

Albert S. Pendleton Jr., President

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VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

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Our thanks to Mrs. Paul Myddelton for large pictures of Robert Thomas Myddelton and his wife Euphemia Ann Smith Myddelton. R. T. was clerk of the Court of Lowndes County for 31 years and Mrs. Myddelton was the daughter of Duncan Smith and Margaret A. Dasher. We had a nice informative visit with Mrs. Myddelton.

Tom Crouch was our speaker at the November meeting and gave an interesting talk on Christmas lighting, particularly at the home where he resides, 710 West Hill Avenue. I wrote of this same house (the Thomas home) two letters ago. We appreciate Tom and his wife, they are good members. Jim Hall presided at the meeting for me and appointed a committee to go before the city council to ask for property. The committee was favorably received and were told that a decision would be made at the January meeting of the city government.

Due to several illnesses and an overwork load on my part, I gave up our Christmas Open House. Perhaps we could have a Spring Open House. We'll talk about it at our January meeting. We have no meeting in December. Frances Dekle, Program Chairman, is planning an interesting program for our first meeting of 1973.

Here is most of an article found in a scrapbook of Miss Annabelle Myddelton. It is probably from "The Times", and not dated. I've read many stories of how Valdosta got its name, but never one quite like this most accurate and revealing one. And, too, my sister-in-law, Catherine Redles, who has visited Val-d-Aorsta, says that it means Valley of the Aostas, meaning the Aosta family of Italy.

 "THE ONLY VALDOSTA IN THE WORLD."

An enthusiastic Valdostan once jumped up at a public meeting and declared with a good deal of pride that "There is Only One Valdosta in the World."

This statement might be true, but there were "Valdostans" in the world before Christ was born. According to Roman History, the people who lived in the Aosta (Italy) Valley were called "Valdostans", just as the people of our town refer to themselves. As is generally know, the City of Valdosta derived its name from the country home of Governor George McIntosh Troup, who resided in Laurens county, this State, and whose home bore the name of the rich valley in Northwest Italy, which extended between four of the highest peaks of the Alps, and which was chosen in the early days of the Nineteenth Century for Napoleon's army for the manoeuvres, before he entered the Battle of Waterlou.

FIFTH COUNTY SEAT OF LOWNDES COUNTY

Valdosta is the fifth county seat of Lowndes county. The first was established at the house of Sion Hall, in 1825, and there Courts and elections were held. The County seat was removed to the house of Franklin Rountree in 1826, and Franklinville was made the county site in 1828. Lowndesville was declared to be the site in 1833, and the name of Lowndesville was changed to that of Troupville a short while afterwards, the town taking its "Hercules of States Rights" and who, as Governor of Georgia, brought about an issue between the State and Federal Government over Indian titles, which came near making Georgia secede from the Union. Governor Troup declaring: "If I have not the right on my side, I will surrender; but I will not compromise with any men or set of men."

Later on, when it looked as if there would be an open clash with the Federal Government, he sent his famous message to the Georgia Legislature, in which he declared: "The Argument is exhausted, you must stand by your arms." War with the Government was averted, and the treaty with the Indians was effected, by which all of the land between Chatta-hoochee and the Flint River became part of Georgia.

GOVERNOR TROUP WAS THE ODDEST OF CHARACTERS

In this connection it might be stated that Governor Troup is said to have been one of the most spectacular citizens that Georgia ever had. Were he living today he would be regarded as a freak, or rather, as an oddity. He wore a blue coat, with large brass

buttons, a buff vest, and a fur cap, a combination which drew attention...

That a man of his odd tastes in dress should have selected such an esthetic name as "Val-d-Osta" as the name for his country home is not unusual for it frequently happens that men who appear odd themselves have a deep sense for the beautiful with their hearts.

From all accounts, the beautiful Italian Valley, from which the name "Valdosta" is derived, is one of the historic spots of the old world. Before Christ was born it was thickly populated, and back in those ancient days, its bridges, its roads and its arches were works of art. The Augustan Arch, which was built at the gateway of Aosta, the chief City of the Valley, would do credit to a triumphal arch of any modern city. It was built of huge rocks, and it still stands to bear witness to the workmanship as well as the architectural period that was displayed in its erection.

SOME OF THE FIRST OF THE VALDOSTANS

The people of the Valley of Osta were largely mountain climbers and the class of people who made their living by raising grapes and conducting small farms and also by what money they could get from tourists who they are said to have led up the different rugged mountain sides. In the Valley of Osta was the summer home of the King of Italy, while all over the valley were magnificent castles, hospices, splendid bridges, paved highways and sewerage system that would do credit to a modern community.

Thousands of years ago Val-d-Osta was in full flower, but it had been thriving then for nearly a thousand years; indeed, before history was written, it is said that it was inhabited by a rugged class of Celts, and a light complected people, who usually found themselves arrayed against their darker Italian cousins...

...He (Felice Ferrero an Italian historian) declares that in the Valley of Osta, there is more of history, more of beauty and more of evidences of civilization in years gone by than in any other part of Europe.

So, while Valdosta, Ga., is still the only Valdosta, we must admit with the historian that it was a lively race of people who called themselves "Valdostans" for so many hundreds of years and who accomplished so much in making the world comfortable, as well as beautiful, in the beautiful valley where they lived."

Also in the Valdosta Times, Dec. 14, 1878: "Eggs are going up in view of Christmas "doings", or else the hens have joined the temperance crusade and refuse to contribute to "flips" and "nogs"."

June 12, 1880: "Some of the girls are going to knock the census out of these enumerators going around asking their ages."

July 3, 1880: "The census of Lowndes County will probably be between ten and twelve thousand."

June 19, 1880: "The name of Col. P. B. Whittle has been added to the list of probable candidates for the Senate."

Oct. 16, 1880: "On Thursday last, Mr. J. C. Hunt of Valdosta, was married to Miss Florence Cashan, of Cat Creek, Lowndes County."

Nov. 16, 1897: "Mr. W. F. Monroe has moved into his handsome new home. The residence is one of the prettiest in the city."

Nov. 23, 1897: "Valdosta had three organ-grinders with their monkeys one day last week."

Dec. 20, 1879: "When Force gets his end filled up with new residences we will call it North End."

Dec. 20, 1879: "Mr. Force has named one of his new streets after Hill and one after Gordon. The old man is getting loyal in his old age."

(We assume Hill is Benjamin H. Hill, Senator from LaGrange and Gordon is John B. Gordon, Senator, Fulton County. During heated political times Mr. Force had changed sides and become a member of the Republican party."

Dec. 21, 1878: "We have heard some people say that they just get "tight" once a year on Christmas. This time postpone it until next Christmas - you will feel better for it."