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Luttrell: New Historical Markers can be Seen Across Madison County
**NEW HISTORICAL MARKERS CAN BE SEEN
ACROSS MADISON COUNTY**

by F. Alex Luttrell, III

The Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society recently designated several local sites as historically significant and installed new Alabama Historical Association markers at those locations. The local marker committee actively participated in the installation of each of the new markers by working with the sponsoring groups to perform the required research and write the text that was ultimately approved by the Alabama Historical Association. The Howard Weeden Home marker was installed in late 1996, but has not been officially unveiled and dedicated. Dedication ceremonies have been held, however, for the new markers located at New Market Presbyterian Church and Glenwood Cemetery.

On May 19, 1996, at 1:00 p.m., members of the New Market Presbyterian Church and their guests assembled in front of the sanctuary for the purpose of unveiling and dedicating the historical marker which was given in memory of Mr. R. F. Vandiver, Sr. The ceremony commenced with an invocation by Rev. Bradley Hall, minister of the New Market Presbyterian Church. Elder Harold Birchfield then welcomed the crowd and proceeded to introduce the other speakers. Mrs. Virginia Jones entertained the audience with a history of the church. The marker was then unveiled by Mr. Ray Vandiver and presented to the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society by Mr. Birchfield. Dr. John Rison Jones, Jr. accepted the marker on behalf of the local society as well as for the Alabama Historical Association. He spoke briefly on the importance of the historical marker program in Madison County. Rev. Hall closed the ceremony with a benediction. The complete text of the marker is shown below.

**NEW MARKET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Mary Miller deeded land in 1849 to serve both Methodist and Cumberland Presbyterian congregations. The original building burned and the Methodists in 1882 sold their interest in a second building. This second church destroyed by a tornado in 1884. Present building erected in 1888. In 1906 the Cumberland Presbyterians left to form a new church, and the remaining members affiliated with the First Presbyterian Church, USA; N.J. Powers, Minister.
National Register of Historic Places, 1988

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 1996

The second marker dedication ceremony took place on Sunday, October 27, 1996, at 2:00 p.m. near the entrance to Glenwood Cemetery. This event was hosted by Mrs. Ollye B. Conley, principal, and the students at the Academy for Science and Foreign Language. The students have been involved for several years in a project to revitalize the cemetery and learn more about those prominent African Americans buried therein. Izeuma Olowolowo, a student at the Academy, welcomed the crowd which included fellow students, parents, faculty, school administrators, and many Huntsville citizens. Dr. William Gladys, pastor of the Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Dr. Henry Bradford, pastor of the Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church of America spoke. The Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church Choir entertained the audience with several musical selections before Mrs. Conley introduced the special guests. Among those in attendance were Dr. Ron Saunders, Superintendent of the Huntsville City Schools, Mrs. Brenda Webb, Director of Huntsville Cemeteries, and Mr. Richard Showers, Huntsville City Councilman. Councilman Showers proceeded to unveil the marker which was paid for by an appropriation from the City of Huntsville. Mrs. Conley presented the marker to Mr. Alex Luttrell, Chairman of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society Market Committee, and Dr. Frances C. Roberts, Past President of the Alabama Historical Association. The program concluded with Ms. Elaine Rice's rendition of "Amazing Grace" and a benediction by Dr. John L. Herndon. The complete text of the two-sided Glenwood Cemetery marker is shown below.

GLENWOOD CEMETERY

Glenwood Cemetery replaced the original slave cemetery, known as "Georgia," which had been established in 1818 and located north of the present Huntsville Hospital. Glenwood Cemetery was established in 1870 by the City of Huntsville following the purchase of 10 acres from the Benjamin W. Blake estate, originally a part of the John Brahan Plantation. Additional land was added in 1875 from the W.W Darwin family, resulting in the current configuration. Distinguished African Americans buried here include veterans of America's wars beginning with the Civil War, former slaves, accomplished artisans, professionals in many fields, clergymen, educators, entrepreneurs, politicians, and other leaders.

(Continued on other side)

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 1996

EARLY
COMMUNITY LEADERS
BURIED HERE INCLUDE;

Henry C. Binford, Educator
Daniel S. Brandon, Alderman
William H. Gaston, Clergyman
Charles Hendley, Jr., Editor,
Huntsville Gazette
C.C. Moore, Postman
Burgess E. Scruggs, Physician

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 1996

In addition to the previously mentioned markers, others are in various stages of the review, approval, and installation process. In early 1997, the marker committee identified four additional sites that were deemed worthy of historical markers. These included the LeRoy Pope Mansion, Historic Viduta/Hotel Monte Sano, Temple B'nai Sholom, and the original site of the Lakeside United Methodist Church. The City of Huntsville provided the funds for these markers through an appropriation in their FY97 budget. Marker committee members and other individuals from the sponsoring groups began the task of the required research and writing the text for each of the markers. After many months of review and discussion, the text for each marker was approved by the local committee and the Alabama Historical Association Marker Committee, and the markers were ordered from the manufacturer. A fifth marker, sponsored and paid for by the First Baptist Church, commemorates the original site of the Enon Baptist Church in Meridianville. Official unveiling and dedication ceremonies will be scheduled for each of these markers as soon as they arrive and are erected.

With work on the above markers nearly complete, the marker committee will soon turn its attention toward selecting additional sites to be added to the list of proposed markers. This list is constantly reviewed and each site is prioritized based on national, statewide, and local historical significance; age; location; accessibility to the public; and funding availability. The committee is also working with governmental agencies and local civic organizations to secure funding for the erection of these future markers. The newly erected markers, along with each of the more than 60 existing historical markers throughout Madison County, will be featured in a new publication currently in preparation. This booklet will include a brief history of the county, maps to locate each marker, current and historical photographs of the sites, references to additional published information on the sites, as well as the complete text that appears on each marker.



Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Doyle, Councilman Showers



The Glenwood Cemetery Marker