

# *The Huntsville Historical Review*

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## President's Message

How, precisely, does one undertake writing one's first "President's Message" in the Huntsville Historical Review? I could think of no better way to begin than to revisit the archive and be inspired and challenged by the efforts of my predecessors. I am, after all, merely the latest steward of this small stamp of real estate in the Review so ably now edited by Arley McCormick, himself the latest steward of a publication only a few years away from marking its first half-century.

Such stewardship, to be sure, is both boon and burden. There is no greater foundation on which to undertake any effort than to build on the accomplishments of the past. And, indeed, the Historical Society currently enjoys great momentum built by a great team, who are leading a variety of efforts to promote and preserve our local history. The Review you hold is an example of that. Two historical markers have been erected since the last issue of this Review. The Society is working increasingly hard to partner with local schools to share our history with students. We are an active partner with other organizations in the area.

But with that boon comes the burden of responsibility, to honor what has come before in what you hand over to those who come after. As president, I have a responsibility to support the Society's efforts, and to promote local history. But I also have a responsibility to ensure that I give the next president administration of a Society worthy of the one my predecessor passed to me.

I share this because it speaks to my goal not only for myself, but for the Society over the coming years. If you are reading this, you, also, are a steward, of the stories, images or archives that constitute Huntsville and Madison County's history. We are embarking on a two-year celebration of Alabama's bicentennial of statehood. That

two-century period begins in downtown Huntsville, and Huntsville will play a central role in its celebration.

There will be greater awareness of local history over the next two years than there has been for quite some time, and we have an opportunity and a responsibility as stewards of that history to share it with the many who today love this community, but have never had the opportunity to know its story.

Read and enjoy the stories contained herein, but think also of how we can share them, and others.

David Hitt  
President  
Huntsville-Madison County  
Historical Society

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## **“Adventures Of Little Miss Marker” Or “What Goes Around Comes Around”**

By Joyce Smith

*The John Williams Walker marker was first dedicated in 1966 on the east side of highway 231 beside a field in a lonely spot. Later it vanished and was greatly missed. Now it is being rededicated. I have had the honor of attending both of the dedications. David Robb has offered many suggestions as to where it was all those years in between.*

*The following is MY vision of the events or, as Paul Harvey always said, “The Rest of the Story.”*

In her first life, Little Miss Marker stood proudly waiting for guests to stop to see her. The sun blistered, the wind blew, the snow howled. She stood patiently beside the field, waiting and watching all the cars whizzing by. Many of them carried license plates from other states. “Where are they going? To work or to more exciting places?” she mused. “I’m tired and bored. I’ll go see the world.”

Umph, umph, umph! She struggled valiantly until her post snapped out of the concrete base and off she hopped on her one sturdy leg. At home word quickly spread that Little Miss Marker was missing. Where

would she be? They renamed her Little Miss ING Marker. (All southern ladies need a middle name.)

Little Miss ING hopped to the north, to the south, to the west, and to the east until she found her long lost cousin, Mr. Bell Factory Marker. They had a nice long chat and she invited him to join her on her adventure but he refused, happy in his own home territory. A little dog joined Little Miss ING Marker and they journeyed on. After a long time, she spotted a stripe on a road. She played the old-fashioned game of Hop Scotch, jumping forward and back, forward and back. She looked down at the road and noticed the words STATE LINE. On she went toward a big sign. "WELCOME TO TENNESSEE"

"Oh my, Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Alabama, anymore! I want to go home BUT we are LOST!" Discouraged and very tired, Little Miss ING lay down next to a pile of scrap metal. When she awoke, a kind man helped her up and said, "I'll help you find your home, dear. I'm sure your old friends miss you."

Many years passed while she reclined on a porch in Huntsville. Some people stopped to see her but she longed for the chance to stand up next to the highway again. It felt like an eternity. Finally, the opportunity came to do just that. Today, she has a new home where she will be able to greet people and reminisce with an old log cabin about the 'good old days'. She says she is through with the "Going Around and is now Coming Around". Her name has been changed from Little Miss ING Marker to Little Miss Happy Days

Marker. She is through traveling and is NOT leaving ever again!

*Written and presented at the Rededication Ceremony of John William Walker marker by Joyce M. Smith, Member of the Huntsville/Madison County Historical Society.*

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#### About the Author:

Joice Smith is a local historian that has been associated with the Historical Society since the very early days. A frequent contributor, board member, and a resident of Huntsville.

# John Williams Walker

*By Nancy Rohr*



Our John Williams Walker was a young member of the “Broad River Bunch” from Petersburg, Georgia. He had attended Princeton University and met friends Richard Wilde and Thomas Percy there. (At college, these men pledged their friendship and to name their children after one another.) Walker returned to Petersburg where he joined with capitalists LeRoy Pope, the Bibbs, Watkins,

and Dr. Manning to purchase newly available Creek lands in Madison County, Alabama. Walker married, Matilda, Pope’s daughter and the move was on to become the blue-blooded “Royal Party” who settled in the rough wilderness that was here. The trip took them through Athens, Georgia to the Nashville Road and near Winchester, Tennessee they turned south to come down the Great South Trail finding the “handsomest land he had ever seen.”

Walker immediately read law and practiced in Madison County and became involved politically. His opinion was significant to other leaders. John Coffee and Andrew Jackson both stopped at Oakland on their way south to Indian troubles. President Monroe stopped there for a “second breakfast” after his surprise visit in Huntsville in 1819.



As Alabama was planning to become a state, the Constitutional Convention was held in Huntsville in 1819 and Walker was selected President. This constitution was an exceptional document. Every white male 21 years of age and a citizen of the U. S., who had been in the state one year and the district three months was eligible to vote. No property, tax-paying or militia qualifications were applied – in effect universal white manhood suffrage. After statehood, Walker and William Rufus King became the first U. S. Senators from Alabama.

During his short time in the U. S. Senate, Walker was involved actively in the Missouri Compromise, acquisition of Florida, and he fathered the 1821 Land Law, to become a public hero in other frontier states.

In the meanwhile, sons followed the birth of daughter Mary Jane – LeRoy Pope Walker, John James, Percy, Charles Henry, and Richard Wilde Walker. When Matilda accompanied her husband and the newest baby, William Memorable, to Washington City, they left friend and neighbor Tom Percy to manage the other children and their estate. Unfortunately, the toddler, Charles Henry, became quite ill. Two doctors, Fearn and Erskine, and the boy's grandmother were called to attend the child. They were not enough. Percy was afraid the news would upset the fragile health of the parents, and he did not mail the letter with the details of the boy's death. He sent a grief-stricken letter north to be delivered by a friend, and the parents received the news two months after his death.

By November 1822 Walker realized his own health was too frail and retired from the U. S. Senate. In early spring of 1823, John Williams Walker, a life-long victim of consumption, passed away with his family gathered around him at Oakland, age forty. Although the Alabama Department of Archives and History

records say he is buried at Maple Hill, both he and the boy, Charles, most likely are buried somewhere there on his property.

One son of course was Leroy Pope Walker, first secretary of war for the Confederacy. Richard Wilde Walker was a lawyer who served both in the U. S. and the C. S. A. legislatures. Many years later Missouri-born, 30-year Congressman Richard Walker Bolling has a building named for him in Kansas City.

A trio of phenomenal men, John Williams Walker, Tom Percy and Dr. Samuel Brown lived for a time out on this very lane. Tom Percy, from Natchez, married Maria Pope, also a daughter of LeRoy Pope, and managed Brown and Walker's business and plantations while they were out of town. Percy's own plantation was called Belfield. Among Percy's notable descendants are Walker Percy, award-winning writer, friend of Shelby Foote and William Faulkner; Will Percy who wrote *Lanterns of the Levee*; the women poets Catherine Warfield and Eleanor Percy Lee and their niece Sarah Dorsey who moved Jeff Davis into her estate Beauvoir while he wrote his memoirs and then bequeath the house and her estate to him. Senator LeRoy Percy defied the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920 Greenville, Mississippi. Later still, Charles Percy, businessman from Illinois, president of Bell & Howell, served 18 years in US Senate and was GOP hopeful in presidential term 1968.

Dr. Samuel Brown, a close friend of Thomas Jefferson was America's first lithographer, a Lexington chemistry professor and physician who inoculated 500 people for smallpox as early as 1802. Dr. Brown's analyses led to the use of an ore found in Kentucky that could explode on impact, unrecognized until then, to manufacture gunpowder. Brown married a sister of Tom Percy and lived for a time out this lane where he died in 1830. Of the three friends, Tom Percy is buried in Maple Hill, the other two Dr.

Samuel Brown and U. S. Senator John Williams Walker, and the child, Charles Henry, most likely are out there on Walker Lane or nearby.

### **About the Author:**

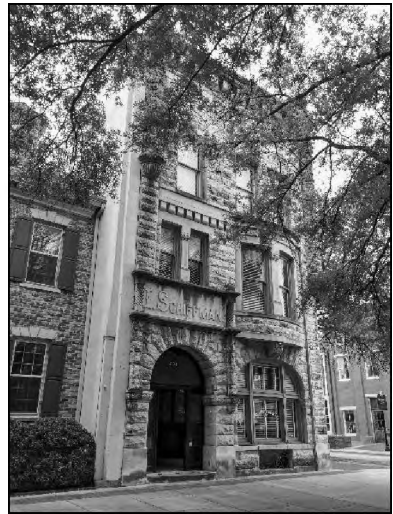
Nancy Rohr is a retired teacher, as well as a contributing writer to the Huntsville Historical Review and Historic Huntsville Quarterly. She has written books on local history and recorded stories for the Huntsville History Collection. Mrs. Rohr is a past board member of the Huntsville Madison County Historical Society and volunteers at the public library.

# **Preserving a Legacy: An Architectural History of the I. Schiffman Building, 1845-2017**

By Katie Stamps

The I. Schiffman Building is one of the most familiar and cherished historic structures in Huntsville, Alabama's downtown landscape. Located at 231 East Side Square, this building has been a symbol of Huntsville's entrepreneurial spirit for almost two centuries as one of the few surviving antebellum commercial properties in the city. Lovingly preserved, the I. Schiffman Building has seen many changes over the past 172 years.<sup>1</sup>

Constructed ca. 1845, this structure was designed in the Federal style which was the dominant architectural style in the American colonies from 1780 to 1840. The American Revolution ushered in a refinement of the Georgian style, made popular in England. Similar to Georgian style in its use of symmetry and



*Figure 1. I. Schiffman Building, west elevation. Photo credit: K. Stamps, May 13, 2017.*

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<sup>1</sup> Linda Allen, "Schiffman Building, 231 East Side Square, Huntsville, Alabama," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Department of the Interior, September 22, 1980.

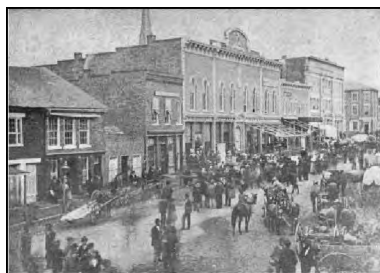
classical details, Federal style characteristics are more delicate and finely drawn.<sup>2</sup>

The I. Schiffman Building's original design consisted of three symmetrical bays divided by pilasters with simple moldings and dentils. Housing the Smith, Herstein & Co. dry goods store ca. 1860, this three-story structure became a bustling component of Huntsville's economy.

In 1895, the Southern Savings and Loan Company purchased the southern-most bay of the original 1845 building and hired Nashville architect George W. Thompson to design a new façade and remodel the interior at a cost of \$18,000.<sup>3</sup> D.E. Dinney, a contractor from Nashville, constructed the building. The remodeled bay is all that remains of the original structure. Thompson designed the new façade in the Richardsonian



*Figure 2. I. Schiffman Building ca. 1860s during Smith, Herstein & Co. ownership. Photo credit: Huntsville Madison County Public Library.*



*Figure 3. I. Schiffman Building and post-Civil War development in downtown Huntsville. Photo credit: Huntsville Madison County Public Library.*

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<sup>2</sup> "Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide, Architectural Styles: Federal Style 1780-1820," Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, accessed February 25, 2017, <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/federal.html>

<sup>3</sup> Allen, "Schiffman Building."

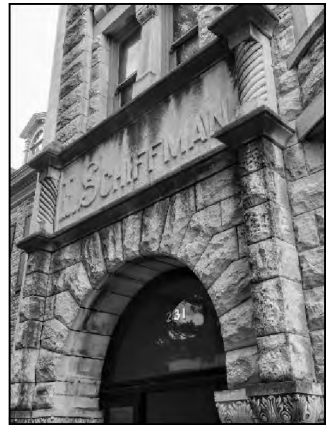
Romanesque style making this structure one of the few surviving commercial examples of the style in Alabama.<sup>4</sup>



*Figure 5. I. Schiffman Building ca. late-19th century after Southern Savings and Loan 1895 renovation. Photo credit: Huntsville Madison County Public Library.*

embrace of Romanesque architecture, made famous by the architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Richardson's designs are distinct to America and came to be known as Richardsonian Romanesque. This style is solid, ornate, and often makes use of thick, rough-cut masonry. Rounded arches, cavernous entryways and window openings, and asymmetrical facades are typical design elements used in this style.<sup>5</sup>

America first saw the use of Romanesque architectural design during the 1840s and 1850s. It was inspired by the European Romanesque style, which was a revival of classical Roman architecture. The building's 1895 renovation was part of America's second



*Figure 4. I. Schiffman Building, west elevation details. Photo credit: K. Stamps, May 13, 2017.*

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<sup>4</sup> Meg Torbert, "Schiffman Building is latest mystery building," *The Huntsville Times*, November 1, 1987.

<sup>5</sup> "Romanesque Revival," *Architectural Styles of American and Europe*, accessed March 18, 2017, <https://architecturestyles.org/romanesque-revival/>.

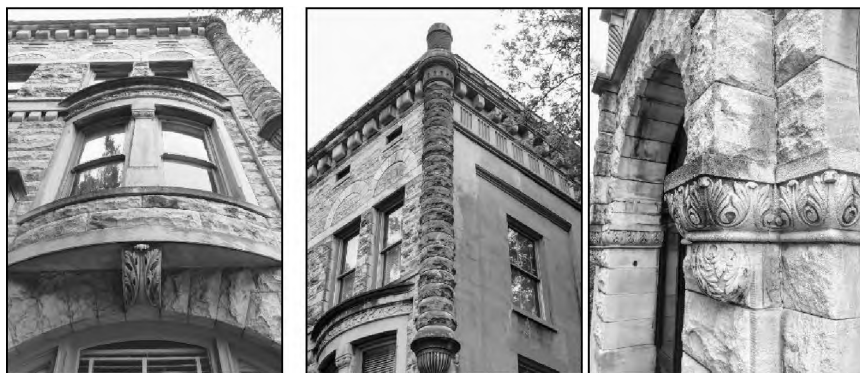
The building was given a new, quarry-faced limestone façade which was “splendidly arched over the vestibule entrance,” according to the *Weekly Mercury* of March 13, 1895: “The side wall was plastered and scored to resemble masonry. The entrance was shifted to the north side of the façade and a large window opens into the president’s office. Above the entrance is a dressed stone slab bearing the name “I. Schiffman,” and above the window is a heavy keystone carved with a foliate design. The second floor has two narrow windows over the entrance topped by a smooth stone lintel and a small-scale replica of the cornice.

A bowed bay containing two larger windows protrudes over the president’s office.

On the third floor two windows are grouped above the bay while the third is centered over the entrance. A dressed stone lintel extends across the façade and forms the base for stone arches which spring over each window. Each corner is accented by an attenuated turret that extends above the heavy stone cornice. The cornice continues along the side wall of the building which is divided into five recessed bays by plain pilasters and an entablature that were features of the antebellum structures. The windows were enlarged during the 1895 remodeling and an entrance added in the last bay.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Allen, “Schiffman Building.”



*Figures 6-8. I. Schiffman Building, west elevation details. Photo credit: K. Stamps, May 13, 2017.*

The 1895 renovation reconfigured the interior floor plan to side hall and offices on all three floors. The building has retained a significant portion of the character-defining features installed during this renovation including pressed tin ceilings, carved cherry wood on the first floor, oak on the second and third floors, mission style chandeliers that used carbide for lighting, corner fireplaces with carved mantels, and two walk-in vaults located on the first floor and basement.<sup>7</sup>



*Figures 9-10. I. Schiffman Building, first floor interior. photos taken by K. Stamps on*

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<sup>7</sup> Goldsmith, Margaret Anne, "I. Schiffman Building History," Personal History Collection.



A large fire damaged the basement, third floor and roof of the building in 1900, but left the first and second floors intact.<sup>8</sup>

In 1905, the Southern Savings and Loan Company fell on hard times and had to sell the building. That same year, Isaac Schiffman purchased the property for \$9,000 to house his business headquarters, and the structure became known as the I. Schiffman Building. Schiffman was a German immigrant who had moved to Huntsville as a teenager to work for his uncles. He had a variety of business ventures, including a general store, mule barn, wagon and tractor dealerships, and he bought and sold cotton and real estate, and loaned money. After his death in 1910, his son Robert L. Schiffman and son-in-law, Lawrence B. Goldsmith, continued and expanded the business. The Schiffman and Goldsmith families have owned the building for the past 112 years.<sup>9</sup>

Huntsville experienced major changes during the mid-twentieth century due in large part to the establishment of Redstone Arsenal and Marshall Space Flight Center. Once a predominantly agricultural and textile manufacturing town, Huntsville was inundated with rocket scientists and new business opportunities in the 1950s and 1960s. Like many other cities during this time, Huntsville's push for progress included Urban Renewal. This federal program sought to reverse the suburban flight of the 1950s and encourage populations to return to inner cities. Buildings determined unsuited to the needs of modern city life were demolished in great numbers, with no regard for architectural quality or technical condition.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Torbert, "Schiffman Building is latest mystery building."

<sup>9</sup> Goldsmith, "I. Schiffman Building History."

<sup>10</sup> Harvie P. Jones, "Two Hundred Years of Architecture in the Twickenham Historic Preservation District of Huntsville, Alabama," Huntsville History Collection, accessed February 25, 2017,

Entire blocks of Huntsville were demolished during the Urban Renewal program. Unfortunately, this included many of Huntsville's most architecturally and historically significant structures. During this time, the Housing Authority demolished the northern two bays of the I. Schiffman Building that were not part of the 1895 Richardsonian Romanesque renovation. This loss reduced the size of the I. Schiffman Building by two-thirds and left



*Figure 11. I. Schiffman Building, basement interior. Photo credit: K. Stamps, April 13, 2017.*

a valuable piece of Huntsville's downtown square vulnerable to new construction infill.

As the negative impact of Urban Renewal became more apparent, citizens joined forces to reverse the tide of demolition in Huntsville's historic neighborhoods. Organizations such as the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society and the Antiquarian Society identified and surveyed historically significant structures, and in 1965, drew up a plan that would become the boundary lines for the Twickenham Historic District.<sup>11</sup> In 1966,

Congress caught up with a nation-wide preservation movement

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[http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=Two\\_Hundred\\_Years\\_of\\_Architecture\\_in\\_Twickenham](http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=Two_Hundred_Years_of_Architecture_in_Twickenham), 1997.

<sup>11</sup> Martha S. Rambo, "A Brief History of the Twickenham Historic Preservation District," Huntsville History Collection, accessed February 25, 2017, [http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=A\\_Brief\\_History\\_of\\_the\\_Twickenham\\_Historic\\_Preservation\\_District](http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=A_Brief_History_of_the_Twickenham_Historic_Preservation_District), 2007.

that was in direct response to Urban Renewal and passed the National Historic Preservation Act. This act established the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1980, the I. Schiffman Building was listed to the National Register.

In 1998, Margaret Anne Goldsmith, building owner and Isaac Schiffman's great-granddaughter, carefully modernized the I. Schiffman Building with the help of the federal historic tax credit program. She had previously gained tax credit experience by completing a project on her father's house at 206 Gates Avenue, the Bernstein House. By utilizing this program, Goldsmith said "It was like disciplining myself to make sure I did it correctly."<sup>12</sup> She describes each project as being unique with its own challenges.

Stones from the 1845 foundation are still visible in the basement. Support poles and beams have been installed over the years to reinforce settling issues. "Since it was built in 1845, the flooring needed some additional support," said Goldsmith. The walk-in vault and triangular bases of the fireplaces installed during the 1895 renovation can also be seen.

Today, Goldsmith's offices occupy the first floor which has been meticulously preserved. The



*Figure 12. I. Schiffman Building, first floor ceiling detail. Photo credit: K. Stamps, April 13, 2017.*



*Figure 13. I. Schiffman Building, first floor cornice detail. Photo credit: K. Stamps, April 13, 2017.*

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<sup>12</sup> Margaret Anne Goldsmith, personal conversation, April 13, 2017.

carved cherry woodwork glows warmly from the light of the original Mission-style chandeliers that were moved from the third floor to the first floor during the 1998 renovation. The carbide chandeliers had been replaced over the years with fluorescent lighting. Goldsmith explained the decorative, classical designs on the pressed tin ceiling in the hallway were purposefully more ornate than the simple, rectangular design of the office ceiling. A weather gage and Western Union teletype were installed by Goldsmith's great-grandfather, Isaac Schiffman, to get stock market information from New York City. Goldsmith left a reveal of the original stencil border along the cornice in the rear office to display an intact section of the room's decorative details. The I. Schiffman Building is filled with creative elements such as this that sensitively display the character defining features added to the

structure over time.

Modern lighting was added to illuminate the walls of metal drawers in the large walk-in vault on the first floor used by both the Southern Savings and Loan Company and I. Schiffman & Co. to store client records. Remnants of protective rubber treads can be seen on the wood flooring, installed to keep the bookkeepers' benches from sliding as they stood at the 1895 cherry desk that was built in place because of its large size. Tiny holes from carpet staples are also visible in the wood. Goldsmith's grandfather, Lawrence



*Figure 14. I. Schiffman Building, first floor vault detail. Photo credit: K. Stamps, April 13, 2017.*

B. Goldsmith, Sr., installed a row of blunted iron spikes along the sill of the arched front window to keep people from sitting on the ledge when they came to town on Saturdays. Although the windows are original to the 1895 renovation, broken panes are replaced as needed. Goldsmith said they are very expensive to replace and have to be specially ordered.



*Figures 15-21. I. Schiffman Building, first floor details. Photo credit: K. Stamps, April 13, 2017.*

There is no elevator in the building and the interior staircase extends from the basement to the third floor. The first floor rear vestibule was enclosed in the 1920s. Plywood was removed from the stairwell walls and replaced with beadboard during the 1998 renovation. A small area of plaster was left unrepaired in order to reveal a section of brick wall on the first floor of the stairwell. The rear of the building was bricked up during the 1950s to 1960s. A formerly exterior window between the first and second floors has been frosted over in order to conceal the brick wall behind it.

One of the major challenges was to add heating and air conditioning to the second floor. The building does not have a crawl space and Goldsmith wanted to avoid lowering the ceiling to disguise the HVAC system. She had to be creative to incorporate this modern element into a 19<sup>th</sup>-century structure. After consulting with the Department of the Interior tax credit reviewer, they agreed to use the transoms over each door to funnel the ductwork.

The second floor is still used for rented office space. The 1895 floor plan of side hall and offices have been maintained. More recently, Goldsmith updated the hallway with new paint and



*Figures 22-24. I. Schiffman Building, stairwell and second floor details. Photo credit: K. Stamps. April 13, 2017.*

removed old carpeting. Due to the second floor being occupied by a tenant at the time, Goldsmith was unable to remove the asbestos tile flooring and restore the original wood. Installing laminate wood flooring on top of the asbestos was a reasonable alternative that offered a traditional appearance and protected the original wood flooring underneath.

While the third floor has also retained the side hall and offices plan, it was renovated as rented apartment space during the early 1900s when the Southern Savings and Loan Company was having financial difficulty. They installed a kitchen and bathroom, converting the offices into bedrooms. During the 1998 renovation, new cabinets, a washer and dryer, hot water heater, and appliances were installed in the kitchen. Because there was no crawl space in the 1845 building, the bathroom floor was raised at that time to accommodate the plumbing. Goldsmith raised the kitchen floor in 1998 to be more compatible with the raised bath flooring and replaced the old plumbing with new PVC pipes.



*Figures 25-27. I. Schiffman Building, third floor interior. Photo credit: K. Stamps, April 13, 2017.*



Built-in oak cabinetry provides closet space and 1920s furnishings collected by Goldsmith's father and grandfather decorate the rooms. Copies of family portraits adorn the original 1895 plaster walls using the original picture molding also installed in 1895. The original paintings having been donated to museums and replaced with copies. Goldsmith searched for and found period-appropriate Mission-style chandeliers during her time living in New Orleans. She also installed period tiles from New Orleans around the fireplace to replace those that had been broken to match the original 1895 tiles.

The I. Schiffman Building has been a bright beacon of success on Huntsville's historic downtown square for almost two hundred years. It has survived renovations, demolitions, and changes in ownership.



*Figure 28. I. Schiffman Building, southwest exterior elevation. Photo credit: K. Stamps, May 13, 2017.*

Due to the perseverance and dedication of the Goldsmith and Schiffman families, this structure has thrived and represents a gorgeous, rare example of Richardsonian Romanesque and commercial architecture in Huntsville and in the state of Alabama.

If more of Huntsville's historic structures had advocates as diligent as those who have championed the I. Schiffman Building, the city's built environment would most certainly have fewer losses and more preservation success stories. Margaret Anne Goldsmith has shown that it is possible to preserve old buildings in sensitive and creative ways that allow those structures to be vibrant parts of their community. Her efforts



have poised the I. Schiffman Building to stand tall on East Side Square as a treasured Huntsville landmark for many years to come.

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### **About the Author:**

Katie Stamps is a native of Madison, Alabama and holds a B.S. in Secondary Social Science Education and Minor in Vocal Music from Auburn University. She studied for two years in Charleston, South Carolina, earning a M.S. from the Clemson University/ College of Charleston Master's Program in Historic Preservation in 2010. For seven years, Ms. Stamps worked as the Architectural Historian for Redstone Arsenal and volunteered with local preservation organizations, including Historic Huntsville Foundation. In 2014, she was appointed to serve on the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission by Mayor Tommy Battle. Ms. Stamps became the Historic Preservation Consultant for the City of Huntsville in October 2017 and is excited about the opportunity to work directly with Huntsville's historic districts and community leaders. She hopes to help shape the future of preservation and positive growth in Huntsville, Alabama for many years to come. In addition to her work in the preservation field, Ms. Stamps is active in her local church, and enjoys living downtown and spending time with her three nephews.

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## Jewish Business Community During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

By Marjorie Ann Reeves

The European exodus provided a Jewish community to be a part of Huntsville's history. The first known Jewish settlers in Huntsville were the Andrew brothers, Zalegman and Joseph, in 1829. They purchased a lot on the south side of the square and opened the Andrews and Brothers Mercantile store. Plans for a new bank on that plot were developed when the Andrew's Brothers sold their house and lot in 1837. Over the years, the Jewish settlers continued to come to Huntsville and contributed to the growth of businesses around the square.

Turner and Coleman were the next to open a mercantile store on the square. More Jewish families moved to Huntsville developing establishments that decorated the square with cotton merchants, bankers, lawyers, mercantile, jewelry, furniture, millinery, repair shops, harness and saddles, locksmith, photo gallery, sewing, tailor, hotels, grocery stores, barber, hardware, confectionary, book stores, restaurants, taverns, drug stores and doctor's offices.



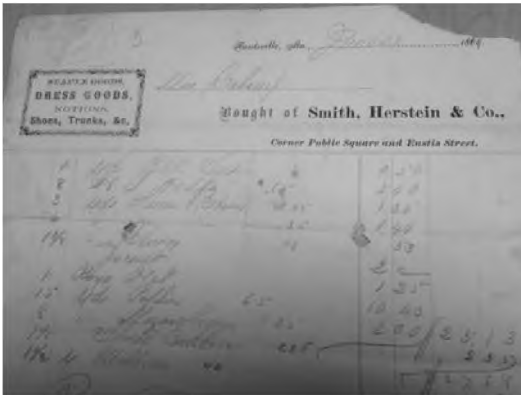
Morris Bernstein established a jewelry and watch repair shop at #3 lot on Commercial Row in 1852. He was an experienced watch maker and learned his craft in Switzerland.

His wife, Henrietta Newman Bernstein,



created a notions store near her husband's jewelry store. They raised their family upstairs above the jewelry store.

Robert Herstein came to Huntsville in 1859 and opened a store of clothing and furniture goods. Herstein went into business with Mr. Smith renting in the location of the future Schiffman Building. In



1878, Robert purchased a building on the north side of the square in a joint venture with Morris Bernstein called "The Trade Palace."

The Jewish population in the South supported the Confederacy when the states seceded. Like their neighbors, they were loyal to their home

and family. Being familiar to persecution in the old country, the Jewish families supported their state for independence. It was their home being invaded not the North. "The fact of the matter is that older Jewish families of the South achieved a more genuinely integrated status with their neighbors than has seemed possible in any part of the Union," according to Bertram Korn.

During the first Federal invasion of Huntsville in 1862, businesses stayed open only by taking the oath of loyalty to the Federal government. Public buildings as well as private residences were taken over by the Federals. The business community including the Bernsteins and Hersteins used their business sense to maintain commercial ties to both sides and keep their businesses going. All business transactions were regulated and supervised by the governing yankee martial law. Col. Horner was the provost

marshal under Gen. Mitchel during the invasion and the first Federal occupation. He sent residents to prison in hopes of limiting any form of rebellion by the citizens. Stores and owners were at the mercy of the yankees who usually had no mercy in them. Prices were high and items could only be bought with Federal cash currency. The Federals kept close watch over all activities of the local citizens during the occupations. Gen. Mitchell said he, “would starve the citizens into submission.” Federal control was successful in destroying civil government which, in turn, opened the door to robbery, murder, and arson by soldiers and gangs against the citizens comprised mostly of women, children, and older residents. Gen. Buell stated, “Habitual lawlessness prevailed in a portion of Gen. Mitchel’s command.” The lack of discipline among Mitchel’s army contributed to Mitchel’s transfer to S.C.

After the war, Mrs. Virginia Clay wrote in her dairy that during the middle of November she, like most Huntsvillians, was low on funds. Mr. Robert Herstein, a kindly merchant of Huntsville, advanced her a hundred dollars and material for a silk gown to be made and worn when she arrived in Washington to obtain release of her husband, C.C. Clay, from prison in 1866.

After her husband’s passing, Mrs. Herstein continued to carry on the business of the dry goods and clothing store. The Herstein’s daughter married Henry Lowenthal and he changed the name of the business to Herstein and Lowenthal.



The Jewish community came together to support their heritage in 1876 by organizing the congregation B'nai Sholom. The first officers were B.W. Temple, J. Weil, D. Wise, and Simon Katz. The Temple was built 14 years later with Isaac Schiffman as Chairman of the Building Committee.

Daniel Schiffman moved into Huntsville and opened a dry goods store after the War Between the States in the 1860s. Solomon Schiffman moved into Huntsville after his brother Daniel in the 1870s. The Schiffman brothers formed the Schiffman & Company and together bought most of the block on the north side of the square during the latter part of 19<sup>th</sup> century. These were prime business properties because of its proximity to the courthouse. They owned lots 8,9,10,11,12,13, and 14 on Exchange Row along with what stores still stood. Schiffman Brothers ran a dry goods store.



Solomon Schiffman

They accepted their nephew Isaac Schiffman, who arrived from Germany in 1875, into the family business. He inherited all the business upon his Uncle Solomon's death. Isaac left the Schiffman Company to his son, Robert, and Robert Schiffman left it to his son-in-law, Lawrence B. Goldsmith Sr., who left it all to his son Lawrence B. Goldsmith, Jr. An unknown builder constructed the Schiffman Building on the east side of the square in 1845. The original makeup had three buildings with a wall built between the buildings, each with three stories, now only one building of the three is still standing. The Schiffman building was a drugstore

when bought by The Southern Building Loan Association who added the front design on to it in 1895. Later the building was sold to Isaac Schiffman.

**About the Author:** Marjorie Ann Reeves is a local historian, a member of the Historical Society, and resident of Madison.

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# **Our Doughboys**

## **Part II**

### **Draft and Mobilization**

*By Arley McCormick*

After nearly three years of political hand wrenching and German stiff arms, Germany finally hit the American pocketbook - exports. That could not be tolerated. America declared war on April 6, 1917 and President Wilson appointed General “Black Jack” Pershing to command the American Expeditionary Force. Our national resolve was demonstrated in June 1917 when General Pershing arrived in France with a portion of the 16th Infantry Regiment, and in a demonstration of solidarity with the French, they marched down the Avenue des Champs-Elysees pausing at the tomb of Gilbert du Motier (Marquis de Lafayette) where they reportedly uttered the famous line, “Lafayette we are here.” The morale of the French people was temporarily bolstered. In reality, it would be nearly six months before an American unit would enter the trenches. Trench warfare was not General Pershing’s preferred method for prosecuting and ending the war, but while the Alabamians would get a taste of trench warfare, it would be a war of maneuver that claimed the lives of Madison County’s sons, husbands, and fathers.



The AEF arrives in France 1917.

The president and congress wrestled for nearly three and a half years preceding the declaration of war, debating the merits and struggling to agree on expanding the Army, Navy, and Merchant Marine force. The debate results was little more than paper ideas with no one to execute them, but that changed after the declaration of war. Compromises were reached. The Army Air Corps was nonexistent and would be under-manned, under-equipped, and of limited use during the war. Similarly, the Merchant Marine fleet would not be adequate. America, in general, would be a vassal to the French and British war industry and depended heavily on their machine guns and other equipment. Tanks, trucks, motorcycles, and bicycles were added to the equipment lists of units along with tactical telephones. But, American manpower remained the deciding factor. It took over a month of political bickering and trading to agree on a draft bill, mobilization structure, and how to split the war chest sufficiently enough to guarantee each elected representative a share for his state. The Rainbow Division was one illustration of how the war pie was cut.

Each politician wanted something for his district yet the most inspired decision was the President's alone. How would he market a war he didn't want, justify to the American people the sacrifice of blood of America's youth on a European battlefield for the first time, and keep the eye of a nation on the prize, "*Keeping the world safe for democracy*"? President Wilson was a novice with regard to selling anything but himself and he knew he had to capture the hearts of Americans on an issue far more sacred than the women's right to vote.





He turned to a Missourian with a knack for marketing - George Creel. Creel joined the Committee of Public Information and quickly infused a sophisticated and deliberate approach to pursue and win the support of Americans. The mood of the nation was already inclined toward supporting the Entente and he selected written

passages that supported powerful visual images to shape hate for the Kaiser and his sadistic army, to induce loyalty to the cause, and to prompt ordinary Americans to action. Some acted on his messages too aggressively by painting the doors of German/American residents yellow or physically attacking suspected agents of the Kaiser. George Creel recognized the power of literature. The literary world had taken sides early in the conflict. British authors like Arthur Conan Doyle and Arnold Toynbee supported the propaganda departments either under contract or with written emotion. Nearly every prize winning and bestselling novelist became an unsolicited war



correspondent. Their editorials were printed in American newspapers as were lesser known German and French authors. Consequently, Americans were exposed to the thoughts of the greatest writers of the age who aggressively supported their governments. Even American ex-



patriots living in France offered a perspective to the American public. George Creel capitalized on their words and in some cases solicited their thoughts on different subjects. As Creel's images and words hit placards and newspapers, it is doubtful any

American ever inquired regarding who made that happen and the majority rapidly bought into sacrifice. George Creel, more than anyone, shaped the public perception of an American war that would only succeed with American sacrifice at home and in France.

When war was declared, many of the young men of Madison County were well established in the community. Ben Hope had a solid beginning in life. He was living in a small house on Mill Street and employed as a machinist with Huntsville Manufacturing. The trade he chose assured him of a career path that would provide for a future family. Percy Crunk was born a year after Ben and worked as a weaver for the same company while living on Washington Street. Edgar Freeman was born in February 1892 to George and Jinnie Freeman while they were living in Centerville, Bibb County, Alabama before moving to Huntsville, presumably for employment. Kirk Satterfield and Dock Hill lived in Huntsville and worked in the cotton industry too. Opal Roberts was just a teenager who wanted to serve. All the future servicemen in the county could watch the American drama unfold



Trains similar to this one transported Huntsville soldiers to their training in Montgomery.

in the newspaper along with other residents and only imagine the impact the war would have on the community. Their families waited nervously for the draft and it was a relatively short wait.

On May 18, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act, which authorized the President to draft men into military service. Federal Judicial

Districts were the President's instruments for selecting the young men to serve. Huntsville was located in Federal District number 25 and had jurisdiction over approximately 30 local boards that would be expected to register approximately 5,000 men. A local Huntsville judge expected 4,000 residents of the district would qualify for the draft. The registrations began on June 5th, 1917, and men between the ages of 21 and 31 lined up on the courthouse lawn under tents while Red Cross volunteers took their names and vital information. Many enlisted: Opal H. Roberts was a teenager who convinced his parents to let him enlist in the Army in answer to the declaration of war. He was 16 years 7 months old and with his parents' consent, joined the Army. There were many others who did not wait for the draft.

Additional registrations followed the next year on June 5, 1918, Aug. 24, 1918, and September 12, 1918. The final draft included men 18 through 45, (those born between 1872 and September 1900) and it didn't matter if they were native born, naturalized, or alien.



Private Ben Hope

The local draft board, presumably, selected a random number of men that met the physical standards and didn't qualify for an authorized exemption. Kirk Satterfield and Dock Hill were among them and once the draftees signed the enlistment papers and took the oath of enlistment, the boys from Huntsville were transported to Vandiver Park in Montgomery and assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry.

When the trains left the Huntsville Depot, the new civilian clad soldiers did not knowingly lose contact with their

communities. But, in fact, once in uniform, their day was filled with military matters and their only contact with the community they left behind was through letters from home. After their departure, the Huntsville community would grow without them. The Red Cross expanded, the Rotary Club was established, and there were at least six conventions a year held in the growing city. Gasoline prices soared to 24 cents a gallon and there were so many cars on the road that one observer noted that they could be seen in the ditches near Gurley every day. Victory gardens were planted, parties for departing troops were held, and the local government expanded to provide more services to the population. The mill industry employed nearly 4,000 employees and contributed \$13.5 million in payroll to the community. The war was an inconvenience that interrupted life only when the paper was delivered to the door.

There was no Gold Star Mothers club and wouldn't be one for two more years. Each mother just wanted their son to return home safely.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama, recalled from the Texas border, was guarding various facilities around Alabama against sabotage and espionage when the unit began receiving a new complement of soldiers. The

regiment's authorized strength for rifle companies was increased from 65 men to 150, then to 250. As the boys from Madison County joined the other Alabama National Guardsmen, the strength grew to 3,720, including 112 officers. Many Alabamians not selected to be included in the 4th were sent to Macon, Georgia to become the nucleus of the 31st (Dixie) Division.



Private Opel H  
Roberts

In their transition to soldiers, the draftees responded to the Quartermaster call and proceeded to the clothing issue station. An old corporal eyed their physique and tossed all the clothing they needed for three days at their chest along with other personal field equipment. The fitting process began after the issue and it was pretty much a free-for-all as the recruits found others that had been issued clothing too large or too small. Through a barter and trading episode, each eventually found a decent fit, although not necessarily a Gentleman's Quarterly fit. Some never found a decent fit. Sergeants familiar with the proper wearing of a uniform educated the new soldiers, often with the accompaniment of a swagger stick across the legs or back when the draftees didn't follow instructions.

Shortly after arriving at the park there was another major event in their life. From this time forward, they would possess a personal and constant companion, the short barreled Springfield rifle or the 1917 American Enfield. Their military skills training would last nearly seven months with weeks of training in the U.S. before their deployment, and then weeks of tutelage under English and French Non-Commissioned officers in Europe before the young army took their place in the trenches.

Once assigned to a company, the real training began, and many of Huntsville draftees found their new home to be Company D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion for marching, marching, and marching to the left, to the right, to the rear, to the left and right oblique, and for ten miles at a time. Many thought they would wear their boots out before they saw France. Then bayonet training - running to meet the adversarial straw-filled bag, parry, thrust and hold, twist, extract and on to the next unsuspecting bag. Over and over they would parry, thrust, hold, twist and extract, perfecting every nuance of the technique of killing the straw-filled bag. The training schedule also

included marksmanship, a prerequisite desired by General Pershing, and guard duty - the art of watching, staying awake in the darkest and coldest nights. France could certainly be cold and miserable!

They became reasonably competent at reporting the sounds and articles often perpetrated by sergeants testing their ability to follow orders. When they were relaxing, no doubt, they thought of family, comfortable homes and occasionally, they were able to go to the canteen and enjoy a beer with their new uniformed friends.

With the Gentleman's Quarterly uniform fit, the boys transitioned to soldiers quickly. Each day started with 0530, i.e., 5:30 a.m. reveille, a roll call formation, police call around the living quarters, i.e., picking up debris, and breakfast.

There was a regimen of three meals a day and for some it was a serious breach of their personal experience. Army chow was nourishing but not like their mama used to make. They would eat it or go hungry. As they trained, they also took their place on the company duty roster which included kitchen police, a passive term that defined the mess hall detail and included washing floors, dishes, and eating utensils, pots and pans and anything else the Mess Sergeant ordered them to do. The last man to report for the detail was designated "the pots and pans man." His day started at 0400 hours, military time for 4:00 a.m., and ended when the corporal said he was released; normally around 2300 hours, i.e., 11:00 p.m. After the war was over, those who made it home would not find their training in Montgomery a tale worth telling, even if they were inclined to talk about the war at all.

On August 14, 1917, the War Department published an order changing the name of the 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment to the 167th United States Infantry Regiment. The flag of the 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama was retired and the 167<sup>th</sup> unfurled a new one at a review



presided over by Colonel William Preston Screws, an officer with long standing ties to the 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama. It was also announced that the brigade would report to the 42nd "Rainbow Division," an amusing moniker that met with little fanfare. Douglas McArthur, then Chief of Staff of the Division, is credited with coining the moniker because the Division was composed of organizations from twenty-six states. On August 28, 1917 a force of 3,677 officers and men left Montgomery on eight trains for Camp Mills, Long Island to join its new division.

Camp Mills was situated in Hoboken, New York and the camp had been expanded to accommodate thousands of troops arriving from training camps across the United States. The 167<sup>th</sup> continued to train and equip as they waited for their departure date to Europe. The camp was crowded with 31,000 troops at one time, all marching, improving their living conditions, and rehearsing that awful bayonet drill. It was common knowledge that the 167<sup>th</sup> Alabamians were the former 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry.

One unit joining them at Camp Mills was the 49<sup>th</sup> New York regiment, the same regiment that the Rebels of the 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama had routed at first Bull Run during the Civil War. Historians write, with exaggeration, that when routed the 49<sup>th</sup> didn't stop running till they got to New York City. Upon their arrival at Camp Mills a rumor was circulated that the 167<sup>th</sup> was going to raid them while they slept. The New York unit stayed awake all night and called out repelling formations twice in the night on false reports of the Alabamians attacking. The incident was investigated and it was determined the Alabamians were sleeping comfortably all night and never attempted to disturb the Yankees from New York.

Ben Hope and the others from Madison County received an excellent orientation on the pride and history of the 167<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry Regiment.

While training at Camp Mills, British and French soldiers, most of them recovering from wounds received on the front certifying their experience with trench warfare, attempted to orient the recruits on the proper conduct of military operations in France. While it wasn't to General Pershing's liking, in the spirit of Entrant cooperation, all the American soldiers received the orientation.



Training at Camp Mills

In the early days of American participation in the war, equipping the doughboys was problematic because the American manufacturing system was slowly catching up with the requirement and the production of personal items like pistol belts, packs, and canteens were well behind the mobilization schedule. Consequently, the allies were providing the equipment. The Brigade would receive machine guns and helmets once it landed in France or England.

On October 22, 1917 the 167<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry had finally reached the head of the queue for deployment. The Regiment traveled by train to board ferryboats destined for the Brooklyn or Hoboken piers where they would load troop ships to ports of Liverpool, England or Brest, France.

They departed under direction not to reveal their unit to anyone, yet the harbor was so crowded with ships they managed to communicate across short expanses of water to other ships and in this manner, learned where other troops were from. The troop ships skirted near the coast of the eastern seaboard until reaching Nova Scotia, then east across the North Atlantic below Greenland and Iceland. Just north of Ireland the ships separated with a portion

docking at Liverpool, England and the others continuing north around Scotland and down the English coast to Brest, France. They were not bothered by German submarines although daily exercises practicing what to do in the event one was spotted were performed. There was the standard sea sickness and health issues related to being jammed onto troop ships.

The welcome in France was brief and cheerful, but the southern boys could not help but notice the young French girls didn't look young at all. After over three years of war, they seemed pale and tired, smiling and waving but worn out. They certainly did not compare to the little beauties so fondly remembered from the magazines and pictures circulating at home. There was good reason. The home front in Britain and particularly France, where the country was occupied by multiple nations and colonial troops fighting the Kaiser and his hordes, displayed visible evidence of war in every village including Paris. War was not simply an inconvenience, it was life and death measured sometimes by the hour, and every day when a baguette could be the last meal.

The Alabama Battalions made their way to the villages of Uruffe and Gibeauveix where the accommodations ranged from barns to semi-wooden structures. As soon as they were assigned a place to sleep, the drills began. The rifle range consumed a lot of their time and as expected, the marching drill which, by now, was expected. Occasionally if the conditions were right, the big guns firing at the front could be heard.

On December 12, many of their officers joined the regiment after completing the French and English training on warfare in France. There was a brief interlude before they marched for two days, halting at the villages of St. Blin, Domremy, (the birthplace of Joan d'Arc), Humberville, and Vesaignes. They were clustered near

Chaumont where the American Expeditionary Forces' Headquarters were located.

The billeting arrangements were rudimentary and uncomfortable, but as Christmas approached, they were supplied with a liberal amount of excellent rations: roasted turkey, cranberries, figs, dates and other abundant delicacies. Cooks spent all night preparing a Christmas meal and the brigade ate heartily. American styled Christmas trees were decorated with items available and they shared the time with the local villagers that had given up their homes, barns, and other structures to house the soldiers from Dixie. It was their first Christmas in France and no one knew at the time but it would be their last. In 1919 the survivors would spend Christmas Day on the Rhine River in Germany.

On December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1917 they were on the move again and with each kilometer the front got closer, but their training was not complete. Now the villages of Faverolles, Marac, and Leffonds and Villiers-sur-Suize would be their new home and training site.

New Year's Day, 1918 was just another day of drill in the cold and snow. Astute leaders anticipated the war was going to change, primarily because the war of attrition had accelerated due to the American presence. The Entente leadership was getting nervous and called for the Americans to hurry onto the line. General Pershing held to the principle of committing American units under American command and to an American sector, but training was still incomplete.

Cold, miserable wooden shacks served as the non-commissioned officers' quarters at Gondrecourt while they learned the tactical applications of the Chauchat automatic rifle, hand grenades, Stokes' mortars, (one-pounders) and machine guns. Tactical communications with telephones and flag signals as well as the application of small tanks was part of the curriculum. And no one

could escape the technical appreciation of trench construction. Many wondered how France could accommodate one more trench. Standard exercises regarding the bayonet and musketry were stressed, but nothing held their attention more than demonstrations illustrating protection against gas attack.

The Germans launched tear gas first to cause soldiers to get sick and vomit and avoid the protective mask. Then they followed a short time later with mustard or nerve gas to incapacitate those sickened by the riot gas. One gas casualty essentially eliminated three soldiers from the battlefield. Two soldiers carried the patient in a litter to the hospital field station. For five weeks they trained.

While non-commissioned officers received intense training, the other American troops of the brigade, under the supervision of American and French officers, trained seven and a half hours a day on similar subjects. All the while the cold, wind, and rain made for gloomy days. Marksmanship training received the most attention. Competitions were held between companies and sharpening that skill proved useful in the campaigns ahead.

In late January and February, the gloom of winter broke for only a few days and the Madison County Doughboys rejoiced optimistically, anticipating the miserable winter was over. Instead, the occasional blue skies and warmer temperatures seemed to be a trick of Mother Nature, because just as the weather seemed to get better and warmer, it became worse. Huntsville boys dried their cold wet leather boots by the fire, sometimes for too long. Their boots began to fall apart until soldiers were practically marching in their socks. The only positive assurance was that the Germans were just as miserable.

The French command finally received General Pershing's approval. He had previously allowed American battalions to work under the command authority of the British Expeditionary Force.

On the night of February 18, 1918, the 167<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry Regiment loaded the battalions onto railroad cars (referred to as the 40 and 8 because one car could transport 40 men or 8 horses). The Huntsville boys' destination was Fontenoy.

On February 22, one battalion marched to Drouville and on February 24 the first elements of the Alabama brigade entered the trenches. Training was over and the killing was about to start. Huntsville's sons were in reserve.

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**About the Author:** Arley McCormick is a former soldier and active in the history organizations of the community.

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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](mailto: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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