

# A TIMELINE OF ACADEMY HISTORY

## 1912 - 1940

1912

Correspondence and organizational meetings in Nashville during March and April led to the formation of the Tennessee Academy of Science.

The Academy held its first meeting under the constitution adopted in April at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. TAS membership at this point was 74 and 16 papers were presented at the Knoxville meeting.

1913

Three issues of *The Science Record* were published during this year, after which the arrangement between the Academy and this publication was ended. This periodical was a private venture with a somewhat ambiguous relationship with TAS.

1914

The April meeting (one of several spring meetings during the early years of the Academy) convened at Hume-Fogg High School in Nashville and included a joint session with the Middle Tennessee Educational Association.

The first volume of the TAS *Transactions* was published this year and included information and publications from meetings and other activities during 1912-1913.

1917

Another spring meeting (the Academy's third) was held at the University of the South in May. In addition to seven papers, the program included a tour of Wonder Cave near Monteagle. The second (and last) volume of *Transactions* appeared. There were no further Academy publications until 1926, when the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* began publishing.

1920

The Academy authorized geographic sections for Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Memphis, but little activity by these sectional meetings was evident.

1923

At the spring meeting in Nashville, the Academy began its campaign for a park and biological station at Reelfoot Lake. A committee was formed to work with the legislature toward this end, resulting in legislation two years later that established the park. Progress was very slow after this, however.

The November meeting at Vanderbilt University was largely given over to a symposium on "The Resources of Tennessee." All papers presented at this meeting focused on this theme.

1924

The annual fall meeting (again at Vanderbilt) focused on discussions concerning state and national parks in Tennessee. These discussions were at least in part a result of the ongoing campaign to establish a park in the Great Smoky Mountain region.

1925

At the fall meeting at Vanderbilt, the presidential address by Scott Lyon discussed the possibilities for the establishment of a biological station at Reelfoot Lake. This address and continued interest in such a facility led to resolutions urging the state to proceed along appropriate lines to establish a park and station at the lake.

The Academy business meeting unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the Butler Act (the antievolution law passed earlier in the year that had already resulted in the infamous Scopes Trial) and encouraging the legislature to repeal the statute.

1926

Publication of the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* begins, with a publication date for the first number of January 1926.

In March, the Academy held a joint meeting with the Tennessee Archaeological Society at George Peabody College and the War Memorial Building in Nashville. This meeting led to a special issue of the *Journal* in July, which focused on the work of the society and the office of State Archaeologist.

At its March meeting, the Academy's Executive Committee authorized the president to arrange for an attorney to represent the organization in the appeal of the conviction of John Scopes. Nashville attorney and Academy member Henry Colton donated his services and presented the Academy's *amicus curiae* brief before the Tennessee Supreme Court in late May/early June of this year.

Although not published until the end of the year, the second number of the *Journal* was a special issue devoted to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which had been authorized but was still under development.

The Academy was elected by the American Association for the Advancement of Science Council as an "affiliated academy," one of twenty such organizations at the time.

The July issue of the *Journal* included a detailed discussion of the 1927 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in Nashville during the week after Christmas.

At its November meeting, the Academy adopted a resolution calling for the state to move quickly to purchase the necessary land to create a Reelfoot Lake wildlife preserve and biological station.

1927

At its March meeting, the Executive Committee endorsed Henry Colton's proposal that a test case involving University of Tennessee faculty be pursued to challenge the Butler Act. Knoxville faculty were not interested in participating in this activity, however.

The October issue of the *Journal* focused primarily on the upcoming Nashville AAAS meeting, to begin the day after Christmas. The Academy's extensive involvement with the planning and operation of this meeting led to a dramatic (although temporary) increase in membership, with more than 400 on the rolls by late 1928.

The Academy jointly sponsored a post-meeting excursion to the Great Smoky Mountains with the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce and other groups involved in the campaign for the establishment of the national park in the area.

1928

The first issue of volume 3 of the *Journal* was a special number devoted to the life and career of Nashville native and famous astronomer Edward Emerson Barnard. Two special sessions had been devoted to Barnard at the December AAAS meeting in Nashville.

The April spring meeting of the Academy was held at the University of Tennessee and was followed by an overnight trip to Mt. LeConte.

At the annual meeting in November, the membership adopted a revision to the constitution that removed the requirement that members of the Academy had to be "white."

1929

The spring meeting was held at the Hotel Peabody in Memphis in April and included a Saturday afternoon session at Reelfoot Lake.

Academy member and University of Chattanooga biologist Wyman E. Green gave a successful series of public lectures on the topic of evolution during March and April. Details of this program were published in the October issue of the *Journal*.

1930

The April meeting in Chattanooga included a Saturday afternoon field trip to the newly-opened Lookout Mountain Caverns at the special price of \$1.50 per person.

The July issue of the *Journal* was a special number on the caves of Tennessee and Kentucky.

1931

The Tennessee General Assembly established a biological station at Reelfoot Lake under the supervision of a Tennessee Academy of Science board of trustees.

1932

The spring meeting in Memphis (again at the Peabody Hotel) included a Saturday evening session at Reelfoot Lake, chiefly focused on the recent establishment of the biological station. The Reelfoot Lake Laboratory opened during the summer. Academy members toured the facility during a special meeting at the site in mid-August.

1933

Nearly all the January issue of the *Journal* was devoted to studies of Reelfoot Lake.

The April meeting of the Academy was held at Walnut Log Lodge at Reelfoot Lake and attracted more than 30 members.

The October issue of the *Journal* included an article entitled, "The Tennessee Valley Project – Facts and Fancies." Written by Peabody College professor of economic geography A. E. Parkins, this essay was harshly critical of the recently approved Tennessee Valley Authority. Among other objections to the project, Parkins warned that it would be expensive and lead to increased government debt. He further argued that government subsidized power and fertilizer production would be a threat to private enterprise.

The Academy's annual meeting was held in early December at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis and included a Friday afternoon symposium on the "Tennessee Valley Development Project." The symposium attracted an audience of more than 100.

1934

The botany section was established.

At the annual meeting at Vanderbilt (30 November – 1 December), the Academy dinner featured an address by Otto Struve, famous astronomer and director of the Yerkes Observatory. Struve discussed "Modern Conceptions of the Universe."

1937

The January issue of the *Journal* was published in two parts with 162 total pages and was completely devoted to the annual report of the Reelfoot Lake Biological Station. The practice of publishing the report in the *Journal* continued for many years.

The Geology and Geography section was established.

The Physics section was established.

1940

The Chemistry section was established.

The Mathematics section was established.