

Huntsville Historical Review

Volume 40 | Number 2

Article 2

10-1-2015

Front Matter

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

Follow this and additional works at: <https://louis.uah.edu/huntsville-historical-review>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society (2015) "Front Matter," *Huntsville Historical Review*. Vol. 40: No. 2, Article 2.

Available at: <https://louis.uah.edu/huntsville-historical-review/vol40/iss2/2>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by LOUIS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Huntsville Historical Review by an authorized editor of LOUIS.

Introduction

“Lest We Forget” The Founding of the Society

The Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society was founded in 1951 through the farsighted leadership of several local residents. Two of the prime movers in forming the Society were Dr. Francis C. Roberts and Mrs. C. H. Russell. The first officers were:

President: Henry Chase;
Vice President: Judge Thomas Jones;
Secretary/Treasurer: Felix Newman;

Board of Directors;

Reese Amis
Harry Rhett
Mrs. Sallie Gill
Mrs. R. J. Lowe
D. C. Monroe
Josh Kelly.

The purpose of the Society as set forth in the bylaws:

“to afford an agency for expression among those having common interests in (1) collecting and preserving information about any past phase of community life in Huntsville, Alabama, and (2) in recording the history of the section of which Madison County is a part.” In 1971, as a part of this commitment to “collect, preserve, and record” the Society began publication of *The Huntsville Historical Review*.

Table of contents

Title	Page
Introduction: Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society 1951	1
Presidents Message John Allen	3
From the Editor Arley McCormick.....	5
<i>The Huntsville Historical Review</i> Editorial PolicyArley McCormick.....	54
Articles	
The Rise and Fall of “King Cotton”...Arley McCormick.....	8
Dr. James Manning; <i>Madison County Pioneer, Doctor, and Land Speculator</i>.....	Arley McCormick..... 13
The Birney Brothers of Huntsville, Alabama	David L. Lady.....18
Prelude to the Great War – <i>No Slackers in Madison County</i> Part 1	Jacquelyn Procter Reeves 29
Historical Research in Madison, Morgan, and Limestone Counties	Susanna Lieberman & Samuel Gibby..... 36
Book Review	
Free People of Color in Madison County, AL
By Nancy Rohr Reviewed by the Editor.....	53
Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society Board of Directors 2015	57

From the President:


We have 18 board members and a goodly number of them are former HMCHS presidents. The good news is they provide stability for the organization and guidance for new presidents – like me. Considering the esteemed presidents who have gone before me, it is an honor to carry the torch forward. So far, we’re off to a good start, in several different areas. Here’s what I mean:

- Thanks to Arley McCormick, this REVIEW is now providing a standardized format, which can be seen in the Table of Contents.
- The newsletter will be two pages, printed front and back, folded in the middle.
- Thanks to Katy Hale, our website has been improved, both in content and appearance; and for the first time, the Bylaws have been digitized and installed on the web for anyone to see.
- Thanks to Sam Tumminello, as our HMCHS Facebook presence is becoming more robust with each passing week.
- The Marker Committee, spearheaded by Alex Luttrell, now in his 19th year, is at work in earnest refurbishing some of the older historical markers, while evaluating requests for new ones.
- Additional committees have been formed and are now at work, especially the Alabama Bicentennial Committee.
- We now have a speaker certificate.
- We’ve sanctioned a Boy Scout Eagle project to refurbish an old cemetery near New Market.
- And for the first time, we have group photographs of the Society Board, contributors to the REVIEW, and members who are published authors and editors.
- Efforts are underway to “brand” the HMCHS, such that all of its parts have a similar appearance, to possibly include a

logo suitable for T-shirts or bumper stickers, should the need arise.

- Deane Dayton and John Rankin, two of my favorite historians, are continuing their vast projects of documenting and preserving our local history.
- And the Board has given tentative approval for developing an annual Renee Pruett Award to a local person for noteworthy historical contributions.

Still, there is much to be done. The HMCHS membership is now on the rebound, and efforts are underway to make the Society appealing to youth. I urge you, and all of our members, to get involved with us in a way that best suits you; momentum is building. I'll bet that if you are reluctant to put your history in the REVIEW, you probably know someone who could; please urge them to do so. And please urge your friends to become members of the Society. They will find that preserving the past can be an enriching experience.



John Allen
President

From the Editor:

Our Review is indeed intended to reflect the understanding, perceptions, and frequently the opinion of authors that study characters and events affecting our community and thanks to our contributing authors the Historical Society's Review always captures the soul of the community we call home. Our authors illustrate noteworthy characters that form the foundation of our society and provide insight into the political and social fabric common to our community and state, and occasionally, the nation and the world.

Over two hundred years ago the war of 1812 had ended and Louisiana became a state ushering new energy from the federal government and capital investment in the Southwest Territory. Alabama pioneers, land speculators, and statesmen, were seeking recognition for an independent Territory in preparation toward becoming a state. And, the entire state will recognize their achievement during the Bicentennial being planned for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Madison County was represented by seven prominent citizens and Huntsville's Constitution Village became the center of attention when the Constitutional Convention was held here in 1819.

One hundred years ago our military guarded the Mexican border to prevent a revolution from migrating into the United States, invaded Haiti to squelch European intervention, and Americans watched nations bleed on the battlefields of Europe for the first full year of WWI. On May 7, 1915 a German U-boat sank the Lusitania and 1,924 souls were lost including 114 Americans. With oceans isolating us from Europe and politicians encouraging diplomacy, Americans were aroused and began taking sides. Eventually, an armistice was signed but North Alabama lost over 100 of her own young men to the war while their families were struggling through a depression. How did our community respond to these key events? Who were the characters that played a role and those that struggled

just to live? Our challenge is to tell the story of our community, the individual trials and triumphs, using the milestones of yesterday as a backdrop to illustrate the lives that influenced our social environment today.

I will never exclude an article with other historical references. I only encourage authors to consider illustrating the contributions of our community to these Bicentennial and Centennial events over the next few years. See the editorial policy on page 49. The Editor

A huge “Thank You” to our contributing authors!



Front Row left to right: Robert Reeves, Arley McCormick, Jimmy Pemberton, Jacque Reeves, Dr. Virginia Gilbert, Norman Shapiro, Coy Michael, Frances Robb, and Henry Turner Back Row left to right: Chris Lang, Deane Dayton, David Hardin, Kenneth Carpenter, David Byers, David Lady, Joe Jones, ?, and John Allen