

Eden of the South

A Chronology of Huntsville, Alabama

1805-2005



Edited by:
Ranee' G. Pruitt

Eden of the South

. . . begins with the discovery of a limestone spring by settler John Hunt. In just over a century and a half, the settlement named in his honor would make worldwide headlines for research and development, earning Huntsville the name, the Space Capital of the World. But our history did not stop there!

This book takes readers back to the little known incidental moments uncovered from numerous sources, as well as the amazing details behind the big events, famous people, and, more importantly, the unsung heroes.

Two hundred years, a brief snapshot in time, are remembered by the people of the time. Over 700 photographs capture moments and commit them to immortality. Tragedies and triumphs, thought to be long forgotten, are recorded in one fascinating book.

The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library proudly offers this publication as a fitting birthday present to celebrate the first 200 years of Huntsville, Alabama, the Eden of the South.



EDEN OF THE SOUTH

A Chronology of Huntsville, Alabama

1805 – 2005

*Edited by
Ranéé G. Pruitt*

*Huntsville-Madison County Public Library
Huntsville, Alabama*

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Huntsville, Alabama 35801

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Layout design by: James H. Maples

Cover artist: Dennis Waldrop

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Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

ISBN: 0-9707368-2-7

Published by

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library
915 Monroe St.
P.O. Box 443
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Preface

In celebration of the Bicentennial of the City of Huntsville, the Board of Directors of the Huntsville Madison County Public Library is proud to present the Library's first book: *Eden of the South: A Chronology of Huntsville, Alabama*.

Established in 1817, before Alabama was a state, Alabama's first public library has provided continuous service to its citizens since that date. This community and its public library system has been built and nourished by generations of individuals, families, and members of the Library Board of Directors dating back to the early 1800's. This book is the first of many planned for publication in the years to come. Proceeds generated from *Eden of the South* and the books that follow will enable the Library to build an endowment fund to support the collections in our Huntsville Heritage Room and Archives.

We know you will enjoy the Library's tribute in celebration of the 200th birthday of Huntsville, Alabama.

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Introduction

In celebration of Huntsville's 200th anniversary, the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library decided to publish a manuscript that would scan its events and people, as we are the keepers of Huntsville's history. Many books have been written about the history of Huntsville; however, the purpose of this volume is to provide the reader with various facets of its history, provide an accurate, concise desk reference, and to entertain readers with details of the less familiar characters and happenings that figured in the city's rise to prominence.

The chronology covers two hundred years and so many subjects that each entry is very brief. Great selectivity was used by the compilers and editors in choosing the events included.

The book represents countless hours of research and writing by twenty different authors, each with their own interests, training, and writing style for that particular decade. Most of us have an interest in Huntsville's history, either professionally or simply as amateur historians. As you read these pages and pore over the photographs of yesteryear, I hope you find yourself laughing at a certain event that you may have attended or remember, as entertaining as it is informative.

Many of the entries were taken from the newspapers found in the Madison County Record Center of the Huntsville Public Library. Others were culled from a variety of references from books and manuscripts, a complete listing of which is included at the back of the book.

An alphabetical index makes it easy to find entries covering a wide range of subjects and people, or you can just read along and be surprised on every page.

It tells the story of how Huntsville developed from a small village near the Tennessee River to the Rocket capital of the world, as we know it today.

Any year will give you a vivid sense of what life was like for Huntsvillians at that time, the political and financial developments that shaped their lives, the sporting events, and the arts that entertained them.

Raneé Pruitt, editor

Acknowledgements

The Library is extremely grateful to the compilers and transcribers who generously gave their time and knowledge towards the publication of *Eden of the South*. We thank Susanna Leberman, Donna Dunham, Jacquelyn Procter Gray, Brian Hogan, Thomas Hutchens, Jeanne Hand Henry, Patricia Ryan, Bob Adams, Judy Purinton, Martin Towery, Julie Blackwell, Linda Alcott Maples, James (Jim) Maples, Glenda Smallwood, David E. Milam, Nancy Rohr, Robert Reeves, and Rhonda Larkin.

The monumental task of editing was accomplished by Raneé Pruitt and a dedicated team of local historians: A great deal of credit for the completion of this book goes to James (Jim) Maples who served as Layout Design Editor. The book could not have been done without him. A special thanks must be given to Associate Editors Richard Smallwood, and Jacquelyn Procter Gray, the guiding force behind this project. We are also grateful to Nancy Rohr for her dedication to our project. In addition to her assistance to the editor, she also proofed the manuscript. Thanks also to artist Dennis Waldrop, who designed and painted *John Hunt at the Big Spring* for the cover.

Donna Schremser, Director
Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

The Editors and Compilers



Photo by Bob Gathany

Editors

First row from left to right: Jim Maples, Raneé Pruitt, Richard Smallwood, and Jacque Gray

Compilers

Second row from left to right: Julie Blackwell, Jeanne Hand Henry, Linda Alcott Maples, Rhonda Larkin, Glenda Smallwood, Bob Adams, and Nancy Rohr

Back row from left to right: Patricia Ryan, Susanna Leberman, Martin Towery, Thomas Hutchens, Brian Hogan, Judy Purinton, and Robert Reeves

Not pictured: David Milam and Donna Dunham

The Compilers

Eden of the South is the result of the work of 20 Huntsville history enthusiasts. It has been prepared as a timeline for the 200th Anniversary of John Hunt's coming to the Big Spring. The compilers were chosen as a result of their love or involvement for their particular decade. I extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to all who generously contributed 100's of hours going through newspapers, books and manuscripts to complete their decade.

1805-1819

Raneé Pruitt
Archivist, Huntsville Public Library

1820s

Susanna Leberman
Student of History, Masters Program, UAH.

1830s

Nancy Rohr
Author, Historian

1840s

Donna Dunham
Historian, Madison County Records Center

1850s

Jacquelyn Procter Gray
Author, Historian

1860s

Brian Hogan
Civil War Historian

1870s

Thomas Hutchens
Librarian, Huntsville Heritage Room

1880s

Thomas Hutchens

1890s

Thomas Hutchens & Raneé Pruitt

1900s

Jeanne Hand Henry (1900's)
Historian, Professional Genealogist

1910s

Patricia Ryan
Textile Mill Historian, Author

1920s

James H. and Linda Alcott Maples
Historians

1930s

Bob Adams
President, Huntsville-Madison Co. Historical Society

1940s

Judy Purinton, Martin Towery and Julie Blackwell
Adult Services Dept., Huntsville Public Library

1950s

Glenda Smallwood
1950's Historian, Huntsville native

1960s

Robert Reeves
WHNT-TV 19

1970s

Raneé Pruitt

1980s

David E. Milam
Historian

1990s

Rhonda Larkin
Archivist, Madison County Records Center

2000s

Raneé Pruitt

The Editors

Raneé Pruitt - Editor
James (Jim) Maples - Layout Design Editor
Richard Smallwood - Associate Editor
Jacquelyn Procter Gray - Associate Editor

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1805 - 1819

The Eden of the South

Compiled by Raneé Pruitt

The beginnings of the community now known as Huntsville can be traced back to the year 1805. The settlement of John Hunt's era boasted of many outstanding leaders that took the territory into statehood. The rattlesnakes John Hunt fought so diligently are gone, and the fear of Indian attack and wild bears is no longer a concern. Over the next two centuries Huntsville produced and attracted many more leaders who helped take the State of Alabama, and indeed the entire nation, into world prominence.

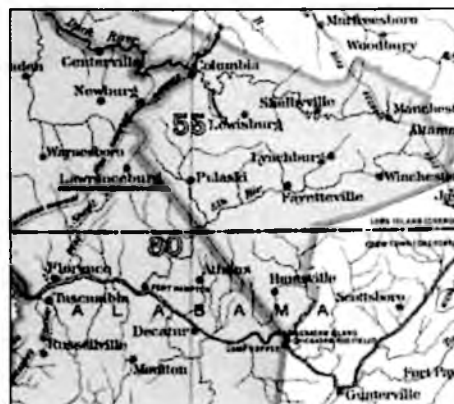


The above oil painting executed in 1859 by Louis Lucet, an Instructor in French at the Huntsville Female Seminary, is thought to be his conception of the original formation of the Big Spring before “man-made” improvements.

1805

Tennessee native John Hunt along with his friend Mr. Bean from Franklin County, Tennessee, journeyed south on the Winchester Road in search of a big spring they had heard about. They stayed the night with Isaac Criner who was living on the Flint River near New Market. The next morning the two men left to locate the big spring, finding it 15 miles south of New Market. John Hunt called the settlement “Hunt’s Spring” to establish his claim as the founder.

July 23 - The Chickasaw Indians ceded their property rights in a treaty with the United States Government. The treaty included paying Chinubee Mingo, king of the Chickasaw Nation, \$100 per year for the rest of his life. The United States also paid \$22,000 to George Colbert for land and for services rendered to put together the treaty agreement.



Map showing the Chickasaw Lands (shaded light gray)



The Big Spring

1806

John Hunt brought his family to Hunt’s Spring to live in a two-room log cabin he had constructed on a bluff overlooking what the Indians called the Big Spring, used by them as hunting ground.

January 7 - The Cherokee Indians ceded their property rights in a treaty with the United States government. The government agreed to pay them \$2,000 and the same amount for the next four years. The government also gave the Indians a grist mill and a machine to clean cotton. Cherokee Chief Black Fox was to receive \$100 per year for life. Combined with the land from the Chickasaw Treaty, the area from this treaty covered 345,600 acres. That land is known now as Madison County, Alabama.

Squatters and plantation owners from Tennessee, Virginia, and the Carolinas flocked to the area to acquire land ceded from the Chickasaw Indians.

1807

A school was established by Wyatt Bishop.

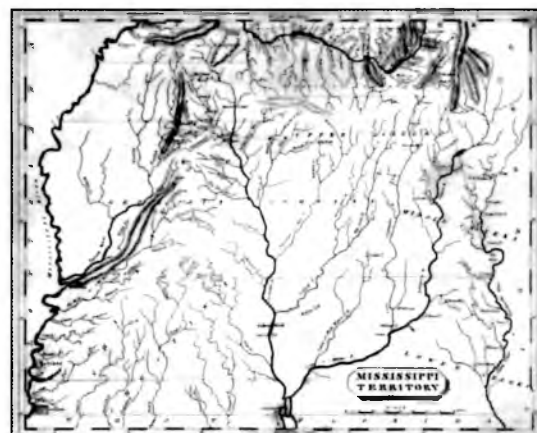
Thomas Freeman was appointed Surveyor for the Mississippi Territory.

1808

People came to Huntsville from all over the world. “When civilization and refinement shall be well established, this will be a desirable part of the United States,” said Indian agent Johnathan Meigs.

December 13 - Madison County was created by the Mississippi Territorial Legislature. There were approximately 300 squatters living around the Big Spring at that time.

December - Stephen Neal was appointed Sheriff, as well as Justice of the Peace, for the town of Hunt’s Spring.



Map of the Mississippi Territory

1809

Settlers from Petersburg, Georgia began to arrive in time for the land sale. Among the wealthy planters were families of LeRoy Pope, John Williams Walker, Thomas and William Bibb, James Manning, James Watkins, and Lewellen Jones. These families, and many more, bought up large tracts of land to establish their homes and plantations.



LeRoy Pope

John Bunch's Old Tavern was built on Fountain Row.

The Huntsville Meridian, a baseline from which all real estate property is surveyed, was established by Territorial Surveyor, Thomas Freeman.

January - A census taken by Thomas Freeman reported 353 heads of families, 1,150 free white males, 723 white females, and 332 slaves.

The census of John Hunt's household reported four males, three females, and five slaves. The list included his daughter Elizabeth and her husband, their children, and servants.

February 24 - The United States Government required that the settlers of Madison County make application in order to remain on their land.

April 3 - The first recorded marriage - James McGuire and Elizabeth Ghormley.

April 5 - President James Monroe proclaimed that public lands located in Madison County would be sold at the Federal Land Office in Nashville, Tennessee beginning on the first Monday in August. The sale would continue for three weeks.

In August John Hunt made application to purchase, under his rights as a settler, 200 acres in the area of the Big Spring. However, he failed to pay the necessary cash registration fees required to hold the land.

August 25 - The quarter section of land which contained John Hunt's property at the Big Spring was purchased by LeRoy Pope, William P. Anderson, and James Jackson for \$23.50 per acre.

October 24 - John Hunt returned to Hawkins County, Tennessee along with John Gilbreath of Huntsville and David Larkin of Huntland, Tennessee to sell his property in Hawkins County.

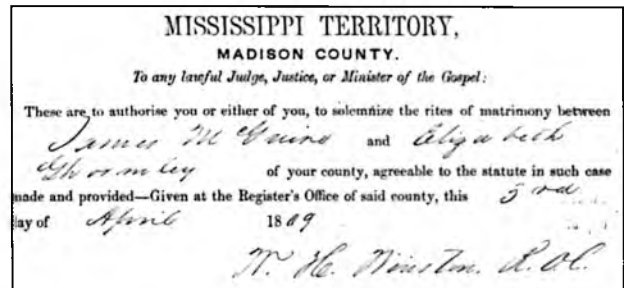
November 1 - LeRoy Pope took over the payments on what had previously been John Hunt's land.

December 22 - William Dickson, Edward Ward, Louis Winston, Alexander Gilbreath, and Peter Perkins were appointed Commissioners to establish the locations of public buildings in Madison County. They were given authority to buy between 30 and 100 acres of land for that purpose. The land purchased would be laid out in half-acre lots. Three acres would be reserved for the public buildings. The remaining property would be sold at public auction to defray the expense of erecting public buildings.

December 23 - By an act of the Mississippi Territory's Legislature, Hunt's Spring was renamed the town of Twickenham. LeRoy Pope (who chose the name of Twickenham), W. P. Anderson, and James Jackson were employed to lay out the town.



The Huntsville Meridian Marker in Maple Hill Cemetery



The first recorded marriage in Madison County, Mississippi Territory

1810

John Reed built the town's first brick house on what was formerly known as the Shaudies property located at the southwest corner of the square.

Col. Peter Perkins was elected Madison County Superior Court Clerk.

Gabriel Moore, future governor of Alabama, was appointed tax assessor.

David Cobb was appointed constable.

January 4 - The first court in Madison County was held in Huntsville at the home of John Bunch on Fountain Row. The house had been prepared by Sheriff Stephen Neal. Three judges sat on home-made chairs with buckskin bottoms. The expense was \$3.70 for tables, paper, and goose quills.



Gabriel Moore



Madison County's first courthouse

May 16 - John Hunt was appointed Coroner for the Mississippi Territory to serve for the term of 1810 - 1814.

June 1810 - Twickenham consisted of 20 blocks covering 60 acres. It stretched from Holmes Street to Williams Street and from Gallatin Street to Lincoln Street.

July 5 - The first 28 lots were sold in Twickenham.

1811

Madison County's first courthouse was built. It was a two-story yellow brick building with a southeast entrance.

John Reed built Allen Cooper's two-story brick boarding house.

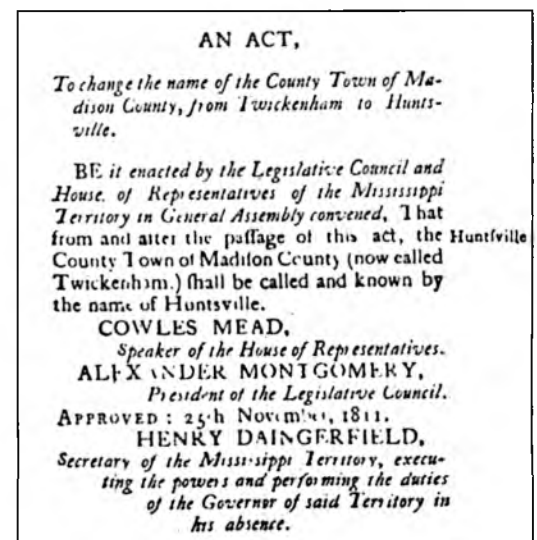
November 25 - By act of the Mississippi Territorial Legislature, the town of Twickenham was renamed in honor of the area's first settler, John Hunt. By this act Hunt's Spring, which previously was Twickenham, was now finally to be known as Huntsville.

December 9 - By act of the Mississippi Territorial Legislature, Huntsville would be self-governing. Five men would be elected by free white males - over the age of 21 living in the town of Huntsville - to "superintend the police by passing appropriate by-laws to govern the town, repair the streets, and keep order."

Another act established that a constable would be appointed within the city limits to collect taxes. He would receive 5% of what he collected as his pay.

Another act established that trustees would be elected on the first Monday in February of every year, under the supervision of the sheriff and Justice of the Peace.

Another act directed that a bank would be established in the town. The value of the stock would not exceed \$5,000 and it was to be sold in one dollar increments.



Act of the Mississippi Territorial Legislature changing the name from Twickenham to Huntsville

1812

The *Madison Gazette* was established. It was printed every Tuesday by T. C. Bradford.

November 13 - Eli Newman was found guilty of the murder of Joseph Setrick. His attorney, John Williams Walker, successfully filed a motion for a new trial.

November 25 - The Greene Academy, a school for boys, was chartered by the Territorial Legislature. It was built on the corner of Lincoln Street and Williams Street.

December 1 - The second murder trial for Eli Newman began. The next day, he was found guilty for the second time.

December 5 - At about noon, Eli Newman, the first person found guilty of murder in Madison County, was hanged at the edge of town.



Andrew Jackson

1813

October 7 - The newspaper printed the following announcement: "Whereas my wife Cathey Esminger has left my bed and board without any just cause or provocation, I do hereby forsworn all and every person from trading or crediting her on my account and as I am determined to pay none of her contracts. Samuel Esminger."

October 11 - After marching from Fayetteville, Tennessee, Andrew Jackson camped his army at the intersection of Holmes Avenue and Lincoln Street. He was enroute to the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

October 18 - William McGaha, who was jailed for horse stealing, broke out of jail. A \$10 reward was offered to anyone who could return him to the jail.

The newspaper announced that General Andrew Jackson remained at Camp Coffee with about 600 mounted infantry. They passed through Ft. Hampton to cross the Tennessee River at the Shoals and then proceeded to the nearest Creek Indian town on the Black Warrior.



Dr. Thomas Fearn

1814

March 21 - Dr. Thomas Fearn announced that he was grateful to his friends for their patronage and that he would be found at his former residence, ready to treat sick patients.



The Green Bottom Inn

1815

LeRoy Pope finished Poplar Grove. This house still sits on the hill between Echols Avenue, Eustis Avenue and Lincoln Street.

Daniel Rather was appointed Coroner for Madison County.

The Green Bottom Inn was established by John Connally.

The Grove was built by Dr. James Manning. (Near the intersection of present day Lowe Ave and Gallatin St.)

Clement Comer Clay, one of Alabama's future governors, opened a law office on Franklin Street.

Surgeon General Dr. David Moore built his home on Madison Street. Dr. Moore was a civic leader, planter and had also served with Andrew Jackson in the Creek Indian War.

April 1 - The trustees of the Greene Academy were requested by Professor A. K. Davis to be punctual when they arrived at the Academy on the first Saturday in April.



Poplar Grove

1816

The Huntsville Inn, a three-story brick building on East Side Square, opened.

December 11 - The two-story Planters and Merchants Bank of Huntsville was chartered by the Mississippi Territorial Legislature.

December 21 - T & J Cain, watchmakers, gold and silver smiths, opened on Fountain Row in the brick building opposite Captain Bunch's Tavern.

1817

Future governor Hugh McVay built a two-story log cabin on Fountain Row.

Lemuel Mead opened his law office in the new brick building above the store of Brahan and Hutchings on the East Side Square.

The Government Land Office was moved from Nashville, Tennessee to Huntsville.

April 10 - Dr. Erskine and Dr. Irby announced the opening of their office on Eustis Street across the street from the Government Land Office.

September 18 - Ebenezer Darby announced that he had opened a boot and shoe-making business in the house next to Mr. Rather's Tavern.



George Steele

September 20 - It was announced that Mrs. Polly McVay, wife of Hugh McVay, had died.

November 3 - A brick house and lot located on the bluff above the Big Spring was advertised for sale by Willis Pope.

December 3 - Pope and Hickman, located on the East Side Square, advertised that they had received a "large, elegant, and well-selected assortment of merchandise, carpets, hearth rugs, and chimney ornaments."

1818

February 11 - George Steele arrived in Huntsville from Virginia. (He would become a renowned architect in Huntsville, specializing in Greek Revival architecture.)

March 10 - Samuel K. McGraw advertised for five or six apprentices, boys age 10 to 15 years, for the tinning business.

March 24 - An advertisement appeared in the newspaper announcing that Childress and Hickman would auction all of their goods that were sunk in the Black Warrior River. Those goods consisted of cassimere, calicoes, steam loom sheeting, cambric, and fancy muslin. For purchases over \$10, credit would be extended for nine months.

June 8 - Joab Watson opened a young ladies academy in L. Morgan's white-framed house on Eustis Street. Accommodations were available for 60 students.

September 3 - The City of Huntsville paid LeRoy Pope \$75.00 for a two-acre plot of land on the right side of the road leading to Ditto's Landing to be used as a community burial ground. (It would become a slave burial ground later known as Georgia.)

September 26 - J. Biddle moved his jewelry shop which also sold silverware, watches, and clocks. He advertised for one or two apprentices between the ages of 12 and 15, as long as they came well-recommended.

Mrs. E. Biddle, of Milliner and Mantur, announced that she would take orders for dresses, pelisses, ladies riding dresses, and bonnets at her business on Jefferson Street.

October 29 - The Huntsville Library opened for business in the law office of John N. S. Jones on Madison Street.

October 31 - Dr. Clarke advertised that his office had moved to the former office of Major Reed on Fountain Row. He had a complete assortment of medicines and surgical instruments with which to treat patients.

November 3 - Nicholas Pope advertised a brick house and lot for sale on the bluff above the Big Spring and adjoining the storehouse of Mr. Taylor and Mr. Foote on West Side Square.

November 14 - William and R. McNeil, located on West Side Square, advertised a large supply of coffee and sugar "of the very best quality."

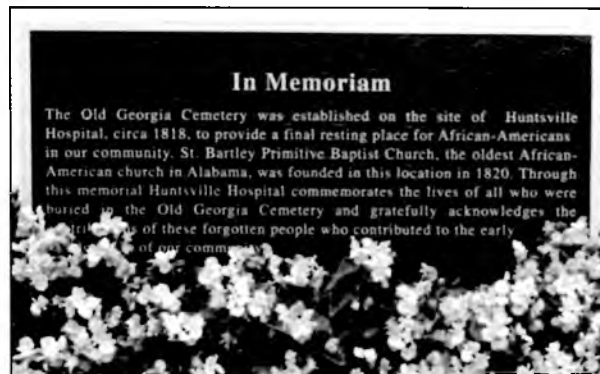
1819

The price of cotton dropped dramatically, throwing the cotton industry, and all related commerce, into what became known as the Financial Panic of 1819.

South Side Square (Commercial Row) housed thirteen general stores, eight of which were brick. It was the busiest street in town.



John Coffee



Memorial Plaque located in front of Huntsville Hospital for the Old Georgia Cemetery

Dr. Alexander Erskine and Dr. Edmund Irby opened their doctor office on Eustis Street.

D. Veitch opened a bookstore and auction house on Eustis Street.

Three tailors, a bakery, two druggists, a barbershop, a silversmith, a soap and candle maker, two attorneys, and five general stores were located on the northwest side of the square, also known as Cheapside.

Mrs. Sara McKay opened a school.

The Vaughn House on Washington Street advertised accommodations for travelers.

Jared I. Sample advertised his blacksmith shop on Washington Street.

The United States Government Surveyor's Office, under the direction of General John Coffee, opened above the law office of Clement Clay on Franklin Street. The Huntsville Post Office was located downstairs next to Mr. Clay's office. John Coffee had served with Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

January 2 - Two houses and lots were advertised for sale: a storehouse and lot on the west side of the public square, formerly occupied by John M. Tilford, and a house and lot on Main Street leading from town to the Meridian Road currently occupied by Richard Pryor.

January 9 - John Brahan informed the citizens, stone masons, and brick layers of Huntsville that they would no longer be permitted to obtain rock from his land. He also informed the public that no one would be allowed to take cedar posts from his land, which was mistaken to be vacant.

Mrs. McCay, a mantua maker and milliner on Jefferson Street, announced that she would keep a good assortment of fashionable hats in her store.

April 24 - Samuel Cruse took out an advertisement asking for the person who removed his third volume of a pocket edition of Shakespeare from the land office to please return it. The book had his name written in it.

June 12 - Beaty, Ewing, and Henderson, located on West Side Square, advertised good quality goose and duck feathers for sale.

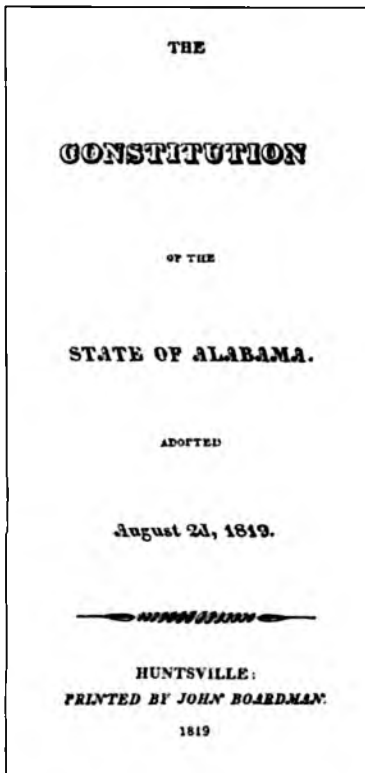
Taylor and Foote offered, for sale, a one-acre lot fronting on each of the two streets leading to Ditto's Landing. It promised to be "a very eligible situation for a gin house."

June 2 - President James Monroe, along with his Secretary Mr. Gouverneur and Lt. Monroe of the U.S. Army, arrived for an unannounced visit in Huntsville. They were housed at the Huntsville Inn.



President James Monroe

June 3 - President Monroe and his company, along with more than 100 of the most respectable citizens of Madison County, sat down to an evening of good food and entertainment, prepared by Captain Irby Jones. LeRoy Pope, assisted by Clement Clay and Henry Minor, presided over the event.



July 5 - A Constitutional Convention met in Huntsville to draft the Constitution which brought Alabama to statehood. The delegates met at the late Walker Allen's cabinet shop on Franklin and Gates Streets. The convention continued until August 2.

August 3 - John Boardman, editor and publisher of the weekly *Alabama Republican*, announced that he had published the first complete printing of the Constitution of the State of Alabama. He also printed all the laws passed by the legislature and had copies for sale.

August 12 - The Territorial Treasurer, Jack F. Ross, appointed John C. Perry to perform all duties of the office during his absence of several months. Mr. Perry's office was located on the second floor of the store operated by William and Robert McNeill.

James Trotter publized that he had resigned as a public teacher due to ill health. Robert O'Rieley, who was a competent teacher of English and the classics, would take his place.

August 19 - The newspaper announced the public sale of a 2-story frame house with a new brick kitchen and meat house, a framed stable and carriage house with a large well and enclosed garden.

"This property is among the most desirable in Huntsville for the family residence, for the merchant, a professional man, or anyone else wishing to live convenient to the Public Square and at the same time to have his family out of the way of its noise and bustle."

Thomas Brandon placed an advertisement in the newspaper, recommending himself for the office of County Court Clerk:

“For the first time in my life I have become a candidate for public office. I frankly acknowledge that I have not had it in my power to become as well qualified as I would wish, having had a family to support early in life, unaided by any means whatever, by the labour of my own hands. But the time I could spare from labour I have not left wholly unimproved, and if I did not believe myself in some sort qualified, I should not have offered you my name. There are some among you who have known me from infancy, and many others during my residence in this county for near 9 years.”

September 11 – Attorney John N. S. Jones announced the opening of his office, south of the public square and one door above Stephen Neal’s home.

September 25 - Mrs. O’Reiley announced the opening of an academy for young ladies. “The morals and behavior of the ladies confided to her shall be strictly attended to. They will be accustomed to a courteous demeanor to each other, by the practice of which they will acquire that ease and dignity of manner which bespeaks the well bred woman.” Interested patrons were invited to call at the watchmaker, William McCay for enrollment information.

*W. Walker,
President of the Convention,
and Representative from Madison County.*

October 9 - Allen Cooper announced the opening of his “House of Private Entertainment” at the south corner of the square. “No exertion shall be wanting to render general satisfaction to gentlemen travelers and others who may favor him with their custom.”

October 16 - Martin Miller, a tanner, advertised that he would no longer receive any hides or skins to tan on the shares. His establishment was located west of the Big Spring.

*Madison County
Clement C. Clay
John Leigh Townes
Henry Chambers
Lemuel Mead
Henry Minor
Gabriel Moore
John M. Taylor*

Colonel Griffin Lampkin announced that the 14th Regiment, Alabama Militia, will muster October 23 in Huntsville. All officers, non-commissioned, and privates, are required to attend equipped as the law directs.

October 25 - The Alabama House of Representatives held its sessions in the Huntsville Inn on East Side Square. Irby Jones was paid \$150 for the use of his house. Daniel Rather was elected door-keeper, and was in charge of counting the votes cast by the House. John K. Dunn was elected door-keeper for the Senate.

The following men represented Madison County in the House: John W. Walker, President of the Convention, Clement Comer Clay, John Leigh Townes, Henry Chambers, Lemuel Mead, Henry Minor, Gabriel Moore, and John M. Taylor.

The city limits of Huntsville were extended ¼ mile from the public square in every direction. Residents would abide by the same rules, regulations, and restrictions pointed out in the act which incorporated the town. The corporation would not “affect the persons or property of Thomas and William Brandon, who reside within the limits of said Corporation.”

John Reed, Henry Stokes and Jesse Searcy were appointed as commissioners, in addition to those already serving.

October 26 - John Boardman was appointed to record the proceedings of the Senate.

October 29 – Robert Fearn & Company, located on East Side Square, placed an advertisement in the newspaper:

“Just received a large assortment of glassware; engraved jellies, cut ditto, engraved wines, scalloped dishes, butter plates, preserve cups, salts with and without feet, decanters, candlesticks, chandeliers, fruit baskets, graduated measures, pitchers, chimney ornaments.”



William Brandon

The stockholders of the Huntsville Library announced that books could be checked out at the office of attorney John N. S. Jones, next door to the printing office on the street leading to Ditto's Landing. The library will be opened and books delivered every Tuesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (This was a gentlemen's library, only open to men.)

November 1 - The House Committee moved into the courthouse. The Senate remained in the house of John K. Dunn.

November 2 - Major General Andrew Jackson arrived in Huntsville to attend meetings of the House and Senate, where he was honored with several resolutions. He also raced his horses while in town.



Huntsville's First Public Library

November 16 - Lots owned by Elisha B. Clark and Alexander A. Campbell were annexed into the town of Huntsville, extending the corporate limits.

November 19 - William Wyatt Bibb was inaugurated as Alabama's first Governor. Services were held in the Madison County Courthouse.

November 20 - Merchants Bradford and Lowe announced that they would sell at a reduced rate, or trade for cotton, cognac brandy which they had just received in a large quantity. It would be sold by the pipe or barrel.

December 14 - Alabama entered the union as the 22nd state.

December 15 - The House Committee approved the following expenses:

Irby Jones, \$150 for the use of his house whilst occupied by the House of Representatives.

William Leech was paid \$10 for making a railing for the lobby of the House.

Samuel K. McGraw was paid \$30.00 for two sheet-iron stoves.

Gross and Hudnall were paid \$150.25 for making tables and benches.

Hosant Wilkes was paid \$50 for the rent of 50 chairs.

Jonas J. Bell was paid \$37 for stationary.

John K. Dunn was paid \$150.93 for furnishing quarters for the Senate.

John Boardman was paid \$73 for printing.

December 16 - Daniel Rather was given authority to auction off the tables, benches, stoves, and other furniture which were purchased for the use of both Houses. After deducting the expenses, any remaining money would go to the treasury.

December 17 - The Assembly adjourned.



Alabama's Constitution Village

1820 - 1829

A New State

Compiled by Susanna Leberman

For Huntsville and Madison County, the 1820s were a time of excitement, as it possessed many firsts for the brand-new state of Alabama. Even as the first devastating fire raged through Huntsville's downtown square, so too did the fires of politics burn in the struggle to forge a powerful and prosperous city. For the citizens who preferred to read about news rather than make it, there were plenty of newspapers with colorful reports of bank robberies and exciting visitors, be it the famous war hero Lafayette, or twelve Creek Indians who came to town to buy 2,000 blankets. Huntsville was not without intrigue, such as the duel of 1827, when a newspaper editor and a state representative had a face-off to the death. The growing city of Huntsville embraced the fine arts when the first theater opened. Several institutions specializing in both social and academic learning for women were established, and the Bell Cotton Factory opened in 1828. A new water system improved daily lives, and by May 1829, Madison County celebrated the move into a beautiful new courthouse. Gabriel Moore, newly elected governor of Alabama, left to begin his job at the state capitol, thus ensuring Madison County's active role in forging Alabama into a great state.



Masonic Lodge

1820

Between 1810 and 1823, 77 new structures were built around the public square.

LeRoy Pope sold 74 feet of the front of West Side Square for \$10,000 to Benjamin Marshall of New York City.

Dr. Thomas Fearn's home on Franklin Street was completed.

Huntsville became "terminus" or last stop for the first stage line in Alabama.

The first step toward "Fearn's Canal" was taken with the creation of a charter for the Indian Creek Navigation Company. The purpose was to create a navigation system for Madison County from the Springs at Huntsville to the town of Triana for the purpose of shipping cotton to New Orleans.



Home of Dr. Thomas Fearn

Portrait Painting.
MR. FRIES,

HAVING determined to remain in Huntsville for two or three months, at least, tenders his services to the Ladies and Gentlemen of this town and its vicinity, in drawing their likenesses, on ivory or paper, with water colors or lead pencil. His terms are—

For a miniature on ivory, water colors	\$20
Ditto on paper	16
Ditto with pencil	10

Feb 4 \$21

January 29 - The newspaper reported the following story, "Suicide, on Jan 26, Mr. Lewelling Jones, resident in the vicinity of Huntsville, put an end to his existence by hanging himself with his pocket handkerchief. Mr. Jones was a man in affluent circumstances, and had just moved to the beautiful county seat near Huntsville, which he had recently purchased. No probable cause has been ascertained for his committing this violence on himself."

February 4 - Mr. Fries, a portrait painter in Huntsville for two or three months, will paint miniature portraits on ivory or paper, in watercolor or lead pencil.

February 12 - Doolittle and Newton, opened in the white house next door to the Bank on West Side Square, a general merchandise shop. Listed for sale were cotton shirting, country flax linen, broadcloth, bombasettes and an assortment of elegant japanned and fancifully ornamented tinware and plain tinware, also 1,500 pounds of New England cheese.

Doolittle & Newton,

HAVE recently opened in the white house, next door to the Bank, a general assortment of

Merchandise,

which they will sell very low for Cash or Cotton, at wholesale or retail. Among which are the following articles, viz:

- 2000 yds. bleached Cotton Shirtings,
- 3000 " unbleached do. do.
- 3000 " country flax Linen.

Broadcloths, Flannels, Bombazettes and Blankets.

SHOES and BOOTS, assorted

An extensive assortment of elegantly japanned and fancifully ornamented TIN WARE. Plain do.

17 1600 lbs. New-England CHEESE, of an excellent quality.

Together with a general supply of

DRY GOODS and HARDWARE,

not here enumerated.

Huntsville, Feb. 12. 3 22

February 12 - The Alabama *Republican* reported that the Thespian Society would perform "Fraternal Discord" by Kotzebue and translated by William Dunlap on February 19th.

March 9 - A five cent reward was offered by John E. Riviere for an apprentice in his baking business who either ran away or was taken. Phillip Mueller, age 19, was born a Dutchman but spoke good English, and a warning was issued to anyone who either boarded or hired him.

March 18 - John Connally announced that the turf horse *Telemachus* would be running at the Green Bottom Inn in the upcoming season.

May - A mail route was established from Washington to Tennessee to Huntsville and on to St. Stephens.

May 6 - Bradford and Lowe announced a new shipment of New Orleans sugar, 10,000 pounds of Tennessee bacon, and 1,000 gallons of whiskey - "Sold low for cash only."

May 26 - The newspaper announced that Mr. Hill, the clerk in the Huntsville Bank, arrived with about \$50,000 in specie from New Orleans. The cargo was brought up to the mouth of the Cumberland in a steamboat, but because of low water, he took a keel boat to Florence on the Tennessee River and then brought the specie to Huntsville by wagon.

THEATRE.

The Thespian Society will on Saturday evening next, the 19th inst. perform the much admired comedy of Kotzebue's, and translated by Wm. Dunlap, called

"FRATERNAL DISCORD"

The performance to conclude with the humorous Farce of "RAISING THE WIND" For particulars see bills.

It will be the last performance but one this season. Feb. 12.

A few copies of the Acts

of the late General Assembly, for sale at this office. Feb. 12.

The celebrated & just ranking Horse

TELEMACHUS,

WILL stand this season at the Green Bottom Inn, four miles from Huntsville. The season will commence the 1st of March, and end 1st of August.

N.B. No charge for pasturage of Horses belonging to persons out of the county.

JOHN CONNALLY.



Gentlemen of the Turf, who wish to be amused:
WILL be run over the Green Bottom Turf, on Thursday the 31st of October, THE COLTS SWEEPSTAKE—two mile heats—entrance one hundred dollars—five colts entered. It will be left open until the day.

THE Madison Jockey Races.
 Will commence on Wednesday the 6th November, over the Green Bottom Turf.
 The first day, 3 mile heats
 Second day, 2 mile heats
 Third day, 1 mile heats
 The purses will be hung up on each day's race by the proprietor.
 F. IRBY, Pres^t of the Club.
 October 4 6 4

July 10 - William Wyatt Bibb, Alabama's first governor, died as a result of a fall from his horse. His brother Thomas Bibb, who spent much time in and around Huntsville, succeeded him as Alabama's second governor.

July 28 - Members on the Madison County Jockey Club will meet at the Green Bottom Inn, to adopt rules and regulations for the government of the Club. John Connally will have a barbecue in their honor.

September 1 - An advertisement appeared in the newspaper for Private Entertainment for Man and Horse, located on the southwest corner of the Public Square, on the street leading to Ditto's Landing.

September 22 - The Huntsville Bank safely received \$50,000 in coins for start-up operating money.

September 29 - Portrait painter J. Grimes advertised that he was locating his studio above Mr. J.W. Tilford's store.



Portrait of Governor Thomas Bibb by J. Grimes

September 29 - Hobson and Ewing offered the best green coffee, Imperial tea, loaf and lump sugar, cotton cards, spanish segars and windsor chairs. Cheap.

October 20 - Bradford and Lowe advertised for sale, a few pairs of superior quality silver epaulettes, suitable for field officers. They also offered several richly mounted swords.

November 10 - The citizens of Huntsville were enthralled with the ascension of a hot air balloon, prepared by Mr. V. Damillien. While a great many people watched, the balloon left the ground from the public square.

November 16 - A female boarding school opened under the direction of C. White.

The *Alabama Republican* reported that Charles Collins, who was convicted of stealing slaves, was sentenced by Judge Clement C. Clay to be hanged on December 6, the first Friday in December.

December 20 - The Female Boarding School, run by J.P. Horton, opened and was located nine miles northwest of Huntsville.

1820 - 1821 - The First African Baptist Church in the state was organized in Huntsville by William Harris, a slave who served as the church's first pastor. (Today that church is known as St. Bartley's Primitive Baptist Church).



Portrait of Robert Fearn, Sr. by J. Grimes

1821

February 21 - William H. Winter was indicted for assault with intent to kill Gabriel Moore. Moore was threatened with a loaded pistol.

March 3 - The *Alabama Republican* reported that the assessed value of timepieces in Huntsville was \$9,264.25. The paper noted that there were 56 gold and 199 silver watches and 36 clocks available.

March 9 - Attorney John H. Lewis opened a law office in Huntsville. His office was located near the southeast corner of the public square in McKinley's Row.

April 4 - 9 - Over the course of this week, 15 prisoners broke out of jail.

Watch & Clock Making.
RICHARD SELBY,
 Watch Maker, Silver-Smith, & Jeweller,
RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Huntsville and its vicinity, that he has opened a shop, one door below Morgan & Turner's Commission Warehouse, south side of the Public Square, where he intends carrying on the above business in all its various branches, and requests a share of public patronage.
 Musical Keyboards, Patent Latches, Horizontal, Dials and Plain Watches carefully repaired, and warranted to perform twelve months.
 October 17 6

April 10 - Huntsville's first public tribute to a Madison County Public official was given in honor of John Williams Walker, President of the 1819 Constitutional Convention and first senator from Alabama.

April 20 - Allen Cooper continues to operate the Alabama Hotel on the southwest corner of the Public Square, leading to Ditto's landing. It was advertised as a house of entertainment, where gentlemen, travelers and others may count on the finest accommodations.

Alabama Hotel,
 South-west corner of the Public Square, leading to and from Ditto's Landing.
THE Subscriber begs leave to inform his friends, and the public, that he has opened a **HOUSE OF ENTERTAINMENT** in the above establishment, where gentlemen, travelers and others may calculate upon the best accommodations the country can afford.
ALLEN COOPER.
 Huntsville, April 20. 4 32

May 18 - Bradford and Lowe, located at # 4 Cheapside, advertised leghorn bonnets, Scott's Infantry Exercise and Webster's spelling books. H.A. Hunewell, West Side Square, offered ladies morocco shoes, black bridle ties with and without heels, gentlemen's beaver and dog-skin gloves, black levantine and lutestrig silks, and superior gilt coat buttons.



Allen's Cabinet Shop

July 4 - Musket firing by the Huntsville Independent Blues, commanded by Capt. Dunn, marked the anniversary of the nation's independence from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was then read at the courthouse.

August 5 - After Walker Allen's cabinet shop, which served as the meeting place for Alabama's first Constitutional Convention burned, the townspeople built a new theater.

August 31 - Dr. Putnam, surgeon dentist, offered his professional services to the public at his room on McKinley's Row, Eustis Street.

September 19 - Irby Jones at the Huntsville Inn received an excellent supply of choice liquors.

October 12 - Bradford and Lowe offered 300 pairs of negro pegged shoes for sale at reduced prices.

1822

March 22 - The Sons of Erin met at the newly-opened Globe Tavern on Fountain Row to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. After dinner, they drank toasts and sang appropriate songs.

April 7 - Lucius V. Bierce wrote of Huntsville in his journal: "Huntsville, being the first village I have seen for two hundred and eight miles and containing the first brick dwelling house I have seen since leaving Virginia. This is a pleasant little village, situated in a rich fertile county on the borders of a large pond, or spring as is here termed, of limestone water."

April 15 - Lightning struck the courthouse, breaking some of the new windows.

April 26 - The Alabama *Republican* newspaper office moved to Eustis St.

May 17 - The Huntsville Brewery opened a cellar underneath the store of Mr. Stephen S. Ewing on West Side Square.

REPUBLICAN.
 HUNTSVILLE:
 FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1822.

The Printing Office of the Alabama Republican will hereafter be kept at a large brick building on Eustis Street, near Tilford's corner, and opposite the Post Office.

SODA WATER.
 F. SANNONER,
HAS the pleasure of informing the public that he will hereafter furnish at his Confectionery Store,
SODA WATER,
 throughout the present season - Also,
Ice Creams, Punch, &c.
 Huntsville, July 12. 44

July 12 - F. Sannoner offered soda water and ice creams at his confectionary shop.

August 16 - The Alabama *Republican* reported that on July 16, 1822, R.J. Meigs Jr., Postmaster General, issued an order creating postal routes from Huntsville to Triana, Mooresville, Cottonport, Melton's Bluff, and Marathon and Courtland to Russellville three times per week (average of 77 miles). The riders leave Huntsville every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1 p.m. and

arrives at Russellville on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and vice versa from Russellville to Huntsville. Also reported was a route from Huntsville to Hillsboro and Hickory Flat to Winchester, Tennessee one time per week for a total of 52 miles.

August 30 - The Alabama *Republican* reported the house to shelter the Huntsville Fire Engine Company's first engine has been completed.

September 14 - LeRoy and Judith Pope sold the city a 2 acre plot of land beginning at the Huntsville Meridian. (In the next century it would be known as Maple Hill Cemetery).



Huntsville Fire Engine Co.
A Special meeting of the Huntsville Fire Engine Co. will be held at the Engine house on Tuesday Evening next, 11th inst at half past 7 o'clock. A full meeting is required.
F. J. LEVERETT, Sec.
 Oct. 6.



Maple Hill Cemetery

October 13 - First Presbyterian Church will hold services on the north-west corner of Gates Avenue and Lincoln Street.

October 24 - Five journeymen hatters are wanted immediately by hat maker R. H. Champion on Bank Row.

The Huntsville Bank was robbed of \$5,057, the first bank robbery in Huntsville. It was reported that a "bank servant" and three men from Jackson County were arrested for the theft.

William McBroom succeeded Stephen Neal, who served as sheriff from 1809 - 1822.

1823

February 26 - John Connally announced an offer to the public to breed from one of old imported *Diomed's* colts at the Green Bottom Inn.

March 21 - Thomas P. Collins, North Side, Fountain Row advertised for sale, "Butter and water crackers, pilot bread, gingerbread in horrible abundance, and confectionary."

March 23 - John Williams Walker, President of the 1819 Alabama Constitutional Convention, United States Senator, and son-in-law of LeRoy Pope, died of tuberculosis at the age of 40.



Green Bottom.
I WILL offer to the public to breed from, one of the old imported Diomed's colts, of which there are but very few alive at this time—lost since by the old imported Daredevil. As it respects a race horse, I believe him to be the smartest horse of his age now alive—any gentleman who is not of the same opinion will know where to find him. He is 18 years old this spring. He will be found at all times at my stable, four miles north of Huntsville. The season will commence the first day of March, and end the first of August.
John Connally.
 February 28 1823

*Contract between
 Leroy Pope
 Hunter Peel
 concerning
 water works at
 Huntsville Spring
 14 April 1823.*

*In testimony whereof said Leroy Pope
 and Judith his wife, and said Hunter Peel have
 put their names and seals, the day and year first
 aforesaid*

*Leroy Pope Seal
 Judith Pope Seal
 Hunter Peel Seal*

*I Acknowledge Sworn before Thomas Brandon
 Clerk of County Court Madison County Alabama
 Saw the third Eighteen hundred Twenty three*

*Recorded 4 June 1823
 Thomas Brandon C.C.
 Bank St. Nolo., 535.*

March 28 - Mr. Peel constructed a dam at the spring and installed machinery to pump water into a reservoir near the courthouse. With the help of aqueducts, the water should be enough to supply every family. It should be completed by summer.

April 14 - LeRoy Pope signed a personal contract with Hunter Peel, a county engineer, to pump water from the Big Spring to town level. The water was used to service homes, businesses, and the fire engine.

June 13 - Irby Jones opened a Coffee House at the Huntsville Inn where ladies may enjoy ice cream, cordial, cake, soda water, etc. A reading room has been opened for the gentlemen, where they may order coffee, tea, or any other drink.

October 3 - The *Democrat* will be ready for delivery on Tuesday mornings. It will be printed in the brick building adjoining the Bell Tavern.

November 7 - James McLaran opened the Bell Tavern on the northwest corner of the Square.

November 27 - Members of the Masonic Order laid the cornerstone for the new Masonic Lodge.

1824

C. C. Clay announced a house and lot occupied by Mr. Holton's Lancasterian School on Fountain Row for sale.

January 8 - Clement C. Clay resumed his law practice in an office on the West Side of the public square.



The Reverend Robert Donnell

February 10 - Wharton and Smith, owners of a drug and medicine store, ordered from New York a splendid assortment of medicines, paints and surgical instruments.

April 13 - The Rev. Robert Donnell, a Cumberland Presbyterian Minister, will preach in the Courthouse in Huntsville on Sunday at half after 3 o'clock.

The village of Whitesburg was incorporated.

August 14 - The *Alabama Republican* reported that a second robbery at the Huntsville Bank resulted in a loss of \$29,000. The robber sneaked into the back door while a cashier was removing bank notes out of the iron chest. The bank tried to sue the cashier, but lost the case.

October 13 - The first bank robbery at Morgan County's Planters and Merchants Bank netted the robber \$25,000. Huntsville resident LeRoy Pope, the bank's president, offered a \$2,000 reward.

1825

Cedarhurst, the plantation home of Stephen S. Ewing on Whitesburg Pike, was completed.

March 11 - Daniel B. Turner opened an auction business on the southeast corner of the Square.

May 27 - LeRoy and Judith Pope set up a land trust for the first Opera House.

Bell Tavern,
HUNTSVILLE.

THE Subscriber respectfully informs the public that he has taken this valuable tavern stand, on the north-west corner of the Public Square in Huntsville, where he hopes by his unremitting attention, and endeavours to accommodate all who may favour him with their custom, to give universal satisfaction. His bar will at all times be furnished with an assortment of choice Liquors, &c.

JAMES McLARAN.
November 7 1824



Cedarhurst



John Hunt Morgan House on Franklin Street

June 11 - John Hunt Morgan (who would become a famous Confederate raider) was born in the Smith house on Franklin Street.

Governor Israel Pickens revoked the Huntsville Bank's charter.

August - John P. Neal succeeded William McBroom as Sheriff.

1826

The *Alabama Republican* reported the opening of the Huntsville Female Academy by Mr. and Mrs. DeVandal.

1827

Huntsville began the installation of a new water system, which will pump more water into Pope's Hill Reservoir. (It is thought that this system remained in use at least until 1859.)

E. Benoit of Nashville has taken over the Huntsville Inn on the east side of the Square.

HUNTSVILLE FEMALE ACADEMY.
THE winter session of this ACADEMY under the care and direction of Mr. & Mrs. DE VENDEL, will commence on the 1st Monday in October next.
 The course of instruction will comprehend as usual the following useful and ornamental branches of Female Education:—*Reading, Writing, English Grammar, French Language, Arithmetic, Geography with Maps & Globes, History, Compositions, Rhetoric, plain and fine needle work, Music, Drawing and Dancing.*
 Hereafter there will be no intermission between the Winter and Summer sessions; but the School will proceed in its operations until the public examination takes place, which will be at the end of the Month of July, whence the vacation will commence & continue during the tickly season, August and September.—This new arrangement has been particularly requested, & indeed seems to be more favorable to the interest of the scholars & the prosperity of the Academy.
 Terms payable at the end of every session—No young lady can be admitted for less than one
*Huntsville Sept 2, 1825. 17—4**

The Huntsville Female Academy will have public examinations on subjects including global problems, English grammar, arithmetic, and geography (ancient and modern).


January 27 - The *Southern Advocate* began running an ad showing the operation of Fearn's Canal which read, "The Indian Creek Navigation Company is prepared to ship cotton to the Tennessee River. It is not completely finished, but will admit the passage of boats."

February 16 - Attorney George Fearn opened his office on Eustis Street.

June 22 - Mrs. LeRoy Pope (Judith) died, "She was the oldest (lady) inhabitant of the town, having arrived here in 1810."

July 27 - The *Southern Advocate* reported that on Monday July 23, James White McClung, state representative, shot and killed Andrew Wills, editor of the *Huntsville Democrat*, in a duel over the publication of an article that criticized McClung's conduct. Wills refused to give the author's name to McClung or give

him a satisfactory explanation, so they met in the evening, shots were fired, and Wills died about two hours later.

HUNTSVILLE INN.

 THE subscribers respectfully inform their friends and the public generally, that they have taken possession of the above establishment for the purpose of conducting a Public House
 To those who are acquainted with the character and abilities of E. Benoit as a public Inn keeper, having conducted the Nashville Inn with much reputation for several years, but little is necessary here to be said; for himself he assures his old friends and customers, that the same attention which he has been in the habit of showing, may still be confidently expected.
 Several improvements have been made and are now making, calculated to render the house more comfortable.
 BENOIT & ORRILL, Agents
 For JOHN PHILLIPS.
 Huntsville, Feb. 16, 1827.

Indian Creek Navigation Company.
THE STOCKHOLDERS are required to pay unto the Treasurer (Eldred Rawlins) THREE DOLLARS on each and every share by them respectively held.
 By order of the Directors,
Samuel Hazard, Sec'ry.
 November 21

1828

Huntsville's hero Andrew Jackson was elected the 8th President of the United States. He won an overwhelming endorsement of 90 percent of the vote in Alabama over John Adams.



Andrew Jackson

1829

Clement Comer Clay became a United States Congressman.

February 3 - A devastating fire swept through Huntsville's West Side Square at 5 a.m. It was estimated that about \$15,000 worth of goods were lost in the blaze.



Clement Comer Clay

1830 - 1839

Alabama Fever

Compiled by Nancy Rohr

Land hungry settlers began to arrive by the thousands into the state, and many found their way to Huntsville. They came, squatters and squires, to find a life where land became, for a time, their most valued possession. They would make the land better with internal improvements and education for its people. Roads and canals were started; schools were established; church congregations took shape. Leaders from the area led the way in state politics and continued to build. Gabriel Moore formed a career with the small farmers of Madison County and became the 5th governor of Alabama. Four years later, Clement Comer Clay appealed to the Jackson Democrats to become the 8th governor. Hugh McVay, as Speaker of the Senate, replaced him as governor when Clay became a United States Senator, and Senator John McKinley became a justice on the United States Supreme Court. However, the “flush times” succumbed to the panic of 1837 and hard times. The building continued, just more slowly for a while, and the settlers continued to come.



**Huntsville Branch of the State Bank (present day Regions Bank)
Designed by George Steele**

1830

Citizens were concerned about the higher education of their children. Huntsville's James G. Birney traveled north to find a president and faculty for the University of Alabama.

Huntsville opened a public school in the Masonic Hall.

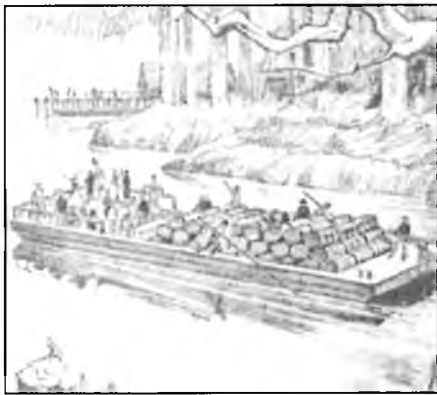
Robert Owens laid out the lots for a new town to be called Vienna (now New Hope).

Mr. Saromi developed the plan for the town of Triana.

January 2 – A chapter of the American Colonization Society for the Abolition of Slavery was formed with the following members: James G. Birney, Thomas Fearn, Miles Watkins, Arthur Hopkins, and John Martin.



James G. Birney



Keel Boats on Indian Creek

1831

In the spring of this year, keel boats loaded with 80-100 bales of cotton and 50 passengers floated down the Indian Creek Canal from the Big Spring to the Tennessee River. After the cotton was unloaded at Triana for the three-day trip downstream to New Orleans, the passengers made the return trip back to the Big Spring.

The Huntsville Female Seminary was established under the auspices of the local Presbyterian Church.

Reverend and Mrs. James Rowe established the Monte Sano Female Seminary with classes in English, Classical, Scientific and Ornamental education.

Local tailors announced that they would only accept cash because of bad credit.

One thousand citizens attended the Colonization Society for the Abolition of Slavery meeting at the Presbyterian Church.

Fear of an uprising, like the Nat Turner Rebellion, led the city fathers to enact a patrol law restricting the movement of slaves.

The City night policeman continued to call out the hour and half hour on his rounds until daybreak.



Huntsville Female Seminary



Reverend James Rowe

1832

The Methodist congregation signed a contract with Thomas and William Brandon to build their first church building on Greene Street.

The Huntsville Military, Scientific and Classical School opened in January.

Chickasaw Indians ceded all their land east of the Mississippi River to the U. S. government.

The Cabaniss – Roberts Home on Randolph Avenue was completed.



Bell Factory

Bell Factory was incorporated on the banks of the Flint River. There were 100 looms and 3000 spindles at the factory. Because this was not a steam-driven plant, a bell was rung to call the workers to work. The offices of Patton, Donegan and Company were located in town.

1833

Gambling had already been outlawed, and in 1833, the list of other prohibited games was expanded to include: faro, bunk, black and red tables, dice, cards, billiard tables, chuckasuck,

thimbles or thin-ticket lottery, orange and noir, and rowley-powley. There was no prohibition on cock fighting or horse racing, and it was not against the law to place bets on these activities.

The old wooden jail was torn down and replaced by a new brick building.

The town of Viduta was established. It was intended to be mainly a summer retreat for the wealthy. It was located on Monte Sano and promoted as "The Mountain of Health."

The *Southern Mercury* published its first issue.

Local newspapers called for a new building to replace the old courthouse which was considered unsafe, ramshackled, and dilapidated.

October 28 - Thomas and George Fearn wish to employ 50 good hands to excavate the Basin in Huntsville and throw up embankments, to start on Nov. 11. Hands will be given 75 cents each day.

November 13 - Residents were terrified and feared that the world was coming to an end during an awesome meteorite shower, as the "Stars Fell on Alabama" and much of the eastern United States.

1834

A stagecoach line was established between Huntsville and Decatur.

E.T. and R. Parker opened a plant to manufacture plows.

Bawdy houses were outlawed.

The Walker - Lowe home was built. It later became the home of General Leroy Pope Walker, first Secretary of War for the Confederacy.

March 12 - Thomas and William Brandon were paid \$408.50 for building a stone wall across the ravine leading to the Spring from West Side Square.



Walker - Lowe Home

1835

A local editor complained about the snow in February. He said that it was so cold the ink froze in his pen.

In October the worst fire in the town, up to that time, destroyed the Huntsville Inn and seven stores on the Square.

The largest majority polled in the State, up to that time – 10,000 votes, elected Huntsville’s Clement Comer Clay governor.

The Robinson home known as Oaklawn was built on Meridian Street.

July 20 - 200 laborers wanted at Huntsville to work on the McAdamized Turnpike Road leading from Huntsville to Green Bottom Inn and from Huntsville to Ditto’s landing.

August 12 - Planters Hotel, very large, airy and convenient to the Spring, offered the waters, at all times, can be had as cool as at the Spring; there is a first rate hydrant in the Bar Room, and with a few turns of the wheel, water as cool as if dipped out of the Spring, in addition there is plenty of ice.



Governor Clement Comer Clay



The Robinson Home

1836

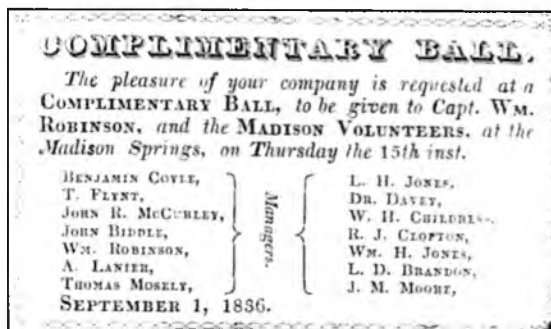
Additions were made to Bell Tavern making a total of 66 rooms available for guests.

Work began on building the Huntsville Branch of the State Bank. Designed by George Steele, it was located on the west side of the Town Square. The columns, capitals and shafts for the building were transported from Baltimore Maryland to the headwaters of the Tennessee River by oxcart. They were then transported by barge to Triana then off-loaded onto keelboats and brought up the Indian Creek Canal to the bluff at the back of Big Spring.

Soldiers from Huntsville left to fight in the Texas War of Independence. Local citizens donated arms and funds to support the cause.

The Huntsville water system, under Dr. Thomas Fearn and his brother, George, was rebuilt to include an iron pump at the Big Spring and cast iron pipes to carry the water to the four corners of the town Square.

James G. Birney, formerly of Huntsville, ran unsuccessfully for President of the United States on the Liberty (Abolition) Party ticket.



Governor Hugh McVay

Governor Clement Clay issued a call for the Madison Volunteers to help suppress the Creek Indian uprising in east-central Alabama. Madison County’s Gen. Benjamin Patten commanded the Alabama Volunteers and Col. J.R.H. Acklen, of Huntsville, commanded a regiment.

1837

The circus arrived in town. “The largest collection of animals ever exhibited, carried by 30 carriages and pulled by 100 matched gray horses” entertained local residents.

Local citizens achieved several political successes. Democrat Hugh McVay of Madison County filled Clement Comer Clay’s unexpired term as Governor of the state. Clay was elected to the United States Senate. John McKinley became an associate justice to the Supreme Court of United States.

The Thomas Bibb home, on the south side of Williams Street, was built for \$32,000.

Unfortunately for many, cotton prices plunged, and specie payment was suspended in this year's Financial Panic.

1838

The town constructed cedar steps from beside Colonel White's store on the Square down to the Big Spring.



Steps to the Big Spring are on the left

Colonel James W. McClung built his home on McClung Avenue with two galleries along the two stories, surrounded by formal and elaborate gardens.

George Steele, his wife, and seven children moved into their newly completed home of three stories with 14 rooms in the center of an oak grove. (Oak Place)

The second Madison County courthouse, also designed by George Steele, was begun – estimated cost \$52,000. The white and blue limestone rock was quarried from nearby Monte Sano and Russel Hill.

May marked the deadline for the voluntary removal of Native Americans to Oklahoma Territory. General Winfield Scott ordered the round-up and removal of over 17,000 Cherokees who had refused to leave their homes. Many of those in north Alabama were taken away with only the clothes on their backs and no food supplies. They were confined in detention camps, like the one in Huntsville. By late June, because the River was too low for navigation, they were marched by foot and wagon, to join other Indians – it was the beginning of the "Trail of Tears."



Oak Place

In late October Captain John Benge led over 1200 Cherokee Indians through Huntsville. Two-thirds of the Cherokees were in a destitute condition and in need of shoes, clothing and blankets. Almost half of Benge's Indians died before reaching the West. It took them 106 days to reach Oklahoma.

1839



Businesses around the Square were booming. They included 4 hotels, a coffee house, and numerous lawyers' offices. Besides the usual gathering of fine merchants, there was a candle maker, two tin shops, a piano forte salesman, eight doctors, a dentist, a watchmaker and a silversmith.

John Wood Dodge, an itinerant portrait painter, was available in the private part of the Bell Tavern;

Among the newspaper advertisements, several services were listed: Capt. Daniel B. Turner advertised as an agent for the sale of "Morus Multicaulis trees for building a coconery; and a steam-operated feather renovator machine was available at the grocery store next to Adam Hall's residence.

Although it was illegal to teach black children to read and write, even from the Bible, city fathers declared there should be a free school where "a first rate English education" would be taught.



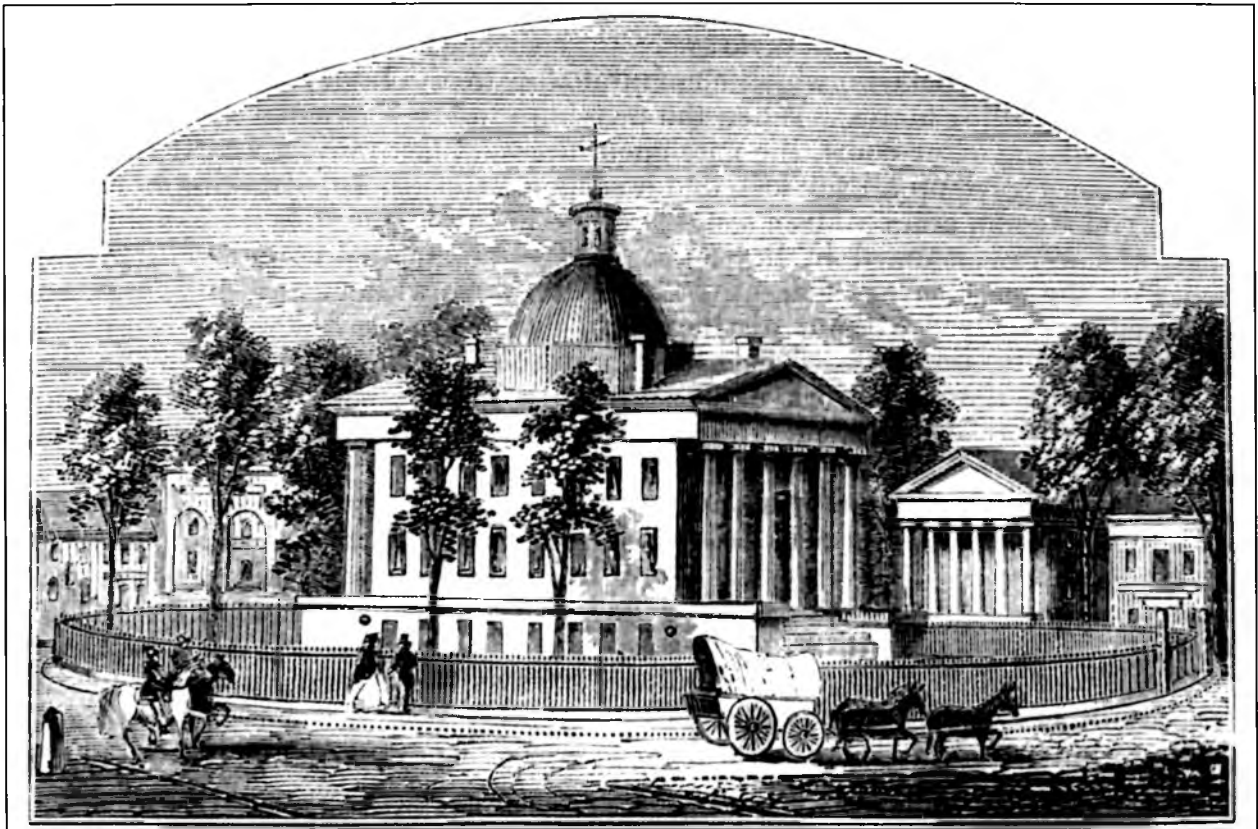
Portrait of Cynthia Yeatman and Her Son
by John Wood Dodge
Owned by the
Huntsville Museum of Art

1840 - 1849

Cotton is King

Compiled by Donna B. Dunham

During this decade, the City of Huntsville built a grand courthouse, designed by architect George Steele, to reflect the prosperity of her people. Down the block was the new and impressive Church of Nativity, an Episcopal Church whose architecture rivaled any fine church up north. George Steele had finished his own plantation home and held a huge party to celebrate the nation's new president. Gossip throughout the decade gravitated toward the much-widowed Elizabeth Dale, and race-horse enthusiasts mourned the death of their favorite inn-keeper, John Connally.



Second County Courthouse

1840

February 4 - The following rates of taxation were ordered to begin in 1841 to raise money for building a new courthouse:

- On every \$100 worth of land - \$0.10
- On every \$100 of Town Property - \$0.10
- Each slave not excluding 10 years old - \$0.16
- On each free male Negro or mulatto over 21 years - \$1.00
- Race saddle or carriage horse - \$0.50
- Gold watch - \$1.00
- On every \$100 loaned at interest - \$0.25
- On each pack of playing cards sold, given away, loaned or otherwise disposed of - \$0.25
- On each billiard table kept for play - \$150
- On all free white males over 21 years and not excluding 45 years - \$0.45

February 29 - Enon Baptist Church (now First Baptist Church, Huntsville) had been forced out of the Flint River Baptist Association. The Primitive Baptist churches that remained preserved their doctrine and continued holding services at various points along the Flint River. The 55 members of Enon Baptist Church worshipped in a brick building near the corner of Eakin and Moore's Mill Roads in the county. Elder Jesse Seal was selected as the new pastor. The church voted to contribute \$100 to help pay for his land, more when it could be raised.

The Tennessee Conference of Methodists appointed Thomas Maddin to serve Huntsville during the 1839 - 1840 term. The church membership increased from 180 in 1839 to 338 in 1844. It was during the Rev. Maddin's ministry that the church became aware that Negro worshippers needed to have a church of their own.

April 17 - The Executive Committee of the Board of Aldermen voted to Macadamize both Greene Street from the intersection with Randolph Street north to the city limits and Franklin Street from the south. They also voted to Macadamize the sidewalks on both sides of Holmes Street from William Brandon's kitchen east to the city limits on the Brownsborough Road.

In addition, they voted to report on necessary repairs to the Graveyard and determine if it should be enlarged by purchasing more land. The issue was voted on and passed.

Alex N. Smith was granted \$35 for gates to the Graveyard.

Huntsville architect and builder George Steele opened the doors of his imposing mansion named Oak Place. "Doors, sliding back into the walls, allowed one to enter from the Greek Revival portico into the entrance hall, which was flanked on the right by the largest parlor, perhaps, in the state." The grounds were beautifully landscaped and accented with Mr. Steele's collection of roses.

May 7 - The commissioners voted to pay Thomas R. Rayon the contractor for the stonework enclosing the courthouse \$1,000, or 62 ½ % for the work materials, according to an estimate by George Steele, superintendent.

May - Elizabeth E. High and her father, Adam Dale, united with Enon Baptist church by letter. Mrs. High was a widow three times before marrying Robert High from Limestone County in 1839. Mr. High died suddenly and suspiciously in 1842.

Ordinance #108 ordered that after September 1, a fine of not more than \$5 would be imposed on anyone putting trash or filth in the public streets. If a slave was caught doing the same, he/she would be given no more than 15 lashes, at the discretion of the mayor.

October 20 - A Commissioners' meeting was held and the following accounts were ordered to be paid:

George Steele	Wk on market House	82.00
J. W. Jones	16 pr. Negro shoes	36.00
J. Gaston	Assessing taxes	200.00
John W. Howell	Wk on Market House	3.00
J. G. Scott	Tobacco	16.06

R. Graham	Lumber	5.00
Erskine & Russel	Physicians	75.00
D. Acard	Wk on Market House	2.80

December 7 - The Commissioners voted to pay Madison County jailor William R. Hunt \$6.12 ½ for tin buckets and tin cups. They also voted to pay to Dr. Gabriel L. Davis \$28.50 for services rendered to paupers at the Poor House.

December 14 - Commissioners voted to pay Thomas Ice, keeper of the Poor House, \$772.67 ½ for the 1840 account. In addition, they voted to pay \$64.00 to James M. Brundidge for guarding the jail 32 nights; \$13,000 to Mitchell and Wilson as a partial payment for their claim against the county for building the new courthouse; and \$4,000 to E.T. and R. Parker for the iron rail around the courthouse and materials.

December 23 - Stephen Haynes was being considered as overseer for city slaves. Under employment conditions, he would be paid \$400.00, a house would be provided for his family along with meat, some meal, some firewood, and 150 pounds of lard.

An ordinance was discussed, but not voted on, which would prohibit anyone from hitching a horse or any other animal to the iron railing on the public square. A white person would be fined no less than \$1, but not more than \$5, and a slave would receive between two and five lashes.

1841

Huntsville resident Col. James W. McClung was nominated for Governor, but was defeated by Democratic nominee, Benjamin Fitzpatrick of Autauga County.

January 2 - In a Commissioners' meeting, Benjamin S. Pope reported on a contract to buy five inch pipe to carry water from Beirne's Corner to the reservoir on Pope's Hill

February 2 - Commissioners voted to pay to Ogdon and Warwick \$5.00 for a coffin made for a Negro child belonging to the city.

Clement C. Clay, Jr. was appointed as temporary junior editor of the Huntsville *Democrat*. The following is his version of a street scuffle he had with William H. "Billy" Smith of a competitive paper called the *Advocate*:

"I rushed at him, unarmed, and struck him with my fist, about the same time that he struck me with his stick on my left arm. I ran my left hand in his hair, and had drawn blood from his nose and face and blued one of his eyes... I brought Billy down too, and gave him several kicks, before disengaging my hand from his hair."



Clement C. Clay, Jr.



April 13 - Commissioners voted to pay Thomas Bibb \$100.00 for timber for the Market House.

May 10 - A special meeting of the Mayor and Alderman was held to discuss a suitable way to "communicate the death of William Henry Harrison, late President of the United States of America." They voted to buy enough powder and flannel for 26 cartridges and to have the Alabama Fencibles fire the cannon at sunrise. Furthermore, church bells would toll from sunrise until ten o'clock.

May 18 - Aldermen voted to pay Martha Evans, Eliza Stainbach, and Susan Harrington for making clothes for the city slaves.

May - The following are some of the many instances in the minutes where local government appropriated money for the welfare of indigent citizens:

“Ordered that the County Treasurer pay to Thomas Vann and John Kinnebrough \$20.00 to be by them appropriated to the support and maintenance of Nelly Taylor a widow lady.”

“Ordered that the County Treasurer pay to Thomas Vann and John Kinnebrough \$15.00 to be by them appropriated to the support and maintenance of two orphan children in the care of Mary Roberts.”

“Ordered that the County Treasurer pay to Burwell Lee \$60.00 for the support and maintenance of his three insane daughters during the first quarter of the year 1841.”

“Ordered that the County Treasurer pay to Jesse Delapp \$8.00 for making coffin for Walter Marshall’s daughter.”

A resolution was passed ordering the Town Constable to strike the hour of 10:00 Past Meridian on the fire bell in place of ringing the small bell.

July 1 - It was reported at a Commissioners meeting that Thomas Fearn agreed to allow branch pipes for fire plugs to be installed at the four corners of the Public Square intersecting with the iron pipes being laid around the square. These branch pipes were to be paid for by the city.

July 6 - The Town Constable was ordered to act as Clerk of the Market, to ring the bell at correct times, enforce all rules and regulations, prevent rotten meat and provisions from being sold, keep it clean, and collect rent. Rent was set at \$25 per year. A stall on the north side of the Market House was to be corded off for the sale of fish. Slaves would have to be accompanied by owner or an employee of owner or they must have written permission from the family. No wagon carts or vehicles other than those having articles for sale shall be permitted to stand during market hours within five feet of the Market House under penalty of \$1.00 per 15 minutes.

October 10 - Commissioners instructed the city treasurer to pay Drs. Erskine and Russel \$75.00 for 12 months medical service to the city slaves.

October 25 - 30 - The first major horse racing competition of the decade was held at the Huntsville Association Course, located about 1-½ miles north of the courthouse square. On the second day of the race, a two mile heat had 6 horses entered. From Huntsville, breeders John Connally and Samuel Ragland partnered with Nicholas Davis. The winner of the second and third heats was Ragland and Davis’ horse *Preston*.

December 18 - The treasurer was ordered to pay John R. Acklin \$2.50 for overpayment of taxes on his pleasure carriage.



**Madison County’s Second Courthouse
Designed by Architect George Steele**

1842

The new county courthouse was finished. Huntsville architect George Steele designed the two-story structure with a row of columns on both ends, a copper dome, and a stone wall topped by iron railings surrounding it. The total cost for building and wall came to \$40,125. Steele was paid \$2,000 for fees and services. The old courthouse was sold at auction for \$494 and removed. The ten-foot elevation on which it stood was graded down and the rock used to Macadamize the area around the square.

December 17 - The Church of the Nativity, named because of the approaching Christmas season, was formed with the following vestry: George P. Beirne, John Ogdon, James Pence, J. Withers Clay, and Henry M. Robertson. Rev. F. H. L. Laird was called as their first minister. They met for worship, first in the Presbyterian Church, then in Mrs. James L. Child’s classroom, and finally the basement of the courthouse.

1843

April 17, 1843 - The Reverend John Allan of the First Presbyterian Church ended two decades of service as Dr. Conway P. Wing was installed to take his place. (Seven months later, Rev. Allan died at age fifty-five. His will instructed that his slaves be hired out to earn money for their passage to Liberia where they could finally enjoy their freedom. It was his belief that slaves should be emancipated.)

October 24 - William H. Pope and wife deeded to the Town of Huntsville the Spring Branch with the conditions that the city make improvements, furnish free access at all times to and through the Spring and use it as a park for "peaceable persons."

1844

George Steele's home, Oak Place, was the site of a grand party to celebrate the election of President James K. Polk. Four thousand people were invited, and an ox, named Van Buren, was barbecued and stuffed with turkeys. The meal also included roast pigs and lambs, jellies, ice cream, and syllabub. A 4-foot high cake with a figure of Polk on top was baked and brought from Nashville for the occasion.

May 3 - The 33rd Regiment of the Alabama Militia, commanded by Captains Otey, Jones, and Hobbs will parade on Saturday, May 25.

May 10 - The proprietor of the Caldwell House, located on the north side of the Public Square, announced that he was open for business. Meals would cost 37 ½ cents, horse feed - 25 cents, Dinner and Horse Feed - 50 cents, Supper, Lodging, Horse, for one night - \$1.00.

June 21 - LeRoy Pope died at Poplar Grove.

The Huntsville Academy announced that classes would begin August 19 at 8:30. Tuition per five month session: Classical Department - \$20.00; Math Department - \$15.00; Primary Department - \$10.00; and matriculation fee - \$1.00.



Virginia Clay



Death on a Pale Horse

cents to 5 cents per pound. This year's crop is much more superior than the previous year's and more than ½ million more bales were produced. The *Southern Advocate* recommended that farmers raise less cotton, reduce the rate of production, and put less cotton into the market to raise the price.

A painting by Benjamin West called "Death on a Pale Horse" was on exhibit in Huntsville. The price of admission was fifty cents.

A new dentist moved to town. Dr. James M. Cooper took an office over the office of William and J. A. Acklin. His work was warranted to be permanent and pleasing. Ladies will be waited on at their residences, if preferred, free of extra charge.

November - Clement C. Clay, Jr., his wife Virginia, and sister-in-law, Mary Clay, traveled by stage from Huntsville to Tuscaloosa for the opening and swearing in of the new legislature. This is Virginia's special insight on traveling with two prominent men from Huntsville: "Dan'l Turner, I trust I have traveled with for my last time.....He ate up all our fruit cake and sat on either my lap or Mary's full one third of the way. Col. McClung reposed his fat sides in like manner."

December 20 - The supply of cotton exceeds the demand and the price is expected to be only 3 ½



Cumberland Presbyterian Church

1845

Reverend Baxter Chapman came to the congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. During his pastorate a second church was erected on the corner of Lincoln and Randolph Streets. The brick building had four Corinthian columns supporting a porch top and a large cupola on the roof for the bell. Slaves were allowed seats in the balcony. The church remained unfinished for a time and was dedicated in 1850 by the Reverend Robert Donnell, who came to area in the early 1800s as a circuit riding preacher and founded many C. P. Churches - including this one. (This church site is the present-day Central Presbyterian Church.)

March 11 - John Connally, who was born in 1782, settled in the territory in 1807 and owned the Green Bottom Inn, a famous track for racing horses, passed away. The newspaper described him as a devoted friend, uncompromising in his principles, ardent in his attachments - a strictly honest man, and devoted to his country. "True, he had his eccentricities and foibles, with others, but he had also many qualities which commended him in the highest degree to those who knew him..."



John Connally

June 6 - Mrs. Yeatman continues to keep the Bell Tavern open as a House of [Public] Entertainment and overnight accommodation for travelers. Prices have been lowered to suit the times and are as low as "could reasonably be desired."

June 10 - John Connally's 11-year-old horse, *Gray Gander*, once valued at \$10,000, was sold to D. P. Friend for \$400 at the estate sale. Also, his 12-year-old gray mare, *Lady Huntsville*, sold for only \$65.00.

June 13 - Two manufacturers of tin ware, J. N. Leftwich, located on East side square, at the sign of the WHITE SOCK, and Larkin Bradford located also on the East side square at the sign of the RED COFFEE POT, both promised to be the cheapest of the cheap.

June 18 - Many Madison County citizens assembled at the court house to commemorate the death of General Andrew Jackson. C.C. Clay, Jr. addressed the crowd, referring to the services General Jackson had rendered his country, his vast influence, and the lasting impression he left for all time. A committee of nine men was chosen to draft a preamble and resolutions: C.C. Clay, Jr., J.W. McClung, W. Fleming, W. Brandon, B.F. Hammond, John C. Thompson, R. Horton, Fleming Jordan, and R. J. Kelly.

December 1 - Dr. Carey has announced the following charges for his dental services:

For extracting teeth and fangs -	\$1.00
Filing	\$1.00
Cleaning	\$2.00
Plugging	\$2.00 - \$10.00

1846

March 16 - Elder R. H. Taliaferro of Enon Baptist Church performed the wedding ceremony of Mrs. Elizabeth High, now four times widowed, to Mr. Absolom Brown, a New Market merchant. The Browns began construction on Elizabeth's dream home.



Elizabeth Brown Home

1847

Reuben Chapman left his seat in the U.S. Congress to run for Governor of Alabama which he won.

April 16 - The United States Army announced plans to recruit men between the ages of 18 and 35, at least 5 feet 3 inches in height, with good character and respectable standing in the community, to enlist to fight in the war with Mexico. Anyone receiving an honorable discharge either at term expiration or disability would receive 160 acres of land and treasury scrip for \$100.

MUSTER ROLL of Captain *Hugh L. Clay's*
, from the

No.	NAMES, RANKS AND AGES (Private in Alphabetical order, being members of the Company.)	ENLISTED.			
		DATE.	PLACE.	BY WHOM.	TERMS.
1	<i>Wm. H. ...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
2	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
3	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
4	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
5	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
6	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
7	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
8	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
9	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
10	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>

Part of the Muster Roll of Captain Hugh L. Clay

Near the time Elizabeth Brown and her fifth husband, Absolom, were completing their eight-room, ell-shaped mansion near Hazel Green, Absolom died suddenly. The cause of death was unknown, but rumor circulated that he was hastily buried by the light of lanterns at night because shortly after his death, his body quickly began to swell and turn black.

June 11 - Of the fifty men who enlisted in Capt. Hugh L. Clay's company to fight in the War with Mexico, 29 were mustered from Huntsville. It was reported that Clay's men were encamped near New Orleans waiting for their uniforms. Unfortunately, ten or more of the men were suffering from diarrhea.



McDowell House - 517 Adams St.

1848

William McDowell, a cotton merchant from Mobile, had a house built on Adams St. He left the plans with his overseer while he went to Europe. The overseer misread the plans and built the house sideways, facing the rear of McClung Hill instead of Adams Street. William McDowell was married to Priscilla Withers, a sister of Mrs. Clement C. Clay.

May 11 - A year after five-time widow Elizabeth Brown lost her last husband, Absolom, Elder R. H. Taliaferro of the Enon Baptist Church, conducted her sixth marriage ceremony (his third marriage ceremony for her). Elizabeth's charms appear to have been greater than Willis Routt's belief in popular rumors and Elder Taliaferro's suspicions. (Willis Routt died at an unverified time, with his estate being probated in 1854.)

May 31 - Colonel James White McClung died. He was one of Huntsville's oldest citizens, a prominent lawyer and speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives.

July 8 - An advertisement in the paper announced that A. Dale and his daughter, formerly Elizabeth High, now Elizabeth Routt, made improvements to the home known as Pleasant Mound Inn near Hazel Green. They provided room and board for travelers, horse drovers, and their horses.

July 23 - Thomas Hubbard Hobbs wrote in his journal that he had heard a sermon from Rev. Hartwell Brown. "I should judge that Huntsville was not a church-going place, from the congregations I saw there, they were small and inattentive."

The Madison County Medical Society was organized with Dr. Fleming Jordan as President.

Pastor Conway P. Wing resigned from the First Presbyterian Church after serving for three years, "due to strife and bitterness stirred up in the church by members of his own family."

November 24 - The *Southern Advocate* announced that 20 city slaves would be sold at public auction before the courthouse door on the third Monday in January, 1849, for “undoubted bills of exchange on New Orleans or Mobile, payable twelve months after date.” The notice further stated that “these slaves are stout, healthy, of good character. They have been employed for seven years in grading and macadamizing the streets of Huntsville and cannot be surpassed in that kind of work. Among them are stone masons. Persons wishing to purchase all or any number of them at private sale can have an opportunity of doing so before the first Monday in January next.”

November 24 - Mr. C. H. Bean has taken a room at the Bell Tavern and invites the ladies and gentlemen of Huntsville to see his examples of Monochromatic Drawing. He also teaches lessons, including the new and easy system of colored painting.



Poplar Grove



Courthouse Clock

December 1 - Portrait painter William Frye has moved his studio to the office formerly occupied by J. Clemens.

December 8 - The property of the late William H. Pope, known as Poplar Grove, was for sale. The estate includes a 900 acre plantation, about 80 slaves, all raised on a cotton plantation and known to be the best pickers in the county, and 23 head of mules and horses. Good quality household and kitchen furniture was also for sale.

The Caldwell House, located on the North Side of the Square, was for sale.

1849

Dr. J.C. Spotswood offers his services to Huntsville in the practice of medicine and obstetrics.

The estate of W.H. Pope was sold at auction. The house went for \$10,000, real estate brought \$28,000, and the sale of 84 slaves brought \$40,000.

June 29 - An official day of mourning was declared for the death of President James K. Polk. All businesses are to close, houses be draped in black, and everyday avocations be suspended.

August 5 - Mayor Joseph Clarke and Aldermen of Huntsville requested that the following Friday be observed as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer, as recommended by the President of the United States, in the hope that Providence would avert the pestilence now desolating the land. All businesses should be closed and pastors of all churches should hold service on that day as well.

Money was collected for a large four-faced clock for the top of the courthouse dome. The clock sat atop the second courthouse, and again on the third courthouse until it was dismantled.

December 6 - Mexican War veteran Jeremiah Clemens of Huntsville was elected to serve the remainder of Senator Lewis' term.



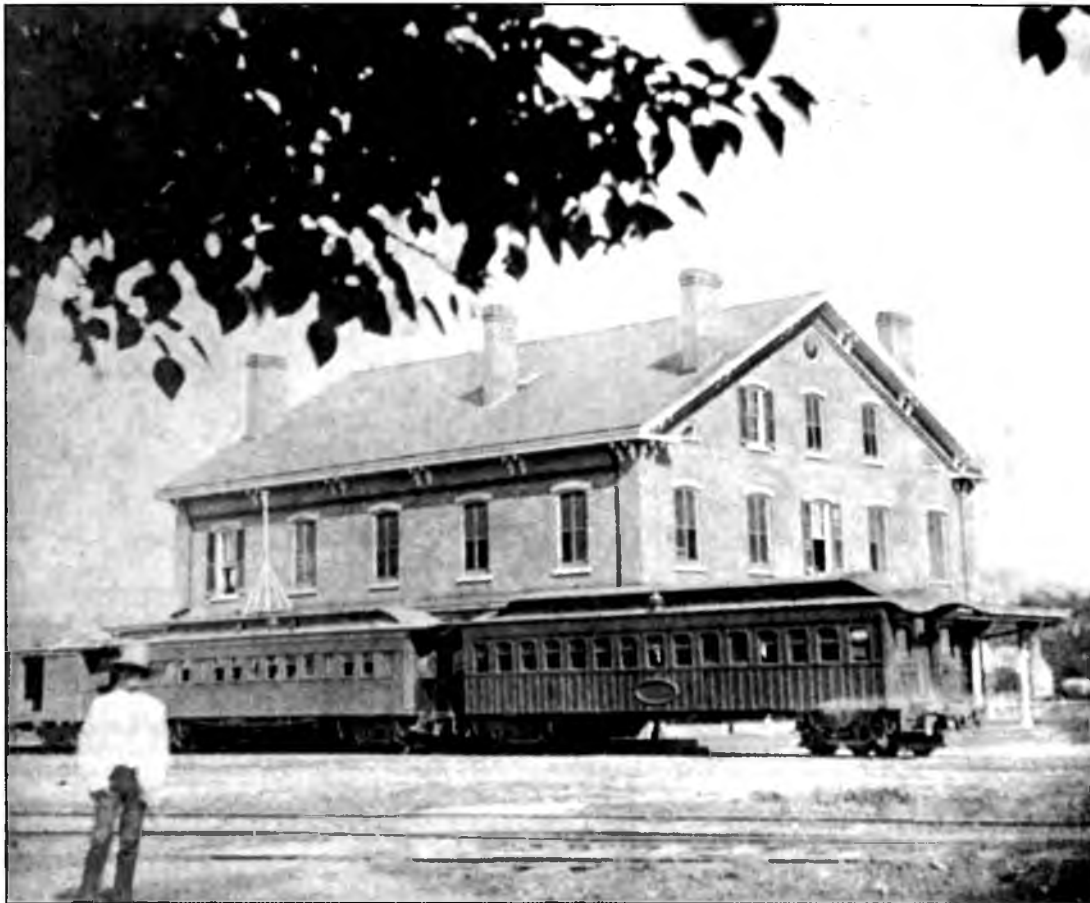
Jeremiah Clemens

1850 - 1859

The Arrival of the Iron Horse

Compiled by Jacquelyn Procter Gray

By order of Alabama Act 206, money was appropriated on January 7, 1850 for the incorporation of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. Huntsville was chosen as the headquarters. The passing of this act would impact Huntsville in a huge way, most especially when the winds of war blew into town in the spring of 1861.



Huntsville Depot

1850

William H. Thomas opened the “Daguerrean” art gallery on the southeast corner of the square.

Dr. Angell of Huntsville was a founding member of the “Homoeopathic Medical Society of Alabama” along with Dr. Lingen of Mobile and Drs. Ulrich, Henry, and Albright of Montgomery.

February 11 - The Probate Court was established and the Orphans and County Court was abolished. John Otey was elected Madison County’s first probate judge.

May 8 - The newspaper reported that the North Side of the public square is a smoking mass of ruins. The center of the northern half of the town is completely gone. In addition to all homes in that area, the fire consumed the hotel known as the Caldwell House.

A meeting was held in Huntsville to talk about establishing a telegraph line.

The 1850 census reported that Huntsville had 2,863 residents out of Alabama’s total 771, 623.

An ordinance was passed establishing a \$2 fee for each slave sold if they were pre-licensed. A \$5 fee would be assessed if they were not.

Albert A. Baker announced the opening of his marble shop on Washington Street. He and his stone-cutters specialized in headstones, monuments, and stonemasonry.

J. T. Bruckner announced on August 16 that his daguerreotype studio, located on the west side of the square between the bank and the Bell Tavern, was open for business.

December - An ordinance was passed to prevent the construction of wooden buildings on or near the public square. A \$50 fine would be imposed for each day that a wooden building was left standing.



Photographic Art.

I WISH to have in my Gallery every thing that is useful and interesting. I propose on Friday the 20th, at 4 P. M., to take a Panoramic view of the Huntsville Cemetery, and those splendid Monuments. I will be pleased to see many of the friends and relations near the Memorials of affection meet me there. It is pleasant to meditate among the Tombs. W. H. THOMAS.

June 17, 1851.

1851

January 22 - Greene Academy announced that it would be open to accept students on February 17. Instructors were J. H. Brookes and principal W. H. Marquess. Another teacher would be announced later.

With talk of Secession everywhere, an election was held in August in Madison County to assess the general feelings toward Secession. Citizens overwhelmingly opposed the idea.

Sunday Police would now visit local grocery stores to ensure slaves were not buying alcohol.

June 17 - Daguerreotypist William H. Thomas advertised in the *Southern Advocate* that he would take a panoramic view of the Huntsville Cemetery and those splendid monuments. Thomas was Huntsville’s first commercial photographer.

The Huntsville Female College on was built on Randolph Street.



Huntsville Female College

Construction began on the Memphis & Charleston freight depot on present-day Church Street.

1852

Act 260 established the town limits of Huntsville to one square mile. Act 226 established North Alabama College.


January 19 - The county treasurer was ordered to pay James Bailey \$12 for holding an inquest and summoning a jury over the dead body of John Martin.

George Warwick was paid \$5 to make a coffin for Milly - a free negro.

Drs. Norris and Hale were paid \$32, their fee for caring for the paupers at the poor house.

George Darwin was paid \$15 for support and maintenance of Susan Marshall's blind daughter for the first six months of 1852. It was amended for an additional \$5.

John Coleman was paid \$25 for preparing a map of Madison County for use in the Commissioners Court.



**BASCOM FEMALE INSTITUTE,
HUNTSVILLE, ALA.**
THE second session of this Institution under its new organization will open on the
First Monday in February next,
and close the last Thursday in June.
FACULTY:
Rev. George M. Ferrhart, President.
Miss Jane H. Childs, V. Principal, Moral Philosophy.
Miss Mary A. Lindsey, Mathematics.
Miss Sarah A. Bradley, and
_____, *Belles Lettres.*
Fredrick Sulzer, Professor of Music.
_____, *Assistant in Music.*
Miss Eliza A. Graves, Drawing and Oil Painting.
M. Etienne Lambert, Professor of Modern Languages.

S. W. Clay and brother were paid \$1.12 for a shroud for Reuben Marshall, a pauper.

1853

Dr. Thomas Fearn was elected president of the newly-formed Whig Party.

January 17 - A. Rison and Joseph A. Hobbs advertised their partnership in the gin making business.

May 14 - The drugstore of Spotswood and Yeager announced the dissolution of their partnership, by mutual consent.

P. W. SPOTSWOOD,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
DRUGGIST AND APOTHECARY,
AND DEALER IN
Paints, Oil, Window Glass, Varnish, Pyrethrin, &c.
Physician's Prescriptions carefully compounded.
No. 18 COMMERCIAL ROW, HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

June 5 - P.T. Barnum came into town with his "Colossal Museum and Menagerie," featuring General Tom Thumb.

June 24 - The cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies for the Bascom Female Institute.

July 3 - A Great Southern Remedy was advertised - Jacob's Cordial for all Bowel Diseases claims to cure all of that, and many female diseases as well.

Over 5,000 people attended the party held at General Lowe's home designed by Huntsville architect George Steele.

Huntsville's mayor received \$300 annually for his salary.

The Bell Tavern, insured for \$15,000, burned to the ground. The loss was reported to be \$25,000.

Huntsville enjoyed a white Christmas.



**General Lowe's Home
The Grove - Built by Dr. James Manning**

1854

January and February brought heavy rains and temperatures below zero.

April 17 - Billy Harris, a free man of color, was granted permission to sell "succulent and savory pies" at the courthouse. At the same meeting, the county officials ruled that slaves could only be sold at the courthouse on the first Monday of every month.

September - The Hermethian Society was organized. They plan to meet every Saturday night at the Greene Academy on Calhoun Street.

August 3 - Henry Gilden was visiting the home of Col. T. R. Williams when he woke in the night in distress. In his confusion, he stumbled onto the portico and over the banister, falling to his death.

ICE CREAM SALOON.
THE subscriber, having entirely refitted his Ice Cream Saloon and rendered it cool, pleasant and retired, respectfully informs Ladies and Gentlemen that he will keep on hand during the summer, **ICE CREAM**, between the hours of 9 o'clock A. M. and 10 P. M. He will spare no pains to give satisfaction to all who may visit his Saloon.
N. B.—He has a separate Saloon, entirely private, for Ladies.
April 25, 1855. **A. F. YAHR.**

1855

March 31 - Jacob, a slave owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Routt, was hanged for the attempted murder of Mrs. Routt's neighbor, Abner Tate, of Hazel Green. Their squabbles continued however, Mrs. Routt filed a \$50,000 lawsuit against Tate for defamation of character and in return, he accused the widow of murdering her six dead husbands.

April 4 - Albert F. Yahr opened an Ice Cream Saloon, Confectionary and Bakery, one door north of the bank on West Side Square.

April - Huntsville rejoiced when the laying of tracks for the Memphis & Charleston Railroad approached Huntsville from Decatur.

October 13 - The first train arrived in Huntsville on the newly laid tracks of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. A spectator called it "the greatest day in the history of Huntsville since John Hunt!" The "General Garth" enjoys the distinction of being the first train to arrive at the Memphis & Charleston Headquarters. Thomas Dunn serves as the first railroad agent.

November - The Madison Rifles, a military company, was organized. Captain John G. Coltart announced that they will parade the third Saturday of every month.

William Echols became the first Huntsville resident to be appointed to West Point.

An ordinance was passed prohibiting anyone from bathing in the Big Spring. Details were not revealed, the newspaper simply stated that matters had gotten out of hand.



George Steele

Jeremiah Clemens was elected chairman of the "Know Nothing Party."

October 21 - Huntsville architect George Steele died. He had introduced Greek Revival architecture to Huntsville. In his will, Steele left money to a slave, the mother of his children, and directed his Executor to take her and her children to the North and for her to raise them as free white people. The Executor was sworn to never tell anyone where they were taken or what their names were.



The Madison Rifles

Dr. Frederick Ross arrived in Huntsville to pastor the First Presbyterian Church.

December 1 - The Huntsville *Independent* newspaper was established with John J. Dew and John W. Young as editors and proprietors.



1856

Portrait painter William Halsey announced that he was taking orders for his business at his residence on the MacAdamized street leading from Huntsville to Meridianville.

The North Alabama Telegraph Company of New York opened a telegraph office on Eustis Street. John Fackler was named president of the company. Huntsville now had contact with Memphis and Montgomery by wire.



Dr. Frederick Ross

April - The Gas Company was organized and the plant was built by Dr. F. H. Newman. The city council bought \$1,000 in stock.

June 25 - James Venable announced that he has taken charge of the railroad hotel at the Huntsville Depot and was ready to accept guests.

October 1 - The governor of Tennessee, Andrew Johnson, visited Huntsville.



Andrew Johnson

1857

Dred Scott, a slave formerly known as Sam Blow, was finally declared a free man in a landmark legal decision. (He had been a slave on the plantation now owned by Oakwood College in Huntsville.)

January 22 - John S. Dickson advertised that his hardware store carried hammered and rolled iron, 200 pair of chains and 350 dozen locks.

Miss Bradley announced that she had withdrawn from the Huntsville Female College and would teach a limited number of students in the house adjoining the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. For a five month session, the fee for a full English with Latin course was \$25 and for music, \$25. Other classes were offered at lower rates. References were listed in the newspaper.



Dred Scott

The newspaper ran the following notice: "We are indebted to Senator C. C. Clay for a package of English Marrow-fat Peas from the Patent Office."

"Elijah Standefur, a well-known character about the town and county, was found on the street near the Depot grounds Tuesday last, frozen to death. It is probable he was under the influence of liquor, lay out, and perished from the exposure."

January 29 - The trains on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad were dubbed the "Terrapin Express" because it took 14 days for two boxes of paper to arrive in Huntsville from Charleston.

March 26 - Nicholas Davis and Robert J. Lowe have announced their partnership: Davis & Lowe, Attorneys at Law. Their office is located on Eustis Street.



May 7 - An advertisement in the *Southern Advocate*, placed by Memphis resident Nathan B. Forrest stated, "Dealer in Slaves, No. 87 Adams St., Memphis." The ad states that he regularly receives slaves from North and South Carolina to be sold at his "Negro Depot" and it is "complete and commodious and promises to furnish customers A-1 servants and field hands."

May 11 - A notice appeared in the newspaper to solicit Leroy P. Walker's candidacy for the Alabama Legislature. It was placed by "your obedient servants."

PORTRAIT PAINTING.

MR. WM. FRYE

Has returned to Huntsville, where he will spend the Summer. His Studio is on Eustis street, opposite the Episcopal Church, where he will be glad to see those desiring

PICTURES TRUE TO LIFE!

Life size Portraits Painted from Daguerreotypes.

Persons in the Valley who have already engaged me to paint Pictures are requested to call as soon as convenient. (June 4, 1857.) WM. FRYE.

June 4 - Mr. William Frye, portrait painter, returned to Huntsville.

July 23 - James Hickman's Southern Hotel Omnibus Line is free of charge for passengers traveling from the Huntsville Depot to his hotel. Delivery to any other part of the city would cost 25 cents.

July 25 - There was an altercation/confrontation at the courthouse between attorneys Leroy P. Walker and Col. Nicholas Davis. A letter written by Thomas Fearn and F. L. Hammond was printed in the newspaper a few days later demanding that they resolve their differences. Both men sent acknowledgements to the newspaper stating that they had worked the problem out between themselves.

August 17 - P. McKinley was paid \$20 for repairing the lightning rod on the courthouse.

November 25 - James Birney, a staunch abolitionist, member of the first Alabama Constitutional Convention held in Huntsville, and the Alabama Legislature, died. He had become the secretary for the American Anti-Slavery Society some time after he left Huntsville in 1833.

November 26 - *Mustang Grey*, written by the Honorable Jeremiah Clemens, has been received by Coltart & Son and available for purchase.

December 16 - J.H. Larcombe announced a new institution in photographic art.

December 29 - It was announced that all people having claims against the estate of Andrew Jackson Routt should present them for immediate payment. (Routt's suspicious death was rumored to be at the hands of his wife.)

The Memphis and Charleston brick Freight House was completed (now located behind the passenger depot.)



James Birney

1858



Freight Depot

March 26 - Isaiah Dill, secretary, announced that the stockholders of the North Alabama Telegraph Company will meet at the courthouse on April 1, by order of the President.

June 11 - Metallic burial cases were offered for sale by H. Easley. They will be furnished at the Huntsville Depot from one-third to one-fourth less than the cost of a burial case plus a hearse. A liberal discount will be offered for cash sales.

July 8 - R. K. Dickson and Company ran the following advertisement: "Lookout - All persons owing us over \$50 will be sued at the coming term of the Circuit Court in August if not settled to our satisfaction before."

October 17 - George P. Beirne petitioned Huntsville to free Negro slaves.

H. EASLEY,
UNDERTAKER,
AND DEALER IN
METALLIC BURIAL CASES,
Corner Holmes and Jefferson Sts., Huntsville, Ala.

The Madison Rifles, a Huntsville military unit, was re-organized.

The Huntsville Hotel was constructed on the site of the Bell Tavern.

Construction began on the First Presbyterian Church on Lincoln Street. The members boasted that it had the tallest steeple in town.

December 20 - An announcement from Isaiah Dill was printed in the *Southern Advocate*, addressed to Mr. Clay: "I am no longer a candidate for Probate Judge. I am satisfied that I committed a blunder in becoming one....I know that I stand no chance in this race...and wishing the other candidates a jolly race, I leave the field to them."

December - \$30 sewing machines became available at J. W. Cooper's store for close inspection.



First Presbyterian Church

1859

Huntsville passed an ordinance to remove all "free persons of color" who had arrived in Alabama since February 1, 1832. The law was enacted in an attempt to discourage insurrection of slaves.

The first County Health Board was established.

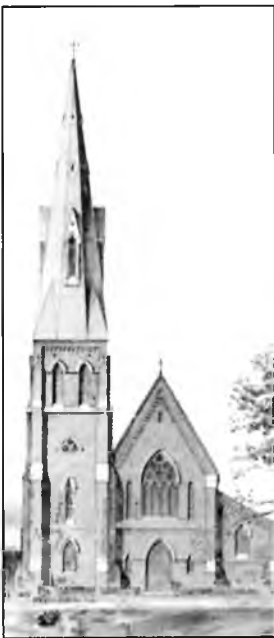
The first Easter Eve service was held in the newly completed Episcopal Church of Nativity.

Matthew Steele, Architect and Builder (and son of the late George Steele), advertised his business on the northeast corner of Steele and Clinton Street.

Russel Hill, the home built by Revolutionary War Veteran Albert Russel and inherited by descendant Alexander Erskine, was put up for sale. The 600-acre estate was located on Turnpike Road, beginning at Tollgate which was 1 ½ miles from the square.

Senator Clement Claiborne Clay was unanimously re-elected to office.

Huntsville attorney and politician Jeremiah Clemens moved to Memphis to become editor of the *Eagle and Enquirer*. (Clemens, a distant cousin to Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, was a writer himself: *Mustang Grey*, *The Rivals*, *a Tale of the Times of Arron Burr* and *Alexander Hamilton*, and 1865's *Tobias Wilson, a Tale of the Great Rebellion*.)



Episcopal Church of the Nativity

1850s highlights not specified by year:

The Samuel Moore Mansion, now known as the Lily Flagg House, was completed. Slave artisans worked on it for 3 years.

In the latter part of the decade, alterations were made to the Big Spring, including the addition of a pump house.

During the 1850s, artist William Frye painted the most famous picture of Huntsville, Alabama - the Big Spring. (This original treasure is in the private collection of a Huntsville descendant and a damaged copy is owned by the Huntsville Art Museum.)



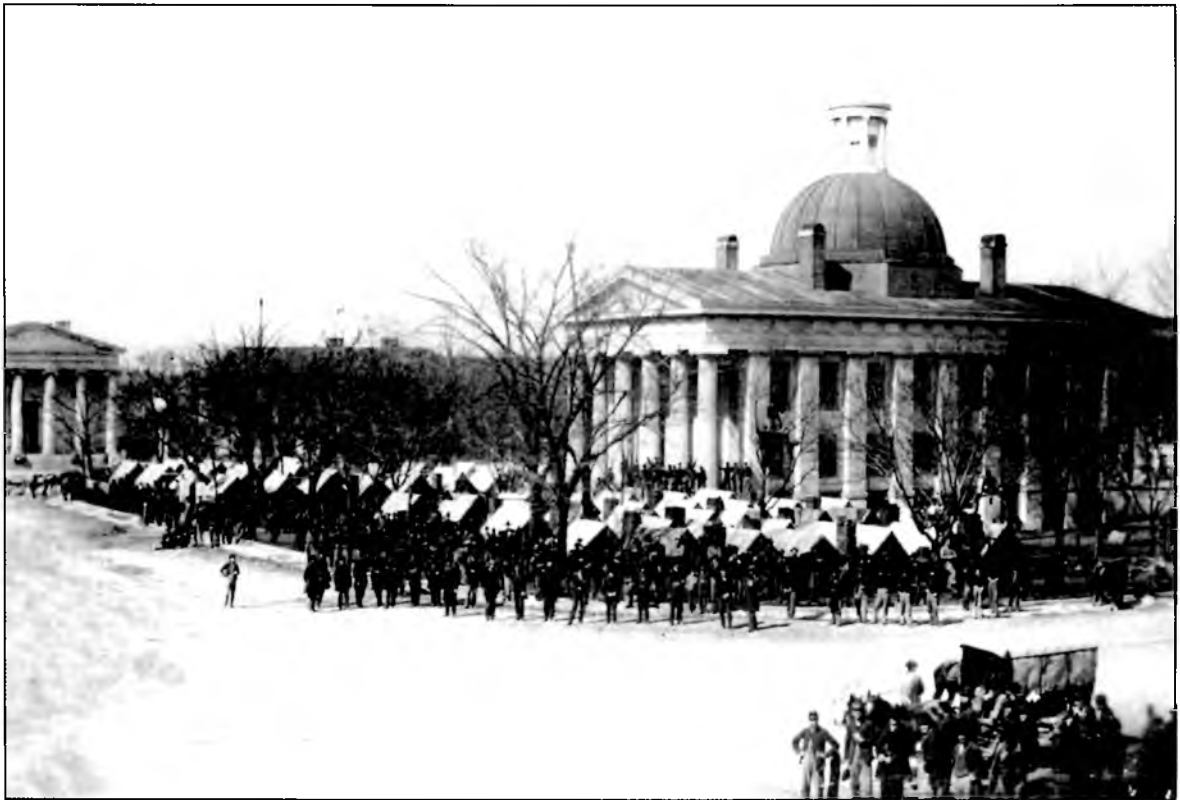
Samuel Moore Mansion

1860 - 1869

WAR!

Compiled by Brian Hogan

Probably no decade was as turbulent for the people of Huntsville as the 1860s. The first year was marked with political arguments over the upcoming Presidential election. The newspapers were full of news of debates and prominent men vehemently supported the candidate of their choice. Secession seemed to be at the root of every political action.



Union Forces camped around the courthouse

1860

February 15 - The Alabama Senate and House of Representatives authorized the Huntsville and Big Cove Turnpike Company to construct a toll road across Round Top Mountain, just south of Monte Sano.

February 29 - Huntsville was converted into a "city," with authority to have a *pro tem* mayor. Free Negroes were allowed to choose masters and become slaves. A Convention to amend or make a new constitution was called.

May 23 - Portrait painter William I. Halsey returned to open his studio over G. W. Atwood & Co.'s jewelry store. His stay in Huntsville would be brief.

June 27 - Jeremiah Clemens retired as editor of the Memphis *Enquirer* and returned to his hometown of Huntsville.

July 4 - The laying of the corner stone of the new Baptist Church was held with a huge ceremony.



Jeremiah Clemens



First Baptist Church

The Madison Rifles fired national salutes honoring D. M. Bradford and William Hale, veterans of the War of 1812.

August 21 - The three-story brick railroad depot on Church Street in Huntsville was completed in October. It became the eastern Division Headquarters of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad Company. The second floor contained plush offices.

October 24 - The *Montgomery Advertiser* reported that Leroy P. Walker of Huntsville had been asked what he would do if Abraham Lincoln was elected president. Walker replied, "come weal, or come woe, so help me God I would not submit." He said he would take the banner of the Constitution, and plant it where the honor or safety of the South demanded, and that he would defend it with his life and fortune against Saracens and Moors!

October 25 - Presidential candidate Stephen Douglas arrived at the Huntsville Depot at 6:30 a.m. Douglas spoke at the southeast corner of the public square at 11 a.m. under



Stephen Douglas

"an immense flag, with the Eagle of our Country, floating in the air, bearing the inscription 'Welcome to Stephen A. Douglas, the Advocate and Defender of the People's Rights,'" painted by William Halsey. He spoke for 2 1/2 hours to a crowd of 10,000, who had begun gathering the night before, coming from all parts of Madison County and neighboring counties as well.

November 14 - The election results in Madison County were: 1300 votes for Douglas, 400 for Bell, and 591 for Breckinridge. Huntsville voted 399 for Douglas, 276 for Bell and 225 for Breckinridge. There were no votes for Abraham Lincoln.

November 14 - Rev. J.M. Banister, new Pastor of the Church of the Nativity, arrived in Huntsville. The Vestry, on behalf of the congregation, purchased Mrs. McClung's residence for a parsonage at \$6000, and the Banisters will move to it next week.

November 27 - Huntsville residents are still enjoying bowling after 46 years. George W. Yuckley's new 10 pin alley was in the building formerly known as Able's Senate, near the Big Spring.

December 5 - The sale of 165 slaves belonging to the estate of Sam Townsend, deceased, concluded today. So far the men brought \$1500, \$1600 and upwards.

1861

January 2 - Delegates elected to consider Secession at the State Convention are Jeremiah Clemens and Nicholas Davis with 1480 votes each.

January 9 & 10 - A public meeting was called to discuss the vote of Secession by Madison County's delegates to the Convention. Several leading citizens were angered that the decision to secede was not voted on by the public.



Rev. J.M. Banister



Jefferson Davis

January 11 - At the state convention in Montgomery, an ordinance was signed to dissolve the union between Alabama and the United States in official Act of Secession.

January 21 - Alabama Senator Clement Claiborne Clay delivered a bitter farewell address to the U. S. Senate.

February 20 - Jefferson Davis addressed the citizens of Huntsville from the platform of a railroad coach en route to Montgomery where he would be inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America.

March 20 - The Madison Rifles received orders to report to Mobile. Ladies in Huntsville made a regimental flag of materials bought or made only in the South.

Huntsville residents in the Confederate government: Leroy P. Walker (Secretary of War), Jeremiah Clemens (Major-General), Egbert J. Jones (Military Council to the Governor), L. Houston Scruggs (Captain), L. Spot. McClung (Lieutenant), Hugh L. Clay (Major) and William Echols, Jr., (Captain of Engineers).

March 27 - The Huntsville Guards, a new military company, was formed by Captain John S. Dickson.



Captain John S. Dickson



George W. Lane

Dr. Ross of the First Presbyterian Church presented Bibles to each member of the Madison Rifles. On Sunday night, they were honored at church services at First Methodist Church, and on Monday they were presented a silk banner made by local ladies. Lt. W. F. Mastin was given a sword and epaulettes by Lucy Beirne.

April 3 - George W. Lane was appointed by President Lincoln as Federal Judge for the District of Alabama. However, since Alabama was *no longer* a member of the Union, his office was not recognized by the Confederacy. William G. Jones held the same office under the Confederate States.

General Benjamin Patteson was appointed Marshal for Alabama by President Jefferson Davis.

April 10 - Secretary of War Leroy Pope Walker of Huntsville telegraphed orders to Confederate Commander Beauregard at Charleston, South Carolina demand-

ing that Union troops evacuate Ft. Sumter. Union Major Anderson refused to evacuate, and Confederate General Beauregard ordered troops to fire on the fort. On April 11, after 34 hours of bombardment, Union troops surrendered. (It was rumored that Walker actually sent the telegram from Huntsville, not Montgomery as is commonly stated.)

May 1 - The newspaper announced the names of several companies organized from Huntsville: Minute Men, Spring City Guards, Silver Greys and Pope Walker Artillery. Two volunteer companies wore uniforms made by local ladies, and they left from the Huntsville Depot with a large crowd wishing them well. About 20 slaves went with their masters to be in the fight.

The Huntsville Guards under Captain Egbert J. Jones were presented with a silk flag made by the students of Huntsville Female College. It was announced that over \$1200 had been raised for the soldiers and James Cooper, a druggist, presented to them a stocked medicine chest.

ATTENTION
HUNTSVILLE GUARDS.

There will be a meeting of the Company at the Court House, on Thursday night next, at 7 1/2 o'clock. An election for officers of the Company will be held, and new members admitted. A full attendance is desired.
W. M. GORMLEY, Secy.



Colonel Egbert J. Jones

May 2 - The Fourth Regiment of Alabama Volunteers arrived at Dalton, Georgia and elected Egbert J. Jones Colonel. The regiment left shortly thereafter for Virginia, where they fought at the Battle of 1st Manassas on July 21. (Note: The Huntsville Guards became Co. F, the North Alabamians became Co. I.)

The Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Cumberland Presbyterian Churches removed their church bells so they could be cast into guns.

May 15 - County Commissioners agreed to provide, out of the county treasury, necessary equipment for all companies from the county and to furnish food for troops passing through.

May 22 - Memphis & Charleston Railroad Superintendent William Babb resigned. Tom Dunn, clerk at the depot, replaced William Jordan, a Northern clerk who took "French leave" (he left without giving due notice).

Ladies now met every Friday at the Methodist Church to work on lint, bandages, and clothing for the war effort.

June - The Madison Iron Works, a foundry and machine shop on Mill Street (located west of the depot) began to manufacture cast iron artillery pieces for the C.S.A. In November, 1861 it was stated that six guns per week could be cast and bored at Huntsville.

June 19 - Population of Madison County according to the 1860 Census: Whites 11685, Free Colored 192, Slaves 14573 - total population is 26450.

June 26 - It was announced that Victor Venable, a member of the Madison Rifles and son of James M. Venable, died from bilious typhoid fever while in camp at Pensacola.

July 17 - James Crawford of the Huntsville Machine Shop of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad exhibited three iron six-pounders, which were cast at the foundry of J. R. Young & Co. The guns were bored and finished at the M & C Machine Shops. The gun carriages were also made at the Machine Shop.

July 24 - Colonel Jones M. Withers of the Third Alabama Regiment, was appointed Brigadier-General C.S.A.



Colonel Jones M. Withers



**Grave of
Colonel Egbert J. Jones**

July 31 - Governor Moore has established a Camp of Instruction at Huntsville where 10 companies practiced drilling until called into active service.

Casualties of the Huntsville Guards at the Battle of Manassas were reported by Captain T. Fearn Erskine. Colonel Egbert J. Jones was listed among the wounded.

August 21 - General Jeremiah Clemens announced that the name of Huntsville's Camp of Instruction would be "Camp Jones" in honor of Colonel Egbert J. Jones. The camp was located on the estate of the late Martin Miller.

September 2 - General Albert Sidney Johnston passed through Huntsville on the train en route to Richmond.

September 4 - It was announced that Madison Rifleman Albert Russel died of typhoid fever near Fort Barrancas.

September - Colonel Egbert J. Jones of the Fourth Alabama Regiment, who died of wounds on September 2, was returned to Huntsville under the charge of Cumberland Presbyterian Reverend W. D. Chadick. His body was taken to the home of his father-in-law, William Echols. His funeral procession was the largest yet seen at the city cemetery.

September 11 - Private Leslie W. Moore of the 4th Alabama Regiment, died of an illness in Richmond on September 4. His mother was Mrs. Alfred Moore. Captain Charles C. Sales died September 8 of typhoid fever at the home of his father, Dudley Sale. He was buried, with Masonic honors, in the family burial grounds.

October 2 - Mayor Zebulon P. Davis resigned to announce his candidacy for Congress. Robert W. Coltart took over the office of mayor.

The 19th Alabama Regiment, under the command of Colonel Joseph Wheeler, completed their move from Camp Jones to the Blue Springs Campground, three miles north of Huntsville. It has been named Camp Bradford in honor of Mrs. Joseph Bradford who attended to sick soldiers suffering from mumps and measles.

October 9 - It was announced that Confederate Secretary of War Leroy P. Walker resigned his position due to failing health and overtaxed strength.

October 16 - Major John Tyler, Jr., new adjutant to Brigadier Leroy Pope Walker, arrived in town to help with the drilling of troops under Walker's new command. Major Tyler was a son of ex-President Tyler and served as a captain of a company in the Mexican War.

October 22 - 110,000 yards of woolen goods were bought for the purpose of sewing 4000 uniforms as quickly as possible. The quartermaster requested patriotic ladies in Huntsville to perform the sewing duties. The cloth was cut at Herstein's Store.

October 30 - The 19th Alabama Regiment reported 74 sick and unfit men for duty. Of the 1900 cases of sickness reported (an average of nearly two instances for each man), 800 were measles, resulting in 10 deaths.

The newly organized battalion of five companies at Camp Bradford has elected as its Major, Rev. W. D. Chadick, former Chaplain of the 4th Alabama Regiment.

An editorial in the *Democrat* protested days earlier against bodies of deceased soldiers taken to the cemetery in a baggage wagon. Since Army Regulations made no provision for specific modes of burial "Officers would have to pay, out of their own pocket, the extravagant price of \$12 every time a hearse is hired."

November 13 - By proclamation of the Governor of Alabama, all Sheriffs are instructed to collect all muskets, rifles, pistols, swords, sabres, and small arms and forward them to Montgomery, to be used for the public defense.

November 15 - This day was proclaimed a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer by President Jeff Davis.

November 17 - Clement Claiborne Clay has been elected to the Confederate States Senate by the Alabama Legislature.

December 11 - Dr. S. M. Van Wyck, surgeon in Colonel Forrest's Battalion of cavalry and former Huntsville resident, was killed in Crittenden Co., Ky. His body was brought to Huntsville for funeral services, after which it was sent to South Carolina, his native state, for burial.



Clement Claiborne Clay

1862

January 10 - Robert J. Lowe, age 26, died of typhoid pneumonia. He was a member of the House of Representatives of the Alabama Legislature, but served as a private in the "North Alabamians."

January 15 - The Ladies Association meet at the Presbyterian Church, along with children of Huntsville, to pick the wool from the scraps left after cutting soldiers' coats, to be spun and knit into soldiers' socks. They are asking for more volunteers.

The "Joe Bradley Rebels," a volunteer company was organized. Mr. Bradley donated \$500 for their needs.

March 5 - General Albert Sidney Johnston, with his staff, arrived in Huntsville and stayed until Saturday, March 8. They were guests of J. J. Fackler.



Brigadier General Ormsby M. Mitchel

March 6 - The newspaper announced that Gen. Bushrod R. Johnson, an escaped prisoner-of-war from the surrender of Fort Donelson, arrived in Huntsville. Many others also managed to escape and have been seen in the streets of Huntsville. Though they have been in several deadly battles, they do not appear to be dispirited.

March 9 - General Leroy P. Walker's home was consumed by a fire. The loss amounted to \$12,000 or \$15,000 and there was no insurance. The Masonic Hall also caught fire but was promptly extinguished.

March 11 - Brigadier General Breckenridge spent a few hours in Huntsville. His presence drew a large crowd.

March 12 - Captain L. H. Scruggs, Cpl. H. B. Roper, and Pvt. T. T. Patton, of the "North Alabamians," and Capt. G. B. Mastin, Cpl. A. H. Simpson, and Pvt. James B. White of the "Huntsville Guards," 4th Ala. Regiment, arrived in Huntsville to recruit for their respective companies.

March 26 - B. F. Brown was arrested a few days earlier on a charge of disloyalty for buying cotton for the enemy. He was taken to Decatur, where he proved that he was buying cotton for people in the Confederate Army as an investment. Gen. Johnston released him.

March 26 - An editorial in the *Democrat* called for volunteers to organize guerilla companies to harass the enemy.

April 11 - Brigadier General Ormsby M. Mitchel, commander of the Third Division, Army of the Ohio, entered Huntsville at midnight. By 6 am his occupying troops consisted of Turchin's brigade, Kennett's cavalry, and Simonson's battery. It was a complete surprise. The Union captured about 200 prisoners, 15 locomotives, a large number of passenger, box, and platform cars, the telegraphic apparatus and offices, and two Southern mail trains.

June 13 - J. H. Chadwick, of Chicago, and Samuel Sands, of Boston, used worthless notes from northern banks to buy cotton. The notes were supposedly issued by the American Bank of Indiana and the Bank of Clifton, Canada. When they were discovered to be counterfeit, the men contracted with wagon masters to distribute the counterfeit money along the road. Much of the money had passed on to a captain in the First Tennessee regiment, who happened to be in Huntsville at the time. The captain later took the money back to them and they refused to redeem it. Upon his complaint, U. S. General Mitchel had them arrested. About \$70,000 of the worthless money was found in their possession. In addition, the sutler of the 19th Illinois had given out two to three thousand dollars of the worthless money to the men in his regiment. The military authorities are considering forcing him to redeem all of the money.



The bank is occupied by Federal troops

It has been reported that a number of Union parties patrolling in the vicinity of Huntsville have been attacked and destroyed. Reports of pickets being shot have arrived almost daily.

June 10 - The Huntsville jail was destroyed by fire. The loss was \$10,000 and the inmates escaped.

June 27 - The *Macon Telegraph* reported that about 500 released prisoners-of-war from the Union Army were refused acceptance by U. S. General Mitchel. They had been released and arrived at Bellefonte, but Mitchel refused to allow them to land. The tired and sick prisoners, pleaded with Mitchel for permission to pass his lines and find their way home as best they could. Mitchel replied that he had no provisions to spare and because they were of no use to him, they could go back to the Rebels. The enraged soldiers were shipped back to Atlanta in terrible shape.

William King Acklen died at Gaines Mill, Virginia at the age of 20. He was a member of Captain E. D. Tracy's company.

July 21 - The *Mobile News* learned that unpatriotic Huntsville residents who sold their cotton to the Yankees were paid in bogus gold. The coating wore off the pewter and "these gentlemen have lost their cotton as effectually as if they had burned it like true Southerners."

July - U.S. General Buell, on his arrival in Madison County, met General Mitchel to discuss the accusations against him for confiscating cotton from Southern farms. General Buell was reportedly very angry and ordered the wagonloads of cotton to be emptied. General Mitchel, no longer in command of the armies in North Alabama, was replaced by General Smith.

Colonel Norton of the 21st Ohio made public accusations against Gen. Ormsby Mitchel, implicating him in the sale of Southern cotton to supplement his own income. When Norton disappeared, a warrant for his arrest was issued by the War Department.

Because of the operations of Confederate guerrillas between Huntsville and Nashville, General Buell's army has been reduced to half rations. General Rousseau is in command of the Third Division, formerly commanded by General Mitchel.

August 27 - U. S. General Robert L. McCook was killed. The newspapers told conflicting stories of how this occurred.



General Robert L. McCook

September 1 - 4 - Federal troops evacuated Huntsville and marched north into Middle Tennessee. They took large numbers of horses and mules, which were immediately branded with "U.S.," and taken without being paid for. They also took 1500 Negroes. Some went voluntarily, but others were forced to go against their will. Some of the Negroes escaped and returned; others were secured by their masters, who pursued them, but the number recovered was small. Most of the Negroes taken were men, but in some instances, women and children were taken, leaving plantations without workers.

The Union left behind destruction. Some of the plantations were turned into barren wastes. In one instance, near Huntsville, not a panel of fencing was left around the entire place. In others, fences and crops were consumed for miles, with the livestock left to graze and destroy at pleasure. In Huntsville, the citizens were wild with rejoicing at the Union departure. Judge George W. Lane left with his friends. Jere Clemens remained, but boarded Federal officers during their stay. Nick Davis stayed true to the Confederate cause.

September 11 - The Huntsville *Advocate*, which had suspended publication due to the Union occupation in April, resumed publication.

"We were under absolute military rule, subject to the orders of provost marshals, having to obtain passes to go outside of town, and at times to pass from place to place in town; pledges and oaths were extracted under dire compulsion; marketing was prohibited, provisions not allowed to come in; citizens ordered to be off the streets; arrested, kept in prison for days and weeks, not tried, and then discharged on pledges; negro evidence threatened against them, and arrests made on such evidence. Citizens were sent off to Camp Chase without trial or notice; houses searched, property taken without compensation or even receipted for; houses robbed, horses stolen, negroes decoyed off, wanton injury indicted upon many of our people and no redress given....They burnt a large number of arms, bacon, flour, salt, etc., which could not be carried off."



John Withers Clay

During the occupation of this region by the Federals, they burnt the four bridges over the Flint River, the business houses at Whitesburg, and many dwellings along the line of the railroad in Jackson County. These were in addition to those burnt in the vicinity of New Market.

Theodore Franklin, A. H. Sibley, and H. F. Hornbuckle were killed by Federal soldiers. No attempt to punish their murderers was made.

Many citizens of North Alabama were sent off by the Federal authorities to their military prisons. Parson Driscoll, Alfred Hambrick and Mr. Graham were summarily sent off to Camp Chase by the provost marshal, Colonel Burke, and Ira G. Cobb, of Marshall County.

Our clergymen were harassed by the Federal military. Rev. Drs. Ross and Lay, and Revs. John G. Wilson, J. N. Bannister, Jas. R. Plummer and Father Treacy were arrested. Messrs. Wilson, Lay, and Ross were kept under arrest for some time, and threatened with Fort Warren.

The food question was an important one to all. The Federals used up all the surplus corn, meat, cattle, etc., and the severe drought cut off the corn crop at least one-half."

October 8 - J. Withers Clay, editor of the Huntsville *Democrat*, fled to Knoxville upon the arrival of Gen. O. M. Mitchel's 3rd Division on April 11th. There Clay joined his brother Colonel Hugh Lawson Clay, who served as Asst. Adjutant General to Maj. Gen. E. Kirby Smith. Clay was appointed by Lt. R. H. Temple, Superintendent of the 7th Nitre District as agent to make contracts for saltpeter for the Confederate Government. When he resumed publication in Huntsville he renamed his newspaper the Huntsville *Confederate*.

October 19 - Confederate Senator Clement Claiborne Clay and family arrived home from the Confederate capital in Richmond, Virginia.

October 22 - Lt. Colonel W. D. Chadick, of the 26th Ala. (No.2) returned to Huntsville from Kentucky suffering from severe neuralgia in his back.



Lt. Colonel W.D. Chadick



General John Hunt Morgan

Unionist and Huntsville resident George W. Lane went to Washington and, according to one source, urged the Lincoln Government to take East Tennessee as the best means of starving the Confederate Army and subjugating the residents of Alabama. It was reported that a letter received by a Huntsville resident from Lane threatened that the Yankee army would return.

Colonel Wm. J. Stoddart was expected to arrive soon from Nashville with a stock of drugs and medicine to supplement Huntsville's low inventory.

An editorial stated that there are between six and twelve distilleries in the county, whose owners are buying up grain for their businesses. Because grain is so scarce, legal measures should be taken against them.

The last Alabama Legislature passed a law exempting all volunteers in service from the poll tax and exempting taxation on \$500 worth of property, which also applied to widows of deceased soldiers.

S. D. Cabaniss passed on a letter from Governor Shorter asking that those who have smokehouses leach the earth in them to obtain salt.

Lieutenant Charles Donegan was welcomed home after eight months of riding with Gen. John Hunt Morgan.

December 31 - Captain John H. Coleman, 22, was killed in action during the battle of Murfreesboro. He was a member of Wood's Brigade.

1863

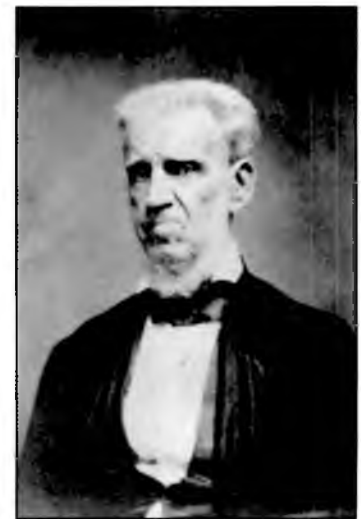
January 7 - The Alabama Legislature passed an act to prohibit distillation of grain except under authority of the governor.

Eight runaway slaves captured by the military authorities were turned over to the sheriff of Madison County.

All conscripts north of the Tennessee River were ordered to appear for medical examination in Huntsville on January 12.

January 16 - Dr. Thomas Fearn died at his home from consumption. He had been arrested and imprisoned, along with 11 other Huntsville citizens, by General Mitchel during the Union occupation. His death at the age of 74, was believed to have been expedited by his imprisonment.

February 4 - The editor of the *Confederate* accused the *Advocate* of printing passes for the Union soldiers during their Huntsville occupation. The *Advocate* responded that "passes, orders, &c were printed at the *Advocate* office by order of the Federals, under the threat of seizing the *Advocate* office." The *Advocate* further stated that former Governor Clay sold corn and other provisions to the Federals, under similar coercion. J. Withers Clay of the *Confederate* took exception to the accusation and gave the following account:



Clement Comer Clay

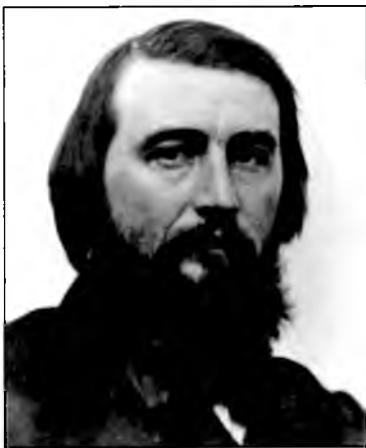
"Former governor Clement Comer Clay, age 73, had been at his Jackson County home when the Union soldiers marched into Huntsville. He was seized on the charge of sympathizing and entertaining bushwhackers. He was placed on a train and sent to Huntsville on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad and detained without food and water for many hours. He was forced to walk about ¾ mile to Mitchel's headquarters through cold rain. Mitchel finally sent him to his Huntsville home and ordered to remain in his home as a prisoner until further ordered. Because he would not take an oath or pledge, he remained as a prisoner, cut off from his Jackson County plantation.

The enemy robbed his dwelling house, pantry, smokehouse and cribs and stole fodder, stock of all kinds, poultry, eggs, and whatever else they desired. General Crittenden, without Clay's knowledge or consent, took corn and fodder and left his own price for it with the overseer. In other instances, they gave the overseer receipts for provender, stating that the amounts called for in the receipts would be paid on presentation of the receipts at Headquarters in Huntsville. The overseer sent the receipts to Clay, who presented them, for payment, at General Rousseau's Headquarters. The claim was not paid however, with the following excuse, 'if there is one Secessionist in Alabama more bitter, violent, virulent and hostile to the Union, than all others, Mr. C. C. Clay is that person.'"

February 4 - William R. Rison, an agent of the Confederate States, advertises for all manners of lead: pipes, window weights, bars, balls, or lead in any form to mold into bullets.

February 12 - Brigadier General G. J. Pillow and staff arrived in Huntsville and established his headquarters in the house on Franklin Street owned by the late Robert J. Lowe.

February 19 - General Pillow asked to address the planters of Madison County in relation to the substitution of Negroes for white men as teamsters in Bragg's army. "Over 2000 soldiers are employed in occupations which take them out of the fighting....[He] is authorized to take Negroes for non-combatant occupations, but prefers to obtain them by consent of the owners."



Brigadier General E.D. Tracy

March 18 - Private Isaac Coles of Captain Gurley's Company died of typhoid pneumonia near Shelbyville. His mother is Eliza Coles.

March 26 - "Christopher Columbus Sheets, who had been arrested and sent to the C. S. military prison at Salisbury, North Carolina, was, a few weeks ago...sent to the Sheriff of Madison County, charged with treason. Sheets was additionally charged with taking Augustine Hewlett, a citizen of Morgan County, and turning him in to the Federals at Decatur. Mr. Hewlett was sent to Camp Chase and was still confined there."

A few days earlier, 30 or more deserters from Grant's army reached Huntsville from Jackson, Mississippi and Oklahoma. Their reasons for desertion were because of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and non-receipt of pay for several months.

May 1 - In the battle at Port Gibson, Mississippi Brig. Gen. E. D. Tracy was shot at about 10 a.m. and died in the arms of his brother.

May 14 - A reward of \$30 was offered for the capture of deserters, whose names were listed in the newspaper. Eight men were from Madison County including M. R. Neavis, who published a notice that he was not a deserter but had come home in November 1862 on furlough and had fallen sick. He had applied for a certificate recommending a discharge, and received one from Dr. L. B. Sheffey, dated February 3 explaining that he suffered from rheumatism and chronic diarrhea.

City doctors announced an increase in their rates. Mileage rates became \$1 per day and \$2 per mile at night. A night visit would cost \$5.

Colonel D. R. Hundley, 31st Alabama, was shot in the hip and left on the field. (He recovered and was later captured in Atlanta.)

Major Pickering, 20th Alabama, was killed and left on the field.

May 16 - A bay horse was presented to Brig. Gen. Nathan Forrest from the citizens of Huntsville in appreciation of his outstanding military service. Mayor Coltart, Col. J. J. Donegan, and Rev. Dr. Kelly spoke on behalf of the citizens.

May 21 - The Mayor/Superintendent of Gas Works announced that the Confederate government has control of the only coal mine he has been using for making gas, and so Huntsville residents will be without gaslight for the near future.

June 30 - A Huntsville resident called upon people within the city limits and suburbs to organize some means for protection of their lives and property. They were told to report to the office of the Judge Probate to enroll.

It was announced that General Tracy, who had been killed at Port Gibson, had been buried in a marked grave in the cemetery square of Judge Baldwin.

July 13 - Mary Jane Chadick wrote in her diary, "At daybreak, a servant enters my room with the announcement that the town is full of Blue Coats....The enemy numbers about 5000 and are under General Stanley."

July 14 - "They are stealing all the negro men and confining them in the seminary building...All the good horses are also being taken."

July 17 - Captain Frank Gurley, of the 4th Alabama cavalry reached Chattanooga. On Monday, the 13th, he was on his way from Maysville to Huntsville and met several members of his company who had just left Huntsville to escape the enemy. It was rumored that the Federals at Huntsville consisted of two brigades of cavalry and two of infantry besides artillery companies. The Federals claimed they were 15,000 strong.

July 19 - "While the negroes were all assembled in church, the Yankees surrounded the building and, as the men came out, seized them...It is really heart-rending to a on-looker. These are their friends-the Abolitionists!"

July 20 - "The Blue Coats are actually leaving...taking with them several hundred valuable servants and horses"

July 21 - An informant reported that a Federal cavalry force under Rosecrans had crossed the Tennessee River below Huntsville. They crossed at Whitesburg and the number of soldiers was reported to be about 10,000.

July 22 - Major General D. S. Stanley reported that on his expedition to Huntsville, July 13-22, he had taken about 300 contrabands, 500 cattle, 500 horses and mules. He stated that 10,000 soldiers could forage off of the people of Huntsville, "if we don't eat it the rebels will...." Ironically, before moving into Huntsville, he had signed General Order No. 57 which prohibited soldiers from going into private homes or taking their property.

July 22 - The Huntsville *Confederate*, now published at Chattanooga, announced that the Russian Cossack, Turchin, is now in command of the Abolition forces at Huntsville. (Turchin had instructed his men to damage people and property in Athens, telling them, "I shut mine eyes for one hour," and on being told by them that one hour was not enough to gratify their pillaging propensities, replied, "I shut mine eyes for two hours." He had been court-martialed and cashiered by the Army. However, President Lincoln promoted him to brigadier-general.)

August 4 - Another raid into Huntsville by 300 Federal soldiers netted Confederate prisoners, horses, and they took a few slaves with them.

August 11 - Federal officers under Colonel McCook came into the home of Mary Jane Chadick, searching for her husband who was a Confederate officer. During a conversation with Colonel McCook, it was discovered that the Colonel had known Mrs. Chadick before her marriage when he was a boy in Steubenville, Ohio. She had kept him from being jailed for disrupting a funeral procession.

September 1 - Mayor Robert W. Coltart was arrested and charged with cruelty to sick Federal soldiers who remained in Huntsville after the other Federal soldiers left town. Coltart showed them a card, issued by the Federal Surgeon Goodwin in the Huntsville papers, acknowledging the kindness of Huntsvillians to his sick soldiers. The Mayor was released.

September 2 - The flag presented by the ladies of Huntsville to the men of the *C. S. Huntsville* was raised on-board the ship. Along with the name of Huntsville, it included the embroidered inscription "In God We Have Put Our Trust."

September 20 - Gen. Benjamin Patteson died in Blount County. He was the Marshal for the District of Alabama and an original secessionist. His remains were brought to Huntsville for interment.



Capt. Frank Gurley

September 26 - James Crawford, familiarly known as "Uncle Jimmy Crawford," was the Master Mechanic of the M & C RR shop at Huntsville. The native of Ireland died of a congestive chill.

October 12 - Four to five thousand Union soldiers arrived in Huntsville at about 10 a.m. The soldiers robbed local merchants of their goods or destroyed them. They entered homes and took sacks of flour and meal, and all the flour in the Bell Factory mills. They emptied the sacks of wheat and took just the sacks. Buggies, carriages, carts, wagons, etc, were left by the roadside, their horses or mules taken, and their occupants left with no way to proceed on their journey. Several people were robbed in the streets of their watches and money. During Stanley's raid in July, large numbers of slaves, horses, and mules were carried off. This time they got everything else.

October 15 - The newspaper reported that the family of G. W. Lane, Lincoln's United States district judge for the State of Alabama, arrived a few weeks earlier. It is stated that they had an escort of sixty Federal cavalry for their trip to Huntsville. It was reported that Judge Lane got to Stevenson en route for Huntsville, but was too drunk to proceed further. (A descendant claims he was terminally ill, not drunk.)

October 26 - It was reported that Maj. A. T. Hawkins of Huntsville, who commanded a battalion of sharpshooters in Lowry's Brigade, died of wounds received in the battle of Chickamauga. He had volunteered as a private in the first company from Huntsville, the Madison Rifles, which became part of the 7th Alabama infantry.

November 16 - "Yankees came into town in considerable force, took up all the able-bodied black men to fight for them, telling them they wanted them to go and hold Nashville, while they went out to fight our army. Several negroes, who had previously gone with them, came in today and removed their families."

November 22 - A Union lieutenant, killed in a skirmish near Mooresville, was brought into town for burial. Slave women gathered around his body and placed flowers upon him.

November 26 - The Union Army arrived again to occupy Huntsville. Brigadier General George Crook has his headquarters in the Calhoun house.

November 27 - Richard W. Walker was elected to the Confederate Senate to succeed C. C. Clay, Jr. His brother, Leroy P. Walker, was the former Secretary of War.

December 4 - "The Feds are behaving very well in town, are supplying the poor with fuel, and many of the better class citizens also. It is said that many families are drawing rations, Ex-Governors Clay's family among the number. Dame Rumor also insists that Federal officers are very kindly received in certain families in town. Gen. Crook's command are the finest looking set of men and officers that have yet visited Huntsville...They are quartered at Green Academy and other vacant houses about town."

December 11 - Captain Ike Clem, (a free black man) spoke to "American citizens of African descent," encouraging them to enlist in the Federal Army.

December - Twelve prominent citizens, original Secessionists, have been arrested and ordered to take the oath of allegiance by January 1. All but one have refused.

December - The Methodist Church near the public square was burned by Union Soldiers who were occupying the basement. It was believed to be an accident caused by a fire started on the floor.

1864

January 17 - "A Federal officer, Colonel McFall, called today and said that he had been assigned to me, with his wife and child, to take up quarters in my house...he has the air of a gentleman and says he will furnish fuel and provisions for the family....Made preparations for them and determined to treat them kindly."

January 22 - Nicholas Davis traveled to Louisville to retrieve the remains of his brother-in-law, George W. Lane, Lincoln's appointee as judge of the U. S. District Court for Alabama, who died a few months previously. According to the newspaper, his remains were buried somewhere along the roadside. (Note: George W. Lane is listed on the November 13th daily register of interments at Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville.)



General Sherman

The newspaper reported that General Sherman took possession of Mr. Beirne's home for his headquarters. General Smith made Governor Clay's residence his headquarters, and a portion of J. W. Clay's house was taken as well. It was believed that 13 regiments were in and around Huntsville. The timber in the vicinity was taken for fuel, as well as anything else the Union Army wanted.

The Huntsville *Confederate* wrote, "The suburbs of Huntsville and the lands, for some distance around the town, are being fast denuded of timber. The beautiful groves of Mrs. Hattie Barnard, Henry Miller, and Nick Davis are fast disappearing before the ruthless axe of the invader. There is scarcely a fence around any of the grounds in the vicinity. In all parts of the town, there are similar evidences of destruction, but not to the same extent...The soldiers are for the most part Regulars, and under better discipline than formerly, and being prohibited from entering private homes or lots without special leave, the citizens are not subjected to so much intrusion and depredation from stragglers."

Not a single Negro company is there or has been organized there. Negro men, women and children are quartered in Greene Academy.

"Thouston Lumpkin, a citizen of Huntsville, who was sent to the Nashville Penitentiary, several months ago, for telling the Yankees that he believed that they were stealing negro men to carry them North and improve the Yankee breed, is reported to have died there, a short time since. It is said that he was a 'Rebel' to the last, and denounced the Yankees, almost, with his dying breath."

February 22 - A salute of 36 guns was fired by the Battery in honor of Washington's Birthday.

February 29 - Artilleryman Jenkin Lloyd Jones (6th Wisconsin Light Artillery) wrote in his diary about the funeral services of P. B. Moss, who had died suddenly the day before.

March 5 - A detachment of the 15th Tennessee Colored Infantry arrived in Huntsville.

March 6 - "We have just heard of a horrible accident. The Chattanooga train ran into the train from Huntsville last night, killing Mrs. Jordan instantly. [She was on her way to get her son paroled.] Lillie Pickett died this morning. Mrs. Vogle and Mrs. Freyes and Mrs. Jordan's bodies were burned up. Those of Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Freyes could not be recognized. Funeral service at the Presbyterian Church on March 8."

March 13 - The "Peace Society" held a meeting at the Madison County Courthouse with Morgan County native David C. Humphrey calling for revocation of the ordinance of secession and reinstatement of Alabama back into the Union.

March 20 - The home of John Robinson was being used for a smallpox hospital.

March 22 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote in his diary: "All were surprised this morning to find the ground covered with ...snow, and the air yet thick with the falling feathers. It continued until 9AM, leaving eight inches on the ground."

March 26 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote in his diary: "...The train from Nashville today came in by way of Decatur. Major Generals Sherman and McPherson were on board, and are now in town where the headquarters are to be established."

April 11 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote in his diary: "A little after noon we were startled by a terrible explosion near the depot. A caisson of the Illinois Battery had exploded while returning from drill, killing six cannoneers instantly and wounding two."

April 13 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote in his diary: "The Nashville and Stevenson R.R. is abandoned, and all the transportation runs through here via Decatur, upwards of ten trains each way."

April 16 - "The Feds are fortifying heavily, having mounted so many cannon upon Patton's hill. They are evidently expecting the Rebels....The steam mill back of our lot is undergoing repairs for a powder magazine...several Yankee deserters escaped from the jail last night by digging a tunnel."

April 17 - "We have had two marriages the past week of Union Southern ladies to Federal officers: Miss Mattie Lane to Colonel Morton and Miss Jennie Davis to Colonel Phillips."

April 24 - "Went to Patton's hill to see the fortifications. Found the Federals engaged in tearing down Mrs. Gooch's beautiful cottage to plant cannon on its site....In the evening, the walls of Mrs. Gooch's house fell with a crash which was heard all over town....Gen. McPherson has taken up quarters at the bank."

April 27 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote in his diary: "Spent most of the day looking at the used-to-be town (Whitesburg). It consists now of four or five churches and as many houses and chimneys; was once a thriving steamboat landing....Four families live in one out-house, with about forty wee children, half naked and half starved, all the men in the Confederate army....Two or three other families staying here, seem to be very friendly to soldiers, especially the young ladies."

April 30 - Union troops started evacuating the town of Huntsville.

May 3 - While evacuation continued, Mary Jane Chadick wrote in her diary: "There is a great panic among them in town. They are looking for Gen. Forrest, having heard that he crossed the river yesterday at Florence. They are removing the ammunition from our neighborhood to the courthouse."

May 5 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote: "The almost ceaseless rattle of trains keeps us awake...Upwards of forty trains passed today, the whistles disturbing our slumbers at every hour of night."

May 10 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote again in his diary: "6 AM, a detail of fifty men to report at the fort, taking all the men in camp except the guards....All the negroes in town pressed in and put to work...whiskey rations were freely issued to all that wanted, many of the most greedy drinking in several different details...dismissed for dinner and started home....the intemperate indulgence by those but little used to the poison, caused a large portion of them to be beastly drunk....Many of the boys had to be carried to their tents, and were unable to return to their work in the afternoon."

May 12 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote in his diary: "All army followers, sutlers, correspondents, etc, were ordered out this morning to work on fortifications...a tough pull for them but justifiable and highly acceptable to the soldiers. They left their homes to avoid conscription and rob the soldier of his hard-earned money. Let them dig alongside the but slightly darker complected baker and hotel waiter."

May 13 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote: "Three trains of wounded passed North last night and this morning...Forrest accidentally ran against the 17th Corps on the way here, and lost all his artillery. Guess he won't bother us anymore."

May 17 - "Our troops are fighting the Yankees at Indian creek, having torn up the railroad below and are thought to be advancing on Huntsville. Hence the excitement. Later the Confeds destroyed trains, burned 100 bales of cotton and Madison Station, and tore up the railroad."

May 18 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote in his diary: (At Madison Station) "Found the 59th Indiana lying sleeping, having returned at 1 AM after traveling twenty-six miles since they started through the rain, and no rations or rest. Skirmished with them two miles, driving them on to the river...the rebel forces...[had] crossed the river at night and surprised the post, having them almost surrounded before they were aware of their presence. They estimated fifteen hundred mounted men, four pieces artillery. The Regiment precipitately made for the woods to escape. Lost everything....The affair was no credit to the officers and men of the 13th Illinois....About thirty of them are now on the way to Southern prisons."

“They have brought in Dr. Fletcher and Mr. Betts today from Madison station, accused it is said, of guiding the Rebels yesterday to the station, where the cotton was burned. If proved on them, they say they will hang Dr. Fletcher.”

June 21 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote: “Enoch Johnson died at 10 AM....His disease was congestive chills and typhoid fever.”

June 22 - Jenkins Lloyd Jones wrote in his diary: “Reveille sounded at 2:30 AM and quietly we broke camp and marched at 5 AM...through town in fine style, and soon beautiful and dreamy Huntsville was placed among the past.”

July 27 - “The body of Major Gen. McPherson [at one time in command of Huntsville] passed through here last night. They have lost one of their best generals.”

August 21 - “Capt. Allen, quartermaster, who occupied the house of Mrs. Weeden, carried off, among other things, two china chambers. His name has been thereby immortalized by the ladies. When looking under the bed for that article, they ask, ‘Where’s Capt. Allen?’”

August 31 - “There is much excitement among the Federals. Gen. Wheeler has destroyed the railroad, and Tullahoma and Decatur are threatened. They are...barricading the streets with cotton bales. They have also fired two shells into the town today.”

September 2 - “All is confusion among the Feds. Trains of supplies have just come in, the engines perfectly riddled with balls....These trains had supplies and coffins... Wagons are running through the streets at a gallop toward the fort, loaded with cotton bales, and all seem to be in preparation for a fight. The Yankees think that Forrest and Roddy are below and Wheeler above.”

September 5 - “We are completely shut in from all knowledge of the outer world, surrounded by Rebels and yet never permitted to behold the light of their dear faces. The railroad is being constantly cut as fast as the Yanks can repair it.”

September 14 - With permission from a Federal officer, Mrs. Chadick was permitted to cross the Tennessee River at Whitesburg to visit her husband, Colonel W. D. Chadick. It had been 10 months since they had last seen each other. Mary Jane Chadick wrote in her diary: “Soon, too soon, it was all over, and after we bade each other farewell, he returned to Dixie and I to Yankeedom, both the happier, I trust, for the meeting.”

September 30 - “General Grainger came up from Decatur, and he and his officers are having a consultation in the courthouse before dinner.... [Later] The Rebels are thundering at the gates...drawn up in line of battle across the Meridianville Pike, on the edge of town...General Buford demanded an unconditional surrender. Gen. Grainger replied that he would ‘burn the town first, and that he would fight him there, or in the fort’ [but] he would give all the citizens two hours to get out of town.”

October 2 - “All quiet, the Rebels have disappointed and disappeared....It is now generally understood that that the whole thing was a feint on the part of Gen. Forrest to enable him to get 200 captured wagons across the river....The shells and cannon fire from the fort wounded only one Confederate soldier. Three Yankees were killed in a little skirmish Friday evening.”

October 17 - “Miss Kate Lane is to be married tonight to Colonel Townes, one of Gen. Logan’s staff.”

October 27 - “Many wounded soldiers were brought in last night from Decatur...Eighty Confederate prisoners were brought in this evening, taken in the trenches.... Mrs. Fackler was informed that her home would probably be taken for the wounded.”

October 28 - “Went to the square this evening...to look at the new goods... Every store in town is filled with beautiful goods. Nearly all the female portion of Huntsville were abroad this evening shopping. The rush was caused by the new order which is to go into effect on Monday, that is, that no person can buy over \$1 worth without a permit, for which they pay 25 cents, and if over \$10, they must take the oath.”

November 11 - "The enemy, hearing that some Confederate soldiers were at Mr. James Robinson's plantation, Colonel Horner proceeded there last evening with a company of soldiers and the notorious Kinch Britt as a guide. Surrounding the house, they demanded a surrender [to which] the reply was 'If you want us, come and take us.' Kinch Britt was stationed at a window, where he was immediately shot. Thus have the enemy lost a most valuable scout....The Confeds...made their escape....The next day, Colonel Horner sent up a squad of men and burned the house."

November 24 - "The panic increases. The enemy are actually taking their departure....The trade stores [are] selling out as fast as they can at cost, and such another rush of men and women to furnish themselves with goods was truly never seen....A large proportion of Africa is collected at the depot tonight, awaiting transportation...Fires are burning in different quarters of the town where there have been camps....Many fear that they will set fire to the town before leaving."

November 26 - "They were burning the papers belonging to the provost marshal's office in the courthouse yard, and there was a great stir among the enemy generally. It is said that Rebel cavalry are hovering in the neighborhood, and that seven negro soldiers were killed today near the house of Charley Strong. The enemy all expect to get away by morning. The soldiers threaten to burn the town, and there is a strong guard out to prevent it. Green Academy is burning at this moment."

November 27 - "The enemy have not all left, but are getting away as fast as they can....they are marching out, followed by a long line of contrabands with their plunder....Some negroes fired Donnegan's block...but the citizens, with the aid of the soldiers, succeeded in putting it out....The last Yankee has gone [by 9:00 PM] and we are again free."

November 28 - "Russell's cavalry (Confederate) entered the town this morning....Many females went upon the square to talk to our soldiers....the arrival of W.D. is expected soon."

December 21 - "Just at daylight, the Yankees burst in upon the waking inhabitants. O, their appearance was more like imps from the bad world than like human beings. They broke open stores, rifled private houses and cut up generally...About 11 o'clock, three of them came here upon the pretense of searching the house for arms....These are terrible times. Alas! Alas! There is the railroad whistle. They have actually come back with all their infantry and cannon to occupy."

December 23 - "Learned this morning that there had been quite a fight near Ellick Jones' and that the enemy had brought in 49 prisoners and several wounded men....The wounded men were badly cut up with saber cuts, as it was a hand-to-hand fight, and the enemy says the young rebels fought bravely." Chadick [Note: This battle took place on Indian Creek, about where Old Monrovia Road crosses Indian Creek. Elements of Roddey's Confederate cavalry and Union cavalry, the 2nd Tenn. (US), and the 12th-13th Indiana cavalry were involved.]

December 24 - "Dr. Ross was arrested and taken before Gen. Steadman...to answer for a sermon preached after the Feds had evacuated here. In said sermon, he gave those men a severe lashing who tried to avoid the conscript, and said that, if every man had done his part, the Yankees might have been whipped out of here in six months. He...chose to go South, and was given two hours for himself and family to get ready."

1865

January 5 - "The Fourth Corps (Gen. Wood) have gone into Winter quarters here and are tearing down the fences around private lots. Tearing boards off stables and everywhere else they can find to build huts with. Destruction is the order of the day."

January 8 - "Dr. Ross and family have been permitted to return. He is paroled until May next but not allowed to preach. Billy...says that he was told by a citizen (Packard) who acts as a scout for the Feds that Eddie was captured with 228 others...in a fight at Mt. Hope....He is in a blockhouse in Decatur."

February 12 - "Colonel Burke, who was provost marshal here under Gen. Mitchel, who was very hard upon the citizens...is now out of the army, has returned here and set up a large provision and commissary establishment...selling at very high prices."

February 18 - "The wife of the rebel Colonel Johnson, whose cavalry has annoyed the Feds...excessively was brought to town a prisoner a short time since and retained four days from her little infant, six months old. Johnson had been capturing...Federal prisoners, which so exasperated the authorities here that they sent over a company...to burn the houses of innocent people....They had Johnson's house in ashes....Walked to the graveyard...this morning and was surprised to find the fence around it entirely gone, the cattle and horses straying through the beautiful grounds. Such vandalism!...The house of Judge Betts, who lives in the country, a beautiful edifice, which cost \$18,000, was torn down by the soldiers and the brick brought to town to build chimneys for the soldiers' huts."



Fourth Army Corp Headquarters

March 9 - "The Feds have put forth a little sheet entitled the "Huntsville Union," in which it is announced that services will henceforth be held by "Father Tracey" in the Cumberland Catholic church!"

March 10 - "Colonel Anderson, who caused so many murders among innocent citizens last Summer and has been on trial in Nashville for the same, committed suicide lately. Supposed to be deranged."

March 18 - "The Fourth Army Corps have nearly all gone."

April 10 - "The Feds had just got a dispatch stating that Gen. Lee, with his whole army, had capitulated and surrendered!...Oh, my God, can this be true?"

April 13 - "Sue went over to ask Mr. Figures if the news had been confirmed. He said that everybody had heard it, but nobody believed it or knew where it came from...The Yankees said they received a dispatch from Nashville today to fire 200 guns here today, without assigning the cause!...If there was any truth in the late news, Huntsville would be vocal with shouts of joy! Who knows but after all the star of the Southern Confederacy is in the ascendant!"

April 14 - "The firing has commenced. Cannons are booming from the Fort. The brass band is playing, town bells ringing. Railroad engines are shrieking out a prolonged doleful whistle...for the surrender of Gen. Lee and that of the Northern Virginia army....Clara has gone out into the back yard to ring the tea bell by way of burlesque. Called her in lest she incur the indignation of the Yankees....The band is approaching. It is Colonel Horner's regiment marching through the streets, himself mounted upon a fine black horse....Colonel Horner has given the soldiers until 6 o'clock to get drunk in, and they were taking advantage of the indulgence."

April 15 - "The provost marshal...remarked to me, "We have just got news that I fear will be worse for you Southern people than anything that has yet happened. President Lincoln was shot last night, at the theatre in Washington, and died this morning....It was done by Booth....I was exceedingly shocked...and felt...that it must be bad news for the South, if Andrew Johnson was to succeed him."

April 18 - "Today was...a day of mourning for President Lincoln. A cannon was fired at 6 o'clock AM and repeated at an interval of every half hour...until sundown. All business was suspended, and the business houses draped in mourning. The schools were all closed....The troops marched through the principal streets with arms reversed, the flags tied with crepe and the band playing a funeral dirge."

April 29 - "We have news this morning that Gen. Johnston has surrendered to Gen. Sherman....This has ended the military power of the Southern Confederacy....Many of the boys belonging to Lee's army are arriving daily...a sad sight to see them coming into the Yankee lines....Can it be that this great struggle for independence is at an end?"

May 11 - "Colonel Johnston and his men came in today and surrendered to Colonel Givens. He declined surrendering to Colonel Horner, but said he would surrender to a gentleman....They came in on foot, and every man had sold his horse, and they had only a few old muskets, which, when they were ordered to 'ground arms,' they threw down with curses and imprecations." [Note: W. T. Bennett, a Confederate soldier from Gurley, recalled in 1930 that his company was ordered to march to Huntsville over Monte Sano, and to camp near a spring on the mountain, where they met Union representatives and were ordered to stack arms and surrender. The Federals had brought five gallons of brandy to celebrate the surrender. Federal and Confederate soldiers alike toasted the end of the war in drenching rain that fell that day.]

May 22 - "The soldiers are still coming in every day, and the war begins to seem like a frightful dream....The Hon. Jere Clemens died on Sunday morning rather suddenly, He had just returned from the North, and has been in bad health for some time."

May 27 - Major General R. S. Granger has had published rules that will govern the Freedmen in this district: The Freedmen will not be permitted to live in idleness-are required to find employment...or report to the Contraband Camp and be put to work. Those employed on plantations are required to faithfully perform the labor for which they have contracted. All contracts will be made in writing...subject to examination by Military Officers. No Freedman will be detained or held to labor by any person who has not previously made with him a contract for services. Freedmen who have worked on abandoned plantations, or who have been permitted to work for planters who have stayed at home, will not... be turned off without fair compensation, as judged by a Military Officer.

September 28 - The 189th O.V.I. left Monday morning for home to be mustered out. Major General Grierson took command of the District of Northern Alabama headquarters.

The Memphis & Charleston Road cars are now running to within three miles of Tusculumbia from Memphis, and to Courtland from Decatur.

Frederick A. Ross, son of Dr. Ross, of Alabama, was brutally murdered near Friar's Point, Mississippi a few days ago. It is thought that James Brown hired two Negroes to commit the murder.

November 16 - A Grand Jury was been summoned to ferret out offences against the Government and its laws.

November 23 - House rent in Huntsville was higher than ever known, and houses were in great demand for families. Unless more houses are built business will suffer and population driven off.

A. A. Baker & Co. resumed business at their marble yard, opposite the Johnson House. American, Italian, Grecian, and Egyptian Marble, and Granite on hand.

Eagle Saloon Restaurant announced the opening of an eating house specializing in game, oysters, sardines, etc. Lunch everyday at 10 1/2 o'clock.

Property belonging to Meridith Calhoun, Nathan Ross, C. C. Clay, Jr., and George W. Jones was condemned and ordered sold. Anyone who objected was ordered before the District Court on the 3rd Monday in November, 1865, at 10 o'clock.

Frank B. Gurley, Sheriff-elect of Madison County, was arrested and ordered hanged. While confined under guard, his friends were trying to get charge against him dropped. (Gurley had been sentenced to death by a Military Commission in Nashville in January 1864, for the murder of U.S. Gen. Robert L. McCook in August 1862. He had mistakenly been exchanged in March 1865, and had returned to Huntsville at war's end, and was paroled in May 1865.)



**Col Milus Eddings Johnston
(Bushwhacker Johnston)**

An announcement in the paper stated, "We are requested to state that the property, real and personal, of C. C. Clay, Jr., now a prisoner in Fort Monroe, has been libeled by the District Attorney of the United States for confiscation."

Colonel Nicholas Davis issued a plea of mercy on behalf of Frank Gurley to Maj. Gen. Grierson of this District.

The Nashville *Daily Union* reported that Mrs. Baldwin, sister of the late Gen. Robert McCook, intends to intercede with the President for the pardon of Capt. Gurley.

December 18 - At the city election, Colonel Z. P. Davis was elected Mayor, and M. Callaghan, J. H. Swift, A. J. Johnson, E. B. Clapp, William J. McCalley, J. B. Trotman, Nich Davis and Benjamin Jolley, Aldermen. The Board will organized to take charge of the civil affairs which have been suspended since July, 1863. "We hope to see everything done that can be, to bring Huntsville back to its cleanliness, order and propriety, as well as solvency, existing before the war."

1866

January 16 - The newspaper announced, "Freeman Farmers - At the renting of farms belonging to the estate of Alex Jones, deceased, his former servants were the principal renters. They claimed nearly all the cattle and other stock, but we doubt whether their claims will be allowed. The lands rented very low."

January 17 - Virginia Clay was working to get her husband released from Fortress Monroe where he was imprisoned along with Jefferson Davis, for conspiracy in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The Fortress Monroe correspondent of the *New York Herald*, wrote that his release does not seem eminent. Mr. Clay's room is described as an apartment with nice furniture and a fireplace with a good selection of books to read.

January 17 - The city council ordered John Hughey be paid \$100 for winding the city clock.

January 19 - Two new cases of smallpox were reported at Easley's Hotel. The hotel was quarantined and adjacent streets closed off, vaccines expected.

January 24 - The newspaper called for the people of Huntsville to raise money to replace the fence around the cemetery. Two concerts were given and a subscription was taken up, but more money was needed. "It is a shame that the graves of our friends and relatives should be left in such an exposed condition, Strangers, visiting the city, certainly think that the citizens of Huntsville are sadly neglectful of the resting place of their friends, to leave it long in the condition it is at present. Let something be done in this matter at once."

Residents who have contracted smallpox were being quarantined in the military pest house, though it is not large enough to accommodate all the sick.

February 1 - Work began to repair the culverts and causeways on Church Street. The newspaper editorial stated that they hoped no one would venture too near a dangerous mud hole on Madison Street.

A negro woman named Milly, a former employee of plantation owner Russell J. Kelley, was attacked by Kelley's dog when she approached Mr. Kelley for several months' wages. He denied owing her money. Kelley was fined \$50 for the assault, a bond of \$500 placed on him, and he was ordered to pay the girl \$100 for wages owed.

February 3 - The city pond was drained, and "we saw disappearing down the canal 200 small pox and several thousand choleras," according to the newspaper.



Jefferson Davis and Clement
Claiborne Clay

February 4 - All contracts with freedmen had to be recorded in the office of the Freedmen's Bureau. About 400 were received since January 1, mostly from plantation laborers.

February 6 - Some members of the 110th U.S. Colored Infantry remained in Huntsville, but most left to the vicinity of their old homes. Many were under contract to work on plantations in Mississippi and Arkansas.

February 7 - It was announced that the first quarterly sacrament for the year 1866 would be held in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. on Sunday, February 11. The Pastor, Rev. Dr. Chadick, was assisted by the pastors of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Memphis and Meridianville.

Rev. Father Tracey, the Pastor of the Catholic Church, made speeches in an attempt to raise money to finish the church. The War delayed the church's completion.

February 9 - The 110th regiment U.S.C.I. was paid off and disbanded. Bars were closed to prevent soldiers, both black and white, from becoming drunk. Only two regiments remained: the 44th USCI and the 18th USCI.

Remnants of the 1859 North Alabama College were left on an elevated plateau overlooking the city. Only the brickwork was complete at the time the war began and it was torn down during occupation for the bricks to be used by Union soldiers in their camps. Several people expressed hope that the Presbyterian Church would rebuild the college.



North Alabama College

February 16 - Colonel John B. Callis, Superintendent of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned lands, of the Sub-District of Huntsville gave the following report:

“There are six schools for Freedmen in the district, 375 attending in Huntsville. Fourteen teachers are employed to teach reading, writing and geography. There are 994 freedmen men, women and children, in Huntsville, depending on the bureau for rations, clothing and medicines. There are 729 refugees, in Huntsville, depending on the bureau for supplies.”

Most of the abandoned lands occupied by former slaves have been restored to their owners, with about 115 acres remaining unreclaimed. The property of C. C. Clay, Jr., T. M. Mosely, Huntsville, J. W. S. Donnell and T. Sulzner of Limestone County remained in the hands of the Government.

February 17 - Houses on the plantation on Russel Hill Pike known as Avalon, were destroyed by fire. It had been owned by the late Alexander Jones. (This property is now part UAH.)

February 21 - Rev. J. G. Wilson wishes to rebuild the Methodist Church which had been burned by Union soldiers.

February 23 - A young boy was arrested at the Huntsville Depot by the patrol guard for wearing a gray jacket with brass buttons. When asked by the Provost Marshal why he was arrested, the patrol guard stated that he looked like a bushwhacker. The lad was immediately released.

Rev. Dr. Chadick resigned as pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

March 1 - Mrs. Jefferson Davis passed through town en-route for New Orleans. She suggested that Mr. Davis' health was improved.

March 18 - Money was raised to bring back the body of Maj. John S. Dickson who had been killed at Franklin while leading his regiment in battle. After his remains arrived on March 20 on the 5 p.m. train, he was buried at the City Cemetery.

An unimproved lot near the Depot, belonging to the estate of Thos. McCrary was sold for the sum of \$2,325.

The *Tribune* and *Commercial Advertiser*, both of New York City, called for the immediate release, or trial, of Clement C. Clay, held in prison at Fortress Monroe.

The Bell Factory resumed business, and Patton, Donegan & Co. (the Bell Factory store) opened on Commercial Row.

March 31 - Seven hundred barrels of white fish arrived at the Depot. The fish were barreled at Milwaukee, Wisconsin and have been sent to the destitute residents of North Alabama.

It has been suggested that Southern ladies set aside April 26 to place wreaths and evergreens on the graves of the Confederate dead.

People complained about the huge pile of manure at the corner of Greene and Randolph Streets that accumulated over several years from the Government stable on the Calhoun lot. The fumes were offensive.

April 7 - An ordinance established at the Burying Grounds (Maple Hill Cemetery) before the Civil War stated that burial plots be laid off in rectangular lots, measuring 10 feet by 18 feet. Each resident who is the head of a family is entitled to one lot. Each resident who is not the head of a family is entitled to a single grave, without cost.

April 12 - Nicholas Davis, the attorney for five Confederate soldiers now in military prison charged with murder, announced that they will be released.

April 13 - Residents asked the mayor to clean out the Big Spring, which was filled with moss and mud. "It could be easily made a delightful resort at very small expense."

April 14 - Telegraphic dispatches announced that Jefferson Davis and Clement C. Clay are to be released from prison on parole.



Colonel John B. Callis

April 18 - The City Council created the office of City Engineer; John F. Steele was elected. The Executive Committee was authorized to purchase 500 feet of fire hose.

A detachment of white troops, commanded by Maj. W. B. Occleston, arrived and were quartered at the Calhoun House. They relieved the Negro troops.

April 22 - It was reported that a few days earlier, the omnibus horses, left unattended, started off from the Huntsville Depot with two ladies inside the omnibus. The ladies were able to get out of the omnibus before the horses got too far away, but it has been suggested that the conductor watch the horses carefully.

J. J. Donegan, owner of the land adjoining the City Cemetery in which many Union soldiers were buried, wrote to Maj. Gen. M. C. Meigs, Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, and offered to sell two acres of land to the U. S. Government, at \$1,250 per acre. The offer was refused.

Some of the Negro soldiers of the 44th Regiment fired a volley into the city as their train headed out of town. Several bullets passed over the public square and struck trees in the court yard.

A contract was settled to build a new fence around the cemetery. The Federal Government was asked to pay half the cost since it was destroyed by Federal troops during the occupation and since many Federal soldiers were buried there.

April 29 - It was announced that on April 16, after Frank Gurley had taken the oath of allegiance, he was released from jail and would be placed on parole as a prisoner of war.

Clement C. Clay, Jr. reached home at about 3 a.m. Friends began to gather at the home of his father to welcome him.

May 1 - Captain Samuel Fordyce and Miss Sue E. Chadick, daughter of Colonel W. D. Chadick, were married at her father's home. The newlyweds left on the evening train on a Northern tour and a visit to his relatives.

Members of the 15th Regulars put up a flagpole in front of the Calhoun House to fly the stars and stripes.

May 9 - The newspaper reported that "a girl in male attire was apprehended...by officer Blanton on Monday night last, and locked up in the Calaboose. The news drew a large crowd of the curious...[It was] ascertained that her name was Lucretia Conn, and that she had left home in Buena Vista, Ohio...two years ago in company with another girl in male attire...She says she is only 14 years of age, [and] was for awhile attached to the 66th Illinois regiment. She expressed a willingness to doff her present garb and assume her legitimate dress, and clothing will be furnished her, and it is the purpose of the Mayor to release her from confinement. [We] hope that she will return to her home, as she says she wishes to do."

May 10 - The remains of General E. D. Tracy, who was killed in 1863 at Port Gibson, were buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery at Macon, Georgia.

May 11 - Someone discovered the body of a man submerged in the waters of the Big Spring, one leg had caught in the fissure of the rocks. [He] was identified as an elderly black man named Nick Otey. It is assumed that he became bewildered in the darkness and accidentally fell over the bluff.

A special order, issued at the U.S. Forces Headquarters in Huntsville, announced that everyone was forbidden to sell, barter, or give to the enlisted men of this company any intoxicating liquor on penalty of being punished for the same.

Frank Gurley, who was elected Sheriff of Madison County prior to his arrest by military order from Washington, has declined to take his elected position.

May 12 was declared Fast Day by proclamation of the governor, to be observed with prayer to prevent another outbreak of cholera.

The newspaper announced that "The Honorable C. C. Clay and Mrs. Clay...soon after their arrival at their home, were serenaded by the Terrell Band, composed of colored musicians, old resident freemen, and some freedmen, lately in the service of the U. S. Government...most decidedly proving their appreciation of the presence of the distinguished gentleman and lady among them."

The ladies of the First Methodist Church planned an ice cream and strawberry supper at the court house to help raise money for the new church edifice, which had been burned by Union soldiers during the occupation.

May 15 - An auction was held to get rid of surplus government stock. Forty-nine mules and ten horses were sold as well as some 30 huts next to the city cemetery, formerly occupied by the 44th U.S.C.I.

May 26 - Three carloads of corn arrived at the Huntsville Depot for the destitute of North Alabama.

June 1 - 9 - The Louisville *Journal* wrote that at a session of the Kentucky Legislature, a resolution was passed to offer payment for the best portrait of Henry Clay. Artist William Frye of Huntsville, Alabama was the winner.



**Portrait of Henry Clay
By William Frye**

Mrs. Jane Weeden petitioned for relief of city taxes on account of Federal occupation of her house. The petition was tabled.

The Tableaux for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church was well attended at the Seminary Hall. A lighted lamp fell on the stage, causing a panic.

Work began to repair the old hotel at the Huntsville Depot.

June 14 - Dr. Charles H. Patton, a prominent citizen of Huntsville and brother of Gov. Robert Patton, died. The funeral service was conducted by Reverend F.A. Ross.

James H. Ware, City Tax Collector, asked that everyone owing taxes for the year 1865 pay promptly. The city treasury was low.

June 19 - A new fountain was put up at the Spring.

June 26 - Reverend Dr. Ross performed the marriage ceremony of Colonel G. M. L. Johnson of Cincinnati, and Miss Sue Bradley of Huntsville.

June 28 - Nashville did not accept Huntsville's challenge for a game of chess, but Columbia, Tennessee "took up the gauntlet." Because moves were reported by telegraph, it would take 2 or 3 days to complete the game.

Kate L. Kaufman built a confectionary shop on Eustis St. adjoining the Episcopal Church

Huntsville citizens planned a Tournament. The ground selected for the Tournament was in The Grove. The grounds were laid off by Colonel John Steele, City Engineer, and the making of the track was under the immediate direction of Col. Nick Davis. The track was now ready for the practice of the Knights, and they were invited to commence practice as soon as possible, so as to harden the track. The first day began with a parade to the Tournament grounds. The first exercise was to tilt at three rings using a lance 9 feet long, 1 1/2 inches in diameter, and the second day



New fountain at the Big Spring

exercise was with saber and pistol at targets about the size of a man. Finally, there was a contest for a pair of silver spurs, to be awarded by a committee of ladies.

July 28 - Results of the Tournament were announced. Top winner was Joseph C. Bradley, Jr., the Knight of the Pink Rose, who chose Miss Jane P. Beirne as Queen of Love and Beauty.

August 29 - A total of 434 shares of stock in the M & C Railroad, belonging to the estate of Joseph A. Bradford, was for sale.

September 6 - Former Governor Clement Comer Clay, Sr., died at age 77.

The newspaper reported, "The Grave Yard fence, we are glad to notice, will soon be completed, and is a neat, substantial one, of cedar. It will last for years and years, unless we have another little revolution, and the march of armies in our midst."

It was announced that a Cotton Chopper, invented by Judge D. P. Lewis, would soon receive a patent.

County authorities purchased 500 acres of land on the Whitesburg Road, 3 miles from Huntsville, at \$20 per acre, to be used for the County Poor House, Work House, and Hospital.

October 6 - Population of Huntsville: White 12,674, females 6425, males 6249; colored 12,857, total 25,531.
Population in 1860: White 11,686, females 5717, males 5969; colored 14,765, total 26,451.
Soldiers killed during the war 147, died from sickness 214, disabled 28.

November 17 - Mr. J. Drury worked to have removed the bodies of the Federal soldiers buried in Huntsville (about 298 in number) in order to send them to Chattanooga to be buried in the National Cemetery. About 25 per day were taken up. He requested that anyone who knew of soldiers' graves in the county contact him so that they could also be removed. Anyone who may have had the grave of a U.S. soldier on their land was forbidden to mutilate, plough over, or obliterate traces of the grave.

[Note: Additional research has established that there were actually 733 Union soldiers buried here. The number 298 refers only to those who were identifiable by grave markers. The markers of the rest having been previously removed.]

November 21 - The portrait of Henry Clay, painted by Huntsville artist William Frye, has been framed and placed in the State of Kentucky's Senate Chamber.

Huntsville's city limits now encompassed four square miles. The new citizens who owned real estate could vote in the coming election.

December 13 - The remains of Capt. Edwin Wallace, who was killed in December 1863 at Parker's Cross Roads, arrived in Huntsville for burial in the City Cemetery.

Robert W. Coltart was elected mayor defeating Z. P. Davis in the city elections.

There were 500 colored children attending schools in Huntsville. The total average per day for the month of November, was 300. In these schools there are five white teachers from the North, and three colored assistants. These schools were supported by benevolent Societies in the North.



Kaufman Building is next to the Episcopal Church

1867

February 15 - A Relief meeting for the aid of the destitute in our midst was called for the Court House tomorrow at 11 o'clock AM.

February 26 - A Union meeting will be held in Huntsville next Monday for people who wish to see the Union restored.

March 4 - The supper by the colored congregation of the Cumberland Church was attended by a large crowd. \$484 was raised for the church.

The remains of Lt. Henry S. Figures, Adjutant of the 48th Alabama Regiment and son of *Advocate* editor William B. Figures, were disinterred last week and brought home by his parents for burial at the City Cemetery. He was killed at the battle of the Wilderness in Virginia.

May 17 - Public land was being rapidly taken up under the Homestead law by actual settlers. A black woman from Morgan County walked 50 miles to get a tract of land.

June 28 - A call for bids to build the new Methodist Church on Randolph Street was made.

From Madison County 8,075 men were killed during the war, 13,504 died of sickness, and 3,629 were disabled.

August 4 - It was reported in the paper that a white woman left an infant in the hands of a Negro boy to hold for awhile. She disappeared and has not been seen since. The child had a paper pinned to it with the name Alvy Quitman. Mr. Palmer, the policeman, has the child now.

August 16 - J. W. Burke and D. H. Bingham advertised that they will receive applications for bankruptcy. The law, passed by the last Congress, will help relieve people who are overwhelmed with old debts based upon slavery, which they cannot now possibly pay. The government sells their homes for debt, but does not relieve them from their old debts or let them live on future earnings.

September 13 - Stonemasons were needed to work on the Catholic Church and workers were asked to contact Father Treacy at No.10, Commercial Row.

A quarrel between Colonel Nick Davis and Sheriff Hiram N. Roberts ended in gunfire. Neither were injured, but both men were arrested and disarmed. The case will be investigated by the mayor and Judge Scruggs.

Flour was very scarce in Huntsville and has been selling at \$8.00 per hundred pounds.

Freedmen's schools in Huntsville were to re-open during November next.

November 1 - The soldiers of the garrison organized a baseball club, and laid off grounds behind the Memphis & Charleston Depot.

November 8 - Admiral Semmes lectured at the courthouse about the cruise of the C.S.S. *Alabama*.

November 26 - The officers and soldiers of Co. D, 33rd Regiment U. S. Infantry, stationed here contributed \$59 to the Catholic Church building fund.

December 20 - The children had Christmas trees erected at the Episcopal and Cumberland Churches, the Female College, and Female Seminary laden with gifts and presents.



Lt. Henry S. Figures



Admiral Semmes

1868

January 3 - A. D. Lighton invited his old friends and the public to his new drinking saloon, The Rialto, on Washington Street.

January 4 - James Harbin, a soldier of the garrison stationed in Huntsville, was convicted of stealing. He was publicly marched through the streets and drummed out of service. He was tied to a cart, his head closely shaved, and the "Rogue's March" played while he was carried to the Depot and put on a railroad car.

January 7 - Smith-Herstein and Co., located on the corner of North Side Square and Eustis Street, advertised their fine assortment of chinchilla cloaks, furs, and Balmoral skirting.

A story had been circulated among the colored voters that Gen. J. W. Burke whipped a negro man, woman, and children on the Public Square in Huntsville in 1862. Burke ran for Congress as a Republican nominee, and said the story, which he claimed to be false, was designed to turn Negroes against him.

January 17 - Judge Wyatt took measures to form a "Relief Committee" to relieve some of the suffering of the citizens of Huntsville.

General Sweeney, USA, served as a member of Court Martial session in Huntsville.

A complete assortment of metallic burial cases, walnut and poplar caskets were advertised by Undertaker Henry Delp.

Ernest Dentler, Confectionery and Bakery, established in 1850, had an assortment of fine French candies, cakes, cordials, German and French wines at his business on Eustis Street, adjoining the Episcopal Church.

January 17 - John Hawk, conductor on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, was promoted to headmaster and put in charge of the road from Cherokee to Stevenson.

January 21 - General Hayden superseded General J. B. Callis in Command of the Bureau for the Huntsville District, and placed it under Capt. Harrison, Commandant of the Post. General Callis was a Captain in the 45th Regiment of the regular Army.

The Board of Registration for the county struck the name of General John B. Callis off the list of registered voters, being an officer in the regular Army, and on duty here, therefore makes him illegible to vote as a Huntsville citizen.

January 29 - The newspaper announced that the Huntsville High School spring term would begin February 3. W. A. Slaymaker serves as principal. Board per term costs \$100.00.



Smith, Herstein and Co.

January 31 - Several members of Thomas S. McCalley's family became ill from apparent poisoning. It was decided that the flour was made from diseased wheat, and all who ate it became sick.

February 4 - Captain Harrison, in charge of the Freedman's Bureau, issued 4,000 bags of corn and a large amount of bacon to the destitute citizens. He also hopes to open a soup kitchen to the poor and homeless, which would be served from the barracks at the Depot.

February 29 - Companies A and I of the 15th United States Infantry, were en-route from Mobile to Huntsville, to relieve Company D, which proceeded to Selma. Captain Robert Harrison went to Selma with them and was missed by the people of Huntsville.

March 10 - Mrs. Clemens was in Huntsville collecting materials for a life of her late husband, the Hon. Jere Clemens, who died May 19, 1865.

The remains of Steptoe Pickett, son of Governor R. Chapman, who died during the War, was brought to Huntsville and interred in the graveyard.

March 13 - The Catholic Church Building continued to make progress under the supervision of Father Treacy. It was built of rough dressed stone, and would be quite an addition to the City.

March 31 - The Freedman's Saving Company of Huntsville had \$5,097.97 in deposits.

April 3 - General J. Hayden returned to the command of the Huntsville Post. "He understands our people and promotes Unionism and Reconstruction by his sensible and judicious course," according to the newspaper.



Mrs. E.D. Tracy

April 24 - Mrs. E.D. Tracy, of Huntsville, died last night at the residence of her mother, Mrs. George Steele.

April 27 - The Circuit Court met, presided by Judge W. J. Harolson. Two colored citizens were chosen to serve on the jury. They were granted an excuse to take care of their crops.

April 26 - The graves of the Confederate Soldiers were decorated by the ladies with flowers, wreaths and crosses.

May 15 - "The first service in the new Methodist Church building (basement) will be held Sunday. Rev. Dr. R. A. Young, of Nashville will deliver the sermon."

May 30 - Funeral services were held for James Bibb, who was shot three times and died near Corinth, Mississippi by a man named Stewart. Bibb was found dead in the woods.

June 12 - Rev. A.B. DeWitt was installed as pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

June 24 - Services were held in the Catholic Church.

September 1 - The murrain was killing the cattle in and around Huntsville.

September 4 - Peter Haynes, the old and respected colored grave digger for the City Cemetery, died on the 1st. (Note: his grave is against the cemetery wall near the office.)

September 5 - Two more companies of troops arrived, bringing the total to eight and a total number of men to about 500. They camped on the Whitesburg Pike although General Rugers' headquarters were in the Calhoun House.

Mayor E.B. Clapp resigned. Governor Smith appointed W. B. Figures.

October 9 - The City Sexton's report showed the burial of 13 whites (5 adults and 8 children), and 15 to 20 colored burials.

November 28 - Mollie Barton, a prostitute known as "Sand Mountain," was killed when she was trampled by a runaway horse near the soldiers' camp on the Whitesburg Pike.

1869

January 15 - Dr. Porter was now at the Easley Hotel treating "varied ills that flesh is heir to."

January 27 - Jere Doroty was taken out of his house by a band of disguised men and hanged near his residence.

February 6 - A bill passed the House of Representatives for the pay of Captain J. H. Springfield's Company of Scouts and Guides and also for the pay of that of Captain John B. Kennemer's. Both companies were raised in Northern Alabama in 1864 for Federal Service.

Artist William I. Halsey resumed the profession of portrait and fancy painting in the house on Clinton Street opposite the Ice House.

February 12 - Robinson and Murphy sold photographs of a recent Baptismal scene at the Big Spring to raise money for the Baptist church edifice.

February 19 - Free Schools were being organized so that the children, white and colored, could have an education. Miss Sarah Wilson and Mrs. Seelye were in charge. Matt McClung Robinson opened a Free Male School in the brick church on Church Street.

February 20 - A party of drunk soldiers went to the Easley Hotel and created a disturbance. When they were refused liquor, they attacked the house with rocks and brickbats and threatened to hang Mr. Easley and burn his house. Shots were fired at and from the house. Soldier Edward Hogan was shot dead on Holmes Street and Charles Adair was badly wounded. Soldiers also attacked two homes belonging to colored people and badly hurt an old woman.

April 7 - The remains of the late John G. Coltart, who died in Tuscaloosa last year, were brought home and interred in the graveyard with Masonic honors. The Military Band of the 33rd Regiment supplied music for the funeral cortege.

April 20 - General G. M. L. Johnson was appointed postmaster. "General J." was well known in Huntsville since his days in command at this post during the War. He also married a local girl.

Mr. Henry McGhee sold his 500 acre Rathbone Place, one mile from Huntsville, for \$10,000 to Mr. O'Donnell of Pennsylvania.

A Normal School house in Huntsville, for the education of colored teachers, will be constructed by J.H. Connor and Co. for \$5,750 and finished by August 1. It is to be erected on a one-acre lot on Franklin Street, beyond the bridge. The 2-story brick building will have four large rooms.



**Final resting place of
grave digger Peter Haynes**



Clem C. Clay

May 5 - Clem C. Clay, son of J. Withers Clay, was buried. He drowned in Mobile Bay April 26, but his remains were not immediately found. Because he had been a member of the fire company, the Firemen were all out in procession in honor of his memory. He was not yet 21 years old.

Portrait painter William Frye had his office on Jefferson Street, opposite the Post Office.

May 4 - Several distinguished gentlemen arrived at the Huntsville Hotel by special train from Memphis. Rev. Bugnoir from the East Indies, Mr. John Everett of London, President Wicks of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, and General B. M. Bradford, agent of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad were here to discuss the possibility of recruiting European immigrants to settle in Huntsville.

May 11 - The Whitesburg Hack departed the Huntsville Hotel on time to connect with the steamboat on the Tennessee River.

May 22 - The Military Band entertained on the courthouse yard.

May 23 - A large crowd gathered at the Spring to watch as over 100 colored citizens were baptized.

June 5 - Honorable D. C. Humphreys delivered the address to the graduating class of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

June 8 - The Public School fund did not have enough money in it to pay teachers all the time.

June 22 - Mayor W. B. Figures announced that velocipedes (bicycles) were prohibited in the streets and on the sidewalks due to the danger to people in vehicles and on horseback.

June 25 - The colored people of Huntsville gave a fair in the basement of the Courthouse, the proceeds to be applied to the furnishing of the Normal School Building, being built in South Huntsville.

July 30 - Governor Smith issued a proclamation against lawlessness in Madison County. Citizens were being whipped and even murdered by men in disguises.

August 6 - Policeman Armstrong was suspended by Mayor Figures for alleged knowledge about the disguised men and failure to arrest them.

August 20 - The Freedman's Aid Society, had nearly finished their brick building. Dr. Rust deserved much credit for his work.

September 3 - Brick-laying commenced on the Holding, Hundley-Fletcher Block on the East Side of the Courthouse Square.

September 10 - Father Treacy of the Catholic Church bought ten acres of land on the Pulaski Road for a burying ground for the Catholic Church.

October 16 - The log house in back of the Depot, occupied by women of ill repute, was burned. Nobody was hurt.

October 26 - "Huntsville Flora," a Polka Waltz, was respectfully dedicated to Miss Howard Weeden by Professor Hertz at the Huntsville Female Seminary. Copies of the sheet music were available at M. L. Murray and Company on Eustis Street.

October 29 - The newspaper ran a notice to wounded soldiers and widows of soldiers who were entitled to a pension to come to Huntsville to meet a commission to examine their case. A witness (to the applicant's military service) was to attend also.

George W. Blanton, chief of the night police, was shot by one of three soldiers near or at a house of ill-fame.

November 5 - A committee, under the direction of trustee Bartley Harris, was appointed to purchase a lot and build a Church for the colored Baptists of Huntsville.

December 4 - A seven foot long sturgeon was brought in by John Hays. The 104 pound fish was caught at the mouth of the Paint Rock River and sold for \$3.50.

December 10 - A vocal and instrumental concert was held at the Thespian Hall by colored entertainers. The proceeds would benefit repairing the colored Cumberland Church building.



East Side of the Square



Colored Methodist Church

A.F. Murray at the bookstore on Commercial Row announced new Christmas merchandise: China and Bohemian vases, toilet sets, toy tea sets, dolls, toys and books, china cups and mugs.

Christmas candies, fireworks, torpedoes, tin and pewter toys, fruits and nuts were available at Ernest Dentler's on Eustis Street, adjoining the Episcopal Church.

A fair was held at the courthouse to raise money to plaster the colored Methodist Church on Jefferson Street.

December 17 - Trotman and Sons announced that they would buy furs of all kinds, green and dry hides, and beeswax.

December 24 - The people of Huntsville were reminded that on Christmas Day the previous year, the saloons, hotels and many of the stores had free eggnog, resulting in much drunkenness. It was hoped that it would not be repeated again this year.

Honorable Jeff Davis, who has been on a visit to Hon. Clement C. Clay, spent Wednesday in the Huntsville Hotel where he received visitors.

1870 - 1879

The Decade of Cultural Enlightenment

Compiled by Thomas Hutchens

The City of Huntsville looked ahead at brighter days following the tragic Civil War. The 1870s was a decade of rebuilding and healing. The slain sons of Huntsville's Governor Patton were brought back to Maple Hill Cemetery for burial. Entertainment troops returned to the South and St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church was rebuilt by former slaves enjoying their first taste of freedom. The ashes of the past provided the foundation for the future.



Commencement Exercises of the Huntsville Female College June 7, 1874

1870

Glenwood Cemetery, located on ten acres at the intersection of Hall Avenue and Cemetery Street, was established as a black cemetery by the City of Huntsville. The original black cemetery, a slave cemetery, known as "Georgia," had no more room for burials.

Rust School, located on Franklin Street, was established as a freedmen's school.



Glenwood Cemetery



Rust School

March 9 - The new City Charter was passed by the Legislature and approved by the governor. The Charter provided for an election for mayor and aldermen on the first Tuesday in April, after ten days' public notice.

March 15 - The Legislature granted a Charter of Incorporation for a company to build a turnpike from Huntsville to the Big Cove community of Madison County.

March 19 - Mr. W. F. Struve manufactured excellent Lager Beer and besides furnishing a good wholesome tonic and febrifuge, returned small change in silver.

March 21 - The remains of Lt. William A. Patton, 16th Alabama Regt. C. S. A. and Robert W. Patton, one of the Cadets of the University of Alabama who was a member of General Forrest's bodyguard, were disinterred and brought to Huntsville's Maple Hill Cemetery for final burial. Besides being brothers, they were also the sons of Governor Robert Patton. Both had been killed in the Civil War.



Robert W. Patton and William A. Patton

May 2 - A new Steam Fire Company was organized on Saturday night last. It was composed, principally, of the members of the old company-Ed Hopkins, D. H. Woldridge, William Thomas, H. Mc Anally, William Dyer, Mike Lyons, and A. E. Scott.

May 28 - The adoption of the US 15th amendment ("The Right to Vote") was celebrated at Miller's Grove with speeches and a basket picnic attended by 2,000 people.

July 23 - Mayor William F. Mastin issued the following order:

"The citizens of Huntsville are hereby requested to have their cellars and lots thoroughly cleaned and to remove all refuse and trash to the streets

in front of their premises by Thursday, July 28th, in order that said refuse and trash may be taken off by the corporation carts."

August 30 - "Today is exceedingly dull in our city. We have not the scintilla of excitement, the breath of a sensation-nobody married-so far as we know, nobody born, nobody dead and almost nothing in business."

November 4 - Stone and Murray's Combination Circus performed in Huntsville.

November 29 - The Firemen's Ball was held at the Huntsville Hotel.

1871

The First Chamber of Commerce, originally known as the Merchants Association, was established with James Hamilton as the president.

January 13 - Mayor William Mastin was working with architects to build City Hall near the Huntsville Hotel, at the corner of Jefferson and Clinton Streets.

January 19 - The Grand Concert Troupe consisting of vocalists, the Queen Sisters, and flutist Henry Farmer, performed at the Huntsville Hotel. Tickets were 50 cents.

April 28 - A baseball game between the Athletics and the Gallaghers was played on the new field beyond the Donegan Hotel. The Gallaghers won, 60 to 37.

October 23 - Decastro, the Great Illusionist, performed at the Skating Rink. Admission was 50 cents for general seating and 75 cents for reserved seating.

November 10 - The Huntsville Steam Fire Company published a Tribute of Respect to Mayor William F. Mastin, who died October 5th.

November 24 - The Wooten and Haight's Empire City Circus performed in Huntsville.

December 27 - Due to the depressed condition of the agricultural interests in North Alabama and the resulting injury to all other branches of industry, The Huntsville Agricultural and Mechanical Association was incorporated to improve and develop agricultural and mechanical methods. Association members included James M. Hutchens, Frank Gurley, S. W. Fordyce, James Hamilton, John H. White, and John D. Carter.



Governor David P. Lewis



St. Bartley's Primitve Baptist Church

1872

Huntsville Attorney David P. Lewis was elected Governor of Alabama.

St. Bartley's Primitve Baptist Church was constructed on the South Side of Williams Street. This building was erected to replace of the church's first building, burned by Union troops during the Civil War. The money was appropriated by President Ulysses S. Grant.

The Huntsville Opera House opened on Jefferson Street.

January 26 - The Huntsville Infirmary opened on the West Side of Madison Street. Drs. Shelby, Burritt and Erskine were in charge. Office hours were 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

February 2 - According to *The Huntsville Advocate* the ground was covered with snow for a week, and ice was three inches thick.

April 5 - In the city election, John A. Erwin defeated James L. Cooper for mayor. The Aldermen elected included Robert E. Murphy, James M. Hutchens, Charles Gill, Joseph Steele, S. J. Mayhew, James Seat, John Patterson, and James Hamilton.

April 12 - Construction began on the new City Hall by builders Hundley, Sullivan and Steele. The building will be 100 feet long by 60 feet wide and will seat between 1,000 and 1,200 people.



Huntsville Opera House



Sol Smith Russell

November 29 - P. T. Barnum's Great Traveling Museum Menagerie, Caravan, Hippodrome, Polytechnic Institute, International Zoological Garden, along with Sig Sebastian's Royal Italian Circus performed in Huntsville.

December 2 - Actor Sol Smith Russell performed at the grand opening of the Huntsville Opera House.

1873

January 23 - General George A. Custer of the U. S. Army arrived at the Huntsville Hotel on the previous Tuesday.

February 6 - The Huntsville Dramatic Corps performed the play "Golden Farmer and Toodies" at the Huntsville Opera House.



General George A. Custer

April 11 - John Erwin defeated Z. E. Thomas for mayor. The Aldermen elected included James M. Hutchens, John L. Rison, Joseph Steele, Charles Gill, Sidney Mayhew, James Seat, John Patterson and James Hamilton.

June 9 - The mayor and aldermen voted to appoint a Sanitary Committee or Board of Health consisting of two aldermen and three physicians to ensure all buildings and streets follow sanitary guidelines.

July 1 - The following report was entered into the City of Huntsville Board of Aldermen Minutes: "Since we last met our City has been filled with sorrow on account of the great number of deaths that have occurred. The past month is one long to be remembered by our citizens on account of the prevalence of cholera which has been in our midst - the number of deaths from cholera being 6 whites, 20 colored, from other diseases 10 white, 13 colored."

November 18 - Lent's Great and Only New York Circus, Museum, Menagerie, Caravan and Metropolitan Musical Brigade performed in Huntsville.

1874

March 20 - Cal Wagner's Minstrels and Brass Band performed at the Huntsville Opera House.

April 9 - In the city election, Jere Murphy defeated T. W. White for mayor. Elected for Aldermen were B. W. Blake, Thomas Leddy, G. W. Warwick, Thomas J. Humphrey, J. D. Vandeveter, John S. Reed, John T. Patterson and Robert Herstein.

May 5 - City of Huntsville Board of Aldermen Minutes recorded that Alderman Patterson made a motion for the compensation of the Street Lamp Lighter. Aaron Franks was appointed to fill the position for eight dollars per month.

May 7 - The Huntsville *Advocate* reported that "our police now look like Yankee soldiers. They are uniformed in blue."

May 22 - The Huntsville Glee Club performed at the Huntsville Opera House.

June 2 - Articles of Agreement were made for Robert E. Cox, President of the Huntsville Gas Light Company, and Secretary John H. White, to furnish and supply gas such as is used in other cities for 43 posts or gaslights to be located in the corporate limits of Huntsville.



Huntsville Female College

June 7 - The graduation commencement for the Huntsville Female College began with a sermon by Rev. A. G. Haygood of Nashville, Tennessee.

July 3 - The Spring City Minstrels performed at the Huntsville Opera House. General admission was 50 cents or 25 cents for gallery seating.

October 20 - At the Board of Aldermen Meeting, the Mayor was authorized to purchase sufficient material for the uniforms of the police officers.

1875

Waist high water from flooding was reported at the Huntsville Railroad Depot and between the Big Spring and West Huntsville.

April 8 - In the city election, Jere Murphy defeated John Erwin for mayor. The aldermen elected included Benjamin Bates, B. W. Blake, George Warwick, Christopher McDonald, James Seat, John S. Reed, John T. Patterson, and Joseph Martin.

May 8 - The Gilbert Sisters Dramatic Troupe performed the drama "Led Astray" at the Huntsville Opera House.

May 11 - The Alabama Press Association met at the Huntsville Opera House.

July 3 - In a baseball game played near the Huntsville Railroad Depot, the John Reeds of Huntsville defeated the Red Stockings of Decatur, 31 to 23.

August 3 - General Leroy Pope Walker and Mr. William Lowe were elected delegates to the Alabama Constitutional Convention. Fifty-six years earlier, Walker's father, John Williams Walker, served as the president of the Constitutional Convention. The 1875 Alabama Constitution was ratified in November.



Flooding of the Big Spring

September 25 - Howe's Great London Circus, Grecian Hippodrome, Sanger's English Menagerie of Trained Animals, and the Iroquois Indian Troupe performed in Huntsville.

October 4 - Duprez and Benedict Minstrels, the oldest and most successful troupe of its kind in the U.S., performed at the Huntsville Opera House.

1876



Leroy Pope Walker

February 10 - The Grand Lodge I.O.O.F. (International Order of Oddfellows) of Alabama met in the Oddfellows Hall with Grandmaster John R. Tomkins of Mobile presiding.

February 29 - Huntsville celebrated Mardi Gras with a Grand Ball held at the Huntsville Opera House.

April 6 - In the city election, Jere Murphy defeated James M. Hutchens for mayor. The Aldermen elected included John L. Rison, B. L. Wise, George Warwick, Frank Dowd, Thomas White, Yancy Newman, J. L. Cooper, and J. Weil.

June 15 - Commencement of the Huntsville Female College, was held at the Huntsville Opera House.

1877

February 1 - The Payson English Opera Company performed Gounod's "Love Test" and Offenbach's "Vertigo" in Huntsville.

April 5 - In the city election, Jere Murphy defeated Samuel Coltart for mayor. Elected as aldermen were: M. B. Wise, James M. Hutchens, George H. Warwick, Frank Dowd, James E. Seat, A. Hayes Bradley, James L. Cooper and Robert Herstein.

June 13 - The Chickasaw Guards and the Porter Rifles, military companies from Memphis and Nashville, performed public drills at the Fairgrounds.

August 21 - In the hall of the courthouse, a fight broke out between John Ford and William McCalley. McCalley was fatally stabbed.

November 11 - The dedication sermon to celebrate the completion of St. Mary's Catholic Church, started in 1860, was given by Rev. Edwin Kirnon of Mobile.

November 23 - Blind Tom, former slave and autistic savant, performed his brilliant music at the Huntsville Opera House.



St. Mary's Catholic Church

1878

The dreaded plague (yellow fever) epidemic grips the residents of Huntsville. A temporary hospital was established at the Donegan house. Extra help was hired at the cemetery to bury the victims.



Donegan House

February 11 - Healey's Hibernian Minstrel's, McVoy's New Hibernia, and The Irish Brigade Band and Orchestra played at the Huntsville Opera House.

March 28 - Van Amburgh's & Co. New Great Golden Menagerie Circus played in Huntsville.

April 3 - In the city election, Zebulon Davis defeated James Seat and Robert Figg for mayor. Aldermen elected included James M. Hutchens, M. B. Wise, J. R. Stegall, J. S. Erwin, J. L. Watkins Jr., W. B. Green, J. H. Ewing, and J. L. Cooper.

April 17 - Mike White, Ben Evans, and Ephraim Hall were lynched by a mob for the murder of George Schoenberger.

June 12 - The Huntsville Nine played a game of baseball against the Roane Nine of Chattanooga at the Huntsville Fairgrounds. The Huntsville Nine played in new white flannel uniforms with red trim.

September 25 - Huntsville was declared to be one of the healthiest cities in the South. Although several hundred sufferers of Yellow Fever had been here for weeks, no new cases were reported.

November 7 - Col. William M. Lowe defeated W. W. Garth for the Eighth district Congressional Seat. Lowe was a member of the Greenback - Labor Party.

1879

Harrison Brothers Hardware Store was established on Jefferson Street. Brothers James, Daniel and Robert Harrison stocked tobacco, crockery, furniture, and jewelry.

The United States Army classified Huntsville as the second healthiest place to live in the Nation. West Point, New York was named as the first.

January 22 - Actor Robert McWade appeared at the Huntsville Opera House in his impersonation of Rip Van Winkle. He was accompanied by a full company of actors from New York.

January 30 - C. H. and W. L. Halsey, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Staple and Fancy Groceries, opened their business in Huntsville.

February 26 - A Masquerade Ball was sponsored by the Oriental Order of Humility at the Huntsville Hotel.

April 7 - Blind Tom performed once again at the Huntsville Opera House.



April 8 - Zebulon Davis defeated Mr. James Hutchens for mayor. Aldermen elected were M. B. Wise, James Conway, George H. Warwick, James E. Seat, J. L. Watkins Jr., James L. Cooper, Joseph H. Ewing, and Henry McGee.

May 12 - Mr. G. W. Hensley opened The Huntsville Business College in the Huntsville Hotel.

May 14 - The kitchen of the Huntsville Hotel collapsed. Debris from the ruins burned for hours.

June 18 - The annual picnic of the Independent Order of Foresters was held at Brahan's Spring with over 1000 attendees.

June 25 - The Grand Lodge of Colored Masons met in Huntsville.

September 3 - Mr. James M. Hutchens was appointed Jury Commissioner for the U. S. Courts of the Huntsville District.

September 20 - A benefit party was held at the Huntsville Hotel to raise money for the support of Memphis orphans who now live in Huntsville.

October 7 - The Eighth Annual Fair of the Huntsville Agricultural and Mechanical Association opened in Huntsville with William M. Holding as President of the Association.

November 5 - The Stewart Opera Company performed the operas: Planquett's "Chimes of Normandy" and "H.M.S. Pinafore."



One of the original founders of Harrison Brothers Hardware, Robert Harrison, is in the center. Also shown are his sons Daniel (on the left) and John (on the right).

C. H. & W. L. HALSEY
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in
STAPLE AND
FANCY GROCERIES,
Wines and Liquors,
CIGARS,
TOBACCO,
COAL OIL.
HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

1880 - 1889

The Progressive City

Compiled by Thomas Hutchens

Former slaves began to make an impact on the community. Schools were started and they entered politics, and all the while, it seemed as if Huntsville was obsessed with being entertained. Troupes, menageries, and circus groups came to town and found a grateful audience in Huntsville. A law was passed to prevent lewd women from riding horseback through the streets, and buildings were put up to last and please the eye.



The Monte Sano Hotel



W.H. Councilll

1880

March 6 - A Teacher's Institute for colored teachers was formed. D.S. Brandon from Rust Institute was elected secretary; W. H. Councilll from State Normal School was elected corresponding secretary.

April 6 - D.S. Brandon and T.W. Townsend were the first two colored men elected to serve on Huntsville's Board of Aldermen.

April 13 - The Alabama Medical Association's Convention opened in Huntsville.

July 11 - General James B. Weaver of Iowa, the Greenback Labor Party candidate for President, spoke in Huntsville. (In November, James Garfield was elected President.)

August 17 - Huntsville's Board of Alderman signed a new contract with the Huntsville Gas Light Company for 51 gas lights. The city reserved the right to suspend the contract at any time in favor of electric lights, if, after an experiment, the use of electric lights would be preferable.

November 17 - The Sell's Brothers Millionaire Confederation of Stupendous Railroad Shows performed in Huntsville.

1881

Huntsville's first cotton factory, Huntsville Cotton Mill was built on Jefferson Street. G.H. Harrison, President. The mill was later known as Margaret Mill and Fletcher Mill.

Property was bought on West Clinton St. for the location of the Colored Normal School at Huntsville (now known as Alabama A&M University).



Property on West Clinton St. for Colored Normal School

Construction began on J. W. Skinner's Carriage factory.

January 24 - The Mendelssohn Quintet Club appeared at the Huntsville Opera House.

April 5 - Mayor Thomas W. White and eight aldermen were elected in the municipal election: James M. Hutchens, R. E. Murphy, J. S. Erwin, James Conway, James E. Seat, Thomas W. Townsend, Nelson Hendley and Daniel Schiffman.

April 13 - A lease was signed by Michael O' Shaughnessy to build a cotton seed oil mill in Huntsville.

May 4 - Building contractor James M. Hutchens was awarded the contract to build the four new buildings to house the cotton seed oil mill.

July 6 - Mayor Thomas W. White sent a telegram to Secretary of State James G. Blaine to express Huntsville's heartfelt sorrow over the attempted assassination of President James A. Garfield.

July 6 - It was announced that the site chosen for the cotton seed oil mill was the lot near the Huntsville Depot belonging to General Samuel H. Moore. It was known locally as the foundry lot.



Huntsville Cotton Mill



Skinner Carriage Factory

September 26 - Due to President James Garfield's death on September 19, public offices, banks, stores, and other places of business were closed in respect for the nation's slain leader. His funeral was held today.

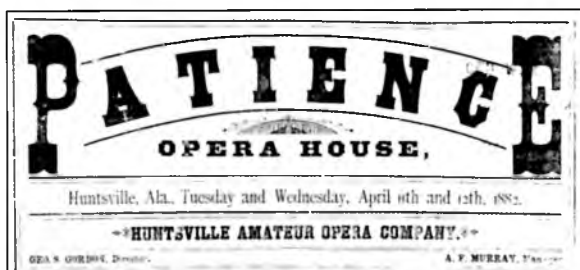
November 7 - The first telephones were installed in Huntsville.

1882

March 22 - Plans were announced by George Harris, President of the Huntsville Cotton Mill Factory, to enlarge the factory to six times its present size.

April 11-12 - The Gilbert & Sullivan opera, "Patience," was performed by the Huntsville **Michael O'Shaughnessy** Amateur Opera Company at the Huntsville Opera.

June 10 - The contract for building the new city school building was awarded to Alderman James Hutchens for \$4,000.



October 12 - U.S. Representative William Manning Lowe, of Huntsville, died at the residence of his sister, Mrs. Nicholas Davis.

December 20 - A. G. Fields, advance agent of Miles Orton's Mastodon Show and Royal German Menagerie, made arrangements to keep his circus in Huntsville for the winter months. Fields rented a portion of the Fairgrounds and also the large brick building, known as the old steam mill.

1883

January 6 - The young elephant belonging to Orton's circus died in its winter quarters in the old machine shop last week. The 8-year-old elephant weighed 5000 pounds and was bought in Hamburg Germany for \$3,000.

March 21 - The Gilbert & Sullivan opera, "Pirates of Penzance," was performed by the Huntsville Amateur Opera Company in the dining hall of the Huntsville Hotel.

June 6 - Rev. Dr. Bryan presented the gold medal for the highest standing in music to Miss Kate O. Hurt of Germantown, Tennessee, during the graduation exercises for the Huntsville Female Seminary.

June 7 - The State Colored Normal School (now Alabama A & M University) ended its year with an enrollment of 267. The closing exercises will take place at the Huntsville Opera House.

October 8 - Huntsville policeman William Street was murdered with an ax. Suspects were Charles Adams and Wes Brown.

October 9 - Wes Brown, arrested for the murder of William Street, was lynched by an angry mob.

November 7 - The Huntsville Telephone Exchange opened for business with about 35 annual subscribers.

November 12 - S.H. Barrett & Co., New United Monster Railroad Shows, Oriental Circus, Egyptian Menagerie and Universal Exposition of Living Wonders performed in Huntsville.



First Public School



Frank James

1884

February 20 – Notorious outlaw Frank James, brother of fellow outlaw Jesse James, arrived in Huntsville and was housed in the county jail. He was charged with being a participant in the Muscle Shoals bank robbery two or three years earlier.

March 23 - Patterson's New York Opera Company performed Johann Strauss's "The Queen's Lace Handkerchief" at the Huntsville Opera House.

March 26 - Reverend Henry Ward Beecher (father of Harriett Beecher Stowe) spoke at the Huntsville Opera House.

April 17 - The trial of Frank James began in the Huntsville Federal Courthouse (Calhoun Building). Local attorney Leroy Pope Walker defended him.

April 30 – The jury acquitted Frank James.

June 30 - \$25,000 dollars was subscribed by Huntsville citizens to build the Nashville & North Alabama Railroad. The subscribers included: James M. Hutchens, Oscar Hundley, W. F. Struve, C. H. and W. L. Halsey, J.J. Dement and J. B. Laughlin.

July 15 - A new water wheel was installed at the Big Spring. The water turbine was thirty-six inches in diameter, generating fifteen horsepower from a six foot fall.

August 8 - A game of baseball was played between the Huntsville McAllisters and the Fayetteville Red Stockings at the Fairgrounds. The Huntsville team won 20 to 19.

September 17 - J.H. Haverly's Comedy Company performed the play "Our Strategists" at the Huntsville Opera House.



Big Spring Water Turbine

October 7 - The Huntsville Fair and Races begins at the Fairgrounds. The Fair will last for five days.

1885

April 7 - Mayor Edmond Mastin defeated James M. Hutchens in his re-election campaign. He won by a majority of 95 votes.

June 4 - Commencement Exercises for the year ending 1884/85 were held at The Huntsville Female College.

August 29 - Charles Townsend (colored) was hanged for the December 10, 1884 murder of Nathan Freeman, a store keeper in Madison.

October 30 - The Grand English Opera Company performed the Gilbert & Sullivan opera "Mikado" at the Huntsville Opera House.



Reverend Henry Ward Beecher



Huntsville Federal Courthouse

1886

The Women's Christian Temperance Union organized in Huntsville.

The firm of G.W. Jones and Sons, Consulting Engineers was formed on Franklin Street.



G.W. Jones & Sons



Huntsville Brass Band

January 17 - The North Alabama Improvement Company was chartered with Michael J. O'Shaughnessy as President and John L. Rison as Secretary. The general purpose of the Company was the improvement and development of the material resources of North Alabama. The capital stock was to be \$50,000 dollars.

February 18 - Work began on the Monte Sano Hotel. The stockholders included: M. J. O' Shaughnessy, J. F. O' Shaughnessy, J. R. Stevens, John L. Rison, W. R. Rison, A. Campbell, J. W. Ford, W. P. Taylor, A. R. Jones, G. M. Harris, Henry McGee, Charles Halsey, William L. Halsey, W. P. Newman, Milton Humes, J.J. Dement, A. F. Murray, W. F. Struve, J. B. Laughlin, Ernest Dentler, A. W. McCullough, and Robert E. Coxe.

March 25 - \$40,000 was subscribed by several Huntsville businessmen in order to secure the Nashville & North Alabama Railroad running from Elora, Tennessee to Huntsville. Investors included Oscar Hundley, J.J. Dement, C.H. and W.L. Halsey, W. F. Struve, J. Van Valkenburg, James M. Hutchens, J. W. Murdock and A.A. Baker.

July 5 - A fund-raiser was held by the Huntsville Fire Company at the Fairgrounds. The Huntsville Brass Band performed and a baseball game was played between the band and the fire company. The Huntsville Fire Company raised \$42.

December 6 - Miss Florence J. Bradley, supported by a standard company, performed Bartley Campbell's striking comedy melodrama "A Heroine in Rags" at the Huntsville Opera House.



Monte Sano Hotel

1887

Huntsville's first public park was established at the Big Spring.

The construction on a new reservoir on Echols Hill to be installed to hold 60,000 gallons of water, to be 60 feet high at a cost of \$7,000.

Misses Hunt's Private school opened on Greene Street.

H.C. Blake Plumbing and Heating Company opened on South Side Square.

January 3 - James O'Shaughnessy purchased the Huntsville Hotel and added an annex with 65 rooms.



H.C. Blake Co.



Misses Hunt's School



T.T. Terry's

T.T. Terry's department store, "Great is the Power of Cash," opened on South Side Square.

May - The Huntsville Street Railway Co. signed a contract for the construction of a street car system linking the Railroad Depot to Maple Hill Cemetery.

May 26 - Work started on Huntsville's first electrical light plant. The contractor for the building was Mr. James M. Hutchens.

June 1 - The Monte Sano Hotel opened for business. S. E. Bates was the hotel manager.

June 2 - A ball marking the grand opening for the Monte Sano Hotel was held.

Mr. W.T. Hutchens along with partner John Montgomery founded the practical plumbing firm, Hutchens and Montgomery on Madison St. This business was the beginning of the Hutchens Company.

June 30 - The J. W. McAllister's baseball team defeated the Monte Sano Nines with a score of 18 to 2. The game was played on Monte Sano Mountain.

July 12 - The first electric lights in Huntsville were turned on. The local editor demanded that the city get rid of them, "The light is abominable." Four electric street lights had been installed around the Square.

August 24 - 300 soldiers arrived from Fort Barancas in Florida. They were encamped on Monte Sano because of a yellow fever epidemic at the Fort. They remained on the mountain until winter.

November 18 - Susie Chadwick drove a golden spike near the Huntsville Depot, marking the official opening of the Huntsville & Nashville Railroad.

November 20 - The roof and interior of St. Bartley's Primitive Baptist Church were destroyed by fire.

December 12 - Contractor James M. Hutchens submitted the lowest bid of \$1441.50 to rebuild St. Bartley's Church.



Hutchens and Murdock - West Holmes St.



Soldiers from Fort Barancas

1888

HUNTSVILLE HOTEL

Bar and Billiard Rooms

Davol & Hutchens, Prop'rs.

BEST OF

Liquors and Cigars.

New Billiard and Pool Tables.

The North Alabama Improvement Company purchased the East Huntsville Addition, now Five-Points.

February 1 - The Queen City Restaurant, featuring oysters, fish, and game, opened in the Dement Block on Jefferson Street.

February 10 - New concrete paving was laid in front of the Huntsville Hotel.

February 17 - The Mendelssohn Quintet Club of Boston performed at the Huntsville Opera House.

May 10 - The Huntsville Hotel re-opened for business. The "mosquito-free" hotel boasts 125 rooms, gas lights, elevator, electric bells, billiards, bar, bath rooms, and a steam laundry.

May 26 - State Commissioner of Agriculture Reuben F. Kolb spoke before a large crowd at the Courthouse.

July 6 - Work began on the Huntsville and Monte Sano Dummy and Beltline Railroad.

October 25 - Orville Hundley was appointed Chief Superintendent of Construction for the new Huntsville Federal Building.

December 15 - About forty laborers worked on the grounds of the new federal building using a dozen wagons to remove excavated earth.



Monte Sano Dummy and Beltline Railroad

1889

Monte Sano Dairy opened in East Huntsville on what was known as the Chapman Plantation.

February 20 - A Board of Trade, whose object was to promote trade, increase population, encourage new business enterprises, and solicit new manufacturers was formed with the following members: C. H. Halsey, Robert L. O'Neal, Oscar Goldsmith, J. R. Stevens and J. D. Humphrey.



Market House

April 2 - Col. Jere Murphy was elected Mayor of Huntsville by 425 votes over John Erwin in the city election. A. D. Rodgers, W. T. Hutchens, Charles Ware and Lucien Jones were elected as Aldermen.

April 8 - An ordinance was passed prohibiting any woman of a notoriously lewd character to ride horse back through the streets of Huntsville. A fine of not less than \$5 and not more than \$25 will be imposed on any woman breaking this law.

May 1 - Black singer Madam Selike appeared at the Huntsville Opera House.

June 8 - A design for a new Market House was approved by the City Board of Aldermen. The design was for a Romanesque two-story building of red brick with buff and stone trimmings and a 75-foot bell tower.

The mayor and city council were appointed to receive contributions from the citizens of Huntsville for the sufferers of the Johnstown flood.

Professor W.H. Council of Normal organized a class for teachers desiring instruction during the summer.

June 19 - The Huntsville and Monte Sano Dummy and Beltline Railroad was expected to be finished by the time the Monte Sano Hotel opened for business on June 25.

June 28 - The Alabama Press Association Convention was held in Huntsville at the Huntsville Opera House.

Fresh cool lager beer was always on tap in the city at the saloon of W.F. Struve.

August 17 - Work began on the Cincinnati, Alabama & Atlantic Railroad. Trains are expected to be running from Huntsville to Tullahoma, Tennessee by March 1, 1890.

October 15 - The Huntsville Fair and races continued for five days.

1890 - 1899

The Queen City of the South

Compiled by Thomas Hutchens and Raneé Pruitt

As the residents of Huntsville looked ahead to a new century, the 1890s were a time to reflect and rebuild. The Civil War was a memory and the Spanish-American War of 1898 was entirely different. For the first time, men of the North and the South came together to fight, side-by-side. It looked as if old wounds might finally heal. Veterans of the Spanish-American War came to Huntsville to recover, and their impact on the small town was enormous. Huntsville also produced a very famous cow in the 1890s, the Monte Sano Hotel was known all over the world, and the cotton mills were coming in. Progressive people with a forward thinking mindset put Huntsville, Alabama into a new and exciting category.



Spring City Cycle Club

1890

The Ice House located at the corner of Canal and Gallatin Streets burned.

Mrs. Jessie Moss founded the Huntsville Wholesale Nurseries which was, at that time, the largest wholesale nursery in the United States.



Mrs. Jessie Moss



Ice House

January 17 - The Grand Army of the Republic (Huntsville Post) installed the following Union veterans as officers in the Command's Hall: Commander James H. Bone; Sr. Vice Commander W. C. Wells; Jr. Vice Commander J.M. Ammerman; Officer of the Day John Mayor; Officer of the Guard H. Haner; Grand Master J. W. Williams. The newspaper commented that "the order is now in a flourishing condition, which we are glad to say."

Hall's Commercial School, located at the corner of Franklin and Gates Streets, will be open for the Spring term.

Alabama Nursery Company was incorporated by the Chase Brothers. The brothers purchased four and a half acres (known as the Judge Betts Place) which was located two and a half miles from Huntsville.



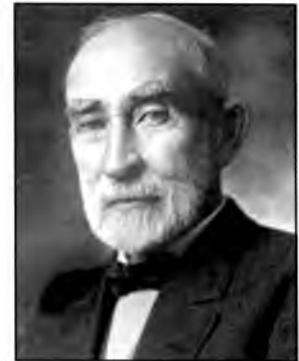
Lewis Chase

The City Council ordered a new foot bridge over the Spring Branch in the Spring Park. Alderman Fletcher was instructed to see that it was built according to requirements.

January 24 - Construction of the turnpike, one of the most important roads leading into and out of Huntsville, would begin soon.

The United States Government Building (Post Office and Federal Courthouse) was completed on Eustis Street.

April 11 - The newspaper reported that the loss of Col. J. F. O'Shaughnessy's house on Monte Sano, by fire, was "an artistic loss to the South. There is not another such home in the Southern States."



Ethan Chase

April 25 - "The Eighth Wonder of the World" Shelta Cave - Lake Como was opened in the center of the cavern (under Huntsville). This cavern has been lit with electricity and will have an orchestra for guests to dance. Boats float around the raised dance platform and the vaulted roof, accented by grand stalagmites, covers eleven acres.



Big Spring Foot Bridge



United States Government Building

1891

February 6 - Captain Frank Gurley, a well-known veteran of the Confederacy, was building a railroad from Huntsville to Gurley.

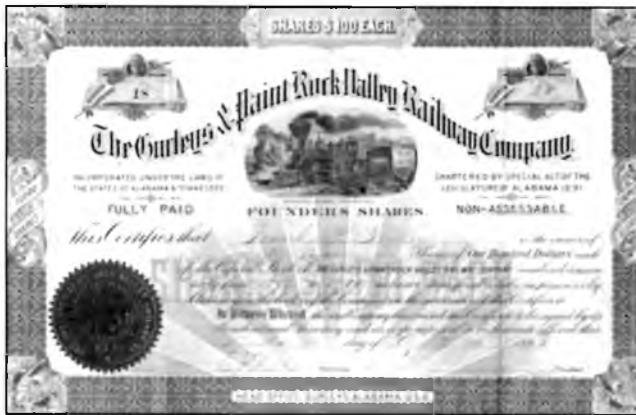
March 18 - The Mayor and Aldermen passed an ordinance giving Dallas Mill 500,000 gallons of water per day for the next ten years.

April 20 - Ground was broken for the construction of Dallas Mills in East Huntsville. The architects hired for the project were Lockwood Green and Company of Boston.

April 24 - Residents of Huntsville were saddened by the death of former Alabama Governor Reuben Chapman, who died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Milton Humes.



O'Shaughnessy Home on Monte Sano



Stock Certificate for the Gurleys & Paint Rock Valley Railway Company

A floral festival for the benefit of the proposed Orphan's Home in East Huntsville was held at the Calhoun Building.

1892

Phone service comes to Huntsville; the phone book has 32 subscribers.

Free mail delivery arrived in Huntsville.

January 6 - D.C. Monroe had the neatest bathrooms in the city, and he accommodated his customers with hot and cold baths on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

January 29 - Alderman Hutchens, chairman of the Waterworks Committee, ordered new fire plugs to be installed.

February 5 - Bicyclists were ordered to keep off the sidewalks by the City Council.

February 26 - The first church to be built on Monte Sano was an Episcopal Church, which would hopefully be ready for worship that summer.



D.C. Monroe

Monte Sano Railway is now taking passengers up to the mountain, with two round trips on Sundays.

April 1 - The contract for painting and decorating the Church of Nativity was awarded to Mr. R. J. Fraser, a house painter of the old school who used nothing but the best materials.

The Spring City Cycle Club was formed and rented rooms in the Schaudies Building at the corner of Madison Street and the Square.

Advertisement for the Monte Sano Railway



June 2 - Crowds visited the Monte Sano Dairy to see the famous Jersey milk cow, Lily Flagg, who broke the World's record for butter production at 1,047 pounds, 6 ¾ ounces - 19 pounds ahead of the previous record.

July 7 - Professor Frank Puryear and Professor John E. Wiatt of Virginia, announced they will open the Huntsville Male Academy on the grounds of Russel Hill, formerly used by the Alabama Military Academy.

July 21 - The high brick fence around the Calhoun block was removed and the public could enjoy the shady grove. "This beautiful property ought to be owned by the city for a park," according to a comment in the newspaper. (This property is now a concreted parking lot.)



Lily Flagg

August 4 - The City Council voted to extend Washington Street north to the Huntsville Depot.

August 24 - The Spoke and Handle Factory was established beside the NC & St L Railway near the Spring Branch.



Spoke and Handle Factory

September 15 - George Miller was awarded the contract to build a new marble yard for Mr. Hummell and Mr. Zschaka, at the corner of Greene and Randolph Streets.

September 22 - A crowd of 3000 people assembled at the Calhoun Grove in East Huntsville for the annual meeting of the Colored Baptist Association. The meeting was attended by people from surrounding Alabama and Tennessee counties.

October 6 - The City Council discussed linking east and west Huntsville by a streetcar line.

Felix Sibley, the new sexton at Maple Hill Cemetery, was recognized for his many improvements to the cemetery.

October 13 - C.H. and W.L. Halsey received a train car load of Schlitz's extra pale, blue ribbon beer. "This is unquestionably the finest beer ever offered in Huntsville."

Very little reservoir water reached Williams Street. Dr. Lowry dug a well through 84 feet of solid limestone and found water with a high sulphur content. It would be good for medicinal purposes, but not for drinking.

November 3 - An ordinance was passed making it unlawful to hang swinging signs within the city limits.

November 10 - Fifteen families of cotton workers lived in cottages built for them in Lawrence, a new 110-dwelling Huntsville suburb.



Dallas Mill

The new streetcar line was extended to Calhoun Grove, a grand place for picnics.

November 16 - Dallas Mill began operation with 25,000 spindles and 750 broad looms. The mill made the widest cotton sheeting made in America. This sheeting will be shipped to China.

December 15 - J. N. Mazza announced a new supply of seedless raisins, French candies, prime shelled pecans, and almonds in time for Christmas baking.

December 18 - Sheriff Powell had over 70 prisoners to feed for Christmas. They would feast on roast beef and plum pudding.

December 22 - Over \$3,000 worth of the Monte Sano Dairy herd has been sold to a Massachusetts investor. He also bought "Little Goldie" a granddaughter of Signel's Lily Flagg for \$1,500.



Rabbi A. M. Block, minister of the Hebrew Congregation, offered to teach French and German in his home on Madison Street.

1893

March 9 - The ornamented N.C. & St. L Depot on West Clinton Street was getting its finishing touches.

March 23 - The second Methodist Church building on Church Street was expected to be finished in about six weeks. Reverend Frank Brandon will be the pastor.

May 18 - The Colored Baptist had a baptizing at the Big Spring Branch on Sunday. Many new members were baptized by immersion. Reverend Mr. Gaston officiated.



Colored Baptist Baptizing at the Big Spring

The board of aldermen elected Samuel Butler of New Hope as principal of the city schools. His father once represented the county in the state legislature.

June 1 - The *New York Sun* reported there are several ladies in Chicago who earn their salt. Among them: Jersey cow Lily Flagg of Huntsville, Alabama, Sweet Ada, Eurotissima, and Rita. Lily Flagg had a suite of attendants and was milked by a gentleman in creased trousers who wore diamonds. When she was lying down, no one was permitted to disturb her.

June 8 - The Hotel Monte Sano, a popular summer resort, remained closed this summer. The Monte Sano Railway management found it impossible to operate their train during this season.

In time for girls' graduation - gifts, silver souvenir teaspoons with engravings of the Big Spring, the Courthouse, views on Monte Sano, and the Huntsville Female College were for sale by Murray and Smith.

Moonlight excursions to the ancient ford, known in the early days as Ditto's Landing, became popular.

July 1 - The Egbert J. Jones Camp of Confederate Veterans was formed at a meeting at the courthouse. The camp was named for the first Huntsville casualty of the Civil War.

July 6 - Zenie Pruitt, the famed colored artist of the kitchen, left for Chicago where she will take charge of the cooking for a party of Southern people during their visit to the World's Fair.

July 20 - Pilot Sharp, as captain of the steamer *City of Huntsville*, will steer visitors safely through the waters of the Tennessee River,



Governor Reuben Chapman

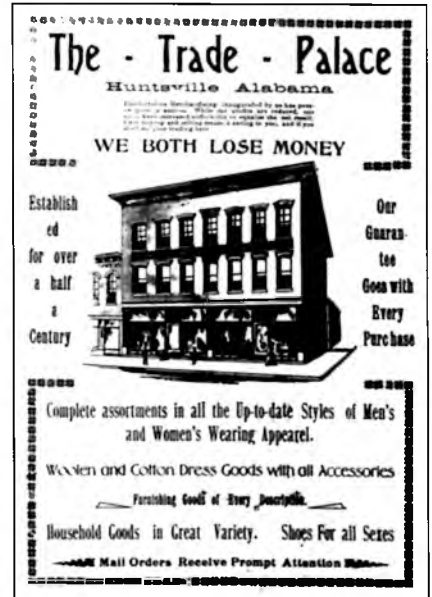
Mr. George I. Motz was appointed as a judge in the horticultural department of the Chicago World's Fair.

August 17 - A painting of ex-Governor Reuben Chapman was sent to the Supreme Court gallery of portraits of ex-Governors. Ellelee Chapman Humes sent the portrait of her father as a gift to the State of Alabama.

September 14 - The front of Herstein and Lowenthal's Store on North Side of the Square has a new sign and name: "The Trade Palace."

October 5 - Huntsville printed its first city directory since 1859.

October 19 - An effort was made to recruit a new military company commanded by Captain J. H. Sheffey. They would be known as the Riflemen.



The newspaper announced that because of the large number of tramps and vagrants in town, it was important to fasten back doors and turn dogs loose at night.

December 7 - A report from the school committee stated that there are over 600 children of both races enrolled in the free schools of Huntsville.

1894

Miss Mary Clay gave a Mother Goose cotillion at her home on Eustis Street.

February 8 - The carved fixtures with emerald cathedral glass, at Mr. Struve's saloon, were made by Huntsville resident Charles Hutchens.



Mrs. Mary Clay's Mother Goose Cotillion

April 12 - A reception for Miss Helen Keller was held at the Opera House on Jefferson Street to benefit the education of Little Tommy, a blind orphan boy whom Miss Keller has taken under her guidance. She was accompanied by Miss Sullivan and Mrs. Hopkins (her sister), as well as her mother, Mrs. A. H. Keller. They were the guests of Captain and Mrs. D. H. Turner of Franklin Street.

May 24 - Contractor Hutchens began the repair work on the burned portion of the Baker block on Washington Street.

June 7 - The 19th Commencement of the State Normal and Industrial School was the finest affair in the history of the institution. Eighteen graduates received diplomas.

1895

The City Hospital opened on Mill Street.

January 2 - The West Huntsville Land Company sold residential lots.

January 23 - The Sprague house opposite McGee's Hotel was sold to General S. H. Moore and will be moved to Adams Avenue. The building was moved from the Mercury Block in 1850 and was an old house then.

January 30 - City Hall was crowded with visitors who came to hear Miss Susan B. Anthony and Mrs. Chapman Catt discuss the question of "Women's Suffrage." A dinner party was given in their honor at the home of Captain Milton Humes (Abingdon Place) on Meridian Pike. The ladies, accompanied by Huntsville resident Mrs. Albert Taylor, left early the next morning, by train, for Atlanta, where the 27th Annual Convention of the Women's Suffrage convened.



Abingdon Place

The Whitesburg and Meridianville tollgates were opened. The roadways were purchased by the county and became public property.

February 6 - The new Clinton Street bridge over Pin Hook Creek was completed yesterday afternoon. The piling and stone work was done by Hummell and Zschaabe and Company.

February 8 - Miss Gertrude Williams's new Public School house opened. It was located on the Bishop's Place.

The Monte Sano Railway Company has forfeited its right of way through the streets of the city. They are obligated to remove the tracks.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Hughes was stricken with scarlet fever. The incident was promptly reported, and a yellow flag was displayed as a warning to potential visitors.



**Southern Building
And Loan**

February 27 - A Library Social was held at the Huntsville Hotel for young people. They dressed in costumes representing literary characters, and the audience guessed at the author. Proceeds from the event went to the Public Library.

The newspaper reported that Sam Darwin brought in a sample of fine turnips, each large enough to make a meal for ten people.

March 13 - The Public Library has been moved to the Gordon Building over Humes, Sheffey and Speake's Law Offices.

The increase in the number of telephones in use in Huntsville was impressive. Manager Moore ordered another hundred wire switchboard.

New plans and specifications for the Southern Building and Loan Association have been unveiled. The stone front on the square will arch over the vestibuled entrance, and the large window opening into the President's office will be in front.

The doors of the new First Baptist Church were opened at 10:30 Sunday. One-thousand people filled the sanctuary when the choir sang the doxology.



First Baptist Church

April 3 - By refusing to allow the Monte Sano Hotel to open this season, the Chancery Court administered a blow to Huntsville that will be felt for years to come.

April 17 - The Huntsville Musical Literary Club was organized at the home of Miss Louise Coxe of Franklin Street.

An ordinance was passed by the City Council preventing cows from running at large on the streets.

April 24 - Dr. A.B. Jones has decided not to rebuild the Huntsville Female College, which was destroyed by fire in early January. The college was operated under the care and guidance of the Methodist Conference.

May 1 - Huntsville residents now enjoy another brand of beer - William Gerst Beer from Nashville Tennessee. Mr. Hewlett had a cold storage room able to keep both keg and bottled beer.



William Gerst Brewing Company

May 20 - Dr. A.B. Jones, owner of the burned Huntsville Female College, left town for a position at a new college in Gadsden. The magnificent Belleview Hotel became the Jones College for Young Ladies.

June 5 - The ladies of the United Charities met the Mayor and City Council to discuss the possibility for a city hospital.

June 10 - The United Charities ladies were collecting funds for a new infirmary building to be erected as a charity hospital.

June 26 - Dr. J. H. Bryson, second vice-president of the Scotch Irish Society of America, delivered an address on "Scotch Irish of King's Mountain" at it Conference at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

July 3 - Jake and Abe Herstein decided to move to Houston, Texas to open a dry goods business under the name of Herstein Brothers. Both men were born and raised in Huntsville and were sons of the late Robert Herstein, who began his business career in Huntsville forty years ago.

July 17 - Mr. J. J. Venable, formerly the Steward of the Maxwell House in Nashville, started a catering business in Huntsville.

The Ladies of the Infirmary announced that the house was now ready to receive patients.

August 21 - Dr. Hawkins D. Westmoreland announced plans to leave Athens and relocate his practice in Huntsville.

September 4 - An organizational meeting of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was held at the Huntsville Hotel. Ladies were asked to bring a relic of the late war for an exhibit in Atlanta.

September 25 - The first bloomer girl appeared on the streets of the city. She rode a bicycle and wore a regular bloomer costume with cap and leggings. She was not a Huntsville girl, but seemed to be some tourist.

1896

January 29 - "The Girl Who Doesn't Count" was the subject of an article which appeared in this month's "Sunbeam," a magazine published at Bath, Maine. The article was written by Miss Aline Carter of 431 Randolph Street, and awarded the \$5 prize for the best article for its women's department.

A company was formed to manufacture and sell the Gold Bug Sound Money Button, designed and patented by J. M. Claybrooke. The company was incorporated with a capital stock of \$10,000 and the following officers: W. T. Hutchens, President; J. M. Claybrooke, secretary; D. C. Monroe, treasurer. Directors have also been named: A. J. Murdock, J. W. Conway, D. C. Monroe, W. T. Hutchens and J. M. Claybrooke.

February 5 - The Literary Club met at the home of Mrs. Richard Walker the previous Saturday. Miss Mary Ann Cruse gave her opinion of the "Art of the Old World."

February 25 - Reverend Dr. Joseph Krauskopf of Philadelphia lectured at the Baptist Church. The subject was "Only a Jew." Dr. Krauskopf is a believer in the unification of all creeds.



Dr. Hawkins D. Westmoreland

March 14 - About 200 people attended a meeting at the Opera House to discuss the health and needs of Huntsville's poor people. Mrs. W. R. Rison was chosen Chairman and Mr. Ben P. Hunt was chosen Secretary.

April 1 - It was announced that 76-year-old J. Withers Clay, editor of the Huntsville *Democrat* died at his home on Maiden Lane early Sunday morning. His death was caused by a stroke of paralysis.

May 5 - Discussion of a omnibus license tax on various occupations and professions stirred up much controversy. It was suggested that the tax would deliver to Huntsville and its prosperity a financial blow which would take years to recover from.

July 8 - Palmer Hall, the chapel of the Colored State Normal and Industrial School at Normal, burned to the ground.

The mass meeting which was called for the purpose of discussing a new charter for the City of Huntsville took place at the county courthouse. Mr. J. H. Lyle was named Chairman and Mr. O. Goldsmith, Secretary.



J. Withers Clay



W.T. Hutchens makes the first long distance call from Huntsville

July 28 - People in the parlors of Huntsville Hotel celebrated the opening of the long distance lines of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company. Mayor W. T. Hutchens was the first person to use the service - speaking with Mr. D. I. Carson, General Superintendent of the Southern Bell Telephone Company in New York. The first words spoken by the Mayor were: "Who is that? This is Huntsville, Alabama. The city of Huntsville, her people, send greetings to New York, hoping that the long distance telephone may be of both pleasure and profit to her people and increase our already pleasant business relations with the great eastern metropolis."

September 9 - Oscar R. Hundley, Democratic State Senator from the 1st district, was nominated by the eighth district Republican Convention as their candidate for Congress.

The Gold Bug Manufacturing Company of Huntsville, manufacturers and patentees of the Gold Bug Sound Money Campaign Button, entered suit for \$5,000 against the Whitehead, Hogue Company of New Jersey for infringing on its patent.

The newly restored Palmer Hall Chapel was dedicated at Normal on Sunday.

November 4 - Joe Wheeler defeated Oscar Hundley by over 4,000 votes in the race for the eighth district United States Representative.

November 16 - Oakwood Industrial School opened its doors with sixteen students. The school contains 380 acres, 65 oak trees with 4 buildings including the old mansion house (Mr. Irwin's farm) and nine slave huts.

December 8 - Pastors met at the Huntsville Hotel to organize the "Ministerial Association of Huntsville." Dr. J. M. Bannister was named Chairman and Rev. J. R. Crawford was named Secretary.



The Old Mansion - Oakwood Industrial School



Mayor Jere Murphy

1897

The Court of County Commissioners purchased, at public sale, two large lots on the Spring Branch to build a new fire-proof jail to be constructed at a cost of \$30,000.

April 6 - In spite of the bad weather, the fourth annual Congress of Negroes at Normal was attended by representatives from nearly every county of Middle Tennessee and North Alabama.

April 14 - Jere Murphy was sworn in as the new Mayor of Huntsville. The outgoing Mayor was W. T. Hutchens. The Aldermen included Thomas W. Smith, John W. McAllister, Alfred Moore, Dr. B. E. Scruggs, Luke Matthews, Dan S. Brandon, J. D. Humphrey and R. L. O'Neal.

May 4 - The Court of County Commissioners held a special meeting to adopt the plans of architect H. P. McDonald of Louisville for a three-story stone and brick jail to cost about \$25,000 dollars.

June 2 - The long distance telephone line was extended to the Hotel Monte Sano Friday morning. This places the mountain resort in communications with all the principal cities of the north, east, and south.

"The Monte Sano Light Guards" was the name of the military company mustered into service and organized last week. Col. W. F. Garth, a member of Gov. Johnston's staff, mustered the boys in and administered the oaths. Dr. R. M. Fletcher was elected Captain.

June 8 - The graduation exercises for the public schools began at 9 o'clock with selections from the life and works of Robert Burns. The graduating class consisted of only two young ladies, Miss Lucy Jones and Miss Florence Jones.

June 16 - The front doors of the Hotel Monte Sano were opened to guests for the season.



Inside the Hotel Monte Sano

There were rumors regarding a mob on the way from Decatur to lynch the Negro rapists, Thompson and Nevill. The Monte Sano Light Guards under the command of Captain Fletcher were ordered to report at the Huntsville Jail Thursday afternoon.

July 2 - The grand Opening Ball was held for the Monte Sano Hotel.

September 14 - Thirty-nine pupils enrolled at the opening of Professor Bradshaw's Seminary.

November - Thanksgiving services at the churches were well attended despite the fact that the usual businesses of the day continued without interruption. The usual number of cotton wagons and farmers came to town.

1898

Alabama Nursery Company (Chase Brothers) shipped a train carload of stock every day to the north.

January 27 - W. T. Hutchens was appointed Postmaster for Huntsville.



W.T. Hutchens

February 8 - The Village Improvement Society met to discuss improvements to the city cemetery. The Society will work with the United Daughters of the Confederacy to improve the general appearance of the cemetery.

March 8 - Postmaster Joseph McGehee turned the keys of the post office over to his successor, Mr. W. T. Hutchens.

April 27 - The war fever ran high in Huntsville yesterday. Sixty-five young men enlisted to serve the United States in the war with Spain. A meeting was held in the courthouse at noon, and a great deal of enthusiasm was exhibited. Twenty-three volunteers were secured without trouble. Captain R. M. Fletcher presided over the meeting, and speeches were made by Captain Daniel Coleman, Judge Richardson, Jas. H. Branch and the chairman of the County Commission.

May 25 - Lieutenant Estes of the 20th Infantry established a recruiting headquarters in the office of the United States District Attorney on the first floor of the Federal Building. All healthy, unmarried white men between the ages of 18 and 35 who desire to enlist in the regular United States Army were invited to apply.

Lieutenant R. Searcy Dement who came to Huntsville to recruit thirty good men for the ranks of Company "F" returned last night to Camp Clark with a number of recruits. Ten young men enlisted from Huntsville, ten from Cullman and a number from various points in Madison County.

Conrad O'Shaughnessy, secretary of the Alabama Cotton Oil Company, was horribly mangled Friday by a freight train at the Southern Railway passenger depot. Both legs were entirely severed by the wheels and both arms badly mutilated. The injured man died an half hour later while being taken to the infirmary.

June 14 - The Chamber of Commerce and several prominent businessmen offered to establish a military camp in or near Huntsville. R. E. Pettus, president of the Chamber of Commerce, wired the Secretary of War as follows, "The City of Huntsville, Alabama has high altitude, fine water, immunity from contagion, a mountain 1,800 feet above the sea with abundance of ground for any amount of troops. We offer this as a rendezvous for troops if Yellow Fever starts. They can be quickly transported from here to Atlantic or Gulf Ports."

July 6 - Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Cleary was ordered to come and report upon the suitability of establishing a military camp near here. He was expected to arrive within the next two or three days.

Professor Perringer, formerly a music dealer and teacher of Texas, has associated himself with D. C. Monroe in the music business. Their company will be Monroe and Perringer, Music Dealers.



Monroe and Perringer



**Major General John Joseph Coppinger
seated in the center**

July 27 - The Huntsville Nine baseball team defeated the Sewanee team 7 to 6 in one of the most exciting games played upon the local diamond.

August 17 - There was no longer any doubt now that Huntsville would be the location of one or more military camps. The following regiments were ordered to move to Huntsville at once and establish camp: 1st Florida, 2nd Georgia, 5th Maryland, 3rd Pennsylvania, 157th Indiana, 1st Ohio, 2nd New York, 32nd Michigan, 69th New York, and 3rd Ohio. Major General John J. Coppinger named the military encampment here "Camp Wheeler," in honor of Major General Joseph Wheeler.

August 24 - It was predicted that Huntsville will soon have the largest military camp in the South. The Third Corps was ordered here. The 1st Ohio Voluntary Cavalry arrived from their Florida Camp.



The 10th Cavalry

Major General Coppinger reviewed the troops of Camp Wheeler from the South Side of the Public Square, in preparation for the visit of Secretary of War Alger.

September 28 - Thousands of citizens of Huntsville and Madison County assembled on the Public Square last Friday to witness the review of the 4th Army Corps by Secretary Alger of the War Department.

The 10th Infantry, consisting of 265 Regulars, arrived here last Wednesday and occupied the camp vacated by the 3rd Pennsylvania in East Huntsville. They were under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Smith and were in the battles of El Chaney and Santiago.

October 5 - Major General Joseph Wheeler came to Huntsville to organize and take command of six cavalry regiments for the Cuban service.

October 18 - The 10th Cavalry arrived from Montauk Point, and within an hour some of its men were involved in a skirmish with the Provost Guard, made up of companies L and M, of the 16th Infantry. One provost guardsman was killed and two seriously wounded. The 10th Cavalry suffered two fatalities and one seriously wounded. All had been shot.



General Joe Wheeler presented a horse by citizens of Huntsville

December 1 - The newspaper reported that Major General Joseph Wheeler was honored by the citizens of Huntsville, who presented him with a magnificent steed. Captain Humes made the presentation speech attended by 10,000 cheering people who came to pay homage to the hero of two wars.

Robert James, a son of Frank James the noted reformed bandit, was a private in Troop G, 2nd Cavalry which was here as General Coppinger's body guard. He was here several years ago when his father was confined in the Madison County jail.

September - Governor S. F. Black of New York paid the camp of the 69th New York Infantry a brief visit to see how the men of the regiment are getting along.

September 21 - The 10th Cavalry, a colored regiment, was ordered to Huntsville from Montauk Point, New York.



Troops marching around the courthouse

Major General Joseph Wheeler commanded the Fourth Cavalry Corps.

October 26 - Before leaving for Philadelphia, Major General Wheeler had the name of Camp Wheeler changed to "Camp Albert G. Forse" in memory of Captain Forse who lost his life in the cavalry charge at San Juan Hill.

November 2 - The 2nd Cavalry Band composed of 23 men under the leadership of Professor J. H. Scully gave an open air concert in the courthouse yard last night.

November 9 - The 10th Cavalry Band on Thursday afternoon gave an open air concert in the courthouse yard. The music was excellent, and the upbeat popular songs were much appreciated by the audience.

December 21 - The Camp Forse Ball at the Twickenham Club was a delightful social diversion last Thursday evening. The 2nd Cavalry Band played music for the young ladies in full evening dress who danced with their brass-buttoned and shoulder-strapped beaux.

December 29 - The social feature of the Christmas holidays was the brilliant German (dance) given at the Twickenham Club last Friday evening. The rooms were beautifully decked in the Holiday greens for the occasion, and the 1st Infantry Band played beautifully.

1899

January 17 - Due to a series of accidents at the electric plant, every light, arc, and incandescent bulb was out, leaving Huntsville in total darkness.



Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shops at Alabama A&M



Inside the Blacksmith Shop at Alabama A&M

January 27 - The annual meeting of the Huntsville Public Library Association was held. The officers elected include: Paul Speake, president; Miss Vogel, vice-president; Miss Davis, secretary-treasurer; Miss Faris, librarian; and the directors, Miss Mastin, Miss Ryan, Dr. Brouillete, Mrs. Connor and Mr. Thomas Jones.

January 28 - The large building at the A&M College, Normal, Alabama, containing the departments of the carpentry, shoe-making, blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, painting, and the broom and mattress factory, was completely destroyed by fire. On the same day, 15 faculty members came together and agreed to erect a 100 x 40 foot brick industrial building, and present it to the school.

January 28 - The 69th New York Volunteers left Huntsville to return to New York.

The 10th Cavalry left for Fort Clark, Texas, located about 150 miles west of San Antonio to protect the Mexican border. The 10th and its gallant officers made a good impression upon our citizens while stationed here.

February 1 - The newspaper reported that on the previous Wednesday afternoon, the 10th Cavalry Band played, at the guard mount, "The San Juan Trooper's Schottische" composed by Miss Elodie Clay and dedicated to the gallant officers of this regiment. Professor George F. Tyrrell, the talented leader of the band, arranged the piece for his band in a few hours, and the musicians played it after only a few rehearsals.

February 8 - Work on the improvements at the Spring Park were suspended due to rain. Although the walls of the main reservoir and the dam were complete, the sluice gates had been kept open and the water allowed to flow through them. A few days earlier, Col. Chittenden had the gates closed, forcing the water to flow over the dam, to see how it would eventually look.

February 21 - The Merrimack Manufacturing Company of Lowell, Massachusetts will erect a cotton mill, here, which will be three times larger than any other in the South. They plan to employ 5,000 people.

March 7 - The Andrews Opera Company performed "Cavaleria Rusticana" and "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Huntsville Opera House.



Spring City Furniture Factory

The Spring City Furniture Factory in West Huntsville was destroyed by fire early Sunday morning causing \$25,000 to \$30,000 in damage. An attempt had been made to burn the building ten days earlier, and the company had received a note warning them that it would be attempted again.

April 18 - The pews of the Church of the Nativity were rented on Monday April 17 at 12:00. The assessment on pews ranged from \$15.00 to \$60.00. Twenty pews would be free for the use of visitors.

July 4 - The Independence Day celebration featured the Chattanooga Brass Band, the Nashville Band, and Huntsville's own Pratt's Military Band. The bands marched in the parade and gave concerts throughout the day. The celebration ended with a fireworks display.

August 23 - The city council passed an ordinance to make it unlawful for any female to enter any saloon, pool, or billiard room. This also would prevent lewd women from riding bicycles or on horseback within three blocks of the public square.

August 30 - It was announced that the new buildings for the pumps and engines of the city water works were completed and would soon be ready for installation.

September 13 - The city will employ three regular firemen, who will always be on hand to operate the engine; in addition, twelve volunteers will be furnished with rooms at the market house for their services at fires. Chief Orzo Stegall hoped to make the company one of the most efficient in the state.



Pratt's Military Band

September 13 - Captain J. M. Falkner, Judge Price Williams and H.L. McKee have been named as Alabama delegates to the Industrial Convention by Governor Joseph Johnson. Professor Booker T. Washington planned to attend as well, hoping to help both races and promote good feelings.



Booker T. Washington

October 6 - Mayor Alfred Moore urged the citizens of Huntsville to help clean up the city.

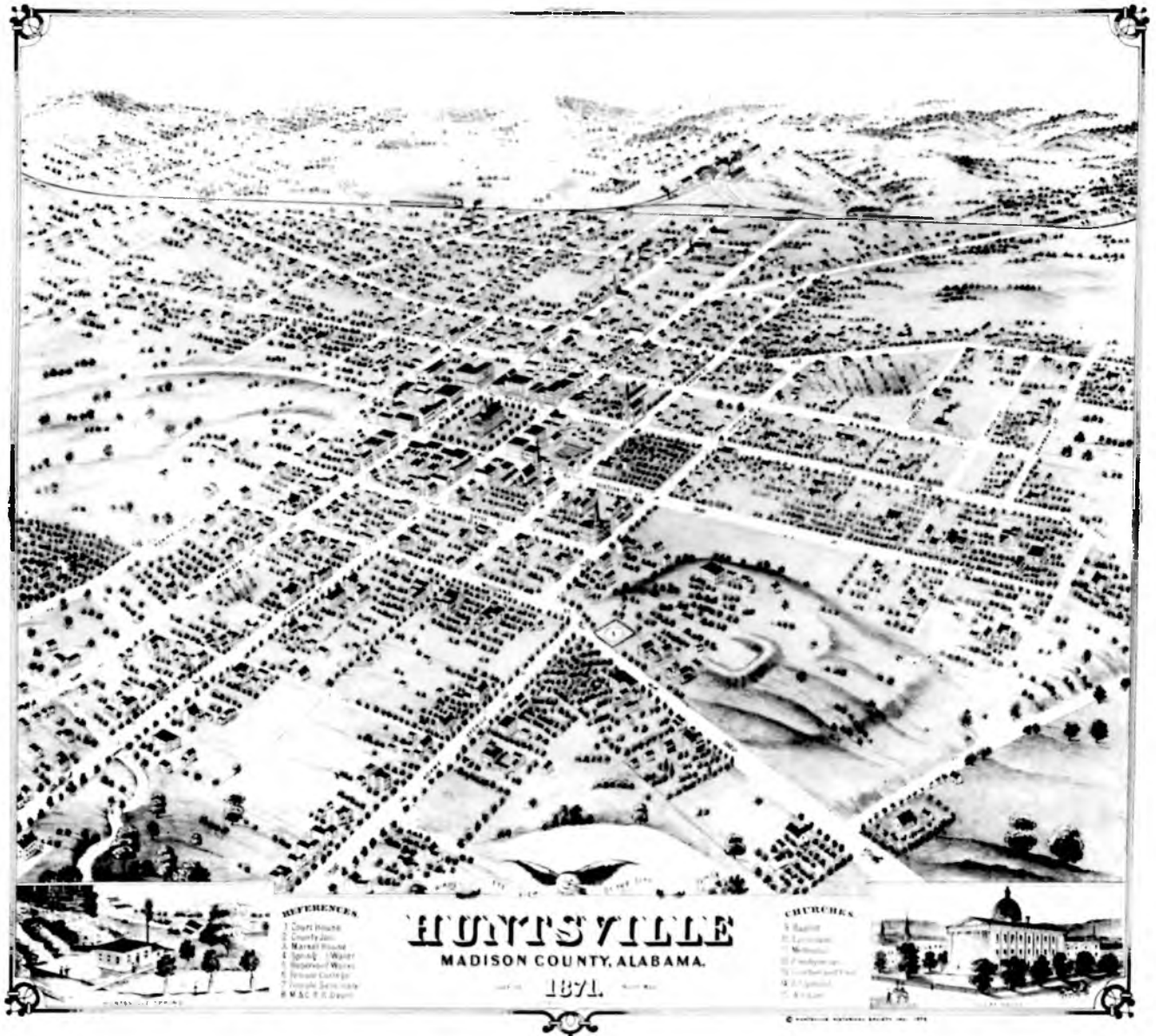
October 12 - Booker T. Washington and W. H. Council gave speeches at the Southern Industrial Convention. The topic of both of their speeches was the racial problem of the South and how it affects the industrial progress and future of the South.

December 13 - Friends of distinguished authoress Maria Howard Weeden planned to read from her works printed in the Birmingham News. This included "Bandana Ballads" which contains the author's own poems as well as her matchless pen and ink drawings of the Negro child, "Nanny" and "Uncle." They will read an introduction by Joel Chandler Harris, a great portrait painter of the Southern Negro.



**A Child's Eyes
By Howard Weeden**

Favorites from the Archives



In February 1972 this lithograph of an 1871 map of Huntsville was returned after the map was discovered in Washington, DC. The map shows the remains of the Union Army's fortifications on Echols Hill.



Arnold (Rankin) Sneed, a senior at Butler High School, meets President John F. Kennedy on May 18, 1963 when the President was visiting Redstone Arsenal to meet with Dr. Von Braun about the Space Program.



The third Madison County Courthouse, built in 1914, was cited by the Historic American Buildings Survey Committee as, “possessing exceptional historic and architectural interest and as being worthy of most careful preservation.”



Old timers watch as the courthouse is being demolished in the fall of 1964. The weathervane atop the dome was moved to what is now Regions Bank. Some of the 20 Doric columns mark the entrance to Huntsville Botanical Gardens.



Brigadier-General Ormsby McKnight Mitchel with his Ohio Regiment was on a mission to capture and secure Huntsville. On the morning of April 11, 1862, the first occupation of Huntsville began. The Regiment captured 200 prisoners, 15 locomotives, and the telegraph office at the Memphis & Charleston Railroad Station.



Captain John J. Ward, a former mayor of Huntsville, began raising the only artillery battery from Huntsville in the spring of 1862. It was known as Ward's Battery. Ward's Battery was first sent to the defenses of Mobile and then took part in the Atlanta Campaign. Captain Ward was mortally wounded in July, 1863.



These photographs were taken in late March, 1864 when the 4th Minnesota Infantry Regiment occupied Huntsville.

Their camp can be seen in the background in the top picture. In the upper left is the rear of what is now Regions Bank.

The old Indian Creek Canal is shown below beginning its journey to the Tennessee River at Triana. The foot bridge in the lower right of the upper picture is that same one as the lower left of the bottom picture.

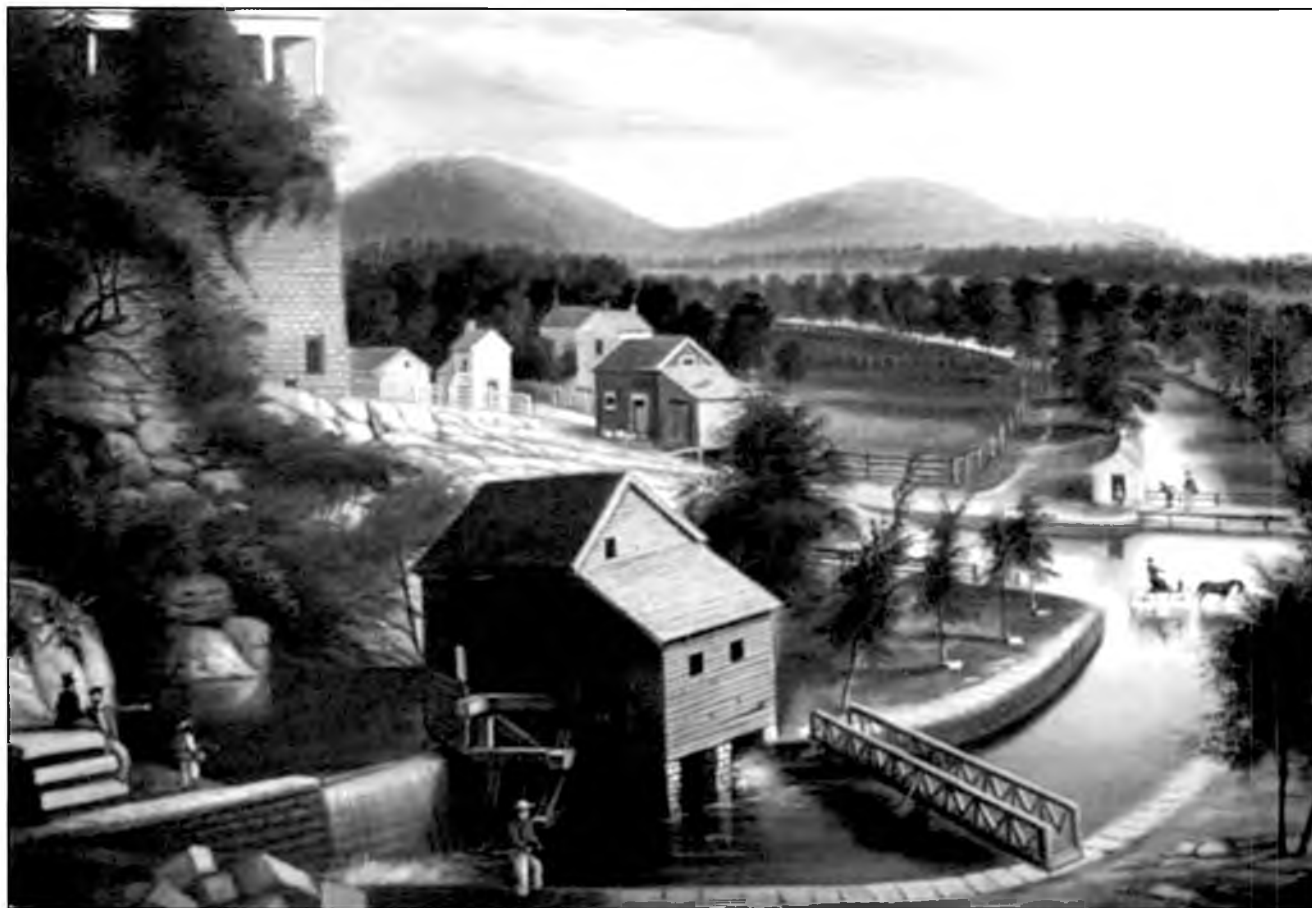




The picture above is a 1922 dance that was held at the Twickenham Hotel to raise money to buy books for the Library.

Below is the Ford dealership located on Washington Street.





William Frye, a German immigrant from Bavaria, was a popular traveling portrait painter throughout the South. Frye once gave instruction to Huntsville's artist and poet, Maria Howard Weeden. His landscape painting of the Big Spring was painted in the 1850's. A portion of the old bank, now Regions Bank, can be seen above the bluff on the left.



Harvie P. Jones, architect who formed the partnership of Jones and Herrin Architects, is seen above at the old Memphis & Charleston Railroad Depot which he was instrumental in saving from destruction. Jones was best known for his restoration work on historic houses and buildings throughout Alabama.

Dr. Wernher von Braun and his son, Peter, wave American flags on July 25, 1969 at a celebration on the Courthouse Square in Huntsville after the successful return of the Apollo 11 crew that landed on the moon.





Above, the spinners take a break at Merrimack Mill in 1930.

Below are some of the doffers and spinners from Dallas Mill in 1913.





The 1958 picture above is looking south toward the Big Spring Lagoon. The swimming pool can be seen on the left and just to the right are the tennis courts. The picture below is the left side of the same panoramic view looking southeast down Gallatin Street.





G.W. Jones & Sons Engineering firm on Franklin Street drew up this road map in 1921 for all the new automobiles traveling in the area.



Watercress is the most ancient of green vegetables known to man. It has more vitamin C than orange juice. Dennis Watercress of Huntsville was the largest producer of watercress in the world. Above, barrels of watercress are ready to be loaded onto a train to be shipped to New York's Waldroff Astoria. The box below is labeled for the White House. At a state dinner in June 1939 King George and Queen Elizabeth of England were served Dennis Watercress.





The Huntsville soldiers shown above march down Jefferson Street in 1941 before leaving for World War II.

The Spanish American War soldiers below are camped at Brahan Springs





These Huntsville girls are keeping all-day and all-night vigils at the Von Braun Civic Center for tickets to go on sale for an upcoming Elvis Presley concert. The September 6, 1976 concert was a sellout.



West Side Square was once known as Cotton Row. Cotton dealers Clayton Anderson, M. Hohenberg, P.M. Woodfin, Walter Laxon, W. R. Robinson, and the Weil brothers all had offices in these buildings. It was here that the cotton was brought on wagons, inspected, graded, and priced by cotton brokers. The buildings were demolished in 1966 for a bank.

The wagons below loaded with cotton are lined up in front of Cotton Row





Chamber President Jimmy Walker, Mayor R.B. Searcy, Chief of US Army Ordnance Missile Command Stuart Jones, and Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee Chairman Dorsey Uptain celebrate the launching of Explorer I in downtown Huntsville January 31, 1958.



Fred and Gene Monroe are shown above having breakfast with the goat in front of their home on Holmes Avenue.

Carrie Nation, a militant crusader against saloons, is pictured below in 1902 addressing the citizens of Huntsville around the courthouse square.





Above is a scene on Washington Street as Huntsville gathers for a 4th of July parade.

Below is the Big Spring lagoon in the flood of 1973



1900-1909

The Rolling Highlands of the Tennessee Valley

Compiled by Jeanne Henry

Streetcars came to Huntsville! A new constitution replaced the original document written in Huntsville in 1819, and the President stopped in town to address the crowd at the Huntsville Depot. Within a few months, he was dead from an assassin's bullet. A monument was placed at the courthouse to remember the slain men of the Confederacy; and, despite this, a former slave who was the president of a black college died and was mourned in the same decade. A future Hollywood star was born to a wealthy family in Huntsville while local children labored in the mills for low wages and in substandard working conditions.



The Big Spring in 1903



Garbage in the Big Spring

1900

January 9 - The *Weekly Democrat* reported that Mrs. Ridley, Mrs. S. L. Whitten, and Miss Kate McCalley have been appointed by the United Daughters of Confederate Veterans to solicit money for the Confederate monument fund.

February 14 - Garbage dumped in East Huntsville and on the Big Spring Branch is breeding disease and is unpleasant to look at. The city needs to establish a place to burn trash.

February - Various musical selections and recitations were presented, including selections from "Wayside Inn" by Mrs. Virginia Clay Clopton, at the Huntsville Hotel to raise money for the Confederate monument.

February 28 - The Plumer property several miles north of Huntsville has been purchased for use as a county hospital for contagious diseases. It consists of a 3-bedroom house and 25 acres.

April 4 - Mrs. Virginia Clay Clopton and Captain Daniel Coleman will attend a Confederate Veterans reunion in Louisville in May. Mrs. Clay Clopton will lead the cakewalk.

April 11 - A contract has been awarded to build a carriage factory on Greene Street by J. W. Skinner & Sons. It will be built on the lot where the fire occurred the previous fall that destroyed Mr. Skinner's shop. The new factory will cost about \$25,000.



Public Library over the Fire Department



Trolley can be seen on the left

May 30 - The public library will be in rooms donated by the City Fire Company over the engine room. Hours will be 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Friday.

A boat excursion to raise money for the circulating library will be held June 28. The boat excursion will consist of a comfortable double-deck covered barge traveling from Hobbs Island to Huntsville. "Good music, free ice water. Refreshments will be served." Round trip \$1.00; children 50 cents.

July - Trolley rides are the going fad. Parties leave the Huntsville Hotel and return in about an hour where refreshments are served.

August - An ordinance was adopted requiring all citizens to cut the grass, on the sidewalks fronting their homes, to a height of three inches.

August 28 - The Dallas Mills planned to erect a school building for employees on the old William H. Moore property. Mr. T. W. Dallas, Manager of the Dallas Mills, planned to establish a nursery for the care of the young children of mill parents, as well as a library, gym, baths, a park for the employees, and boarding rooms for the friendless girl employees.

September 5 - It was announced that Charles E. Miller, a native of Virginia and resident of Huntsville since 1867, has been named as the new purchasing agent of the Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes at Normal, Alabama. He was the headwaiter at the Huntsville Hotel for many years.



Dallas Mills School



Lowe Mill

September 19 - George B. Hinman was granted the contract to build the Lowe Cotton Mill on Hooper land in Southwest Huntsville. Only thread would be produced.

September 26 - Work began on building 140 new cottages for the Dallas Mills. The entire length of the mill building was about 650 feet after the addition was complete, making it among the largest mills in the South.

September - General Wheeler spoke about his experiences and observations of Cuba, Guam, and the Philippines at a lecture presented at the Opera House to raise money for the Confederate monument fund.

November 14 - During this session of the Legislature, a committee was appointed to urge the passage of a bill requiring compulsory vaccinations.

Tracy W. Pratt, a native of Minnesota, was listed in the 1900 census as a widower and president of the Merrimack Cotton Mill.



Tracy Pratt

1901

The Alabama Constitution of 1901 replaced the out-dated and hastily drafted constitution of 1875. The new constitution stated that, (1) all counties to use funds from the poll tax for public schools; (2) when persons died without heirs, their estates went to the state government for use in the public schools; and (3) counties and school districts could levy special taxes to improve their schools.

January 3 - The Bryson Memorial Chapel at the Merrimack Mill, dedicated this day, was the result of hard work of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church. The children of the Merrimack Mill employees were educated in a school supported by the Missionary Society.

January 16 - H. D. Clayton, Representative of the Third Alabama District, wrote in a letter to Mr. R. E. Pettus, that the present Congress would make no appropriations for an Army post in the South. The hope that Huntsville would have an Army post was gone.



Child Laborers at Merrimack Mill

January 30 - Mr. William L. Clay gave an interesting talk to the Epworth League at the First Methodist Church on the early history of Alabama. He stated that Huntsville is badly in need of a historical society which would perpetuate the history of our county.

February 23 - The Madison County Teachers' Association was organized. All white teachers of the county were invited to join.

An investigation by General Sam H. Moore reporting the situation of child labor in the mills of Huntsville stated that children at work in mills are better cared for than those on farms. General Moore addressed an open letter to the State Legislature opposing the Child Labor Bill. (Alabama was one of the first states to pass satisfactory laws prohibiting child labor.)

February 27 - Huntsville's city officials were given a free ride on the city's first street car. Since there was a six-month delay between laying the track and the arrival of the generator, so much dirt had accumulated on the rails in places that the car had to wait until laborers could shovel the dirt from the rails before they could continue.



Electric Street Car

The old Huntsville and the West Huntsville Cotton Mills have agreed to cease operations for one day each week due to low demand for goods. Both mills will be closed each Saturday.

May 1 - President William McKinley received an enthusiastic welcome when his train arrived at the Southern Depot. Music was furnished by Pratt's band, the Confederate Veterans, and the Grand Army of the Republic.

November 20 - Carrie Lane Chapman Catt, president of the Woman's Suffrage Association of the United States, was a guest of Mrs. Milton Hume. She spoke on woman's suffrage to a large audience at a reception in the Huntsville Hotel.



President McKinley's Huntsville visit



Carrie Lane Chapman Catt

1902

January - Tallulah Bankhead, the toast of the London theatre in the 1920s, was born in an upstairs apartment of the Schiffman Building on the east side of the courthouse square.

June 18 - Helion Lodge No. 1 nominated the following officers for the ensuing year: H. C. Pollard, Worshipful Master; A. F. Elam, Senior Warden; S. F. Frankenberg, Junior Warden; W. I. Wellman, Treasurer; G. W. Wise, Secretary; R.N. Davis.

November 5 - Miss Carrie Nation lectured on temperance at the Opera House.

December 10 - The Baptist Mission Board of Alabama has appropriated \$20,000 for the establishment of a church at Merrimack.

December - The Dallas Mill Company presented each of its several hundred employees with Christmas turkeys.

1903

September 23 - Both plants at Dallas Mills operated full-time this week with nearly 2,000 employees.

October 21 - The Gulf Red Cedar Company of Paint Rock shipped out 10,000,000 pounds of pencil cedar from the Garth place near Huntsville. They planned to obtain more cedar from the Pulley farm.

November 4 - The Chamber of Commerce recruited for a wagon factory for Huntsville.

November 11 - It was reported that there were 24 cases of small pox in the Pest House in the previous week and a few more cases reported in town.

December 16 - The \$1,000,000 addition to Merrimack Mills will begin in January with 1,000 new hires.

1904

March 9 - Health Officer W. C. Wheeler reported 29 cases of smallpox in the Pest House.



Tallulah Bankhead



Carnegie Library at Alabama A&M

March 16 – It was reported that Andrew Carnegie contributed \$10,000 for a library to be built for the Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes at Normal, Alabama.

A large number of Madison County teachers at a Teachers' Institute held in the city schools voted unanimously to hold a 10-day summer normal.

March 17 - It was reported that President William Hooper Council of Agricultural and Mechanical College at Normal was the oldest and the only "ex-slave president" of a college in the world, so far as known by *The Journal*. (Mr. Council died in 1909.)

April 6 - A bartender's union was organized with the following members: James B. Pollard, E. J. Mitchell, W. T. Byron, Louis Hardage, Thomas J. Walker, W. B. Hamaker, C. A. Dougherty, Dan Keen, Jim Ashworth, J. H. Hix, W. D. Wells, Walter Hall, and Henry Ford.

April 28 - It was announced that Professor Charles P. Echols, son of Major W.H. Echols of Huntsville, was appointed Professor of Mathematics at West Point Academy. Charles' brother, William H. Echols, Jr., was Professor of Mathematics at the University of Virginia.

July 20 - Huntsville issued a directory containing the names of 6000 people living in Huntsville proper. It was predicted that the additions of Merrimack and Dallas would increase the population to 7,000.



This House was a Gift from Mollie Teal

A gift in 1904 of a large two-story frame home on Oak and Half Streets (now St. Clair and Gallatin) was the forerunner of Huntsville Hospital. This gift came from Miss Mollie Teal, a woman of somewhat dubious reputation. In 1909, a cottage was acquired across the street for use as an annex for black patients. (Huntsville's organized medical community began in 1895 when a group of women established an infirmary in a rental cottage on Mills Street, with the city paying a portion of the rental fee and the group paying the balance. When more spacious quarters became necessary, the infirmary relocated to a larger cottage at the corner of Randolph and Greene Streets.)



Maria Howard Weeden

1905

Maria Howard Weeden, poet and artist, died at her home on Gates Avenue. Her passing was a loss to the artistic and literary world.

5 June - In celebration of the birthday of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, crosses were bestowed upon Confederate veterans; and flowers were placed on the graves of veterans in Maple Hill Cemetery.

November 21 - The Confederate monument was unveiled at the courthouse with several thousand people present. Through socials, handkerchief sales, rummage sales, teas, and afternoon parties over a course of 6-7 years, members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy had raised \$2,500 to purchase a block of Vermont granite and to hire Huntsville sculptor Oscar Hummel to create the monument. The governor, county commissioner, and mayor were on hand to make speeches. (Originally named the Huntsville Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy #195, the Society was renamed the Virginia Clay Clopton Chapter in May 1905.)



Dedication of the Confederate Monument

1906

January 26 - The Carnegie Library at Normal burned to the ground. Insurance covered only \$6,000 of the \$30,000 loss.

March 9 - Mr. Carnegie contributed funds to supplement the insurance money to rebuild the burned library at Normal.

June 13 - The Abingdon Mills of West Huntsville, formerly known as the Madison Spinning Mill, expects to enlarge the capacity of the mill, very soon, and to employ 400 people. The mill now manufactures a coarse grade of duck, suitable for tents, bags, and awning.

August 15 - Reverend Junior Lees, a prohibitionist, expressed his loud and strong opposition to the Dispensary Bill. Reverend Lees had preached on the subject the previous Sunday at Bryson Chapel, Merrimack Village making it his "soapbox" for the prohibition movement.

October 10 - The Huntsville Amusement Company opened a Hippodrome Rink near the Big Spring on the grounds of the current Natatorium. It was announced that a band will play every night.

November 7 - The managers of the Dallas Cotton Mill have erected a library and lodge room for their employees.

1907

January 8 - W. T. Chapman, a labor agent who was arrested on a charge of enticing laborers from their employment, pled guilty to the charge in the County Court and was fined \$50 and costs.

January 26 - The dispensary [liquor] bill for Madison County passed the Senate with a unanimous vote and was sent on to the House, which passed it the next week.

February 6 - "County Dispensary will open Monday. Saloons must go out of business on Saturday night." Governor Comer signed the dispensary bill and appointed Chief David Overton as dispenser. Mr. Overton will appoint his clerks and assistants during the present week.

February 12 - A special meeting of the City Council was held, and the resignation of Chief David D. Overton was accepted. Night Chief C. J. Wilson was elected to fill the vacancy left by Overton.

March 9 - The infirmary for colored people has been opened on Oak Avenue.

April 17 - The New York-Alabama Oil Company began laying gas pipes on city streets.

April 19 - It was announced that the Hippodrome Skating Rink will be converted into a summer theater. Bookings included the Andrews Opera Company, Kleta Repertoire Company, and Plummer Musical Comedy.

Frank Bradshaw, who claimed to be a labor agent representing the Athens Cotton Mill, was arrested on charges of enticing laborers from their work at the cotton mills.

May 1 - It was announced that the cedar industry considered Huntsville to be one of the largest shipping points for the rare and valuable wood.

May 9 - Dr. C. W. Browning of the Agricultural Department in Washington DC was in Huntsville to establish cattle quarantine for the inspection and treatment of cattle infested with the Texas tick.

May 15 - Another big gas deposit was struck by the drilling outfit of the New York-Alabama Oil Company on the Humes Place, a short distance from the city corporate line. The new "gasser" was the fourth to be found in the immediate area, and the ninth in Madison County.

June 22 - Huntsville will host the annual encampment of the 3rd Regiment, Army National Guard. Soldiers will arrive in the third week in July for a stay of eight days.

July 8 - It was announced that in the previous months, a movement to get a Carnegie Library established in Huntsville was started. Mrs. Brickell, Mrs. Bolling, Mrs. Hector Lane, Mrs. Dr. Baldrige, and Mrs. Clanton worked to solicit funds. Only \$146.60 was raised.

July 9 - The money raised for the Carnegie Library was donated, instead, to the Virginia Clay Clopton Chapter of the UDC to furnish a room in the city infirmary for Confederate veterans and their descendants. The Daughters agreed to assume the yearly expense of the room.

July 18 - The Army National Guard Camp was named in honor of Tracy W. Pratt.

July 23 - Mayor Smith has announced the employment of a dogcatcher in order to rid the city of roaming dogs.

August 20 - A new city ordinance to tax dogs specified the cost of license, time of payment, penalty of violation, and compensation and duties of a city dogcatcher. All taxes will be used for the maintenance of city public schools.

Many residents have reported seeing the comet which has gained the attention of astronomers throughout the world.

September 8 - President James R. Boyd of the City Council ordered that no more frame buildings will be erected in the fire limits of the city. In the future, only brick and firebrick will be allowed in this area.

September 26 - The Cantaloupe Association was organized to encourage local farmers to grow cantaloupes.

October 3 - Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show came to town, from Nashville, for two performances.

October 16 - The Huntsville Bagging Company bought the West Huntsville Furniture Factory building and plans to employ 100 people in a jute-bagging factory to open early in 1908.

November 12 - The Huntsville Educational Circle has asked management of the Huntsville Cotton Mill to open a night school for children employed by the mill, as well as for other children of the neighborhood who are required to work during the day.



Elk's Theatre

November 20 - Elk's Theatre formally opened to the public. A large crowd gathered in the auditorium to see the beautiful scenery and hear the music furnished by the Bradley Cornet band of Merrimack.

December 2 - The bodies of George W. Steele and his son, George W. Steele, Jr., were exhumed from Maple Hill Cemetery and taken to Birmingham where they were interred beside graves of other members of the family.

December 14 - J. F. O'Shaughnessy of New York, president of the Huntsville and Monte Sano Improvement Company, is in town and staying at the Huntsville Hotel.

December 16 - Local cotton mills are making plans to implement the new anti-child labor law January 1. The

law forbids employment of any child less than 12 years of age and limits the work of children age 12 to 14 to 60 hours per week.

December 23 - Every mill in the city will observe Christmas, some for a day and a half and others for a whole week. The Merrimack Mill will give every employee candy and oranges.

December 27 - The new "anti-pistol toting" law has been put into effect. A person may not sell, barter, or carry any pistol of less than 24 inches in length of barrel or any brass knuckles, dirks, slub shot, Bowie knives, or knife of any kind.

1908

Butler Training School, a non-denominational and co-educational school, opened its doors on Franklin Street, offering all grades, primary through high school.

January 8 - The City Council raised the salary of the City Marshall from \$68.75 monthly to \$75.00; also members of the police force from \$52.00 to \$60.00 and night police from \$44.00 to \$50.00.



Brick Paving Around the Square

An ordinance was passed that the owner of every house abutting the street should put up a proper and approved house number within sixty days after the approval of the ordinance, these numbers were to be approved by the Street Superintendent.

February 27 - One-half million cabbage plants were shipped from South Carolina to be planted near Huntsville by members of the Madison County Cantaloupe and Truck Farming Association

March 4 - A resolution was passed stating that the hitching of horses on the square is a nuisance and a menace to the health of the community and should not be permitted.

March 18 - West Huntsville schools have been closed due to several cases of smallpox in the neighborhood.

April 20 - The first brick was laid for the paving around the public square.

May 19 - Twickenham Town Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Huntsville, Alabama, was organized by Mrs. Francis Tappey who also served as its first Regent.

July 22 - A decision was made by the City Council to give the Huntsville Infirmary Association a check for \$280.00 for furnishing electric lights and fans in the city hospital.

September 23 - It was announced that work on the city electric railway from the square to the fairgrounds began last Wednesday.

1909

January 1 - The child labor law went into effect. All children between the ages of 12 and 16 years will not be employed in the cotton mills unless they have attended school for eight weeks of the year, six of which shall have been consecutive. The State will provide extra rooms and teachers.



Franklin Street

January 19 - Improvement Ordinance No. 16 was passed to allow the paving of Franklin Street from the public square to the corporate limits.

February 3 - A representative of the Huntsville cotton mills claimed that the public schools of Huntsville cannot accommodate 600 of the working children who are between the ages of 12 and 16 years. He will discuss the problem in Montgomery.

Huntsville cotton mill operator T. W. Pratt states that if the child labor law is put into effect, practically every cotton mill in Alabama will be forced to close. He further said that Alabama appropriations are insufficient to provide

schools in the mill villages; school buildings are insufficient to accommodate more than one-third or one-fourth of the school age children; and there is a lack of time in the summer for the children to attend school.

May 12 - Veterans of the 4th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry were in Huntsville to return a battle flag of the Alabama Rifle Scouts. The flag was captured at Selma, Alabama on April 2, 1865.

June 22 - Henry G. Morton of Huntsville told a Washington representative that fifteen years ago, there was not a cotton mill within 100 miles of North Alabama. At present there is \$100,000,000 of capital in the cotton mills proving it is cheaper to spin cotton near the cotton fields than to haul it a thousand miles or so to the mills. Alabama is prospering far beyond any of the other southern states in mineral development as well as cotton.



Mill Children in School

June 22 - The commissioners of A & M College, Governor B. B. Comer, and the State Superintendent of Education Harry S. Gunnels elected Professor Walter S. Buchanan to succeed the late Professor William H. Council as president.



**The 4th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry return
Alabama Rifle Scouts battle flag.**

July 7 - The City Council made an appropriation to place a marker on the spot where the first legislature in the State of Alabama was held in 1819. This was done by a delegation from the Twickenham Town Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The marker would be placed on Franklin Street, at the corner of Gates Street, where the old building once stood.

July 21 - A speed ordinance was adopted by the City Council to make it unlawful for automobiles and motorcycles to run in the city limits at a speed greater than 12 mph. It also required that vehicles "blow their alarms" at the approach of every street crossing. Violators will be penalized from \$10.00 to \$50.00.

September 9 - Mr. Walter Jones completed his new map of Madison County. It was the most complete map made of the county, showing every railroad, pike, dirt road, telephone wire and giving the name of every land owner.

September 29 - Workers began tearing down the old steel bridge on West Clinton St. It will be replaced with a new concrete bridge.

October 5 - Advertisement: A 10-room house, English architecture, with cellar, large cistern, stable, wood house and carriage house, within one-half mile of the Courthouse. For sell \$3,000. David A. Grayson.

The year 1909 was the last time that the county governing body was in the liquor business.



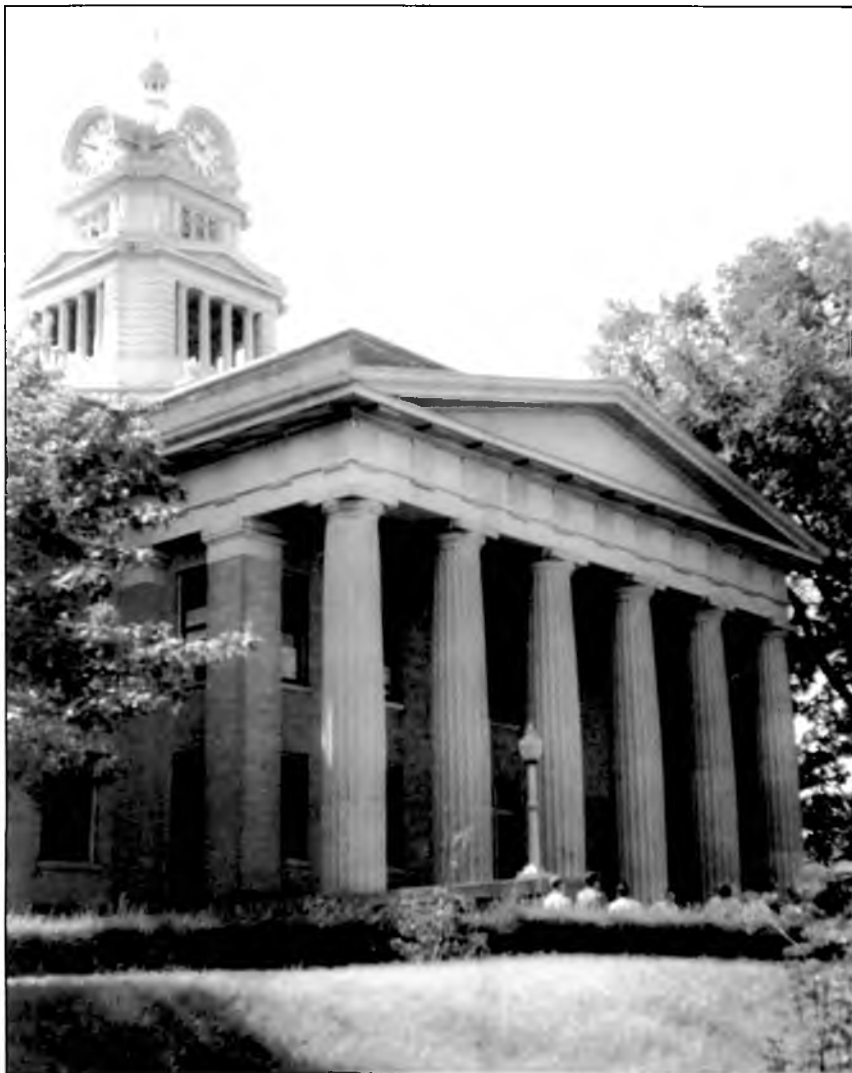
**Marker Where Alabama Entered the Union
Located on Franklin Street**

1910-1919

Murder, War, and Epidemic

Compiled by Patricia H. Ryan

Huntsville was divided over the issue of alcohol, which in turn provided the basis of every political argument. The mysterious murder of Probate Judge W. T. Lawler brought national attention to the city, but the end of the decade was defined by a World War and a deadly flu epidemic.



Madison County's New Courthouse-1914

1910

In 1910, the population of Huntsville was 7611. The city consisted of 5.3 acres of land.

January 5 - It was announced that Meridian Street, the main thoroughfare from the northern part of the county, would be paved to the city limits. It's volume of traffic was higher than on any other city street.

Architect Ed Love drew plans for several buildings including Butler School (cost \$10,500) and the Baptist Church in Dallas Village.

\$68,324.73 in property tax and \$1137 in poll tax was collected in December, breaking the previous high record.

January 19 - The city council announced plans to purchase the Calhoun Block and sell ¼ of the block to the Y.M.C.A. for their new building. Another portion will be set-aside as the site for a Carnegie Library.



Lowe Manufacturing Company

Lowe Manufacturing Company announced that a new \$75,000 addition to its building, will double the size of the building

A.M. Booth purchased the Huntsville Female Seminary building and property on Randolph St. and Maiden Lane (now Eustis Ave.) and announced plans to raze the building for new homes.



A.M. Booth Home

January 27 - The Trade Palace opened at a new location - two doors east of Rison's Bank on the North Side Square. To celebrate the new opening, a sale was held with the following markdowns: Damask table covers, hem stitched, cost \$0.78. Ladies coats were \$4.98, \$6.73 and \$9.67 with values from \$12.50 to \$20.00. Men's all-wool suits, valued at \$12.50, were marked down to \$4.88.

February 9 - Sheet iron houses within the fire limits will be torn down because of the ordinance requiring that exterior construction be made of stone or brick.

February 23 - In the Democratic primary election, Judge W.T. Lawler was nominated for probate judge, and Frank G. Hereford was nominated for sheriff. The initial election return showed that Charles L. Townes beat David D. Overton for circuit court clerk by 3 votes.

March 2 - A writing contest for school children under 12 will be held. The winner will win seats to see Buster Brown, Mary Jane, and Tige at the Elks Theatre.

An official canvas showed David Overton won the office of circuit court clerk by 13 votes.

The American Salvation Army plans to open an office in Huntsville to help the destitute and misfortunate and to save girls from going astray.

March 9 - Western Union announced that they will now stay open until midnight.

March 16 - The Zachy brothers were jailed for running an open saloon on W. Clinton Street in violation of prohibition laws.

March 23 - The City will consider selling its interest in the pest house (for people with contagious diseases), located north of Huntsville, to the county commissioners.

March 29 - Coco Herbert operated a Theatorium on Jefferson Street, which featured the very best vaudeville acts.

May 11 - About 15 lots in the Clerk and Salaried Men's Addition fronting on Whitesburg Pike were auctioned. Prices ranged from \$15.00 to \$50.00 per lot; most being in the \$20.00 to \$30.00 range.



Col. Theodore Roosevelt

May 25 - Joe Lamberson, contractor and builder, died of blood poisoning from a splinter in his finger.

The groundbreaking for the new Y.M.C.A. was held at the corner of Greene and Randolph Streets. As soon as Hummel & Son removed their marble yard equipment, the lot would become vacant for building to begin.

June 15 - The newspaper reported that Isaac Schiffman, 54, of W. Clinton Street, died of acute indigestion. A native of Hopstetten, Germany, he came to Huntsville to join his uncles in the mercantile business, which he inherited, then sold and opened a banking business. He married Bettie Herstein, and had one daughter, Mrs. Lawrence Goldsmith. He was reputed to be a millionaire and gave Huntsville a complete set of modern water works. Merchants closed their stores during the hour of Schiffman's funeral.

July 20 - A swimming hole for boys at the Y.M.C.A. was blasted out of solid rock.

July 27 - Ida H. Councill, widow of William H. Councill, died in Nashville, and will be interred at A & M College at Normal.

October 12 - Col. Theodore Roosevelt spoke to several thousand people from the rear platform of his train at the Huntsville Depot.

November 4 - The 1858 Huntsville Hotel was destroyed by fire. Bad electric wiring was believed to be the cause.

1911

Tracy Pratt confirmed that a great underground reservoir of water and a large cavern were underneath the Public Square. Miners blasted a passage into a series of caverns.

Henry C. Binford, editor and publisher of the *Huntsville Journal*, died. He was born in 1861, and was a member of the City Council, and chairman of the county Republican executive committee.



January 18 - Huntsville will soon be dry. Liquor establishments were notified that because Huntsville is included under the statewide prohibition law, no intoxicants would be allowed on their premises.

March 15 - It was announced that Virginia C. Clay recently died. She, with her sister Susannah, were editors of the *Huntsville Democrat* newspaper for 18 or 20 years.

May 3 - Mrs. Ellalee C. Humes sold Abingdon Place to W.Y.C. Humes of Chicago for \$35,000. It was known as "a repository of art and culture."

The Clay Sisters



Huntsville Hotel Burns

May 31 - At the local UDC meeting, Mrs. Lila Greet reminisced about life in Huntsville during the Civil War, including the arrest of 12 prominent citizens.

June 21 - George Brooks discovered another big lake under the city, extending under the west point of Echols Hill.

July 12 - City Government changed from aldermen to commission form. The three commissioners appointed by the governor were:

R.E. Smith performed the duties of mayor and was in charge of the departments of public safety, finance, police and fire.

R.L. O'Neal was in charge of waterworks, streets, sewers, public improvements and property.

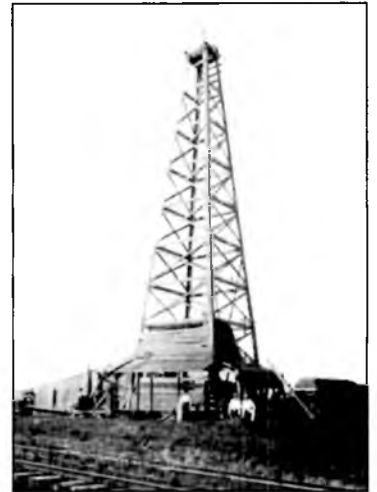
Dr. J.D. Humphrey was in charge of the departments of public health, sanitation, schools, cemeteries, and lights.

August 9 - An airshaft on Greene Street, in front of the Post Office, was opened to provide easier access to the cavern and Big Spring.

August 23 - Madison County solved the liquor question by voting to establish a dispensary to regulate sales. The Huntsville vote was: wet - 507, to dry - 360 and dispensary - 448, to saloon - 297. The county commissioners will nominate three men for the office of buyer and three for the office of dispenser.

September 20 - The dispensary opened. Purchasers can make only two purchases per day. A one-drink package was a dime, as was a bottle of beer.

September 27 - The New York-Alabama Oil Co. will resume drilling a well, which is now about 2300' deep, in West Huntsville.



West Huntsville Oil Rig



Struve Building

October 4 - James McKee received the contract to remodel a store in the Struve Building on Washington for the 350-seat Lyric Theatre. Ed L. Love drew the plans. Charles A. Crute and Acklin Ragland operated the theatre.

October 11 - A chapter of the Loyal Order of the Moose was organized. Charter members paid \$5.00 to join plus \$0.75 monthly dues. They received medical benefits and \$100 death benefit. There were over 200 applicants.

November 5 - It was announced that the greatest fire in Huntsville occurred Sunday morning. The entire block on Jefferson between Clinton Street and Spring Street was destroyed. The old Huntsville Hotel, the Huntsville Hotel Annex, the Huntsville Opera House, and

several big firms were burned out. The loss runs to \$250,000.

November 22 - The Elks plan to convert their theatre into a hotel with about 80 rooms. Architect Ed L. Love will add another story to the office section.

1912

January 3 - The West Huntsville Cotton Mill resumed operation after being idle for over two years due to the high price of cotton. It was hoped that 200 employees will soon be back at work.



West Huntsville Cotton Mill



YMCA on Greene Street

January 24 - A story in the newspaper commented on how bad the old courthouse looked. It called for a removal of the rotten stone steps, a new paint job, and removal of the "keep off the grass" signs.

February 7 - Contributions of \$0.10 or \$0.15 were asked for to feed the pet deer in the courthouse yard. It was estimated that \$2.00 per month is enough to feed the pets until the grass grows in spring.

The YMCA opened on Greene Street.

February 28 - Colonel William Winston Garth died at age 86. He practiced law with the firm of Cabaniss, Garth and Ward. A Confederate veteran, he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel. He was elected to Congress as a representative from the 8th Alabama district. He was survived by his widow, Maria Fearn Garth, and a son, Winston F. Garth.

March 6 - A movement began in West Huntsville to incorporate the community as a town. If successful, it would be the 2nd largest city in Madison County.

April 3 - An "aero plane" exhibition, featuring the Curtis Biplane will be held at the fair grounds.

May 1 - Fourteen warrants charging the Lowe Mill with violations of the Alabama anti-child labor law were served. The mill was charged with failure to obtain affidavits from parents of minors who were employed in the mill.



Lowe Mill

May 22 - Southern Railroad announced plans to remodel the passenger depot. Nothing but the exterior walls will remain. The downstairs will be converted into elegant waiting rooms while the upstairs will become offices. A new building will be erected to handle baggage.

Sidney J. Mayhew died. Born in Massachusetts in 1829, he came to Huntsville as president of Huntsville Female Seminary. He was a Confederate veteran and when the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Normal was established, he was appointed a trustee by the governor and served as president of the board until he died. He also was president of the Farmers' & Merchants Bank and president of the Huntsville Bank & Trust Co.

June 5 - County commissioners announced a 10-year tax exemption to new industries which invested \$10,000 or more capital and employing 20 or more persons. The exemption would also apply to new hotels having 100 rooms or more.

June 19 - Trustees of the McCormick estate donated \$17,500 for a Y.M.C.A. for West Huntsville and for one at Abingdon Mills. In addition, the estate will pay the \$2,000 salary for a supervisor of work in nine mill villages.

June 26 - Madison County resident William L. Quick invented a new kind of monoplane. The idea came from watching an ordinary hawk.



West Huntsville YMCA

July 10 - An opinion was expressed in the newspaper that "the prettiest courthouse in the state, from an architectural point, is simply falling to pieces from neglect. No one cares."



William L. Quick Airplane

August 7 - The city commissioners decided to apply to Andrew Carnegie for a \$25,000 library. It is understood Mr. Carnegie requires the donation of a suitable lot. One offer is the triangle at the corner of McClung and Echols St., including the old reservoir lot, which was abandoned by the city. The title is being examined because the lot may have reverted to LeRoy Pope's descendants when it was abandoned. The city claims it was donated with no attachments.

August 21 - The Huntsville Chamber of Commerce organized with 110 members. Dues were \$1.00 per month.

Huntsville Railway, Light & Power Co, transferred its properties and franchise to the Electric Bond & Share Co. Transmission lines will soon run into Huntsville from Little River.

September 25 - It was announced that the worst flood in the history of this area did thousand of dollars worth of damage when Pinhook and other creeks overflowed. An estimated 12" of rain fell during the previous Saturday night and Sunday morning.

October 2 - Cotton mill pioneer Joshua Coons died. He came to Huntsville from New York about 1881 and along with Tracy Pratt, built the West Huntsville Cotton Mill.



Deer on the courthouse lawn

The people of the city and county now own the buck, doe, and fawn in the courthouse lawn. Public subscription raised \$20 to purchase the buck.

October 23 - An eight-page supplement to the *Mercury* promoted Huntsville with articles about industries and photographic displays of businesses.

October 30 - The Bull Moose Club was organized in Huntsville.

November 6 - Another story in the newspaper was printed regarding the deterioration of the courthouse, due to neglect. Kindling wood was split on the front steps and the stone steps were gradually slipping out of place among other examples of dilapidation.

All partitions at the passenger depot were being removed and replaced with steel girders and pillars. The main building will be one large lobby. In the rear will be a ladies retiring room. A waiting room for blacks will be in another part of the building. The ticket office and train dispatcher's office will be in the end where the ladies waiting room was. Construction of the baggage and express rooms just east of the depot will begin soon.

November 13 - Edward C. Betts was appointed local white slave officer to break up the interstate traffic of girls and women for immoral purposes.

A suffrage campaign will soon be started in Alabama. The existing Huntsville Suffrage Association reorganized.

November 27 - A cotton-gathering machine, invented and patented by Col. James F. O'Shaughnessy, will enable pickers to double their day's work. O'Shaughnessy invested nearly \$500,000 over a 20 year period to perfect the machine.

1913

January 8 - A handsome boulder has been unveiled on Holmes Street, marking the trail that Andrew Jackson and his army followed on the way to the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

January 22 - Plans were made to move the Holmes Street Methodist Church from its present lot to the corner lot across the street.

April 23 - The county commissioners will select plans for remodeling the courthouse. T.E. Brown of Atlanta, Mr. Edwards of Atlanta, R.H. Hunt of Chattanooga, C.K. Colley of Nashville, and Ed L. Love have submitted plans. The cost will be between \$55,000 and \$75,000.

May 14 - Architect Love is working on his plans for the fire damaged May & Cooney Store in the Milligan Building on East Side Square. It will be three stories high with a basement. Dress goods and notions will be on the first floor, the shoe department and business office will be on the mezzanine, ready-to-wear and a workroom will be on the second floor, and the stock room will be on the third floor. The front of the building will be faced with matte-glazed terra cotta in ornamental design.

June 11 - Quincy B. Love and William F. Struve propose building an 80-room hotel on the city hall lot at the corner of Washington and Clinton Streets if citizens will subscribe \$15,000.



Dallas Mill Workers

June 18 - The Little-Clecker Construction Co. of Anniston was awarded a \$59,000 contract to remodel the courthouse. Architect Clarence K. Colley drew the plans to tear down most of the old building, leaving the walls, and adding two new wings.

Workers blasting rock for construction of the Milligan building uncovered a cave 15' deep.

July 2 - County offices will move to the Elks Theatre for at least 6 months until the work on the courthouse is completed.

The price of lots in Maple Hill Cemetery was raised from \$10 to \$25 and the price of single graves rose from \$3 to \$5 for non-residents. For Huntsvillians, the first lot was still free and the second lot cost \$25.

July 16 - About 32 loom fixers at the Dallas Mill went on strike for more money. Workers say \$1.70 per day is too low and demanded \$2.00. If the mill doesn't run, many workers will be forced out of work.

Central Presbyterian Church (formerly the Cumberland Presbyterian Church) awarded a \$4,600 contract to Hill & Collins to erect a 7-room manse on Randolph Street.

July 23 - Heralds of Liberty held a grand conclave in Huntsville. This is where the order was born. Tracy W. Pratt served as supreme commander.

July 30 - It was discovered that the timbers removed from the old courthouse were yellow poplar beams 50' long, each hewed from a solid log.

There were rumors that slit skirts were seen on city streets for the first time. Young police officers were nervous that they might have to investigate whether the ladies in question were violating the law.

August 6 - The Courthouse deer were taken to Kildare while work was being performed on the building.

August 13 - The strike of the loom fixers at Dallas ended with a compromise by both parties.

An Anti-Tuberculosis Association was organized due to a 65% increase in deaths in Madison County in the first 6 months of the year.

September 10 - More of the courthouse was torn down than had been originally planned. All that remained were the columns, which were weak, and the four outer walls of the old building.

September 10 - Roster of North Alabamians, organized during the Civil War by Capt. E.D. Tracy, lists names, ranks, and their service records. The company became part of the 4th Alabama Infantry, Co. I and served from 1st Manassas to Appomattox.



Presbyterian House

September 17 - The removal of the machinery from the old Bell Factory began and will be sold as junk.

October 22 - County commissioners decided to completely demolish the old courthouse and build a new one. The building will be constructed of light or gray brick and Indiana limestone.

November 5 - A grand jury declared Probate Judge W.T. Lawler, all county commissioners, Justice of the Peace J.T. Corum, and Circuit Court Clerk David Overton unfit and all should be impeached. They were charged with willful neglect of duty, and corruption in handling county funds. Lawler was also charged with dealing improperly with the architect of the courthouse.

November 19 - It was announced that on January 1, all the red lights will be extinguished and the prostitutes of the red light districts have agreed to leave town. This action was suggested by the Men's Committee and the Men and Religious Movement Committee.

December 3 - A letter to the *Mercury* from Sgt. J.A. Salisbury appeared. He stated that he was searching for a book he had left in Huntsville. He had camped in and around Huntsville in the summer and fall of 1864.

December 10 - The police department will cooperate with the Civic League in its campaign against tuberculosis, and will strictly enforce the anti-spitting ordinance. Spitting in public places was one of the principal means of spreading the disease.

1914

Huntsville installed chlorine in its water supply, forestalling a typhoid epidemic.

The bodies of Spanish American War veterans were exhumed from Maple Hill Cemetery and sent to Chickamauga National Cemetery for reburial.

April 8 - The contract for the new Struve-Love Hotel (Twickenham Hotel) on the Market House corner was awarded to Baxter Brothers. It was designed by J.G. Barnwell and C.T. Jones of Chattanooga and will contain 80 rooms.



Twickenham Hotel



McGee Hotel

April 15 - Work progressed on the new city hall building. The foundations were almost finished and the bricklayers were hard at work.

May 6 - The Madison County Medical Society adopted a resolution condemning hitching horses and mules to the courthouse fence as unsanitary, leading to the possible contamination of the Big Spring and the public drinking water.

May 13 - A list of Confederate veterans buried in Maple Hill was published in the newspaper.

July 15 - The new McGee Hotel featured prepaid electric fans in each room that ran an hour for a nickel.

July 29 - Miss Neida Humphrey made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York and is preparing to sing at the Opera Comique in Paris and the Grand Opera in Italy.



The New Courthouse

September 16 - The new courthouse opened with the laying of the cornerstone and its contents by members of the Masonic Lodge.

1915

January 20 - Herman Neely was lynched in the southern part of the county yesterday. Members of the lynch squad will surrender to be arrested.

April 28 - The Carnegie Foundation accepted plans to build a new \$12,500 Carnegie Library at the corner of Madison and Gates Streets.

June 30 - The new prohibition laws go into effect on July 1st.

July 7 - Portions of an 1811 address by the late John W. Walker, son of Jeremiah Walker of Virginia, were reprinted in the newspaper. Biographical information noted that Jeremiah Walker was a Baptist minister jailed for dissent over taxation for the church; Patrick Henry had defended him.

July 7 - The United Daughters of the Confederacy read a resolution in memory of Virginia Clay Clopton.

1916

February 2 - Virginia McCormick will donate \$5,000 to establish a black hospital. An eight-room house across from the present city infirmary will be remodeled for that purpose.

February 2 - Baxter Brothers were awarded the contract for a new building for W.T. Hutchens at Jefferson and Clinton Streets.

February 29 - Huntsville Carnegie Library opened to the public.



Virginia Clay Clopton



Carnegie Library

May 10 - Judge Lawler was declared the victor in the race for Probate Judge.

June 7 - It was announced that the YMCA building at Abingdon was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. It had been built through the generosity of Mary Virginia McCormick.

June 17 - The body of missing Probate Judge Thomas Lawler was found in the Tennessee River near Whitesburg with two bullet wounds in his chest and marks of a heavy blow on the head. The body had been anchored with wires to a piece of

railroad iron weighing 150 pounds. Pockets of his clothing were stuffed with iron bolts and other weights. He had disappeared the previous Wednesday night and the sheriff received an anonymous note telling him the location of the body. A special grand jury had been investigating alleged fraud in Judge Lawler's recent election.



Judge Thomas Lawler

June 21 - Shelby S. Pleasants shot himself in his office. He left a note saying an effort was underway to connect him with Lawler's murder (in which he denied any involvement) and the strain was too much for his nerves. The pistol he kept in his locked desk was found recently fired. Rewards were offered for the arrests of David Overton and current Circuit Court Clerk, Charles M. Nalls, for the murder of Judge Lawler.

June 23 - Sheriff Robert Phillips shot himself to death at the jail. He left a note saying he was accused of being one of the principals in Lawler's murder and although innocent, he could not handle the strain.

June 28 - The newspaper was full of information about the recent deaths and everyone who was connected with them. A. D. Kirby, chief of police, resigned after being censured by the Lawler grand jury. Taxis owned by Kirby were alleged to be hauling illegal liquor from the Tennessee River into Huntsville.



Shelby Pleasants

"The probate judge hacked and shot to death...the sheriff of the county a suicide, one of the state's most prominent attorneys dead by a supposedly self-inflicted wound, the clerk of the circuit court for Madison County in jail on a charge of murder, a prominent planter in jail for the same offense, and one of the most prominent politicians in the county a fugitive with a reward of \$1,000 offered for his capture..." Sheriff Phillips was a close personal and political friend of David Overton. Because Overton was not in custody after the murder, Phillips was accused of shielding him.

June 21 - William Dever was identified as the person who sent Sheriff Phillips the note telling him to search the slough at Whitesburg. The newspaper article featured details of Lawler's funeral and the beginning of grand jury inquiry.

August 23 - Voters decided to abolish the commission form of government and return to the alderman form, which had been in Huntsville until July 1911. The City will be governed by a president of the council and 8 aldermen.

September 27 - After two months on the run, David Overton was captured and held as a prisoner in Smithville, Tennessee. The sheriff who captured him claimed the \$1500 reward. Overton decided to fight extradition to Alabama.



David Overton

October 4 - A Birmingham newspaper speculated that the whiskey peddlers decided to kill Lawler and either kill Overton or blame him for the murder, and that Lawler tried to kill Overton.

October 14 - The Board of Education accepted the new high school building designed by L.M. Weathers of Memphis and built by Baxter Brothers.

October 28 - 130 horses died in a fire when Ringling Brothers Circus came to town.

November 15 - Hotel Monte Sano may reopen with \$25,000 of improvements including refitted rooms and added bathrooms if the city will provide free water.

November 22 - The *Mercury* announced that a jury was impaneled for the Lawler murder trial.

November 28 - The jury found David Overton guilty of murder, and Judge Miller sentenced him to hang on Jan. 12, 1917.

November 29 - In the explanation of the series of events leading to Judge Lawler's death, it became known that the grand jury indicted Lawler for perjury and election fraud. Papers for his impeachment were being prepared at the time of his death. Charles Nalls and Percy Brooks were indicted with Overton, but they were released based on Overton's testimony that they had nothing to do with the death of the judge.

December 8 - David Overton boarded a train at the Huntsville Depot and began his trip to Birmingham to await his fate in jail there.



Red Cross Nurses

December 13 - William Jennings Bryan delivered a two-hour lecture at the Elks Theatre. His title was "The Making of a Man."

1917

March 20 - David Overton and five other men escaped from the Birmingham jail. Overton and several others were killed in a gun battle with sheriff's deputies. He was buried in Maple Hill Cemetery, as had been Judge Lawler, Sheriff Robert Phillips, and attorney Shelby Pleasants. Overton was believed to be heading to South America because he had a steamer schedule in his pocket when killed.

April - U.S. enters World War I.

April 11 - A Red Cross chapter was organized in North Alabama to aid the U.S. government during the war.

A grand parade and patriotic demonstrations were held. The mayor asked that all businesses close so everyone could participate. The parade was expected to be more than a mile long. Three brass bands, the mill population, most fraternal associations, and the Normal Band participated.

May 2 - Data on climate, health and water, good roads, transportation, agriculture, banks, education, public building and improvements, and industries was given to the War Department for locating a mobilization, concentration, training or health camp in Huntsville.

May 9 - It was announced that six Huntsville men have gone to war.



Unknown WWI Soldiers
Back of photo lists
Hudson and McCullen

June 6 - All men of military age between 21 and 31 were required to register for the draft, including those in jail and penitentiaries. Failure to register was a misdemeanor punishable by six months to a year in prison. Four thousand Huntsville men signed up to fight.

Secret service agents investigated rumors that some young men will not register for the draft. The *Mercury* announces that it will publish the names of slackers in their roll of infamy.

August 5 - Members of the Alabama National Guard Brigade became a part of the 42nd Rainbow Division.

(The July through December issues of the *Times*, *Mercury*, and *Democrat* are missing.)



Lee Harless
Rainbow Division

1918

In January, all doctors or midwives began registering Madison County births with the Board of Health.

June 28 - Fifty men established a War Savings Society by buying a \$1000 baby bond for \$834 to become a member.

August 7 - The newspaper announced that Albert C. Yarbrough, Jr. of Huntsville was wounded. No details were given.

August 13 - The newspaper noted that Corporal Lorris Jones was wounded severely in action in France.

October 16 - An official statement from Carl Grote, Health Officer, stated that deaths in the previous 48 hours from Spanish influenza totaled 25, for a total of 83 in the last 15 days. New cases of pneumonia were also on the rise.

The mayor ordered police to ensure that no store opened before 9:00 a.m. and all closed promptly at 5:00 p.m. in an effort to slow the spread of the flu. Saturday hours were established at 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Exceptions were drug stores, butcher shops, bakeries and restaurants.

October 23 - The newspaper announced that during the previous 24 hours, there were 5 deaths from the flu in Huntsville. Deaths for the county totaled 198. The Health Department suggested allowing schools, soda fountains, theatres, churches and all other places reopen.

November 13 - Two "lightless nights," instituted several months ago to conserve fuel, were suspended. It was decided that there was enough fuel to meet needs.

November 29 - An advertisement of public sale of Abingdon Mills included a list of real estate involved.

December 3 - The newspaper announced that Huntsvillian Thomas Leslie was killed in France.

December 18 - Influenza deaths in the county totaled 393 (294 were in October alone) this amounted to 7.9 deaths per 1000 population.

1919

April 3 - J.E. Pierce, editor and general manager of the *Huntsville Times*, was acquitted in U.S. Court on "the ridiculous and absurd charge of having represented himself as a government officer in the sale of the Fourth Liberty Loan advertising to Negroes. The jury was out only four and one-quarter minutes."

April 24 - The Health Department began inspections of restaurants, hotels and lunch counters.

May 1 - G.R. Maples Sheet Metal Works established at 221 E. Holmes St.

May 15 - J. D. Humphrey sued J. E. Pierce for \$150,000 in damages in libel suit. Pierce was assessed a judgment of one cent plus court costs.



Maples Sheet Metal



Alvin C. York

July 17 - The Alabama Senate refused to ratify the Federal Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

July 24 - A mass meeting was called for August 9 to release a local senator and two representatives from their pre-election pledge to oppose suffrage.

August 14 - Secretary of War Newton D. Baker gave a brief speech at the Huntsville Depot en route to Muscle Shoals.

September 18 - The newspaper announced that World War I hero, Alvin C. York, spoke at the Elks Theatre. The admission of \$1.00 went to his foundation to educate mountain children.

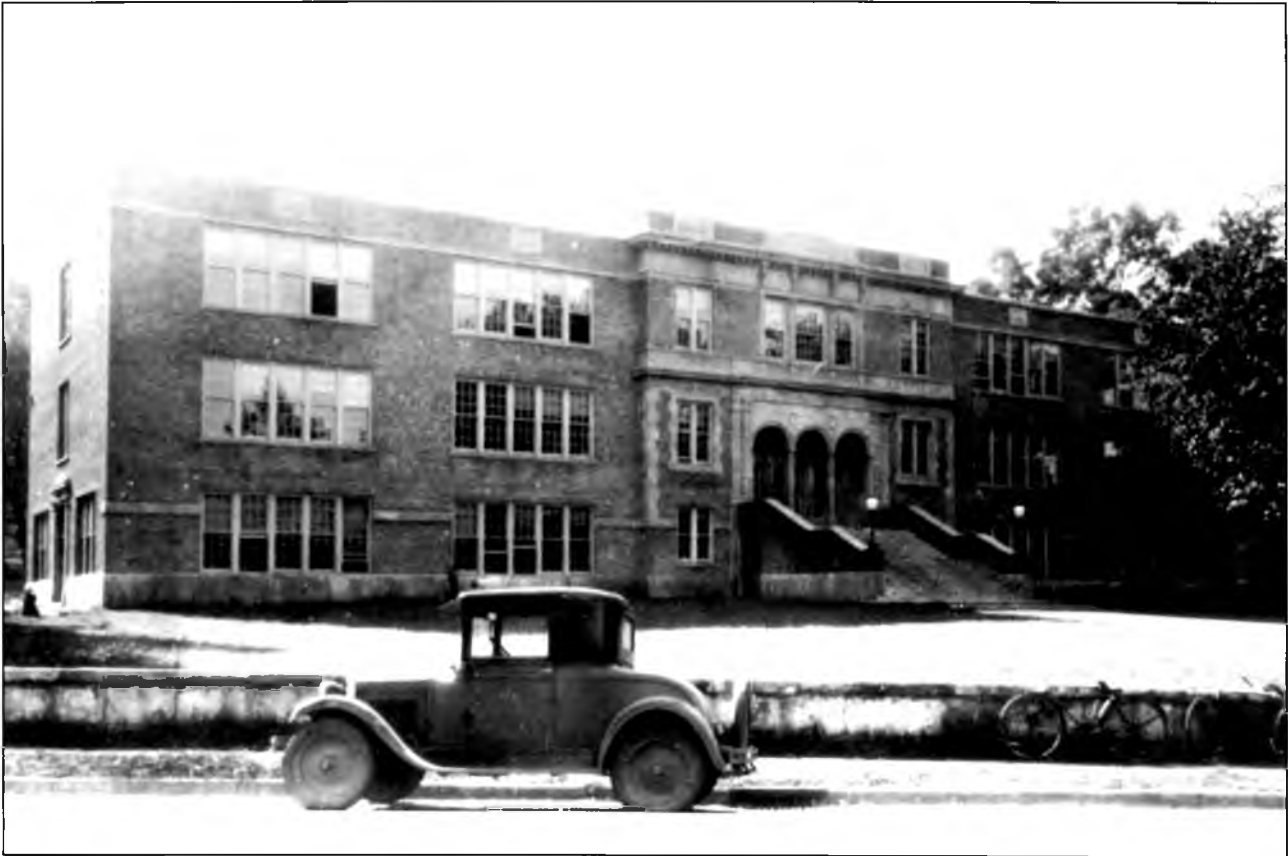
October 30 - Professor H.C. Binford, superintendent of education in black schools since 1908, died.

1920 – 1929

Happy, Hustling Huntsville

Compiled by Linda Alcott Maples and James H. Maples

The streets of Huntsville were filled with cars and laws were written to help the city adapt. The first women voted and new public schools, for black and white students, were established. The 1920s were a time for progress and prosperity. All of that came to a crashing halt in the final year of the decade. Huntsville, as well as the whole nation, was shrouded in despair.



Huntsville High School - Opened 1927

1920

The census showed Huntsville with a population of 8,018. Madison County's population is 51,268.

The first fair of the Madison County Fair Association was held on Church and Wheeler Streets. Fairs would be held at this location for forty-five years.

Aviators used J.D. Thornton's field on Whitesburg Pike as an airfield.

A fire at the southeast corner of the square damaged Dickson's Printing, the Huntsville Gas Company, Singer Sewing Machine Company, Jelks Business Men's Luncheon, and G.W. Jones and Sons.

Huntsville High School started a student newspaper, the "High School Hustler."

A stone fence was built around Maple Hill Cemetery. The fence was constructed primarily through public donations of some \$1,250.



Stone fence around Maple Hill Cemetery



Huntsville's first jazz band

The first Huntsville women to register to vote under Amendment 19 to the Constitution were Miss Grace Harris, Mrs. J.E. Pierce, and Mrs. May Pierce.

Huntsville's post office went from second class to first class joining seven others in the state.

Huntsville's first jazz band formed with Raymond Monroe playing banjo, Gretchen Strong playing piano, Paul Williams playing sax, and R.B. "Speck" Searcy playing drums.

The Qui Vive Club was formed with Sadie Russell as President.

Burnam's Swimming Pool at Big Spring Park was formally opened.

Dr. W.S. Mims built Mims Court (now called Frances Court).

The Grace Club planted 47 sugar maple trees on Whitesburg Drive, in memory of the men from Madison County killed in World War I. The trees were planted just south of the end of Madison Street.

Camp Eddins was established for the Boy Scouts, at the urging of Joe Bradley and Cecil Fann.



Burnam's Swimming Pool

The Huntsville branch of the Alabama Education Association was organized.



Mims Court

Miss Jean Hall was appointed as an Assistant City Clerk. She held this position for forty-eight years.

May - The Acme Club of Huntsville was organized by J.L. Hutton, W.P. Dilworth, W.P. Kelly, D.B. Allen, and C.M. Grace.

June 25 - A temporary charter was issued to Madison County American Legion Post 37.

August 6 - Mastin Lake Park opened with a dancing pavilion built over the water. Admission \$.25 for adults, \$.10 for children.

December - Huntsville's schools held their first fire drills.

1921

Huntsville set automobile speed limits at 12 miles per hour.

The city built an abattoir (slaughterhouse) on Wheeler Avenue.

The Jaycees were organized with Dr. Carl Grote as President.

The Alabama Federated Women's Club held its state convention in Huntsville.

The Dallas YMCA was completed.

Local women convinced the city council that something had to be done about the appearance of Maple Hill Cemetery. The city responded by turning over the cemetery to a Cemetery Commission composed of Mrs. L. D. Mays, Mrs. A.W. White, Mrs. W. F. Garth, Joe J. Bradley and R. E. Spragins. Trustees Oscar Goldsmith, J. P. Cooney and Robert Murphy were appointed.

The courthouse fence was removed, and in its place a metal chain between concrete posts was substituted.



Dr. Carl Grote

I. Schiffman set up a radio in a show room to display the latest wonder of the age.

An ordinance was passed protecting the squirrels in Huntsville.

The city fathers banned Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle movies because of his trial for the rape and murder of Virginia Rappe.

January 30 – A tourist camp was established on Madison Street at the site of an old slave cemetery. Remains were removed to the colored cemetery.

February 7 – The first farmer's market opened on Washington Street in the Yarbrough block.



Farmer's Market

March 24 – Huntsville's first supermarket, Piggly Wiggly, opened on the east side of the square with J. S. Conner as manager.

June – The Huntsville Civitan Club was chartered.

June 21 – Huntsville's Carnegie Library opened its first branch library in Maysville, with Mrs. Laymon as librarian.

1922

The official city slogan was "Happy, Hustling Huntsville."

The city held its first major auto show. On display were a Studebaker, Winton, Oakland, Haynes, Mitchell, Cadillac, Oldsmobile, Ford, Hudson, Essex, Fremocar, Peerless International, Lincoln, Buick, Chevrolet and Cole Aero Eight. The Cole Aero Eight took the show honors.

The Byrd Spring Rod & Gun Club was organized.

Edwards Buick sold the new 1923 Buick 6 cylinder for \$1500.

O'Neal, the Human Fly, scaled the Washington Street side of the Twickenham Hotel.

At Huntsville High, Maurice Stevens, Hobart Peake, and Paul Styles were picked All Southern Prep in baseball, the first time in history any school in the South rated three from the same team at the same time.

Baseball was so popular in Huntsville that downtown stores closed each time the Huntsville Independents played an out-of-town team.

Plans were drawn up by architect Anderson Dickey for the Yarbrough Hotel.

Work began on a new poorhouse at the end of Hermitage Avenue.

A Catholic School was completed on East Holmes. The architect was Anderson Dickey.



Members of the Huntsville Independents



Catholic School

The "Eskimo Pie" was introduced in Huntsville by the Huntsville Ice Cream and Creamery Company.

The DeMolays, an organization for teenage boys affiliated with the Masons, was organized with Aubrey Bickley as Master Councilor.

The Alabama Bankers Association met in Huntsville, denoting the prominence the city had attained in statewide circles.

The Huntsville Business and Professional Women's Club organized with Katie Sanford Jones as President.

The National Guard organized in Huntsville, commanded by Raymond Jones.

January 2 – Rison School opened with A. L. Rison as Secretary/Treasurer and General Manager.

March 16 - The Elks Theatre will present Cecil Arden, Mezzo-soprano of the Metropolitan Opera Company. Admission is \$1.10 including war tax, balcony seating 85 cents.

October 26 - James J. Bradley, general agent of Merrimack Mills, died and was buried in Maple Hill Cemetery.

1923

At Graham-Monroe Motor Company, a new Chevrolet Sedanette could be purchased for \$990.



Rison School



Miss Grace Walker

Bush Auto Company offered a new six cylinder four passenger Nash for \$1,890.

A local business telephone cost \$4.85 per month and a residence telephone cost \$3.00 per month.

The city offered free water for five years to any large enterprise building a facility worth more than \$100,000.

Work began on the new addition to Maple Hill Cemetery.

The Grace Club Community Center on Church Street opened and named in honor of Miss Grace Walker. Miss Jessie House was the first paid director.

Huntsvillians approved issuance of \$150,000 in school bonds and passed a 2.5 mil tax to pay off the debt.



Monroe Business Equipment

Monroe Business Equipment was started by H. E. Monroe and L. T. Garner.

The first Girl Scout Troop was organized at Joe Bradley School under the guidance of Joseph Bradley, Sr. Mrs. J. Blunt Clopton was the Scoutmistress.

1924

The citizens of Huntsville held a meeting under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce. A unanimous decision was made to build and new and modern hospital

The first rural electric line in Alabama was run from Huntsville to Lily Flag.

The first garden club was founded by Mrs. W. F. Garth.

The city adopted its first plumbing code.

Margaret Mill shut down while Lincoln Mill underwent a major expansion.

The Yarbrough Hotel was completed.

Total Huntsville payroll for the year was \$3,500,000.

Huntsville schools begin the 12th grade for the first time.



The first Girl Scout Troop

April – The Tennessee Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America was organized with Dr. Carl Grote as president.

November 12 – The Child Conservation League was organized.

December 25 – The McGee Hotel burned.

1925

Huntsville's first traffic lights were installed at the four corners of the square and at several other downtown intersections.

Huntsville adopted its first building code and created the office of Building Inspector. P.E. Brumley was the first building inspector.



The Yarbrough Hotel

Thirty four blocks were added to the city between McCullough and Wells Avenue, pushing the city limits to 11th Street (now named Grayson Street).

The operator of Huntsville's street car system, Alabama Power Company, asked the city to authorize it to abandon the line because it was losing money. They were turned down and required to stay in operation until 1931.

Council Training School was built with aid from the Rosenwald Fund. This fund was created in 1917 and would eventually aid 5,000 Negro schools.

Clementine Price was appointed as the first female Deputy Sheriff to hold office in Madison County.



One of Huntsville's first traffic lights

The rise in the number of cases of tuberculosis was a major concern in Madison County.

The Tennessee Valley Bank came to Huntsville, buying out the Farmers State Bank on the southeast corner of the square. The Tennessee Valley Bank started in Florence in 1892 as the Merchants Bank of Florence.

The Margaret Mill reopened.

Erwin Manufacturing Knitting Mills started business on the west side of town on the site of what would later be John Blue Co.

W. F. Garth remodeled the Elks Theatre, replacing scenery that had been used for 20 years.

May 15 – North of Lincoln Mill, 200 wood and stucco cottages were completed for 1,400 Lincoln Mill employees.



The Moss House on Pulaski Pike

July 2 – Ground was broken for construction of Huntsville Hospital. The builder was Algernon Blair of Montgomery and the architect was Frank Lockwood.

September 10 - The Moss house on Pulaski Pike including 225 acres was acquired for use as the Huntsville Country Club. W. P. Dilworth was President, Frank Ford was Vice-President, and W.T. Hutchens was Secretary-Treasurer.

1926

The Terry-Hutchens Building was completed. (Named the Tennessee Valley Banking Building when it opened). It was built on the site of the McGee Hotel, which had burned on Christmas Day in 1924.

The Stegall Hotel at the corner of Washington and Clinton Streets, and the Reed Building at the corner of Greene and Clinton Streets, were declared unsafe for occupancy.

Huntsville created the new office of Revenue Collector. Marcus Pender was appointed to the position.

A Supervisor of Arts for the elementary grades was created by the Huntsville Board of Education. Mrs. S. P. Metcalfe was appointed to the position.

The 45th state convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union met in Huntsville.

Ray Auto Company, founded by Herbert Ray, opened for business on Meridian Street.

There were 138 households in Huntsville that had electric ranges and the average electric bill for cooking and lighting was \$7.08 per month.

Fire destroyed Oakwood College's dining hall.

April 9 – J. C. Penney announced a store opening on Jefferson Street.

June 8 – Huntsville Hospital opened with 50 beds under the supervision of Ola M. Willis. Clara J. Hunt, Leona P. Knox, Elizabeth Duffy, Pearl Kelly, and Louise Esslinger were among the first nurses.



Huntsville Hospital upon completion



The Terry-Hutchens Building

June 11 - The first baby was born in Huntsville Hospital. He was Israel Bernard "Buddy" Miller.



Israel Bernard "Buddy" Miller



Councill High School

1927

Both Councill High School and the new Huntsville High School on Randolph Street were completed. The Chattanooga firm of R.H. Hunt was the architect for both buildings.

The former high school on West Clinton Street was changed to a grammar school and named the West Clinton Grammar School.

The Grand Theatre opened on Jefferson Street.

The White Swan Laundry and Cleaners was established on Madison Street.

A new Ford Tudor Sedan could be purchased in Huntsville for \$495.

Hayes Thompson, a Huntsville native and recruiter for the Navy, established the best recruiting record in the nation.

Gas prices rose from 26 cents per gallon to 28 ½ cents per gallon.

The nickname for the Huntsville High football team was the "Tiders."

The old city hospital property, formerly deeded to the city by Mollie Teel, was sold to T. T. Terry for \$4,800.



Huntsville High School



World War I Canon

A concrete pad was placed on the northeast end of the courthouse lawn and a World War I canon was placed there as a reminder of the conflict.

The Alabama Public Service Commission directed Southern Railway to build a new depot in Huntsville. Southern Railway contested the decision and won, saying that the 1860 depot was adequate. The building still stands today as a historic museum.

The county passed its last resolution requiring road duty by citizens. The resolution stated that citizens (including those in Huntsville) were to work on the public roads for five days each year. In lieu of roadwork, they could pay \$2.50 for each day to the county.

Madison County would become its own judicial circuit, the 23rd, and would no longer have to share personnel with other counties. Paul Speake became the first Circuit Judge for the 23rd circuit.

The City of Huntsville and the First National Bank swapped deeds. There had been some question that the bank might own part of the Big Spring, so officials hurriedly got together to make the swap.

June 30 - A \$13,000 fire engine purchased by the city arrived in Huntsville. The new fire engine took over the old horse drawn pumper.

July 4 - A new road from Big Cove Road to the top of Monte Sano was opened. The road was built by a private developer. The county agreed to pay one half on the condition that the developer build a new hotel on the mountain within two years. A pavilion was completed before the end of the year.



New road to the top of Monte Sano

August 29 – Voters in Huntsville voted in favor of a three mil school tax.

November 1 – Work begun on the Russel Erskine Hotel with the Chattanooga firm of R. H. Hunt as architect.

1928

The Albany Senators minor league baseball team picked Huntsville as their spring training site. Gabby Street came back to Huntsville for practice games as manager of the Knoxville team, and Casey Stengel was visiting manager of the Toledo Mud Hens.

The Huntsville Daily Times Building was completed in downtown Huntsville. J. E. Pierce was president of the Times. The firm of R. H. Hunt was the architect. The building was constructed as a ten story tower placed on top of a much larger two story base.



The Huntsville Daily Times Building

A room in the basement of the Huntsville Carnegie Library was outfitted to accommodate children. Mrs. Martha Merrill was the Children's Room Librarian.



The Children's Room at the Huntsville Carnegie Library

R.B. "Speck" Searcy was the manager of the Pavilion on Monte Sano.

West Huntsville saw a building boom, with 300 lots sold.

Conner-Ryan Company announced Gwynn Home Sites, the first Whitesburg Drive subdivision.

There were 6300 cars operating in Huntsville, and car owners were demanding that a bridge be built across the Tennessee River at Whitesburg.

The first one-hour parking went into effect on downtown Huntsville streets.

Geron Lumber Company opened on Meridian Street.

Erwin Manufacturing Company announced that a \$100,000 yarn mill would be built in Huntsville.

Huntsville's first aviation field was dedicated.

Huntsville adopted its first airplane ordinance, requiring that no plane could fly under 1500 feet above the city and no one could drop anything from a plane without prior permission of the mayor.

The Huntsville Music Study Club bought instruments for the newly organized band of Huntsville High School. R. S. Goodin was named director of the band. Goodin had been director of the University of Alabama band.



The "Wedding Cake House" was the home of J.E. Pierce, president of the *Huntsville Daily Times*

A Dallas park baseball field opened for the Dallas Mill team.

The Metropolitan Banding Company established a plant in Huntsville.

A. M. Booth built the Mountain View Apartments on Randolph. A four room apartment rented for \$20 per month with a five room apartment renting for \$25 per month.

Lewter Hardware opened on Washington Street, by D. A. Lewter and his son J. M. Lewter.



The Dallas Mill Baseball Team



Stockton Motor Company

W. G. Hamm became Superintendent of Huntsville's public schools.

The American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, Jaycees, Bankers, Jewelers, Postal Clerks, Confederate Veterans, and the P.T.A. all held their state conventions in Huntsville.

Stockton Motor Company advertised a 1928 Chevrolet Coach for \$595 and a Sport Chevrolet for \$695.

The Madison County Women's Democratic Club organized with Mrs. E. D. Johnston as president.

March 13 – Auxiliary to the Madison County American Legion Post was formally organized.

November 29 - It was announced that a toll bridge would be built across the Tennessee River at Whitesburg.

1929

Mr. Robert Chase raised \$30,000 by public subscription to build the nurses' home at Huntsville Hospital.

The Wills Taylor building on Eustis Street was purchased by the Board of Education to house part of the junior high school grades.

The offices of the Madison County Health Department were moved to the fourth floor of the Tennessee Valley Bank Building.

The Rome Electric Range Company moved its plant from Rome, Georgia to a location on Fifth Avenue.



The Wills Taylor Building



Montgomery Ward

Montgomery Ward opened in the Fletcher Building on the north side of the square.

Construction began on a new Madison County jail on Washington Street.

G.W. Jones and Sons became the first County Engineers.

The North Wing of the Huntsville Hospital was completed.

Huntsville's first miniature golf course was opened by Douglas and James Wall at Moore's Field on Walker Street.

In Huntsville, 6,827 workers took home \$4,233,525 annually from their jobs.

More than 10,000 people would gather at the Big Spring Branch to watch the Sergeant Sammy Baker-Tommy Jordan fight in an arena named the "Punch Bowl." The event was sponsored by the American Legion.

Lincoln School opened in Lincoln Village on Meridian Street. It is the city's oldest elementary building still in use.

May 23 - Huntsville's first radio program aired. WAPI began broadcasting an hour of entertainment from the 12th floor of the Daily Times building.

October 24 – Known as "Black Tuesday." While this was a national event, the crash of the stock market would affect Huntsville residents as well as every community across the United States for many years to come.



Lincoln School

1930 - 1939

The Great Depression

Compiled by Bob Adams

The first half of the decade was a traumatic time for Huntsville, and the rest of the nation, as the devastation of the Great Depression continued to take its toll. Numerous businesses failed, and there was a high incident of personal bankruptcy. The saving grace for Huntsville may have been that all the local textile mills continued to operate, providing over 4,000 jobs.

There was an elevated level of crime, people tended to settle their own disagreements with fists and shootings. Due to the economics of the time there were many arrests for holdups and burglaries, not to mention "moonshining" and whiskey running. Fortunately Madison County had completed a new jail in 1930. The crime of the decade was the infamous case against the "Scottsboro Boys." Eight black boys were accused of raping two white Huntsville girls: Ruby Bates and Victoria Price.

Around 1935 the pressures of the Depression began to wane. With FDR's election, money and jobs floated in for public works, including roads built and improved by the CCC, WPA and other government agencies. Construction began on Monte Sano Park and TVA's Guntersville Dam. The paving of roads to Athens, Fayetteville, Scottsboro, Guntersville, and south to the Tennessee River was completed.

Labor unrest became common in all Huntsville cotton mills, followed by work stoppages, walkouts, strikes, and eventually labor unions. Some mills closed, others fought the unions, some sold their mill village houses to the mill employees.

Even though prohibition was a thing of the past, bootleggers still made whiskey and money. Lincoln, Merrimack, Dallas, and Irwin Cotton mills continued to employ over 4,000 people in 1930. Huntsville had 251 retail stores with 893 employees bringing in over \$6 million in sales. While there were closures, such as Citizens Life Ins. Co., Electric Belle Range Co. (later Martin Stamping and Stove), more businesses were opened. Cochran Coal mine near New Market and Huntsville's first ready-mix concrete plant by Huntsville Transfer and Building Co. were opened at this time.



Washington Street - 1932

1930

January 3 - The Russel Erskine Hotel officially opened with much fanfare and an open house.

The Huntsville *Times* comic page featured: Out our Way, Boarding House, Freckles and his Friends, Wash Tubbs, Roots and her Buddies.

A new Ford Roadster is advertised for \$4325.00 while a sport coupe cost \$530.00.

February 4 - Madison County opened its new \$85,000 jail and A. J. Earl was hired as the first full time County Engineer.

February 20 - Sears Roebuck advertised men's dress shirts, three for \$2.69, union suits guaranteed not to rip for 79 cents each.

March 27 - McClellans 5 & 10 store opened on the northeast corner of the square.

April 17 - Huntsville's population was estimated at 10,500, excluding mill or suburban residents.

June 16 - Plans have been discussed by Monte Sano residents to become a city of its own.

July 10 - Montgomery Wards and Co. announced a time payment program for orders over \$25.00.

July 22 - The Huntsville *Daily Times* goes weekly as the Huntsville *Weekly Times* with July 31st issue.

July 31 - The Hub and Sam Thompson's Department store went out of business.

August 7 - The first Independent Democratic primary was held in Madison County.



Russel Erskine Hotel



Lyric Theater

Mr. N. L. Pierce entered the Madison County Sheriff's race. After the election, it was announced he was not a legitimate candidate. In fact, as the president of N. L. Pierce National Detective Agency in Birmingham, Pierce had pretended to be a political candidate in order to learn of illegal election practices.

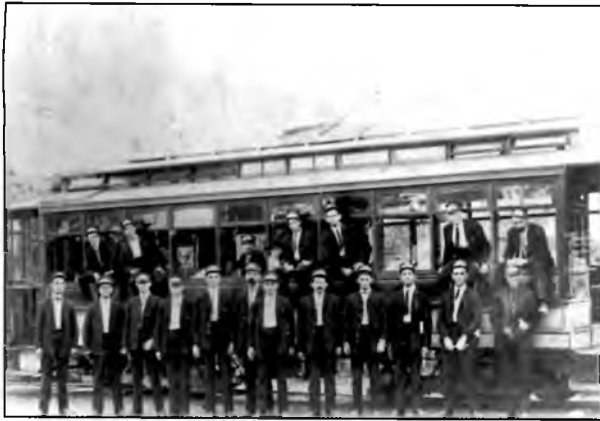
October 1 - Soldiers of the 127th Engineer BN, Co. A, Alabama National Guard were called out to maintain order at the Madison County Jail after a mob assembled with threats to break out the suspected murderer of H.E Ross of Birmingham.

November 6 - The home known as the House of Seven Gables burned. It had been built by Col. Rugg and was an exact replica of the house in Hawthorne's story.

November 27 - A new half million-dollar post office was recommended for Huntsville.

December 11 - The city granted Alabama Power Company authority to run a bus service, thereby ending streetcar operation.

December 25 - A fire destroyed the Lyric Theater and J. D. Humphrey Drug Store on Washington Street.



Huntsville Street Car

1931

February 23 - The last street car ran in Huntsville, ending an era.

April 9 - Five of eight Scottsboro boys were convicted in one verdict and sentenced to death in Jackson County Circuit Court. They were accused by two white girls of raping them on a freight train bound for Huntsville.

June 25 - The new aviation field, sponsored by the Huntsville Jaycees, was dedicated. It was later named Mayfair Field.

July 9 - Clement Comer Clay Bridge across the Tennessee River was formally dedicated, although it had opened in March.

November 1 - Kress Five and Dime opened on Washington Street.

November 5 - Henry P. Johnston bought the defunct Huntsville *Daily Times* and changed the name to the *Huntsville Times*. Reese Amis was named editor.

December - William H. Pierce founded the *Huntsville Daily Register*. It held the distinction of being the only daily newspaper in America to commence publication during the Depression.

Madison County ginned 60,315 bales of cotton in 1931, by far the leader in the state.



Clement C. Clay Bridge



Kress Building

1932

The number of births in Madison County (1,695) was double the number of deaths (786) in 1931.

January 7 - Prizefighter Danny Dundee signed a statement saying he was paid by Chattanooga attorney G. W. Chamblee to get a letter signed by Ruby Bates recanting the rape attack by the Scottsboro Boys. It was also revealed that he wrote the letter himself as it was dictated to him by Chamblee and other attorneys.

January 14 - Sheriff's forces seized a 500-gallon still at Leeman's Ferry. It had not been used.

January 30 - Erwin Manufacturing Co. announced that, despite the Depression, their profits for 1931 were greater than 1930.

January 21 - The *Register* reported that there were eight fewer lynchings in Alabama in 1931 than in 1930.

January 28 - Low prices cause old-timers to abandon the lucrative business of making whiskey. When prices fell to two dollars per gallon, Uncle Zeke, the manufacturer of pure "Mountain Dew" was quoted as saying, "You kin tell the world I'm through makin' moonshine."

February 5 - A Madison County grand jury recommend a 20% reduction in all county employees salaries.

February 25 - A movement began to complete the east-west Lee Highway between Athens and Huntsville, estimated to carry 1000 cars a day through Huntsville.

March 6 - The First Methodist Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the purchase of the building property in 1832.

March 24 - Alabama Supreme Court affirms the death sentence of 7 of the 8 Scottsboro Boys as the world waits with eager interest.

March 26 - The McCormick home known as "Kildare" was sold at auction for \$11,900.

April 14 - Southern Railway announced the cancellation of two trains daily going east and west by the Norfolk and Western Railroad, due to a lack of business.

April 22 - Huntsville radio station WBHS, a division of The Hutchens Company, began operation at 2:00 p.m.

May 1 - The city council adopted a 10% reduction in salaries for all elected employees and officers.



First Methodist Church

May 29 - Thirty-three graduates receive diplomas at Huntsville High School.

May 31 - Local cotton prices drop to \$4.75.

June 16 - Monte Sano bluff lots were sold at auction for \$25.00 to \$60.00 per 25 feet.

June 24 - Lowe Manufacturing Company filed for voluntary bankruptcy petition.

July 31 - The Huntsville *Times* passes the 5,000 mark for subscribers.

August 4 - Joe Bradley School announced a nine-month schedule for all elementary and high school classes. An \$18.00 tuition fee will be assessed per student.

August 14 - The State Highway Department was authorized to grade 32 miles of road between Huntsville and Scottsboro.

September - City officials discussed leasing 30,000 acres to Standard Oil for prospecting oil in Madison County.

September 5 - Thirteen city and county schools open for Fall term with an enrollment of approximately 7,000.

September 8 - The offices of the County Farm Agent and Home Demonstration Agent closed. In the future, it would be opened on Mondays and Saturdays only.

September 18 - A sum of \$200,000 would be appropriated to build a new Huntsville Post Office.

September 29 - It was announced that the former McCormick mansion known as Kildare would open October 2 as a hotel. Forty rooms will be available to rent. The hotel boasts hot and cold water and will serve meals for 50 cents.



The McCormick Home (Kildare)



Joe Bradley School

October 4 - The mayor and members of the city council donated \$1,320 of their salaries back to city.

November 9 - Early returns from Madison County ballots indicated Franklin Roosevelt was ahead in the presidential election by nearly 8 to 1.

November 13 - Skeletons of an ancient race estimated to be one to two thousand years old were found on Hobbs Island.



B.A. Stockton Chevrolet

December 1 - Lowe Mill was bought at a bankruptcy sale by Donald Comer for \$286,467. It was hoped that 700 men would soon return to work at the mill.

December 8 - The Huntsville *Daily Register* celebrated its first year of publication with Vol. II, issue 1.

1933

February 23 - B. A. Stockton Chevrolet announced that they would carry Buick and Oldsmobile products.

Rison School raised tuition charges from 50 cents to \$1.25, depending on the student's grade level.

March 2 - Four Huntsville banks announced an agreement to reopen March 3. Withdrawals would be limited to 5% of each person's balance during the remainder of 10-day period.

March 6 - "Sound" banks in Huntsville asked for authority to reopen on 5% basis.

March 16 - The Huntsville *Times* reported "banks clicking again in Nation." Cotton prices increased to \$5.00 per bale.

March 23 - If plans are approved for construction of a park on Monte Sano, it would be one of 29 parks in state.

April 6 - During the trial of the Scottsboro Boys, Huntsville resident Ruby Bates denied on the witness stand that she was attacked on the train. She went on to say that she told the original story because she was "excited."

March 18 - Huntsville celebrated as the "Shoals Bill" creating TVA became law. It promised to "bring sweeping changes to the Tennessee Valley."

June 6 - The Lee Highway Association held a large meeting in Huntsville to petition the state to fully complete hard surfacing of the road, which has been designated as a U. S. highway number 72.

June 15 - Eighty-seven Huntsville city employees were issued notes to pay for one month of back pay.

July 20 - Woolworth, Kress, Grants, and McClellans hiked employee wages by 22-25%.

November 2 - The construction survey for Wheeler Dam was completed. It will be 50 feet high and 6,000 feet long, encompassing over 100 square miles in area.



F.W. Woolworth

November 14 - Madison County ginned 39,836 bales of cotton, leading the state once again.

November 23 - It was announced that Madison County ranked number ten in the nation for vegetable production.

December 7 - Land assessments for Madison County were reduced from \$14.05 per acre to \$8.09.

1934

April 10 - The New York Giants and Cleveland held an exhibition game in Huntsville. The Giants won 4 to 1.

June 11 - Judge Paul Speake charged a Madison County jury to investigate accusations of fraud in the local election.

June 15 - Several candidates for office filed petitions asking vote recount.

July 14 - The sheriff-elect and the defeated sheriff candidate were indicted on bribery charges.

July 17 - John Dean, representative of United Textile workers of America, called for a statewide textile strike. In the six Huntsville mills 4,265 textile workers walked out.

August 5 - John Dean, leader of state textile strike, was abducted from his hotel room.

September 2 - Milton Frank, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, was named football coach at Huntsville High School.

September 26 - Fletcher, Erwin, Dallas and Merrimack Mills reopened after nearly three months of idleness due to the strike. Lincoln Mill would follow on October 1.

October 1 - Three men were arrested in a plot to bribe Victoria Price, one of the women who accused the Scottsboro Boys of rape.

December 22 - Thirty seven wedding licenses were issued for new record at County Probate Office.

1935

January 3 - In an election to decide whether to change from present board of aldermen to a commission form of government, residents voted five to one vote to retain the alderman system.

Taylor Motor Company offers a used 1928 Essex Sedan for \$37.50

February 14 - Twenty-two people met to form a new Chamber of Commerce, dissolving the old one.

A public meeting was called to propose a new direct connection to the Bee Line Highway (US 31) via Ardmore, which would shorten time and distance to Nashville from Huntsville.

March 7 - John J. Sparkman was elected president of newly organized Chamber of Commerce and Better Business Bureau.

April 15 - Madison County Commissioners voted to appropriate \$18,000 to purchase 1,992 acres of land for a park on Monte Sano.

May 2 - The city discussed a location for a CCC Camp to be located on city property off McClung St. and behind Maple Hill Cemetery.



CCC Camp



J.E. Pierce

May 12 - A second CCC Camp was assigned to develop a park on Monte Sano.

May 30 - Sixty-seven graduates were awarded diplomas at Huntsville High School.

July 4 - The Public Works Administration funded money to build new curb market on Gallatin Street to replace the sales area at the courthouse on East Side Square. It would officially open on October 25.

July 31 - The Huntsville Golf and Country Club disbanded after 10 years. The property was taken over by Country Club Heights Inc. and will be operated as a public golf course.

September 18 - WPA approved two new gymnasiums, one for Riverton, and one for New Market Schools.

September 19 - It was announced that over \$2,000,000 will be spent on local work by the WPA in the next year. The new jobs are expected to practically wipe out unemployment.

J. E. Pierce, Huntsville newspaper publisher, was indicted on charges of pretending to be a Federal Officer in allegedly fraudulent sales of "TVA Units." He was held in jail in Jackson, Tennessee awaiting his trial in Federal Court. (He was found guilty and appealed.)

November 25 - Will Cogaville was chosen for jury duty. He was believed to be the first black man chosen in Madison County for that privilege.

December 3 - After a \$1,200 appropriation by county commissioners and \$500 by city aldermen, the state commission approved the construction of a new Armory for Huntsville.

December 5 - The final 7.8 miles of highway paving to Fayetteville was approved.

December 12 - The board of aldermen appointed a committee to investigate sites for a proposed local airport.

1936

January 20 - J. E. Pierce, the Huntsville newspaper publisher, was given a long federal sentence in a Memphis trial.

January 30 - A nine-inch snow, the worst since 1917, covered Madison County and caused most roads to be closed.

March 12 - Alabama State House of Representatives gave final approval to "wet" issue, providing for package liquor sales and open sale for beer and wine. The state vote was set for April 14.

May 7 - The ultimate cost of TVA's plans were estimated at \$479 million. The proposed plan would include eleven dams, locks, and reservoirs.

May 10 - Postal authorities moved into the new Post Office building on East Holmes at Jefferson Street.

May 21 - The Lincoln Mill strike, which started February 12, finally ended. One thousand six hundred employees returned to work.



Post Office on East Holmes

June 6 - Dr. W. H. Burritt's new home on Roundtop was razed by fire.

July 9 - A rock crusher was delivered to Monte Sano to produce gravel for the road network which had already been completed.

June 10 - John J. Sparkman won the 8th Congressional election.

July 20 - The County Commission voted to offer the Treasury Department \$17,500 for the old Post Office building. It was rejected.



Dr. W.H. Burritt's Home

July 25 - The city obtained an option on 150 acres of land for a proposed airport.

August 27 - It was announced that construction of steel pilings for Gunterville Dam was well under way.

September 19 - The final stretch of the Huntsville-Fayetteville Highway was opened to traffic.

November 10 - The Lowe Mill was sold at auction for \$21,000 to the Acme Bag Company. The sale included 176 houses and 100 lots. (The mill had closed in 1932.) The reason cited was a fashion change-everyone wanted calico print instead of gingham.

December 1 - The New Hope Highway paving was completed.

December 3 - Only two Confederate Veterans attended the United Daughters of the Confederacy banquet: J. A. Steger, age 91, a member of the 4th Alabama Cavalry, and W. T. Bennett age 89, a member of the 27th Alabama Regiment. Two other Madison County veterans, W. J. Canterbury, age 92, and W. C. Myrick age 100, were unable to attend.



John J. Sparkman

December 17 - The Dallas Mill declared that a bonus of approximately \$10,000 would be disbursed among its 800 employees in time for Christmas.

December 21 - Lincoln Mill and Merrimack Mill announced a 10 percent wage increase.

December 31 - The Merrimack Mill was shut down due to labor trouble.

1937

January 12 - The three Huntsville banks reported that business had improved in the previous 12 months.

February 4 - County Commissioners purchased the Elks Building for \$20,000 from Mrs. W. F. Garth.

March 11 - Residents of Madison County voted "wet" by 1,000 votes, but surrounding counties stay dry in prohibition referendum. The city adopted a ten page ordinance to regulate sales of liquor, wine, and beer.

March 13 - Sixteen retail permits were issued in Huntsville for the sale of beer.



Mr. J.A. Steger



Radio Station WBHP

March 16 - It was announced that the Merrimack Mill workers would get a second 10% wage increase.

April 7 - Eight hundred Dallas Mill workers staged a combination walkout and sit-down strike. The action came following a \$16,000 bonus distribution.

April 29 - The Huntsville Library Board began a drive to raise \$1,000 for improvements, including a museum for the local library.

May 25 - Radio Station WBHP signed on the air at 4:00 p.m. W. H. Pollard was the owner.

June 9 - Two carloads of whiskey arrived for the opening of the State Liquor Store. Five days later, sales averaged better than \$800 a day.

August 18 - A Public Works Administration grant of \$38,450 for East Clinton Grammar School was announced.

September 30 - It was predicted that Madison County cotton crops would reach 60,000 bales.

October 22 - Ten miles of paved roads to Madison were completed.

October 31 - New buildings were dedicated by the Daughters of the American Revolution at Kate Duncan Smith DAR School at Grant.

December 22 - 62,562 bales of cotton were ginned in Madison County, compared to 40,760 ginned through same date in previous year.



East Clinton Grammar School

1938

March 15 - Due to tornadoes throughout Alabama, eighteen Army planes en route from Selfridge Field, Michigan to Tampa, Florida, made a spectacular forced landing by lights of automobiles at Whitesburg Field-without any mishaps.

March 23 - A yield of 64,577 bales of cotton broke all previous production records for Madison County.



Monte Sano Park Dedication

May 27 - Seventy-six seniors received diplomas from Huntsville High School.

June 21 - Dial telephone system was installed for Gurley subscribers.

July 13 - It was announced that the Lowe Mill's building was sold for \$50,000 cash.

July 30 - Management of Lincoln Mills announced plans to resume operations on August 8th. Seven hundred workers would be called back.

August 25 - Monte Sano Park was officially dedicated.

August 30 - Cobweb paintings by Huntsville resident Mrs. James Blount Clopton were placed in the Smithsonian Institute.

September 12 - An outbreak of diphtheria in Madison County was announced as an epidemic.

September 26 - More labor problems plagued Lincoln Mill and Merrimack Mill. The National Labor Relations Board began hearings to end the strike. It was announced that the Merrimack Mill may liquidate.

September 28 - The McClung Street CCC Camp was transferred to Holly Springs, Mississippi.

October 12 - Dallas Mill reached an agreement to resume operations after being closed nearly 12 months.

October 17 - Merrimack Mill started legal proceedings to gain possession of 255 houses occupied by people who refused to sign leases.

November 14 - County officials began serving eviction warrants in Merrimack Village.

December 5 - An agreement was reached for reopening the Merrimack Mill early in January. Approximately 1,000 employees would be called back.



Mrs. James Blount Clopton

December 3 - Roper's Flowers opened on Whitesburg Drive.

December 18 - Christmas shopping in Huntsville was said to be the best since 1929.

1939

January 24 - The first tugboat passed through locks at Guntersville Dam. The river was now open from Paducah, Kentucky to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

March 23 - It was announced that the county's 1938 cotton crop of 32,036 bales was 12,546 less than the year before.



Roper's Flowers

May 17 - Plans were approved for a Community Center, the first "lodge" at Monte Sano Park, for a cost of \$25,000.

June 4 - Spanish-American War Veterans begin their convention in Huntsville.

June 6 - Dennis Water Cress was shipped to Washington, D.C. for use in dishes for the King and Queen of England.

July 7 - A contract was awarded to build Farley School.

October 20 - An amphitheater project for Monte Sano Park was approved.

November 14 - The final paving of Bankhead Parkway to the entrance of Monte Sano Park began.

November 20 - A third football game between Huntsville High and Decatur High School football teams was called for. Huntsville High won the first game 13-0, and Decatur High won the second 12-0.

December 15 - Plans were announced for a new public swimming pool to be built.



Bankhead Parkway

1940 - 1949

The World at War

Compiled by Judy Purinton, Julie Blackwell, and Martin Towery

A Huntsville youth was the first local casualty at Pearl Harbor. Hitler's Reign of Terror had come to the community. With every telegram announcing another death, local workers grew angrier and their efforts grew more intense. The men left to fight and the women filled the ranks of the working population. As the waning days of the war grew close, the people who made materials for the war effort knew their jobs would eventually end too. It didn't matter though, when the war was over, everyone celebrated.



Parade in downtown Huntsville on August 29, 1945 to honor local Medal of Honor winners
Cecil H. Bolton and Paul L. Bolden

1940

January 18 - Huntsville police uncovered a gruesome story involving three murders committed for money. The amount was \$129.00.

January 25 - The New York *Times* named Huntsville as the trading center for the area.

March 3 - The city board purchased 12 lots on the north side of Goldsmith-Schiffman athletic field to be used for a playground for city schools.

March 22 - The cornerstone of the old Madison County Jail, erected in 1899 and now slated for demolition, was opened to a disappointed crowd. No papers were found.

April 16 - The city purchased 2,000 dogwood trees to be planted on the new extension of Pratt Avenue, along Ward Avenue, and in the city park.

April 19 - Seven cases of smallpox were reported in the county. Dr. W. C. Hatchett and county nurses are trying to curb the disease before it reaches epidemic proportions.



Goldsmith-Schiffman Field

April 21 - The brick streets and streetcar tracks around the square were removed in preparation for new concrete paving.

May 5 - Huntsville was one of the last of the larger cities in the state of Alabama to adopt Daylight Savings Time. Train and bus schedules remained on standard time.

May 21 - Oakwood Junior College, the Seventh Day Adventist school for Negroes, dedicated a new \$35,000 administration building.

May 24 - A donation of 700 shrubs to Maple Hill Cemetery was made by Chase Nursery.



Municipal Swimming Pool

June 23 - It took 500,000 gallons of Big Spring water to fill the new municipal swimming pool.

August 1 - Monte Sano Dude Ranch opens to the public. It was the first of its kind in the southeastern United States. Breakfast and dinner were served at the Monte Sano Tavern.

October 2 - Huntsville had a gasoline price war, with regular selling at 21 cents a gallon, and high test going for 23 cents a gallon.

October 18 - A & P Super Market, a new type of self-service food store, opened on Greene and Eustis Streets.

November 25 - Huntsville and Madison County purchased the 720 acres Garth-Sibley property, as the site for a future airport.

December 6 - Representative John Sparkman wired Huntsville authorities that the building of a new airport had been approved as a defense project, which meant that the only local expenditure would be for the land.



Monte Sano Dude Ranch



Belk Hudson

1941

January 15 - George Mahoney and L. B. Goldsmith, along with their wives, attended President Roosevelt's inauguration in Washington, D.C.

April 11 - Belk Hudson, Huntsville's newest department store, opened on Washington Street.

April 13 - W. J. Canterbury, one of the three remaining Madison County Civil War Veterans, died at age 100.

April 16 - S. L. Spry, owner of Spry Funeral Homes throughout Alabama, purchased the Womack Funeral Home.

April 18 - According to Congressman John Sparkman, President Roosevelt approved \$79,739 for a WPA project for the municipal park.

May 11 - The Lowe Mill Community Center formally opened under the sponsorship of the Social Service Federation and the Junior Welfare League. The center had a playground, an athletic field and a pre-school for children aged four to six.

Approximately 100 mothers and wives of Ohio and Illinois soldiers were guests at the Russel Erskine Hotel for Mother's Day.

July 1 - Draft officials were busy on "R" day. Madison County youths who had turned 21 as of October 26, 1940 were required to register with the draft board.

July 3 - Congressmen John Sparkman and Lister Hill worked to locate the \$47,000,000 Chemical War Service Plant near Huntsville. The plant would occupy more than 30,000 acres.

July 8 - A \$6 million Ordnance Plant was authorized by the War Department to be built in conjunction with the Chemical Plant being built near Huntsville.

12,000 employees were required to construct the Arsenal. Three shifts of 4,000 each were planned so that the plants could be built over an eight-month period.

July 24 - The War Department announced the name of the new chemical munitions plant-Huntsville Arsenal.

July 28 - The first families were moved from the Huntsville Arsenal reservation to make way for the construction of temporary headquarters and administration buildings.



Major Carroll D. Hudson

September 4 - Colonel Rollo C. Ditto, the first Commanding Officer at Huntsville Arsenal, was promoted to Brigadier General.

September 25 - Major Carroll D. Hudson was named *Commanding* Officer of Redstone Ordnance Plant, which would be constructed adjacent to the Huntsville Arsenal. Groundbreaking was scheduled for October 21.

December 7 - Because of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, work at Redstone Arsenal continued around the clock.

December 18 - The Big Spring was fenced in as a precaution to safeguard against sabotage of the city water supply. A guard was present 24 hours a day.



Big Spring with fence

December 23 - Mr. and Mrs. John Isom received a telegram stating that their son Luke Isom had been Missing in Action since the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was a gunner's mate on the *U.S.S. Arizona*.

1942

February 28 - The first two female employees were hired at Redstone Arsenal to work on the first production line.

March 28 - The first production line began operation at Redstone Ordnance Plant.



Women on the production line

April 6 - In conjunction with the city of Huntsville, Redstone Ordnance Plant participated for the first time in the national celebration of Army Day. A parade and celebration were staged by the city.



Parade in downtown Huntsville

May - Preliminary operations began at the two chlorine plants on Huntsville Arsenal. These generated chlorine for the manufacture of mustard gas.

May 15 - A white phosphorus filling plant started production at Huntsville Arsenal. Ten different munitions types were filled, including mortar shells and grenades.

May 29 - A contract was awarded for the construction of 300 family units on a tract of land near Farley, Alabama to relieve the severe housing shortage.

July 5 - Mrs. William B. McDonald of East Holmes Street had 4 sons in the Army, plus one son in the Marines and another son in the Navy; all were volunteers.

September - Production of the AN-M8 hand grenade, a smoke munition, began at Huntsville Arsenal.

September 9 - Lincoln Mill received the Army E Navy award for production of war goods.

October - Production of colored smoke grenades began at Huntsville Arsenal. Because the dye used in the grenades colored the workers' clothing and stained their skin, it is not uncommon to see people of rainbow hues on the streets of Huntsville.

October 5 - 3,000 students were released from school at noon to collect scrap for the war drive.



Huntsville Arsenal receives Army E Navy award

October 19 - Grand Ole Opry performers Bill Monroe and Uncle Dave Macon gave a performance, under a tent, at the Big Spring Park.

November 18 - The first uniforms for the women employees of Redstone Ordnance Plant arrived—a two-piece suit of regulation "Army pink" material.

November 29 - Huntsville Arsenal was awarded the Army E Navy award, the highest award for production achievement. John Sparkman was present at the ceremonies.



Women employees of Redstone Ordnance Plant



Mayfair subdivision

December 8 - James L. Daniels was killed in action with the Marines at Guadalcanal.

1943

January - The first 4.2 inch mortar shells were proof-fired at Huntsville Arsenal in a simulated village known as "Little Tokyo."

January 13 - Residents of Mayfair subdivision started victory gardens.

February 12 - Minnie Pearl, Ernest Tubb, and other Opry stars performed at Joe Bradley School.

Clarence Griffin of B Street, Merrimack Village, was reported to be in the Philippines as a prisoner-of-war of the Japanese. He had two brothers fighting in the war.

February 26 - Redstone Ordnance Plant was renamed Redstone Arsenal.

March 31 - Approval was given for construction of 292 houses in West Lawn. The homes in West Lawn, Haven Manor and Mayfield could only be rented or sold to defense workers.

April 12 - Mrs. Frank Payne was presented the Silver Star in Honor of her son LeRoy Payne, who was killed at Tulagi Island near Guadalcanal. Mrs. Payne is the first Huntsville mother to receive this honor.

May 7 - J. J. Winn was killed in an explosion on Huntsville Arsenal. Virginia V. Smith and John W. Burgess were wounded in the same accident.

May 26 - The Kildare property, the former home of Mrs. McCormick would be sold at auction on June 2nd.



West Lawn subdivision

May 28 - Brigadier General Robert L. Spragins of Huntsville was presented the Purple Heart for wounds received on Guadalcanal.

The War Department changed the name of the Huntsville Chemical Warfare Depot to Gulf Chemical Warfare Depot to avoid confusion with Huntsville Arsenal.

June 14 - The Federal Works Agency approved \$80,600 for the rehabilitation of the present Huntsville Hospital building, including enlargement of the Negro wing.

July 6 - All county schools, both white and colored, would open on July 19 in order for the schools to close in September for six weeks to allow students to pick cotton.

August 10 - A 300 unit housing project for black employees of Huntsville and Redstone Arsenals opened. It was named Binford Court in honor of Henry C. Binford, a Huntsville educator.

September 10 - Captain Harris T. Mitchell of Ward Avenue was the second American paratrooper to hit the ground in the New Guinea landing.

September 20 - The population of greater Huntsville, according to the new city directory survey, was 40,354.

William F. Archer of Merrimack died September 2nd of wounds received in the European Theater.

September 23 - "Loafers" were rounded up in Huntsville. Every able-bodied person without work should either "work or fight" according to Huntsville Mayor McAllister.

October 12 - Waterman Airline Company Inc. out of Mobile has asked permission to establish a route to Huntsville.

November 3 - Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Taylor were informed that their son, Capt. Thomas J. Taylor, was killed in Italy.

November 3 - Lieutenant Robert Russell Dickson was killed in action in Italy on September 19. He was pilot of a P-51 reconnaissance plane.

November 15 - The Erwin Mill buildings would soon be used by Laxon-Arnold Warehouse Company to store cotton. The defunct mill once employed 250 people.

November 29 - Women between the ages of 18 and 45, with at least a 6th grade education, are needed to work in the local war plants.



Erwin Mill



W.T. Grant

December - The first members of the Women's Army Corps arrived at Huntsville Arsenal to perform administrative duty.

Huntsville Arsenal began producing tear gas grenades and M-20 rifle grenades.

December 21 - Miss Estelle Walker's room at the East Clinton School collected 1,237 tin cans. The class has earned the school service flag, which is awarded to the class which has collected the most cans, for the past 4 months.

December 22 - A forest fire swept up the west side of Monte Sano Mountain. The fire was brought under control with the help of 24 Boy Scouts who responded to a radio appeal.

December 24 - W.T. Grant advertised the following toys for sale: Commando guns and helmets for your little soldier-\$1.19, Lionel train sets-79 cents, Horse Shoo Flys-\$3.98 and Horseman dolls-\$1.98.

1944

The Army Corps of Engineers built a camp on Huntsville Arsenal originally designed to accommodate 250 prisoners of war. The remainder of this facility, which ultimately housed about 1100 captured German soldiers at a time, was constructed under the supervision of the Post Engineer using POW labor.

Women employees were substituted for men in the workforce whenever practicable.

January 5 - The fourth war bond drive was assigned to Huntsville, Lincoln, West Huntsville, Merrimack, and Dallas precincts. It was hoped that, based on the 1940 agricultural census information, \$1,583,600 in bonds would be sold.

January 7 - Southern Airways negotiated with Huntsville and Madison County authorities to operate Huntsville Airport as one of two on their main routes.

January 10 - Five inches of snow, the temperature seven degrees below zero.

January 17 - Redstone Arsenal received the third top production award issued by the Army and Navy. Lt. Col. Carroll D. Hudson, Commanding Officer, noted the outstanding spirit and morale among the employees.

January 20 - Miss Jessie Hopper, the principal of West Clinton Grammar School, stated that the funding of a "Flying Jeep (a trainer plane)" costing \$3,000, will be the goal for their fourth War Loan drive.



Ann Savage

January 26 - A bond auction, sponsored by 4-H Clubs of Madison County, was held at Huntsville High School. Donations of farm products, eggs, peanuts, bales of cotton, canned goods, jellies, country sausage, cracklings, and cakes were auctioned off.

January 30 - Star Market opened on Meridian Street in the building formerly occupied by the Wiley Ward Market. The store was operated by Dilbert Williams and Chick Russell.

Lieutenant Frank O. Rolfe was killed in action September 24.

January 31 - A bond luncheon at the Russel Erskine was a big success! Actors Ann Savage and Lon Chaney, accompanied by five WWII heroes, were special guests. Two hundred people each bought, at least, a one-hundred dollar bond for the luncheon event.



Lon Chaney

The purchase of two \$5,000 war bonds by Huntsville resident Roy Jacks was announced over a Los Angeles radio station. The announcer said, "Why can't there be more Roy Jacks?" Jacks's sister, Los Angeles resident Mrs. Charles Walborn, heard the story on the radio and sent a letter to the Huntsville *Times*. Jacks made the following comment as he paid for the war bonds: "They tell me that you have to do a lot of walking in this man's army, and I'd rather ride, so fix me up a couple of bonds enough to buy a couple of jeeps so I can ride."

February - Production of the M-3 and M-4 colored smoke canisters were assembled by Redstone Arsenal. The buildings used in the manufacturing process were scattered over 12 acres as a double precaution against fire, explosions, or enemy attack.

February 10 - Huntsville's first train carload of salvaged tin cans (about 30,000 pounds) was sent to the new detinning plant in Birmingham.

February 11 - Production of phosgene, a toxic agent, started at Huntsville Arsenal.



State National Bank Building

February 15 - Lieutenant Bobby Dickson, son of Mrs. Fannie Dickson of Huntsville, was killed in action over Italy.

Howard S. Sparkman, Jr., a fireman in the U.S. Navy, listed as missing since January 30, was officially declared dead. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Sparkman of E. Holmes Street.

February 17 - Local residents were cautioned again about permitting their chickens and dogs to run loose, causing damage to flowers and gardens.

February 26 - Redstone Arsenal's Commanding Officer, Carroll D. Hudson, was promoted to full Colonel.

February 27 - Frank Hulse, head of Southern Airways Sales Corp., told local civic leaders he hoped to have Huntsville Airport in operation by May 1.

Sergeant Jesse N. Bradley, son of Mr. And Mrs. A. L. Bradley, described a raid for readers of the Huntsville *Times*.

March 6 - Huntsville and Madison County farmers who received kudzu plants through Soil Conservation Service did a good job planting them.

March 8 - Ira M. Terry, local merchant, acquired possession of the State National Bank Building at a mortgage foreclosure sale. His bid of \$76,000 was the only one submitted.

A City-wide campaign was started to collect musical instruments to help build the morale of fighting men. Coca-Cola bottlers all over the U.S. were the collecting agents.

March 9 - The Monte Sano Hotel, built in 1889, was sold to Mazer Lumber and Supply Company of Birmingham. The three-story hotel would be dismantled over the next two months.

March 10 - Operations for the production of the M-6 tear gas grenade began at Huntsville Arsenal. (252,348 of these grenades were manufactured.)

March 14 - Huntsville Arsenal began producing the M-22 rifle grenade.

March 16 - Roy Jacks, who bought two \$5,000 war bonds, was discharged from the Army with a heart ailment. After a rest of 60 to 90 days, Jacks says he thinks he'll be back in the grocery business.

March 21 - Cadet James Edward Ayers, 21-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Ayers of Redstone Park, was killed when the trainer plane he was flying collided with another plane at Olathe, Kansas.

April - Production of the M-4A2 floating smoke pot began at Huntsville Arsenal.

April 7 - Juanita Miller of Pike Street received word that her husband, Tech Sgt Jack D. Miller, Air Corps, was killed in a plane crash of a Flying Fortress over the English Channel on November 5.

April 9 - Lieutenant Earl Anger was killed when his ship, en-route from England to India, was torpedoed in the Mediterranean.

Sergeant Orville S. Good, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Good of Monroe Street, serving as an aerial engineer aboard a flying fortress, has been missing in action since March 23.

April 16 - All over the nation, prayer is urged on invasion day. Sirens would signal the event when the news was flashed that Allied soldiers had set foot in Europe. At 6 p.m., all traffic in Huntsville would halt for three minutes as residents are urged to pray for our soldiers.

April 27 - A second production line explosion occurred at Redstone Arsenal, killing one woman and severely injuring two other employees.

April 30 - Because of the growing shortage of male workers, the local office of the Railway Express Company hired Mrs. Ola Mae Lambert to serve as "expressman."

April 30 - The first M-23 rifle grenade was manufactured at Huntsville Arsenal.

May - Huntsville Arsenal's civilian personnel reached a peak of 6,707.

May 5 - An intruder killed Mrs. Louis Fleming.

May 29 - A revolving beacon was installed on the observation tower at the Huntsville Arsenal airport to identify the location of the landing strip.

June 6 - Huntsville residents halted all activity for three minutes in observance of D-Day. Sirens were sounded and a prayer written by FDR was read over the radio.

June 14 - The 5th War Bond campaign kicked off with an auction on the courthouse lawn. A bale of cotton was auctioned off for \$100,000 to Tom Dark and Associates.

July 2 - One of the first eye-witness accounts of the invasion of France was written by Huntsville serviceman Captain Harry Bailey, Jr. who was with the 112th Engineers. His company was one of the first to cross the English Channel and land on the Coast of Normandy.



M-23 Rifle Grenade being tested

July 3 - Free admission to the Lyric and Grand Theatres was granted to anyone buying a war bond.

July 4 - Redstone Arsenal participated in the Town Meeting for War at the Madison County Fair Grounds. The arsenal's products, including smoke shells, colored canisters, colored rifle grenades, and demolition blocks were demonstrated for the public.

July 5 - Padlock proceedings were brought against the Wayside Inn, a café and dance hall operating on the West side of Meridianville Pike.



**Brigadier General
Edwin W. Jones**

Rep. John J. Sparkman opened his office in Huntsville.

July 6 - Technical Sergeant Clifton Smartt was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has successfully completed more than 27 combat missions.

Staff Sergeant Rufus E. Raby, tail gunner on a Liberator bomber, was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in flight.

Private Jonah R. Fanning, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Fanning was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received in New Guinea.

July 9 - Mr. and Mrs. Roy F. Hatchett of Cedar Avenue were notified by the Navy that their son, Ensign Louie H. Hatchett, was killed in a plane crash July 1.

Private First Class Perry L. Goosby, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Goosby, was killed in action in Italy on June 15.

Brigadier General Edwin W. Jones of Huntsville was awarded the Legion of Merit for the performance of outstanding service as commander of an Alaskan Base.

July 10 - Huntsville Arsenal Red Cross workers made 1,201 wheelchair jackets, pajamas and robes for convalescent soldiers. In addition, they rolled more than 1,000 bandages.

July 16 - Word was received that Maj. Lionel E. Smith, son of Mrs. W. E. Smith, was killed in action in France. He graduated from Auburn in 1934 with a degree in engineering.

Colonel Geoffrey Marshall received a letter from Huntsville serviceman Lieut. Col. Charles E. Baxter which was written from a foxhole in Normandy. Baxter wrote that Huntsville Arsenal Ammo boxes are all over the Normandy front.

Word was received that Cpl. George W. Moss died of wounds received in action in France on June 30.

July 19 - A telegram to Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Chaney reported that their son, PFC Merrill L. Chaney, U.S. Marine Corp Reserves, was killed in action in the Pacific.

July 27 - A small group of German prisoners of war arrived at the Huntsville Arsenal.

July 30 - Charles Crawford of Eustis Street was notified that his son, Sgt. James Clyde Crawford, was killed in action in Burma on June 28.

Private James S. Birchfield, son of Mrs. J. B. Birchfield of Thornton Avenue, was killed in action in Italy on July 25.

Private Ernest V. Potts was killed in action in France. His wife, Minnie Potts of Davidson Street, has been notified.



**German Prisoners of War at the
Huntsville Arsenal**

Technical Sergeant Ernest C. Smartt, Jr. was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for 30 heavy bombardment missions over Germany.

August 2 - Mrs. S.C. Tribble of West Clinton Street was notified that her son, PFC James C. Tribble, was killed in action February 4.

Private John LeRoy Sharp was killed in action in France. His wife and baby lived in Huntsville.



Bombs produced at Huntsville Arsenal

August 6 - Pvt. Jack Gentle was killed in action in France on June 19.

Technical Sergeant Robert T. Schrimsher was killed in action in France. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Schrimsher of Huntsville.

August 7 - Local Boy Scouts collected 67,970 pounds of paper for the war drive.

Private Earl C. Williams of East Clinton St. was killed in action in France on July 9.

Aug 12 - Private Hubert W. McKelvey was killed in action in France, July 2. He was the son of Mrs. B. F. Beeks of Franklin Street.

September 1 - During August, 500,000 pounds of bombs were tested at Huntsville Arsenal. Army bombers dropped more than 8 million pounds of chemical munitions manufactured at Redstone Arsenal.

September 2 - Canteen Corps volunteers served drinks and sandwiches to 56 servicemen at the Southern Railway Depot.

September 6 - Local horseman Max Luther rode his bay gelding, *Oaklawn's Star* and won first place in the Louisville, Kentucky show. That was the first time an Alabama horse won this honor at Louisville.

September 8 - Sergeant E. J. Bradford was killed in action in France on July 31.

The Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway passenger station on Clinton Street will be torn down. Some of the material will be used to remodel the freight station.

Huntsville's Service Club (canteen) had over 13,000 servicemen visit during August.

Sergeant Charles W. Grayson was killed in action in France on D-Day.

September 10 - The modern West Huntsville High School building opened with J. Homer Crim principal. The two-story structure accommodated 500 students.

West Huntsville Negro School on West Clinton Street was completed at the cost of \$50,000.

September 14 - Sergeant Orville Good, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Good of Huntsville, was reported killed in action in a mission over Germany on March 23.

September 20 - Colonel Carroll Hudson, commanding officer at Redstone Arsenal, issued an urgent appeal for more workers.



West Huntsville High School

September 23 - 278 children enrolled at the new 5th Avenue School.

September 25 - Private Shelby L. Tipton was killed in action in New Guinea on September 20.

There is an urgent need on the farms around Huntsville for people to pick cotton. Pickers are getting as high as \$2.00 per hundred pounds, which gives a skilled worker an opportunity to make \$5.00 or more a day.

September 26 - George Mahoney was elected president of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee, whose purpose was to advertise the advantages of Huntsville and promote the town to new industry.



5th Avenue School

October 1 - Corporal Johnny C. Certain was killed in France on August 12.

October 5 - Private First Class Robert H. Webster died August 18 from wounds received in action in France.

October 6 - Redstone Arsenal celebrated its third anniversary.

Technical Corporal James C. Crawford of Eustis Street was killed in action.

Private Bruce C. Patterson was killed in action on August 11 in France.

October 8 - Private Dalton E. Speck died of wounds received in action in France on August 16.

Technical Sergeant Crawford Crowley of Clinton St. was killed in action over Germany on July 7.

With the need for bandages and dressings for overseas becoming urgent, volunteers were asked to come to the Red Cross surgical dressings room on Washington Street to roll bandages.



George Mahoney

October 16 - Ex-slave Eli Moore, believed to be the oldest person in Madison County, died. Eli said he belonged to the Moore family of Huntsville while a slave.

October 20 - An old Huntsville resident returned to Huntsville after 48 years. Michael O'Shaughnessy visited his friends and his old home "Kildare." He was saddened to see his old home in disrepair.

October 22 - Mrs. George W. Taunton of Cypress Avenue in Westlawn, had five sons in the war and another classed 1-A. The five entered the service in April of 1943.

October 24 - 1st Lieutenant Arthur Davies, Jr. of McCullough Avenue died on October 6 in England as the results of a motorcycle accident.

October 29 - Lieutenant Robert A. Baker of Huntsville was killed in action in the European Theatre.

October 29 - Seven airlines proposed to serve Huntsville.

October 30 - Private First Class James E. Johnson of O'Shaughnessy Avenue was killed in action in the European Theatre.

The sale of "First Flight" envelopes to commemorate the inauguration of Air Mail service in Huntsville by Pennsylvania Central Airlines began.



City of Huntsville being christened

November 5 - The first Pennsylvania Central Airline (PCA) plane landed at the Huntsville Airport. The plane, "City of Huntsville" was christened with water from the Big Spring by Susie Spragins. J. B. Hill purchased the first ticket for the northbound flight.

November 8 - The old Lee mansion with its unusual staircase, used as CWS Depot headquarters at the Huntsville Arsenal, was featured in the NC & St. Louis Railway Bulletin. The house was built in 1818 by the Cooper family and restored by General Ditto in 1942.

November 12 - Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mount of Randolph Street were notified of the death of their son, Seaman James W. Mount, U.S. Navy, killed in action in the South Pacific.

November 13 - W. L. McCalley, last of the pioneer family of Thomas S. McCalley and Caroline Lanford McCalley, died. His mother was the daughter of Robert and Ann Lanford, who came to Huntsville before the city was founded. Mr. Lanford was a foreman for John Hunt.

The street lights were back in service on the streets of the business section of Huntsville. They had been turned out two years ago because of the war.

November 22 - Private William E. Lee was killed in action on November 4. His mother lived on Stevens Avenue.



Lee Mansion

December 2 - *Lifeboat* starring Huntsville native Tallulah Bankhead opened at the Lyric Theater.

December 10 - Redstone was in need of 581 more workers to turn out heavy ammunition.

December 12 - Private Henry Hill was killed in action on November 25 in France.

December 13 - Francis Craig and his NBC orchestra played for the Christmas dance at the Huntsville Armory.



Emancipation celebration at Lakeside Methodist Church

December 17 - Huntsville residents were asked to conserve water as much as possible until the shortage is alleviated. The Big Spring, which once averaged 24 million gallons daily, was now producing only three million gallons.

December 18 - Lieutenant Oscar C. Cantrell was killed in action in Germany on November 29.

December 23 - Lieutenant Terrell Braly, Jr., was killed in a plane crash in 1943.

December 29 - An emancipation celebration of 79 years of freedom for the slaves was held at Lakeside Methodist Church.

1945

January 3 - The Price and Rationing Board warned car and truck owners to recap their tires before they are too worn to take the new treads.

January 19 - Blackout of outdoor advertising was requested by TVA to conserve reserves for the war effort.

Private First Class Lonzo O. Pritchett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pritchett, was killed in action in France on December 16, 1944.

Ten merchants in Huntsville were warned for violations of OPA price ceilings.

January 21 - Dr. Walter Jones resumed his post as State Geologist after five years of military duty.

Lieutenant William Echols Spragins, II was killed in action over Germany. He was a B-17 pilot in the Army Air Cops.

Staff Sergeant William D. Caudle, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Caudle of Patton Street, was killed on December 10, 1944.



Dr. Walter Jones



Lieutenant William Echols Spragins, II

January 24 - Seaman Austin Hamilton Travis of King Street died in the South Pacific December 18, 1944.

William W. King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin W. King of Huntsville, was killed in a plane crash in the Pacific on January 15.

January 28 - Sergeant Richard H. Snyder of Beirne Avenue was killed in action over Ploesti, Romania on July 15, 1944.

The Huntsville Public Library announced that memorial books may be donated for lasting tributes to servicemen.

January 29 - Staff Sergeant Perry Lee Gore, son of Mrs. Lena Gore of McCullough Avenue, died of wounds received December 11, 1944.

February 4 - T-4 Leonard O. Fowler, son of Mrs. Lillie O. Fowler, died of wounds received December 11, 1944.

February 7 - Private First Class Buford D. Byrom, a resident of West Huntsville, was killed in action in France on January 19.

February 11 - Private Dominick Facciolo of McCollough Avenue was killed in action on December 23, 1944 in the Philippines.

February 13 - Staff Sergeant John W. Allen, son of Mrs. Carrie Wilbanks, was killed in action on January 20, 1945.

Lieutenant Robert Torrence was killed in action during a bombing mission in Germany on November 30, 1944.

February 18 - Private Ernest D. Lee, husband of Mrs. Vernie Lee of Race Street, died January 31 of wounds received in France.

February 21 - Jury service for women was vetoed. It would remain for men only.

February 26 - Private Millard L. Duke of Huntsville was killed in action in Belgium.

March 5 - Private First Class Henry Vernon Wilbourne, son of Mr. John H. Wilbourne of Merrimack, was killed in action on Luzon on February 4.



General J.A. Steger

March 9 - Distillers were using sorghum, which was much easier to obtain than rationed sugar, to make white moonshine liquor.

General J. A. Steger, 99-year-old Confederate Veteran, returned to live in Huntsville from Birmingham. He was the last surviving Confederate Veteran in Madison County.

March 11 - Marine Corps Technical Sergeant Erskine L Maddox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dee Maddox of Rison Avenue, died February 23 from wounds received in the South Pacific.

March 16 - Private First Class Knox Wilson of the USMC Reserves, was killed. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Wilson of O'Shaughnessy Avenue.

March 19 - Private Charles E. Glenn of Humes Avenue, son of Mr. and Mrs. Zeda M. Lewis, was killed.

Marine Private First Class Morgan M. Brandon of Front Street was killed in action February 23 on Iwo Jima.

March 20 - Redstone Arsenal took over 475 acres of land in the southeast corner of the Huntsville Arsenal reservation to accommodate its expansion program.

March 22 - Private First Class Sammy Butler was killed in action in Germany on November 8, 1944. He was the son of Mrs. Nell Butler and the husband of Lyndall Mae Butler.

March 23 - Staff Sergeant James K. Duncan of Calhoun Street was killed.

March 27 - Private Duward L. West, son of Hubert West, was killed in action in France.

March 29 - Private First Class Wallace F. Breedwell, son of Mrs. Lillie Breedwell of Westlawn, was killed February 25, 1945.

April 1 - A record breaking haul of 95,510 pounds of scrap paper was gleaned from greater Huntsville by the Boy Scouts for the War drive.

April 3 - Sergeant Paul R. Johnson, husband of Mrs. Esther Johnson, was killed in action September 16, 1944.

Private John L. Hughes of Church Street died of wounds received on Luzon March 23, 1945.

April 6 - Private Sam H. Mitchell, brother of Mrs. Annie Hornbuckle of Huntsville, was killed in Germany on March 23, 1945.

Chester Bennett, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Bennett, was killed in Germany on March 16, 1945.

The son of Mrs. Estella Merrell, of 10th Avenue was killed in action.

April 7 - Private First Class Walter O. Nayman, a resident of Oakwood Ave, was killed in action on Luzon, March 8, 1945.

Captain George O. White, son of Mr and Mrs. A.W. White of Huntsville, was killed in a plane crash near-Baschurch, England on June 2, 1944.

April 9 - Private First Class Gordon Loveday, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Loveday of Birch Avenue, was killed in Germany on March 28, 1945.

April 11 - Private First Class Benton G. Nunn of Beech Avenue was killed in action on February 19, 1945.

April 12 - An extra edition of the Huntsville *Times* was printed on President Roosevelt's death.

April 13 - Private Horace E. Sloan of Clinton Ave was killed in action.

April 15 - \$500,000 worth of baled cotton was destroyed by fire at the Dixie Cotton Warehouse.

Dallas Manufacturing Company placed 231 houses on sale to its mill employee occupants.

April 16 - Seaman Edward Harbin, husband of Grace Harbin, was listed as missing in Pacific Theater.

April 17 - Nelson Jones, son of Dr. and Mrs. Walter B. Jones, was killed in Germany April 1945.

Private R. Whitaker, son of Mrs. Helen Whitaker was killed in action.

April 18 - Orden D. Blankenship, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Blankenship of Huntsville, died in England on April 4, 1945.

April 20 - Private First Class Wayne Hollingsworth, of Hermitage Street, was killed in action in Germany on April 8, 1945.



Huntsville Arsenal Headquarters flag at half-mast for the death of President Roosevelt



Dixie Cotton Warehouse

Flight Officer William L. Troupe, of Abingdon Avenue, was killed in action.

Corporal Macey E. Allen of Huntsville was killed in France on March 29, 1945.

Sergeant Claude L. Johns of Westlawn was killed in action.

Technical Sergeant Marion E. Miller was killed in action.

May 6 - W. C. Handy spoke at A & M's "Principal Founders Day."

May 8 - War with Germany ended. President Truman proclaimed victory.

May 10 - Sergeant Carl M. Crabtree died of wounds received on April 16, 1945.

May 22 - Corporal William C. Petty, U. S. Marine Corps, was killed in action on Okinawa on May 11, 1945.

May 24 - Horace Moses, Director of the Huntsville Public Library, announced that the library would be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sergeant Herchel H. McCann, son of Mrs. Delpha McCann, was killed in action in Europe.

May 28 - Staff Sergeant John Howard King was killed in action on Luzon on May 2, 1945.

June 1 - Private James F. Goins died in Belgium May 4, 1945.



W.C. Handy

June 20 - Paratrooper Charles O. Miller of Huntsville survived a 600 foot fall in Germany when his parachute failed to open.

June 30 - Seaman Thomas A. Stewart, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Stewart, was declared dead after the ship he was on, the *USS Indianapolis*, sank June 30, 1945.

July 22 - Lieutenant Cecil "Bushy" Bolton of Mayfair in Huntsville was recommended to receive the Medal of Honor.

July 29 - A German prisoner of war escaped from the Arsenal camp.

August 15 - Gasoline, canned fruits and vegetables were removed from the ration list immediately.



S/SGT. Paul L. Bolden

August 17 - Production at Redstone Arsenal ceased.

August 22 - 1,820 employees at Huntsville Arsenal, mostly women, would be furloughed by September 1.

August 23 - Staff Sergeant Bolden and Lieutenant Bolton were awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry Truman. Madison County is believed to be the only county in the United States with two Medal of Honor winners.

Whisky rations were doubled to permit two quarts per person per month in Alabama.

Sherwood Freeman, just discharged from the United States Marines, got his old job back as a postal carrier, replacing his son, George, who was just drafted!



Lieutenant Cecil Bolton

August 30 - 182 men from Madison County were killed in the war.

September 2 - Contracts worth \$97 million were cancelled at Huntsville Arsenal.

Huntsville celebrated V-J Day.

October 11 - West Lawn houses were selling rapidly for \$200 down and \$25 a month.

November 6 - Over 1000 stood in line for hours to purchase shotgun shells at Hutchens Hardware store on Jefferson St. for duck season. Shells had been rationed during the war.

November 25 - The M-54 incendiary destruction program was completed. The empty wooden boxes were sold to the public as salvage. As a result, many postwar houses in the Huntsville area were floored and sheeted with these boxes.

November 26 - Merrimack Mill and property sold for \$1.7 million.

November 27 - Medal of Honor winner Paul Bolden reenlisted as a private.

December 9 - The Army claimed a mistake had been made which allowed Medal of Honor Winner Paul Bolden to reenlist, he had only a 2nd grade education.



Lined up to buy shotgun shells

December 16 - Roosevelt Park and Carver Court, providing 150 homes for the black residents of Huntsville, were developed.

December 18 - The housing shortage was still a big problem. Returning veterans and businessmen were trying to locate in Huntsville. Houses were selling like Christmas toys. Renters were having problems finding any place to rent.

1946

January - The John Blue Company started production manufacturing fertilizer distributors, tractor mounted row crop sprayers and dusters, cotton and corn planters, disc harrows, stalk cutters, corn shellers, and corn mills.



Foundry workers at John Blue Company

January 2 - The first passenger to buy a ticket on Eastern Airline's first flight from Huntsville was Abe Pizitz, who boarded the plane for Chicago.

January 3 - A band of 147 gypsies were ordered to close their fortune-telling business on East Holmes Street. The gypsies have been living in trailers at the White Castle Tourist Camp.



Eastern Airlines

January 6 - The Tennessee River had been flooding for 6 days. After the water receded, it was discovered that 100 yards of highway and 300 yards of railroad track had been washed away.

January 16 - The gas mask assembly plant on Redstone Arsenal disassembled a total of 378,403 gas masks. 350 employees of the assembly plant were laid off.

February 6 - The first shipment of shoes from the General Shoe Company, containing 250 dozen pair of work shoes, was sent to the Nashville distribution plant. General Shoe went into operation December 17 with 100 employees, mostly returning soldiers.

February 17 - D. C. Monroe and his "Overdraft" band furnished the program for the Kiwanis Club at the Russel Erskine Hotel. The band consists of 16 members, all past draft age.

February 28 - Redstone Arsenal would require an additional 500 employees to complete a new ammunition renovation. Returning veterans will be given preference in filling the jobs.

March 1 - The City Council authorized its street committee to replace wooden bridges in Huntsville with concrete structures as they wear out. There were seven wooden bridges in the area.

March 3 - Plans were announced for a 46 room drive-in hotel, the Monte Plaza, located on Whitesburg Drive at the foot of Monte Sano at an estimated cost of \$125,000.

Incorporation of the Hutchens Company, a local wholesale and retail hardware firm with a capital stock of \$175,000, was completed at the Probate Office by Vernon F. Hutchens, listed as the President.



D.C. Monroe and the "Overdraft" band

March 10 - Waterman Airlines passenger service would connect Huntsville with four other Alabama cities. Operations will provide Huntsville with access from Mobile to Muscle Shoals through Dothan, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Huntsville.

March 12 - The town clock on top of the courthouse is undergoing repairs. Parts of the 1,800 pound mechanism must be lowered by rope from the tower for repairs. The clock, which has seen almost 90 years of service, should last another half century.

Firebombs manufactured at Huntsville and dropped in the first incendiary raid on Tokyo, were converted into soap for use by the Army. The bombs were about 20 inches in length, octagon-shaped metal tubes. They contained napalm, or gas-jelly.



Huntsville Fire Truck

March 18 - Huntsville Arsenal's prisoner of war camp closed after nearly two years of operation. At times, there were more than 600 German prisoners held there.

March 20 - The city's new fire truck had a 65-foot hydraulically-operated ladder. The \$17,800 truck was the second truck purchased by the Fire Department since the end of the war.

March 31 - A permit was issued to build a \$20,000 theatre at the corner of Pike Street (now Triana Blvd.) and 9th Avenue. The permit was issued to Fritz Thomas and Walton Fleming. (Center Theatre)

The new Negro theatre, called "The Princess" was opened on Church Street. The theatre had a capacity of 350 and was open daily at 2:30. Mr. Jack Heffelman was the owner.

April 8 - Wind and hail swept through Huntsville, destroying barns and houses, killing livestock and ruining crops. Hail stones as large as tennis balls hit West Huntsville.

April 26 - Colonel Duncan G. McGregor, U.S. Army, assumed command of Redstone Arsenal.

May 5 - Huntsville native Brig. Gen. Edward Chambers Betts died of a heart attack in Germany. He served as Judge Advocate of the European Theater, and served through the war as General Eisenhower's Judge Advocate. General Betts organized the Nuremberg Trials against Nazi criminals.



Center Theatre

May 31 - It was announced that a War Memorial Entrance will be built at Huntsville Park. The structure of sandstone will list the names of World War I soldiers who served from the village.

June 9 - Opening of city pools was postponed due to the polio scare in North Alabama.

June 28 - The first beer license since the 1941 prohibition was issued to the Blue Room in the Russel Erskine Hotel.

June 30 - Elm trees were being destroyed by the elm leaf beetle. Trees on Whitesburg Drive were dying. Huntsville's many elm trees, both the old American elms and the fast growing Chinese variety were being attacked.



Princess Theatre

September 1 - Huntsville musician, Bobby Adair, and his seventeen-piece orchestra played in Huntsville.

September 11 - The Twickenham Hotel was remodeled, and James E. Bradley was named the manager.

September 13 - Waterman Airlines landed the first DC-3 airplane in Huntsville.

September 26 - A cobweb painting of the Big Spring was given to the Huntsville Public Library by the artist, Mrs. J. B. Clopton.

October 13 - Huntsville merchants experienced the biggest shopping day in the city's history. The sale of cotton brought thousands of people into town.

November 6 - It was announced that the Grace Club, organized in 1917 by Miss Grace Walker, would erect War Memorial Pillars on Whitesburg Drive. Each pillar would have a bronze tablet bearing the names of all county veterans killed in World War I. The Grace Club was the oldest civic organization in Huntsville.

November 13 - A DC-3 twin engine plane landed at the Huntsville Airport bearing 30,000 baby chicks from Hartford, Connecticut. A moving van transported the chicks to Decatur.

December 17 - Plans were made for the formation of an Engineer group commanded by Carl T. Jones. The group was believed to be only one of its kind in the U.S.

December 31 - Tom Blakemore was named identification officer for the City Police Department. Blakemore, a fingerprint expert as well as a photographer, initiated a fingerprint file for Huntsville in 1922.



**Monument to
Carl Tannahill Jones**

1947

January 2 - The Federal lunchroom program was inaugurated in Huntsville's three elementary schools: East Clinton, West Clinton, and Fifth Avenue.

February 21 - Due to the paper shortage, the Huntsville *Times* would be reduced in size the following week. All advertising except classified and legal would be omitted.

March 30 - Redstone Arsenal was ordered to sharply reduce its 1800 employees.

March 31 - Professor S.R. Butler, for whom Butler High School was named, died after a long illness. He had served as superintendent of schools.



Professor S.R. Butler

May 15 - A thorough clean up of Dixie Village, commonly referred to locally as "Booger Town" began.

May 23 - A Tent Revival was held by J. Otis King at Redstone Park.

May 26 - The 210 foot high Huntsville Park Mill smoke stack had been lighted for safety because of the nearby city airport.

The Vacation Bible School of First Methodist Church would help buy a cow to send to Europe. The cow would be given to a family with children.

June 12 - Sugar rationing ended at midnight.



Dr. J.F. Drake

June 29 - Dr. J. F. Drake retired after 20 years as head of Alabama A & M.

July 18 - Jimmy Taylor, an employee of the Russel Erskine Hotel since 1936, was appointed manager.

August 14 - Debate on how to spell the cow's name was settled - Lily Flagg.

August 24 - A large cavern cave-in was discovered under the square. Dr. Jones and party found a 1,000 ton fall. Rock falls have resulted from recent blasting at the site of the new Henderson Bank Building.

August 27 - Huntsville Arsenal's Building 481 was leased to Keller Motors Corporation.

August 31 - All Gold Star Mothers would be guests at the Madison County Fair.

September 2 - Hospital babies for August set an all time record with 133 births.

October 5 - Laughlin Service Funeral Home was purchased by John Purdy and James Steiplin. It had been in operation since 1868.

Ten snow white ducks were placed in the Big Spring Park by the city.

October 7 - Keller Motor Company opened its offices and plant in two of the largest buildings at the Huntsville Arsenal. Work proceeded on models to be shown in New York City beginning October 20, and the first truckloads of assembly line machinery were expected to arrive on this date. Huntsville's newest industry was headed by George D. Keller who had served in all phases of designing and engineering during his 28 years of continuous service with Studebaker. Keller Motors would make two models which would be known as the Keller Chief and Super Chief in convertible and station wagon.



Jimmy Taylor

October 9 - 23 local policemen adopted the food saving plan recommended by President Truman. They would observe meatless Tuesdays and poultry and egg-less Thursdays.

October 10 - The first Madison County man to give his life in WWII, Luther James Isom, would be the first sent home from overseas for interment here with military honors.

October 20 - Keller unveiled two cars in New York. They were expected to be in production in about four months.

October 22 - 600 A & M students protested because they were not getting a sufficient amount of food from the school dietician.



Councill Training School

November 3 - 300 attended the funeral of Luther Isom at Maple Hill. He was killed at Pearl Harbor.

November 9 - The public was invited to see the new Councill Training School under construction on Meridian Pike. It would be the consolidated high school for all black students of the county.

November 14 - A Memorial in Maple Hill for the war dead was approved. All of block 36 was reserved for veteran burials.

November 30 - Hundreds of residents saw the Keller Car Show at Russel Erskine Hotel.

December 18 - 560 employees were working at General Shoe. The local plant celebrated their second anniversary production of 6,000 pairs daily.

December 31 - An airplane built 40 years ago in Madison County may fly. The family of W. A. Quick planned to assemble parts in the shop at Quick's Mill.



Maple Hill Memorial for the war dead

1948



Keller Station Wagon

January 11 - Twelve Keller station wagons were under construction in the plant at the Huntsville Arsenal. Six have been assembled and are being finished.

February 9 - The Three Stooges: Curley, Larry, and Moe, appeared in person on the stage at the Center Theatre.

February 17 - Fire destroyed the Monte Sano Park Tavern. The blaze, of undetermined origin, gutted the building, leaving only the rock walls standing.

February 28 - General John Steger, 102-year-old Confederate Veteran died. He was Madison County's last Confederate soldier. He entered service at 17 from his home near Ryland. He rose to the rank of sergeant. His title of "general" was an honorary one.

March 2 - Medal of Honor winner Paul Bolden re-enlisted. He went back to see what peace time service is like.

Work began on the first official map of Huntsville since 1905. The new map would include an area three times that of the old map.

March 21 - Huntsville native, actor Harry Townes, was featured in the Broadway production of *Finian's Rainbow*. He had the role of the leprechaun.

April 6 - The pool at the south end of the pump house at the Big Spring was restocked with 250 goldfish of several varieties. The city placed a four foot aluminum cyclone fence around the outer edge of the pool to prevent anyone from falling in.

April 18 - Salvaging gas masks was a new local industry and would employ a total of 56 men.

May 2 - The *Joe Wheeler*, a Southern Railway passenger train, is scheduled to resume service after 5 weeks suspension caused by the coal strike. The train makes a daily run from Chattanooga to Tuscumbia.

June 24 - The first new animated sign was located above the Dinner Bell Restaurant on the northwest corner of Washington and East Holmes Streets.



Harry Townes



General Shoe

June 30 - The Huntsville General Shoe plant would make 180,000 pairs of field shoes for the U.S. Army under a contract for approximately \$1 million.

July 6 - The Mack Harris American Legion Post 307, for black veterans, held a formal opening of its new home on Miller Street. It was chartered 6 months ago and now has 48 members.

September 12 - President George D. Keller told sales personnel and members of the board of directors that the financing of Keller Motors Corporation was expected to be completed within the next month.

September 16 - Huntsville High graduate Dorothea Snow wrote a childrens' book.

September 19 - Nine cobweb paintings were back in Mrs. J. B. Clopton's studio on Triana Rd. after traveling to the Pacific Natural Exhibition in Vancouver, B. C. where they were displayed as the only work of this kind in the world.

October 31 - Construction would begin soon on the \$100,000 Whitesburg Drive-In Theater, which would handle 400 cars and have a 50 foot screen.

1949

January 5 - More than 400 residents were left homeless when Pinhook Creek's water rose. Binford Court was hardest hit with 200 to 400 people evacuated in the worst flood since 1912.



Whitesburg Drive-In Theater

January 6 - The large concrete bridge on Oakwood Avenue between Meridian Street and Pulaski Pike was completely destroyed by the flood.

January 10 - The temperature reached 86 degrees in Huntsville.

January 14 - The 100-year-old clock in the courthouse tower had repairs made on the bell which sounds the hour.

January 23 - The Huntsville Public Library would be glad to serve as custodian for any historical books and documents which owners may wish to save for future reference. The Library staff was trying to build up Huntsville's historical collection. Out-of-state collectors have seriously depleted the wealth of historical material that was once available in Alabama.

February 7 - The old Burritt home place on Eustis Street had been given to the County and City for a health center, by Dr. William H. Burritt. The gift was subject to the provisions that a health center be established there within five years and it be named in honor of Dr. Burritt's father.

March 30 - Roy Jones opened a restaurant known as Zesto Drive-In on Pratt Avenue in the Five Points area. He served a hot dog on a stick dipped in a special mix, French-fried to a golden brown, and named it a Kwiki (it would later be known as a dip dog).



Zesto Drive-In

April - The Elkton Division of the Thiokol Corporation, located at Elkton, Maryland, signed an Army contract to begin research and develop rocket propellants at Redstone Arsenal in June.

April 10 - The old Burritt home place was being torn down to make room for a County Health Department. The original two room log cabin, which formed the core of the present 20 room house was believed to have been built in 1810. Aaron Burr was once entertained there as a guest.

April 11 - Keller Automobile received assembly system; chassis line arrives, installation expected during 10 day period.



Thiokol Worker

April 25 - Huntsville Arsenal would be sold; a major portion of the \$60,000,000 Huntsville Arsenal and Gulf Chemical Depot at Huntsville would be put up for sale by the Army about July 1.

May 15 - Dedication of a tablet to John Hunt, for whom Huntsville was named, would take place on Sunday, May 22 in Big Spring Park.

June 19 - The Huntsville Public library issued a call to all public spirited residents to aid in a drive to establish an Alabama room at the Library. The Library intended to maintain a special section on Huntsville and Madison County with emphasis on a display of old photographs. Thus began the Huntsville Heritage Room.

June 26 - Dr. William Burritt was cruising the streets of Huntsville in a right hand drive auto. His special car resulted in orders for more of the same kind from local mail carriers.

June 29 - Reverend Randolph Royall Claiborne, II, D.D., Rector of the Church of the Nativity, was appointed Suffragan Bishop of the Alabama Episcopal diocese at Nativity.

A plea for residents to quit chasing ambulances and fire trucks was made in a statement issued jointly by Police Chief Laman Carroll and Fire Chief Richard Coble.

July 17 - Mrs. A. D. Bowers was still going strong at the age of 72 at her job at Dallas Mill until the shutdown forced her retirement. She started at Dallas in 1893, and her loom processed the last piece of cloth manufactured at the mill.

July 20 - Cedar log pipes from the old water system were uncovered in excavations at the Big Spring Park, and would be left intact for one week, so the public may see them. A portion of the uncovered pipes revealed a joint. This was considered an unusual find, especially since the wood was perfectly preserved.

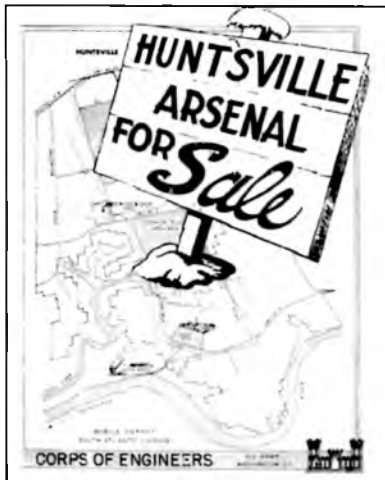
July 22 - A piece-meal sale of the Dallas Manufacturing Co. textile mill machinery, real estate, private dwellings, and buildings was figured at \$953,617.38. The auction signaled the end of a way of life for more than 300 families in Dallas Village.

July 26 - For the last two weeks, the first TV set to be installed in a business had been in operation nightly at Wone's Barbeque on Abingdon Street in Lincoln Village. The set was an 16 inch Admiral model.

July 31 - Milton K. Cummings was chosen the number one citizen for Madison County in 1948 based on his participation in the city playground program and other youth activities.



Milton K. Cummings





Mill Houses at Huntsville Manufacturing Company

members of his staff of officers, engineers, and scientists from the Ordinance Research and Development Division at Ft. Bliss, Texas visited Redstone Arsenal for the purpose of conferring on the problems connected with the rocket research and development program underway at the Arsenal. Among the scientists were Professor Werner von Braun, Dr. Martin Schilling, Eberhard Rees, Professor Theodor Buchald, Hannes Leuhrsen, Dr. Josef Michel, and Ludwig Roth.

October 3 - Dedication ceremonies were held on Meridian Pike to unveil a marker which states: "Duncan Memorial Park, In honor of the veterans of WWII, this spot dedicated to the memory of Lt. Richard Duncan and Staff Sgt Jimmie Duncan."

October 4 - Keller Corporation stock issued passes the Securities Exchange Commission. Five million shares to get the station wagon into production offered.

October 6 - George D. Keller, Chairman of the Board, President, and Director of the Keller Motors Corporation, died of a heart attack last night in his room at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City. Only two days before, he had received the final word from the Exchange Commission that the Keller stock issue had become effective. Plans for the sale of the stock were expected to move forward.

October 31 - The freight house of the N.C. & St. L. Railroad burned down.

November 4 - The Ft. Bliss, Texas, Rocket Office would be moved to Redstone Arsenal. About 900 civilians and soldiers, Dr. Wernher von Braun, as well as his team of 100 German scientists, would be transferred here. The move would take place in early 1950.

November 16 - West Huntsville School was mentioned as a site for the newly authorized extension of the University of Alabama.

November 29 - Sections of the old cedar log pipe used in the Huntsville Water System installed in 1827 were sent to the United States National Museum (Smithsonian) in Washington, DC.

December 9 - Artie Shaw and his orchestra, the Gramercys, played at the Huntsville Armory for a charity dance.

December 19 - Approximately 2,280 children received nearly 16,000 toys at the Huntsville Manufacturing Company's Christmas party for children of employees.

September 8 - The United States Marine Corps band would give two concerts here at the National Guard armory. It would be the first time the band has appeared in North Alabama.

September 13 - The employees of the Huntsville Manufacturing Company were given the opportunity to buy the house they live in. Prices of the 269 homes would range from \$2,900 for a six room house to \$4,900 for a 12 room house.

September 16 - Major James Hamill and 13

members of his staff of officers, engineers, and scientists from the Ordinance Research and Development Division at Ft. Bliss, Texas visited Redstone Arsenal for the purpose of conferring on the problems connected with the rocket research and development program underway at the Arsenal. Among the scientists were Professor Werner von Braun, Dr. Martin Schilling, Eberhard Rees, Professor Theodor Buchald, Hannes Leuhrsen, Dr. Josef Michel, and Ludwig Roth.



Fort Bliss Rocket Office

1950-1959

Rocket City USA

Compiled by Glenda F. Whisenant Smallwood

Huntsville entered the new decade as a small mill and farming town and became the center of the very latest technological research at the Redstone Arsenal. Huntsville's services were stressed and almost overwhelmed with the tremendous demands placed upon it by a diverse and greatly enlarged population. The population growth caused the city to expand in a variety of directions-requiring an immediate need for thousands of new homes, additions to existing schools as well as many new schools, highway and road projects, a better water supply and utilities system, and renovations to medical facilities. With the diverse population came cultural changes. A symphony orchestra was formed, a Little Theatre group was started, and musical and theatrical groups from many different parts of the country toured here to perform. Our own cultural background was celebrated with the Huntsville Pilgrimage of Homes and Burritt Museum. Social and civic clubs played a significant part in raising funds for such important facilities as the Crippled Children's Center, Christmas Charities, and Harris Home for Children. The "Heart of Huntsville" development plan was slowly begun, and its influences in our city planning are still seen 50 years later. Slowly the nation would discover "Rocket City USA."



**Dr. Wernher von Braun and his family
Move to Huntsville in 1950**

1950

January 3 - Free daily garbage service (residential and commercial) costs the city \$60,000 a year.

Dr. W. M. McKissack, Chairman of the Crippled Children's Committee and the Rotary Club purchased an audiometer and headsets to test the hearing of 16,962 pupils. Until then, teachers "tested" hearing by whispering 25 or 30 words from one corner of a classroom with students writing down what they heard.

Prices from January 5 advertisements:

Sterchi's best washer - \$89.95, \$5 down and convenient terms.

Penney's all wool gabardine coat (topper) - \$15

Hill's Super Store - Tide 25 cents - Apples 3 lbs. 27 cents - ground beef 45 cents per lb.

Ritz Cafe - Sunday Dinner for 50 cents

January 25 - Robert K. "Buster" Bell, local attorney, was the first candidate for Governor of Alabama to appear on statewide TV.

February 7 - 38 local firms to close on Wednesday afternoons for the next 9 months. (Formerly, they closed on Wednesday afternoons beginning in May or June.)

February 9 - 5th Avenue School first grade enrollment was 90 - up from 57 the previous year. An additional 200 children were expected from the families of German scientists. (When the school was built in early war years, it was criticized for being built "in the country.")



Robert K. "Buster" Bell

February 21 - General Elbert L. Ford, Army Chief of Ordnance, visited Huntsville to discuss Redstone's future in ordnance development.

March 13 - Hank Williams and Cowboy Copas headlined the Grand Ole Opry show at Joe Bradley High.

March 24 - Plans were approved to build a new high school and improve East Clinton, 5th Avenue, Council High, and Winston Street schools.

April 3 - 102 families of General Electric employees began moving here from El Paso, Texas.

April 7 - City planners approved six new subdivisions (two black and four white).

April 10 - 344 family members of German scientists began moving here from Ft. Bliss, Texas.

United Daughters of the Confederacy (Virginia Clay Clopton Chapter) honored General John Hunt Morgan by placing a bronze plaque near his home's entrance.

April 23 - Macon L. Weaver and Harry L. Pennington opened law offices at 302 ½ Madison Street.

May 14 - Dr. Von Braun and family have taken out citizenship papers.

May 23 - City school tuition was established for students living outside city limits. This affected 125 children living in Terry Heights, along Pulaski Pike, and on Monte Sano.

May 25 - Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, CEO of financially troubled Eastern Airlines, visited the airlines facilities here and talked with local officials about the airline's future.



Mrs. Bessie Russell

June 18 - The Local History Collection began at the Public Library. Mrs. Bessie Russell was appointed reference librarian.

Fifteen Mayfair area children took rabies shots because of bites from a rabid dog; Glenda F. Whisenant was one of them.

July 13 - Draft Board opened with 85 registrants ages 25 and 26. Pre-induction physical exams began. The draft called for 422 men from Alabama, 20 from Madison County for the Korean conflict.

July 23 - The City Council approved a resolution outlawing Communism in Huntsville, condemning hoarding, and calling for merchants to aid war effort by not hoarding goods.

July 24 - Local National Guard Units called into service. Members of this unit included Judge Douglas Martinson, Dr. Sam Caldwell, and 10 out of 15 men employed by G. W. Jones & Sons (including the unit's commanding officer, Col. Carl T. Jones).

September 2 - Radio Station WFUN, the Kiddie Club, and Parks and Playgrounds held Kiddie Day at Big Spring Park. Over 5,000 attended. Little Miss Huntsville, Gisela Beduerfting, age 13, was the daughter of a German scientist.

September 25 - Staff Sergeant Morgan L. "Buddy" Crabtree was killed in Korea.

December 6 - Two areas were voted into the Huntsville City Limits: Terry Heights and Wells Avenue area. The town was now more than twice its pre-Civil War size.

December 28 - A & M College men's dormitory burned.

1951

January 8 - Construction in 1950 showed city's growth. 501 home building permits issued-most in South Huntsville. Noteworthy were a \$27,000 home on Rhett Avenue and Dr. Cowart's \$20,000 home on Echols Hill.

January 25 - Brogtown ("Boogertown"), a 50-unit shanty area, to be cleared for low-income housing.



"Boogertown"



**Workers on strike at
Huntsville Manufacturing**

February 2 - Local hotels and motels were full from tourist overflow. Travelers were having to sleep in lobbies. Private homes were called into service as hundreds of travelers were stranded here due to ice-coated roads.

February 18 - New housing project for black residents named Council Court.

March 4 - It was announced that Redstone Arsenal would bring in 600 additional technical persons.

April 2 - Textile workers went on strike at Huntsville Manufacturing.

May 20 - Huntsville held its first Armed Forces Day Parade.

May 21 - The Bon-Air Motel & Restaurant was established on Meridian Street.

June 28 - Woody's Drive-In theater held its grand opening.

July 2 - An Arsenal housing appeal was made to the city and nearby towns - there was a widespread need for rental houses and apartments.

July 15 - First National Bank held an "Open House." Air conditioning and electrically operated doors featured. "Outside-Just like it was in 1835-Inside-Just as modern as tomorrow."



Bon-Air Motel & Restaurant



First National Bank

August 17 - Sheriff Oliver McPeters's impeachment was requested. The charges were corruption and moral turpitude. On November 13, the State Supreme Court impeached him from office.

September 4 - New S. R. Butler High School opened with enrollment of 548. Formerly named West Huntsville High School, it served students advancing from Joe Bradley, Rison, Lincoln, and Farley schools.

September 9 - Von Braun outlined plans for moon landing and other projects.

October 4 - Health Center construction funds okayed. The land was donated by Dr. W. H. Burrirt in 1949 for a health center to be built there within five years. The center is named in honor of his father, Amatus

Robbin Burrirt. Site location was on Eustis and Gates Streets between Greene and Lincoln Streets which was the location of the old Burrirt home.

October 15 - All city children are to get TB skin test as this county had highest TB death rate in the state and one of the highest in the nation.

October 17 - Huntsville Manufacturing Company gave Joe Bradley School to the County Board of Education.

November 18 - Local Historical Society organized at the home of Homer B. Chase. Miss Frances Roberts, a member of the Executive Board of the Alabama Historical Society, organized the Society.

November 27 - Cecil Sanderson appointed Sheriff by Governor Persons to replace the impeached McPeters.

December 20 - Word was received that Huntsville soldier, Sergeant Paul Miller, was a prisoner of war.

1952

January 9 - While in Korea, Sen. John Sparkman visited Carl and Henry Turner, brothers from Huntsville.

January 31 - Mother's March on Polio-4000 workers participated in polio charity drive, \$5000 raised. 35 polio cases with 2 deaths occurred last year in Madison County-5 in Huntsville Park area. \$14,200 total donated in Polio Drive.



S.R. Butler High School

February 15 - The City Council approved new 10-year contract with Eastern Airlines for use of the greatly expanded Huntsville Airport.

February 22 - Shirley Sanders of Butler High School represented Alabama in the National Cherry Pie Baking Contest in Chicago and won one of four Regional Awards.

March 12 - Nelson Eddy performed to a capacity crowd at Huntsville High School.

March 23 - A tornado touched down in Redstone, Farley, and Gurley.

April 18 - Typhoid Fever reported on Triana Road. Children and adults drinking unpasteurized milk or untreated water should have a typhoid shot annually.

May 19 - Miss Annie Merts, vice principal at Huntsville High School, retired after 51 years in the classroom.

State Highway crews started work on constructing Memorial Parkway.

July 20 - Big Brothers Supermarket opened.

July 13 - Ninth rabid dog of the year reported. Sixty people had to take rabies shots in this county, the highest number since 1937.



Miss Annie Merts



Big Brothers Supermarket

July 24 - Radar Meter for "nabbing" speeders demonstrated to Sheriff, Police Chief, and Chairman of County Commissioner.

July 27 - John Sparkman nominated for Vice President.

August 24 - Harry Townes, Broadway and TV star who graduated from Huntsville High School was in town to visit his mother.

September 14 - Building started at Darwin Downs, one million dollar subdivision of 145 homes.

September 16 - R. B. "Speck" Searcy defeated Mayor A. W. McAllister 1,563 to 1,515. McAllister served 26 years as mayor.

Non-segregation instituted at Redstone. All "Negro" and "White" signs removed.

1953

January 3 - Huntsville Hospital used hallways for overflow beds.

Board of Aldermen listened to motels owners' comments against building Memorial Parkway.

February 6 - Parking meters, installed last week around the courthouse, go into effect.

February 24 - Maxine Walker of Butler High School won the National Cherry Pie Baking Contest. She traveled to Washington, D.C. where she baked a cherry pie for First Lady, Mamie Eisenhower. She gave the First Lady an autographed recipe for her award-winning pie. She won all-expense paid trips to Washington, D.C. and New York City as well as a new stove and \$100. On



R. B. "Speck" Searcy

March 5 she was honored by a 75-car motorcade viewed by 12,000 people in Huntsville. 200 people attended a banquet at the Russel Erskine Hotel where she received checks from local merchants

February 28 - Cigarette prices increased from 24 cents to 25 cents a pack.

April 15 - Police Chief Lauin Carroll resigned. He had been chief since June 1946. Reason—"can't work under present conditions and maintain maximum standards," and "strife between Mayor, City Council, and Police Committee."



Maxine Walker

April 25 - Senator Sparkman and General Vincent dedicated new air terminal.

April 30 - The Humane Society was organized.

May 13 - "The Rocket City" became Huntsville's newest nickname.

May 14 - Armed Forces Day Parade had the Hermes Rocket on public display at Courthouse Square as part of Redstone's exhibition.

May 17 - Large ad by friends of former Police Chief, Lauin Carroll, appeared in *Huntsville Times* asking the Mayor and City Council to reinstate him. Ad states—"Do you remember 'gangsters' war murders in 1945-46-open gambling, 4 houses of ill repute, and Huntsville's nickname of 'Little Chicago'?"



Hermes Missile Display

May 24 - Former Police Chief Carroll requested Council Hearing. Carroll's hearing request was denied, his last day would be June 1.

July 27 - The United States, North Korea and China signed an armistice which ended the Korean War. There were 21 casualties from Huntsville. They were James R. Allen, R. C. Alverson, Edward Birchfield, Charlie A. Campbell, Morgan L. Crabtree, Edgar E. Davis, Jr., Thomas V. Gates, William H. Gunter, Richard G. Harless, Delbert C. Johnson, Kenneth E. McGamie, Jake Mefford Jr., William L. Mitchell, James F. Pogue, Noland D. Posey, Leon Reese, Voorhees S. Root, Jr., Bobby E. Spivey, Robert E. Spragins and Ralph R. Vance.



Huntsville's new Air Terminal

July 30 - Reverend J. Otis King, Pastor of Lincoln Baptist Church, held an old-fashioned revival in the old White Castle "honky tonk" (corner of Winchester Road and Meridian Street).

August 28 - Freed POW, Theopolis Parris, arrived and was escorted by American Legion to the Legion building on Miller Street and from there a motorcade proceeded through the city to the courthouse.

September 1 - Dollar Bill Fund was opened for wife of second Huntsville released POW, Mrs. Paul Miller, to allow her to travel to meet her husband.

September 2 - The vote to keep the suburbs outside city was 866 to 600. Opposition was to the annexation of some 16 square miles containing approximately 20,000 people.



Reverend J. Otis King

ple, primarily, in Lincoln and Huntsville Park. Dallas was the only community which showed a majority desiring annexation. Southeast Huntsville voted 7 of 10 for annexation.

September 4 - Excerpts from the diary of Airman Edgar Gaines, Huntsville's third released POW, appeared in the *Huntsville Times*. It told of the torture of POWs.

September 7 - There were nearly 500 more students in school this year, with as many as 50 students to a classroom.

September 21 - Sgt. Paul Miller, second Huntsville POW returned home. Among those greeting him was Cpl. Parris, who was first POW home. They were kept in the same prison camp.

September 24 - A luncheon and parade were held for third POW, Airman Edgar Gaines. He was presented a gold watch by the VFW. The watch was bought through contributions. He met with the two other earlier released POWs at the luncheon.

November 3 - Corporal Theopolis Parris, Huntsville ex-POW, reenlisted in the Army and was assigned to Redstone.

November 15 - The Mayor ordered a report on all beggars and solicitors of alms in the downtown area. A random count one Saturday had 25 begging in main business section.

December 4 - The Grand Theater showed *From Here to Eternity* on Panoramic screen.

December 8 - The Lyric Theater had *First Giant* Panoramic screen with *Escape from Fort Bravo*.



Sno-Wite

Webb White received Rhodes Scholarship. His father, Addison White was also a recipient.

Jack Ayers, Butler High School, was selected All-State High School Football by Birmingham News.

December 20 - Fox Movietone and Telenews cameramen were at Arsenal making newsreels of Nike program. Redstone had 5 of the top Nike men with Gen. Toftoy as director.

1954

January 7 - Grand Opening of Sno-Wite Hamburgers on North Side Square in the old Rison Bank Building.

April 1 - Huntsville High School seniors, Patricia Stutts and Billy Moonman were winners on NBC's "Break the Bank" audience participation program while on Senior Class Trip to New York City and Washington, D.C.

April 15 - Huntsville High School students took over City Government - Dea Thomas was the Street Superintendent and Loretta Purdy was the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

May 16 - Loretta Purdy was named the Editor of the *Red and Blue* Huntsville High School's student newspaper.

June 6 - Clem Gryska was Huntsville High School's new football coach. He played on Alabama's first Rose Bowl Team as quarterback in 1946.



Loretta Purdy

July 17 - *The Sertoman* started operation at Big Spring Park. The brand new miniature train was installed by the Sertoma Club.

July 18 - \$5,000 reward offered for information leading to the arrest of the bomber of 5th Avenue School. At 3 am, Saturday, the 17th, extensive damage was done to the new addition being built since late June. Labor troubles suspected.

July 20 - Jimmy Taylor, local college student, won top Class B honors in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* photo contest. His prize-winning photo was put on display in the foyer of the Huntsville Public Library.



Huntsville High School

August 8 - Open house held at 5th Avenue Hospital (formerly known as Whitaker Clinic). It would open the next day, relieving the strain on Huntsville Hospital, with 34 beds and 10 bassinets.



Brigadier General Toftoy

August 20 - As there had been drought in the area for the past four years with temperature in the 100s, a meeting was held regarding the possibility of "Cloud Seeding" at the Elks Club Building. \$8,000 sought in drive for cloud seeding.

August 22 - Huntsville High School, the "Million Dollar School," held an open house.

September 1 - Brigadier General H.N. Toftoy assumed command at Redstone Arsenal from Brig. Gen. Thomas K. Vincent.

September 12 - The VFW welcomed Congressional Medal of Honor Winner, Lt. Benjamin F. Wilson. Joe Davis was Commander of the VFW in Huntsville.

October 1 - Green and white "Heart of Dixie" license tag went on sale.

October 13 - 5th Avenue PTA protested widening Governor's Drive to 4 lanes from Longwood Drive to the Parkway (behind the school and through Madison Heights).

October 14 - Airline activity increased here. In two days there were 78 passengers on Capital Airlines and Eastern Airlines (6 flights). A restaurant was planned to be built at airport.

November 11 - German scientists and families took the Citizenship oath in Birmingham.

November 19 - A 14-year old Huntsville Junior High School student was arrested after he admitted attacking 10 to 15 women. "I just try my luck with almost every woman I find alone. I don't mean any harm, I just want to see them squirm." The police had been escorting women to their cars parked at Huntsville businesses. The boy was sent to reform school on December 2.

November 26 - Local musician Charles Lyle's tune, *Summer Love*, was to be published. It won 3rd Place in a National Contest.

December 18 - "Last night of 'Number, Please'" dialing telephones began at midnight. New telephone numbers Jefferson plus 5 numerals. Of 200 existing telephone operators, 85 would continue to work.

December 22 - Busch's Kredit Jewelers demonstrated the new \$69.95 Polaroid Land Camera.

December 28 - "Gas War" between Standard, Pure and Shell. New price 4.4 cents down to 27.9 cents regular and 29.9 cents premium.

1955

February 1 - A & M College and Councill High were hit by a tornado with \$500,000 damage.

February 7 - Lyric Theater showed spy thriller *Operation Manhunt* starring "Huntsville's Own" Harry Townes.



"New Citizens Day" held at Huntsville High School

torium. New Citizens Day were sponsored by Rotary International as part of the Golden Anniversary of Rotary.

April 17 - 630 children received Salk vaccine shots for polio. Little Bobby Warden, son of Bob Warden, Assistant Principal of Huntsville High School, asked to receive first shot and helped teachers to prepare room where shots were given.

April 19 - The Burritt home on Monte Sano offered to City along with \$10,000 a year to maintain it.

April 22 - The Historic Huntsville Pilgrimage coincided with the 8th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association being held in Huntsville.

April 27 - Prohibition on women school principals was removed. The ban was instituted after World War II to encourage men to get back into the education system. Mrs. P.J. Vinson was appointed acting principal after Joe Davis resigned.

May 1 - Official Kickoff for the Sesquicentennial celebration at noon. Profits went to the Crippled Children's Center.

May 8 - Formal openings of Bel Air Estates in South Huntsville, State Park Addition on Monte Sano, and Montdale.

March 31 - It was announced that all senior high students in city are to get TB chest x-ray.

April 10 - Grand Opening and 69th Anniversary of new, completely remodeled Hutchens Company, Huntsville's oldest business firm.

April 14 - "New Citizens Day" was covered by the New York Times and CBS-TV. Dr. von Braun and 108 other Germans were made US citizens in a special mass Federal ceremony in Huntsville High School's audi-



Interior of Burritt Home



Brothers of the Brush - Sesquicentennial Celebration

May 23 through 29 - Captain Marcus Bluth, JAG for Redstone Arsenal, tried for the murder, rape and drugging of Helen Meighem. Mrs. Meighem was found in her Longwood Court apartment by her postman. 200 spectators jammed the courtroom. Charges were reduced to manslaughter and rape. Helen's husband testified for Bluth. On May 29, the jury

found Bluth guilty of manslaughter. The conviction was appealed. (On 2-13-57 the conviction is reversed. On 3-19-57 all charges were *nol prossed*.)

June 13 - Brothers of the Brush and Sisters of the Swish badges were on sale in the Elks' Building on Eustis Street. For those men who wished to remain clean-shaven, Shaving Permits were being sold for the Sesquicentennial Celebration.



Sisters of the Swish - Sesquicentennial Celebration

July 7 - Sisters of the Swish group formed as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Activities included Sisters of the Swish Day, garden parties, fashion shows, balls, and promenades on Sunday afternoons. Sisters would not be able to wear make-up on certain dates without "The Official Cosmetic Permit."

July 25 - Lincoln Mills hit by strike of 350 employees from the first shift. The Mill asked for an injunction. During August, shooting and fighting led to arrests, and on August 8, Lincoln Mills suspended operations indefinitely. On December 12 - Lincoln Mills opened quietly with police on hand. 200 strikers watched as 120 employees crossed the picket line in subfreezing cold. On December 21 - Lincoln Mills was quiet as 290 employees entered the mill. Police extended their lines to strike headquarters. 250 Union members marched on City Hall at 5 pm. The Mayor stated that he would not withhold police protection for mill workers. Lincoln Mills Strike would be settled on December 27.



Razor Blade's Funeral

July 31 - "Razor Blade's Funeral" by Brothers of the Brush's ceremony included parade in horse drawn hearse to Big Spring waters. Sisters of the Swish were mourners in another Sesquicentennial Celebration.

The Huntsville City Council voted to cut down one of Huntsville's oldest landmarks, a giant oak in the middle of Adams Avenue. An editorial in the Huntsville *Times* asked the Council to "go slow in cutting Historic Tree."

August 4 - Huntsville's Bobby Luna was with the Pro Football team, the 49s, practicing as a kicker. He was a former HHS and Alabama All-Star.

August 7 - The men of Huntsville were now wearing Bermuda shorts.

Memorial Parkway's West Holmes Street overpass neared completion.

Showing of 100 Cloverdale homes, located on Jordan Lane between 5th Avenue (Governors Drive) and Athens Pike (University Drive.) 78 have 3 bedrooms, 22 of which have bath and a half, and 22 are 2-bedroom homes. The prices range between \$9,600 to \$12,000 with ceramic tile baths and hardwood floors.

September 4 - Grand Opening of Holiday House.

September 5 - Huntsville Parkers semipro baseball team was 5th in the Nation after winning first the State Championship, then Regional, and going to Wichita, Kansas to the National Championship. As they won round after round, team was running out of money for expenses. Appeal for more cash raised \$3,330.25 from fans. Team won the Sportsmanship Trophy and Most Popular Team award. Donnie Mincher, Butler High School Senior, and William Stewart named All-American. A huge crowd met the team as they returned by train.

September 8 - Harry L. Pennington appointed Madison County Circuit Court Judge by Governor Folsom.

September 11 through 17 - Sesquicentennial Celebration.



December 1 - A "Time Capsule" was buried by Laughlin Funeral Home in a 500 lb. container especially constructed by County Custodian, J.E. Spencer. Citizens guessed what the population would be 50 years from now when capsule will be opened. Guesses were up to 3,000,000.

The 12 1/2 mile Memorial Parkway opened to traffic with no formal ceremony. Constructed by Ashburn and Gray over a three-year period, it cost more than \$2 Million.

December 22 - A 100-year-old residence on Redstone was moved. The two-story farmhouse was called "Wheel House" and would be used as quarters for VIPs on official visits to Redstone.

1956

Sesquicentennial Time Capsule

January 1 - Arsenal employment at 9000. New construction topped \$30 million.

January 2 - Westlawn School opened.

January 5 - Two of the six Huntsville Park cases of Diphtheria died. 526 jammed clinic seeking Diphtheria shots. The blame for the outbreak was given as "parental negligence," parents thinking children would get immunizations in school.

January 6 - Trapp Family Singers (subjects of *Sound of Music*) appeared at Huntsville High School.

January 7 - Record of 4,828 shots given, in a single clinic, for polio and diphtheria.

January 10 - Southern Railway took steps to comply with recent Interstate Commerce Commission ruling against the segregation of interstate passengers.



Newly Opened Memorial Parkway

January 30 - Major General John B. Medaris welcomed to Redstone Arsenal.

February 5 - Rites set for Mrs. James Blunt Clopton, noted cobweb artist and Huntsville schoolteacher. Her father, Professor R.S. Bradshaw, was president of Huntsville's Female Seminary in 1896. Professor Bradshaw helped plan and build the Central Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Clopton started teaching in 1896 and retired in 1944. She started first scouts here after correspondence with Girl Scouts' founder.



Major General John B. Medaris welcomed by Mayor Searcy

March 23 - Lincoln Mills of Alabama would sell approximately 200 houses and some apartments to Lincoln Mills employees. This marked the end of mill villages in Huntsville area.

March 24 - Hotel Russel Erskine began serving "Nike Steak" dinner \$1.45. It was sprinkled with "Moon dust."

March 27 - Herman's Swan Room opened above the Ritz Cafe.

April 13 - A special census of Huntsville showed 48,083 residents.

April 15 - The Huntsville *Times* held an open house and boasted of circulation of about 21,200. Twenty-five years earlier circulation was 2,800.

April 18 - Gibson's Barbecue on Parkway held Grand Opening.

April 22 - Oakwood College Quartet won top prizes on *Strike It Rich* TV show and would appear in concert here.

May 11 - Removal of one of Huntsville's best-known landmarks, the old Adams Avenue Oak started. The tree was 201 years old, but the big trunk was hollow.

May 16 - 20 - A major campaign began against 4-laning 5th Avenue (Governor's Drive) from Memorial Parkway eastward past 5th Avenue School and up Monte Sano. Reasons stated "to protect student lives and is too noisy for students to study." People's Forum was started this month and there were many letters from the public, pro and con. Newspaper ads said, "Remember 5th Avenue. Is your street next?"



Adams Avenue Oak



May 21 - Donnie Mincher won Acme Club award during Butler High School graduation for "outstanding 3-sport athlete."

May 27 - Frances Cabaniss Roberts received the first Ph.D. in History awarded to a woman at the University of Alabama.

May 28 - Milton (Butch) Frank III received the Acme Award for Outstanding Athlete from his father Coach Milton Frank, at Huntsville High School graduation.

June 4 - New swimming pool facility opened, which "gives local Negroes 1st public swimming pool facility in Huntsville's 150 year history."

Frances Cabaniss Roberts

June 9 - Rites held for Edwin W. Jones, member of G.W. Jones and Sons (founded by his father) and Brig. General in US Army Reserves. His mother, Elvalina Moore Jones was granddaughter of Isaac Criner, first white settler in Madison County.

June 21 - Southern Furniture Trade-O-Rama opened day and night for three days. Disc jockey Grady Reeves held a 67-hour marathon from their window. Ads said, "Catch him asleep and win Frigidaire Range or Refrigerator!"

July 23 - Generals Toftoy and Medaris dedicated the Hermes Missile which stood on the Parkway at Airport Road.

August 9 - Weeden House was auctioned to Mrs. B.A. Stockton for \$27,650. Owner who sold home was Mrs. Ben Lee Bibb, the sixth generation of Weeden Family to live in the home.

August 26 - Grand Opening of Holiday Homes. 507 brick veneer homes would be constructed.



Southern Furniture

September 1 - Huntsville *Times* proclaims: "Rock and Roll Dancing Craze is Delinquency Solution, Maybe." Friday night before school started, two Memphis Rock and Roll bands played at Armory. Boys were doing "the freeze" and backbends, frenzied dancing. "Participants are too weary for delinquency."

September 6 - Blossomwood Elementary School opened.



Lincoln Mill Village

Lincoln Mill Village homes all sold in one day. Oldest home tenants working at mill were given first opportunity to buy.

October 7 - Dr. Sonnie W. Hereford III opened his medical practice at 211 Clinton Street.

October 17 - Terry Heights Elementary School boy, Bobby Hall, age 10, found ancient stone artifacts in an old car in Huntsville junkyard. Miss Dorothy Webb, Huntsville Library, contacted archeologist in Memphis who got Director of Middle American Research Institute to examine small stone heads which were said to be Mayan artifacts, age about 3000 years old.

November 25 - Elvis in *Love Me Tender* at Grand Theater.

Special rules: no tickets were sold after feature starts and time was given between shows to clear theater. Blue Suede Shoes were be given away.

November 28 - "Quickie Divorce" racket thrived locally. A notable divorce was comedy star, Pat Marshall, divorcing her husband who was a New York housing contractor. She flew to Huntsville from New York City, spent the night in a local hotel and left next afternoon for New York. She said, "My lawyer handled everything. I didn't even see the judge."

December 10 - Dr. Floyd Warren Walter, 32, Arsenal scientist, died of Bulbar Polio. Dr. Walter's death came in the midst of local effort to get more parents to bring children in for shots. His own infant son had received the first shot.

1957

January 8 - Midnight fire gutted Elks Club causing \$100,000 damage.

January 14 - Lincoln School sold to the City by the mill for \$40,000.

March 14 - Thousands saw opening of Parkway Center (25 stores and 425 employees). Butler High School Band played at beginning of the 3-day Grand Opening.

May 1 - Booze and Beer flowed in sewers as the Sheriff's Office dumped 300 gallons of confiscated wildcat whiskey and 11,272 cans of beer into Huntsville's storm drains.



Parkway Center

Daylight Savings Time was confusing for a while. Interstate carriers, including airlines, railroads and bus companies would remain on Central Standard Time. Two radio stations, WFUN and WBHP adopted DST but WHBS wasn't sure. Its decision depended on the downtown store hours.

May 13 - Severely paralyzing polio hit 14-year-old city girl, Inez Stephens. Several children in the family thought they had 1st polio shot a year ago but found out it was a Typhoid shot. Inez was taken to Birmingham and died.

June 23 - Fifth Avenue Hospital was sold by Dr. James Whitaker to a New York businessman. Dr. Whitaker would continue to direct the hospital.

June 26 - *Space Journal*, the publication of the Rocket City Astronomical Association, went on the newsstands. First issue was dedicated to "Father of Astronautics," Dr. Herman Oberth.

June 30 - Conclusion of Col. John C. Nickerson, Jr.'s Court Martial for violation of security regulations. His civilian defense counsel were Huntsville attorney Robert K. Bell and Ray Jenkins of Knoxville, Tennessee. Dr. von Braun, a defense witness, said that the rigidity of Army Security was at times a handicap in missile development. Nickerson "gets slap on the wrist" with loss of rank for a year and fine of \$1500 for the violation of the Army's Security Regulations. General Medaris said Nickerson had no future in rockets. Nickerson was transferred to the Canal Zone.

July 25 - The new Huntsville Airport tower was "Traffic Cop of the Airways." The \$370,000 facility operated with 8 on staff.

August 18 - The first Driver's Education Class in Huntsville started at HHS in September. The specially designed 1957 Chevrolet was donated by Hill Chevrolet. The Driver's Ed teacher, Charles Hill, took special driving course at the University of Alabama. Students finishing the semester course received a special certificate for their achievement. Glenda F. Whisenant was one of the first class to finish.



Dr. Herman Oberth in the foreground



Huntsville Airport's new Tower

August 20 - Huntsville connected to the U.S. Dial System for long distance calls.

Huntsville Housing authority cleared the West Clinton Street Urban Development area. Huntsville firemen burned shanties. Houses that could be salvaged were sold and moved.

August 25 - Harris Home for Children completed. Mrs. Chessie Harris, founder, was secretary; Dr. H.F. Drake, local physician, chairman; Mrs. George S. Butler, treasurer; and Probate Judge Ashford Todd was advisor. Mrs. Harris's home started as a Welfare Department boarding home.

October 6 - Frustration was the reaction here to launch of *Sputnik*.

November 6 - Members of the Housing Subcommittee of the House Banking and Currency Committee in City to make survey of housing conditions among military and civilians. Medaris stresses housing needs. The city was short of 2,755 houses, but 200 houses were sitting vacant due to a shortage of mortgage money.

November 18 - East Longwood Drive home exploded, killing three sisters. Owner of home, John Bachman, left home 15 or 20 minutes before explosion. One of his sisters survived. City says no danger existed on Longwood Drive, but gas experts came to investigate. On November 21 it was reported that a gas line break was found in the street. A December 4 tests of the soil found that flammable material was absorbed in the soil occupied by neighbors.

December 13 - A grateful city honored a family citizen. Von Braun received Huntsville's Distinguished Citizen award.



Dr. Wernher von Braun, Mayor Searcy and MG John Medaris at a celebration on the square

December 26 - Von Braun was named the top scientist of 1957.

1958

January 7 - Macon Weaver (age 39) sworn in as Circuit Solicitor after the resignation of Glenn Manning. Tom Younger (age 29) was named by Weaver as his deputy.

January 21 - Little Richard (the singer) gave up Rock and Roll, denouncing it as sinful, and enrolled in Oakwood College.

February 1 - The Jupiter C Satellite was successfully launched. A celebration was held on the square.

February 2 - Former Defense Secretary Charles Wilson can't figure out why Huntsvillians burned him in effigy last night at ABMA celebration.

February 5 - Lee Junior High School opened, allowing other schools to become elementary only.

February 11 - The Big Spring's waterfall froze.

February 17 - Temperatures plunged to minus 3 degrees F. State of Emergency declared by Mayor at 11:15 pm. Radio stations announced that thermostats for gas furnaces and electric heaters to be set on 55 to 60 degrees. Families were asked to "double up." Schools were closed along with stores, offices, and other businesses. Limited gas service was restored after the gas pressure dropped in Tennessee-Alabama Natural Gas pipeline. The system was stabilized by 2:30 pm, but gas service was still out at Wherry Housing (on the Arsenal), Fleming Meadows and Farley. All Drive-In theaters, except Woody's, closed due to the bad weather.



Students at Lee Junior High School



Radio Station WHBS

April 23 - Thiokol's Mary Matthews Smith (age 28), wife of an Arsenal engineer, was Miss Secretary 1958. The Nation's Number #1 Secretary was congratulated by Sen. John Sparkman at an awards luncheon. She was one of 430 secretaries in the contest. She was given a testimonial dinner here on May 2 and received gifts from 40 Huntsville merchants and 5 women's organizations.

May 15 - Radio Station WHBS sold by Huntsville *Times* to M.D. Smith with okay by FCC. Station became WAAY.

May 24 - The Huntsville *Times* endorsed George Wallace for Governor, and John Patterson was here for a rally and barbecue.

June 15 - Burritt Museum opened to the public for the first time.

July 23 - "Bone Bank," a reservoir of bone tissue, was set up in City Hospital for children for bone grafts for fractures that don't heal properly, spinal fusions, or vertebrae damaged by TB.

August 2 - Southeastern AAU Swim Meet held at Big Spring Park pool. Sam Sullins, refereed the event. It was biggest one-day athletic event in Huntsville's history. More than 400 swimmers in 12 teams from Alabama and Tennessee participated in 74 events in swimming and diving. One of the results of this event was the establishment of the Rocket City Swim Association.

August 3 - Top missile experts honored General Toftoy at a reunion on July 22. Von Braun praised Toftoy's accomplishments. Toftoy was presented with a Jupiter C scale model. Secretary of the Army Brucker gave Toftoy the Distinguished Service Medal in Washington, D.C. on July 30. August 1 was "General Toftoy Day" and a monument in his honor was located in Big Spring Park. There was a dinner for 700 at Huntsville's Electric Service Center. General Toftoy left Huntsville with a Book of Memories from 35 individuals and groups who figured in his career.



Ceremony for General Toftoy

The names of 281 streets in City were changed. City bought 1000 street signs. Suggestions for changes were supplied by the Huntsville Historical Society. New street names were listed in the August 10th Huntsville *Times*. The City Council voted in 1956 to put the project into action. Changes were to go into effect on September 1, but were delayed until November 1. They went into effect without all the new signs in place.



William D. Page

August 31 - William D. Page opened his law office at No. 4 West Side Square. (He would go on to become a Circuit Court judge.)

September 11 - Construction of University of Alabama Branch was okayed with a 3-way partnership of City, County, and University funding. Huntsville's Extension Center was second in enrollment only to Birmingham. Local center offered 70 courses and students could earn credit for 3 years of college.

September 20 - Jerry Lee Lewis was at the National Guard Armory with 14 other performers.

Many Hula Hoops were seen in Huntsville.

September 29 - Portrait of Judge Thomas W. Jones unveiled at Courthouse. 150 attended dedication. Present was Sen. John Sparkman who said Judge Jones gave him his first law case when he came to Huntsville to practice.

November 2 - Hermann Oberth (age 64), space pioneer and mentor to Dr. Wernher von Braun, left Huntsville to return to Germany.

November 3 - Negro Library opened in Calvary Hills Junior High. Reverend H.P. Snodgrass would be in charge of the library.

November 21 - A & M College students were back in class after 2-week walkout protesting crowded dorms and classrooms. A 10 percent cut in state funds was passed on to all schools due to a shortage of appropriations set by the 1957 State Legislature.



**The First Graduates of Huntsville's
Police Academy**

November 27 - The first soccer game in Huntsville was seen by a crowd of 2,000. The Norway and Denmark Vikings played against France, Belgium and Germany at Redstone's Ordnance Guided Missile School. Score was a 1 to 1 tie.

November 28 - City was host to 200 NATO men at Russel Erskine Hotel.

December 4 - President Eisenhower made decision for ABMA and all topnotch scientists to stay in Huntsville under Army command. NASA would set up liaison office here to "handle technical direction" of NASA projects on basically a contract arrangement with ABMA.

December 7 - Oakwood College was accredited.

Southern Airlines started service with two flights to Memphis. Third flight was nonstop to Atlanta.

The first class graduated from Huntsville's new Police Academy.

1959

January 19 - Arson was suspected in two fires on Washington Street (A.L. Hipp Jewelry and National Clothing Store - Southern Sash). There was smoke damage to 7 more shops and the Ritz Cafe.

January 21 - Thiokol was given a NASA contract for R & D and delivery of high-performance XM-33 solid propellant rocket motors. (Over \$2 Million).

February 13 - City fluoridated the drinking water supply.



Washington Street looking north

February 15 - The Police Department moved to the former Laughlin-Service Funeral Home for "more elbow room." The city purchased the three-story house used by Laughlin's in December for a future library, but the library inspected the building and decided they had no use for it. The home was built by Oscar Hundley in 1900

February 22 - Ground breaking for the first TV Station in Huntsville, WAFG-TV, Rocket City Television, Inc. tower and station on Monte Sano Boulevard. Would become UHF Channel 31.

March 4 - "Moon Day" parade watched by thousands packed the square to honor space pioneers, von Braun and Medaris.



Hundley Home



"Moon Day" Celebration



“Able”

April 19 - A site and name were chosen for Randolph Private School at 418 Randolph Avenue.

April 26 - Gladys Jane Motel, with 7 units, the city’s first for Negroes, opened on Posey Street.

April 28 - Parkway Overpass at Clinton hotly protested. The opposition said it would interfere with “Heart of Huntsville” plan, making property useless.



“Baker”

May 8 - Dick Van Valkenburg, age 16, HHS student, songwriter, and vocalist had record distributed to 200 disc jockeys in 47 states

May 28 - The Army launched two monkeys (Able and Baker) into space. They became the first creatures to return alive. On June 5, Able died while scientists tried to remove recording instruments.

June 12 Monte Sano Observatory held formal opening. Von Braun spoke, saying “We’ve come a long way from the embryonic beginnings in 1954 to this opening of one of the finest astronomical observatories in the South.”

June 14 - Howard Weeden’s works presented to Huntsville from the Nashville Museum of Art for display at the Burritt Museum.



The “Mercury Seven” Astronauts



Brooks Gentle

June 17 - Herndon Stillman, age 14, Councill Training School student, son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Stillman of Gallatin Street, was in National Finals of the New Farmers of America. He won 5-state regional talent contest by playing Rachmaninoff on the piano.

June 17 - Butler’s Brooks Gentle signed Bonus contract with Cleveland Indians Pro Baseball team for \$10,000. He had scholarship to play football at Vanderbilt but chose to play Pro Baseball instead.

June 30 - The “Mercury Seven” astronauts inspected Redstone. They were: Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Alan B. Shepard, Jr., Virgil I. “Gus” Grissom, John H. Glenn, Jr., M. Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Cooper, Jr., and Donald K. “Deke” Slayton.

July 8 - Schools announced zoning. New schools were: Lakewood, Monte Sano, and University Place Elementary Schools. Madison Pike was still in double sessions until the completion of additional rooms. West Clinton Elementary reopened for black students.

July 13 - The Boys Club reopened in the old Abingdon home on Meridian Street. Permanent Director is Charles E. Hopper. (Hopper was assistant coach and instructor at HHS, and had to resign to accept position.)

Donnie Mincher was first baseman for Charleston White Sox. He played in the South Atlantic All-Stars baseball game.

August 12 - A Minor earthquake shook Huntsville area.



Abingdon Home

August 28 - West Clinton property was sold for shopping site to be called "Heart of Huntsville."

September 20 - Ads for Meadow Hills Subdivision "talking house" at 2117 and 2129 Medaris Drive ran in *Huntsville Times*. Model homes were open with free admission. Priced from \$8,950 to \$13,450, veterans could move in for as little as \$100 and no down payment. FHA loans had closing costs and down payment as low as \$235.

September 21 - A new flag with 50 stars to be flown in Huntsville on special occasions.

September 30 - Thirteen square miles were added to the city. (Three areas: Farley, north to Winchester, Acuff and Jones's Property north of 4-Mile Post Road.)

October 13 - Explorer VII launched successfully. Weather satellite put aloft by RSA's Juno II rocket. Two tracking stations at Redstone picked up signals.

October 15 - Holland's Tulip Queen, Saskia de Lange, age 19, was here to present tulips to the City and OGMS, where a number of her countrymen have studied US missiles. A gift of 4,000 tulip bulbs was arranged by Netherland's Ambassador to the US. The whirlwind tour included coffee at Watts-Spraggins home, placing a wreath on tomb of an unknown Confederate Soldier, civic luncheon at Russel Erskine, presentation, planting ceremony at OGMS, and a return plane back to New York City at 6:30 p.m.

November 14 - Amigo Sales Day at Parkway City had auction with "The Cisco Kid" in person.

December 12 - Ground breaking for a 27-classroom building at University of Alabama Center's new site. The city hoped for a full 4-year college rank and graduate school.

At the end of the decade, the city's population bordered on 70,000. Until 1950, Huntsville was smaller than before 1860. In this decade, the city added 30,000 acres and 50,000 people.

Chrysler set up Missile Division in 1952. Redstone Tool and Die set up in 1955. Brown Engineering formed here in 1956 through a merger of Alabama Engineering & Tool of Huntsville and Brown Engineering of Indianapolis. Brown moved to Lincoln Mills in 1958. Huntsville Industrial Center (HIC building) is a vast property bought by Huntsville Industrial Associates after the textile mill closed in 1957. This was occupied by such firms as Brown, Chrysler, and Spaco Manufacturing.



Holland's Tulip Queen, Saskia de Lange visits Huntsville

1960 - 1969

"The Times They Are A-Changin'"

Compiled by Robert Reeves

The title of Bob Dylan's song is entirely appropriate for 1960s Huntsville. The 50's saw the beginnings of growth brought on by the influx of the German Rocket team led by Dr. Wernher von Braun. The escalating Cold War with Russia saw the Army use Redstone Arsenal to work on missiles and missile defense, but it was the '60s that saw a small town known for cotton and watercress become a leader in the field of technology. Huntsville would come to be known as "The Rocket City" as it led the United States in its quest for space. Thousands of engineers, research scientists, and technicians would come to work in Huntsville, helping to make the city the "Space Capital of the Universe." The times - they truly were a changin'.



"One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"
Dr. Wernher von Braun and the Saturn V Rocket that propelled man to the moon

1960

January 15 - The Army handed over the responsibility for Anti-missile & Space Defense Systems under development by the Army Rocket & Guided Missile Agency to Colonel John G. Zierdt. The first program was the Nike Zeus missile hunter, but there were more changes ahead. The Soviets were leading the space race and Redstone would soon be a major player in changing that.

Plans were also being made for the transfer of Dr. Wernher von Braun and more than 4800 employees from ABMA to NASA. This included \$86 million for buildings, land, and equipment at Redstone and an additional \$14 million to be shared with Cape Canaveral, Florida. The transfers were to begin mid-March through July.



Colonel John G. Zierdt (center)



General John B. Medaris

On that same day, President Dwight D. Eisenhower lifted the ceiling on overtime pay for NASA. He ordered the speed-up of work on the Saturn Project with the instruction, "use such additional overtime as you may deem necessary on this project." NASA responded by announcing that the first Saturn launch was due in 1963.

Construction began on the Parkway overpass at West Clinton Avenue.

WNDA-FM Radio Station, "Huntsville's Golden Sound," began operation on 9th Avenue with Jerome Hughey, owner and Grady M. Reeves, manager.

Major General John B. Medaris retired as the commanding General of the Army Ordnance Missile Command. He was replaced by Major General August Schomburg.

January 31 - Huntsville had a parade and banquet for General Medaris. While speaking at the tribute, Congressman Chet Holifield of California said, "If General Medaris had been in command of the space program at the beginning, the U.S. would not be trailing the Soviets."

February 5- Hollywood actors Bette Davis and Barry Sullivan performed in "The World of Carl Sandburg" at Lee Junior High School.

The Grand Theater closed on Jefferson Street.

April 1 - At the age of 22, former Butler High School baseball star Don Mincher made his debut in the majors with the Washington Senators. (In 1961 he was traded to the Minnesota Twins. He earned his starting role by hitting 23 home runs in 1964. Don played 12 years in "the Big Show," appearing in the World Series in 1965 and in 1972. Mincher retired with 200 home runs in his career. He was voted All-Star in 1967 and 1969. That same year, Mincher led the Seattle Pilots with 25 home runs, 78 RBI and batted .246. He later became part-owner and General Manager of the Huntsville Stars and then the President of the Southern League.)

July 1 - The transfer to NASA by Dr. Wernher von Braun and his team was completed. Marshall Space Flight Center was activated with Dr. von Braun as its first director. The "Race for Space" was about to get intense.

September 8 - President Eisenhower flew to Huntsville to dedicate the Marshall Space Flight Center.



Don Mincher

1961

April 27 - Marshall Space Flight Center launched the Explorer XI.

The first U. S. manned flight sent Alan Shepard 300 miles above the Earth. The flight lasted 15 minutes and the *Mercury* capsule was lifted by a Redstone rocket.

Virgil (Gus) Grissom would become the second American astronaut to ride into space.

The first complete test of the F-1 rocket engine (Saturn V) was a success. The engine was (and still is) the most powerful ever built.

The RL-10 rocket engine was also successfully tested in 1961. The 1st Atlas-Agena B Rocket placed Ranger I into orbit. Marshall Space Flight Center and Lockheed combined on this launch.

The first Saturn vehicle launch was made. At 925,000 pounds, it was the heaviest object ever lifted, and was sent on a 215 mile ballistic trajectory.

May 5 - Huntsville prayed and rejoiced as Astronaut Alan B. Shepard rode the Redstone Rocket into space. The Redstone was designed, built, and the mission managed by Marshall Space Flight Center. A huge celebration was held on the courthouse square.



Alan Shepard Celebration

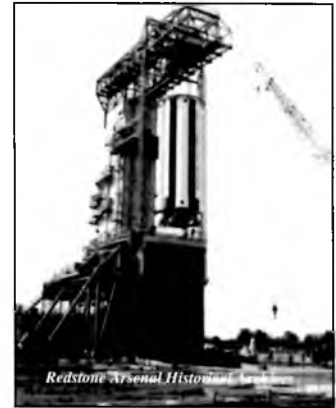
According to the Southern Bell Telephone Company, the city of Huntsville had the largest number of new phone numbers issued in the state.

November - The Heart of Huntsville Shopping Center opened

Isham Hobbs was convicted in the 1944 knife slaying of Mrs. Margaret Thornton Fleming.

Construction began on the 70 foot-tall lighted concrete cross on Monte Sano.

Morton Hall on the UAH Campus



Test Stand

The building boom hit Huntsville - there were 3,198 building permits issued valued over \$37 million. In addition, another \$14 million in permits were issued on Redstone.

Olin King established SCI.

Huntsville Hospital was deeded to the city.

City school construction totaled \$3 million. Lee Jr. High became Lee High School with the addition of a 10th grade.

Morton Hall on UAH Campus was dedicated.

1962



John Glenn and Dr. Wernher von Braun

February 20 - John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth, not once, but three times in the *Friendship 7* capsule. It was powered into space by an Atlas Rocket. Dr. Wernher von Braun called the flight "historic" as he sent congratulations from Marshall Space Flight Center.

March 19 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the Negro First Baptist Church on Church Street and then was honored with a banquet. Later that evening, Dr. King spoke to about 2,000 Negroes at Oakwood College. He was accompanied by Ralph D. Abernathy.

April 16 - Astronauts John Glenn and Alan Shepard visited Huntsville and Marshall Space Flight Center and got a hero's welcome.

May 23 - The U. S. Army Missile Command, MICOM, was established at Redstone Arsenal.

August 25 - Evangelist Billy Graham spoke to a crowd of over 35,000 at the Redstone Arsenal Airstrip. Graham endorsed integration by love instead of law, calling on men of science to exhibit faith in God, space exploration, and birth control. A choir of 2,000 recruited from Huntsville churches sang "The Lord's Prayer."



September 11 - President John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson visited Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville.

President Kennedy and Vice-President Johnson

Tootie Hill, quarterback of the Huntsville Rockets of the North American Football League, set a semi-pro football record by throwing eight touchdowns in one game.



Madison County Courthouse being torn down

Huntsville's City Council, made up of President Homer Whitt, Gordon B. Lofton, Louis B. Lee Sr., Charles Cummings Jr., and Harvey H. Eslick, officially endorsed a planned Municipal Complex and a \$3 million bond issue to finance it. The council also approved \$3 million, 150 bed expansion of Huntsville Hospital, the planning of a \$1 million Public Library and selected G.W. Jones & Sons to plan a \$100,000 development of Braham Spring Park.

The Madison County Commission voted to raze the old Courthouse, built in 1914, and replace it with a modern high-rise building.

Boeing began in Huntsville in an office on South Parkway.

The largest retail store in Huntsville, Miracle City, opened on the Parkway south of Governor's Drive.

1963

Huntsville's population grew at a rate of 400 a week in the year 1963, making Huntsville one of the 10 fastest growing cities in the U.S. Due to the support of Dr. Wernher von Braun and Maj. Gen Francis J. McMorrow, the Huntsville-Madison County Airport successfully lobbied the Civil Aeronautics Board for the establishment of a Huntsville to Los Angeles jet flight by Delta.

Huntsville designated over 3,000 acres near Redstone Arsenal as a research park.

McDonald's hamburgers opened on South Parkway. The company's symbol was "Speedee" the hamburger man. (The original "1963" Speedee sign is still being used at its original location.)



The original McDonald's sign on South Parkway



Madison County Farmers' Market

Local artist C. E. Monroe designed and painted the cover and centerfold of the Civil War Centennial Edition of *Life* magazine.

Dunnavant's Mall opened for business and Dunnavant's Department Store moved from downtown.

The Madison County Farmers' Market moved to its present location on Cook Avenue.

January 13 - The First Baptist Church held its first church services in its new location on Governors Drive.

May 16 - Civil Rights had already been big in the news for the entire state. Huntsville hired its first black policeman, Robert Carl Bailey, a 27-year-old native of Leighton, Alabama. He was hired by a unanimous vote of the City Council and Mayor Searcy. At that same meeting, the Council also voted to remove the signs for separate drinking fountains in the courthouse.

May 17 - Officer Bailey reported for work to Police Chief Chris Spurlock. That same day, Huntsville native Tallulah Bankhead flew into Huntsville to dedicate a building at the Ordnance Guided Missile School in the name of her late father, William Bankhead, and her late uncle, Senator John Bankhead. She was quoted as saying, "I left here when I was three weeks old, so you can't expect me to remember much about it." (Tallulah was raised in Jasper by her grandparents because her mother had died from complications due to her birth.)



First Baptist Church



President Kennedy

May 18 - It was a banner day for the Rocket City as President John F. Kennedy visited Redstone Arsenal and gave a five-minute speech to a crowd of 10,000 people. Although he had been scheduled to speak for 30 minutes, he was running late because he had come from Muscle Shoals where he marked the 30th birthday of the TVA. The President arrived in a helicopter. Governor George Wallace appeared with President Kennedy, but did not speak to the crowd. A story in the *Huntsville Times* pointed out that both political leaders were on opposite sides of the Civil Rights issue, but the subject was not brought up - at least in public.



Municipal Building under construction

May 21 - Ground was broken for Huntsville's new Municipal Building. The contract was awarded to Coble Construction Company for \$2,194,000.

May 22 - Hugh L. Cayce, son of the famous clairvoyant, Edgar Cayce, lectured to the Psychic Research & Related Psychological & Religious Studies Group.

May 24 - MSFC announced \$28 million in Saturn Rocket support contracts awarded to Brown Engineering, Hayes International, Wyle Laboratory, and Redstone Tool & Machine Company.

June 11 - Robert Muckel, a 29-year-old white high school teacher from Nebraska, attended his first class at Alabama A & M. In doing so, Muckel unintentionally became the first student to successfully integrate a public education institution in Alabama. He had not known that A&M was segregated when he applied.

June 11 - Shortly after Robert Muckel attended his first class here, Governor Wallace stood in the doorway of the University of Alabama and denied entrance to two black applicants, Vivian Malone and Jimmy Hood, as they tried to enroll. Deputy Attorney General, Nicholas Katzenbach, U.S. Attorney Macon Weaver of Huntsville, and a third official read a proclamation issued by President Kennedy, asking that Wallace cease obstruction of justice. Wallace refused, reading his own proclamation that stated "I denounce and forbid this illegal action by the Central government."

June 12 - The two black applicants again arrived to enroll and this time, Wallace stepped aside and allowed them to register and attend classes. In Huntsville that day, the 1169th Combat Engineering Group of the National Guard was federalized because a black mathematician employed at the Arsenal was going to enroll at the University of Alabama Huntsville Center on Thursday the 13th as a graduate student.

June 13 - At 11 a.m. David McGlathery, a black mathematician, arrived unescorted and enrolled without incident at the University of Alabama Huntsville Center as a graduate student.

July - Huntsville's lone television station, WAFG Channel 31, was sold to Smith Broadcasting, Inc. for \$500,000. The sale was confirmed by the major stockholder, Jim Beasley, of Sweet Sue Corp. in Athens. The FCC application states that the call letters were changed to WAAY.

July - Charles Grisham began construction on WHNT Channel 19 on Monte Sano.

September 6 - Governor Wallace ordered Huntsville City Schools closed and sent state troopers to bar entrance to anyone. Four city schools, Fifth Avenue Elementary, Terry Heights Elementary, Rison Jr. High, and East Clinton Elementary were scheduled to be integrated that day. Despite the presence of the troopers, 25 parents and children led by Mrs. John W. Osborne and her daughter, walked through the line and into East Clinton Elementary. Three parents and their children entered Fifth Avenue School, but Civil Rights activist Dr. Sonnie Hereford III and his son were denied entrance. No one but teachers made it into Terry Heights and East Clinton. No black children registered that day. The Huntsville City School Board defied Wallace's order and did not close the schools until Governor Wallace agreed to allow them to open the following Monday.

September 9 - "State Bars Negroes Elsewhere, Huntsville Quietly Integrates," screamed the headline of the *Huntsville Times* that Monday. At 8:20 a.m. Sonnie Hereford IV entered Fifth Avenue Elementary, becoming the first black child to enroll in public elementary or secondary schools not only in Huntsville, but in the State of Alabama. The second was Veronica Pearson, who enrolled at Rison Jr. High. The third to enroll was John A. Brewton at East Clinton Elementary and the fourth was David C. Piggee at Terry Heights Elementary.



Dr. Sonnie Hereford, III and his son Sonnie Hereford, IV after being denied entrance to Fifth Avenue Elementary School

October - The FAA provided \$536,079 in matching funds to the Airport Authority to be used for the jet runway project at Huntsville-Madison County Airport.

October 29 - The first F-1 rocket engine arrives at Marshall Space Flight Center for static testing. The engine was the most powerful in the world, and it would require five of them to power the Saturn V and its cargo of astronauts to the moon.



Test Stand

November 5 - Actor and former Huntsville High School student Hugh D. Pryor was sought in the shooting death of his wife in California. Pryor lived with his parents and attended H.H.S. from September 1940 through December 1943. He had transferred to Ramsay in Birmingham in January 1944. Pryor would later commit suicide in the desert near Las Vegas, Nevada.

November 11 - Police Chief Chris Spurlock was fired by a 3-2 vote of the City Council following his suspension by Mayor Searcy.



Channel 31 - WAAY

November 12 - Spurlock refused to relinquish his duties "until properly relieved." He claimed the firing vote was not legal.

November 13 - Huntsville Housing Authority purchased two or three parcels of land for urban renewal and facelift of the Big Spring Park area. The \$10 million project was known as the Heart of Huntsville Plan.

November 17 - New Hazel Green High School had an open house. The school was completed in October for \$400,000.

November - Brigadier General John G. Zierdt, Commander of Army Missile Command, predicted stable employment for Redstone Arsenal that would level off at 8700 civilian jobs.

November - The FCC approved the sale of Channel 31 to Smith Broadcasting, Inc., WAAY broadcasting at 250,000 watts from a tower 125 feet tall.

November 22 - President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas while riding in a motorcade through the city. Not only the United States, but the whole world reacted in disbelief. The city of Huntsville, and especially NASA and the Marshall Space Flight Center, collectively held their breath at the news. President Kennedy was a staunch supporter of the effort to put a man on the moon, and Huntsville's future was in limbo. Newly sworn-in President Lyndon Johnson would answer that question, "Nothing is more certain than the fact that space exploration and space travel have become a permanent part of our ways of life. To reach the Moon is a risk, but it is a risk we must take. Keep in mind that failure to go into space is even riskier."

November 24 - While Huntsville and the rest of the world watched live on national television, Jack Ruby pushed his way through a crowd to kill Kennedy's accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, as Dallas Police moved him from one facility to another.

November 27 - Martec Inc., subsidiary of Martin Stamping and Stove Company, is awarded a \$1.9 million contract for metal containers for rocket motors by the Army Missile Command.

November 28 - WHNT, Channel 19, signed on the air, broadcasting at 600k watts from a 250 foot tower. Bob Jones served as first News Director, reporter, and anchor. Grady Reeves worked as Sports Director, and H. D. Bagley was named Meteorologist.



Channel 19 - WHNT



Lee High School

The new Lee High School opened.

Construction on Humana Hospital got under way.

The University of Alabama Huntsville Center became the University of Alabama, Huntsville Campus. UAH became a four year college with the largest graduate school in the South of 900 students.

Big Spring Park was renamed Big Spring International Park.

March 28 - The fourth Saturn I launch was successful.

Fall - Construction started on Huntsville Madison County Jetport. Original project was for \$18 million and was to encompass over 3,000 acres.

October - First Production model of an F-1 Saturn Engine was delivered to Marshall Space Flight Center by RocketDyne, a division of North American Aviation, Inc. and test fired several times. Huntsville residents thought it was an earthquake at first as the sheer power of the engine rocked houses across the city.

December - NASA and Boeing Company, Seattle signed the largest contract ever originated by MSFC - \$418 million for development and production of Saturn V first stage. Employment at Army Missile Command rose to nearly 12,000.

1964

Huntsville was still known as the Watercress Capital of the World.

Huntsville was the county seat of America's biggest cotton producer, Madison County.

NASA and Marshall Space Flight Center had over 9,000 employees.

Huntsville population was just over 120,000.



University of Alabama, Huntsville Campus



Whitesburg Bridge

1965

Huntsville Research Park became one of the top industrial parks in the nation. Nine new companies added 400,000 square feet of floor space, bringing the total area under roof to just under a million square feet. Boeing had the largest project with construction under way on a 107,000 sq. ft. plant. Another 4,000 employees were added by Defense and Aerospace companies and government agencies.

Construction began on the original Crestwood Hospital, west of Jordan Lane.

The new Whitesburg Bridge was completed, but the approach highways were not completely finished until later.

The major runway for the new Huntsville-Madison County Jetport was completed.

August 16 - Surface to Air Missile Development (SAM-D) became a project managed by MICOM. The project would later be re-named Patriot.

The new City Hall Complex was finished and occupied, as was the new Chamber of Commerce building.

1966

January – The new Public Library opened.

March - "The Mall," the largest enclosed mall in Alabama, opened on the corner of University Drive and North Memorial Parkway.



New Public Library



Cotton Row

Historic Cotton Row on west side of the square was torn down to be replaced with benches, fountains and stairs down to the Big Spring.

Big Spring International Park was remodeled, the Lagoon expanded and Japanese Cherry Trees, a gift from Japan, were planted in the park. The new modern look included a renovation of the fountain and steps to the Courthouse Square. During the remodeling, the Sertoma Club's train was moved to its new home at Braham Springs Park.

The Carnegie Library, which was built in 1914, was torn down.

Major cutbacks by Huntsville missile and space contractors dropped employment drastically. The cutbacks were due to research and development on the Apollo Program nearing completion. In 1965, The missile and space industry had a 4,000-job gain. By contrast, in 1966 there was a net loss of 1389 jobs. Needless to say, Huntsville's economy suffered tremendously because of this.

September - The first television sets were introduced into city schools and instructional TV became a part of academic teaching. David Marxer was appointed Director of Educational Media and head of the instructional TV program.

1967

January 27 - 6:31:04 a.m. Tragedy strikes NASA. Astronauts Gus Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee lost their lives when fire erupted inside the *Apollo I* capsule while it was still on the launching pad. The Astronauts died of carbon monoxide poisoning just 18 seconds after the fire started. The heat from the fire was so intense the inner hatch seal ruptured, which fed the fire. Gus Grissom was burned the worst, but medical reports say none of the three suffered burns that would have caused death.

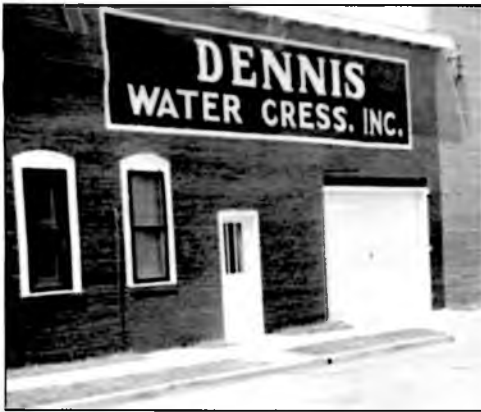
February 9- Channel 25, ETV Station was dedicated on Monte Sano Mountain.

March 5- The ultra modern Madison County Courthouse was dedicated.



Madison County Courthouse Opens

Railway passenger service to and from Huntsville was cut in half with discontinuation of two Southern Railway trains. No daylight departures were available from the Huntsville Depot after the cuts.



Dennis Water Cress, Inc.

The old slave quarters at the First National Bank were converted to a drive-in window.

Dennis Water Cress Company ceased operations in Huntsville.

WAAY-TV built a 450 ft. tower and increased power to 1,240,000 watts.

May 17 - Vice President Hubert Humphrey visited Redstone Arsenal

May - Seven-story Humana Hospital opened at the corner of California Steet and Big Cove Road.

May - Pizitz Department Store held a fashion show to unveil the hottest fashion rage - the mini skirt!

September - New S.R. Butler High School opens. Student enrollment was the largest in the state.

The Alabama Hawks football team of the CFL came to Huntsville. The Hawks were coached by Donald "Freck" League and affiliated with the Atlanta Falcons of the NFL.

October 29 - (Sunday) Huntsville-Madison Co. Jetport (Carl T. Jones Field) opened and the old Huntsville airport closed simultaneously. A small jet carrying; David D. Thomas, Deputy Administrator of the FAA; Dr. Werhner von Braun, Director of NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center; Major General Charles W. Eifler, Head of Army Missile Command; Huntsville Mayor Glenn Hearn; Madison County Commission Chairman James Record; and Dr. William McKissack, President of Chamber of Commerce, took off from the old airport and

flew to the new Jetport.

This flight marked the last flight out of the old airport and the first flight into the new one. The plane was welcomed by J. E (Ed) Mitchell, Jr., Chairman of Airport Authority and members of the board along with John Alford, Jetport Manager and other Jetport staff members.

The general public was not invited to this celebration, but a "Grand Opening" was scheduled for the following spring. The first carriers were Eastern, United, and Southern Airlines.

November - The Rocket City Astronomical Association dedicated its new Planetarium on Monte Sano named for Conrad Swanson.

The courthouse Municipal Parking Garage opened with 600 spaces.

Huntsville Public Library opened two branches: Charlotte Drive and Oak Park Branch.

December 18 - A tornado damaged 25 homes in southeast Huntsville and Madison County, killing two and injuring 33.

Municipal Parking Garage



Vice-President Hubert Humphrey



Huntsville-Madison Co. Jetport



1968

March - The last passenger train to serve Huntsville, the Southern Railway's *Tennessean*, discontinued its service on approval of the Alabama Public Service Commission.

March - Lee High School wins the 4-A State High School Basketball Championship.

April 5 - Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Peaceful demonstrations take place in Huntsville. Some 550 black college students from Oakwood and Alabama A & M marched along with a police escort to the courthouse for a candlelight service.

September 15 - The official "Grand Opening" of the Huntsville-Madison Co. Jetport took place with much celebration.



The Tennessean



District Attorney David L. (Dea) Thomas (center)

December - The Saturn V blasted off with *Apollo 8* astronauts Borman, Anders, and Lovell on board. They circled the moon and returned to earth successfully.

December 13 - Huntsville and Madison County received word that a 19.2 mile interstate spur to I-65 would be built.

District Attorney David L. (Dea) Thomas was indicted by a Grand Jury for bribery, embezzlement, and misconduct. The case was postponed in the Circuit Court in Huntsville, then was tried before the Alabama Supreme Court. Thomas successfully avoided impeachment.

1969

January - Oakwood Shopping Center suffered a fire that caused \$250,000 damage.

Some Huntsville High School students were sent home due to "grooming" regulations. Students later staged a "Red Ryder Day" protest and the

grooming standards were rescinded.

February - Non-stop air service to the west coast was approved by the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Boeing won a \$4.3 million contract from NASA for continuation of work related to Saturn booster rocket engines.

The US Census Bureau predicts Huntsville's population would be 277,000 by 1975.

The old Elks Building on Eustis Street was torn down and the property turned into a parking lot.

March - Lakeside United Methodist Church burned.



Elks Building



Dr. Benjamin Graves

April - UAH created two divisions. Dr. Benjamin Graves was named President.

John Patrick Smith leased the 39-year-old Russel Erskine Hotel.

District Attorney Dea Thomas was arrested and held on three charges resulting from a party in the news media room at the courthouse. Charges in criminal court were dropped after he resigned in May 1969. Attorney Fred Simpson was named D.A. by Governor Brewer.

May - Eight-six bed Fifth Avenue General Hospital, was sold to a Chicago investment group.

July 16 - At 8:32 a.m. Central Daylight Time Huntsville's Saturn V rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral, carrying *Apollo 11* and crew: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins on man's most historic journey - the trip to the moon.

July 20 - At 3:18 p.m. Central Daylight Time, "The *Eagle* has landed!" The Lunar Module touched down at Tranquility Base. Neil Armstrong stepped down from the *Eagle* and placed his foot on the moon. "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." Armstrong was joined by Buzz Aldrin and the two men placed an American flag on the surface of the Moon. There were celebrations in Huntsville and on the Arsenal.

July 21 - 12:54 p.m. The *Eagle* lifted off from the surface of the moon and rejoined *Columbia* as it orbited the moon. Michael Collins had stayed aboard *Columbia* and flawlessly connected the two crafts. *Columbia* then cut *Eagle* loose and headed for Earth.

July 24 - 11:51 a.m. *Columbia* splashed down in the Pacific Ocean southwest of Hawaii. The crew of *Apollo 11* was plucked from the ocean and the entire world celebrated their bravery.

September - Huntsville's newest high school named after Virgil (Gus) Grissom opened. Joe Davis was Principal. Larry Robinson was head football coach, and George Newby was head basketball coach.

October 10 - The Alabama Hawks, owned by Huntsville Hawks, Inc. and member of the Continental Football League, left Huntsville after three years with the Professional Football League of America.



Grissom High School



Dr. Von Braun is carried on the shoulders of the City Council in celebration of the success of Apolo 11

October 14 - Circuit Court Judge Dave Archer signed an injunction halting the local theaters from showing the movie *Can Heironymus Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humpee and Find True Happiness*. The Huntsville City Council termed the movie "obscene and a public nuisance."

October 27 - United Airlines made the first non-stop flight from the Jetport between Huntsville and Los Angeles.

October 29 - Huntsville-based Boeing Company won the lunar rover contract, work to cost almost \$19 million.

During the 1960's fifty-six soldiers from Madison County were killed in the Vietnam Conflict.

1970 - 1979

City of the New South

Compiled by Raneè Pruitt

Huntsville mourned the loss of Dr. Wernher von Braun and his family, who moved to Washington, D.C. A new civic center was built and named in his honor, yet the future of the industry that had come to Huntsville because of him was uncertain. The 1970s marked a decade of increased violence, influx of illegal drugs, strikes, and UFO sightings. The 1974 tornado devastated Huntsville, as well as the South, and while we celebrated our nation's bi-centennial, a sinister man who was dubbed the Southwest Molester gripped the city with fear.



The Von Braun Civic Center



Ceremony for Dr. Wernher von Braun

1970

The population of Huntsville was 139,282.

January 1 - Teen idol Bobby Sherman, one of America's hottest rock stars, appeared at the Coliseum.

January 8 - A 305-bed full-service general hospital, located at Big Cove Road and Governors Drive was dedicated. The cost of the ultra modern hospital was \$9,000,000.

January 20 - The 700 acre old Huntsville-Madison County Airport went up for sale.

February 3 - It was announced that a study would be done in Huntsville regarding reusable rocket shuttles.

Dr. Wernher von Braun announced he would leave Huntsville to take a job in Washington, D.C.

February 7 - The old airport property was being looked at as a possible site for a new Civic Center.

The Huntsville Public Library will exhibit moon rocks brought back by *Apollo 11*.

February 9 - Witnesses reported that a helicopter crashed into a hillside during fog, halfway up the southern side of the mountain near Bailey Cove.

February 14 - Automatic Electric announced plans to hire 300 more employees here, making the company Huntsville's largest non-governmental employer with a total of 2,800 employees.

February 24 - The proposed \$10,000,000 Civic Center will be named in honor of Dr. Wernher von Braun.



Tranquility Base

February 25 - The Rocket City gave a huge send off to Dr. Von Braun when he and his family left for Washington.

February 26 - Dr. H. P. Snodgrass, pastor of the First Baptist Church, and the first black candidate to qualify for an election, announced that he would seek a position on the State Board of Education.

March 5 - It was announced that Redstone Arsenal would lose 1,255 employees.

March 16 - Tranquility Base (later named the Alabama Space and Rocket Center), America's largest missile and space exhibit, was about to open.

March 19 - Huntsville garbage, sanitary, and street workers voted to affiliate with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union.

April 7 - NASA awarded a \$2.8 million contract to Spaco Inc., a Huntsville aerospace firm.

April 14 - Olin-Mathieson Chemical Corporation's plant at Redstone blamed for polluting Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge with DDT.

Fred Simpson announced his candidacy for District Attorney. He would win over Macon Weaver by 7000 votes.



Fred Simpson and family

April 15 - Huntsville Public Library operated on a \$335,000 budget with \$260,000 supplied by the city and \$33,000 by the county.



The Quick Airplane

April 16 - City school officials received \$1,440,516 from the Federal government to bail them out of a money crisis to help pay salaries.

April 18 - Dunlop Tire and Rubber Corporation opened a plant in Huntsville.

June 6 - UAH conducted its first formal commencement exercises with 130 graduates.

July 3 - According to the 1970 U. S. Census Bureau, Huntsville's population increased more than 81% since 1960.

July 8 - The Alabama Space and Rocket Center registered its 100,000 visitor.

July 17 - Plans were announced by the State of Alabama to recreate Constitution Hall Park. The first phase would include five buildings.

July 28 - The Quick airplane returned to Huntsville to be exhibited at the Space and Rocket Center. The plane had been on display at the old Birmingham Airport terminal.

August 11 - The Trailways Bus Station on Clinton Avenue, which was built in 1948, will be torn down in the Urban Renewal Project.

September 1 - Huntsville lost the title of "Water Cress Capital of the World." Tumminello's Southern Water Cress Company started in Huntsville in 1925, followed by Dennis Watercress. With both companies out of business, no watercress was commercially raised in Huntsville.

September 6 - Dr. Hans Hueter, a pioneer rocketry expert and one of the original Von Braun team that succeeded in putting a man on the moon died at age 64.

September 9 - The Saturn V booster stage (S-IC-15) was completed by Boeing.

September 11 - City council approved a motel/hotel lodging tax to help pay for the \$11 million Von Braun Civic Center.

September 21 - Woolco Department Store opened at the intersection of University and Sparkman Drives.



Trailways Bus Station



Saturn V First Stage (S-IC)

November 6 - 14-year-old Sheralee Hoelscher of Huntsville becomes the world's youngest pilot.

November 20 - Two K-Mart stores open in Huntsville, one on North Memorial Parkway and one on South Memorial Parkway.

December 21 - Huntsville experienced an increase in five of seven major crime categories in 1970, up 44 percent from the previous year.

December 31 - Madison County Probate Judge Ashford Todd retired after 18 years on the bench.

1971

January - Governor George C. Wallace pledged money for a new Medical School at University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Police and black students clashed at a Butler High School basketball game. Police arrested a Butler teen for allegedly making a telephone bomb threat to the school.

February - Actress and political activist Jane Fonda appeared at UAH.

Alabama Highway Department announced that the controversial Memorial Parkway overpass between Drake Avenue and Bob Wallace Avenue was on hold due to lack of funds.

March - A non-profit organization has donated \$44,968 to study potential problems and programs related to Huntsville's school integration plans.

March - Probate Judge Myrtle Green was named Woman of the Year by the Jaycees.

March - One of the largest out of court settlements in history was awarded to Connie Sue Mason, who sued over the death of her National Guard husband in a traffic accident. She was awarded \$95,000.

March - The 1930 Russel Erskine Hotel announced it was closed to guests, leaving Huntsville with no downtown hotel accommodations.



Probate Judge Myrtle Green



Mayor Joe Davis

March - A letter was received from Huntsville's Lieutenant Mike Christian, a Vietnam Prisoner of War from Huntsville. It was written from his prison cell in Hanoi to his young daughter, telling her he owed her four birthdays.

March - Sheriff Jerry Crabtree announced the largest marijuana seizure in the history of Huntsville when a woman returned a package to the post office containing \$10,000 worth of pot.

April - Mayor Joe Davis and Commission Chairman James Record sent Ton Duc Thang a message to free the American POWs.



Chairman James Record

April - Huntsville-Madison County Mental Health Center received a grant for \$1,577,000 to build a new center across from the Chamber of Commerce.

April 1 - The Alabama Department of Health assured Huntsville residents that the water supply from the Tennessee River was safe for human consumption.

April 7 - A 100-unit low rent downtown housing development will be named for Mayor R. B. Searcy. The housing units replaced the Victorian homes that were torn down during Urban Renewal.

April 8 - It was announced that David W. Tate, a Lee High School student and Huntsville *News* carrier, received an appointment to West Point.

April 9 - Huntsville sanitation workers went on strike.

April 20 - Mayor Joe Davis issued an ultimatum to city sanitation workers to return to work or consider themselves "resigned."

April 23 - Fletcher Seldon was appointed to the Huntsville School Board - the first black man to serve on the board.

April 26 - Some 105 striking sanitation workers were fired.



Dickson Home on West Holmes. One of many homes torn down for low rent housing.



Miss Baker

Firebombs and Molotov cocktails were thrown in several locations in reaction to the firing of the garbage strikers. Garbage piles were set on fire. Police Squads, wearing gas masks and carrying riot guns, were called out to keep the peace.

April 30 - Hughes Aircraft Company and Chrysler Corporation were awarded Army contracts totaling more than \$36,000,000 to produce missiles for the Army's TOW Weapon System.

June 4 - Teledyne Brown announced the award of a \$4,000,000 defense contract by the U. S. Army Safeguard System.

June 30 - "Queen of Space," Miss Baker, the famed space monkey who rode aboard the Jupiter into space in 1959, arrived in Huntsville to spend her retirement years at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center.

July 15 - More than 500 South Central Bell employees went on strike for higher wages.

July 24 - The Huntsville designed Lunar Rover was used in the *Apollo XV* Mission.

A Federal court judge ordered that Butler High School could no longer display the Confederate flag or play *Dixie*.

August 2 - Butler High School students wave Confederate flags in protest of the ruling.

August 3 - It was announced that a nursing school would open at UAH.

The Historic Preservation Commission issued a bill to designate the Twickenham area as a historic preservation district with regulations to preserve the area.

August 5 - Huntsville residents are hopeful that Lt. Michael D. Christian is among the Americans freed from a Vietnam POW camp.

August 23 - An article stated that Huntsville Manufacturing Company, in operation since 1899, produced cotton print cloth and broadcloth at the rate of two and a half million yards per week, and over 100 million yards a year. With 138,000 spindles and 1,200 employees, it is the largest mill in the state.



Lieutenant Mike Christian

September - NASA employee Charles Smart is missing.

September 2 - Stratoscope II, a massive astronomical balloon bearing a four ton telescope is ready for lift-off.

September 4 - The Drake Avenue and Memorial Parkway overpass is approved by the Federal Highway Administration.

October 23 - "Gentle" Grady Reeves of WHNT-TV was chosen by the Chamber of Commerce as Huntsville's most courteous news announcer.

December 8 - It was announced that the Russel Erskine Hotel will reopen for business.



Grady Reeves

1972

February - A 100-year-old lithograph of an 1871 map of Huntsville was returned after the map was discovered in Washington.

August - Huntsville received the gift of a replica lighthouse from Norway for the Big Spring lagoon area.

August 20 - Johnson High School, a new \$5,000,000 high school was dedicated. It was touted as having the largest floor space in the state.

September - Huntsville elected Antoinette Reynolds, the first woman to serve on the School Board since the 1930s. Dr. Fletcher Seldon was elected as the first black president.

October - Mosaic artwork was begun on the front wall of the First Baptist Church on Governors Drive.



Lighthouse in Big Spring Park



Johnson High School

1973

March 17 - After days of steady rain, floodwaters left much of the city under water. Water covered the entire section of the Parkway from Governors Drive to Drake Avenue. It was considered by city officials to be equal to a "100 year flood."

June 5 - The newly formed Twickenham Historical Preservation District Association purchased the Howard Weeden House for \$75,000.

June 18 - Jane Rice of Huntsville was crowned Miss Alabama.

August 16 - West Clinton School was demolished in preparation for opening the new Von Braun Civic Center.

September 1 - The Plush Horse nightclub on Golf Road was destroyed by fire.

October 1 - State troopers in Huntsville received numerous calls about UFO sightings. Residents were asked to report suspicious-looking spacecraft to Jack Archie.

October 11 - The Russel Erskine Hotel Company auctioned off furniture, fixtures, bric-a-brac, and other items.

October 16 - A UFO "expert" investigated reports of sightings from Pulaski Pike to Big Cove.

October 24 - Huntsville has a new slogan: "Prototype for the New South."

November 28 - Tornado winds injure 25 people and cause \$5,000,000 in damage.



Miss Alabama, Jane Rice



President Nixon visits Huntsville

1974

January 11 - The new Sharon Barbour Rhett Fine Arts Center was dedicated at Randolph School.

January 14 - El Palacio restaurant offered a Mexican buffet for \$1.79.

February 18 - More than 400 newsmen from all over the nation arrived in Huntsville for the Honor America Ceremonies and the arrival of President Richard Nixon.

February 19 - President Richard Nixon visited Huntsville and addressed a crowd of more than 30,000 people.



One of the homes destroyed by a tornado

April 3 and 4 - A deadly tornado left several dead and more than 200 injured in Madison County. Huntsville doctors called it "Huntsville's greatest natural disaster." Huntsville's obsession with severe weather was born.

April - The Huntsville Historic Foundation was formed.

September 6 - Mrs. Edward Traylor of Franklin Street was murdered. She had been stabbed and her body was found on Monte Sano Mountain by hitchhikers.

October 3 - A \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the death of Mrs. Edward E. Traylor was announced.

December 30 - Huntsville reported an increase from one murder in the previous year to fourteen. The city now had the dubious distinction of having the highest crime jump in the state.

1975

January 10 - Police arrest 83 people for drug possession. Chief Sweeten announced "the battle is on."

February 28 - The new northwest Huntsville Public Library Branch located in the north K-mart parking lot, was dedicated and named in honor of Mrs. Bessie Russell, Director of the Huntsville Heritage Room of the Library.

March 14 - The city dedicated the new \$15 million dollar civic center as a "Monument to Space City."



Dr. Wernher von Braun at the opening of the Von Braun Civic Center



James Record, Chairman of the Madison County Commission

March 15 - As a birthday gift the newly opened civic center was named in honor of Dr. Wernher von Braun, who headed the space research at Marshall Space Flight Center.

April 4 - The Huntsville City Council announced they would accept the deed to downtown property for the proposed Constitution Hall Park and \$200,000 in State money to begin construction.

April 24 - James Record, Chairman of Madison County Commission, was named President of the Alabama Historical Association.

May 19 - The new building for the Huntsville-Madison County Mental Health Center was dedicated.

June 8 - The Huntsville Public Library kicked off the Nation's Bicentennial "76" with a parade and scenes from history.

July 8 - It was announced that gasoline may go as high as \$1.00 per gallon by summer.

August 1 - A \$32.7 million dollar contract was awarded to the Huntsville-based Raytheon Company.

August 8 - The FBI caught the leader in the double slaying of Clyde and Lucie Johnson.

October 3 - The Alabama Educational TV commission announced that the Huntsville program "Grunches and Grins," sponsored by the Huntsville Public Library, took first place in Programming.

October 31 - The Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority asked Eastern Airlines to consider discontinuing service to the Jetplex.

November 7 - The Madison County District Attorney says he'll enforce the Blue Law which requires businesses to close on Sundays.

November 8 - City Council denied re-licensing to five go-go clubs. The city stands to lose \$100,000 in revenues.

November 28 - Russel Erskine Hotel ordered to be sold at auction by the U. S. District Court on December 10.

December 10 - The Diplomat Inn and the Cotton Club burned to ground.



"Grunches and Grins"



The Freedom Train

The Russel Erskine Hotel was bought by a local bank at auction.

1976

January 23 - The City Council approved Sunday liquor sales.

January 30 - The Huntsville Housing Authority purchased the historic Weeden house from the Twickenham Preservation Association for \$42,525 in order to restore it.

March 12 - The City Council rejected the proposed I-565 spur referendum.

March 24 - It was announced that the height of the water tank on Governors Drive would be reduced 15 feet in response to complaints from the Monte Sano Civic Association that it obstructed the view of the city.

May 31 - A 12-car train representing 200 years of America's growth and achievement rolled into the Huntsville Depot. It was named *The Freedom Train*.



Maria Howard Weeden

June 21 - A dedication ceremony for the Women's Scroll of Honor named Dr. Frances Roberts and Maria Howard Weeden as the initial honorees.

July 3 - A three-day America Bicentennial Celebration was held in Huntsville.

April 4 - Southern Airline Flight 242 crashed in Georgia, killing 72 people. Twenty-one passengers were from Huntsville.

August 9 - The Huntsville Public Library installed an electronic book detection device.

August 31 - It was announced that 29,787 students had enrolled in the Huntsville School system.

September 7 - The newspaper reported that Elvis Presley played two sold-out performances at the Von Braun Civic Center.



Dr. Frances Roberts



**California Governor Ronald Reagan visits
Huntsville**

September 8 - Mayor Joe Davis was re-elected Mayor of Huntsville by a landslide.

September 20 - A Parkway City Mall fire damaged G. C. Murphy's, Pizitz, and Parisian stores.

October 16 - Local character, Charles "Walking Charlie" Hays, was killed by a train as he walked along the Southern Railway tracks toward the halfway house.

December 8 - California Governor Ronald Reagan visited Huntsville and spoke to the Chamber of Commerce.

December 25 - It was announced that the State Legislators office would be located in the ante-bellum Jeremiah Clemens house on Clinton St. (The house was later moved to Pratt Avenue).

1977

Huntsville Transit Company's buses went out of business after more than forty years of service.

January 16 - Piano team Ferrante and Teicher appear in concert at the Von Braun Civic Center.

February 2 - Jones and Herrin Architectural firm was awarded the Constitution Hall Park building contract.

February 18 - Liberace appeared in concert in Huntsville. The cost of a ticket was \$6.



Saturn V Rocket



Constitution Hall Park being laid out

July 16 - Saturn V at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center was dedicated as a National Register of Historic Landmarks.

July 29 - The Alabama Solar Energy Center will be located on the UAH Campus.

August 16 - Huntsville mourned the death of Elvis Presley.

September 29 - The World's largest aircraft, an Air Force C5, landed at Redstone Arsenal. It stood four stories high and weighed 600,000 pounds.

October 12 - The newspaper announced that a bomb threat emptied the Madison County Courthouse. "You are all going to die!" screamed the male caller.

October - The "Upper," or S-4B, stage of one of the few remaining Saturn 1-B rockets arrived by barge to remain at the Marshall Space Flight Center until a final decision could be made about where to display it.

November 11 - Madison County Sheriff Dave Hedrick was convicted of assaulting a soldier on the 9th floor of the Madison County Jail.

November 15 - James Steele, head of the local NAACP, led a group of women down Williams Street to protest a proposed highway spur from I-565 into Huntsville. Protestors represented the "Human Justice Committee."



Sheriff Dave Hedrick

1978

January 17 - Governor George Wallace proclaimed "Chessie Harris Day" in Alabama. Chessie Harris was founder and executive director of the Harris Home for Children.

March 9 - *The Ravagers* a motion picture starring Richard Harris, Art Carney, and Ernest Borgnine will be filmed in Huntsville.

March 13 - The Space Shuttle *Enterprise*, riding piggyback on its Boeing 747 carrier jet, flew over Huntsville and landed at Redstone Airfield. Approximately 85,000 people visited the Space Shuttle Orbiter *Enterprise* on display at Redstone Arsenal.

May 4 - Mrs. Loretta Purdy Spencer received the Virginia Hamill Simms Memorial Award for volunteer work in the arts.

June 16 - Procter and Gamble Company announced plans to build a major facility here to employ 300 people.

July 3 - A fire on Southside Square destroyed the Good Book Store and Eslick Furniture Company.

July 20 - The Genesco Inc. shoe factory, which employed 700 full-time workers in the old Lowe Manufacturing building on Seminole Drive, announced it would close.

July 24 - The newspaper announced that Marcus "Bulldog" Daniel, veteran law enforcement officer and chief deputy, was found dead behind the Huntsville Area Vocational Tech Center. Daniel had pled guilty to Federal racketeering charges and was waiting sentencing in the case. He was to testify against Sheriff Dave Hedrick on charges of accepting money from gamblers in exchange for protection. His death was ruled suicide.

July 28 - Former Madison County Sheriff Dave Hedrick received a sentence of four years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy charges in connection with a racketeering scheme.

September - The Huntsville Museum of Art held an exhibition of paintings by C. E. Monroe, his wife Betty, and daughter Lanford.

September 24 - Miss World America Pageant was held at the VBCC. Miss Deborah Jean Freeze was crowned.

October 5 - TV Channel 54 was approved by the FCC for Huntsville.

October 10 - City police, firemen, and utilities employees voted to join a union.

November 17 - Firemen, utilities employees and city police went on strike for higher wages.

November 20 - Guardsmen, troopers, and deputies patrolled the city. Mayor Davis announced, "City employees who fail to report to their jobs would be fired according to city employment regulations."



Chessie Harris founder of the Harris Home for Children



The Space Shuttle riding piggyback on a Boeing 747



Lowe Manufacturing Building



District Attorney Fred Simpson

November 24 - City workers end strike.

December 28 - Vandals smashed glass doors and windows in each of the city's five high schools causing over \$10,000 in damages.

More than 4,000 tons of DDT were found on the bottom of Huntsville Spring Branch where it empties into Indian Creek.

Fox Army Hospital on Redstone Arsenal opened.

1979

April - After more than 30 years of service in Huntsville, Eastern Airlines ceased flying into Huntsville.

July 21 - Westclox Factory announced the end of operations in Huntsville. Three hundred employees would lose their jobs.

August 7 - Huntsville Middle School opened on Adams Street.

Huntsville Hospital broke ground on a new \$30,000,000 expansion and renovation project.

August 15 - Butchman "Butch" Deuce, the Alabama A&M Bulldog, died after serving as mascot for 10 years.

August 28 - District Attorney Fred B. Simpson asked the Justice Department to investigate the Redstone Arsenal Equal Employment Opportunity Office for what he called "blackmailing supervisors."

August 31 - A new 24-story Civic Center Marriott Hotel was proposed.

September 24 - A dedication was held for the new Huntsville Middle School, a two-story building designed for 800 students located on Adams Street.

October 8 - Eugenie Smith won the first Grace Club Award.

October - The Southwest Molester was arrested by Detective Ron Curlee, ending months of intense investigation.

November 7 - Ma Bell celebrated 96 years in Huntsville. There were 165,000 telephone subscribers in the Huntsville area.

November 9 - The Huntsville City Council approved a 7 percent raise for all salaried city employees.

November 12 - UAH students held an anti-Iranian protest downtown to call attention to the American hostages being held in Iran.

December 14 - The Huntsville City Council unanimously approved the nomination of Salvatore Vizzini for Chief of Police replacing Eugene Sweeten.

December 17 - Kevin Brower of Raleigh, North Carolina won the first annual Joe Steele Rocket City Marathon.

December 28 - Huntsville teachers received a 7% raise.



Salvatore Vizzini

1980 - 1989

The Big '80s

Compiled by David Edward Milam

The 1980s were characterized by a drive to capitalize on expansion. Being first, the largest, the smartest, and the wealthiest were some themes of the decade. Not an era of materialistic understatement, the decade was a window of time to grasp the brass ring and live the dream.



Huntsville-Madison County Public Library
Opened April 26, 1987

1980

Huntsville acquires “port of entry” status and a new U.S. Customs Office.

February 19 - Most of the old Lincoln Mill, also known as the HIC Building, was destroyed by fire.

April 1 - A nine-man, three-woman jury began deliberations in the trial of John Paul Dejnozka, Huntsville’s “Southwest Molester.” He was convicted.

April 3 - BDM Corporation, a national firm with offices in Huntsville, was awarded a contract to support the development of the TVA coal gasification plant at Murphy Hill near Guntersville.

April 6 - Joblessness in the area exceeds 8%

Mayor Joe Davis declares that an investigation of allegations of corruption in the Huntsville Police Department amounts to unsubstantiated rumors and innuendoes.

May 26 - Steve Bolt, a Huntsville native, won the first annual 10-kilometer Cotton Row Run with a time of 30 minutes and 40 seconds. 1,468 runners finished the race, which will be held annually on Memorial Day.



Lincoln Mill burns

December 4 - The Huntsville City Schools will have to borrow about \$2.5 million by September 1, 1981. The system is still living with the 7 % proration of State education funds.

December 7 - H. E. Francis has written a new volume of short stories, *Naming Things*. Francis is on the English faculty at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.



The first “Cotton Row Run”

over the city’s ambulance service.

January 8 - The Huntsville Board of Education has refused a request to make scientific creationism a mandatory subject of instruction in the city schools.

January 11 - 33-year-old Mike Gillespie is elected to the office of Chairman of the Madison County Commission. James Record retires after 19 years in office.

January 18 - City construction hits \$1.8 million. The largest permit was for \$1,058,092 issued to Nearen Construction Company for the Wal-Mart store located at 2009 Drake Avenue.

January 19 - Iranian students interviewed at Alabama A & M University expressed relief that the US-Iran standoff is resolved, and the 52 American hostages are coming home.

January 21 - State Highway Director Bobby Joe Kemp indicated that he is uncertain about the economic feasibility of constructing the rural portion of the long-delayed interstate spur from I-65 to Huntsville.



Mike Gillespie

March 5 - UAH Charger Basketball Team attends the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics tournament. The Chargers are ranked 5th in the Nation.

March 20 - Oak Place, the plantation home of Architect George Steele on Maysville Road is the Decorators Show House choice. Huntsville's interior designers will begin renovations.



The opening of Constitution Hall Park

April 14 - The U.S. Space Shuttle Columbia lands safely. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville is largely responsible for its development.

November 9 - Huntsville Hospital opens its new \$21.8 million, six-story tower, which includes an additional 275,000 square-feet and provides space for seventy more beds.

November 11 - Madison County Circuit Court ordered that \$9,000 in reward money be divided between four area residents who provided information enabling police to capture and solve the "Southwest Molester" case.

November 25 - The City Council approved a 35% increase in sewer rates to Huntsville Utilities customers.

December 9 - Charles Edward Shaver was presented the 1981 Distinguished Citizen Award by the Chamber of Commerce.

December 16 - Emil A. H. Hollebrand, an authority in rocket design and member of the original Wernher von Braun team, died in Huntsville.

1982

Constitution Hall Park opens; U. S. Space Camp and Space Academy begin.

May 9 - First Panoply of the Arts is held at Big Spring Park.

May 15 - Jane Lowry wins the Simms Award.

May 27 - Eunice Merrell, whose Country Kitchen has been a favorite gathering spot for area politicians, was honored by Senator Howell Heflin who introduced a resolution into the Congressional Record in her honor.

May 28 - The New York Times Company, owner of WHNT Channel 19, purchased 4.5 acres of land to build a new TV studio on Holmes Avenue at Church Street.



Eunice Merrell and Steve Hettinger



Young Artists at Panoply of the Arts

May 29 - Miss Baker, the spider monkey whose famous trip into space made headlines, celebrated her 25th birthday with a party in her honor at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center.

June 2 - Intergraph Corporation ranks 66th among the fastest growing public held companies in the country, with a growth rate over the past five years of 893 percent.

June 11 - The City Council voted to purchase 305 acres of land in Cummings Research Park for \$1.5 million.

June 24 - Thousands of Lincoln High School graduates are making plans to attend the Lincoln Reunion.

July 6 - Reverend Emile Joffrion was honored when a new addition at the Church of Nativity was named Joffrion Hall.

July 14 - Jane Mabry, Dr. Jimmy Wall, and Ernest Kaufmann II win City Council seats.

September 2 - An ordinance was introduced by the City Council to pay a cash fine and a jail sentence for failing to return overdue library books. Library officials said the ordinance stems from an estimated 8,000 overdue books, many of which have been overdue for several years.

September 8 - Ostap Stromecky starting 10th year as UAH Soccer coach.

September 8 - District Judge Jeri Blankenship and Circuit Court Judge S. A. (Bud) Watson were re-elected to their posts in the Democratic Primary.

October 21 - William L. Quick, who in 1908 designed and built the first airplane to be flown in Alabama, was inducted into the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame.

October 30 - Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for a new \$20 million Tomahawk Cruise Missile production facility at Cummings Research Park.

November 9 - The Chrysler Plant announced plans to lay off 300 employees at its Huntsville electronics facility.

November 18 - The Federal Highway Administration granted final approval on the major design features of the proposed downtown section of the I-565 spur.

December 7 - A crane was used to remove the old damaged Russel Erskine Hotel sign from atop the building on Clinton Street. The hotel served for many years as one of the most popular hotels and meeting places in town.

December 10 - A hike in the rates of downtown parking meters and fines for violations was approved by the City Council. Monthly parking will jump from \$15 to \$20, and nickel parking will go up to 25 cents per hour.

December 18 - A 280-seat dome-shaped movie theater opened at the Space and Rocket Center. The \$3 million theater, called Spacedome, has advanced motion picture technology and is the third major attraction at the Center.



Russel Erskine Hotel



The Burritt Museum

1983

January 27- "Bear" Bryant, football coach for the University of Alabama, dies from a heart attack. Residents from Huntsville and all over the state mourn his passing.

February - Billy Neighbors, who was Bear Bryant's first All-American football player, was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

March 7 - The Burritt Museum mansion gets refurbished. The last renovation effort was in 1956 when the house once a private residence became a public museum. Dr. W.H. Burritt willed the mansion and 167 acres on Monte Sano to the city to be used as a museum.

April 6 - Heavy rains soaked the Huntsville area washing out streets, flooding homes, and snarling traffic. Lightning struck several houses and a church in Huntsville.

April 15 - The City Council votes 4-0 against the dog track bill.



Albert Lane

June 3 - Noted local artist, Albert Lane, dies.

June 7 - Huntsville scientist, Dr. Mary Helen Johnston, will be the first Marshall scientist to travel in space aboard the *Spacelab 3*.

July 13 - Huntsville Swim Association's 10 year-old and under girls 200 meter free style relay team broke a national record when competing in the Winner's International Swim meet.

August 20 - More than 70 Huntsville residents appeared as extras in the movie "Secrets of the Phantom Caverns." It was filmed on location at Cathedral Caverns.

August 25 - Navy photographer First Class Paul J. Czachowski has been named 1982 Military Newsfilm Photographer of the Year. Czachowski was a 1976 Grissom High graduate.

October 13 - Tony Mason, a local businessman, sues Jack Daniel's Distillery for \$13 million, alleging fraud in the promotion of his mixed-drink creation called "Lynchburg Lemonade."

October 16 - City Court gears up to hear cases from the enforcement of the DUI law.

October 19 - The bill was passed making Martin Luther King's birthday a holiday.

November 1 - Vanessa Williams, Miss America 1984, will perform at a Randolph School Benefit.

November 25 - Fire damages Central YMCA located on Greene Street.

December 13 - Huntsville's two oldest residential sections, Twickenham and Old Town, will recreate the Spirit of Christmas Past with hundreds of luminaries lining the streets in both historical districts.

1984

January - Huntsville sculptor Lanford Monroe receives national acclaim with her horse sculpture for the Franklin Mint. Ms Monroe is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Monroe.

January 15 - Jerry Craig succeeds Robert Spears on the County Commission Board. Mike Gillespie, Chairman; Tillman Hill, Charles Stone and Grady Abernathy continue as Commissioners.



Dr. Mary Jane Caylor

April 16 - The Huntsville National Guard Armory is renamed the Fort Jackson M. Balch Armory.

February 29 - Bob Baron, weather forecaster for WAAY-TV Channel 31, accepts a new job with a TV station in Tampa, Florida.

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor begins her job as superintendent of Huntsville School System.

July 6 - Eleven employees of Huntsville's SCI died when the company's 100-foot excursion boat, the *SCItanic*, capsized in the Tennessee River during a severe thunderstorm.

July 31 - Madison Square Mall, the area's first regional shopping mall, opens.



Bob Baron

August 24 - The City Council voted in favor of building a \$3 million, 10,000 seat, multi-sports stadium that will bring the Nashville Sounds pro baseball team to the Rocket City.

September 19 - Don Mincher, general manager of the Class AA Southern League franchise, announced that the Huntsville baseball team will be known as the Stars. There were over 2,000 entries from fans to name the team.

November 7 - Tommy Ragland is elected Madison County Tax Collector.

November 30 - Miss Baker, the 27-year-old monkeynaut, making her home at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center, has died. She will be buried on the grounds of the Space Center.



Joe Davis Stadium

1985

January 18 - The new 10,000 seat baseball stadium will be named in honor of Mayor Joe Davis.

January 26 - Magician David Copperfield appeared at the Von Braun Civic Center.

February 28 - Ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the new Marriott Hotel on Bob Wallace Avenue, adjacent to the Alabama Space and Rocket Center.

March 6 - Huntsville High School won its fifth straight state gymnastics championship in Birmingham.

April 3 - Mrs. Vivian Mason, a teacher at Lee High School, received the outstanding Home Economics Teacher award for Alabama.

April 20 - Over 10,000 people passed through the gates of the new Joe W. Davis Municipal Stadium to watch the Huntsville Stars play their first game against the Birmingham Barons. The Stars won 10-0.



Huntsville's Botanical Gardens

April 26 - David Starnes of Huntsville High is the winner of the 1985 Alabama Magazine Award presented by the Alabama High School Journalism Association for his work as editor of the literary magazine "Spectrum."

May 2 - District Attorney Robert "Bud" Cramer says he thinks it's a compliment to Madison County that it has found "a humane way" to work with abused children with the opening of the Children's Advocacy Center on Franklin Street. The purpose of the center is to provide a place for abused children to meet with child-care professionals.

July 12 - Huntsville's Jimmy Key (a left hander for the Eastern Division leading Toronto Blue Jays) is named to the American League All-Star Team.

July 24 - A former government prosecutor has, for the first time, publicly linked two former Huntsville rocket engineers with the case of the exiled Arthur Rudolph.

August 2 - Botanical Garden Society members will be talking to the Alabama Space and Rocket Center about their plans for the first phase of a planned 110-acre garden off Bob Wallace Avenue.

November 3 - I. B. "Buddy" Miller, president of L. Miller and Son Inc., and Harry M. Rhett Jr., president of H. M. Rhett and Associates receive the National Conference of Christians and Jews Brotherhood Award.



Arthur Rudolph

November 18 - Huntsville native and former U. S. Senator John Sparkman is dead. He ran unsuccessfully for Vice-President in 1952 with Adlai Stevenson. He will be buried in Maple Hill Cemetery.



Senator John Sparkman

December 6 - A \$20 million project to eradicate DDT pollution in the community of Triana waters could take 13 years.

1986

January 28 - The *Challenger* exploded, killing all seven astronauts on board. Flags will be flown at half-mast to honor the shuttle crewmembers who had all been in Huntsville for training.

January 30 - State Rep. Robert E. Albright, D-Huntsville, told the Alabama House Health and Welfare Committee that the AIDS virus could be as dangerous to this civilization as smallpox was to the American Indians.

February 1 - A billboard trimmed in black on North Parkway had a simple message:

"January 28 Christa McAuliffe, Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Judith Resnik, Gregory Jarvis"

February 11 - Roy Stone is named District 2 County Commissioner. At age 23, he is the youngest commissioner ever.

June 29 - A full-scale model of the Space Shuttle Orbiter will stand at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center as a memorial to the astronauts killed in the *Challenger* disaster.

July 4 - Constitution Hall Park dedicates a life size replica of the Liberty Bell, a gift to the park from AmSouth Bank.

September 10 - Filming for the motion picture *Space Camp* begins in Huntsville.



The Crew of the *Challenger*



Constitution Hall Park Liberty Bell

September 12 - CAS Inc., a \$2.5 million facility, opens in Research Park West. It will employ 250 workers and provide systems analysis support for various weapons projects for the Missile Command and Ballistic Missile Defense System Command.

Alabama Attorney General Charles Graddick praises Huntsville's *Crimestoppers* program by calling the citizens' tips program "a shining example to the rest of the state."

September 13 - The City Council voted to renovate the Municipal Building. Offices will be moved to the old Yarbrough Hotel while renovation work is going on.

October 1 - Huntsville Hospital institutes a plan for employee drug tests.

October 5 - Ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the new Botanical Gardens located at the corner of Bob Wallace Avenue and Jordan Lane.

October 10 - Community leaders broke ground for the new Huntsville/Madison County Public Library to be located at Monroe Street and St. Clair Avenue. The 107,000 square-foot structure will be built on 4.4 acres at a cost of \$9.9 million.

A five hour standoff with an armed man at the Kettle Restaurant on University Drive ended when members of the Huntsville Police Department's SWAT Team shot him. One police officer was injured.

October 25 - The Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at their new building on Clinton Street.

November 26 - The town of Madison annexation plan was voted down by 3 to 1. Residents preferred to stay independent rather than be annexed by Huntsville.

1987

February 16 - UAH Scientist, Dr. Mau-Kuen Wu, cracks the superconductivity barrier.

February 20 - Senator Heflin proposes UAH as a site for a super collider.

February 25 - Black reporter, Alice Hargrove, lost her racial bias suit against WHNT-TV.

National child abuse activist, John Walsh, praises Huntsville's Child Abuse Center

The city is urged to conduct a study of potential sinkholes.

February 27 - Huntsvillian Ned Vaughn gets the lead in a Disney movie tentatively called *Operation Phoenix*.



Ned Vaughn

February 28 - Continental Express will soon begin offering non-stop service from Huntsville to Dulles International Airport

March 7 - State Rep. George Grayson stated that the recent removal of five members of Alabama A&M University's Board of Trustees makes it impossible to negotiate a settlement of Alabama's college desegregation lawsuit or to proceed with the case in Federal Appeals Court

April 7 - Intergraph and SCI are listed as Fortune 500 companies.

April 10 - Jurors begin deliberations this afternoon in the capital murder trial of 19-year-old Henry Robinson, who was charged in the 1986 murder of 65-year-old Mildred Foster of Huntsville.

April 14 - Huntsville inventor Jim Smith gets a patent for a new synthetic fuel.

April 23 - Mrs. Chessie Harris will receive the Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award during a special tribute for volunteerism.



I-565 Under Construction

May 19 - Over a thousand guests attended the gala celebrating the completion of the impressive new Huntsville/Madison County Public Library. The facility opened April 26.

May 26 - More than 2,500 runners participated in the 8th annual Cotton Row Run.

June 6 - Dr. Jan D. Dozier, a Huntsville native, is one of 15 astronaut candidates for NASA's Space Shuttle program.

July 1 - The Huntsville Police Department encourages Huntsville residents to organize Community Watch programs.

July 2 - Houses are auctioned off for as little as \$1 to make way for I-565. It is understood that the new owners will have to pay for the removal of the buildings.



Naval Reserve Building

August 21 - The “Steamboat Gothic House” on Lowe Avenue was sold at auction for \$142,000.

August 29 - Steven E. Streit, a local CPA accused of cheating his clients, entered a plea of not guilty to 57 counts of violating state securities laws.

September 2 - State Representative, George Grayson, filed a lawsuit against Alabama A & M University and its Board of Trustees, charging that a pending demotion was the result of statements he made against the University's administration.

October 20 - The old Naval Reserve building site will be used as a parking lot for the VBCC and the new Library.

November 19 - Rock superstar Tina Turner appears at the VBCC.

December 1 - Boeing wins a Space Station project predicted to bring \$800 million and 2,000 new jobs to Huntsville.

December 23 - The Huntsville Land Trust is credited with preserving a large portion of the mountain-slope land in the new Chapman Mountain development.

1988

January 7 - The heaviest snowfall in 20 years followed by freezing rain knocked out power to at least 89,000 homes. Many schools, offices and major roads were closed after a 10-inch deep snowfall.

February 17 - Peace activist Rev. William Sloane Coffin told a Huntsville audience that the Strategic Defense Initiative is an evil genie that should be put back in its bottle before it's too late.

March 4 - The new Space Camp dormitory located at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center will house 444 students and team leaders. The dormitory features a basic space station design.

March 25 - The old Top Hat Lounge on Jordan Lane closes after 24 years. The Lounge was a favorite gathering place for Dr. Wernher von Braun and his rocket team members. They would often doodle “rocket stuff” on beer cases.

May 9 - NASA's first space shuttle external tank was delivered to the Space and Rocket Center. The tank will become the backbone of the Space Center's space shuttle exhibit. The tank will support the shuttle *Pathfinder* and two solid boosters.

July - The first Soviet inspectors visit Redstone Arsenal under provision of the INF Treaty.

June 13 - Carl T. Jones Drive is open to traffic. The southeast Huntsville road is an extension of Airport Road and connects to Bailey Cove Road.

October 13 - UAH enrollment nears 7,500.

October 18 – Crewmembers of the space shuttle *Discovery* visit Huntsville for “Space Awareness Week.”

November 23 - Chrysler's Acustar Electronics Part Plant opened its new 553,000 square-foot plant and will employ over 2,000 people. Lee Iacocca was in town for the dedication.

November 29 - Boeing receives a \$125 million Army contract in Huntsville.



Space Camp Dormitory

1989

January 19 - "Unconquered," the 2 1/2 hour docudrama broadcasted by CBS Sunday Night, inaccurately dramatized the lives of former Attorney General Richmond Flowers, Sr., and his son, according to attorney Macon Weaver of Huntsville.

January 20 - Spring Industries, a long time Huntsville landmark cotton factory on Triana Boulevard, is up for sale. The 89-year-old textile manufacturing plant will close in April. Notices were served to 500 employees. Merrimack Mills built the factory in 1900.

February 13 - NASA rocket pioneer Arthur Rudolph said it had been a mistake for him to enter an agreement with the Justice Department that exiled him from the United States. He asked for a temporary visa to attend the Apollo Space Program reunion at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center.

February 25 - Madison County Commissioner Tillman Hill has been indicted by a Federal grand jury for using his influence as a commissioner to obtain contracts with Reed-Holmes, Inc., for which he allegedly received two acres of land.



Governor Guy Hunt in Huntsville

March 7 - The overpass at Rideout Road and Highway 20 near the main entrance to Redstone Arsenal collapsed after being knocked out by a 150-ton construction crane. The crane knocked a 30-foot section of the two-lane structure off its pillars. The overpass was scheduled to be replaced this year as part of the I-565 Spur.

March 8 - Governor Guy Hunt was in Huntsville to celebrate the Alabama Reunion, a year-long emphasis of the state's Pride, Progress, and Preservation.

March 22 - The City Council passes a no smoking ordinance, which prohibits smoking in public places except in areas designated as smoking areas.

March 28 - Eighteen World War II mortars were unearthed on Redstone Arsenal by a ditching machine. They were flown under guard to Anniston Army Depot where they will be held in special storage pending identification of the contents.

March 30 - AmSouth held ground-breaking ceremonies for the corporation's \$16 million AmSouth Center. The Center will be an 11-story, 168,000 square foot building, with an adjacent parking deck located at Church and Clinton Streets.

March 31 - *Southern Living Magazine* is building its first Showcase home in Huntsville. The house will be located in Governor's Bend and will be featured in the magazine's September issue.

April 12 - President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush presented the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Award to Chessie Harris of Huntsville; she is the founder of Harris Home for Children.

May 8 - The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library opens the new branch library in the city of Madison.

May 17 - Ray Pearman, president of Ray Pearman Lincoln-Mercury, was honored for being among the top 100 dealers in the nation for sales and customer satisfaction.

May 19 - Shuttle Park, a full-size space shuttle exhibit at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center, was dedicated in a ceremony that included the unveiling of a granite memorial to the *Challenger* astronauts.



AmSouth Center



Shuttle Park

July 10 - *Apollo 11* crewmen Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins arrived in Huntsville to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first lunar landing.

July 18 - Arthur Rudolph, project manager for the Saturn V rocket at Marshall Space Flight Center, remains in exile in West Germany under the threat of prosecution for alleged Nazi War crimes if he returns to Huntsville.

August 2 - Vice President Dan Quayle was in Huntsville for a visit to Marshall Space Flight Center.

August 17 - The Planning Commission's subdivision committee approved the layout plans for Hampton Cove Lakes. The subdivision will be located off U.S. 431 in the Big Cove area.



August 19 - An advocate for Huntsville's homeless said the city is turning a deaf ear to its less fortunate citizens. Melissa Hiley, coordinator for the Huntsville Homeless Action Committee, said Mayor Steve Hettinger had broken his promise to meet with the homeless who have set up residence under the overpass of Governors Drive and the Parkway.

August 22 - Artist Lanford Monroe wins the Dr. Wernher von Braun Space Flight Award for her sculptor of a bust of Dr. Von Braun.



Bust of Dr. Wernher von Braun

August 31 - The homeless living under the overpass will be sheltered at the Downtown Rescue Mission.

October 2 - Challenger School, an \$11.7 million facility commemorating the nation's first space shuttle tragedy, was dedicated.

October 17 - Randolph School celebrates its 30th year in Huntsville.

November 15 - A powerful tornado touched down in southwest Huntsville at 4:30 p.m. plowing through busy Airport Road during rush hour. The tornado destroyed residential areas and schools killing 21 people and injuring nearly 500.



Apollo 11 Crew

December 12 - Governor Hunt replaced three members of the Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission today.

December 24 - Dr. Taavo Virkhaus was selected as the new music director and conductor of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra.

December 25 - Huntsville has its first Christmas snow in 26 years.



Destruction on Airport Road

1990 - 1999

High Tech Center of the Southeast

Compiled by Rhonda Larkin

The 1990s were characterized by a look toward the future and a renewed appreciation for the past. Old buildings were renovated and restored while new companies were built to hold the high tech facilities that kept arriving. As a fine place to raise a family, Huntsville earned the reputation as the city to live in.



1995 Aerial View of Downtown Huntsville

1990

January 11 - Huntsville hosted the Alabama Sports Festival and 6,000 people competed over five days

January 20 - In a ceremony held at the Von Braun Civic Center the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Sports Hall of Fame inducted 30 athletes as charter members .

January 29 - In a newspaper article, it was announced that Huntsville's current law library badly needed repairs. The law library holds irreplaceable public records that date to 1807. An archives facility is needed to keep the records safe. Huntsville newspapers have already been transferred into the safekeeping of the Archives of the Huntsville Public Library.



Bud Cramer

February 8 - Bud Cramer, Madison County District Attorney, plans to run for congressional seat.

February 13 - The Pershing II Missile, developed in Huntsville in the 1980s, will be represented at the Space and Rocket Center along with Pershing I, Redstone, Chaparral, Hawk, Lance, TOW, and Dragon missiles already on display.

February 23 - Vice President Dan Quayle's wife, Marilyn, and Alabama's first lady, Helen Hunt, visit Challenger School and commend the school personnel for their bravery at Jones Valley Elementary in protecting 37 students in the 1989 tornado.



“Old Fashioned Trade Day”

300 acres of wetland and water ways.

March 29 - GM donates a \$40 million aerophysics research facility to UAH.

April 25 - Space Shuttle *Discovery* astronauts deploy the Hubble Space Telescope, which was built under the management of Huntsville's Marshall Space Flight Center.

June 27 - Astronaut Charlie Duke, one of twelve astronauts to walk on the moon, spoke to 600 Space Camp trainees and autographed copies of his new book *Moonwalkers*.

August 10 - Volunteers at the Huntsville Land Trust were named as a “Daily Point of Light” by President Bush. The trust preserves more than 600 acres of the Monte Sano hillside and an additional

August 31 - “Old Fashioned Trade Day” will revive Saturdays of trading on the square in downtown Huntsville.

September 14 - A mural depicting hot-air balloons provided a blend of aviation's past and present in the Huntsville International Airport's new concourse. The \$12.6 million passenger concourse offers the first impression of Huntsville to the airport's arriving passengers. The addition was designed by Crow, Overbeek, Neville, and Peters and was built by Pearce Construction.

November 22 - The Historic Huntsville Foundation, owner and operator of Harrison Brothers Hardware, hosted a celebration of the retirement of the debt owed on the Historic store which is located in downtown Huntsville.

December 6 - Workers in Building 4663 at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville are in charge of the round-the-clock observation being made by astronomical equipment flying on board the space shuttle *Columbia*, known as Astro-1. It is controlled from MSFC's Spacelab Mission Operations Control Center in Huntsville.



**Harrison Brothers
Hardware**



Dr. Mary Jane Caylor

December 20 - Huntsville City School Superintendent Dr. Mary Jane Caylor has been named Alabama's "Superintendent of the Year" by the American Association of School Administrators.

1991

January 1 - Intergraph is the largest Alabama based company with 9,000 employees in 41 countries.

January 3 - Bud Cramer goes to Congress to serve in Alabama's Fifth Congressional District.

January 10 - State Representative Morris "Mo" Brooks is elected Madison County District Attorney.

January 11 - Governor Guy Hunt's inauguration parade will include the Huntsville-built Avenger Vehicle to honor Alabama troops in Saudi Arabia.

January 18 - The Chamber of Commerce honors local historian Dr. Frances Roberts, the founder of the University of Alabama's History Department. Roberts was active in more than 80 committees throughout her 29 years at the University.

January 30 - The Army Missile Command in Huntsville, which developed the Patriot anti-ballistic missile, has another missile, the Hellfire, ready for use should a ground war begin in Iraq.

February 1 - Huntsville Astronauts Mark Lee and Dr. Jan Davis will become the first married couple to fly in space.

February 14 - Huntsville will be a test market for McDonald's catfish sandwich.

February 23 - Native Huntsvillian, Captain James "Trey" Wilbourn, was shot down over central Kuwait.

March 13 - Mayor Steve Hettinger has been appointed to the Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the National League of Cities.



Mo Brooks

March 28 - The Historic Humphrey-Rodgers home built in 1848 was moved from its site adjacent to the Coca-Cola plant on Clinton Avenue to near Constitution Hall Village.

April 8 - Miss America 1991, Marjorie Judith Vincent, visited the Space and Rocket Center and was made an honorary citizen of Alabama by Governor Guy Hunt.

April 9 - Intergraph wins \$362 million contract. *Fortune* magazine announces that Intergraph will be listed the nation's 339th most prosperous business. Intergraph Computer-aided design systems will help the Navy build new ships through 2003.

The 20 member UAH Civil Engineers team won regional first place earning a trip to the National Concrete Canoe Races in Orlando, Florida.

April 20 - Huntsville welcomes home 124 members of Battery K, 4th Marines, from the invasion of Kuwait and Iraq.

May 3 - Huntsville native, Cynthia Futral, now lives in New York and performs with the New York Metropolitan Opera. The Butler High graduate taught at Lee High for three years.



Captain James "Trey" Wilbourn

Miss Alabama Teen USA, Stephanie Gwaltney wins the state title. She is a Huntsville High Junior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gwaltney.

May 24 - Grady Reeves of Channel 19's "Mornin' Folks" show, is given a retirement party at the Hilton Hotel. After 25 years of joining Huntsville viewers for breakfast, Grady Reeves will sign off on May 31 for the final time. This ends a broadcast career that spanned five decades.

June 12 - Huntsvillians lined the streets of downtown when a parade of veterans, marching bands, floats and military hardware took part in the city's "Celebration of Patriots." Alabama A & M graduate Lt. Quinton McCorvey commanded the battery that downed the first Iraqi SCUD missile of the war.

July 11 - Marshall Space Flight Center is designing a water recycling system to develop a total Environmental Control and Life Support System for Space Station *Freedom*.

July 25 - The deserted 100-year-old Dallas Mill burned. The 320,000 sq. ft. brick and timber building was Huntsville's first large textile mill.

July 25 - A & M University dedicated a new theater in the Morrison Fine Arts Building to long-time professor Edward S. Johnson.

August 21 - Jones Valley School reopens today less than two years after it was destroyed by the November 15, 1989 tornado.

August 26 - Huntsville's last surviving cotton mill, the 92-year-old Merrimack Mfg. Company, will be torn down. The mill, located on Triana Boulevard, has been known as Merrimack Mfg. Co. (1899-1946), Huntsville Mfg division of M. Lowenstein Corp of New York (1946-1985), and Springs Industries of Fort Mill, South Carolina (1985-1989).

September 21 - University of Alabama in Huntsville is ranked fifth best in the South according to *US News and World Report*.

Kathy Chan, local jewelry designer, memorialized the 1989 Huntsville tornado. In her creation twenty-one rubies signify the people who died, and diamonds represent those who were injured. Tiny pearls symbolize the buildings, homes, and cars damaged during the storm.

October 3 - Ridgecrest Elementary School teacher, Linda Kilpatrick Winters, received the 1991 Presidential Award for Excellence in teaching for Science and Mathematics.

October 25 - I-565 ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 12 noon to open the new interstate.

December 17 - The North Alabama Food Bank in Huntsville was named winner of the 1991 Sara Lee Foundation Leadership Award.

1992

March 26 - Belgium's Prince Philippe visited the Marshall Space Flight Center and spoke to the crew of the shuttle *Atlantis*, one of whom is Dirk Frimout, the first Belgian to fly in space.

Arthur Ashe, the first black tennis player to win at Wimbledon, came to Huntsville for the Huntsville Classic Celebrity Tennis Tournament.



Dallas Mill Burns



Ed Starnes

April 7 - Ed Starnes is inducted into the Education Hall of Fame.

April 10 - The Benton H. Wilcoxon Municipal Iceplex holds a grand opening.

April 13 - CASA has been selected to receive the President's prestigious "1,000 Points of Light" award. CASA becomes only the third organization in Alabama to receive this award.

April 28 - Jimmy Key, New York Yankee's pitcher and Huntsville native, tops a big day with a win in the World Series. Key was a graduate of Butler High School.

May 22 - Prominent Huntsville Ophthalmologist, Dr. Jack Wilson, was found by his wife-murdered at their home.

May 28 - The 1992 Humanitarian Award, presented to Babs Roper, recognized her selfless contributions.

Former Lee High baseball star, David Keel, became the first local player to be drafted and signed by the Oakland Athletics since the A's affiliated with the Huntsville Stars in 1984.



Babs Roper

June 2 - A City official tied to Dr. Jack Wilson's murder case resigns. Betty Wilson and her twin sister are indicted for the murder.

September 12 - Dr. Jan Davis, the first Huntsville native to go to space, will carry mementos of Huntsville into orbit. Dr. Davis will also take Dr. Wernher von Braun's 1933 pilot's license issued to the rocket pioneer in Germany at the age of 20. She will be traveling with her husband Mark Lee, aboard space shuttle *Endeavour*.



Jimmy Key

1993

January 10 - An article in the newspaper described some unusual items that have shown up in the library bookstore: an old Bible with illustrations by Salvador Dali and a first-edition William Faulkner novel.

January 14 - Huntsville's third generation boot maker, Steve Brady, talked about some of his famous customers: Travis Tritt, *Sawyer Brown's* Mark Miller, T. Graham Brown, and Earl Thomas Conley.



Dr. Ernest Stuhlinger

Tim Morgan takes Oath of Office as Madison County District Attorney.

January 17- Huntsville was ranked second in the nation of popular places to live.

January 24 - NASA rocket scientist Dr. Ernest Stuhlinger of Huntsville, was honored by naming a space technology laboratory for him at the Aerospace Institute of the University of Munich.

January 31 - Former Huntsville resident Ned Vaughn, son of Helen and Ed Vaughn, is featured in the newspaper for his acting roles in television and movies.

March 4 - Betty Wilson is sentenced to life in prison without parole for the murder of her husband, Dr. Jack Wilson.



Dr. Jan Davis

March 23 - First Presbyterian Church, the oldest organized Presbyterian Church in Alabama, dedicates a new bell during its 175th anniversary. The last bell, removed 130 years ago, was melted during the Civil War to make cannons.

April 19 - Huntsville natives Lyndel Hardy and Gail Linkins, as secret service agents, have guarded Presidents Jimmy Carter, George Bush, and Ronald Reagan.

October 17 - Hundreds of people attend Brahan Spring Park for the Burritt Museum and Park's Indian Heritage Festival, a celebration of early Alabama culture.

1994

January 12 - Olin King won Distinguished Service Award.

January 25 - Alabama's Constitution Village bought a letter written from Huntsville on May 8, 1814 by Andrew Jackson to his wife, Rachael. (Jackson was on his way home to Nashville after his successful campaign against the Creek Indians in Alabama.)

February 25 - Heinrich Carl Rothe, rocket scientist and engineer, dies at 86.

March 21 - "CBS News This Morning" will do a feature on Huntsville in conjunction with *US News and World Reports*.



July 21 - Father-son team Paul & Chris Calle designed the first *Apollo* stamp in 1969. The stamps are 29 cent commemorative and a \$9.95 Express Mail stamp. In August, NASA will send 500,000 of the Express Mail moon landing stamps on the next space shuttle mission.

August 26 - Rev. Jerry Simon was murdered at his Valley Fellowship Church on Holmes Avenue.

October 4 - Big Spring Jam nets nearly \$40,000 profit in its second year.

A national history calendar shows off Harrison Brothers Hardware, built about 1840, on the courthouse square. It's also part of "Historic America," a 1995 engagement calendar published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

October 13 - Huntsville law enforcers win big at an Olympic competition in Birmingham. Nine Huntsville law officers received top awards.

December 17 - Astronaut Jim Lovell signed copies of his book at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

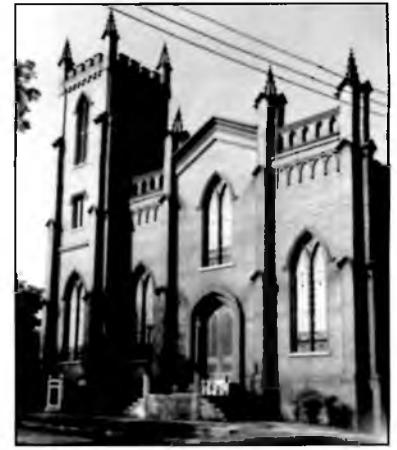
1995

January 3 - As chief of the Training Systems Branch of Marshall Space Flight Center, Gloria Hullett-Smith is first black female to head a NASA directorate in science and engineering.

January 5 - Aaron Wright is the first black Huntsville Police Officer to retire here.

January 28 - Huntsville native Jim McBride wins Music Creator's Award.

February 10 - Macon Weaver, former federal attorney from Huntsville who helped move George Wallace from in front of the doors so black students could attend the University of Alabama, died at age 75.



First Presbyterian Church



Astronaut Jim Lovell

March 7 - Huntsville resident Charles Rice, publisher of *Hard Times: The Civil War in Huntsville and North Alabama*, is featured in the newspaper. His writings include books on Civil War and Fine Arts of Bangkok and a small role in the movie *The Killing Field*.



Tyler Rogers and the Big Spring Lion

July - Missing for nearly 30 years, the Big Spring Lion was returned to its stand at the spring near the fountain.

July 28 - Huntsville Speedway will host four Winston Cup drivers: Cale Yarborough, Sterling Marlin, Michael Waltrip, and Kenny Wallace.

August 12 - Stephen Lang, formerly of Huntsville, is the author of two Bible trivia books published by Tyndale Publishing Co., the largest Bible publishing company in the world.

September 20 - Members of Grissom's two jazz bands are preparing for their 1996 trip to Austria. They will participate in a four-city musical salute marking Austria's 1,000 years as a nation.

October 19 - The stars of "Full House," Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, are in Huntsville for the taping of *The Case of the U.S. Space Camp Mission*.

October 27 - The creation of Kid's Space will open a new world of play. For the first time, disabled children won't be left out of the fun.

1996

January 8 - Snow and ice shut down the city.

January 26 - John Stallworth, Huntsville resident and former Pittsburgh Steeler, is now president of Madison Research Corporation.



East Hall, oldest building on the Oakwood College Campus



Loretta Spencer

March 7 - Two women came to the Madison County Probate Office to get a marriage license to marry each other but were turned down.

March 13 - Kathleen Turner is the winner of a name-the-baby contest for "On the Fast-track," a comic drawn by Huntsville native Bill Holbrook and circulated in 100 newspapers nationwide, including the *Huntsville Times*.

March 15 - After 32 years of publication, the *Huntsville News* publishes its last issue.

April 13 - Oakwood College celebrates its 100th anniversary.

June - Dilworth Lumber Company on Church Street closed after 110 years of business in Huntsville

June 28 - The eternal flame, which lights the Olympic Torch, will pass through Huntsville on its way to light the games in Atlanta. The runners will pass through Hazel Green and come south through Huntsville on U.S. 231-431 to I-565, where they will turn west.

July 7 - Thiokol will shut down after 47 years in Huntsville.

July 21 - Former Huntsville Police Chief Salvatore Vizzini has been indicted on a burglary charge. He was police chief from 1980 until 1985.

September 18 - Loretta Spencer, the first woman to head any of the state's four largest cities, has been elected Mayor of the City of Huntsville. She will take oath of office October 8.

1997

March 13 - The newspaper featured Huntsville residents Sonja and Dieter Schrader, who oversee four Huntsville dining establishments: Ol'Heidelberg, Café Berlin, Tortellini's, and Santa Fe Grill. Dieter Schrader is the stepson of a von Braun team scientist. Schrader's family came from Germany in 1950.

May 3 - Three Caves is the site of the Huntsville Land Trust's celebration of its 10th Anniversary.

June 8 - 1997 American Bowling Congress's National Tournament came to Huntsville

July 24 - City broke ground for a new \$223 million Municipal Justice and Public Safety Center.



Three Caves

Cummings Research Park West was named the World's No. 1 university-affiliated research park by the Association of University Related Research Parks.



Municipal Justice and Public Safety Center

SCI, the city's largest nonmilitary employer and the world's second largest contract manufacturer of electronics, is the top job creator for three years running from 1995-1997.

August 8 - Fox Hospital is closing all 20 beds thus eliminating 61 jobs by end of year.

September 3 - Debbie White, Huntsville native, is named "New Artist of the Year" at the Golden Heart Awards presented by the Country Gospel Music Association.

September 14 - Poplar Grove, built by LeRoy Pope in 1814, is on the market for the first time since 1849. It is the oldest documented antebellum house in the State of Alabama and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

November 14 - Huntsville Ice Skaters Katie Barkhart, 15, and Charles Bernhard IV, 24, won first place at the Golden Spin Competition in Zagreb, Croatia.

1998

March 15 - University of Alabama-Huntsville Chargers are National Champions.

March 19 - A landslide on Monte Sano Mountain concerns homeowners, both those on the mountain and those below in the valley. The area affected is about 200 feet wide and 700 feet long.

October 2 - Huntsville Police Officer Lt. Sherry Spears is honored for writing a domestic violence grant that allows officers to have a Polaroid camera with them at all times to photograph evidence of domestic violence.

October 4 - A city-wide fire drill will test Huntsville residents' readiness for potential disaster.

December 2 - Intergraph, Inc. computers won 36 awards.



Poplar Grove



Early Works Childrens' Museum

December 2 - CBL & Associates Properties, Inc. has entered into a joint venture with Colonial Properties Trust to buy Parkway City Mall for \$8.2 million.

December 3 - Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus parades on their way from the Depot to the von Braun Center Arena.

December 5 - Early Works Childrens' Museum opens with a gala celebration.

December 9 - The *Wall Street Journal* ranked Huntsville as premier center for high-tech business in the Southeast.

December 16 - Astronaut John Glenn greets crowd in annual Christmas parade.

December 23 - Boeing named lead contractor for National Missile Defense program.

The new Huntsville Museum of Art opens in Big Spring International Park.

December 25 - Doris McHugh of Huntsville was selected as the recipient of the fifth annual SGMA Heroes Award for the State of Alabama.

December 31 - Terry Okonek and his wife, Angela, are honored as they arrive as passenger number one million (and one) at Huntsville International Airport for the year 1998.

1999

January 7 - Funding is announced for a new National Space Science and Technology Center at UAH.

February 28 - Huntsville resident Homer Hickam, author of the book *Rocket Boys*, the basis for the hit movie *October Sky*, appeared on "The Late Show with David Letterman."



Huntsville Museum of Art



Homer Hickam

Some Huntsville/Madison County known slogans: *The Rocket City, The Sky is the Limit, The Heart of the Tennessee Valley, Huntsville-America's Space Capital, Huntsville is a Blast, Silicon Valley South, Heart of the New South, and We're Known by the Companies We Keep.*

April 9 - Former UAH student Brian Reynolds is creator of the best-selling computer game "Alpha Centauri," named Game of the Month by *PC Games Magazine*.

May 5 - Huntsville Hospital performs its first stem cell transplant.

Huntsville High's Charlotte Ann Kelly and Cynthia Irby are both two-time state tennis champions coming in first in the Doubles, Class 6-A, completion.

May 9 - Pat and Gene Sapp donate \$220,000 to help replace the downtown Rescue Mission's building for housing mothers and children.

May 12 - The Army Corps of Engineers' Huntsville office has won three national efficiency awards for saving \$60 million in taxpayers money during the past four years.

June 2 - Sirsi Corporation, a maker of library-automation software, expects more than 400 librarians from around the world to attend its customer convention.



Five Points Historic District

June 13 - Anne Quick Drake, the widow of Joseph Fanning Drake the president of Alabama A & M University from 1927 to 1962, celebrates her 104th birthday.

July 16 - Huntsville's U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command has awarded a \$44.8 million contract to Motorola to develop battlefield-control centers.

July 18 - Members of the original Von Braun rocket team join others in front of the Saturn V replica, which was dedicated at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

August 22 - Harry Pennington, a circuit court judge, recalled performing the wedding ceremony for Vernon Presley, father of Elvis, and Davada Elliott at his Huntsville home in 1960. The marriage license was dated July 3, 1960 and listed Vernon's occupation as "personal business manager for Elvis Presley."

September 19 - More than 20,000 motorcyclists rode the Trail of Tears in Huntsville and North Alabama.

Five Points received approval to create the Five Points Historic District. There are two existing historic districts-Old Town and Twickenham.

September 21 - Restoration began on the old Central YMCA on Greene Street to restore it to its original look when it was built in 1910. Herman "Buck" Watson and his law partners purchased the building and saved it from being razed.

September 22 - The Mall, Huntsville's first indoor shopping mall, was razed. The old fountain was saved and is displayed on the grounds.

November 6 - William Cooper Green, Jr., publisher of the Huntsville *Times*, was inducted posthumously into the Alabama Newspaper Hall of Fame.



Temple B'nai Shalom

November 14 - Police officers construct a playground in the housing project located behind the Boys and Girls Club.

November 14 - Temple B'nai Shalom celebrated 100 years. On July 30, 1876, 32 families formed B'nai Shalom which means "Sons of Peace."

November 24 - Annie Hays and the Hays family donates 538 acres for the J. D. and Annie S. Hays Nature Preserve in Hampton Cove.

December 20 - Former President George Bush is in Huntsville to honor Senator Richard Shelby. A \$33 million facility is named the Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile Intelligence.



J.D. and Annie S. Hays Nature Preserve



Stacie Willis

SCI System Inc., a Huntsville-based electronics manufacturer, ended 1999 with 37 plants located in 17 countries.

Huntsville resident Stacie Willis is crowned "Mrs. America."

Local group of doctors open the state's first community free clinic.

2000 - 2005

Y2K

Compiled by Raneé Pruitt

As Huntsville celebrates 200 years of history, we stop and reflect on Huntsville's contribution to the world-and we are proud. Although the space program brought people from all over the world to Huntsville, turning it into a city of diverse backgrounds, it has never lost the Southern charm rooted firmly in patriotic soil. Even though it is a city in the Deep South, Huntsville eluded the total destruction some of our neighboring cities suffered during Union occupation. After the Civil War, we picked up the pieces and began again. The mills employed thousands, and we sent our young men to fight in the Spanish American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and, as of the date of publication, the war in Iraq. We did our best to support our children in uniform with some giving their lives in return. At this point, after reflecting on our wonderful past, let us look forward to an exciting and productive future.



Freshmen Tony Morse, Leslie Gray, and Rebecca Marshall enter the newly built Huntsville High School on the first day of school in August 2004

2000

January 1 - The world did not end as predicted by many computer experts. Y2K was relatively a non-event.

January 12 - A bronze marker was unveiled at the Huntsville Hospital to remember slaves buried in the old Georgia Cemetery. Both the cemetery and the church that preceded St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (the oldest black church in Alabama) were located on the site.

February 2 - A metal detector will be installed at courthouse entrances to detect hidden weapons.

February 14 - An ice storm hits Huntsville leaving 20,000 utility customers without power.

February 19 - Dr. Henry Bradford retires after 36 years as pastor of the Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church of America.

February 21 - The Huntsville Police Department opened three new precincts: North Precinct located on Mastin Lake Road, West Precinct located on Triana Boulevard, and South Precinct located on Bailey Cove Road.

March 3 - Shorts, skorts, and skirts will be permitted in the Huntsville public school system, provided they "approach knee length."

March 6 - Alabama's hand-written 1819 Constitution is on display at the Early Works Children's Museum. The document is written on 26 sheets of parchment.

March 12 - Huntsville Museum of Art displays an exhibit on the Holocaust.

April 9 - Tennessee Valley Vipers, Huntsville newest indoor football team, play their first game at the Von Braun Center.

April 12 - Parkway City Mall will be renovated and be renamed Parkway Place at a cost of \$60 million. It will house 75 stores in 616,000 square feet of space.



Parkway Place

April 14 - The Huntsville City School Board announced a plan to cut 125 positions.

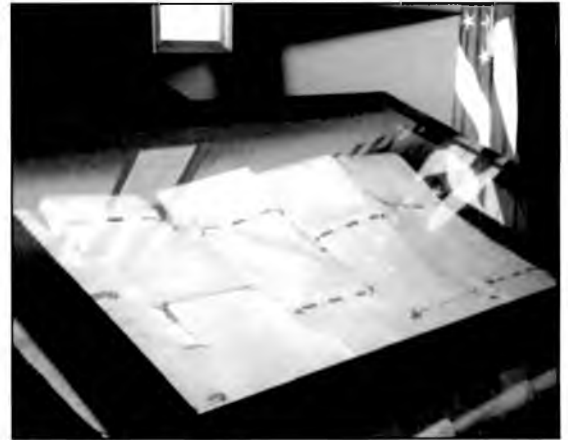
May 2 - Drake Towers, a low-income housing high rise and Huntsville landmark on Pelham Street was demolished because of extreme structural problems.

May 3 - Students at the Academy for Science and Foreign Language help to restore the neglected Glenwood Cemetery.

May 7 - A & M University celebrates its 125th anniversary by bestowing an honorary Doctor of Law degree on *nationally acclaimed* attorney Johnny Cochran.

May 14 - Werner Rosinski, an original member of the Von Braun rocket team, died at age 85.

Wernher von Braun and the first German rocket scientists arrived in Huntsville 50 years ago. Local officials had wanted a wind tunnel; instead, they got the moon.



Alabama's 1819 Constitution



Skateboard Park

May 28 - Ditto Landing is added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

June 24 - Huntsville salutes its Korean War Veterans on its 50th anniversary 1950-1953.

July 28 - Joy riders, on tractors, damage Grissom High School. The stunt caused \$80,000 in damage to the school's tennis courts, fences, uprooting an electronic scoreboard, shattered sprinkler heads, and ripped up the soccer field.

August 23 - Huntsville mayor, Loretta Spencer, wins second term with 57.9 percent of the votes.

August 28 - The City Council approved a long awaited skateboard park. The park is located on Cleveland Avenue, between Church Street and Meridian Street.

September 16 - 70,000 motorcycle riders roar through Huntsville as part of the annual Trail of Tears Commemorative Ride. The ride is the largest gathering of bikers in the nation.

September 25 - Crowds were estimated at 225,000 for the three-day Big Spring Jam in downtown Huntsville.

September 30 - The City Council passed a \$98.9 million budget for Huntsville in 2001.

October 3 - Jury selection began for the capital murder trial of Jeffrey Franklin. He was arrested March 10, 1998 for the murder of his parents in their Camelot subdivision home.

November 18 - A monument listing all known people buried in the Potters Field section of Maple Hill Cemetery was unveiled at a dedication service held during the Annual Cemetery Stroll.



Potter's Field Monument

December 2 - The First Baptist Church on Governors Drive was named one of the top 300 Protestant congregations in the United States.

December 15 - The Huntsville School Board voted to build a new Huntsville High School. The school construction cost was estimated at \$18.8 million. The City Council pledged \$10 million toward its construction.

December 20 - Friedrich Duer, an original member of the Wernher von Braun's Rocket team, died at age 91.



Bill Easterling

December 23 - The City approves plans for a new Target store in Jones Valley.

December 29 - Bill Easterling "the heart and soul of the *Huntsville Times*," died after an 18 month struggle with cancer.

2001

January 9 - Members of the *Discovery* Crew Space Shuttle flight arrived at Marshall Space Center to say thanks. Pilot Pamela Melroy, Mission Specialists Jeff Wisoff and Brian Duffy, and Commander Leroy Chiao discussed the historic 100th space shuttle mission flight.

January 31 - Rideout Road has been renamed Research Park Boulevard. The four lane road bisects Cummings Research Park east and west on Huntsville's west side.

March 17 - Boeing Company is forced to eliminate 400 Huntsville Space Station jobs by the end of the year.

March 25 - The historic Weeden House has received an anonymous gift of \$50,000 to keep the doors open to the public for another year.

March 27 - Dedication was held for the \$27 million National Space Science and Technology Center on Sparkman Drive. Congressman Bud Cramer was on hand for the ceremonies.

April 4 - Huntsville Public Library director, Donna Schremser, and Madison Co. Probate Judge, Tommy Ragland, discuss plans for a County Records Center, to be located in the Huntsville Public library. The Center will house Probate, Circuit Court, and Tax Records.



Ribbon Cutting for the Madison County Records Center

April 7 - Dallas Fanning, Commanding General of the Alabama National Guard's 142nd signal Brigade, was inducted into the U.S. Officer Candidate Training School Hall of Fame. Fanning is Planning Director for the City of Huntsville.

April 22 - According to an article in *Newsweek* Magazine, Huntsville is one of the top ten "Tech Cities" in the United States.

April 25 - An audit for the U.S. Space and Rocket Center indicates that former director Mike Wing owes \$7.58 million. He received a bill from the State of Alabama for that amount.

April 26 - The Panoply of the Arts celebrates its 20th year at Big Spring International Park.

May 15 - Rocket Scientist Fritz Muller died. Muller, who developed the gyroscope, was one of the first members of Wernher Von Braun's rocket team.

May 19 - Hobbs Island and Ditto Landing are on the top ten list of most endangered places in Alabama, "Places in Peril" compiled by the Historical Commission and Alabama Preservation Alliance.

June 3 - Thirteen of Sixteen homeowners near Aldridge Creek accept the city's buy-out offer for their houses in the flood zone.

June 10 - Construction began on the Toyota Auto plant in the North Huntsville Industrial Park. The \$220 million plant will eventually add \$1.13 million to tax revenue.



Ruins of the old Monte Sano Tavern

Plans were revealed to restore the old Monte Sano Tavern in the park.

June 23 - Jeffrey Franklin pled guilty to his parents' murder. He received two life terms to run consecutively. He was also sentenced to three life terms on attempted murder charges.

August 3 - The city agreed to remove 34 houses in the flood zone near Aldridge Creek.

The Huntsville Public Library announced it has higher circulation numbers than any other public library system in Alabama.

August 15 - Temple B'nai Sholom is fighting a city board's refusal to let them demolish a rundown house it owns next to the Temple. The house is in the Old Town Historic Preservation District.

August 25 - *Self Magazine* called Huntsville's drinking water the worst in the country. Compared to the water from metropolitan areas of the same size, Huntsville's water supply ranks dead last.

September 11 - Huntsville is put on alert when two planes crash into New York's World Trade Center Towers minutes apart in a terrorist attack.

September 12 - Local churches pray for 9/11 victims and the nation. Pastors and churches throughout Huntsville unite in prayer at the Von Braun Center.

Huntsville motorists line up at gas stations in case of a fuel shortage. Local stations were swamped after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

September 15 - Redstone Arsenal has tightened security procedures. Guards are searching all vehicles.

September 16 - Huntsville defense agencies are preparing for possible terrorist attacks.

September 19 - A newspaper-sized American flag appeared in the *Huntsville Times*. Readers are asked to place them in their windows on September 21 as a sign of unity and support to America.

September 22 - McDonnell Elementary School children raise over \$1,000 to aid rescue workers in New York. Huntsville's Deputy Police Chief Leon Schenck, will lead terrorism task force for North Alabama.



House owned by Temple B'nai Sholom

September 24 - Huntsville CF Flag Company works overtime to keep up with the demand for American flags. Its production tops 8,000 flags a day as orders continue to stack up.

September 28 - The U.S. Space and Rocket Center lays off 25 employees. Business is down because of the slumping economy resulting from the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

October 1 - A benefit concert was held to raise money to repair historic Councill High School.

October 4 - The Huntsville Historic Foundation pushes to get Huntsville's mill villages listed on the National Register of Historic places.

October 16 - Ron Robertson of Huntsville receives the Carnegie Medal for bravery in risking his life to rescue a child and mother

from a mobile home fire.

October 17 - Matt Dean, a teacher at Buckhorn High School receives a check for \$25,000 from the Milken Family Foundation. The foundation honors top teachers across the country.

October 25 - The Hunt's Spring Chapter DAR marked the grave of Revolutionary Soldier Samuel Davis, an early pioneer of Madison County.

November 14 - Old mill houses in Lincoln Village go up in flame in a controlled burn by the Huntsville Fire Department. The city calls the old houses a danger. Preservationists were angered by the burning.

November 22 - The Huntsville Flight, part of the National Basketball League, plays its first game at the Von Braun Center.



Lincoln Village



Samuel Davis Marker

December 16 - Hale Brothers Furniture Company on Jefferson Street closes after 50 years in business.

December 30 - The TVA Mural, in the Federal Courthouse on Holmes Street, is cleaned and restored. The mural was painted in 1936 as part of the WPA program.

2002

January 1 - Alabama license plates are redesigned with a new logo "Stars Fell on Alabama."

January 2 - Huntsville artist Cynthia Massey Parsons designed an ornament representative of Huntsville for use on the 2001 U. S. White House's Christmas tree.

January 23 - Huntsville's premier road builder Cecil Ashburn gets his own street. Four Mile Post Road Extension will now be officially named "Cecil Ashburn Drive, SE".



Cecil Ashburn

February 3 - Channel 19 organizers expect 15,000 young people to attend Kids Expo at the VBC.

February 12 - U.S. Space and Rocket Center is preparing to use the papers of Dr. Wernher von Braun, along with all the land and equipment, to satisfy demands for collateral from AmSouth Bank.

February 13 - A public outcry by community leaders stopped the terms which would lead to the relinquishing of the papers of Von Braun. Bob Ward, Jr. of the Huntsville *Times* suggested the Space Center Board of Directors were "hocking history."

March 3 - Sparkman Lady Senators are the undefeated champs in the AHSAA (Class 6-A) Championship State finals.

March 15 - Redstone Arsenal Ordinance Guided Training School celebrates its 50th anniversary. The school was set up to train army troops to maintain guided missiles.

March 19 - 1,600 people from all 50 states and several countries arrived in Huntsville to attend the annual National Children's Advocacy Center's symposium on child sexual abuse.

April 1 - SCI Systems Inc., makes *Fortune* Magazines, Fortune 500 list of the world's largest companies.

April 6 - Gene Monroe gives historic Monroe photograph collection to the Huntsville Public Library. The collection contains over 2,000 early photographs of Huntsville which had been collected by his grandfather, D. C. Monroe.

April 14 - The Library's city-wide reading program "Get Caught Reading," urges the entire city to read the same book. The first book selected for the program was Pulitzer Prize winning *All the Kings Men* by Robert Penn Warren.

April 30 - Central Church of Christ on Holmes Avenue razed two abandoned historic houses in the Old Town Historic District to make way for a graveled parking lot.



TVA Mural



Kids Expo at the Von Braun Center



June 3 - Eunice Merrell celebrates 50 years in business at Aunt Eunice's Country Kitchen on Andrew Jackson Way.

July 16 - Colonial Hills Elementary School, on Meridian Street, has been renamed-Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School.

July 26 - Huntsville agrees to share the jail with Madison County. The merger will save taxpayers at least \$30 million over the next 30 years.

August 3 - Huntsville businessman John Stallworth is inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He played for A & M University in 1972 and 1973, and for the Pittsburgh Steelers for 14 seasons from 1974 through 1987.

2003

June 20 - Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc. celebrates 50 years as a tech business in Huntsville.

June 26 - The late Dr. Wernher von Braun was named the second most important aviation pioneer in history, topped only by Orville and Wilbur Wright.

July 4 - Word was received that Cpl. Andrew F. Chris of Huntsville was killed while on active duty in Baghdad.

July 13 - The National Children's Advocacy Center moved into its new four building campus on Pratt Ave.

July 23 - Huntsville filed a lawsuit against Central Church of Christ on Clinton Street over the church's demolition of two houses in the Twickenham Historic Preservation District. The Church had the houses demolished without first obtaining a certificate from the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission.

September 4 - The WAAY-TV transmission tower collapsed on Monte Sano Mountain, killing three workers who were installing new digital equipment for the station.

November 3 - PFC Arthur Staten Koonce receives the Bronze Star after 59 years. Koonce participated in the 1944 battle where Metz, France, was taken from the Germans and was in the Battle of the Bulge. Two-thirds of his company were killed in the fighting.



John Stallworth



November 10 - Seven Huntsvillians were inducted into the Madison County Hall of Heroes: Ray Tomlinson, Vietnam; Cpl. Andrew F. Chris, killed in action in Iraq on June 25; Wiley "Nick" Christopher, WWII; Zygrmund R. Jastrebski, Vietnam; Col. George E. Patch, Vietnam; Douglas Prestegaard, Vietnam; and Ralph J. Weber, III, Vietnam.

November 16 - Award winning director Jordan Walker-Pearlman and actor Billy Dee Williams are in Huntsville looking for potential investors for their next movie, *Constellation*, which would include scenes from Huntsville.

November 17 - The Hays Nature Preserve will stay open late to allow the public to view the annual Leonid Meteor Shower.

November 18 - Aerospace giants Boeing Company and Northrop Grumman plan to announce a Huntsville-based venture that would develop the Pentagon's next tactical missile, it will be called the Joint Common Missile.

The West Huntsville two-story, 91,000 square foot new Providence School covering K through 8th grade will open in the fall of 2005.

November 27 - Goodyear-Dunlop Tire Plant will close on December 5. The company has been in Huntsville since 1969.

December 4 - A Huntsville Reserve unit of 140 soldiers has been called to active duty in Afghanistan.

December 11 - Proceeds from a special license plate will be used to restore the Saturn V Rocket on outside display at the Space and Rocket Center.

December 12 - The rush is on for flu shots as hundreds line up to receive their vaccinations.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau moves into its new home on Church Street. The offices will occupy about 8,000 square feet in the front of the 28,000 square foot, \$4.7 million, Parking and Public Transit Department building.

December 14 - Former DA Fred Simpson and local author Jacquelyn Procter Gray co-author a new book entitled *Murder in the Heart of Dixie* on historic capital murder cases which occurred in Huntsville .



Convention and Visitors Bureau

December 15 - Local families rejoice over the news of the capture of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

December 16 - Margaret Ann Goldsmith donates 300 acres of undeveloped property to be used for a wildlife park. The Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary is located near Hampton Cove and the 520 acre Hays Nature Preserve.

December 24 - Christmas wish list for Huntsville’s children include: Barbie Magic Hotel, Kereoky CD’s, Freky Friday, Mary Kate and Ashlee dolls, Yu-Gi-oh game, Dragon Ball Z, Baudokia game, Playstation2 and X Box game systems.

December 31 - The University Drive Fogcutter Restaurant closes after three decades in business.



Freight Depot Destroyed by Fire

2004

February 17 - Eunice Merrell, owner of Aunt Eunice’s Country Kitchen, died after a long illness. Her restaurant had long been a launching place for local politicians to pour coffee and ask for support. Many famous people, from across the United States, came to Aunt Eunice’s for her signature ham biscuits and to sit at the famous *Liar’s Table*.

March 7 - Alumni of Council High School met to discuss plans to rescue the old building from being bulldozed. \$1.9 million will be needed to restore the building.

March 11 - Fire destroys the 1851 Freight Depot. The oldest freight depot in the United States was destroyed by arson. The future of the remaining walls is being debated by Norfolk Southern Railroad and the local Historic Foundation.

March 15 - Huntsville-Madison County Convention and Visitors Center held their grand opening celebration at 500 Church Street.



Moving the Clemens House

March 20 - The two story brick Federal-style Clemens house will be moved from the SE corner of Clinton Avenue and Church Street to a vacant lot on Dallas Avenue. Also the house that the City purchased from Temple B’nai Sholom on Clinton Avenue will be moved to a vacant lot on the east corner of Walker Avenue and Dallas Street.

March 31 - Huntsville based Intergraph Corporation will receive \$225 million from Intel Corp. to settle its patent lawsuit against computer maker Dell Inc.

April 17 - Sonnie Hereford IV and his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Hereford, unveiled a historical marker in a ceremony commemorating integration of Fifth Avenue School which was located at Governors Drive and Gallatin Street.

April 18 - Huntsville residents line up for casting call for the new movie *Constellation* being filmed in Huntsville.

April 19 - Arthur Koonce, 80, received a Purple Heart during a ceremony at Winchester Road Baptist Church for his service during WWII. Mr. Koonce suffered severe frostbite to his feet while American forces were surrounded by Germans during the Battle of the Bulge.

April 27 - It was announced that the oldest railroad building in Alabama, Huntsville's M & C Freight Depot, has been rescued from demolition and will be restored and preserved by the Historic Huntsville Foundation.



Huntsville High School

University Place School students make their first trek across the long-awaited pedestrian overpass.

May - The annual Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll will feature President Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln in a ceremony honoring her half-brother David Todd, who is buried in the Cemetery. The Lincolns are among some 70 characters who appeared in period costume in the Sunday afternoon event.

Direct TV announced it would open a company owned call center in a building in Thornton Research Park, once occupied by SCI Systems, Inc. The call center will result in about 1,000 new jobs.

June - Eric Rudolph's trial began in the old 1936 Federal Courthouse Building on Holmes Avenue. Rudolph is accused of bombing an abortion clinic in Birmingham Alabama which killed one and severely injured another.

July 9 - The new Embassy Suite Hotel was approved by the City Council to be located next to the Von Braun Center. An overhead skywalk will connect the hotel to the VBC's South Hall. The Council also voted to extend a canal from the Big Spring Lagoon through the hotel site and flank it with landscaping and sidewalks.

July 14 - Huntsville High graduate, Margaret Hoelzer, is headed to the Olympics to swim the 200-yard backstroke in Athens, Greece.

August 9 - The first day of school for the new \$30 million Huntsville High School located on Bob Wallace Avenue.

August 13 - The first keg of the Olde Towne Brewing Company was tapped at Humphrey's on Washington Street. Customers gave it a "thumbs up."

August 18 - A & M University has the largest freshman enrollment in the school's 130 year history. More than 1,300 new students have registered for the Fall term; overall enrollment as reached 7,000 students.

September 24 - Toyota executives and community leaders announce a \$250 million expansion at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama's plant in the North Huntsville Industrial Park. The project will add 300 jobs and supply V-8 engines for Toyota plants in Indiana and San Antonio.



November - A ground breaking ceremony was held for the Big Spring Summit Office Tower at the Big Spring Park. Triad Properties, which is building the seven-story office building, announced plans to expand the project to include 40 to 60 residential condominiums. Some residents and city leaders have opposed the project, saying it encroaches on Big Spring International Park.

2005

January 20 - Fifty years of Huntsville history was unearthed when a backhoe dug up the time capsule bearing the artifacts from the city's 150th Anniversary Celebration in 1955. This event marked the official kickoff of Huntsville's bicentennial events.



Photo by Dick Curtis

As the 1955 time capsule was unearthed and opened, hopes and dreams of another era were revealed to new generations. Fifty years ago, messages, predictions, and keepsakes had been prepared for this special moment. As we carefully assemble items for our next time capsule, much thought will go into the selection as we consider what we feel our descendants need to know in another 50 years. We have no idea what the future holds, any more than our ancestors knew what we would have now. But what we do know is this, we always have and always will share, throughout the ages, a common love of our community, an appreciation for those brave settlers who blazed the trail for us, and a concern for the future of our wonderful city.

Raneé Pruitt, Editor

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