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## From the Editors

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## From the Editors

This issue began in alarm, after the *Quarterly's* long-time editor, Elise Hopkins Stephens, left Huntsville for a new teaching position on the deck of the *Seagull II* in Galveston Harbor. It ended in relief, as the Spring 1998 issue rolled off the presses and into the mailbags.

Conventional wisdom has it that no journal should ever be produced by committee, but with the Foundation's editorial helmsman steering west to Texas, it was "all hands on board" back in Huntsville. Elise had set the general direction of the spring issue when she agreed to work with the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association on a publication that would serve the needs of both the Association and Historic Huntsville Foundation. An issue featuring the 1998 Pilgrimage and its major beneficiary Maple Hill Cemetery would continue the *Quarterly's* focus on historic architecture while broadening it to include the monuments of the cemetery.

A committee headed by Diane Ellis was formed. It included Margaret Belle Mahoney Crow, Lynn Jones, Frances Osborn Robb, Patricia Ryan, and Jean Hall Dwyer. Margaret Belle is a Pilgrimage board member and a member of the Cemetery Committee. She co-chairs the Restoration Project and the City of Huntsville Cemetery Advisory Committee. Lynn Jones, a civic volunteer and tireless worker on historic architecture and preservation projects, represented the Foundation Board.

Author Patricia Ryan represented the Huntsville Pilgrimage board. Photograph historian Frances Osborn Robb volunteered her editorial expertise. Jean Hall Dwyer of Alabama A&M University, who had worked with Elise on layouts and production on the *Quarterly* for several years, agreed to help.

Margaret Belle's copious data on Maple Hill and her volumes of photographs proved invaluable. She acted as liaison with the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association, whose president Alice Thomas and members supported the joint effort wholeheartedly. The Association provided images by free-lance photographer Ann Montes, a native Californian with a long-time interest in photography, especially historical architecture, and nationally recognized artist Cynthia Massey Parsons, as well as articles by Margaret Belle, Jean Walker, and John Rison Jones, jr.

Jean, a member of Historic Huntsville Foundation and a Weeden House governing committee member, authored the history of the Association. John Rison, a member of the Pilgrimage board, has an enduring interest in Huntsville and its history. Perky Taylor, a Pilgrimage board member, and co-chair of the Cemetery Committee Restoration Project worked with Brenda Webb, the City of Huntsville cemeteries manager, and Margaret Belle Crow on an article about restoration work at Maple Hill.

Harvie P. Jones, F.A.I.A., award-winning preservation architect who has been active in historic preservation on a local, regional and national scale since 1970, contributed an article on the restoration of the Bibb monument. Author Dorothy Scott Johnson, who edited the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society quarterly for eight years, contributed an article that keys important monument types to examples in Maple Hill Cemetery. Frances Robb contributed a brief note on a lost 1851 daguerreotype of Maple Hill Cemetery.

A delightful endnote was contributed by Margaret Vann, poet, wildflower collector, and cemetery lover (through the example of her grandfather Charles Lee Jones, who owned a monument company in Valdosta, Georgia). Margaret's poem reminds us that cemeteries are not simply groups of tombs and tombstones. Cemeteries are a special kind of architecture, composed of monuments and markers, plantings and naturalized meadows, enlivened by those who visit and those who are buried there.

The spring *Quarterly* committee dedicates this issue to Elise Stephens. Her blithe spirit, formidable network, dedication and unceasing good humor were in our minds' eyes as we prepared this publication. Like the figurehead on a tall-masted schooner, Elise led us across unknown editorial waters to a successful landfall. We hope that you will enjoy this issue of the *Quarterly*, and gain from it renewed insight into Huntsville's historic architecture, including that of Maple Hill Cemetery.



*Grave marker of Lenora Schiffman, in the Jewish plot, Maple Hill Cemetery. Courtesy Margaret Belle Crow. The marker on this "memento of affection" reads "Lenora d. Sept. 9 1895 age 8 yrs., 4 mo. Rest darling, rest in quiet sleep/While Mama in sorrow oer thee weep."*