

# Huntsville Historical Review

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## Front Matter

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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# *The Huntsville Historical Review*

*Summer-Fall 2002*



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**Vol. 28**

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## President's Page

22 July 2002

Dear Patron:

It is my great pleasure that this issue of the *Huntsville Historical Review* introduces you to the Society's new quarterly editor, Mr. Ed Cochran; Mr. Cochran holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Central Florida University and Master of Arts degree in International Affairs from Florida State University. Mr. Cochran brings refreshing energy and new ideas in the expression of the themes relative to Huntsville and Madison County history that our writers impart.

In this issue you will find articles pertaining to Huntsville and Madison County history from a range of exciting sources. You will find a history of the Society itself as recounted in the words of John Rison Jones, Jr. Ph.D., who addressed our organization on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary celebration. Brian Hogan recently established contact with a descendant of a Union Army veteran whose ancestor was in Huntsville during the Civil War and his contribution is drawn from the letters of the veteran. Another contribution introduces primary evidence coming from the cavity of a Masonic cornerstone!

The Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society has been prolific in appropriately marking relevant sites of local historical interest in our community. The marker program has flourished under the leadership of Mr. Alex Luttrell, who has recently published a reference of the historical markers of this area, a publication for which he has received local commendations.

I hope that you find this issue of *The Historic Huntsville Review* edifying, interesting, and informative such that you are stimulated in finding your niche the preservation efforts of this community.

Yours sincerely,



David Edward Milam

## Editor's Notes

Welcome to the Summer / Fall 2002 edition of *The Huntsville Historical Review*. First, I want to thank the Board of Governors of the Huntsville Historical Society for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Editor of the *Review*. I also wish to especially thank Ms. Venita Helton, our new Assistant Editor, for all of her hard work in getting this issue of the *Review* to press.

Our objective is to serve as the authoritative historical journal of record for Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama. To this end, we are dedicated to publishing rigorous scholarly works concerning the history of the area and its people, as well as those dealing with local genealogy and folklore. In this issue of *The Review*, we present three original works authored by Dr. John Rison Jones, Jr., Mr. Brian Hogan, and Mr. David Milam.

In our lead article, "The Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society: The First 50 Years," John Rison Jones recounts the history of the society and offers a series of observations concerning our present work and future prospects. Brian Hogan's article, "'My Very Dear Wife:' Letters of a Union Corporal," is the first of a planned two-part series publishing for the first time the Civil War letters of Corporal Henry Ackerman Smith of the 21st Regiment of Ohio Volunteers, written during the occupation of Huntsville in 1862. Finally, David Milam presents the first of several articles dealing with Masonic Lodge cornerstones in Huntsville.

As part of our new format, we have also initiated a "From the Archives" section, in which we will present the best of past writing from *The Review*. For this issue, we have selected Kathleen Paul Jones' 1971 article, "Madison County, Mississippi Territorial Period, 1804-1817."

*The Review* welcomes submissions of articles related to the history of Huntsville and Madison County. Our editorial staff reviews submissions for both style and content. We are particularly happy to work with new or inexperienced authors seeking an outlet for their works.

Ed Cochran

Editor

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