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Front Matter

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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: Front Matter

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The Huntsville Historical Review

Spring-Summer 2003



MRS. J.B. CLOPTON
EIGHT & NINTH GRADES

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COVER ART

Photo of Mrs. J. B. Clopton courtesy of Huntsville Public Library, taken from
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President's Page

April 2003

Dear Patron:

As I near the end of my tenure as President of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support during the past year. Serving as president of this society, and working with all of you who give of your time and talents to make its work possible, will always rank among my proudest accomplishments.

During the past year, we have undertaken several initiatives to enhance the society's ability to preserve the history of Huntsville and Madison County. These have included strengthening the society's financial base, redesign of *The Huntsville Historical Review*, and, most recently, the allocation by the Board of Directors of funds for the development of a Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society Internet web site. Development of a society web site is intended to greatly expand our outreach into the community, and to spark greater public interest in the history of Huntsville and Madison County.

On June 8, 2003 the society will host the annual Dr. Frances Cabaniss Roberts Lecture at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. This year's speaker will be Mrs. Nancy Rohr. Also, as Huntsville nears its bicentennial, several of our members and patrons are serving in leadership positions, planning the commemoration celebrations.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to the many wonderful people who make the society's work possible.

Sincerely,



David Edward Milam
President

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the Spring / Summer 2003 edition of *The Huntsville Historical Review*. In this issue of the *Review*, we present four original works authored by Ms. Venita Helton, Mr. Brian Hogan, and Mr. Norman M. Shapiro.

In our lead article, "Spiders in the Attic," Venita Helton recounts the life and work of Huntsville's Anne Bradshaw Clopton, whose spider web paintings continue to represent a unique and fascinating art form. In "Norton Versus Mitchel," Brian Hogan describes the role played by Colonel Jesse S. Horton in General Ormsby McKnight Mitchel's relief from command of Union forces in Northern Alabama during the Civil War. Norman Shapiro's article, "Captain David H. Todd: 'A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife,'" examines the life of Mary Todd Lincoln's half-brother – Abraham Lincoln's brother-in-law – particularly his service as a Confederate officer during the Civil War. Finally, Brian Hogan presents the second of a 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.

In keeping with our objective to serve as the authoritative historical journal of record for Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama, we welcome submissions of articles related to all aspects of this area's history, as well as those dealing with local genealogy and folklore. Our editorial staff reviews article submissions for both style and content, and is particularly happy to work with new or inexperienced authors seeking an outlet for their works.

Ed Cochran
Editor