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Back Matter

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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From the Editor:

Our Review is intended to reflect the understanding, perceptions, and frequently the opinion of authors that study characters and events affecting us, and thanks to them 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 period of 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. The entire state will focus on Huntsville again in 2019.

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 four years 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 debating the merits of diplomacy or war, Americans were aroused and began taking

sides. Eventually, an armistice was signed but North Alabama lost over 100 of her young men to the war while their families were struggling through a depression and the Spanish flu.

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I will never exclude an article with other historical references.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 two years. See the editorial policy on page 47.

The Editor

The Huntsville Historical Review

Editorial Policy

The Huntsville Historical Review, a biyearly journal sponsored by the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, is the primary voice of the local history movement in northern Alabama. This journal reflects the richness and diversity of Madison County and North Alabama and this editor will endeavor to maintain the policy established by his predecessor with regard to the primary focus of the Review as well as material to be included in it. A casual examination of every community in the world reveals the character of its citizens and, if you listen and look closely, voices from the past and expectations for the future. Today is based upon our collective experience and the socialization of our ancestor's existence.

Although this publication focuses on local history, we cannot forget that what happens here has roots often connected by state, regional, national, and international events. In an effort to build on past traditions and continue the quality of our *Review*, an editorial policy will be implemented to guide contributors who wish to submit manuscripts, book reviews, or notes of historical significance to our community. The Historical Society wants you to submit articles for publication. Every effort will be made to assist you toward that goal.

You can contribute to our history through the *Huntsville Historical Review*.

Manuscript Preparation and Submission

Please submit an electronic copy of your article or book review to arleymccormick@comcast.net or send to:

Huntsville-Madison County
Historical Society
Box 666
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Review Content and Style

- In matters of form and style, a good guide is the fourteenth or fifteenth edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- If you choose to include footnotes the preferred citation method for full articles would be best.
- Manuscripts should be in 12-point font and in Times New Roman. Microsoft Word
- This is a guide and not intended to discourage the creative process nor constrain authors from contributing to the Review.

Book Review

Please limit your book review to topics relevant to local, state, or southern history. A good review should clearly and concisely describe the nature, scope, and thesis of a book that would be relevant to Madison County history. Emphasis on local and regional history will be given in order to help readers expand and contextualize their knowledge. Your review should be helpful to the general reader interested in Madison County or North Alabama and here are some good rules to follow when writing a book review:

- Your first obligation in a book review is to explain the subject of the book and the author's central thesis or main points.
- Your second obligation is to evaluate how successfully the author has made his/her point. Is the author's argument reasonable, logical, and consistent?
- Your third obligation is to set the book into a broader context. If you can, place the book into a wider context by looking at broader issues.
- Your fourth obligation is to render a judgment on the value of the book as a contribution to historical scholarship.

News and Notes Submissions

Please keep your submissions limited to 250 words and please include contact information if you are making an inquiry or asking a question. The editor has the right to change or delete wording or information.

Little Reminders . . . Good Writing Rules

- Write in the active voice.
- Write in the past tense.
- Cast your sentences in the positive
- Topic sentences should be clear and straightforward statements of what the paragraph is about. Every sentence in a paragraph should work to explain the topic sentence.
- Write in the third person.

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