

# Huntsville Historical Review

---

Volume 24 | Number 1

Article 1

---

1-1-1997

## The Huntsville Historical Review, Vol 24, No 1, Winter 1997-Spring 1997

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

Follow this and additional works at: <https://louis.uah.edu/huntsville-historical-review>



Part of the [History of Art, Architecture, and Archaeology Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society (1997) "The Huntsville Historical Review, Vol 24, No 1, Winter 1997-Spring 1997," *Huntsville Historical Review*. Vol. 24: No. 1, Article 1.  
Available at: <https://louis.uah.edu/huntsville-historical-review/vol24/iss1/1>

This Full Issue is brought to you for free and open access by LOUIS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Huntsville Historical Review by an authorized editor of LOUIS.

: The Huntsville Historical Review, Vol 24, No 1, Winter 1997-Sprin

# **THE HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL REVIEW**

**Winter-Spring 1997**

Volume 24

No. 1

**PUBLISHED BY**

**The Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society**

OFFICERS  
of the  
HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1996-97

PRESIDENT  
James W. Lee

Vice President-Programs.....Johanna N. Shields  
Vice President-Membership.....Leatrice Cole  
Recording Secretary.....Lois Robertson  
Corresponding Secretary.....Nan Hall  
Treasurer.....John Shaver

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Helen Caudle  
Ira Jones

F. Alex Luttrell  
Norman Shapiro

Ex-Officio Directors  
(past presidents who are still active)

Sarah Fiske  
Brandon Jones  
John Rison Jones, Jr.  
Dorothy Prince Luke

Frances Roberts  
Joyce Smith  
Alice Thomas

*The Huntsville Historical Review*  
Frances C. Roberts, Editor

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

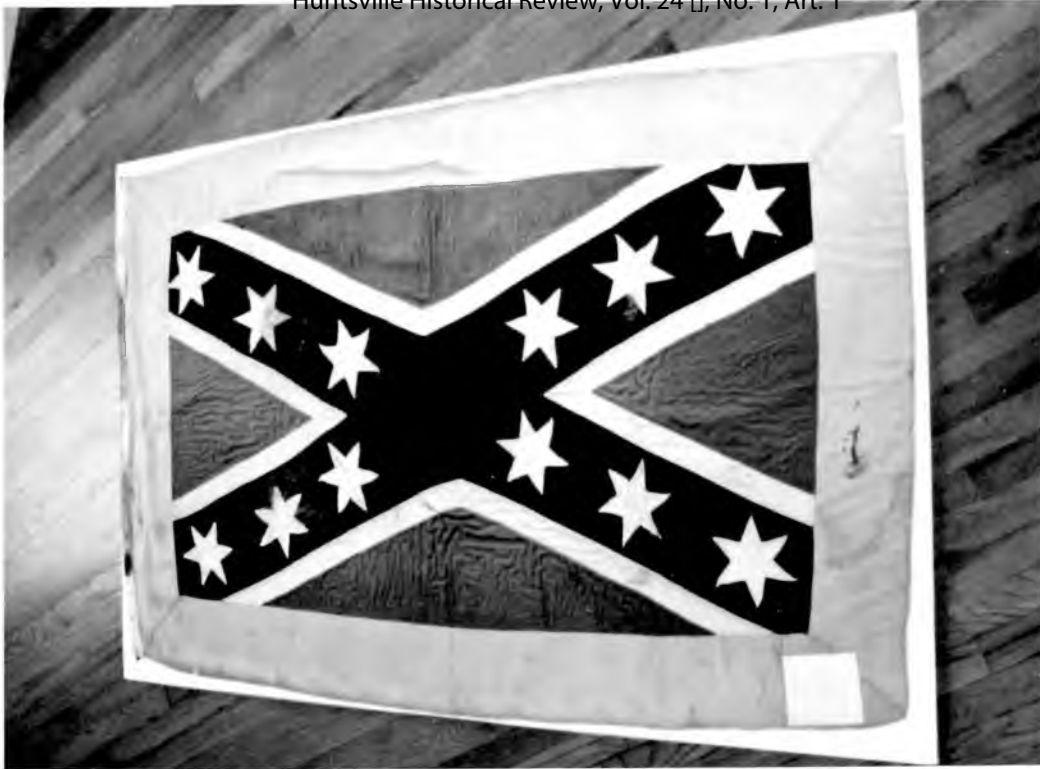
Nan G. Hall  
Dorothy Scott Johnson

John Rison Jones, Jr.  
Alice Thomas

*Winter-Spring 1997*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
THE STAR OF THE COLLECTION by Norman M. Shapiro	1
THE BIRTHPLACE OF ALABAMA FREEMASONRY HELION LODGE #1 HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA Compiled by David Milam	19



BEAUREGARD PATTERN BATTLE FLAG  
THIS TYPE WAS CARRIED BY THE ARMY OF TENNESSEE  
(Courtesy of the Burritt Museum)

Norman M. Shapiro

Thirty-six years ago, early in the Civil War Centennial Year 1961, Huntsville's Mayor R. B. Searcy received a letter from Miss Susie Aubrey Smith of Portland, Oregon, which is transcribed below from the hand-written original.

"Portland, Ore.  
April 29, 1961

Mr. R. V. [sic] Searcy  
Mayor, Huntsville, Ala.

Dear Mr. Searcy,

In going over some boxes of family belongings that had been stored for some years I came across a number of things which the Huntsville Historical Society may like to have.

I am writing to you about this as you and I are cousins - how near or how distant I do not know - and I thought you might inquire and let me know which of the things might be acceptable. The Oregon Historical Society would be charmed to add them to its collection in the Centennial year of the War between the States, but I think they really belong in Huntsville.

I am a granddaughter of Mrs. David Todd, who was Susan Searcy Turner before her first marriage to Henry Williamson. The house of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Turner stood at Franklin and Gates Streets. When I was a very small child I lived there with my mother, Mrs. Preston Carter Smith (Susan Williamson).

However, in your impressive booklet on Huntsville (sent us by Mrs. Robert Latta, a former Portland girl who now lives in Huntsville) I do not find the house, so it must have been torn down. (I do see "Cousin" Sally Pynchon's house.)

While in Huntsville I attended Sunday School at the Episcopal church - could you find out if the church would like to have a photograph of Dr. Bannister, one of its distinguished ministers? I unearthed one in a box - a good one.

I visited Huntsville in 1918 enroute home from Europe. As I remember, I stayed with Miss Kate McCalley and she gave a large reception for me.

Among family relics which I am not offering you is my grandmother's seal ring, a Carnelian marked SST; a miniature of Colonel Robert Searcy & Col. Searcy's certificate as Grand Master of the Masons in Tennessee dated 1800. I have also a portrait in oil of my grandmother when she was 15 & my niece has one of her brother James Camp Turner, a Lt. in an Alabama regiment who was killed in the first battle of the war - Manassas. My portrait has a bayonet wound - a Yankee straggler did it as the Yankees moved out of Huntsville. They also

poured buttermilk into the grand piano.

I hope to hear about the relics at your convenience and thank you in advance for your time and trouble. A list on another sheet of people.

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ Susie Aubrey Smith

The items listed were:

- Confederate Flag
- General Hardee's Sash
- Pen Nib and Ink Well
- Autographs of Confederate Generals
- Concert Program
- Confederate Ribbon Badge"

Mayor Searcy forwarded the letter to Dr. Frances C. Roberts who replied for the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society and accepted Miss Smith's gracious offer. When the collection arrived, it was placed in the holdings of Huntsville's Burritt Museum. Also included were four personal letters to Mrs. Todd which appear in an appendix to this article. The copies of the portraits of Mrs. David Todd (Susan Searcy Turner) and young James Camp Turner (shown below) were obtained only recently from a great, great grandson of Mrs. Todd. The portraits were painted about 1850 when Susan was 15 and James Camp was 11.



Mrs. David Todd (Courtesy of  
Mr. & Mrs. Preston Frazier)



James Camp Turner (Courtesy of  
Mr. & Mrs. Preston Frazier)

Several of the items have been on display at the Burritt Museum since they arrived. The Concert Program is a printed program of a benefit concert in which Mrs. Todd, who was an accomplished singer, participated in 1880, and the Confederate Ribbon Badge is a Confederate veteran's memento. The "star" of the collection (and it displayed twelve of them) was, of course, the Confederate flag, for fastened to the flag was a note: "General Beauregard's Field Flag at the Battle of Shiloh." The flag design is representative of the second set of flags ordered by General Beauregard for the Western Army in 1862<sup>1</sup> but whether it was actually Beauregard's personal battle flag cannot be verified from the documents accompanying the collection. We will see later, however, that it is certainly possible. The flag was carefully delivered to the Textile Preservation Co. in Sharpsburg, Maryland, in September, 1996, for conservation and minor cleaning.

The circumstances surrounding Mrs. Todd's acquisition of the flag and other relics are unknown and their investigation has involved a most interesting connection of Civil War and family history. Mrs. Todd (Susan Searcy Turner) was born in Huntsville, Alabama, 20 May 1835 to Daniel B. and Susan D. Searcy Turner. Daniel B. Turner was born about 1800 in Caroline County, Virginia, to John and Elizabeth Burrus Turner. John Turner's antecedents are unknown; Caroline County was one of the "burned" Virginia counties and only a few records survived. When a young man, Daniel Turner moved to Madison County, Alabama, where his maternal grandparents, Charles and Elizabeth Coleman Burrus, had earlier emigrated. (His sister Elizabeth also came to Madison County and married John J. Fackler, and "Cousin" Sally Pynchon was their daughter. The Facklers enlarged the elegant home at 518 Adams Avenue this is now known as the "Clarke-Powell Home." Charles Burrus was appointed Lt. Col. and Commandant of Madison County, Mississippi Territory's 16th Regiment on 23 December 1812.<sup>2</sup> The regiment was activated from 8 to 27 October 1813, "to guard the frontiers of Madison County against hostile Creek Indians."<sup>3</sup> Susan D. Searcy's father, Major Robert Searcy, was a prominent attorney in Nashville, Tennessee, and one of Andrew Jackson's aides during the Creek War.<sup>4</sup>

Daniel B. Turner became a wealthy merchant and leading citizen of early Huntsville. He was Huntsville Postmaster from 1836-1841 and 1845-1847, Madison County Sheriff from 1834-1837, and Alabama State Senator 1838-1840. His two children, Susan and James Camp, enjoyed the advantages of his success, but not without tragedy. James Camp, reported to be a most intelligent and promising young man, returned from travel and study in Europe to join the 4th Alabama Regiment and died at Manassas 21 July 1861. Susan married W. H. Williamson of Savannah, Georgia, in Huntsville on 10 May 1854 and was a widow with two young daughters, Susan and Jennie, before 1860.

Nothing is known of Susan and Henry Williamson's courtship or short married life. He is evidently the Henry Williamson, 24 years old and a merchant, shown



in the 1850 Census of Chatham County (Savannah), Georgia, in the household of Madaline Williamson, 44. A John P. Williamson married Madaline J. Dennis in Chatham County on 12 March 1821. He was a wealthy factor and died around the first of January, 1843. Henry Williamson's will (obtained from the Georgia Department of Archives and History) which was probated in Chatham County in 1858 leaves his entire estate to his daughters Sussey and Jenny Williamson and doesn't mention his wife. In 1860, Susan Williams and daughters Susan, 5, and Jennie, 3, were living with her father in the house at Franklin and Gates which became her primary residence for the rest of her life.

One can assume that the young widow, Susan, was interested in finding a husband and a father for her young children and indeed she did marry David Humphreys Todd (of whom more later) on 4 April 1865, when the war was essentially over. During the war, however, the letters of the Appendix indicate she may have had other relationships. Two of the letters were from her second cousins, David Wendel Yandell and Lunsford Pitt Yandell Jr., who were both eminent physicians of their day and sons and grandsons of distinguished physicians. Their father, Dr. Lunsford Pitt Yandell Sr. married Susan Juliet Wendel, daughter of David Wendel of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Susan's grandfather, Maj. Robert Searcy, married Elizabeth Wendel, a sister of David Wendel. Their common great grandparents were Christopher and Susannah Deadrick Wendel.

Dr. David W. Yandell enlisted at Bowling Green under General Buckner, but was soon transferred to General Hardee's command from which he was taken by Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston who made him Medical Director of the Department of the West. Dr. Yandell continued to fill the high office of Medical Director until the end of the war, serving successively on the staffs of General Beauregard, Hardee, Joseph E. Johnston, and Kirby Smith. He was in the battles of Shiloh, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga. The unfortunate circumstances of Albert Sidney Johnston's death at Shiloh after being wounded by a minie ball which tore the popliteal artery of his right leg were told by his son in his biography of his father,<sup>5</sup> "Dr. D. W. Yandell, his surgeon, had attended his person during most of the morning; but, finding a large number of wounded men, including many Federals, at one point, General Johnston ordered Yandell to stop there, establish a hospital, and give them his services. He said to Yandell: 'These men were our enemies a moment ago, they are prisoners now; take care of them.' Yandell remonstrated against leaving him, but he was peremptory, and the doctor began his work. He saw General Johnston no more. Had Yandell remained with him, he would have had little difficulty with the wound. It was this act of unselfish charity which cost him his life." Dr. Yandell's life and distinguished medical career before and after the war were described by his daughter in a tribute published in the *Kentucky Medical Journal*,<sup>6</sup> and in a 1978 biography.<sup>7</sup> He was elected president of the American Medical Association in 1871.

Dr. Lunsford Pitt Yandell Jr., "Lunny,"<sup>8, 9</sup> eleven years younger than his brother David, enlisted 4 May 1861 as a private in the Fourth Tennessee Regiment, but was soon appointed assistant surgeon, and subsequently surgeon, of his regiment. He afterwards served as brigade surgeon, medical inspector, and medical director. He was paroled 15 April 1865 in North Carolina, serving at that time on the staff of General Hardee. After the war, he too had an eminent career as a physician and professor at the University of Louisville. Another brother, William Yandell, who served only briefly during the war because of bad health, completed his medical studies at the University of Louisville in 1867 and moved to Texas.

The letters from the two brothers read somewhat like love letters, and perhaps they are, but they are, more likely, examples of Victorian coquetry between well educated cousins of that day. David's letter, written just two weeks after Shiloh, the first great bloody battle of the war, seems remarkably dispassionate about his experiences, except for his distaste for the environment at Corinth. His concern about "revealing affairs of the army" is well taken, but the absence of some description of the horror he had witnessed is perhaps unusual.

The other two letters were one from General Hardee and one comprising a poetry contribution from General Hardee's "Staff." Susan's acquaintanceship with General Hardee was probably effected through her cousins and probably at "Beechwood," the home of Col. Andrew Erwin, near Wartrace in Bedford County, Tennessee. Susan had family connections with Col. Erwin (see below). There is no evidence that General Hardee or his staff spent any substantial time in or around Huntsville but their encampment for several weeks at "Beechwood" is well documented.<sup>10, 11, 12</sup> Rowena Webster, Mrs. Erwin's sister, tells of her hostile encounter with Union General Ormsby Mitchel while she and her niece Rosa Turner were staying with friends in Huntsville in 1863 and how they subsequently returned to "Beechwood" and of the activities there while Federal and Confederate troops were stationed at various times in the vicinity.

For six weeks prior to the battle of Murfreesboro (31 December 1821 - 2 January 1863), Generals Hardee, Breckenridge, Cleburne, Bragg, Leonidas Polk, Joseph E. Johnston and many others were encamped within Col. Erwin's spacious grounds. Hardee also resided at "Beechwood" for periods before the Tullahoma Campaign (23 June - 3 July 1863), and sometimes staying with him were his two older daughters, Anna and Sarah. Elizabeth Dummett Hardee, his first wife and the mother of his four children died in 1853, and since then he had been known as something of a lady's man. This is noted in Hughes biography<sup>11</sup> and even in *The Freemantle Diary*.<sup>12</sup> British Lt. Col. Arthur James Lyon Fremantle of the Coldstream Guards documented his three months in the Southern States in 1863 in a most interesting diary. Of Hardee he wrote, "He is a widower and has the character of being a great admirer of the fair sex. During

the Kentucky campaign last year, he was in the habit of availing himself of the privilege of his rank and years and insisted upon kissing the wives and daughters of all the Kentuckian farmers. And although he is supposed to have converted many of the ladies to the Southern cause, yet in many instances their male relatives remained either neutral or undecided.”<sup>13</sup>

Rowena Webster notes in her memoirs that, “Every evening, after tea, the officers of all ranks would call on the ladies of the household, which consisted of Mrs. Andrew Erwin, Mrs. John G., the Misses Hardee (daughters of Genl Hardee) and various other ladies visiting from various parts of the country.”<sup>14</sup> Also, in discussing Hardee’s penchant for drills and reviews, Hughes writes, “For Hardee, a review was not a review without a gallery, and he always went to great lengths to provide one. His reviews became an institution, and delighted Southern ladies came frequently from as far as Northern Alabama to attend them.”<sup>15</sup> Thus, it is not unreasonable to assume that Susan Williamson was one of these ladies as she also had close ties to the Erwin family: Andrew Erwin’s first wife, and the mother of his children, was Susan’s aunt, Elvira Julia Searcy. Mary J. Webster Erwin had previously married John Tate and then Col. James W. Camp, a wealth planter of Madison County. Susan’s brother, James Camp Turner, was named for Col. Camp whose first wife was Mary Ann Turner, one of the many descendants of a Southside Virginia family who were early residents of Madison County. (Rosa Turner, Rowena and Mary Erwin’s niece, was also of this family.) It is also interesting to note that Elvira and Andrew Erwin’s daughter, Frances Anne, married William H. Pope of Huntsville, at Daniel Turner’s home, 2 September 1841 and she later married Lucius J. Polk of Maury county, Tennessee, who was Bishop/General Leonidas Polk’s brother.

If Susan Williamson and General Hardee indeed had a romantic relationship, it did not develop into a permanent alliance, as Hardee married Mary Forman Lewis on 13 January 1864 and, as previously noted, Susan married David Humphreys Todd on 4 April 1865. David H. Todd, a half-brother of Mary Todd Lincoln was an enigma. On 28 September 1847 at the age of 15 he enlisted in the Third Regiment of Kentucky Infantry and served for nine months during the Mexican War. After the war he participated in an attempted revolution in Chile and traveled to China and Japan. He was notorious in the Todd family for having a tattoo of the Chilean flag on his arm.<sup>16</sup>

At the beginning of the Civil War, Mary Todd Lincoln’s father, Robert Smith Todd, had fourteen living children. Six of the children supported the Union, and eight, including David Todd, supported the Confederacy. His record of service here is somewhat obscure. The place and date of his enlistment do not appear in his Civil War military files which were obtained from the National Archives. The O.R.’s<sup>17</sup> however reveal that First Lieutenant David H. Todd and two other

officers were ordered to report for duty to General John H. Winder in Richmond, Virginia on 1 July 1861. Brigadier General Winder was commandant of the Richmond prisons and wisely envisioned Richmond as only a receiving station from which the government would dispatch the captives to locations farther from the war zone. Accordingly, the O.R.'s also reveal that in late July, 1861, First Lieutenant David H. Todd was in charge of transporting prisoners to Raleigh, North Carolina, which city, like Richmond, was not adequately prepared to receive them. During the three months following Manassas on 21 July 1861, the Confederates brought 2,685 prisoners to Richmond and they were confined in converted warehouses or factories near the James River and in tents on Bell Isle in the river.<sup>18</sup> Most of the biographies of Mary Todd Lincoln including Baker's *Mary Todd Lincoln, A Biography*<sup>19</sup> charge without documentation that David Todd tortured or was cruel to Yankee prisoners. His service record and the O.R.'s reveal no such charges or activities. A recently published book<sup>20</sup> by Ernest B. Furguson on wartime Richmond does indicate, however, that "At first, prisoners who had greenbacks were allowed to send out to buy food in the Richmond markets, but Lieutenant Todd halted his practice because they had been sneaking spirits into the prison. A Union surgeon, Dr. Lyman Stone, got rowdy and caused a ruckus that brought Todd rushing in with drawn pistol to order Stone locked in irons. While this enforcement may have been necessary, one Union soldier asserted later that Todd was 'singularly vicious and brutal,' that he always entered the prison with drawn sword and at least once had struck a captive with the flat of his blade for not falling in fast enough. Some insisted that Todd encouraged guards to shoot at prisoners who leaned innocently out of windows." Furguson also suggests that "Todd may have drawn special criticism because of who he was, but in the long run his name barely made the list of Civil War villains, far below that of his orderly sergeant that summer, a Swiss-born Louisiana physician named Henry Wirz." Wirz, of course, was later the notorious commandant of Andersonville prison.

David Todd's service records indicate that he was assigned to the Field and Staff of the First Regiment of Kentucky Infantry on 19 September 1861. By letter dated 3 February 1862, he wrote to Major Crossland, Commanding First Kentucky Regiment: "Having no duty to perform in this Regt and nothing to which I can be assigned and having an opportunity of obtaining a position in our Army at New Orleans where I can render needed service I request a transfer from his Regiment to Maj General Lovell's Command at New Orleans." He then appears on Muster Roles of the 21st Louisiana Infantry as a First Lieutenant on 9 May 1862 and as Captain, Company A, a few months later. The Regiment was engaged in the siege of Vicksburg where some of the aforementioned biographies state, obviously incorrectly, that he was mortally wounded. He was paroled on 8 July 1863 after the capitulation of the city and its garrison on 4 July 1863, and exchanged 20 December 1863.

Where and how Susan Williamson met David Todd were also unknown until a copy was obtained of Susan's Mexican War Widow's Service Pension Record (also from the National Archives). Susan applied for this pension in 1887 and the record contains a copy of the Marriage License and Marriage Certificate for David H. Todd and Mrs. Susie Williamson dated 4 April 1865 in Marion, Perry County, Alabama. Also in the papers is an affidavit from William M. Brooks of Birmingham, Alabama, dated 6 March 1888, which states, "I resided with my family in Marion, Perry County, for about thirteen years ending in the year 1866; that late in the year 1864, while I resided in Marion, Mrs. Susie S. Williamson, a widow then living in Huntsville in this state, came with her two small children to my house and remained there as inmates of my family until near on or about the last of April 1865. While she was an inmate of my family, David D. [sic] Todd of Lexington, Kentucky, addressed and married her. I was present and witnessed the marriage ceremony and gave away the bride. The ceremony was performed at my house by a Minister of the Gospel, in April A.D. 1865. Mrs. Todd and David D.[sic] Todd her husband remained at my house a few days after the marriage, and left together for Huntsville, her place of residence." In David Todd's Civil War Service Record there appears an application for "authority to appear before one of the medical examining boards--to be examined and retired--having been permanently disabled in the service of the Confederate States and in the line of duty, by Phthisis Pulmonulis (i.e. tuberculosis) caused by exposure & from which I have suffered during the past two years with frequent attacks of Hemoptysis (i.e. expectoration of blood). I have been absent from my Command unable to perform duty for the past four months." The application is dated 5 January 1861, Hospital, Marion, Alabama. There was indeed a Confederate Hospital in Marion, Alabama,<sup>21</sup> and Susan could have met David Todd there while perhaps doing volunteer work. Her presence in Marion is also subject to conjecture although it was quite common for residents of North Alabama and Tennessee to flee to South Alabama to escape from encounters with Federal troops. The Erwin family, for example, moved from "Beechwood" to Lafayette, Alabama, some time after the battle of Murfreesboro<sup>22</sup> and Dr. David Yandell's wife and children stayed with friends in Marion, Alabama, until late 1864.<sup>23</sup> Susan's connection with William Brooks family is unknown. Judge Brooks, incidentally, was one of the most distinguished Alabama lawyers of his time and President of Alabama's Secession Convention of 1861.<sup>24</sup>

Captain David Todd was paroled at Meridian, Mississippi, 15 May 1865; presumably, his request for a medical retirement had not been approved. As mentioned above, he and Susan returned to Huntsville where he apparently joined the Turner family business as he is listed as a merchant in the 1870 Madison County Census. The still substantial family assets, \$40,000 in real estate and \$11,200 in personal property, were listed for Susan in that Census, Daniel B. Turner having died in January 1867. Susan had another daughter, Elise, by David Todd in 1866, but she was again a young widow when he died 3 July

1871. He was probably buried near Daniel B. Turner in Plot 4-6-5 of Maple Hill Cemetery, but their markers have not survived.

Susan Todd's Mexican War Widow's Service Pension Record contains an affidavit signed by Huntsville Mayor Edmund I. Mastin, Dated 21 April 1888; "I have known Mrs. Susie S. Todd intimately for forty years. Before the war she was in affluent circumstances, but by losses incurred then and the payment of security debts since, she is now entirely dependent on the assistance of her friends. Owing to ill health, she is unable to earn a living." This supplemented an affidavit by her physician Dr. Lewis C. Pynchon ("Cousin" Sally Pynchon's husband), dated 16 April 1888: "I certify that Mrs. Susie S. Todd has been for many years under my immediately professional care, & from my knowledge of her case, I have no hesitation in asserting that she is physically incapacitated to earn her living by reason of Chronic Larvngitis." She received \$8.00 per month.

Susan Todd died 28 December 1894. Obituaries appeared in all the Huntsville papers. The one reproduced here is from *The Huntsville Weekly Democrat*, 2 January 1895.

In this city, on Friday nite, December 28, 1894, Mrs. Susie S. Todd sank to an Eternal Sleep, quietly and peacefully, after many years of suffering, and a painful illness of several weeks. Mrs. Todd was a woman of refinement, rare intellectual attainments and a talented musician. Her voice was as pure as a lute, exquisite in tone and gave much pleasure to her friends. She was a devoted mother and a zealous worker in the Episcopal Church, and for a number of years raised her voice in Praise as soprano in the choir of the Church of the Nativity. When her sweet voice became mute in song, and strength failed, she still retained her usefulness preparing beautiful carols for the Festivals of the Church and training classes to sing them. She was strong in her friendships, always accessible, hence her home was a magnet for pleasant social gatherings. For four years she was President of the Chautauqua Circle, which she organized, and members, in sorrow, followed her remains to their last resting place.

The writer always found in Mrs. Todd a faithful and sympathizing friend, and loved her tenderly. Her sweet smile of greeting and demonstration of friendship and affection are retained as a tender memory of our dear friend. That her sweet spirit has found the rest it craved, is our earnest prayer!

With regard to the relics, we do not know who donated the individual items to Mrs. Todd, but we can make some reasonable assumptions: The autographs are snippets of official correspondence. Only a few of them are dated and these dates, December 1861 - January 1862, correspond to the dates when the center of the Western Army was at Bowling Green. Also, one of the two signatures of Albert Sidney Johnston has the endorsement "Cmdg, Bowling Green, Ky." We can conclude, therefore, that these signatures were probably gathered by Dr. David Yandell who was the Army's medical Director at Bowling Green. Dr. Lunsford Yandell Jr. was at that time a regimental surgeon in winter quarters at Columbia, Kentucky. While it would be romantic to conclude that General Hardee gave his sash to Mrs. Todd, it also could have come from David Yandell as he was quite close to General Hardee and their friendship survived the war.<sup>25</sup> And as Johnston's, and after his death, Beauregard's Medical Director at Shiloh, Dr. David Yandell may also have been responsible for the flag, and the pen nib and ink well which are thought to have belonged to one of the several eminent generals with whom he served.

Finally, Miss Susie Aubrey Smith's claim of kinship to Mayor Searcy was evidently true. They were third cousins, twice removed, and their progenitors were found early in the 18th century in what is now Granville County, North Carolina.<sup>26</sup> Miss Smith's line came to Huntsville through Tennessee; Mayor Searcy's line came through Georgia.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Gannon, Devereau D. Jr., *The Flags of the Confederacy - An Illustrated History*.: St. Lukes Press, Broadfoot Publishing, Memphis, TN, 1988.

<sup>2</sup>"Madison County, Mississippi Territory Appointments, 1808-1817," *Valley Leaves - A Spcial Edition*. Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Huntsville AL, 1969.

<sup>3</sup>*Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812 in Organizations from the Territory of Mississippi*. National Archives Microfilm Publication No. 678, Washington DC, 1976.

<sup>4</sup>*The Papers of Andrew Jackson, Vol. II, 1804-1813*. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN, 1984. p. 460.

<sup>5</sup>Johnston, William Preston, *The Life of General Albert Sydney Johnston*. D. Appleton and Company, New York, 1879, p. 615.

: The Huntsville Historical Review, Vol 24, No 1, Winter 1997-Spring

- <sup>6</sup>Roberts, Maria Yandell, "Surgeons of the Confederacy, David W. Yandell, M.D., L.L.D.," *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. XXIV, 1926, p. 254.
- <sup>7</sup>Baird, Nancy Disher, *David Wendel Yandell, Physician of Old Louisville*. The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington KY, 1978.
- <sup>8</sup>Yandell, Lunsford Pitt, Jr." *The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky*. J. M. Armstrong & Company, Cincinnati OH, 1878, p. 400.
- <sup>9</sup>Baird, Nancy D., "There is No Sunday in the Army: Civil War Letters of Lunsford P. Yandell," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Vol. 53, No. 4. Louisville KY, July 1979.
- <sup>10</sup>Webster, Rowena, *Memoirs of a Southern Girl*. The Jill Knight Garrett Collection, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN.
- <sup>11</sup>Hughes, Nathaniel Cheairs, Jr., *General William Joseph Hardee, Old Reliable*. Broadfoot Publishing Co., Wilmington NC, 1987.
- <sup>12</sup>Lord, Walter, Editor, *The Fremantle Diary, Being the Journal of Lieutenant Colonel Arthur James Lyron Fremantle, Coldstream Guards, on His Three Months in the Southern States*. Little, Brown and Company, Boston MA, 1954.
- <sup>13</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 110.
- <sup>14</sup>Webster, *loc. cit.*, p. 15.
- <sup>15</sup>Hughes, *loc. cit.*, p. 151.
- <sup>16</sup>Baker, Jean H., *Mary Todd Lincoln, A Biography*. W. W. Norton Company, New York, 1987, p. 233.
- <sup>17</sup>*War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series II*. Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 1897, Vol. II, 1367, 1371; Vol. III, 687, 693, 695, 696.
- <sup>18</sup>Thomas, Emory M., *The Confederate State of Richmond (A Biography of the Capitol)*. University of Texas Press, Austin TX, 1971, p. 60.
- <sup>20</sup>Ferguson, Ernest B., *Ashes of Glory (Richmond at War)*. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, 1996, pp. 80, 84.



<sup>21</sup>Harris, W. Stuart, *Perry County Heritage, Section I, A History of Perry County*. 1991.

<sup>22</sup>Webster, *loc. cit.*, p. 20.

<sup>23</sup>Baird, *David W. Yandell*, p. 53.

<sup>24</sup>Owen, Thomas McAdory, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*. J. S. Clarke Pub. Co., Chicago, 1921, Vol. III, 223.

<sup>25</sup>Baird, *David W. Yandell, loc. cit.*

<sup>26</sup>Ray, Worth S., Editor, *Colonial Granville County and its People*. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore MD, 1967.

## APPENDIX

This letter was written two weeks after the battle of Shiloh. Although unsigned, it was undoubtedly written by Dr. David W. Yandell. The persons designated by initials are unidentified except the "F" in the third paragraph is possibly his wife, Frances Jane Crutcher Yandell, "Fanny," whom he married in Nashville in April 1851. The "Creole" is, of course, Gen. Beauregard, and "my great chief" is Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston.

"Corinth (Not the one mentioned by Byron) Miss., 4/20/1862

What shall I say, sweetest Susie, in this my third "flag of truce" letter? If only I felt sure you would receive it, I might indicate a great deal that must now go unsaid. I have no notion of wasting any sweetness on the uncertain transportation of Yankee mails which I hear are no more reliable than those of the S. Confederacy. If the allegations are true, the Lord have "mercy" on the poor fellows who have to rely on them for communication with loved ones at home!

The mud, the slush, the rain, the mire, the bogs, the clouds, of this Corinth! The 1st is in oceans; the 2nd is in continents; the 3rd is never ceasing, the 4th is limitless; the 5th are bottomless; the 6th are impenetrable and I am sure must extend far beyond the horizon. I am almost like my friend Brewster who declares such a d\_\_d country not worth fighting for. Positively, if this were all of it; or all of it was of a piece like this, I should agree with him. I begin to wish to go to Texas where there is no rain - where if rain is needed, they irrigate. Rain is certainly a most excellent institution; but like some others I know the *vox populi*; - may be very oppressive.

Do you know I never hear from F! -no more than if she were the inhabitant of another sphere? Not a line. Isn't it too bad? And now that my good friends the "Feds" have environed you, what shall I do? Ain't I in a bad way? And devil of a bit can I see out of it. I couldn't get leave to run down on you. And I couldn't get leave to visit F! Ah me! Alas & alas! The How & the When! You remember you laughed at me first & then chided me after for the reflection I borrowed from "What will He Do With It?" Have you not thought many, many times since of the How and the When? And if you kept the letter I wrote you on that occasion, & will refer to it, or if you remember it, won't you do me the justice to "take back" what you said? The How and the When are very solemn things to you & me now if they weren't then.

The children, how are they? Do they ask after me? And Ella and ----, do they think of me? Couldn't you kiss them all round for me & not feel that you had in any wise diminished your share of the delight? For every kiss you give them for

me, I will enter a “credit for you on my lips to be drawn on at sight. An *en passant*, I may say the fund in this particular instance is inexhaustible.

And Cousin C., gentle lady that she is, how does she relish the presence of her *l'innimies?*” How do Aunt F. and the superb Miss P. deport themselves? How very simple to be asking questions which you will have no opportunity of answering!

This letter will be carried into Federal lines by Dr. Carey, a prisoner surgeon, who fortunately for his comfort fell into my hands on the battlefield. He goes in exchange for one of our “sawbones.” I have been urging his release for days, and if I had the ear of the Creole as I had of my great chief, I would have succeeded immediately. The doctor is from Cincinnati, of the 48th Ohio Regt. and was an acquaintance in the days of yore. He is very gentlemanly & is well connected. In the vicissitudes of war he may chance to be able to do you a service in the person of some of our friends. His address is Dr. M. T. Carey, 208 Everett Str. Cincinnati, Ohio, Box 1018. I cannot doubt that he will do all in his power to grant any request you may ever have occasion to make of him. Of course if such occasion offers you will tell him first of our relations. And of course if he ever comes to H. you will not allow him to cross your threshold. As prisoners, all my instincts are of kindness. As in opposing armies, my feelings are all the reverse.

Better is a brigadiers wife now. Capt. P. is Major P. Dr. Lawrence has resigned. Lunny is in my room fast asleep. The poor fellow is overworked & shows it. He is very thin. I don't think he is much handsomer than his big brother now. What do you think? I am getting immense. Weight when I am in good humor 183 lbs - & when made, fancy I must weigh fully a ton. Am expecting to have the “consate” taken out of me some fine May morning.

Do you know it is a very difficult thing to write from the “seat of war” and yet say nothing about the affairs of the army? Well, it isn't - with me at least. I have, impr, nothing to tell about the army; and if I had, it would not be proper to tell it to you “in the enemy's country.” Well, never mind. *C'a viendra*. as a lovely Parisienne once said to me about speaking French, - *C' viendrra!* But the When and the How, He only knows. May he grant an early When! We would take the responsibility of the How, wouldn't we?

If you get this letter anytime shortly, please write to Mrs. Crutcher, Nashville, care of Dr. Schon, and tell her we are all alive & kicking, or more correctly speaking, floundering about - this world of mud - looking forward confidently to the better time coming. *C'a viendra*, too, as sure as the world stands - about which however, if much of it is of the composition of this mudhole, I have my doubts.

: The Huntsville Historical Review, Vol 24, No 1, Winter 1997-Spring

Wouldn't I give a "heap" to see you & the children! Pray for me. Pray for me much & often. My aspiration is still & will be world's full etc. Love, in quantities to suit, but without stint, to one and all.

The following letter was written two weeks prior to the battle of Murfreesboro. Eagleville is a small town 25 miles southwest of Murfreesboro. White was probably Lieutenant D. C. White, one of Hardee's staff.

Headqrs. Hardee's Corps. A. T.

Near Eagleville, Dec. 19, 1862

Ladies

Enclosed we send a reply to the poetry directed to Mess White & fo and recd at Knoxville. The long delay has been on account of the vagabond life we have been leading - moving, moving, moving.

It comes now to you with all its faults and asks for a kind reception at your hands and a speedy reply - Some of the writers know you well and the others, who have not that happiness, are very willing to believe them when they tell us, you are worthy of our highest admiration and truest love - that they know you well enough to know, that he, at the fireside of whose heart your love may sit, will have at his hearthstone "a joy forever" and we join them in the hope that life may be to you one garden of roses, thornless and beautiful

Yours truly  
"The Staff"

For six months following the battle of Murfreesboro, Union Maj. Gen. Rosecrans's Army of the Cumberland regrouped and built up around Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Opposing him, Confederate General Braxton Bragg's Army of the Tennessee covered the nearby Duck River with a fortified line running, left to right, from the town of Shelbyville to Wartrace on the Nashville & Tennessee Railroad. Confederate infantry and cavalry under Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk and Brig. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, held the line's left; infantry and cavalry under Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee and Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler took the right. Thus developed the Tullahoma Campaign of 23 June - 3 July 1863.

The staff mentioned in the following letter comprised Lt. Col. Thomas Benton Roy, 1st Lieut. W. W. Wilkins, Lt. Col. Samuel L. Black, and Gen. John C. Brown.

My dear Mrs. Williamson:

I am very tired tonight but must answer your letter of the 9th which only reached me yesterday. I don't think you need fear a visitation of the Yankees immediately and maybe never. It is the present intention to give battle at this place and I know nothing likely to occur which will alter that determination. It will give us pleasure provided you furnish me with a satisfactory reason to telegraph you when the fight begins.

I thought I had mentioned and thanked you for the box of cigarettes you were so kind as to send me by mail. They were the best I have had, the tobacco was milder and altogether they smoked better.

I went this week to Fayetteville and passed a pleasant day. The ladies were very kind and treated the Genl and his staff (Roy, Wilkins, Black & Genl Brown) with distinguished consideration. We all found Miss Fanny Bower very piquant and entertaining.

I was more than five hours of drill today.

I may be in Huntsville the latter part of next week. If I come it will be with a small escort & to remain but two days. Write kind remembrances to my friends.

Yours sincerely,  
W. J. Hardee.

This letter by Dr. Lunsford Yandell Jr. was written during the Chattanooga Campaign which culminated in the Battle of Missionary Ridge 24 November 1863. Uncles Robert, David and Aunt Emma were Dr. Robert S. Wendel, David Wendel and Emma James Wendel (Robert's wife) of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Marietta Nov 13th 1863

Truly something serious must be the matter my darling cousin. The day before I saw you I wrote to you and the day after I left you I wrote again. Five days have elapsed since then and yet no letter from my \_\_\_\_ Cousin has gladdened my heart. She was wont to be prompt in days of yore and as her kind heart has not changed I am sure her habits of writing have not. May be my cousin Susie is sick - God forbid - I fear you have not received my letters. The last was sent by Cap. Rufus Polk son of Gen Polk, who promised to have it at the Purveyors Office. I was sure I should get a letter Wednesday, and not being gratified I determined to write yesterday but was prevented by business. I scarcely know how to write to

you cousin darling - may be you are angry with me for something. But that is impossible - What have I done? My cousin knows that I love her truly and with my whole heart. True I have given her ample cause to doubt me, but she knows now that I have always loved her, and she has forgiven me for my past since. Cousin Susie did you fail to get either of my letters and because they did not come did you say in your heart "Lunny has deceived me. He does not love me. He is untruthful, unreliable, fickle." Did you cease to think of me, or think of me with indifference, after all that I said to you? If I should lose your love I should be miserable. I know it would be my fault and I should despise myself. I love you darling cousin as much as if you were twice my sister. I am incapable of loving any one more than I do you - I love no one as much. I wrote brother David a letter the other day and I told him all about you - how sweet and good you were, how beautiful you were and how much I loved you. Uncles Robert and David and Aunt Emma inquired particularly and said many kind things of you - for which I loved them more. It is almost certain that I shall go to the field - when I shall go is doubtful. Dr. Flewellen Med. Director of Bragg's army has asked for a list of all able bodied medical officers on Post duty, in order to exchange them gradually for those now in the Field. As I had served seventeen months in the Field I was in hopes I would be allowed to remain on Post Duty for an equal length of time at least; but being young and stout and having two fine horses I dare say I shall be one of the first to go. I may be ordered any day, but it is wholly uncertain. When I am ordered I shall endeavor to get to Genl. Johnston's Army, for I do not like the thought of being with Bragg any longer. Col. Bob Lewis' sister Miss Jeannie (I believe) is on a visit to him and I have the pleasure of seeing her every day when I go to see Bob who you know is wounded. She is very pretty and very interesting. I have not called on any young ladies since my return and therefore have heard no news or gossip. My faith in destiny prevents my becoming blue, but I must confess I think our prospects are gloomier at present than every before. I am confident Bragg will fall back before the middle of December - what next Heaven only knows. I wish I had something pleasant to write you sweet cousin, but I have not and shall close my letter. Keep my little pets for me and tell them not to forget me. Do not let them love any of my rivals more than they do me. And please my \_\_\_\_\_ cousin do not love any one more than you do me. If you do, tell me.

With all affection  
Your devoted cousin  
Lunny



Helion Lodge #1 on the corner of Lincoln and Williams

THE BIRTHPLACE OF ALABAMA FREEMASONRY  
HELION LODGE #1  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

Compiled by David Milam from earlier histories

Only six years after John Hunt built his cabin near the Big Spring in 1805, the Masons organized what became the first Masonic Lodge in Alabama. Madison Lodge, which later became Helion Lodge #1, was given a dispensation on August 2, 1811. At this time Madison County was still a part of the Mississippi Territory. According to the original minutes of this group,

“A petition from a number of brethren residing in the County of Madison, in the Mississippi Territory, praying for a warrant to constitute a Lodge in said County, was presented and read, accompanied by a recommendation from brother Ward, P.M. of Philanthropic Lodge No. 12.

Ordered, that a dispensation be issued for holding a Lodge as aforesaid to be called Madison Lodge, and that Brother Marmaduke Williams be the master, John C. Hamilton, Sr. Warden, and William Harrison, Jr. Warden.”

One year later, August 28, 1812, Madison Lodge received a second dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Kentucky.

“A return from Madison Lodge, held under dispensation, was presented Brother Louis Winston, together with the dispensation under which the said Lodge worked.

Whereupon,

Resolved, that the return be received, and a Charter issued for holding a Lodge at Huntsville, in Madison and known by the name of Madison Lodge No. 21. That Louis Winston be the first master, Thomas Fearn, Senior Warden, and John T. Winston, Junior Warden.”

Master masons on the rolls included:

Marmaduke Williams  
Anthony Winston  
William Leslie  
John W. Walker  
Dr. David Moore

John C. Hamilton  
William Ingram  
Stephen Neal  
Joseph Acklen  
William Houston



William Wyatt  
Francis Camper  
John Reed  
John Hunt

Daniel Leonard  
John Brahan  
William Simpson  
John P. Hickman

The second Lodge to take part in the formation of Helion Lodge No. 1 was Alabama Lodge No. 21. On April 6, 1818, dispensation was issued to William Atwood and others, to open a Lodge at Huntsville, Alabama, to be named Alabama Lodge No. 21, by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. On October 14, 1818, a Charter was granted to Alabama Lodge No. 21 by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee with William Atwood, Master, John P. Hickman, Senior Warden, and Edwin Hickman, Junior Warden.

On December 18, 1822, Alabama No. 21 changed its name to Bethesda No. 2. Then in December of 1824, Madison Lodge No. 1 and Bethesda Lodge No. 2 combined to form Helion Lodge No. 1. The first joint meeting of these two Lodges was held on January 7, 1825, at which time officers were installed. The minutes of the Alabama Grand Lodge Proceedings dated December 1824 stated:

“Brother Uphart presented the proceedings of a joint committee on the part of Madison Lodge No. 1, and Bethesda Lodge No. 2, by which it appeared that the said Lodges wished to be consolidated and become one Lodge - whereupon. on motion of the representative of Madison Lodge No. 1, in conjunction with the representative of Bethesda Lodge No. 2, and for considerations presented by the joint committee of said lodges, held on the first day of November last (November 1, 1824), it is ordered and allowed that those lodges be consolidated, retaining the precendency (sic) of the Madison Lodge No. 1, that the present members of the consolidated Lodge, by the name of Helion No. 1, organizing officers elect to wit: Isaac Williams, Worshipful Master, William Feeny, Senior Warden, and Samuel Coltart, Junior Warden to operate from and after the second Monday in January next (from January 1825), when or presently thereafter, the said officers and their subordinate officers are to be installed: the consolidated Lodge to retain the jewels and furniture of Madison Lodge No. 1 and Bethesda Lodge No. 2.”

Thus with the consolidation of these two Lodges, Madison No 1 and Bethesda No 2, the resultant Lodge, Helion No. 1 was engendered and still operates as such.

The minutes from Madison Lodge No. 1 state that on August 21, 1823, a committee was appointed to caucus with Bethesda Lodge No. 2 for the purpose of making arrangements with William Price of Nashville to obtain a suitable lot upon which to build the Masonic Hall. It is assumed, though not proven, that the property was selected and purchased by Brother Price.

The cornerstone of Eunomia Hall was laid on November 22, 1823, as supported by the minutes of Madison Lodge No. 1. Further evidence is given by the minutes from the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the State of Alabama dated December, 1824, which read:

“The Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, Anderson Hutchinson, made the following report: That on November 22, 1823, he in behalf of the Grand Lodge, directed ceremonies of the laying of the foundation of Eunomia Hall in Huntsville; and on November 22, 1824, he in like manner, directed the ceremonies of its dedication—that is a spacious brick edifice; and, that the surplus of funds of Eunomia Chapter V and of Madison and Bethesda Lodges have been applied to its erection.”

While under construction, Madison Lodge No. 1, Bethesda Lodge No. 2, and Eunomia Chapter V may have rented a room in some other building in the community in which to meet until the new Lodge could be completed.

According to the minutes of Helion Lodge No. 1, dated July 14, 1825, the following report was given on the contributions to the building fund.

“The report of the building committee to preside over the building of Eunomia Hall was read and ordered spread on the minutes. (Here is listed the amounts paid by the individual brethren for the construction of the Lodge.) The total cost of construction – \$5889.12 1/2, The following amounts contributed to the building fund:

Eunomia Chapter	\$769.64
Late Madison Lodge	\$391.88
Late Bethesda Lodge	\$851.12 1/2
Helion Lodge No. 1	\$363.65

Total = \$2369.29 1/2

Still Due - \$481.65

Whole Amount Subscribed = \$3996.00”

In addition to the first building with its grounds, Helion Lodge No. 1 also acquired the adjoining lot property. This appears in the Lodge minutes as follows:

“Helion Lodge No. 1 December 12, 1848. Committee appointed to purchase adjoining Lot.

Helion Lodge No. 1 December \_\_, 1848. Committee purchased lot from estate of William H. Pope, deceased, for \$305.00, payable in 1 and 2 years by Helion Lodge 1, Eunomia Chapter, and Eureka Council.”

Thus was completed the acquisition and construction of the first Lodge building for Helion Lodge No. 1, which was named “Eunomia Hall.” The furnishings of the Lodge were a combination of furnishings of the old Madison Lodge No. 1 and old Bethesda No. 2. To these furnishings were added the furnishings of Triana Lodge No. 29 (Triana Lodge No. 92 per old Lodge minutes prior to 1841), which were presented to Helion No. 1 in 1841.

The first edifice was used as a regular meeting place of the brethren of Helion Lodge No. 1 and the other associated Masonic Bodies. In addition, the first floor was periodically used to serve other non-Masonic groups. Reported from the minutes, a room was rented in Eunomia Hall by Mrs. Jane H. Childs for a school room in 1848-1853 (page 110 of the 1848 minutes). The Baptist Society also rented a room in Eunomia Hall in which to hold their meetings. The Jewish community used the building as well, as evidence is found in an announcement on page one of the June 16, 1897, (Huntsville) *Weekly Democrat*:

“The Masonic Temple, the lower floor of which is used as a Jewish Synagogue, is a victim of stone-throwing boys--sons of gentlemen--who have mutilated the building in a disgraceful manner, by throwing stones at it. The window-panes and blinds have been broken, and in some parts irreparably injured. These boys have been spotted as sons of gentlemen, and unless the gentlemen curb the stone-throwing propensity of their progeny and instil (sic) principles of *meum* and *tuum* with a paddle, they will have a fine to pay.”

The old Lodge building survived all the various trials and tribulations of the time, including the War Between the States, and continued to be a regular meeting hall until 1915, at which time, due to its increasingly dilapidated condition, it was decided by the membership of Helion No. 1 to begin investigating the possibility of construction of a new lodge building and during which year fund raising projects were commenced to raise the necessary capital in order to construct the new building.

During the ensuing year, many attempts were made by several committees to devise plans for the construction of a new building or to obtain an existing structure. One consideration was to attempt to purchase the VanValkenburgh home at 501 Franklin Street, which at that time may have been purchased for a figure between \$20,000 and \$30,000. However, this plan was abandoned.

On July 28, 1916, a special communication was called at Helion Lodge, and Brother J. L. Kendall, recent chairman of the new building committee, discussed the new committee's investigations. At that time, the plans called for an addition to the existing lodge building which would cost approximately \$11,000. After construction of the new building addition, it was also shown by Brother Kendall that the old Lodge building could be torn down at a later date, and the new Lodge could be completed for \$7,000 to \$8,000. Brother Kendall showed the members a water color sketch (which is retained in the original lodge minutes, dated July 28, 1916), and after discussion among the members present, the plan was unanimously approved.

On April 6, 1917, the building committee reported that the total cost of the new building would be \$15,000. The plans were drawn by architect Brother Edgar L. Love, who also designed the Carnegie Library, the Central YMCA, and several other local structures.

On May 2, 1917, the Lodge minutes report that the building was being erected, and on June 5, 1917, it was recorded in the minutes that the cornerstone was to be laid on June 5, 1917, by Brother Walter Smith, Alabama Grand Master. On November 6, 1917, the new building was completed, and the lodge furniture was moved into the new building. On November 20, 1917, the first meeting was held in the new building. Because of its attachment to the old building and the uninterrupted existence of the north wall, the building has retained the name, "Eunomia Hall," even after the old building fell in and was razed. The basic construction of the new building includes glazed brick tile walls, with the exception of the brick north wall in the entry foyer. The aforementioned wall, the oldest Masonic edifice in Alabama, contains a time capsule deposited by the Grand Lodge of the State of Alabama on June 14, 1970, which is to be opened in the year 2020.

On March 15, 1920, a column in the *Huntsville Telegram* reported that a wall of the old temple had fallen during a wind storm. Shortly thereafter, the old building was razed and the north wall was sealed. The only remaining furniture in the original building at the time was a piano and an old organ. It was reported that the piano was saved unharmed but the organ was damaged beyond repair.

The internal structure of the building is made of rough hewn oak which has been bolted together. The main lodge room has an oval ceiling, the supports of which are hand-hewn, and are approximately 10 inches wide by 8 inches thick and have been bolted together. All internal walls and ceilings are plastered with the original plaster and paint on the walls retaining the original color scheme.

Upon entering the front door of the Lodge a wide stairway leads to a stair-level foyer where there are several cases of artifacts and memorabilia. On the landing



A copy of Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington, known as the "Landsdowne Washington" rendered by William I. Halsey



Exhibits depicting the history of the Lodge

: The Huntsville Historical Review, Vol 24, No 1, Winter 1997-Spring  
at the head of the stairs is a large painting of Brother George Washington which was purchased from William I. Halsey, Senior Warden, for the sum of \$106.00. On this level, another stairway on the left leads upward to a third level balcony which used to be the upper doorway into the original lodge building and has since been sealed.

A right turn on this level leads around the stairs and back to the left into the Tiler's room. The two small rooms on the left and right of the Tiler's area are bordered by the inner and outer doors of the main lodge room.

Entrance into the main lodge room reveals a room which is approximately 36 feet wide by 54 feet long. The oval ceiling at its highest point is approximately 21 feet above the floor. Elaborate plaster moldings adorn the room around its borders, columns, and pilasters. Massive white columns adorn the Master's station, the Senior Warden's station, and the Junior Warden's station. The capitals of the columns of the respective stations are formed into different Masonic shapes.

A baby grand piano occupies the northeast corner of the Lodge room, and the Secretary's desk occupies the southeast corner. The furniture of the Master's station, Senior Warden's station, Junior Warden's station, and the chairs for the Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Stewards, and Treasurer are not the original pieces. They were replaced sometime between 1900 and the present. It is believed that the original members' seats were church pews (which are presently in the dining hall of the lower level of the Lodge around the perimeter of the room).

Stairs lead to a small room on the third floor of the building, which to date has been used only for storage and exhibits no special architecture, decorations, or known significance. The lower level of the Lodge has been refurbished into a dining room, and a Secretary's office has been added to the rear of the building.

Although Helion Lodge #1 is still the largest of these fraternal organizations, there are five other masonic organizations in Huntsville which have been established as the city grew from a small county seat to a large metropolitan area.

## APPENDIX

Past Masters of Helion Lodge No. 1

1811	Marmaduke Williams	1858	Wm. Gormley
1812	Louis Winston	1859	Wm. Gormley
1813	David Moore	1860	Wm. Gormley
1818	Wm. Atwood	1861	Wm. Gormley
1821	E.G. Kyle	1862	Wm. Gormley
1821	Alexander Erskine	1863	J.E. Young
1822	Thomas Woldridge	1864	J.E. Young
1823	W.A. Hutchinson	1865	E.B. Clapp
1824	W. John Grimes	1866	J.J. Dement
1824	Isaac Williams	1867	J.J. Dement
	* Alabama No. 21	1868	J.J. Dement
1825	Wm. Feeny	1869	S.J. Mayhew
1826	Wm. Feeny	1870	S.J. Mayhew
1827	John J. Fackler	1871	M.C. Baldridge
1828	John J. Fackler	1872	M.C. Baldridge
1829	Wm. Feeny	1873	W.S. Reddick
1830	John Acklen	1874	B.F. Ludwig
1831	W.A. Hutchinson	1875	B.F. Ludwig
1832	W.A. Hutchinson	1876	M.C. Baldridge
1833	W.A. Hutchinson	1877	M.C. Baldridge
1837	James Penn	1878	John L. Rison
1838	James Penn	1879	John L. Rison
1839	James Penn	1880	John L. Rison
1840	James Penn	1881	M.C. Baldridge
1841	James Penn	1882	M.C. Baldridge
1842	James Penn	1883	M.C. Baldridge
1843	Ellison Smith	1884	M.C. Baldridge
1844	James Penn, MWGM	1885	M.C. Baldridge
1845	James Penn, MWGM	1886	M.C. Baldridge
1846	J.M. Davidson	1887	H.C. Weaver
1847	J.M. Davidson	1888	M.C. Baldridge
1848	Arch E. Mills	1889	M.C. Baldridge
1849	J.M. Davidson	1890	M.C. Baldridge
1850	Fred Gate	1891	M.C. Baldridge
1851	J.J. Sample	1892	Amos B. Jones
1852	J.J. Sample	1893	Amos B. Jones
1853	J.F. Steele	1894	Thomas Taylor
1854	Wm. Gormley	1895	Joseph Skinner
1855	Wm. Gormley	1896	Alfred Moore
1856	Wm. Gormley	1897	W.C. Wheeler
1857	Wm. Gormley	1899	W.C. Wheeler

1900	L.R. Wellman	1944	Abe Pizitz
1901	H.C. Pollard	1945	Clyde Martz
1902	H.C. Pollard	1946	Jas. A. Williams
1903	A.F. Evans	1947	John W. Walker
1904	H.C. Pollard	1948	Wm. B. Allen
1905	F.P. Culver	1949	John H. McGaha
1906	Leroy Suggs	1950	L.L. Baucom
1907	Leroy Suggs	1951	Wm. B. Jones
1908	R.C. Brickell	1952	E.H. Hall
1909	J.H. Ballentine	1953	Wm. H. Ealy
1910	J.H. Ballentine	1954	Lum Duke
1911	H.C. Pollard	1955	D. Shelby Vaughn
1912	J.W. Battle	1956	Doyle W. Ealy
1913	J.L. Kendall	1957	Wm. A. Cobb
1914	J.L. Kendall	1958	Dan L. Warden
1915	J.L. Kendall	1959	J.D. Harris
1916	A.F. Kendall	1960	W.L. Guthrie
1917	G.H. Heymann	1961	J.C. Beeler
1918	H.C. Pollard	1962	Wendell McKinney
1919	A.M. Dunn	1963	Carl Pickens
1920	J.B. McCord	1964	Randolph Rush
1921	W.R. Laxson	1965	Robert F. Jean
1922	S.C. Alexander	1966	James W. Bass
1923	S.C. Alexander	1967	James G. Williams
1924	Frank H. Ford	1968	William W. Byrd
1925	Sam S. Rice	1969	C.D. Rozell
1926	C.O. Rolfe	1970	Chas. Keathley
1927	Robert C. Chase	1971	E.J. Ferguson
1928	F.J. Schick	1972	Marlin Hinkle
1929	Jas. D. Rice, Jr.	1973	Hubert Lemaster
1930	John S. McLure	1974	Hollis L. Sharp
1931	John S. McLure	1975	R.M. Slaughter
1932	Wm. B. Allen	1976	Robert J. Cannon
1933	Wm. B. Allen	1977	Fred Beddingfield
1934	P.S. McCormick	1978	Clarence W. Landrum
1935	Joe B. Hill	1979	Robt. Kachelhofer
1936	Cowan Y. Wilson	1980	Ronald W. Thomas
1937	T. Pickens Gates	1981	B.J. Nelson
1938	F. Floyd Broyles	1982	Alvie Berry
1939	John S. McLure	1983	David Allen
1940	Henry R. Martin	1984	Lee D. Parker
1941	Henry R. Martin	1985	Johnie Wilbanks
1942	Clyde Martz	1986	James Garry Smith
1943	Clyde Martz	1987	James Wesley Reach



1988	<b>Wayne Dee Jordam</b>	1992	<b>Charles Raymond Kirch</b>
1989	<b>Clarence M. Albright</b>	1993	<b>Shelby Aston</b>
1990	<b>Donald Douglas Beal</b>	1994	<b>John Herron</b>
1991	<b>David K. Hall</b>	1995	<b>Danny Lamont</b>

If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a member of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, please share this application for membership.

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 666  
Huntsville, AL 35804

Membership Application 1997-98

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephones: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues:      Individual: \$10.00      Family: \$18.00

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society includes a subscription to *The Huntsville Historical Review* and all the Society's activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



The purpose of this society is to afford an agency for expression among those having a common interest in collecting, preserving and recording the history of Huntsville and Madison County. Communications concerning the organization should be addressed to the President at P. O. Box 666, Huntsville, Alabama 35804.

Manuscripts for possible publication should be directed to the Publications Committee at the same address. Articles should pertain to Huntsville or Madison County. Articles on the history of other sections of the state will be considered when they relate in some way to Madison County. All copy, including footnotes, should be double spaced. The author should submit an original and one copy.

*The Huntsville Historical Review* is sent to all current members of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society. Annual membership is \$10.00 for an individual and \$18.00 for a family. Libraries and organizations may receive the *Review* on a subscription basis for \$10.00 per year. Single issues may be obtained for \$5.00 each.

Responsibility for statements of facts or opinions made by contributors to the *Review* is not assumed by either the Publications Committee or the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society. Questions or comments concerning articles in this journal should be directed to the Editor, P. O. Box 666, Huntsville, Alabama 35804.

Permission to reprint any article in whole or in part is given, provided credit is given to the *Review*.

**Huntsville-Madison County  
Historical Society**

Box 666  
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HUNTSVILLE, AL  
PERMIT NO. 4

