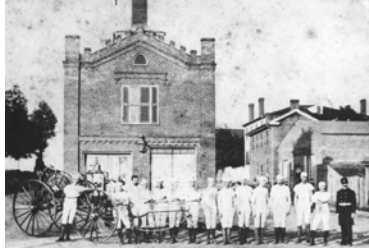


The Quarterly Newsletter of  
**The Athens Historical Society, Inc.**

Issue 2004:3

October 2004



**The Fire Companies  
in Athens of Old**  
*Sunday, October 17, 2004*  
**3:00 p.m., Athens-Clarke County  
Library Auditorium**

In the 1860s, these intrepid gentlemen (all volunteers) might have responded to a fire alarm in Athens, running through the streets to the fire, pulling their trusty steam pumper themselves! Athens' first fire department was organized in 1839, the Independent Hook and Ladder Company. The Hope Fire Company No. 1 (pictured) was chartered in 1849 under Captain Reuben Nickerson; the Relief Fire Company under Captain A.A. Franklin Hill, and the Pioneer Hook & Ladder Company under Captain Henry Beusse in 1858. The Relief Company No. 2 was organized by prominent black Athenians under Captain Madison Davis in 1866.

The Athens Fire Department was created in 1891 under Chief George McDorman, with 15 paid firemen. Chief McDorman is responsible for many improvements and expansion of services during his fifty-year career. Wendell Faulkner, our speaker, is the current chief of the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department and has collected many thrilling anecdotes about the spectacular fires of Athens and the heroes who battled the blazes. He has also contributed a more detailed article on this subject to this year's *Athens Historian*, which is due out soon.

**GOSPEL PILGRIM CEMETERY GROUP MEETING – Sunday, October 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the small conference room of the Athens-Clarke County Library – Milton Hill, AHS coordinator, would like to meet with anyone interested in collecting data, reading old newspapers, searching legal records, etc., to document burials in this historic African-American cemetery on Fourth Street. Al Hester and other organizations working on renovating this cemetery will give an update on their progress.**

*Athens Historian* - The ninth volume of papers from the Society will be mailed to AHS members soon. This year's edition contains Chief Wendell Faulkner's history of the Athens Fire Department and its volunteer predecessors, Dr. Goodloe Erwin's talk on Confederate General James Longstreet, Al Hester's documentary on the historic black Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery, a biographical sketch of UGA professor Charles Francis McCay (1810-1889) by Dr. Gayther Plummer and the late Dr. Porter Kellam, and a poignant poem by T.R.R. Cobb.

**The 2004 Nominating Committee** will be preparing the slate of officers for next year. The slate will be published in the December newsletter and voted on at the January meeting. Please say "yes" when they ask you be involved.

**The next regular AHS meeting will be January 16, 2005, will be held at Athens-Clarke County Library Auditorium, 3:00 p.m.**

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