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Carrie Nation Looking For Sin in Huntsville!

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Editor's Note

At a time when we are commemorating events surrounding becoming Alabama, the Civil War, and Civil Rights, it is important to remember that Huntsville exists in a larger historical context than just Madison County. Because of Redstone Arsenal, Marshall Space Center, and dozens of international corporations, Huntsville's future is closely linked to events in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. People from around the country and world have made Madison County home without understanding the heritage of their new community. It is important that we blend past events with present and future experiences so that all citizens will have access to their community's historical roots. Instead of using the term "local history," I prefer to use "nearby history" as a way of expanding the historical scope of Huntsville and Madison County. Were the accomplishments of Andrew Jackson, Marie Howard Weeden, and William Hooper Council limited only to their experiences in the local area or did the influence of their accomplishments go beyond the Tennessee River Valley? Yet, as we are about to find out, three local historians have recreated elements of the past that highlight moments of time in which nearby history has influenced local, national, and international events and vice versa.

In this issue of the *Huntsville Historic Review* we are lucky to have authors who have taken the time to look for primary sources, read secondary literature, and put pen to paper. In the first article, Nancy Rohr explores the role of local militia in "Fife, Drum, and Ready Musket: The Early Militia and Muster Day in Madison County, Alabama." Nancy's contributions to nearby history have been many and of superb quality so I know you will enjoy her most current research. Likewise, David Byers, another local historian of note, has written a provocative article entitled, "Andrew Jackson Did Not Save Huntsville." Enjoy learning about Jackson's time in Huntsville and learn about what he did not do for the city! Norman Shapiro has written another

article on Andrew Jackson's time in Huntsville entitled "Andrew Jackson Camped Here." Lastly, we will end with another article from Nancy Rohr that explores the growing role of women in Alabama in "They Are Too Sweet and Angelic to Reason, or, How Women Got the Vote in Alabama." I am sure that you will learn from and enjoy each article as another historical snapshot of Madison County's past. So enjoy their hard work and before you know it another edition of the *Review* will be in your mailbox this fall.

On a separate note, as the founder and director of the first accredited Public History in the state of Alabama, I am pleased to announce that the University of Alabama in Huntsville has provided work space for a new Public History Lab to be used by students and scholars who want to work on projects that benefit the local community. In the short term, we want to create an oral history project that will become the foundation for a statewide project. We will be looking for people to interview as part of this project. As the director of an unfunded mandate, I would also like to ask for your financial help to create this Public History Lab. These donations will become the foundation for new student projects and serve as a reminder to UAH administrators that the local community supports our next generation of local historians and the work they do in the area. If you are interested in making a donation to the public history program, please send a check made out to UAH Foundation and write Public History Fund on the memo line. Send it to: Dr. John Kvach, 407 Roberts Hall, Department of History, UAH, Huntsville, AL, 35899. My students will benefit from your generosity and these donations will help keep the hard work of past generations alive for future readers interested in local history.

Thank you again for your support and enjoy the read!
John Kvach

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