

Mobile's New Year's Eve, 1849

1849

First Appearance of the "Rising Generation," which later became the "TDS"

New Year's Eve was greeted by the gallants of this city on Monday, with as much rejoicing as the New World's Eve was saluted in Paradis by dear old father Adam, the great ancestor of all the "Cowbellions," "Strikers," "Indescribables," and "Rising Generations," who made Mobile, on that occasion, the pleasant place of all festivity, the revel of the earth and mask of chivalry. At ten o'clock the Cowbellions took up the time of march on Dauphin Street, turned into Royal, and after saluting old Thespis, the counter marched, and exhibited their oriental array at the Mansion House and the Waverly Fair. The costume of this band was so completely Chinese, that it appeared as if the contemplated annexation of Asia had been consummated...

"New Year's Eve in Mobile," *Daily Crescent*, January 5, 1850, 1.

1849

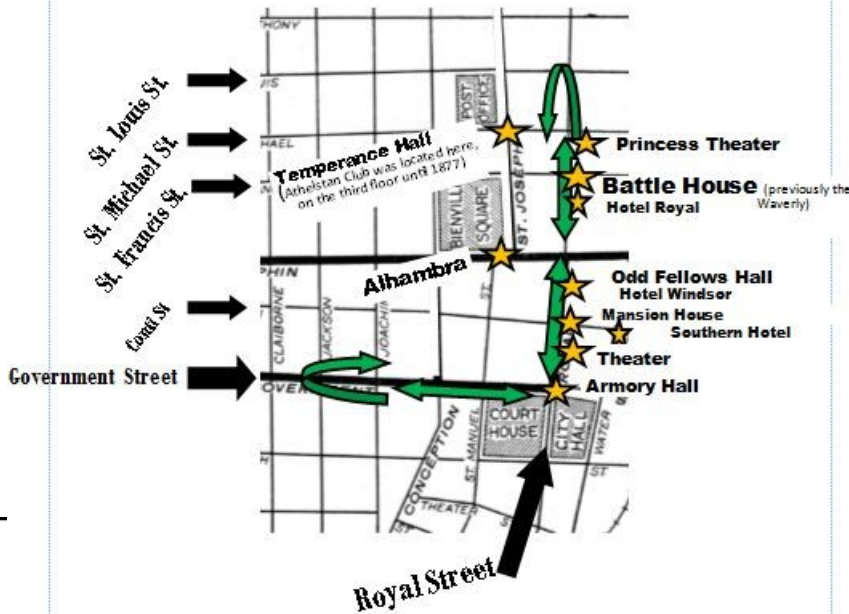
The Strikers march up and down Royal Street and end with a ball at the Mansion House

...as the Cowbellions disappeared under the inspiration of Susannah, the "Strikers" struck up Miss Lucy Neal, and came down upon the town. They could be seen far away, in the distance, moving forward by the light of torches. On they came, like a triumphal procession of old Rome. This band represented the Elements in accordance with the opinion of the ancient philosophers, who resolved all things into Air, Earth, Fire, and Water.

"Air" was represented by Overton and his progeny in cars drawn by birds and butterflies. "Earth" was represented by Pan, and attendant Favns and Satyrs, in chariots drawn by animals. "Water" was represented by fishes, "Fire" was represented by Vulcan and his attendant Cyclops, in chariots and drawn by griffins. They suffered a little from the occasional extinction of their flambeaux and the accidental stumbling of the "darkies" who represented the birds and beasts like "Drawn in the pasteboard elephants" and after marching and countermarching up and down Royal Street they firstly retired to the Mansion House to roll the banquet ball and greet the rising sun of 1850.

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The Basic Parade Route



The most popular venues for balls and tableau centered around Royal Street.

At Pine's Alhambra, the Strikers, the next oldest club, held There were thirty-five of them in costume representing, we suppose something like the varied scene of a coronation in the middle and his court lead the pageant, followed by gentlemen ushers, huntsmen, equerries, lords of the household, jesters, harlequin members of the privy council, armor bearers, treasurer, keeper of the great seal, orders of knighthood, &c. &c. The dresses were rich and historical, and, what with banners, and jest and antics, the scene

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New Year's night was celebrated with all the usual quaint and disposition of our citizens. The "Cowbellions de Rakians," the queer clubs which have made Mobile somewhat famous in had the theatre this year for their pageant. The pit was covered and whole stage was thrown open clear to the rear of the building forming a spacious arena for dancing. The house was filled, and bright lights, gay and elegant women, fine music and the various groups of the mummers scattered through the brilliant throng, we imagine, a scene every way as various and striking as a Venetian