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Front Matter

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: Front Matter

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The Huntsville Historical Review

Fall-Winter 2004-2005



Memorial To Victims of 1989 Tornado
In Front Of Faith Presbyterian Church

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President's Page

It seems like a short time ago that I took the position of President of this wonderful organization, and now I'm writing my last message. I couldn't possibly go out without expressing my sincere appreciation to all the wonderful members and officers who have supported me tremendously during my tenure. Huntsville's history is rich and diverse, and thank goodness we have individuals with different interests that will continue to research and share with the world what a wonderful place we have come from.

This issue introduces a new editor, Jacquelyn Procter Gray. As a writer, Jacque is no stranger to the historic community here, and although she is a native of New Mexico, her ancestral ties to North Alabama precede statehood. Mr. Shapiro's story in this issue highlights Daniel Hundley, one of her colorful ancestors.

This year is a special one to all of Huntsville, and I look forward to sharing our bicentennial celebration with each one of you.

Virginia P. Kobler
President

Editor's Notes

Happy Birthday Huntsville!

Whew! 2005 is finally here! Did John Hunt imagine, when he settled on the banks of the Big Spring, that we would celebrate his arrival 200 years later? He probably didn't have time to think about it. He was busy fighting snakes, trying not to upset the Indians, and getting an appropriate shelter ready for his family. Much is unknown about our namesake - some sources say he was a soldier in the American Revolution, some say he was practically an American aristocrat, while others say he was a simple farmer who happened to be here at the right time. We can't even agree on where he is buried! Odds are that we'll never know, though recently discovered legal papers in Tennessee indicate that he left Huntsville, bought property in Tennessee, and probably spent his last years there. We may never know the answers to these questions, but we don't have to know them to celebrate one of the most progressive cities in the United States and appreciate how far we've come in the last two centuries. Thank you, John Hunt.

In this, my first issue as editor of this publication, it is my pleasure to have worked with a veteran writer, as well as one of my favorite people, Mr. Norman Shapiro. We also welcome new writers to these pages, Mr. James-Paul Dice, Meteorologist for WHNT Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Dr. Frank Westmoreland, a Limestone County resident with fascinating ties and history in North Alabama and Tennessee. History is never boring, and these gentlemen have logged in hours upon hours of research in order to write these wonderful stories.

Jacque Gray
Editor