Of our more mature members and of those who have taken occasion to search the archives, I beg forbearance. But I am sure many of you have not recently examined our professional genealogy—and it is well to pause occasionally and recall how we achieved our present stature.

As you all know, our Society dates from December 31, 1907, when a small group met in the Department of Botany at the University of Chicago. This first meeting was the result of a call signed by 43 men. That list is of special interest. In it one finds some real pioneers—for example, M. A. Carleton, Wm. P. Brooks, J. F. Duggar, F. D. Gardner, T. L. Lyon, M. F. Miller, C. V. Piper, A. D. Shamel, L. H. Smith, C. G. Hopkins, W. J. Spillman, E. B. Voorhees, H. J. Wheeler, and C. G. Williams. To the best of my knowledge, some half dozen of the 43 are still living, and of those, not one is here today.

There is no published list of those who attended that first meeting. Ten papers were presented, including one each by Hopkins, C. R. Ball, Lyon, E. G. Montgomery, and Carleton. Mark Carleton was chosen President and T. L. Lyon, Secretary.

The next meeting was held at Ithaca in July 1908. Here appear such names as A. R. Whitson, G. N. Coffey, E. O. Fippin, J. M. Westgate, and Lyman Briggs. By the way, Briggs read a paper entitled, "Ecological Principles of Soil Classification." I cannot resist mentioning that title, for the work of Briggs and Shantz had a profound influence on our thinking concerning land classification.

At a third meeting, November 1908, in Washington, more new faces appeared—among them, J. G. Lipman, W. M. Hays, G. S. Fraps, C. A. Mooers, and C. F. Marbut. (Marbut was then Geologist at the University of Missouri.)

One of the most interesting items in these early Proceedings is Carleton's presidential address, delivered at the third, or Washington Meeting, November 1908. The title was, "Development and Proper Status of Agronomy." His first paragraph is of particular interest:

"Today we are assembled in the first annual meeting since the organization of the American Society of Agronomy—the first association of the kind in America, and one various and probably conflicting answers. The two reasons for this condition, chief of which growth of the subject has been so rapid that far outrun definition and classification. Agricultural exceptions of the term are colored by close relation to certain other subjects, which are not in every locality. In Illinois agronomy is associated closely with chemistry, in Iowa with physics, and in Minnesota with animal husbandry.

Then Carleton proceeded to explain the word "agronomy," its derivation from the Greek, its use in Europe and in this country. To date, I have not first suggested its selection—perhaps Carleton's address, by the way, is worth reading today in Vol. 1 of the Society's Proceedings.

But our use of the term "agronomy" predates several years. Of course, it had been used regularly in France, where it has another meaning, but it had a peculiar origin and application.

If one scans the agricultural station staff lists of the 1890's, the title "Agronomist" will not be so sure of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. If lists were available to me. A partial search of College staff lists for the early years of the introduction the following firsts:

Ohio—1900
W. D. Gibbs—Professor of Agronomy

Iowa—1902
Alfred Atkinson, P. G. Holden—Assistant Agronomists

Illinois—1902
C. G. Hopkins—Agronomist
(Prior to 1902 he was Chemist)

Connecticut (State) Station, New Haven—1905
E. M. East—Agronomist

Missouri—1906
M. F. Miller—Agronomist
(Prior to 1906, he was Professor of Soils)

California did not use the title until 1911 (always Chemist), and Indiana not until 1913 where one finds the word in use as early as 1900. Committee of the Association of Agricultural Commissions made a report on "Instruction in Agriculture—D.A. O.E.S. Bul. No. 99"