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# THE HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL REVIEW

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 1

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Editor

Elbert L. Watson

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# ATHENS COLLEGE: THE FIRST 150 YEARS

By WILLIAM D. BELL

"It is, Sir, as I have said, only a small college, but there are those that love it."

When Daniel Webster, in his best dramatic style, uttered those concluding remarks before the Supreme Court, the year was 1819 and the college to which he referred was Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Barely three years after that, in 1822, in the flourishing little village of Athens, Alabama, the foundations were laid for another institution of learning about which some five generations of students, patrons and friends have felt the same as did Webster of his alma mater. Athens College, now beginning its second 150 years of educational service in the same location, has always been small by the simple standards of numbers and dimensions and it has always had those who loved it by every standard.

In 1822, five years after the town of Athens was incorporated and some four years after Alabama became a state, a few residents of this young Tennessee Valley community, concerned over the lack of formal educational opportunities available to their daughters, purchased a five-acre plot of land for the establishment of a female academy--the rough equivalent of a modern secondary level school. From this small beginning as an academic haven for the daughters of a few local citizens, grew one of the

oldest and most reputable private liberal arts institutions in the South, Athens College. Now in its sesquicentennial year, Athens College celebrates a century and a half of unbroken, untarnished service to the youth of the state; and from that small original investment of a few dollars and five acres of land, has evolved an academic and cultural center valued at over five million dollars and comprising more than forty-five acres of land.

Athens Female Academy, as the school was first called, served the community for over twenty years. In 1843 it was incorporated into a more enterprising educational plan which had been launched the year before by the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At the annual meeting of the conference in 1842, which was held in Athens, a group of influential local Methodists successfully put the motion that the Church sanction the establishment of a female institute in the city. The conference delegates approved the idea but in their resolution made quite clear that the school was not to devolve "any pecuniary obligation upon the conference." Armed with this moral support, however, the backers of the school, including some trustees of Athens Female Academy, obtained a charter from the state in early 1843 and began operation that year as the Female Institute of the Tennessee Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Academy property was signed over to the Institute and the trustees of the latter immediately and vigorously set to work to increase the size of the site and to subscribe the \$10,000 that the Church had authorized to be raised. The trustees who successfully accomplished the work, the benefactors who made those original, most critical contributions, include among their number some of the most honored names in the history of

Athens and Limestone County. With the funds quickly raised and another five acres of land accumulated, work was begun on the main academic building. The structure, basically completed in 1844, later came to be known as Founder's Hall and still stands today as the showpiece and focal point of the College. It has been added to and remodeled many times over the years but retains its attractiveness and appeal as a fine example of antebellum Southern Greek Revival architecture.

The first change in Founder's Hall came quite soon, in 1845, as a two-story wing was added on the north side to be used for presidential accommodation and to house boarding students. The trustees had early decided to make the institution a boarding school, and although this gave the Institute a distinctive character -- boarding schools for girls being quite rare at the time in the South -- it was also the cause of many of the financial difficulties the school was forced to meet through the years. Hard times were not in sight, however, as the Institute, under the able leadership of its first president, R. H. Rivers, saw its inaugural class of "nearly 80" come together in July, 1843. From that time to this, and of course stretching back to 1822, the school has never failed to meet its calendar. There have been delays and shifts and there have been times when it seemed unlikely that the doors would open, but unfailingly, as the Academy, the Institute, the Female College, and finally as Athens College, the institution has fulfilled its high obligations of education and service.

A succession of twenty-eight presidents have served as overseers of the evolution of this historic college; from Dr. Rivers in the beginning to Dr. Sidney Sandridge, who presently administers the job.

They have been, by and large, men of great character, talent, devotion to duty, and perseverance. There have been times in the past -- times of financial stress, primarily -- when, with a lesser man in control, the college might easily have failed. It is, of course, misleading to say "men" here for two of the more outstanding presidents were women; the legendary Madame J. Hamilton Childs and Mrs. Mary Moore McCoy. Mrs. Childs managed to shepherd the college safely through the Civil War years (she was a northerner and there are several fascinating but unlikely stories about how she managed to keep raiding Union troops from despoiling school property), and Mrs. Moore served two terms (1904-16 and 1925-30), the first of which was one of the most expansive in the college's history.

There are many interesting episodes in the chronicles of Athens College, stories of good times and bad. Mostly, however, is a story of continuing alteration and adjustments to meet the changing educational needs of its students, while remaining anchored to certain essential principles which have guided its trustees, faculty, and administrators from the outset. Fundamentally, the governing principle has been to provide the best possible liberal arts education without abandoning the philosophical responsibilities of nurturing the moral and spiritual growth of its students. Over the years Athens College has maintained a very close relationship to the Methodist Church which owns it (the owning conference finally assumed actual pecuniary obligation of the school in 1891), and, though there has never been a real seminary atmosphere on the campus, the school has always been heavily committed to cultivating those students desiring to serve the Church in lay or professional capacity.



During the late 1870's and 1880's the school came to be known as the "Female College" though technically it was still the Institute. These were years of physical growth and academic maturation, however, and this was reflected in 1889 in the decision to change the name officially to Athens Female College. The academic aspect of the school during these early years saw heavy emphasis upon music, fine arts, literature, and religion, which were considered proper subjects for refined young ladies. Examinations were in the traditional manner, oral and held before examining committees from the Methodist Church or sister educational institutions. Examination or "Recitation" Day was the highlight of the school year with friends and family coming to witness the progress of the students. All during these years the college also maintained a secondary or preparatory department which was a direct descendent of the original academy. Most of the preparatory students were "day students" or commuters whereas about one third to one half of the college girls were boarders, many coming from other states. The preparatory department, which later was called Rivers Academy, co-existed with the college well into the twentieth century and many alumnae of the college today are also Rivers Academy alumnae.

Around the turn of the century the enrollment of the school fluctuated depending upon economic conditions but generally was around 100 to 125 students. Normally about one third of these were Academy girls, including some primary students. After 1909 the academy was restricted entirely to secondary-level pupils.

The year 1909 was a significant one for the college in several ways. Not only was the academy

changed, as noted, but this was also the peak year of enrollment. Some 235 girls registered in 1909 with more than half of them being resident or boarding students. At this moment of apparent prosperity the college was met, however, with one of its most serious disasters. A typhoid epidemic struck the school with sixty-five cases of the dread disease on campus. Four students died in the epidemic but only two of them on campus. One of those deaths was that of Florence Brown, a student-teacher from Illinois. Miss Brown was something of a heroine during the plague and Brown Hall, one of the central buildings on the campus, was named in her honor.

These years, just before the First World War, were boom years for the college. Under the leadership of President Mary Norman Moore (who would serve again later as Mrs. Mary Moore McCoy), there was extensive physical growth and academic change. A number of new buildings were erected and the curriculum was updated to meet the challenges of the twentieth century. In 1914 the Board of Education of the General Conference of the Methodist Church recognized the advances of the college by awarding it an "A" classification which meant that it was a fully accredited degree-granting institution. By that same year the valuation of the physical property of the college had increased to over \$200,000. The year 1915 saw the corporate name of the institution changed once more, this time to Athens College for Young Women.

The 1920's were years of continuing progress for the college. The Methodist Church, whose financial role in the life of the school had been nominal to this point, began to become more actively engaged in the funding of the college, at least to the extent of authorizing loans for construction and supporting

fund drives within the conference. With such backing and continued support from local citizens several new buildings were added, including a modern dormitory and a gymnasium. The school was sufficiently funded and organized to attain full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1927.

The 1930's brought financial hardships to institutions and individuals alike and Athens College was no different. A number of adjustments had to be made to meet the financial crises and the most significant was the decision to become co-educational. In 1931 the doors of the hallowed old girls' school were opened to men. To some it was a sacrilege, but to most students of both sexes it was a delight. Subsequently, of course, the name changed, this time to the still existing Athens College. During these difficult years, the school sustained itself, as did many other small private colleges, by offering whatever assistance it could to students in the matter of tuition and other expenses. Payments in kind were accepted, a variety of work-study plans were adopted, and a number of students were accepted on pure faith. In 1939-40 the college sponsored the construction of a hosiery mill to help provide work for needy students.

The war years of the forties were lean times for Athens College but the influx of veterans after 1945 helped revitalize the school. Evening classes were introduced for the benefit of those studying under the G.I. Bill of Rights and became a mainstay of the curriculum and a financial boon to the school in the 1950s and sixties. Men's intercollegiate sports were added during this period with basketball and even football (which had been played for a brief time in the thirties) becoming a part of the campus life in

the 1950's. With the return of somewhat more flush times some sorely needed refurbishing and construction were undertaken in this decade with a small dormitory and a science building being the main additions. In 1962 a more spacious and modern residence hall for girls was completed which would house fifty students.

Under the leadership of President Virgil McCain and the Board of Trustees, the college saw a "new departure" in 1964 as it launched an era of expansion and active recruitment of students. In the short space of one year the enrollment of the school increased from less than 800 to more than 1300. There were some problems as Athens College went "mod" with its expanded and cosmopolitan student body, a significant part of which now came from the eastern and northern states. It was another period of adjustment for the school but the problems were quickly ameliorated with no sacrifice of academic excellence. A number of new buildings were added, including a modern physical education center, an excellent college union building and four men's dormitories.

As Athens College begins its second 150 years the prospects are quite bright, certainly as much so as they were for those stalwarts who resolved to establish an "institute of high grade" back in 1822. The current problems are being expeditiously met -- as they have always been -- the enrollment has stabilized at about one thousand per semester, the faculty is outstanding, student-faculty ratios are excellent, the endowment is increasing, the administration is progressive and responsive to student needs, and it may be expected that 150 years from now the tri-centennial historian of the college will view this as one more interesting era in a long and

colorful history. And another five generations will have been able to concur with Webster that though it is but a small college, "there are those that love it."



FOUNDERS HALL

Completed in 1844, this building shows clearly the Greek influence which was common to early Southern architecture. The massive outer brick walls are fifteen inches thick and were fashioned by slave labor.

# GENERAL O. M. MITCHEL'S OCCUPATION OF HUNTSVILLE

By MARTHA B. GABEL

Ormsby McKnight Mitchel was born in Morganfield, Kentucky, on July 28, 1809, but claimed Ohio as his adopted state. He entered West Point Military Academy in 1825. Four years later he graduated fifteenth in a class of forty-six, which included Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston who later became renowned commanding generals of the Confederate States of America. Upon graduation Mitchel was promoted to a brevet second lieutenancy in the Second United States Artillery. In the same year he was appointed Acting Assistant Professor of Mathematics at West Point. He resigned his military rank and professorship in 1832 to study law in Cincinnati. In 1834 he became Professor of Mathematics, Philosophy, and Astronomy at Cincinnati College, a position he retained for ten years. During this time he urged that an Observatory be established in Cincinnati. Appointed director of the Observatory itself in 1845, he began publishing a noted astronomical journal entitled the Sidereal Messenger. Two years later he became Ohio's State Adjutant-General, followed by an appointment in 1848 as Chief Engineer of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad. This knowledge of railroad operations was to prove a valuable asset to him during the Civil War.

Mitchel returned to New York in 1859 to serve as director of the Dudley Observatory at Albany.

While there he attended the Union meeting at Union Square in New York City on April 20, 1861. His eloquent address on that occasion stirred the emotions of his audience when he declared: "I owe allegiance to no State, and never did, and God helping me, I never will. I owe allegiance to the Government of the United States." But, in a reference to the Southern States, he solemnly warned his audience:

I know these men; I know their courage; I have been among them; I have been reared with them; they have courage; and do not yet pretend to think they have not. I tell you what it is, it is no child's play you are entering upon. They will fight; and with a determination and a power which is irresistible.<sup>1</sup>

With war a reality, O.M. (deemed the Ohio Monster) Mitchel turned his attention once again to military service. On August 9, 1861, he was commissioned a brigadier-general of volunteers. At the request of Cincinnati citizens, he was transferred from New York to the Department of the Ohio, which included his native state of Kentucky as well. Loyal Kentuckians rushed to join Mitchel's forces. Soon he found himself in command of a brigade, next a division, and then a column of General Don Carlos Buell's forces.

Mitchel commanded the third regiment of the Army of the Ohio from December 2, 1861, to July 2, 1862, during which time his forces were involved in the campaign of Tennessee and North Alabama. His regiment made a brilliant showing at Bowling Green, Kentucky, in February, 1862.

From Kentucky, the Army of the Ohio moved to Nashville, Tennessee. While the major bulk of Buell's forces occupied the Volunteer State's Capi-

tol, Mitchel was sent forward to penetrate Alabama to Huntsville, where he hoped to sever the Memphis and Charleston Railroad line which linked the Confederate armies in the east and west.<sup>2</sup> Mitchel knew that if his mission were successful, the way would be open for Buell's Army to sweep into East Tennessee. His experience in railroading enabled Mitchel to understand the necessity to destroy the Huntsville railroad. The Nashville Daily Union, a Union newspaper, described the situation:

This Memphis and Charleston road is the only connection left the rebels between Louisiana, Mississippi and all Alabama west of Pensacola and the Southern seaboard States. Troops can only be sent east from New Orleans, Natchez, Vicksburg, Jackson, Memphis, Baton Rouge, or Mobile, or to those points from Virginia, North or South Carolina, or Georgia, over the Memphis and Charleston road, the only railroad line now connecting the east and west of the rebellion. Let that road be once broken and the Southern Confederacy is cut into as effectually as if a Chinese wall were built between the Gulf and the seaboard States.<sup>3</sup>

As Federal forces advanced toward North Alabama, Confederate officers in Huntsville organized four companies of militia to resist the advance. When Federal gunboats penetrated as far as Florence on February 9, 1862, two Confederate companies from Huntsville went to Tusculumbia by train, but returned home shortly because the vessels had already departed. John Withers Clay, editor of the Huntsville Democrat, warned, however, that the emergency had not passed. He pointed out that Federal penetration to Florence was reconnaissance to ascertain information about Confederate defenses. "If not prevented by unexpected force, we have no doubt within a week or two they will return and



fortify themselves on the Tennessee River," he predicted.<sup>4</sup>

Two months later, Clay's dreadful prediction came true when Mitchel's command came sweeping into Huntsville. Rolling stock had been collected in the town for shipment to a place of less danger; but because of the treachery of a telegraph operator who withheld knowledge of the approaching Federal raid from the local officials, all was lost. To prevent its falling into the hands of the Federals, much more of the stock was destroyed than was captured.<sup>5</sup>

According to General Buell's report on Federal operations in North Alabama, Mitchel's main objective was to concentrate his forces in the Huntsville area and cut Confederate communications by occupying the Memphis and Charleston railroad. This road linked Huntsville with Buell's destination of Chattanooga. To accomplish his objective, Mitchel set out with one division with three field batteries (eighteen pieces) of artillery, a regiment of cavalry, and two companies of engineer troops, a total force of about 8,000 men.<sup>6</sup>

Mitchel's march from Nashville advanced through Murfreesboro, Shelbyville, and Fayetteville, Tennessee, meeting little resistance along the way. Prior to entering Huntsville, however, Mitchel sent forward a scouting party to New Market on April 5, 1862. It is believed that these scouts were the first Federal soldiers to enter Madison County. Courthouse records meanwhile had been carried by wagon to Blountsville as a precaution.

On the march to Huntsville, Mitchel's troops passed the magnificent estate of Leroy Pope Walker, the Confederate Secretary of War whose mansion was now deserted and furniture removed. But the large number of slaves who remained on the premises gave

the soldiers a cordial welcome. Among the prominent local Union sympathizers who remained in the vicinity were Jeremiah Clemens, Judge George W. Lane, Judge D. C. Humphreys, C. C. Sheets, and David P. Lewis. All of these men had gone from the Confederate to the Union side except Judge Lane, who had maintained his allegiance to the Federal government throughout the secession movement.

By this time the Huntsville area was filled with deserters from Confederate ranks following the Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7. "Tories," "renegades", and "traitors" also abounded in the vicinity, acting as spies and aiding and abetting Federal troops who pillaged and plundered the defenseless community. It is little wonder that editor Clay described Huntsville during this time as a "center of disaffection."<sup>7</sup>

On April 10, Mitchel halted his cavalry about eight miles north of the town to await the arrival of artillery and infantry. He wanted to strike a decisive blow so that he could be assured of a successful railroad capture. Any apprehension he may have had was unnecessary, because his entire march had been well concealed. Confederate leaders had been unable to obtain any positive information of his whereabouts or his destination, though they knew he was moving rapidly southward into the heart of the Confederacy.

Having been summoned to their feet shortly after two a. m. to prepare for the first thrust, the Federal troops reached Huntsville about dawn and took the sleeping town almost completely by surprise. "The clattering noise of the cavalry," wrote a spectator, "aroused them from their slumber in the dawn of the morning, and they flocked to door and window, exclaiming, with blanched cheek and faltering tongue. 'They come! They come! The Yankees come!' Men

rushed into the streets almost naked, the women fainted, the children screamed, the darkies laughed, and for a time a scene of perfect terror reigned."<sup>8</sup>

Two work crews had been sent with picks and crowbars to tear up the railway at the east and west sections of town, while the cavalry had moved directly upon the city and the railroad station. The plan had been successful and Mitchel had accomplished a bloodless victory indeed. A correspondent for the Cincinnati Gazette reported the capture in the following manner:

An advance force of one hundred and fifty cavalry, together with a section of battery, first caught sight of Huntsville, and the lovely cedar surrounding it. They were advancing upon the doublequick, when two locomotives, with trains attached, suddenly made their appearance upon the railroad. They were moving in the direction of Stevenson. The Federals shot at the first train and brought it to a halt. A shot at the second train also halted it. But in the meantime, the engineer of the first train was quietly getting up steam, and when nobody was suspecting such a thing, he suddenly started off. The cavalry went into pursuit, and actually chased the locomotive for ten miles, before it got away.<sup>9</sup>

Mitchell listed as captured about 200 prisoners, fifteen locomotives, a large amount of passenger, box and platform cars, a telegraph, and two Southern Railway mails. From his headquarters in Huntsville, he ordered the Ninth Brigade under Colonel Joshua Sill to drive the Confederates out of Stevenson. The Eighth Brigade was sent to seize Decatur and Colonel John B. Turchin's troops converged on Athens. By April 16, it was all over and Mitchel exultantly thanked his soldiers by saying:

You have struck blow after blow with a rapidity unparalleled. Stevenson fell, sixty miles to the east

of Huntsville, Decatur and Tuscumbia have been in like manner seized, and are now occupied. In three days, you have extended your front of operations more than one hundred miles, and your morning guns at Tuscumbia may now be heard by your comrades on the battlefield made glorious by their victory before Corinth.<sup>10</sup>

For his achievements in the North Alabama campaign without the loss of one life, Mitchel was commissioned a Major-General of Volunteers. With orders to report directly to the War Department, his force was constituted an independent corps.

But what of the telegraph operator who had aided Mitchel? According to an Alabama newspaper, Spirit of the South, the operator was treated thusly:

In Huntsville when that city was captured by the Federals, there was a Yankee Operator (Telegraph) who suppressed from the citizens the news of the approach of the enemy so that they had scarcely an hour's notice of their danger before they were under Yankee rule. That smart operator, after his cute Yankee trick, soon made it convenient notwithstanding the presence of Mitchel forces, and the surrender of the city, to retire, to enjoy in his fresh won laurels, in a more Northern latitude.<sup>11</sup>

Huntsville fortunately did not suffer as much terrible destruction of war that was inflicted on other battle-shattered towns across the South. Nevertheless, the possibility of battle always loomed in the background because each time Confederate troops moved within striking distance, the Federals in Huntsville would immediately fortify the town against an assault. The result was always the destruction of homes or property located at strategic points. There were also threats by some soldiers to set the entire town on fire, but General Mitchel and other officers took measures to protect homes which were used for

their quarters.

Federal officers confiscated homes of Confederate soldiers who were away at war. They commandeered rooms in homes of Confederate sympathizers, which in some cases amounted to most, if not all, of the entire house. Mitchel chose the William McDowell home (currently known as the Henry Chase home) as his residence and headquarters. He set up his desk in the large room in the southwest corner of the house.<sup>12</sup>

The Federals kept close watch over the activities of local citizens during the occupation. Mitchel demanded an oath of allegiance to the United States before passes were granted to leave the town. Provisions were also forbidden without the oath. Confederate money generally lost its value. Food prices in Huntsville were outrageously high. Based on Federal currency, poor quality green tea sold for \$4.00 per pound, common rough trousers were \$13.00 per pair, boots were \$25.00 per pair, and shoes ranged from \$5.00 to \$12.00 per pair.<sup>13</sup>

In addition to their resentment of the oath, local citizens found other reasons to be hostile to the military occupation. Without taking a pledge to denounce the Confederacy, no citizen could send to mill, bring in provisions, or buy food. Mitchel's declared intention to starve the city into submission further widened the gap between him and the populace.

Since Huntsville did not have a public hospital, Federal troops used the imposing and roomy mansion of Meredith Calhoun. Because of the kindness of Huntsville ladies to the wounded and sick Federal soldiers, the Yankee surgeon published a card of thanks. Smallpox broke out in the army in June, 1862, causing one local citizen to note sadly that "we are literally visited by 'pestilence and sword'"<sup>14</sup>



HUNTSVILLE UNDER MILITARY OCCUPATION, 1862

This sketch was made by an officer of General Mitchel's command. The view is looking north toward Adams Avenue.

Most Huntsville women refused to socialize with the Union soldiers. There were only four or five homes in the town where the officers were received on terms of social equality. Among those who entertained the Federals were Judge and Mrs. Lane, mentioned earlier as Union sympathizers. Mrs. William D. Chadick, a local citizen, said that General Mitchel complained that the ladies of Huntsville had given Federal officers the "cold shoulder" by not accepting them socially. She described one incident in which Union sympathizers gave a picnic and invited two of Mitchel's officers. Deeply offended, Mitchel arrested both men the following day. Some local citizens attributed the arrest to jealousy because Mitchel was not invited himself.

General Mitchel's family arrived in June. Furniture, bed, table linens and a piano were taken from the local hotel to furnish the Clay house for their reception. Statuary and paintings were also removed from the Calhoun home to complete the furnishings. The family apparently adjusted well to Huntsville and even remained a short time following Mitchel's departure to his new assignment.

During the summer the Federals were harassed almost constantly by small bands of Confederates scattered across North Alabama. The fighting was in the nature of skirmishes. General Philip D. Roddy, known as the "Defender of North Alabama," led a small body of mobile troops in guerilla type warfare to confuse and confound the enemy. The most noted leader of these hit and run activities was John Hunt Morgan, a native of Huntsville, whose raiders roamed North Alabama striking Union troops and seizing Federal mail from Huntsville to Nashville.<sup>15</sup> Mitchel became infuriated about the Confederate guerillas and asked the War Department for

permission to send prominent local Confederate sympathizers to Northern prisons. He said that Jeremiah Clemens and Judge Lane advised such a measure. Permission was given to transfer the sympathizers to Boston Harbor when Mitchel persisted in his request. General Mitchel and his subordinates held the citizens responsible for damages inflicted by Confederate forces in their section of town to bridges, trestles, and trains. As a result, the provost marshal at Huntsville, Colonel Harmer, selected a number of prominent citizens to answer certain political questions, who, if their answers were not satisfactory, were to be expelled from the country.<sup>16</sup>

According to General Buell, habitual lawlessness prevailed in a portion of General Mitchel's command. Mitchel himself described it as "terrible outrages - robberies, rapes, arsons, and plunderings being committed by lawless brigands and vagabonds connected with the army."<sup>17</sup> Although he was granted authority to punish the offenders by death, nobody was punished. Not only straggling individuals, but a whole brigade, under the open authority of its commander, engaged in these acts. Obviously he could not apply the means of repression when his command was the offender and the people of the country were the innocent victims. As one local citizen recorded in her journal, "I never expected that it would come to such a pass that we have to submit to a reign of terror. We are not allowed even to walk in the streets."<sup>18</sup> The terrors of the situation were compounded by the so-called "homemade" Yankees, deserters who donned blue uniforms and searched and robbed houses under Federal disguise.

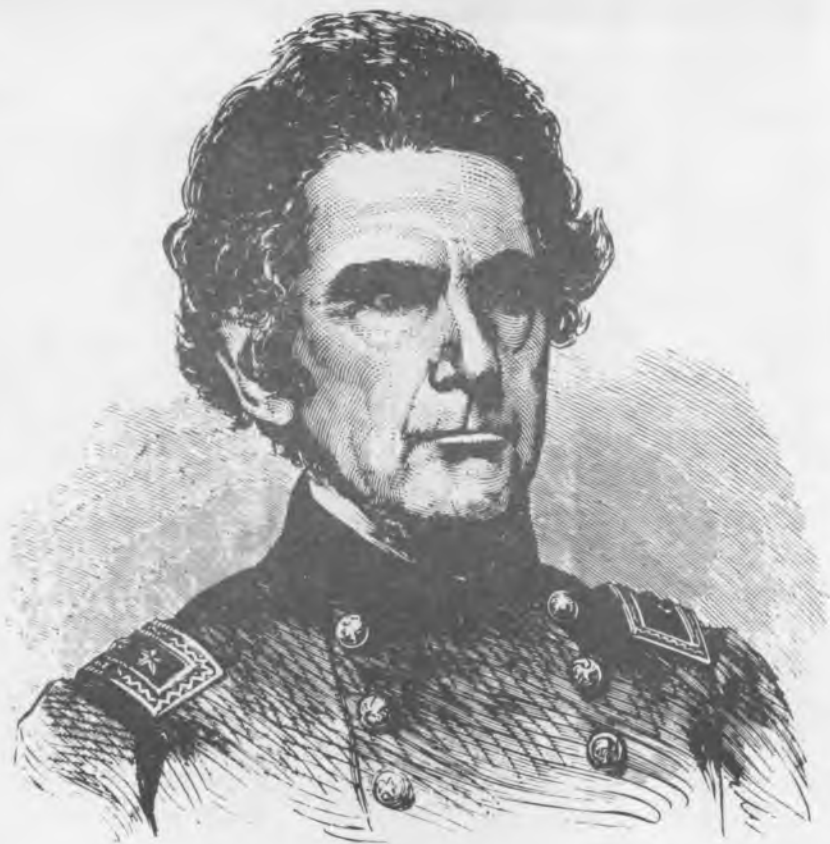
From Huntsville, Federal troops fanned out in all directions to capture and fortify the area. One



regiment was sent east to Bridgeport to drive the enemy out and destroy the bridge. Confederates, under General E. Kirby Smith, strongly resisted but were routed after thirty minutes of shelling, losing sixty-three men killed and many wounded. They left 300 prisoners and two pieces of artillery behind them as they fled across the Tennessee River. General Mitchel led the Federals personally in this engagement.

Mitchel reported that he could not have held the railway from Tusculumbia to Bridgeport as long as he did had it not been for negro assistance. Near Huntsville he found a negro carpenter who had worked along the entire line of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, and knew many slaves on plantations on the railway route and Tennessee River. This man was employed to organize his slave friends into bands of informers, who were to report any hostile Confederate movements which they observed on the river and railroad. Release from slavery was promised to those who gave important information. In this way Mitchel often checked incipient movements against his posts against the information provided him by the slaves.<sup>19</sup>

On June 28, 1862, General Buell transferred his headquarters for the Army of the Ohio to Huntsville, arriving there with General Alexander McCook and Richard Johnson with a part of their army. Buell intended to move to Chattanooga but he became unduly worried about his supply situation. Also, he was naturally concerned about the activities of Morgan, who had been relentlessly raiding Federal communications, although Buell's own situation was not directly affected. Nevertheless, for two weeks the Union army marked time in the Decatur-Huntsville area.



MAJOR GENERAL ORMSBY McKNIGHT MITCHEL

Deemed the "Ohio Monster," he was the commanding general of Union forces in Huntsville for three months during the spring of 1862. (Famous Leaders and Battle Scenes of the Civil War).



MAJOR GENERAL DON CARLOS BUELL

Mitchel's commanding officer and adversary, his arrival in Huntsville in June, 1862, precipitated Mitchel's immediate resignation and reassignment to Hilton Head, South Carolina. (Famous Leaders and Battle Scenes of the Civil War).

During this time Buell and Mitchel engaged in sharp exchanges on military issues concerning the North Alabama campaign. Though he did not regard Mitchel as insubordinate, Buell thought him "restless in ordinary service, ambitious in an ostentatious way, and by temperament unsuited to an important independent command."<sup>20</sup> The conflict between the two men was aggravated by Mitchel's insistence that they move on quickly with the campaign. By reaching Chattanooga, he hoped to aid East Tennessee by destroying Confederate forces at Knoxville, Greenville, and Cumberland Gap. His plans also included destruction of the founderies at Rome, Georgia, and breaking up the railway connection between Chattanooga and Atlanta (Andrews Raid). But none of these plans became reality because of Buell's cautiousness in committing men and arms to the campaign.

William S. Furay, a correspondent for the Cincinnati Gazette, wrote the following article from Huntsville on July 6, 1862, of the dissension between Buell and Mitchel:

God grant that he (Mitchel) may yet triumph over his enemies! I was recently inclined to think him indifferent upon the great question of Human Freedom, but I am now certain that all his seeming inconsistency upon that matter arose from the orders of General Buell, who cares more for guarding a rebel cabbage patch, or reenslaving a liberated negro, than he does for gaining a triumph over the enemy. It is a common remark in the army now, that there is not a traitor in Huntsville or vicinity who would not be received at Buell's headquarters with greater consideration and respect than any Union officer.<sup>21</sup>

The differences between the two commanders finally resulted in Mitchel's recall to Washington where he was reassigned to the command of the

Department of the South at Hilton Head, South Carolina. He assumed this command on September 17, 1862, and found the area swarming with about 5,000 disorganized and idle refugee slaves. He organized the slaves into a work force and had them build a small village called Mitchelville on the plantation of the Confederate General Thomas Drayton.

Upon completion of this project, Mitchel again turned his thoughts toward military planning, conceiving an advance on Charleston to destroy the Charleston and Savannah Railroad near Pocotaligo. Before his plans could be completed, however, he was struck with a disease similar to yellow fever. He retired to a more healthful locality in Beaufort, South Carolina, but his condition declined rapidly and he died on October 30. From Beaufort Mitchel's remains were transported to Brooklyn, New York, where the body was interred in Greenwood Cemetery.

<sup>1</sup>Benson J. Lossing, Pictorial History of the Civil War in The United States of America, Vol. 1 (Philadelphia, 1866), 360.

<sup>2</sup>Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence Clough Buel, editors, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. II (New York, 1888), 701-2. Huntsville was considered a prime link in the Confederacy because of the transportation system offered by the Tennessee River, network of roads connecting Tennessee and Georgia, and the all important railroad system.

<sup>3</sup>Whitelaw Reid, Ohio in the War: Her Statesmen, and Soldiers. (Cincinnati, 1872).

<sup>4</sup>Mimi Simms, "Life in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1862". typed Mss. in Huntsville Public Library, 19.

<sup>5</sup>Walter L. Fleming, Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama. (New York, 1949), 260.

<sup>6</sup>Johnson and Buel, op. cit., II, 701.

<sup>7</sup>Edward Chambers Betts, Early History of Huntsville, Alabama 1804 to 1870 (Montgomery, 1916), 97.

<sup>8</sup>Lossing, op. cit., II, 266.

<sup>9</sup>Reid, op. cit., 20-1.

<sup>10</sup>Lossing, op. cit., II, 267.

<sup>11</sup>James Record, A Dream Come True. Vol. 1 (Huntsville, 1970), 129.

<sup>12</sup>Victor B. Haagen, The Pictorial History of Huntsville (Meriden, Connecticut, 1963), 105.

<sup>13</sup>Simms, op. cit., 4

<sup>14</sup>Mrs. William D. Chadick, "Diary of Civil War Days in Huntsville." Huntsville Times, 1934.

<sup>15</sup>Chadick, op. cit.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.

<sup>17</sup>Fleming, op. cit., 63.

<sup>18</sup>Chadick, op. cit.

<sup>19</sup>Mrs. Chadick also mentioned in her diary that many slaves refused to work for their masters and went over to the Federals to provide information about Confederate arms and troops. Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Johnson and Buel, op. cit., II, 707.

<sup>21</sup>J. Cutler Andrews, The North Reports the Civil War (Pittsburgh, 1955), 287.

# THE EARLY YEARS OF REDSTONE ARSENAL

By CLEO CASON and WINONA STROUP

In early 1941 the Chemical Warfare Service had only one chemical manufacturing installation--Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. As World War II drew closer to involving the United States, the Chief, Chemical Warfare Service, requested the War Department to acquire additional facilities capable of furnishing an Army of 2,800,000 men with necessary offensive chemical munitions. Included in the supplemental appropriations that Congress passed to finance the Munitions Program of June 30, 1940, was over \$57,000,000 for the Chemical Warfare Service, of which more than \$53,000,000 was for procurement and supply.

The selection of Huntsville as the site for a CWS arsenal stemmed from a visit by Maj. Gen. Walter C. Baker, a former Chief of the Chemical Warfare Service. On June 8, 1941, Lt. Col. Charles E. Loucks, soon to be Executive Officer of OC CWS, and a civilian engineer visited Huntsville, Alabama. Upon returning to Washington, they filed a twenty-page report with Maj. Gen. William N. Porter, Chief, Chemical Warfare Service. The following week-end, General Porter and Col. Paul X. English reviewed the proposed location. From nine sites surveyed, ranging from West Virginia to Missouri, the Chief, CWS recommended the one near Huntsville. Characterizing the Huntsville site as "more desirable, considering the matter as a whole, than any other location considered," he cited the avail-

ability of 33,000 acres of land "reasonably priced," the excellence of transportation facilities, labor conditions, construction materials, power supply from the Tennessee Valley Authority, operating personnel and raw materials, fuel, water supply, climate, health, living conditions, and sewage disposal. He conceded, however, that "as at all the sites seriously considered, it will be necessary to have a housing project."

On July 3, 1941, the Huntsville Times announced the decision by the War Department to construct a Chemical Warfare Manufacturing Arsenal near the city to produce smoke materials and other chemical warfare required by the military establishment. The announcement stated that:

"Information received by The Times from Washington states that there will be two plants -- separate and apart but adjacent. One will be the Chemical Warfare Service Plant, while the other will be the Ordnance plant for storage and care of the shells." The Chemical Plant will cost \$41,000,000, while the other will cost \$6,000,000. It was also reported that approximately 5,000 men will be required to operate the plant and approximately the same number of men for construction purposes."

Under the direction of the Real Estate Branch of the Quartermaster Corps of the War Department, land acquisition for the Sibert Arsenal-Ordnance Plant began. The name was selected in honor of Maj. Gen. William L. Sibert, a native of Gadsden, Alabama, and first Chief of Chemical Warfare Service from June, 1918, to February, 1920. However, a Chemical Warfare Service training center was proposed for Gadsden and the Sibert name was saved for Camp Sibert which was deactivated at the end of the war.



The site selected for the CWS/Ordnance Plants was in the fertile valley of the Tennessee River, which had been used in the past for farming purposes such as the production of cotton, corn, peanuts, and livestock. Unpaved rural roads served the area. A few antebellum plantations remained among the smaller farm tracts. Over 300 individual tracts involving more than 35,000 acres had to be purchased or converted to public use under the right of eminent domain.

The Government immediately took steps to acquire the land by condemnation proceedings. When the Office of the Quartermaster General filed a petition on July 23, 1941, to this effect, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, Northeastern Division, entered an order granting possession to the Government as of noon, July 24, 1941.

The general procedure involved in securing the land was for an impartial expert - in this case, the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans - acting as a consultant to the Government, to appraise each tract. Negotiations between a representative of the Office of the Quartermaster General and the land owner then began. Generally the owners accepted the evaluation and only a small percentage of the cases had to be taken into individual condemnation suits. In most cases the acquisition of land was conducted in a very orderly and expeditious manner, and not one case is on record where operations or construction had to be delayed because land was not acquired in time. The Government saved considerable money by allowing owners to remain on their land until crops were harvested if this did not interfere with construction. The removal process was spread out, therefore, over a period of time. No

specific relocation program was needed, as the community absorbed the major portion of those displaced. In fact, many people who formerly lived on the land obtained work with the construction contractors at a considerable increase in their annual income.

On July 16, 1941, the War Department signed a cost-plus-fixed-fee contract with Whitman, Requardt, and Smith of Baltimore, Maryland, for architectural and engineering services. A second contract of the same type followed on July 21, 1941 - this one being with C. G. Kershaw Contracting Co., Birmingham, Alabama; Walter Butler Co., St. Paul, Minnesota; and Engineers Limited, San Francisco, California, for the construction of Huntsville Arsenal.

During July contractors began acquiring machinery and materials. Col. Rollo C. Ditto, the first Commanding Officer of Huntsville Arsenal, arrived on August 4, 1941, and the next day, ground was broken for initial construction. By September 14, 1941, temporary buildings on the Arsenal were complete, and the new occupants moved in. Previously, the Commanding Officer and his staff had operated from the Huntsville National Guard Armory and the Huntsville High School. Personnel matters were handled initially in the Chamber of Commerce office and Armory.

The initial plans for Huntsville Arsenal stipulated eleven manufacturing plants, four chemical-loading plants, plant storage, laboratories, shops, offices, a hospital, fire and police protection, a communications system, and utilities, including roads and railroads, necessary for the protection, storage and shipping of chemical munitions.

Original plans for the acquisition of land on



### GROUND BREAKING FOR REDSTONE

Major Carroll D. Hudson, first commanding officer of the Redstone Ordnance Plant, digs into a cotton field in October, 1941, to break ground for the first building of the military complex. The shovel has been preserved and is still used in ground breaking ceremonies.

which to build the arsenal included over 7,000 acres to be used for construction of a depot area, later known as Gulf Chemical Warfare Depot, to be located in the extreme south portion bordering on the Tennessee River. Successive authorizations expanded the initial Chemical Warfare Service plans considerably. The end result was tantamount to a complete city which was for all practical purposes self-sufficient.

Shortly after President Franklin Roosevelt issued the Emergency Proclamation in September, 1939, the Ordnance Department began to plan for the expansion of its facilities to meet the growing needs of national security. Among its anticipated projects was a chemical shell assembly plant and its related facilities. The site for such a plant had not been chosen, however, when the Chemical Warfare Service decided to erect Huntsville Arsenal. Realizing the tremendous economy that could be achieved if a shell-loading plant could be located close to such an arsenal, the Chief of Ordnance, Maj. Gen. Charles M. Wesson, directed Maj. Myron Leedy of his office to conduct a survey of available sites in the vicinity. Acting upon Major Leedy's recommendation, the Ordnance Department decided to build a shell-loading plant on property adjacent to Huntsville Arsenal, and on September 25, 1941, Maj. Carroll D. Hudson, Ordnance Department, was named Commanding Officer.

On October 6, 1941, Major Hudson arrived in Huntsville and immediately established a local office. On October 7, he called a meeting of the Area Engineer, representatives of the architects, Whitman, Requardt and Smith, and the contractors, Kershaw, Butler, Engineers, Ltd. After discussing contracts which had been entered into by the

Quartermaster Corps, plans for the construction of what was to be known as the Redstone Ordnance Plant, named because of the preponderance of red soil, were commenced.

The requirements for the plant, as established by the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, called for the loading and assembly of 75mm chemical shell; 81mm chemical mortar shell; 30-pound chemical bomb; 105mm chemical shell, together with the loading and assembly of burster charges for this ammunition.

Accordingly, the layout of original plans called for the construction of: two burster-loading and assembly lines; two shell-loading and assembly lines; twenty-four inert storage warehouses; thirty igloos; thirty-five finished ammunition magazines; administrative and utility buildings; and all utilities.

The plant's tract of land consisted of approximately 4,000 acres, designated on the surveyor's map of Madison County as a portion of the Sibert Arsenal Project, located ten miles south of the city of Huntsville.

Ground breaking ceremonies for construction of the Redstone Ordnance Plant, redesignated Redstone Arsenal on February 26, 1943, occurred on October 25, 1941. The first building, a two-story, barracks type structure was occupied on November 11, and served as temporary headquarters for Maj. Hudson, his staff, and representatives of the area engineer, architects and contractors.

The construction of facilities progressed at a brisk rate until the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941. Afterwards the pace was more urgent and in many cases operations were on a twenty-four day, seven-day week basis.

Total construction costs of Huntsville Arsenal and the Gulf Chemical Warfare Dept. including land

approached \$70,000,000. Construction costs of Redstone Arsenal are listed in historical records at \$11,500,000.

Planning of facilities included accommodations for a large work force of women employees as it was becoming increasingly evident that there would be a scarcity of male workers. Arrangements were made with the Civil Service Commission to announce examinations for jobs known as "female trainees." Jobs on the Redstone production and assembly lines were later called "mechanic learners," whether performed by women or men. Finally, these jobs were classified "explosives operators." By August, 1945, sixty-two percent of the personnel working on the Redstone ammunition production lines were women.

Workers were generally available during the agricultural off-season periods but were more difficult to obtain at other periods. The Civil Service regional offices, the U.S. Employment Service, and the War Manpower Commission co-operated in recruiting civilian personnel for the arsenals.

At times when the manpower situation was stringent, those agencies assisted the Arsenal in conducting recruiting campaigns. Advertisements were run in local papers, and employees were urged to hand out printed leaflets to their relatives and friends on the need for workers. A spectacular touch was added when airplanes dropped handbills about this need over the adjoining countryside. Recruitment of workers, in other respects, was not lacking in the elements of human interest. There was, for example; the incident when, in the spring 1943, the president of a Negro college for girls in Georgia stepped into the office of the commanding officer and offered the services of approximately



### FIRST REDSTONE HEADQUARTERS

This building was occupied in November, 1941. It was used as a temporary headquarters until the Administration Building was constructed and then used as BOQ.

one hundred young women in the graduating class. The offer was gratefully accepted. The young women from Atlanta University came to the arsenal fully aware of the rather distasteful nature of some of the work, but they did a job, which in the opinion of one qualified to judge, could hardly have been surpassed.

Huntsville Arsenal reached its peak of 6,707 employees in May, 1944. Over ninety percent of the force was civilian.<sup>1</sup>

Military strength reached its peak of 580 in October, 1942. In December, 1943, a number of WAC's arrived for administrative duty. Enlisted men were used primarily as security forces. None worked on production or maintenance projects.

By May 1, 1945, approximately 700 employees were on military furlough or had resigned to enter the armed forces. This amounted to about twelve percent of the work force.

Huntsville, like the other CWS arsenals, manufactured toxic agents, smoke, and incendiary material, and with these filled shells, grenades, pots, and bombs supplied, usually, by the Ordnance Department.

During the forty months of operation, more than 27,000,000 items in the form of shells, grenades, canisters, smoke pots, bombs, and bomb clusters were manufactured. No production figures were released on the production of mustard gas, phosgene, and lewisite, but more than 6,000,000 smoke grenades, 2,300,000 smoke pots, 2,500,000 WP shells, 5,000,000 M-69 thermite incendiary bombs, 268,000 M-47 bombs, 900,000 M-54 bombs, 9,000,000 canisters for artillery shells, 448,000 M-75 incendiary clusters, and 55,000 M-76 bombs were produced at Huntsville Arsenal.

In addition to performing production tasks, the



personnel of Huntsville Arsenal achieved several awards. In August, 1942, the Arsenal was awarded the Army-Navy "E" for outstanding production. Formal presentation was made October 31, 1942. Three stars were awarded subsequently. The Treasury "T" award for participation in war bond campaigns was first presented on November 17, 1943.

Redstone Arsenal reached its peak employment in February, 1945, with 4,252 civilian employees, eighteen military officers, and four enlisted men on detached duty with the Signal Corps.

Between March, 1942, and September, 1945, more than 45,000,000 items of ammunition were produced or assembled at Redstone Arsenal. These items included 11,605,800 rounds of chemical artillery ammunition, 3,615,000 rounds of chemical mortar ammunition, 3,288,000 rifle grenades, 706,300 miscellaneous items such as aerial bombs and tank weapons, and 14,233,000 burster charges. The technique of mass production of tetrytol was perfected at Redstone Arsenal. Tetrytol, a high explosive binary mix, was used in the loading of certain bursters, boosters, and demolition blocks.

In less than three years, personnel of Redstone had won five Army-Navy "E" Awards for production excellence. The first award was presented on November 28, 1942. Stars appeared on the "E" flag each time the Arsenal again earned the award, on July 17, 1943, January 15, 1944, November 4, 1944, and June 23, 1945. Redstone was the first installation in the Southeast to fly a "T" banner for having more than ninety percent of its employees investing ten percent or more of their salary in War Bonds.

The Fred Project, the installation's first contact with the rocket business, was established at

Huntsville Arsenal in January, 1945, at the request of the Army Air Corps. Its purpose was to investigate various chemical combinations as possible propellants for use in the launching of JR-2 bombs, an early design similar to the German V-1 Buzz Bomb. The units were developed at the Arsenal and tested at Elgin Field. This was the first government in-house liquid propulsion group. The project was terminated in September, 1945.

Many other things had also been terminated by September, 1945. By the end of the war Huntsville and Redstone arsenals had met or surpassed every goal set, often pioneering production techniques later adopted elsewhere throughout the military establishment. Huntsville had produced chemical munitions valued at \$134,589,951. Redstone was shipping twenty freight car loads of munitions each day. Then the war ended and production stopped. There was an immediate drop in personnel strength.

The inevitable phasedown followed quickly, but the years after the war were not quiet ones for those who remained. The smooth running machine that had sent munitions off production lines to supply depots and ammunition dumps behind battle lines throughout the world ground to a halt, then reversed. Much of the munitions came back to the point of origin for demilitarization or renovation and storage. Large quantities of obsolete items had to be destroyed to free storage space.

Thousands of obsolete incendiary bombs were burned by the Gulf Chemical Warfare Depot. As part of the process, the bombs had to be removed from the wooden boxes in which they had been packed for shipment. A shortage of lumber for civilian construction created a lively demand for the boxes which sold for twenty-five cents each. Many homes

built in this area soon after the war had floors and side walls made of bomb containers.

What to do with production plants and land in the immediate absence of a requirement to produce anything posed more of a problem. By early 1946, the Chemical Corps had authorized lease of more than 5,000 acres in Huntsville Arsenal for agricultural use, a practice that continues to this day. It was also decided to lease to private enterprises any facilities not immediately required with suitable recapture clauses so that the Army could regain possession if necessary.

Plants for the production of chlorine gas were among the first leased to industry, another practice that continues in effect. Other leases followed and as it became evident that the Arsenal was headed for standby status, Huntsville Arsenal absorbed the neighboring Gulf Chemical Depot - "Warfare" had earlier been dropped from the title - in January, 1947. In the same year there was a brief and abortive attempt to manufacture automobiles on the installation. The Keller Motors Corporation, formerly Dixie Motor Car Corporation, leased a building on the post in August, 1947. Probably not more than three cars were actually hand built, and the company went under. Late that year the Army decided that the Arsenal was surplus to its need and directed local officials to prepare for deactivation.

Huntsville's ordnance neighbor, Redstone Arsenal, had also fallen on lean years. A post war workload of renovation of returned ammunition supported a greatly reduced work force. Civilian employment had been about 3,000 at the end of July, 1945; by December it had dropped to 600 and the trend continued down.

The work ended in February, 1947, and Redstone

went into standby status with a permanent force of approximately 225 people.

It seems likely now that Huntsville Arsenal would have been shut down completely and sold during 1948 or 1949 if the demilitarization and decontamination work could have been completed, but with a greatly reduced work force, those tasks took time. Another saving factor was the leases that had been negotiated for some of the arsenal buildings. The leases required the arsenal to furnish utilities. Redstone Arsenal also drew its electrical power from Huntsville and was dependent upon Huntsville's railroad network.

On at least three occasions, there were announcements of impending sale. "For Sale" signs actually hung on the fences for a time, but a reprieve always came and the sale was postponed. For a short time in late 1948, the Air Force seemed interested in acquiring Huntsville Arsenal.

While the big Chemical Corps arsenal's fate hung in the balance, however, things were happening at neighboring Redstone. During 1948, the Chief of Ordnance had been convinced by then Col. H. N. Toftoy, Chief of the Ordnance Rocket Branch, and his staff that Ordnance rocket research and development activities should be centralized in a "rocket arsenal." Largely at Toftoy's urging, Redstone was chosen as the site in November 1948. Colonel Carroll D. Hudson returned to Redstone Arsenal to resume command on November 30, 1948. For about a year, or until November, 1949, both Redstone and Huntsville Arsenals came under the jurisdiction of Third Army. Early in 1949, it was decided to deactivate Huntsville Arsenal and turn the area and responsibility for the remaining activities there over to the Redstone Arsenal command. Redstone

became the Ordnance Rocket Center on June 1, 1949, and a month later assumed responsibilities for all land and buildings that had formerly comprised its bigger neighbor, Huntsville Arsenal, pending its closeout. About 350 civil servants transferred from Huntsville Arsenal to Redstone giving the new "rocket arsenal" an initial civil service strength of some 720 persons.

During 1949, two contractors, Thiokol Chemical Corporation and Rohm & Haas, completed negotiations with the Army to perform rocket propellant research and development and began moving into government-owned facilities at Redstone.

In the interest of economy and efficiency, it was decided to relocate the then Ordnance R&D Division Sub-office (Rocket) at Fort Bliss, Texas, charged with research and development of guided missiles, to Redstone by utilizing facilities of the former Huntsville Arsenal. The Secretary of the Army approved the plan on October 28, 1949. This meant the major portion of Huntsville Arsenal would be permanently transferred to Redstone as home for the new Ordnance Guided Missile Center.

<sup>1</sup>The distribution of the types of workers was fairly constant in that approximately nine percent of the personnel were unskilled; forty-eight percent semiskilled; eighteen percent skilled; and twenty-five percent administrative or graded employees. A representative sample recorded in September, 1944, showed twenty-six percent white female, eleven percent colored female, fifty-two percent white male, and eleven percent colored male. For a long time, the arsenal maintained a working ratio of white and colored employees almost equal to the population ratios.

# MADISON COUNTY 150 YEARS AGO

SARAH FISK, Contributor

Editor's Note - With this issue the Review begins a regular feature concerning Madison County 150 years ago. The articles selected by Sarah Fisk are taken from the Alabama Republican as they were actually written during that period. In the future we hope that it will be possible for us to reproduce the articles in a way that their appearance will be more authentic, so that our readers will sense that they are momentarily stepping back into time.

## NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Wednesday, July 4th, being the anniversary of our National Independence, was ushered in by a discharge of musketry by the Huntsville Independent Blues, commanded by Capt. Dunn, after going through the evolutions of the day, they retired to the court-house, where the Declaration of Independence was read by Mr. N. T. Packard, and an appropriate Oration was delivered by E. Titus, Esq. They proceeded to the Huntsville Inn, where being joined by a number of citizens in all about 150 persons, sat down to a sumptuous dinner prepared by Mr. Edington; Capt. John Phelan, President, assisted by Lemuel Mead, Esq. Vice President

Friday, July 13, 1821

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## BROWNSBOROUGH,

At the highest point of Boat Navigation on Flint River, in Madison county, one mile below Scott's mill, at the crossing on the road leading from Huntsville to Jackson court house and Deposit, has been laid off into Lots by the Proprietors, and will be sold on MONDAY the 23rd day of JULY next, on the premises.

The situation of this town warrants the calculation that it will improve and flourish. Several boats loaded with cotton were shipped the last season from here, and passed into the Tennessee river without impediment; and by an act of the last Legislature, Flint river was made a public highway, and a company has been incorporated for opening and improving the navigation to this place. The country around this town is good and fertile. Here will be shipped and disposed of the surplus produce, and here will be had the family supplies for the adjoining country of both Madison and Jackson counties.

Terms - Bonds with approved security will be required of the purchaser, payable (in two instalments) on the 25th of December, 1821 and 1822 - and a title will be made to the purchaser whenever complete payment is made.

JAMES & JOHN M'CARTNEY,  
Proprietors.

A plan of the town can be seen in Huntsville at the counting room of Beirne & Patton.

June 22

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## GREEN ACADEMY

We take pleasure in presenting to our readers the address of the Trustees of Greene Academy, appealing to the public spirit and liberality of this respectable community, to stand forth and patronize the establishment of an institution, the want of which, in a county of this wealth and population, is a standing reproach upon its citizens.

We are happy to assure the public, that the subscription papers, as far as they have been circulated, have been most liberally filled, and that there does not remain a doubt of there being a building of some sort commenced almost immediately; its size, its location and the extent of its usefulness, will depend upon the funds, at the disposal of the Trustees.

We understand there will be another meeting of the Trustees on the 18th inst at which time it would be desirable to know how far individuals are disposed to contribute towards this institution.

Friday, August 3, 1821

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# THE EDITOR'S PAGE

By ELBERT L. WATSON

Across our nation today there is a mushrooming interest in local history, genealogy, and historic preservation. The commercial world has capitalized on this interest by developing attractions where the flavor of the past makes modern Americans susceptible to parting with their money. How many of us have driven miles to visit an "authentic" western town, where we can drop by the Long Branch Saloon, ride a train and be attacked by Indians, or see a gunfight. It seems sometimes that the more ridiculous our history is made to appear by caricature or presentation, the more likelihood there is of creating a market. If this is true, then it is small wonder that in our contemporary society there is much shallowness of thought about venerable Americans and institutions of bygone years.

Fortunately, many efforts today are being directed toward making the study of history attractive without creating gross distortions. The National Historical Society is one of the leaders in this effort. In "American History Illustrated," their magazine format publication, the Society popularizes American history with factually accurate, colorfully illustrated articles which appeal to lay readers as well as professional historians. A recent special issue on the Civil War, written entirely by the eminent historian, James Robertson, contained 144 pictures to accompany the easy flow of the text. Through this method the reader is given a vivid mental picture of

the historic period and principle figures. The Society also offers annual historic tours to places of great significance in American history. Under the direction of scholarly persons, these tours enable the participants to become personally involved in the historical events.

The National Historical Society is only one group which is providing a more responsible leadership to direct our citizens to a better understanding and appreciation for our rich heritage. We might also mention American Heritage, American Association of State and Local History, and the National Park Service which supervises our nation's historic parks. At the local level, there are historical societies, such as our own, which are giving greater emphasis at this point. In a real sense one does not truly comprehend his own history until he has stood and walked in the footsteps of yesterday's patriots.

We applaud these efforts to take our nation's history from between the hard covers of a book, and make it viable to the lives of modern Americans.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (Office of National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people, and the need to ensure that the health care system is able to meet the needs of older people. The Department of Health (2000) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out the government's commitment to older people and the need to ensure that the health care system is able to meet the needs of older people.

The strategy for older people is based on the following principles: (1) older people should be able to live independently and actively; (2) older people should be able to access the health care services they need; (3) older people should be able to live in their own homes; (4) older people should be able to participate in the community; (5) older people should be able to live in a safe and secure environment; (6) older people should be able to live in a caring and supportive environment; (7) older people should be able to live in a healthy and safe environment; (8) older people should be able to live in a peaceful and quiet environment; (9) older people should be able to live in a clean and hygienic environment; (10) older people should be able to live in a well-maintained environment.

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