



John E. Talmadge House, 1253 Prince Avenue.

Most of the decorative features of this large Queen Anne styled dwelling were concentrated on the porch. It was also distinguished by full-height triple-hung windows on the first level and tall brick chimneys. ~ J. Kissane.

Photograph by Albin Hajos.
Courtesy of Ron Evans and Dan Roth.

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John Emmeus Talmadge was one of Athens' early entrepreneurs who had the energy and acumen to capitalize on the opportunities in the post-Civil war economy. He and his family established what became one of the largest wholesale grocery businesses in the state for many years. Talmadge was born in 1848, one of four children of Sarah and William A. Talmadge, a son of John Talmadge, an early settler. William A. Talmadge, a merchant whose inventory grew from confections to include silverware, jewelry, and guns, joined Athens' Enfield Rifle Battalion, formed to defend the city in case of attack. John, young and eager to serve, left home at age 16 and joined Wheeler's Cavalry. Talmadge remained proud of his service in the Confederate Army, and was a staunch supporter of the Cobb-DeLoney Camp Confederate Veterans, serving as commander of the organization for many years.

John E. Talmadge and his brother Clovis established the wholesale grocery business that bore their name - Talmadge Bros. - in 1869, when they were very young and totally lacking in capital but well equipped with industry and ability. They later merged with another set of entrepreneurial brothers - the Hodgsons - to form Talmadge, Hodgson & Co. A feature article about the business in the January 24, 1873, *North-East Georgian* asserted "There is not a finer-looking set of men in Georgia than are the Talmadges and the Hodgsons. They are of that