Lodge of Research is to provide the Masons of Alabama a source for knowledge and education

about the history of Freemasons, and Freemasonry, within the State of Alabama. The Alabama Lodge of Research will act as a repository for papers and videos of historical significance in an online format.

### ALOR Officers

PRESIDENT/WEBMASTER  
Bryan M. Leagans, PM  
Prattville Lodge No. 89

VICE-PRESIDENT  
PGM Larry W. Stinson, PM  
Eureka Lodge No. 64

SECRETARY/TREASURER  
Arthur L. Campbell III, PM  
Prattville Lodge No. 89  
Coosa Valley Lodge No. 929

CHAPLAIN  
Carl T. Wilson, PM  
Prattville Lodge No. 89

LIBRARIAN  
Christopher E. Tackett, WM  
Prattville Lodge No. 89

### ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

On November 9, 2010, the Alabama Lodge of Research met for the first time under a Warrant from The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama. This was the Lodge's Annual Communication. The meeting was held at the Scottish Rite

Masonic Center in Montgomery, Alabama. The officers and several members were in attendance and a number of topics were discussed and regular business was transacted. Details of this first meeting are available in the Members section of the ALOR website.



MEET THE NEWLY ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

On November 9, 2010, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama installed the new Grand Lodge Officers for the 2010-2011 year. These officers were elected at the One Hundred and Ninetieth Annual Communication in Montgomery, Alabama.



MW Grand Master  
Ron Andress  
Rising Virtue No. 4  
Von Bayer No. 699



RW Deputy Grand Master  
Sterling Hughes  
Clinton Lodge No. 287



RW Senior Grand Warden  
Charles A. Booker  
Garland No. 684



RW Junior Grand Warden  
Lane Weatherbee  
Lozahatchee No. 97



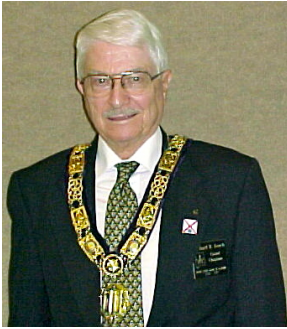
RW Grand Treasurer  
H. Spencer Stewart  
Air Force One No. 889



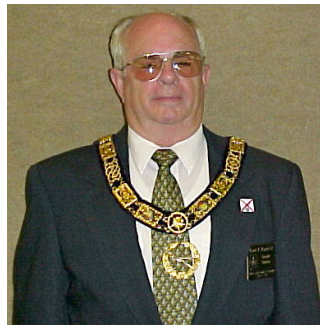
RW Grand Secretary  
Jerry M. Underwood  
Glencoe No. 846

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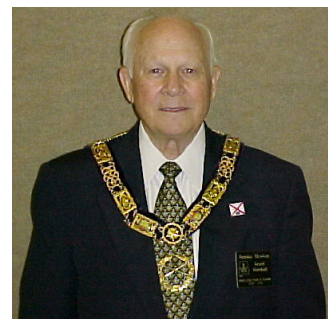
RW Grand Tiler  
Edward L. Mason  
Cedar Bend No. 583



RW Grand Chaplain  
Richard Losch  
Livingston Lodge No. 41



RW Grand Orator  
Karl F. Reed II  
Shades Valley No. 829



RW Grand Marshal  
Jimmy Morton  
Georgiana Davis No. 338



RW Grand Historian  
William Carter  
J. Collier Foster No. 906



RW Senior Grand Deacon  
Ray Dotson  
Rising Virtue No. 4



RW Junior Grand Deacon  
Jimmy Holt  
Rising Virtue No. 4



RW Senior Grand Stewart  
Wayne Scott Wadsworth  
Metro East No. 928

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RW Junior Grand Stewart  
Winston Each  
Huffman No. 633



RW Grand Tiler  
Lew Jones  
Prattville No. 89  
Sam Gibbons No. 639



## DUGALD MCFARLANE : ALABAMA FOUNDING FATHER

When researching the history of Freemasonry within the State of Alabama it is inevitable that you will come across the name of Dugald McFarlane (also listed as Dugald McFarland), but not much information exists as to his time in Alabama. Dugald McFarlane not only played a major roll in establishing the Grand Lodge of Alabama, but is also responsible for establishing the first vestiges of the York Rite in Alabama through Royal Arch Masonry.

Dugald McFarlane was born in Scotland in August of 1797 to Dugald McFarlane Sr., and Mary Campbell. Around 1815, he left Scotland when he was about eighteen years old and settled in South Carolina where he remained for a few years. The Grand Lodge of South Carolina sent him, under dispensation, to establish Masonic Lodges in Alabama. He was a Royal Arch Mason and a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, but it appears that his records in South Carolina may have been destroyed during the War of Northern Aggression. There are currently no known pictures of Dugald that can be located, but two separate descriptions have been found that paint a vivid picture of him. The first describes him as a: “strong-minded Scotchman with little education or information, and less energy or perseverance, and was sorely beset with the sin of intemperance...”. The next description states that he: “was about five feet ten inches in height, well proportioned and strongly built, of fair complexion, light blue eyes, light brown hair tending toward auburn; his habitual expression indicated firmness of purpose, tempered by tenderness and kindness. He was perfectly erect, had a military bearing, was dignified but genial in manner, very strict as to morals, veracity and all good conduct.”

He moved near Tuscaloosa and was a member of Rising Virtue Lodge No. 30 in Tuscaloosa, which was under charter from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. He served as a delegate from Rising Virtue Lodge No. 30 and was sent to organize the Grand Lodge of Alabama in June of 1821. At the Convention, it was Dugald McFarlane who made the following motion that was unanimously adopted which began the process of establishing a Grand Lodge for Alabama, “That it is expedient that this convention establish a Grand Lodge of Master Masons for the State of Alabama.” He was one of the three Masons (T.W. Farrar and Thomas A. Rodgers being the other two) who drafted the first Constitution for the Grand Lodge of Alabama. Once the Grand Lodge of Alabama was established, Dugald McFarlane was appointed the First Grand Lecturer and Inspector.



## DUGALD MCFARLANE : ALABAMA FOUNDING FATHER

Dugald McFarlane was a founder of Tuscaloosa Chapter No. 1 of Royal Arch Masons, which was incorporated by the Alabama Legislature on November 27, 1821, and served as the First Most Excellent High Priest. On May 18, 1823, Dugald traveled to Mobile, Alabama, where he helped to organize a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Alabama and served as the First Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Alabama.

While in Alabama he met and married Eliza Montgomery Davenport who was a printer of the American Mirror newspaper. They married in Mobile, Alabama, on March 25, 1825. In the Spring of 1827, the American Mirror and the Tuscaloosa Chronicle were merged and Dugald became the publisher. On November 6, 1827 Dugald McFarlane was elected State Printer by both Houses of the Legislature of Alabama, where he printed the Acts and Journals of the Legislature. It appears that at some point Dugald had to flee Tuscaloosa over some editorials he wrote about the people of Tuscaloosa and ended up in Mobile where he established the Mobile Commercial Chronicle.

In 1830, at the age of thirty-three, he went to Texas where he played a major role in Texas history and their revolution. According to Adele Looscan in her article entitled “Dugald McFarlane” published in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, his daughter reports that during the Texas revolution, Dugald carried the Charter issued to him by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina and twice it was captured by the Mexicans and twice it was returned to Dugald by order of Santa Anna, who was also a Freemason. Just like in Alabama, Dugald helped to establish Masonic bodies in Texas. Dugald McFarlane died on March 23, 1861 and is buried in the Columbia Cemetery in West Columbia, Texas, in the Theall family plot.

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### MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALOR

**Membership is open to all Recognized Master Masons in good standing with their Blue Lodge. Recognition is determined by membership in the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. There are two types of Memberships in the Alabama Lodge of Research:**

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP - Master Masons who are in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alabama.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - Master Masons who are outside the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alabama. Associate Members have all the rights and privileges of a Regular Member, except they may not hold office or vote.



## PURPOSE OF THE ALOR

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## OUR WEBSITE

At the ALOR website, there is something for the member and non-member. For the non-member there is the general history of Alabama Freemasonry, including a list of all the Past Grand Masters and pictures. There is also articles that the members produce that focus on Freemasonry within the State of Alabama. We are in the process of adding more information to inform the visitor about the rich history of Alabama Freemasonry.

For the Member, the website offers a compilation of information that is available no where else. It includes a detailed history of Alabama Freemasonry, including the only set of digital AlabamaGrand Lodge proceedings available! A complete set of Southeastern GM conference proceedings, digital books on Alabama history, and much more. We just started a new section for Blue Lodge histories that we are compiling.

In the video section there are informational videos that we prepared on Alabama Freemasonry which include: Founding Fathers of Alabama, The Beginning, Alabama Freemasonry and Education, Alabama Freemasonry and Religion, Freemason Presidents and Alabama, Alabama York Rite History and Alabama Scottish Rite History.

The website also offers a members a opportunity for discussion through a member forum.

More Member content being added as fast as possible!

## Contacts

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## Submissions

This newsletter is intended to keep the Brethren of Alabama informed as to all the Masonic events taking place around the State of Alabama. Whether you are a member of the ALOR or not, we would like your assistance in creating this state-wide newsletter. If your Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery, Valley or any other masonic organization within the State of Alabama holds an event of significance, we would appreciate you sending us a write-up about the event and some pictures for publication in this newsletter.

Just send your event to:

[webmaster@alabamalodgeofresearch.org](mailto:webmaster@alabamalodgeofresearch.org)

Please include your Name and your Blue Lodge in the email so we can give you the credit!

*Disclaimer: Please keep in mind that the Alabama Lodge of Research makes the final determination as to what is published and what is not published in this newsletter and just because something is submitted to us does not necessarily mean it will be published.*