An Early Meeting

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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AN EARLY MEETING

In browsing through old newspapers, one often comes across an item that reinforces the idea that over the years, some things do not change much. Below is an item that appeared in the Huntsville Herald, January 15, 1904:

HIGHLY INSTRUCTIVE
Meeting of the Tennessee Valley Historical Society

Held at the City Hall this Morning—Valuable Papers Read, Reports Made, Resolutions Offered

The second annual session of the Tennessee Valley Historical Society was held at the city hall this morning at 10:30 o’clock. Judge R. W. Walker, the president, was present but was called away by business engagements. Mr. R. E. Pettus was called to the chair and presided.

The roll was called and the minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and ordered printed. Great interest was shown in the proceedings and it was unanimously agreed to have all reports and proceedings filed.

Hon. Thomas M. Owen of the Department of Archives and History read an interesting paper on “Notes on the Settlement and History of Lawrence County” which was given close attention. Hon. O.D. Street then followed with a splendid paper entitled “A Narrative of the Establishment by the Legislature of Georgia, in 1784 of a County in the Great Bend of the Tennessee River,” which contained much valuable information on history of the early settlement of this country.

The secretary then announced the following papers by title, the finished papers to be handed in later:

“Recollections of Roddys Command” by Col. Josiah Patterson, of Memphis.
“Talucah Cave in Morgan County” by Mrs. Roy Nelson of Decatur.
“Reminiscence of Madison County Prior to the Civil War” by Hon. Sutton S. Scott, of Auburn.
“Some Landmarks of Huntsville” by R. C. Brickell of Huntsville.

Hon. Thomas M. Owen then presented some interesting documents of Morgan county of 1818 for incorporation in the printed proceedings.

An informal discussion of general subjects of interest was entered into which proved exceedingly interesting, many facts being brought out.
Officers for the year were then elected as follows: Judge R. W. Walker, president; Hon. O.D. Street secretary and treasurer; Vice-Presidents R. E. Pettus, R. C. Brickell, Jesse E. Brown, T. R. Routhac, W. C. Rayburn, W. T. Sanders, W. E. Skeggs, J. C. Kuanne.

Resolutions upon the death of Gen. J. B. Gordon who was an honorary member of this society and a former Alabamian, and Hon. W. I. Bullock, the vice president of the society in Franklin county, who died yesterday, were ordered prepared.

Hon. Ben P. Hunt and Bruce Armstrong were elected to membership.

The meeting was most highly instructive and entertaining and it is to be regretted that more of our people did not attend.

Mr. Street made a brief talk and told of the great work Mr. Owen was doing in his department and urged citizens to assist him in every way possible.

The meeting then adjourned.