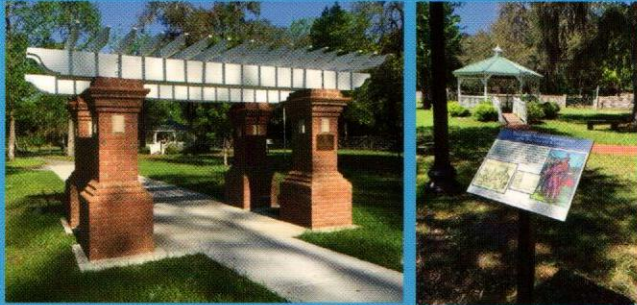


ST. MARYS HISTORY WALK

St. Marys, Georgia



Imagine meandering through the park-like setting of the St. Marys History Walk's approximately 600 foot loop. Situated between a grove of beautiful shade trees and the relaxing gazebo of the St. Marys Peace Garden, the site offers a view of the St. Marys River and golden marsh lands.

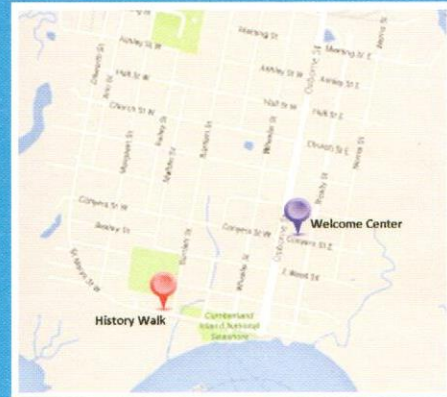
As you begin your self-guided tour you are drawn into the time of the Timucua Indian from the 1500's. While reading about our ship building industry you'll visualize hundreds of tall ships lining the port. Envision the town being looted by the British in 1815 and again during the Civil War. You'll experience the lifestyle of an authentic small town and learn the importance of our location on the Georgia Coast. Feel free to sit a spell and reflect along the path.



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ST. MARYS HISTORY WALK

The St. Marys History Walk is located at the corner of St. Marys Street and Bartlett Street. The walk is situated next to the historic Oak Grove Cemetery and is just a two minute walk from the St. Marys Waterfront Park.



THE LOST NATIVE AMERICANS of the SOUTHEAST COAST

Prior to European settlement, Southeast Georgia was populated by Timucua Indians known as Mocama. Severely diminished due to infectious diseases and conflict, the Mocama were evacuated to Cuba by the Spanish in 1726, prior to settlement. In a village of 20 houses with 200 - 300 people, they cultivated corn, beans, squash, and tobacco, hunted game with bow and arrow, and gathered shellfish from the St. Marys River. Their bodies were entombed with belemnite reflecting Aztec cosmology.

Illustration by: *Michael J. Allen & David Hoffinger*

THE BIRTH of a CITY

Plans for the town of St. Marys, originally known as Waterworks Bluff, were conceived by the British in 1782. The Articles of Agreement were signed at Cumberland Island in 1790 when the first American owner, Jacob Ward, drafted and sold land to 17 other men for \$18 each. Together these 29 founding fathers designed a progressive town with 100-foot wide streets and the famous public square. The street of the historic district are named after these men.

Map by: *John P. Bannister III, Georgia Historical Society*

INDUSTRY finds ST. MARYS RIDING the RAILS

The state of Georgia passed a charter in 1836 for the "St. Marys "Rail Road" company. Shortly after General Johnson moved to St. Marys in the early 1830s, the city of St. Marys gained land to his railroad. In 1838 the tracks connected St. Marys with the rest of the world and the St. Marys and Kingsland Railroad came into being. "A Nation's Challenge."

In the late 1830s, a rail line called the Savannah Road, was the main form of transportation between St. Marys and Kingsland. "See you in the heavy papers" originated from Way Cross in late 1838 occasionally reaching Way Station if they were ship, which furnished many local gentlemen who once took the rail car to come home from St. Marys to Kingsland.

Photographs by: *Michael J. Allen, St. Marys, Georgia*

INTERNATIONAL BORDER TOWN

Under the St. Marys River in the border between Georgia and Florida. During much of its history, St. Marys was the enforcement community to separate the nations. Georgia closely watched their neighbors to the south. The fighting nation obtained sailors to secretly raise their where they built a simple fort and men only worked across the line for all sorts of threats. In the event smugglers and pirates would use the tidal waterways to move back and forth in gangs to illegal activity including their smuggling. International tensions among the U.S., Britain and France led the U.S. Congress to pass the embargo act of 1807. The act was devastating to American shipping and agricultural markets causing an increase in illegal trade and enforcement national wars. The act was repealed in 1809.

Map by: *John P. Bannister III, Georgia Historical Society*



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