

# Huntsville Historical Review

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Volume 34 | Number 1

Article 2

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1-1-2009

## Front Matter

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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### Recommended Citation

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society (2009) "Front Matter," *Huntsville Historical Review*. Vol. 34: No. 1, Article 2.

Available at: <https://louis.uah.edu/huntsville-historical-review/vol34/iss1/2>

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: Front Matter

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Jacquelyn Procter Reeves

# *The Huntsville Historical Review*

Winter-Spring 2009



*Drawing of U.S. Major Leonidas Stout  
Civil War Graffiti at the Historic Huntsville Depot*

Published by The Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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As we review the past year of Society activities, it is marked with both sadness and success. I refer to the loss of several very early members of the Historical Society who played such a major role in our development and success over the many years. John Rison Jones, Alice Thomas, and Robin Brewer will certainly be missed and they can never be replaced. We owe them our appreciation for their generous contributions of time and talent.

On the other hand, we can look back on 2008 with satisfaction and progress. We had great speakers and programs, appreciated by large audiences and support at our quarterly meetings. We also published another highly successful book, developed and produced by Madison County historians. It has been widely distributed within and outside Madison County.

I want to recognize and thank Rane'e Pruitt, archivist at the Huntsville-Madison County Library, for her vision and perseverance in bringing about this book, the many fine people who contributed to its production, and the Madison County Board of Commissioners for their financial assistance to make this book possible.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to Jacque Reeves, editor of our *Historic Huntsville Review*, for her many contributions over the past four years. Jacque will be stepping down as editor after this edition, and we will miss her. I am certain the entire membership of the Historic Society joins me in expressing our appreciation.

Bob Adams  
President





In this issue, we are again pleased to publish a most interesting article from one of our veteran contributors, David Byers, whose research on the scourge of yellow fever has revealed yet another of the many difficulties faced by our ancestors, and largely taken for granted by people of our era.

We are also pleased to welcome three new contributors: Ken Carpenter, a well-known presence in our historic community, who has acquired a wonderful obsession with one of the hastily scribbled Civil War drawings left at the Historic Huntsville Depot 150 years ago. His research has enabled us to come to know some of the many faceless names that have passed through one of Huntsville's most treasured historic buildings.

James Hill, a veteran of World War II, has lived on Monte Sano Mountain off and on since 1930 and shares with us his extensive knowledge and research of his mountain community.

And finally, we are most fortunate to have a writer all the way from Stephenville, Texas. Dr. Ricky Sherrod's ancestors were among the many who came from Virginia to settle the frontier that would become Madison County before Alabama became a state. Although they eventually moved farther west, the Brown family left their mark in our area, and we appreciate Dr. Sherrod's willingness to share his thorough and interesting research.

We look forward to reading much more of Dr. Sherrod's work in the future, as well as Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Hill, Mr. Byers, and anyone who would like to publish the incredible history Huntsville and Madison County has to offer.

Jacque Reeves  
Editor

*Mr. Joseph M. Jones, author of the chapter entitled, "New Market – First and Fairest of them All?" asked that we include information that was removed through our extensive editing process in the special issue of the Review.*

*On Page 69, under the title "Religious Activities," Mr. Jones wishes to add:*

The three churches I refer to were: Enon, Flint River, and Jones Fork, all in the eastern part of the county and all Baptist. Enon and Flint River are well known and continue today, the first under a different name which was struck from the article. Jones Fork was for a time probably bigger and more prominent than the other two; it was eliminated altogether.

The closest meeting house (to New Market), early, probably was Enon Baptist Church on the Briar Fork of the Flint, which in 1861 moved to Huntsville and later became the First Baptist Church, now observing its 200<sup>th</sup> year, the oldest (missionary) Baptist Church in Alabama. Another closer one, named Jones Fork Baptist Church, was in the Bloucher's Ford area. It was formed about the same time (i.e., 1809) the exact date unknown, but it did not survive.

As for Jones Fork, its exact location is unknown but was likely two or three miles southwest of New Market. By 1818 it had been replaced, or renamed, Bethany Baptist Church. Sketchy records indicate it became a vigorous church, with 130 members in 1930, more than Enon's 69 members. Bethany gradually declined and faded after a major Baptist split in the missionary-antimissionary controversy of 1838. Enon sided with the missions movement which grew, whereas churches of the opposing view, including Bethany, declined. (This information is attributed to "A Third Pioneer Baptist Church" by F. Wilbur Helmbold, *Alabama Baptist Historian*, January 1967, pp 5-6; Microfilm #972, "Alabama Baptist Association Annuals, Flint River, 1814-1866," Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.)

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The Mount Paran facility presently exists as a non-profit corporation headed by Lowell Bates of Plevna, a Samuel Davis descendant, who has three consecutive grand-sires buried there: Samuel Davis (1842), John Davis (about 1830), and William C. Davis (1900). Two other Samuel Davis descendants with nearby Tennessee addresses, Stanley Davis and James E. Davis, are officers in Mt. Paran. A young son of one of the officers represents the 10<sup>th</sup> generation of Samuel Davis descendants in this locale, according to Bates.