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Back Matter

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

By ELBERT L. WATSON

We commend the accomplishments of the Huntsville Historical Society which is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this month. In this short span of time the Society has actively promoted the preservation of local history through collecting documents, erecting markers, participating in programs, and promoting historic preservation. From its embryonic membership of forty-three, the Society today numbers over 250 members of representative citizens of Huntsville, Madison County, and other places in North Alabama.

The importance of a local historical society to a community should not be underestimated. Though we do not live in the past, the record of yesterday has a great bearing on the kind of mark we will set for ourselves in the future. The ancient prophet Isaiah recognized this fact when he admonished his countrymen: "Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn." He was simply saying that the quality of a people may often be evaluated by their attitude toward their heritage.

Another sage once said that a man who knows nothing of the past is still a child. In the history of all nations that have accomplished anything there are leaders, events, principles, and traditions worthy of remembrance. To become acquainted with them should be a source of pride, inspiration, and guidance to the people concerned. Citizens who maintain an inventory of the past may profit from its lessons and the achievements of great leaders.

The Huntsville Historical Society during the past twenty years has done a monumental job of preserving the goodly heritage of our community. But the past is only prologue to greater accomplishments in the future for the Society.

Good luck and thanks for a job well done.