

The Huntsville Historical Review

Fall – Winter 2023

Volume 48

Number 2

In the pages of this Volume

2 George Steel

by Daniel Higdon and Roberto Garcia Segura

**5. Historical Highlights of the Redstone
Arsenal Complex 1941-1949**

by Cleo S. Cason and Winono Y. Strompe

8. Food Makes for Good Politics

by Marjorie Ann Reeves

**13. Huntsville Resident Dies by Firing
Squad: Peter Allen (ca. 1805-1836)**

by Arley McCormick

17. The Lost Treasure Of Blountsville

by Robert S. Davis

**22. Book Review: Enduring Voices –
Women of the Tennessee Valley: 1861-
1865** *by Nancy M. Rohr Review by John H. Allen*

Editor, Arley McCormick

Blake Lee Dorning
Former President of the Huntsville-Madison
County Historical Society Died November 14, 2023



Members of the Historical Society remember Sheriff Dorning as the president that brought ZOOM and a history chat to their home. He was president during the 2019 and 2020 pandemic when our members, many representing the citizens most at risk, watched the Sheriff provide riveting history lessons on the community.

Former President Dorning was silent regarding his struggle with cancer and was quite willing to open his home to a small group of members studying different aspects of the organization and planning for the future of the Society.

We along with so many are saddened to learn of his death and express our condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the Dorning's.

Introduction

The next two stories you are about to read are provided by students of Dr. Sarah Curtis, University of Alabama, Huntsville Honors College English Department. *The Editor*

George Steele

by Daniel Higdon and Roberto Garcia Segura

George Gilliam Steele was born on April 1, 1798, in Bedford County, Virginia. His mother, Sally Gilliam Steele, died shortly after his birth. In 1818, George Steele moved to Huntsville-likely with others from Bedford, Virginia and would become a well known architect. The first architectural school was not built until 1867, but Huntsville was lucky to have a self-educated architect one in town. He did not have a degree in architecture, but according to his obituary he was “self-educated”. (Bayer) Being the only architect made him rather influential and wealthy.

Steele’s first recorded work was his first home which is located on Randolph Street. He raised his eight children at that home with his wife, Eliza Ann Weaver. Unfortunately, one child did not grow to maturity. Archival records from the University of Alabama in Huntsville show an exchange of letters between George Steele and his son, Matthew Steele. The letters are difficult to read due to the age and the faintness of the document. However, we are able to decipher some keywords from a specific letter written on August 28, 1855. Words like “physician” and “moaning” (Steele, George) lead us to the conclusion that the Steele’s are discussing the well-being of someone.

Steele is known for his usage of the Greek Revival Style. He must have been drawn to the style since his first home also uses this style through small details like the porch, front doors, and the roof (Bayer).

Steele’s family had grown and he did not have enough space for all of them, so he decided to purchase 320 acres

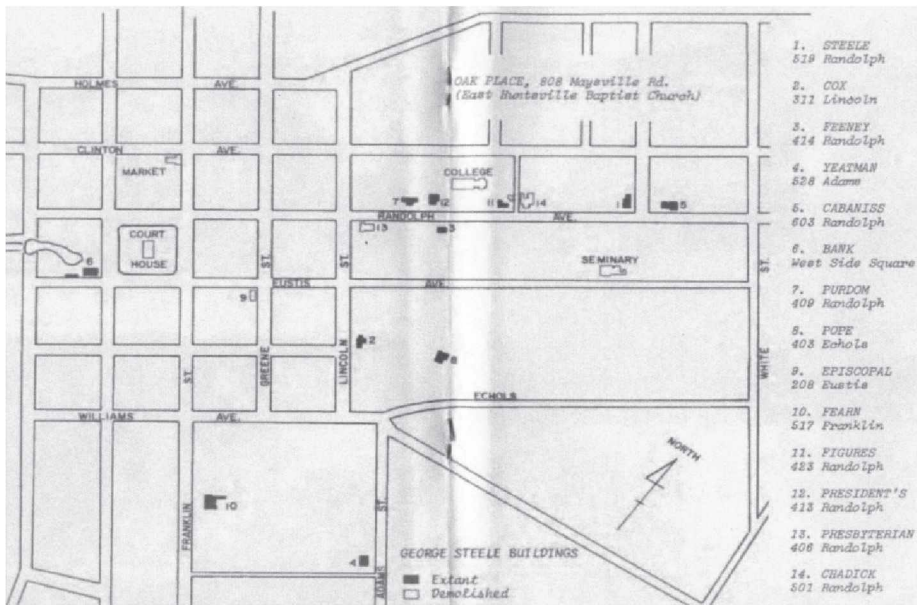
of land and began constructing a new home. Steele's design for the house was based on the Greek revival style, but he also experimented with the house since he was not limited by a client's wants. The new house was located on a plantation where he raised vegetables, fruits, and grain; however, he did not raise cotton. When he passed away, he owned 74 slaves.

The Greek revival style of architecture was even more pronounced in two of his larger architectural accomplishments. One example is the Madison County courthouse that replaced the original courthouse. However, the courthouse he designed is not standing today. While the courthouse resembles the Greek revival style (Bayer) it included a Roman style dome. Domes were still used in Greek revival architecture, but they were usually government buildings similar to the courthouse.

Key features of this design are the low-pitched roof, 6 columns at the entrance, the stone finish at the front of the building, bricks resembling masonry at the back and on the side walls.

Steel's final two projects were school buildings that he designed. He designed the Huntsville Female College in 1852 and was constructed on land he owned located on Randolph. It was a large brick building consisting of two stories and having a noticeable six ionic column design at the façade. Unfortunately, the college was destroyed by fire in 1895. The other school he designed was the Huntsville Female Seminary, and it was the second building he designed in the Gothic Revival Style. It was, "constructed of brick, asymmetrical, towered, turreted, battlemented, and had pointed arches and drip molding. (Bayer)

George Steel would die on October 21, 1855, and he would be buried in Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. George Steele did a lot for the city of Huntsville as well as for the women in Alabama making him one of the most influential men in the growth of Huntsville.



Layout of buildings that George Steele designed in downtown Huntsville (Bayer)

Historical Highlights of the Redstone Arsenal Complex 1941-1949

by Cleo S. Cason and Winono Y. Strompe

In early 1941 the Chemical Warfare Service (CWS) 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 and arming 2,800,000 men with the necessary offensive chemical munitions. Included in the supplemental appropriations was over \$57,000,999 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 8 June, 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 20 page report with Maj. Gen. William N. Porter, Chief, Chemical Warfare Service. The following weekend, 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, Alabama, in an 18 June, 1941 letter they characterized the Huntsville site as “more desirable, considering the matter as a whole, than any other location considered,” he cited the availability of 33,000 acres of land “reasonably priced,” the excellence of transportation facilities, labor conditions, construction materials, power supplied 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 3 July 1941 the Huntsville Times announced the decision by the War Department to construct a Chemical Warfare Manufacturing Arsenal near Huntsville, Alabama, to produce smoke materials and other chemical warfare munitions required by the Military establishment.

Included in the announcement was a statement 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 Government immediately took steps to acquire the land by condemnation proceedings. When the Office of the Quartermaster General filed a petition on

23 July, 1941 to this effect, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, Northeastern Division, entered an order granting possession to the U.S. Government as of noon, 24 July 1941.

Food Makes for Good Politics

By Marjorie Ann Reeves

The typical Southern Lady does not run for a political office yet Loretta Spencer is a Southern Lady who became the first and only lady mayor of Huntsville plus the first female mayor in Alabama. With a background of caring for grieving families at Laughlin Funeral Home and a teacher, Loretta is a people's person and enjoys helping others. Mayor Joe Davis put her on his planning committee providing her start in politics which gave her so many opportunities to learn and experience in helping Huntsville to grow. She worked on the Planning Committee for eight years learning the ins and out of Huntsville. Her extensive volunteer work in the Huntsville community taught her three major skills she needed as mayor. She learned how to work as part of a team, how to accomplish the goal on a limited budget, and always remember to thank people who have helped you, no matter how small the task. This is what she brought to the mayor's office in Huntsville.

Her involvement and genuine concern for her fellow Huntsvillians is her personal trademark. Mayor Spencer's love for Huntsville is very evident in the beautification projects that have made the city so welcoming. She took over the mayor's office from Steve Hettinger who she described as a shy person. Loretta had earned a reputation as a fund raiser by the time she ran for mayor. One of the ways to gain funds was through food. She had spent years cooking and



Tradition of Leadership



MRS. SPENCER

FOR quite some time it has seemed almost impossible for a statewide competition to select an outstanding young man or woman of the year to be held without there

being a winner from Huntsville or Madison County.

And that says a lot, we think, about the quality and quantity of young leadership in the affairs of this community.

The latest to uphold that tradition is Mrs. Guy Spencer Jr. of Huntsville. The Alabama Jayceettes have chosen Loretta Spencer as one of four Distinguished Young Women of the year in the state.

The award recognizes her outstanding service to the community as president of the Grace Club Auxiliary, as a leader in improving local recreational facilities and programs, and in community volunteerism.

She ranks as an exemplary young leader in a community that has, it seems, an enviable — and perennial — supply of them.

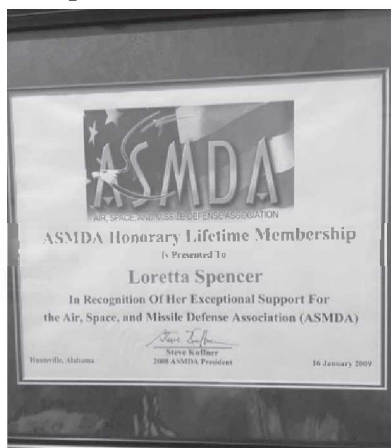
entertaining which she brought to the office. And as all Southerners know food is an important part of life. “Food shows you care about them” stated Loretta.

When she needed to raise funds for a project or convince a

business to come to Huntsville, the apron came out. Loretta would have a bbq in her back yard or rent a hall to have a dinner party. She has a natural instinct on how to make people feel at home and open to her projects. To get Korean Gold Star manufacturing here, she had Korean cooks in Korean costumes make native food for the visiting dignitaries. They agreed to build in Huntsville. Her accomplishments of gaining companies to come to Huntsville put Huntsville placed at #8 in the Forbes magazine 2004 list of Best Places for Business while she was mayor.

During Loretta’s time in politics, she made many friends that experienced her as reliable, hardworking, forward thinking, and a truly honest mayor putting Huntsville before her needs. She developed a close working relationship with Representative Bud Cramer, Representative Ron Flippo, Senator Richard Shelby, and Governor Don Siegelman in getting more industries into Huntsville. When she looked for a company to come or one that contacted her office to build, she did her research to make sure it was a

company that would benefit Huntsville. She called on Bud Cramer to help her find the money to buy a large track of land to get the Target Warehouse to build in Huntsville. Richard Shelby worked with Loretta to have a new Federal Courthouse built in Huntsville. She feels one the most important businesses to come to Huntsville during her time as mayor was the Hudson Alpha Foundation supporting genomic medicine at the Research Park. Rick Myers, president, and science director of Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology at the time of the move stated, “When she served as mayor. Loretta was really adamant about expanding the types of things going on in Huntsville.” “Loretta wanted to broaden the economic base of Huntsville by making it more diverse.” In 2016, Loretta Spencer denoted \$100,000 to the Hudson Alpha Foundation to support genomic medicine through the clinic. Howard Jacob, executive vice president said, “I want to thank Loretta on behalf of our patients and to thank her for making Huntsville a better place to live.”



A supporter of Redstone Arsenal, she wanted Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) to come to Huntsville. In order to get the generals interested, she had houses built on the Arsenal for the Generals during that time, she oversaw the welcoming of Department of Defense

(DoD) employees transferring to Redstone Arsenal during BRAC. She provided support to Redstone Arsenal and local Army, National Guard and Reserve

Soldiers during several deployments following 9/11 during her mayorship. She spearheaded efforts to have land in downtown Huntsville set aside for the site of the Veterans Memorial. Loretta makes a presence at all local military events and activities including numerous deployments, and welcome home ceremonies. In 2009, she was presented with the highest award given by AUSA's Third Region - the prestigious Major General Robert F. Cocklin Award at its annual conference in Huntsville. Spencer is the only mayor and female to receive the award since it was first presented in 1989. As a board member for the past 26 years of conferences, she is still involved with the Space and Missile Defense Association (ASMDA). Through that association, Mayor Loretta Spencer University Scholarship Fund is available to students in their community. "I have a passion for Redstone Arsenal and its employees, and those who serve in the military," Spencer said. "I am dedicated to supporting Redstone Arsenal and all it stands for. The patriotism and dedication I see in our military touches my heart."

Mayor Spencer's lead in guiding Huntsville's growth has left a lasting mark. She enjoyed working with so many people to get things accomplished. Loretta knew "women are so good about the details of when there is a need for something and how to get something done," so she had a group of Southern ladies that she could call on to help with organizing a party for her projects: Betsy Jones, Jane Walker, Jean Mc Cowan. Her secretary, Janet Fowler, became a close friend during her time in office. Her mother, Sarah Prudy, was always her closest friend. Loretta Spencer stated she enjoyed her time in the mayor's office, "it was fun." I always believed in myself. That's the only way - to have

the cockiness you need to get things done.”She is still very much involved with volunteer work around Huntsville. She stated, "To leave office and still have the public respect you, it's awesome."

References:

- Interview with Loretta Spencer, May 1, 2023
- https://www.al.com/breaking/2012/02/former_huntsville_mayor_lorett_1.html
- <https://www.ourcampaigns.com/CandidateDetail.html?CandidateID=101080>
- https://www.army.mil/article/23875/ex_mayor_cherishes_redstone_relationship
- <https://www.hudsonalpha.org/engage/former-mayor-loretta-spencer-donates-100000-for-smith-family-clinic/>
- https://asmda.org/images/pdfs/2022_ASMDA_Loretta_Spencer_Scholarship_Announcement.pdf
- https://www.theredstonerocket.com/news/article_876a301a-ba6a-11e3-9a6d-001a4bcf887a.html

Huntsville Resident Dies by Firing Squad

Peter Allen (ca. 1805-1836)

by Arley McCormick

Peter Allen was 28 years of age when he died facing soldiers of the Mexican Army. He was fighting for Texas.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, about 1808, the son of a pastor, Richard Allen and his wife Sara. While receiving an education in the church and becoming an accomplished flutiest Peter grew restless and there are no known records that explain why he chose Huntsville, Alabama as his destination. But, he arrived in the former capitol of Alabama sometime prior to October 1835 and was a resident long enough to become comfortably established in the community supporting himself and marrying a local girl.

The Texas Revolution was in the paper routinely in 1835 and always included emotional pleas to join Texas in its fight for freedom. Recruiting campaigns were familiar and by October, thanks to men like Capt. Peyton Sterling Wyatt, the adventure was luring but a promise of land in Texas was the most compelling inducement to support the rebellion. Several men of Huntsville weighed the risk and considered the possibility. Capt. Wyatt was originally from Virginia, about 4 years older than Peter, and employed as a clerk of the United States District Court in Huntsville. He was articulate, persuasive, and financially capable of equipping a company of Huntsville residents to join the fight.

On the night of October 31, Capt. Wyatt held a meeting to organize a volunteer company in Huntsville and a volunteer company, a platoon actually, was formed. Peter Allen, a flutist, was welcomed into the

platoon of 20 men, as a musician. The small platoon departed Huntsville on Sunday, November 8, 1835.

A steamboat transported the twenty volunteers, including Peter Allen, down the Tennessee River, presumably from Ditto landing, and into the Ohio River before stopping at Paducah, Kentucky, for two days. There, Peter and his small band of volunteers marched through the streets playing music, making speeches, and exhorting the local men to join them before continuing their journey down the Mississippi to Natchez and overland to Nacogdoches. The small platoon had grown to a company of nearly 200. They arrived in Texas in early December. Wyatt's band of Huntsville volunteers were officially mustered into service for Texas on December 25, 1835.

On January 12, 1836, they marched toward Goliad joining more volunteers at Refugio about January 22. With Wyatt on furlough, the Huntsville volunteers were commanded by Lt. B.T. Bradford and participated in the Battle Coleto Creek under James Walker Fannin Jr. of Georgia. Coleto Creek was a precursor to the defense at Goliad. Fannin was a West Point Graduate and a long time agitator for the Texas Revolution. Unfortunately, in the days preceding the fall of Goliad a series of errors in his judgment and unanticipated calamities that frequently accompany military operations, led to him surrendering Peter Allen and his comrades. They were imprisoned at Goliad on March 20, 1836.

Capt. Jack Shackelford commander of the "Alabama Red Rovers" organized in Cortland, Alabama, recalled the night before the massacre that the musicians of the troop, which would have included Peter Allen, played the tune "Home Sweet Home" on their flutes as tears "rolled down many a manly cheek." The next

morning, Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836, the men were awaked at dawn by their Mexican guards, split into four groups and marched outside the fort. Each group proceeded in a different direction. Minutes later, Shackelford heard shots and the screams of men as they were being executed. Later that day, the mangled corpses of his comrades were burned by the Mexican soldiers.

But, there is more to the story: Many residents have sacrificed their life for freedom and opportunity. What is unique regarding this man - Peter Allen?

Peter Allen was a free black man and musician married to a slave in Huntsville. He was the son of Richard Allen (1769-1831), founder and first bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and his wife, Sara (Bass) Allen (1764-1849) born a slave in Virginia. Richard Allen was born a slave too. His master was Benjamin Chew, attorney General of the state of Pennsylvania. Pastor Allen purchased his freedom in 1783 and went on to become one of the preeminent black leaders in Colonial America. An accomplished writer, Richard Allen published books and sermons while serving as a minister and educator up until the time of his death in Philadelphia on March 26, 1831. His wife, Sarah Bass was active in reform activities up until the time of her death in Philadelphia on July 16, 1849.

Peter Allen's siblings in Philadelphia-John Allen, Sarah Wilkins, and Mary Adams- possibly upon learning that a title to 4,026 acres of land in Texas were available in Peter's estate because of service to Texas, claimed to be his only heirs. When Peter Allen's wife, Mary, proved her marriage and filed a claim as well, the Philadelphia heirs objected, causing a legal battle that ended in the Texas Supreme Court. Mary

Allen's claim was confirmed by the Texas Supreme Court and the suit to deny her claim by the Philadelphia heirs was dismissed.

Peter Allen's widow, Mary, lived the remainder of her life in Huntsville and died in 1885. Her second husband, John Cook, preceded her in death. Mary's obituary recounted Peter's service in the Texas Revolution and his refusal to save his own life when offered his freedom in return for again playing "Home, Sweet Home," this time at the request of the Mexican commander. The Huntsville Independent recalled Peter Allen's decision to remain with his comrades and share their fate when he replied to the Mexican commander, "No, I'll not play, but I'll just go along with the rest of the boys."

Reference:

Texas State Historical Association August 13, 2017.

- <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/allen-peter>
- <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/coletocreekbattle>
- <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/jameswalkerfannin>
- <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/captjackshakelford>

The origin of the lost Confederate gold drama.

From the Editor: According to the references list in Wikipedia, millions of dollars was lost after the War of the Rebellion and its location is the source of speculation for many historians and treasure hunters. Allegedly, the treasury of the Confederacy was hidden to finance the rise of the South - again. The legend, it appears, was born when Union troops invaded New Orleans and gold was removed to Georgia. It was temporarily placed in the Iron Bank of William H. Young in October 1862. General P.G.T. Beauregard was ordered to take the gold from the bank, Young refused, but he was forced to give it up and, thus, the mystery began.

General Henry Halleck, Chief of Staff of the Union armies, wrote Jefferson Davis in 1865 that based upon statements of Richmond, Virginia bankers the stash was worth six to thirteen million dollars, and General Halleck ordered Generals Wilson and Canby to intercept the rebel leader and confiscate the Confederacy's wealth. Is that treasure buried under Virginia Clay's home?

George Trenholm, Confederate Treasurer, was arrested after the war and accused of stealing Confederate assets. He traveled with President Davis but became ill and abandoned the escape. What happened to all that gold? There may be an answer near Huntsville. The Editor

THE LOST TREASURE OF BLOUNTSVILLE

Blountsville Lost Treasure

By Robert S. Davis



Robert S. Davis

I ran a genealogy program of classes in family and local history with a very popular collection for research. After a typically long day, I rested at my desk, getting myself together before heading home to

Blountsville. The phone rang, and the caller was

the dean's secretary, Libby. She abruptly told me that a man was coming over to see me. Without more explanation, she hung up.

The situation seemed most curious but would have appeared even stranger had I known that the next hour would seem like an opening chapter in an adventure novel. This elderly gentleman came to my office, and I invited him to sit. He explained to me that for many years he had been searching for the lost gold of the Confederate States of America. The South had been fabulously wealthy, he claimed, and the buried treasure of the Lost Cause would today be worth billions of dollars. By knowing the secrets of the Masons, this treasure could allegedly be found, but that had defeated all previous treasure hunters. My impression was to call Dan Brown and sell him a sequel to *The da Vinci Code*.

My visitor presented me with a fat folder of papers. He explained that the treasure is buried just outside of Blountsville. His preliminary excavations had turned up the location, and he had figured out how to get past the nitroglycerin booby traps that the Confederacy had laid out on the floor plan of King Solomon's Temple. This news got

me thinking that maybe Steven Spielberg is shopping for a plot for the next Indiana Jones adventure. The folder did contain various soil reports and other scientific data that my visitor paid to have made. I particularly noted the high amounts of Uranium and other radioactive materials. I wondered if that material could be responsible for my poor radio reception when I passed that area. In any case, I made a mental note to pick up bottled water on my way home.

I queried my guest. Were Indian mounds near this site? Oh yes, he replied, they ring the ground. Could these green remains that he thinks are Confederate mines possibly be deteriorated copper from Indian burials? He replied that he saw where I was going with this but that the Confederates had probably chosen that site because it was well-known as an Indian burial ground and would have religious and mystical significance.

Finally, I asked, what has this to do with me? He explained that the file contained a power of attorney consigning to the college, for the benefit of the students, the mineral rights for the site. The property owners had given him these rights for a percentage of the treasure. However, they wanted to renege on the deal after he had used dynamite and a bulldozer on the property. The owners finally shot at him to drive him off. As he was going in for heart surgery, he wanted the college to have the papers in case he finally "cashed in." I thanked him and filed the records under "gold."

I wrote a memo to the dean stating that I had just published an article on the lost Confederate gold and that this whole matter was nonsense.ⁱ However, should some mining company ever move onto the property, maybe the college could collect some money for the mining rights? That afternoon, I drove past the site indicated, and I saw his excavation. I chose not to stop and talk with the owners; I was already as involved as I cared to be.

When I later checked the gold file, I found it empty. Maybe he came back and retrieved the papers. Maybe I should

have done more to secure the papers or made copies. Perhaps I should have stopped and talked with the property owners. Who knows, maybe I missed my chance to be a hero in a popular novel! I wonder who would have played me in the movie...

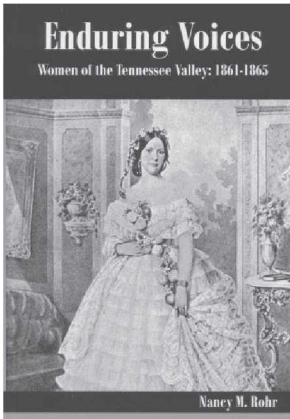
Reference: "The Georgia Odyssey of the Confederate Gold," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 86 (Winter, 2002): 569-586.

Meet the Author: *Robert Scott Davis is a retired professor of History whose work has involved family, local history, and research primarily concerning the Southeastern United States. He has earned national recognition with over 2,000 publications on genealogy and history; has spoken to hundreds of groups nationwide; and made television appearances.*

Book Review

Enduring Voices – Women of the Tennessee Valley: 1861-1865

By Nancy M. Rohr



The American Civil War was clysmic and left no Southern life untouched. *Enduring Voices – Women of the Tennessee Valley: 1861-1865* contains more than thirty accounts of north Alabama women during that time. It observes their everyday goings-on from different cities and landscapes, from poorest enslaved Black women to wealthiest plantation wives.

Although women comprised half the population, their stories have been overshadowed by hundreds of books about the battles. Now, these diaries, memoirs, and letters give us a doorway into the lives of these brave, resourceful women. These writers (young girls, in some cases) give us insights on home life, school, family, neighbors, and the dreaded enemy that give present-day readers a much-needed picture of daily life during wartime in north Alabama.

Huntsville author, Mary Ann Cruse, held strong political views, and wrote that any implication that African slave trade caused the war was to imply that tea floating in the Boston Harbor caused the Revolutionary War. The Civil War's conclusion brought little relief for Black women; the odds of

success were entirely against them. The entry for Virginia Clay, whose picture adorns the cover, is entirely fascinating and by itself, is worth the price of the book.

Author Nancy Rohr is prolific in her journaling of history in the Tennessee Valley; *Enduring Voices* is her fifth book (she has also authored numerous articles). This intensely personal work of scholarship is a treasure to read and is an important addition to any Civil War archive.

Reviewed by John H. Allen – 11/03/2023

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society 2023 and 2024 Board of Directors

Officers:

- President - Heather Adkins
- 1st Vice President - Arley McCormick
- 2nd Vice President – Daniel Rhodes
- Treasurer - Cooper Murray
- Recording Secretary - Sharon Lange
- Corresponding Secretary - SueAnne Griffith

Special Appointments:

- Archivist - Deane Dayton
- HOPE Coordinator - Amelia Parkes
- Historical Review Editor - Arley McCormick
- Marker Committee Chair - Alex Luttrell
- Student Resource Officer - Daniel Rhodes

Executive Board:

- Cait Monroe
- William Hampton
- Kyle Curtis –
- Susan McClamrock

Past Presidents/Ex-Officio:

- Blake Dorning
- David Hitt
- John Allen
- Jacque Reeves
- Ron Bledsoe
- Joyce Smith
- Gary Wicks

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 for local historians to document Madison County history. 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 included in it. A casual examination of every community in the world reveals the character of its citizens and, if you look closely, voices from the past express their 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. We will assist you toward that goal.

Presentations to family and acquaintances become oral history. Publishing your story in the Review insures you and your story are immortal. You can contribute to our history through the *Huntsville Historical Review*.

Manuscript Preparation and Submission

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

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

Review Content and Style

- There is no limit on word count. The manuscript can be divided into parts published in separate volumes of the Review.
- In matters of form and style, a good guide is *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 Times New Roman 12-point font. Microsoft Word (not PDF)
- This is a guide and not intended to discourage the creative process nor constrain authors from contributing to the Review.

Book Reviews

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 these are good rules to follow when writing a book review:

- Your first obligation for 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 limited to 250 words and include contact information.
- The editor has the right to alter or delete wording or information.

Little Reminders . . . Good Writing Rules

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

An Invitation to Membership

Membership in the Society will give you an opportunity to express your interest and participate in preserving the history of Huntsville and Madison County. Enjoy the opportunity to be with other individuals who share your interest in our history by attending the Society's four meetings a year, each one featuring a speaker of local or regional note. A membership includes subscription to *The Huntsville Historical Review*.

If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a member, please share this application.

Huntsville Historical Society Reviews on line: [HHC \(huntsvillehistorycollection.org\)](http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org)

**Huntsville-Madison County
Historical Society**

Box 666
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HUNTSVILLE, AL
PERMIT NO. 4

The Huntsville Historical Review

Fall – Winter 2023

Volume 48

Number 2

In the pages of this Volume

2 George Steel

by Daniel Higdon and Roberto Garcia Segura

**5. Historical Highlights of the Redstone
Arsenal Complex 1941-1949**

by Cleo S. Cason and Winono Y. Strompe

8. Food Makes for Good Politics

by Marjorie Ann Reeves

**13. Huntsville Resident Dies by Firing
Squad: Peter Allen (ca. 1805-1836)**

by Arley McCormick

17. The Lost Treasure Of Blountsville

by Robert S. Davis

**22. Book Review: Enduring Voices –
Women of the Tennessee Valley: 1861-
1865** *by Nancy M. Rohr Review by John H. Allen*

Editor, Arley McCormick