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Front Matter

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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The Huntsville Historical Review

Winter-Spring 2006



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President's Page

In the last few months, several great books have been published on local history. We are fortunate to have so much talent within our own organization: Nancy Rohr, who wrote "Incidents of the War - The Civil War Journal of Mary Jane Chadick" has been a valuable asset to the promotion of local history. Her book, for those who have not read it, is impossible to put down. I encourage all members of the Society to show your support by purchasing a copy of this book, not only because the proceeds from the book enable us to continue our historic preservation, but also because it is an outstanding book!

I feel fortunate to have been asked by Rane'e Pruitt, also a valuable asset within our organization and community as well, to research and write a chapter in her new book, "Eden of the South, A Chronology of Huntsville, Alabama, 1805-2005." Many of our Society's members, including Nancy Rohr, and our editor Jacque Gray, had a hand in this fabulous book as well. Proceeds for this book go directly back to the library to add to and maintain the historic collection.

Please see the book reviews in this edition for a better understanding of both of these books, along with the recently published book, "Through the Garden Gate" by our sister organization, the Historic Huntsville Foundation. Again, the proceeds from this book go back into the Foundation for their preservation endeavors as well.

Bob Adams
President

Editor's Notes

This issue of *The Huntsville Historical Review* showcases the Tennessee Valley's plants and the men and women behind them. Our rich soil attracted our earliest settlers, and many of them found other uses, besides the obvious wealth to be gained from growing cotton. Two of our members have gathered this history to share many facts new to all of us.

David Byers is no stranger to our organization, and although most of us know him for his quick wit and sense of humor, he is an outstanding writer as well. David's attention to detail and thoroughness make his stories very interesting and readable. Even more interesting are the little-known anecdotes he brings to his work, making the subjects he writes about more rounded. Sometimes the story behind the story explains so much more.

I've known writer Chris Lang for many years now and have learned so much from him in several areas of history. His interests branch in many directions, and he has an ability to focus his casual interests until he is thoroughly knowledgeable in the subject at hand. He would not appreciate me calling him an expert in what he knows, but that description would not be far off.

Readers of *The Huntsville Historical Review* will enjoy the outstanding work of these two writers, and we look forward to reading more from them, and about them, in future issues.

Jacque Gray
Editor