Glimpses of the Past: Madison

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Madison’s history can be traced back to 1818, when John Cartright received a land grant from the Federal Government. It really began to develop when the Memphis and Charleston Railroad reached the settlement in 1856. By 1860 the town had been laid out, fifty lots approximately 66 by 198 feet having been prepared for development. In 1869 the community was incorporated. In 1880 the population was 410; eight years later it had dipped to 350 but had risen to 426 by 1912. About 1918 it contained a sawmill, two cotton “ginneries” and two gristmills. It also maintained a volunteer fire department. Of course, Madison has had its greatest period of growth since the advent of the missile age, but let us return to the “good old days” of a time long ago. Hope you enjoy these views of long ago.
Southern R. R. Depot at Madison, Ala.