

*Two Dollars*



*Fall*

*1986*

THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE  
QUARTERLY  
of Local Architecture and Preservation



# THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE QUARTERLY

of Local Architecture and Preservation

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# Huntsville, Alabama, The Geographical Center Of The South

70 Miles from Muscle Shoals and 100 miles from any City. In a section 100 per cent American and free from labor troubles, with ideal climate and most productive soil to be found anywhere.

Consider the vast Territory available to Huntsville enclosed in the boundary of the circle, a radius of 400 miles, and the other advantages you will realize the wisdom in the selection of Huntsville as a commercial center for the New Era.



Take Fort Smith on the Western Boundary of the Southern States and the Atlantic Ocean as the Eastern Boundary, you find Huntsville, Alabama, at the geographical center.

Take Louisville, Kentucky, on the North and Mobile on the South and you again find Huntsville the geographical center of the South.

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## *from the Editor . . .*

The 1919 Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce booklet featured in this issue offers us a quaint look at our city and county during simpler times. That year Alabama had been a state for exactly one hundred years when the Chamber booklet was issued in December. Although 1919 is less than a century away from the present, current modern technology makes our progressive city seem far-removed from that small town of long ago.

Of the several commercial and public buildings mentioned by the Chamber, only the Central Y.M.C.A. and the First National Bank (now First Alabama Bank on West Side Square) remain intact and are actually being used for their original purposes. Several of the mill buildings and larger downtown churches mentioned are also still standing. Of course, other pre-1919 buildings remain but were not mentioned in the Chamber literature.

Punctuation and spelling in the booklet were somewhat eccentric and have been copied as printed. Small portions of the text that were repetitive have been condensed or deleted. Many photographs were used to illustrate the text, and several of the larger, clearer ones are reproduced here, along with other pictures of the era similar or the same as ones used in the booklet.



### **COVER:**

Southeast corner of Clinton and Jefferson streets, circa 1919. The Twickenham Hotel is at far left; in the corner building are Mason Furniture Company, Central Cafe, and Crystal Drug Store. This photograph was one of five small pictures used to illustrate the cover of the 1919 Chamber of Commerce booklet about Huntsville and Madison County.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS & ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Pictures and captions (in bold print) from the 1919 Chamber of Commerce booklet: Pages 2, 13, 15, 16 top, 20, 23-26, 28.

Courtesy of the Huntsville Public Library, Zeitler Room: Cover; pages 5-9, 11, 16 bottom.

# HAPPY HUSTLING HUNTSVILLE

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THE UNDISPUTED QUEEN  
OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY  
AND THE BIGGEST TOWN  
ON EARTH FOR ITS SIZE.

*DECEMBER, NINETEEN NINETEEN.*

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The city of Huntsville is one of the most progressive cities in the South. Her commercial enterprises, the foundation of any city's life, are large and varied. The educational advantages are well abreast of the commercial and industrial activities, and the religious and social life of the beautiful old town are all that the most fastidious could possibly desire.

Huntsville is the seat of Madison County, and is in the heart of the famous and beautiful Tennessee Valley, surrounded by a large and fertile agricultural, cotton, fruit and stock raising country, making it the most important commercial center of the entire valley territory.

As a cotton manufacturing point Huntsville is today without a rival in the South.

Cities like individuals have prestige and prominence according to their environment and intrinsic worth. It can be said without fear of contradiction that Huntsville in Madison County has in the past years lifted her head above the common level and risen to a degree of strength and commercial value that places her in the forefront among Southern commercial centers.

Recent statistical data compiled by the Chamber of Commerce for the year 1918 speaks volumes for the wonderful strides made by Huntsville.

Population is 21,300. Within a radius of four miles of the court house the population is 29,850.

Number of manufacturers 68.

Number of persons employed 9,960.

Annual pay-rolls, salaries and wages \$3,899,190.22.

Cost of Material used per annum \$12,121,232.84.

Value of Products \$16,238,770.50.

Value of Farm Crops and Live Stock produced and sold \$15,263,500.00.

Total value of all products sold \$31,502,270.00.

### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the city is far above average. It comes from a mammoth spring located one half block

west of the court house square, flowing over twenty four million gallons of pure sparkling health giving water per day. More than one million gallons per hour. Its purity is proven by daily tests by the Madison County Board of Health; the analysis shows no indication of Colon Bacilli.

### HEALTH

Owing to the altitude of about 650 feet, the mild climate, the freedom from malaria, the pure water and the cleanliness, Huntsville is the healthiest place to be found anywhere. During the Spanish American War the surgeon general of the United States Army declared that Huntsville in Madison County was the second healthiest



HUNTSVILLE'S BIG SPRING - THE BEAUTY SPOT OF THE SOUTH

Note the two large houses, dimly visible, beyond the hill at top left.



### COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Built in 1913 at a cost of \$110,000; demolished in 1964 to make way for the present courthouse. This view is from the southeast corner of the square.

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city in the United States. During the Civil War the Federals used Huntsville as an army hospital and supply station. During the Spanish-American War it was again chosen by the government as a health camp for soldiers returning from the fever laden sections of the tropics. The Madison County Board of Health with Headquarters in Huntsville is recognized by the State Board of Health to be the "Star" Health Department of the State of Alabama. The United States Public Health Service has established a permanent office in the same building and works in conjunction with the Madison County All Time Board of Health. Huntsville and Madi-

son County have six visiting nurses. Three maintained by the mills and one each by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the Madison County Board of Health, and the Huntsville, Alabama Chapter of the American Red Cross.

### HOMES

All are familiar with what is known as the old Southern style of architecture. If they were to visit Huntsville and Madison County, they would find many examples of these beautiful old homes at their best. The long driveway flanked by the majestic trees on either side; the beds of old fashioned perennials; and above

all the stately mansions with their stone porticos, Grecian columns and purely classic facade. These handsome old Southern homes are among the best of the colonial type in the United States, and those in Huntsville are true to type. These old mansions are preserved and are among the landmarks of the place and are well worth the kodaking by the average visitor. Huntsville is rich in tradition, legend and folklore, and at the same time is as modern and as metropolitan as any city in the world.

The home of the First National Bank, so striking in its simplicity and which lends so much character to the community was erected in 1836 at a cost of \$76,000. It is said to have been the

handsomest building in the South.

The most worthy exponent of the "Southern Architecture" is the Beirne Home, this magnificent edifice was erected in 1837, at a cost of \$32,000 and an expenditure of nine years of labor. In its present wonderful state of preservation, is the most expressive exponent of the grandeur, dignity and unadorned beauty and simplicity of the times.

The Masonic Hall which is still in use, was erected in 1811, and Helion Lodge No. 1, is the first Masonic Lodge in the State.

Many other edifices, the architecture of which is so striking yet so appealing, still mark the place of their erection.



**STREET SCENE OF COTTON IN HUNTSVILLE**



### UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BUILDING

Commonly known as the Post Office, this structure was built during 1888-90 at a cost of \$95,000. It was located on the west side of Greene Street between Eustis and Randolph avenues and was demolished in 1954. A municipal parking lot now occupies the site.

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### INDUSTRIAL HUNTSVILLE

The proximity of raw material, cheap electric power and wonderful supply of efficient labor and other natural advantages make Huntsville preeminently a manufacturing city, as well as an agricultural center, and a steady advance along lines of industrial progress is one of the most important elements in the city's growth. A great number and variety of industries contribute to the city's prestige and prosperity. Huntsville and Madison County products are distributed far and wide. It may be well and truthfully said that if a wall were built around Madison County, shutting it off

from the outside world, the people could find everything they needed to eat and wear, material to build and furnish their homes, to answer to all the necessities and most of the luxuries, of life, and when the last summons should come, could have their final resting place marked by a marble slab.

The cotton mills located within a radius of three miles of Huntsville give employment to 3,320 people, supporting a population of 8,300 and manufacturing goods to the value of \$12,416,040 per year.

Among the articles manufactured in Huntsville a few are flour, sheeting, underwear, twine, cotton yarn, boxes, brooms, brick, tile,

matresses, iron and steel articles, cotton seed meal, pencil slats, cotton seed oil, bottled goods, fertilizer, khaki goods, gingham, tent goods, madras, egg cases, sash and doors, furniture, and other articles. Fibre brooms made in Huntsville sweep the streets of the world.

### BUILDINGS

Huntsville has five public libraries. One splendid Carnegie Library and four others built and maintained by various manufacturing concerns. The Elks building constructed in 1906 at a cost of \$110,000. A government building erected in 1890 costing \$95,000, this is

still a handsome building in a wonderful state of preservation. The Central Y.M.C.A. cost \$75,000. A modern fire-proof hotel erected five years ago at a cost of \$225,000. Grammer (sic) school built four years ago at a cost of \$35,000. County court house built six years ago at a cost of \$110,000.

### FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The growth of Huntsville and Madison County as a financial center keeps pace with the development of its industries and agricultural activities, and is one of the best evidences of the solid foundation on which the prosperity of the city and county rest. Huntsville at present



The Carnegie Library was built in 1915 with funds from the Carnegie Foundation. It was designed by Huntsville architect Edgar L. Love and was located at the northwest corner of Madison and Gates streets where a parking garage now stands. The Carnegie Library was demolished in 1966.

has five banks with capital and surplus of \$5,500,000. Bank clearings, one of the best barometers of business conditions, has shown a substantial increase in the last five years. There is a total of nine banks in the county with a capital and surplus of \$7,000,000. Huntsville and Madison County Banks have never had a bank failure, and never paid scrip during any financial depression. The conspicuous and phenomenal development of Huntsville's financial institutions is the strong bulwark which insures the city's continual development and prosperity.

### RETAIL CENTER

Huntsville's shopping facilities are equal to those of any city in this section of the South - large stores of metropolitan proportions and numerous up-to-date establishments representing every line of retail trade gives evidence of the enterprise of the Huntsville merchants and of the increasing volume of Huntsville trade. Huntsville is the shopping center of Madison County and a large part of adjacent counties. It is safely predicted that the business of our merchants has increased more than one hundred per cent during the last eleven years. With a faith in their own city and with the merchants working together with a hearty co-operation by honest dealing, courtesy to customers, stocks as good and prices as low as can be found in the largest cities, makes Huntsville destined to continue to grow as a retail center.

### HOTEL FACILITIES

The favorable impression which Huntsville makes on all visitors and tourists is greatly enhanced by the excellent hotel accommodations afforded by progressive and prosperous Huntsville.

The four hotels are Twickenham, McGee, Stegall, and the Tulane. The hotel Twickenham is a new fire-proof building with commodious and luxurious accommodations and is the best hotel in Alabama north of Birmingham.

The McGee Hotel is modern and up-to-date, and home-like. It has been newly furnished throughout and is quite commodious in its appointment, it is equal to any hotel in North Alabama.

Few cities twice the size of Huntsville afford so luxurious accommodations for the pleasure and convenience of its visitors as does Huntsville. Southern hospitality is truly typefied (sic) by Huntsville hosteleries. Visitors and tourists are always welcome to come to Huntsville and enjoy the wonderful natural beauties of the city and this section of North Alabama and to receive the true welcome of lavish Southern hospitality.

### MUNICIPAL ADVANTAGES

Huntsville has fifteen miles of improved streets, more paved streets than any other city of its size in the South. The sewerage system is perfect. Huntsville has splendid electric and gas plants, street car lines and an efficient and modern equipped fire department.



### **Y.M.C.A., HUNTSVILLE**

Designed by Huntsville architect Edgar L. Love and built during 1910-12 at a cost of \$75,000, this T-shaped building has a long wing at the back and looks much as it did when new. Located at 203 Greene Street, it is still in use as the Central Y.M.C.A.

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The effectiveness of the fire department is reflected by the exceedingly low insurance rate in Huntsville.

#### **WATER POWER**

The Alabama Power Company has just completed the construction of a high tension transmission electric line from Lock Twelve on the Coosa River to Huntsville, Madison, and Gurley in this County, which affords these cities permanent and cheap hydro-electric energy for all future time.

Huntsville is near the immense Government Hydro-electric Power development at Muscle Shoals, which when completed will develop 680,000 horse power of electric energy at a cost of about 4 mills per horse power.

Through the extraction of Nitrogen from the air by this hydro-electric energy, enough fertilizer will be produced for the entire country at a much lower price than was ever thought possible. When once it is known that there is to be available some six hundred and eighty

thousand horse power of electrical energy at Muscle Shoals, those cities within the electric Zone will be able to offer the great industries commercial advantages which will make this location second to none as a center of the important and rapidly growing electric furnace industries.

### EDUCATIONAL

The high standard of citizenship in Huntsville is exemplified in the educational, religious and social institutions the city enjoys.

Huntsville has ten schools and colleges; and the Huntsville Public School System is on a par with those the country over. Graduates of the Public School enter without further examinations all colleges and universities in America. This is the only school in Huntsville that has a right to make this boast and in Alabama there are only twenty-one such schools. Near Huntsville is the Agricultural and Mechanical College, one of the best Colleges for Negroes in the South.

Five miles north of Huntsville is the Oakwood College for Negroes under the control, direction and support of the Seventh Day Advents (sic).

THE GREEN ACADEMY in Huntsville was the first school to be operated in Alabama.

Too much stress cannot possibly be laid upon the splendid educational institutions - for the brightest hope for Huntsville's future and the particular pride of our present is in her magnificent educational system.

### RELIGIOUS

Huntsville is blessed with churches of every denomination - many of them of imposing architecture afford places of worship for a citizenship deeply religious.

Their pulpits are filled with able pastors. Each church has various societies and auxiliaries to bring its membership into social contact. The church edifices are scattered throughout the city and a resident or visitor, can always find a church of his denomination within easy reach.

Huntsville has twenty churches; four Y. M. C. A. buildings. The churches are strongly organized and well attended.

The first (sic) Baptist Church of Huntsville is the oldest church in Alabama, was founded in 1809. The First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville held its one-hundredth anniversary in June 1918. The religious and social life of the beautiful city is all that the most devout and fastidious could possibly desire.

### SOCIAL ADVANTAGES

Clubs, fraternal and social organizations are numerous and have an important part in Huntsville's social life.

### GOLF LINKS, TENNIS, ETC.

Huntsville has a modern nine hole golf course, splendid tennis courts and athletic club or gymnasium, foot ball, base ball and basket ball teams, which appeal especially to vigorous young manhood.



**WEST END VIEW OF CITY INFIRMARY**

The City Infirmary was located at the corner of Gallatin and St. Clair streets where the present hospital is located. This rambling house served as the city infirmary from 1904 until 1926 when a new brick hospital facing Madison Street was built in the same block.

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#### **ALTITUDE**

Huntsville is 650 feet above sea level located in the heart of the beautiful and picturesque Tennessee River Valley, surrounded by mountains dropped around in the most effective spots.

MONTE SANO, "Mountain of Health," a magnificent resort two thousand feet above sea level within a few minutes drive from Huntsville, where Huntsvillians spend the summer months.

#### **CITY INFIRMARY**

Huntsville's Infirmary is an up-to-date institution with ten trained nurses and fully equipped room for surgical work of any kind or character. Such an institution is a blessing to any city.

The City Infirmary is a State chartered institution, opened July 1904, and is supported by endowments for memorial rooms, annual donations by City and County, citizens and business firms.

## RAILROAD FACILITIES

Huntsville is located on the Southern Railway and the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway. The construction of an Inter-urban Freight and Passenger Railway between Huntsville and Florence, Alabama, is now actually assured, and building will begin in a few months, making connection with the Louisville & Nashville Railway at Athens for all points north and South. This railway will put Huntsville in direct connection with the stupendous Hydro-electric development at Muscle Shoals on the Tennessee River.

## CLIMATE AND TEMPERATURE

The climate is mild and pleasant, out-door work possible the year around. The summers are long and the winters are short. There are but short periods of the year when the ground cannot be occupied by crops of some kind.

Average temperature in summer is 79 degrees, winter 50 degrees. Annual rainfall 51 inches.

## MEMORIAL AVENUE

Huntsville is the most brilliantly electric lighted city in North Alabama, has an up-to-date White-way along all the main business streets and is now completing arrangements to construct a Memorial Avenue through the efforts of the Grace Club, 46 trees will be set out along this avenue as a fitting testimonial to each of the 46 Madison County soldiers who gave their life's blood for the freedom of the world.

This beautiful Memorial Avenue will bear mute witness to the fact that Southern hearts are neither forgetful nor ungrateful.

## TOURISTS

Huntsville is the tourist' Gate-way to the South. During the fall, winter and spring, an average of 250 tourist' cars pass through Huntsville daily, averaging about three persons to the car equaling 750 people passing through daily, frequently as many as 50 remain over for the night in the several hotels.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE extends a most hearty welcome to all tourists and others visiting and passing through Huntsville and furnishes logs and maps, descriptive of the best highways radiating from Huntsville.

The Chamber of Commerce considers it an honor to have the tourists call at the offices and a privilege to furnish them information on all possible subjects.

## HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE

The History of the nation is closely entwined with the history of Huntsville. It is the oldest American town in the present limits of the State of Alabama, having been settled in 1805 by John Hunt, trapper and backwoods pioneer. In 1809 the town was incorporated by the Mississippi Territorial Legislature, as "TWICKENHAM" and late in 1811 as "HUNTSVILLE."

The first Constitutional Convention of the Alabama Territory was held in Huntsville in 1819; the first

Legislature sat in Huntsville in 1820 and Huntsville was made the first capital of the state of Alabama. December 14th, 1819 Congress formally declared Alabama to be one of the United States of America.

The first Capitol of the State of Alabama was a building on Franklin and Gates Streets, now long since removed.

The first will probated in Madison County was written for General Jackson for his wife's nephew, Jno. Hutchens, who is buried here. The will is still on file in the Court House.

THE "GREEN BOTTOM INN," still stands four miles north of Huntsville. Gen. Jackson regularly attended the races there; the table at which he ate is still preserved in the original building. In its day it was the most prominent hostelry in the South.

#### PRINTING ESTABLISHMENTS

Mr. E. P. Mickel, Secretary of the Tennessee Employing Printers' Federation of Nashville, stated that Hunts-

ville has one of the three leading establishments in the South in point of efficiency, being equal to any in the world in special equipment and workmanship.

This business is known as Monroe Printing Company, Originators and Specialists in the designing and printing of "Sales Stimulating Stationery," in colors.

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES

The development of public utilities in Huntsville has indeed kept pace with the growing needs, and Huntsville is better equipped today and has larger provisions and facilities for the future than many other large cities.

#### ELECTRIC POWER RATE

Electric power rate is two cents per kilowatt for all over five hundred kilowatt hours. For Cotton Mills the rate is first 35,000 kilowatt hours, 1 cent. All over 35,000 hours is eight mills.



FRANKLIN STREET  
LOOKING SOUTH

## THEATRES

The Elks Theatre is the best in the State of Alabama, and it is admitted that the picture shows of Huntsville are equal to any in the State.

## NEWSPAPERS

Huntsville has two daily and two weekly newspapers. The daily papers have full leased wire service.

## CHAUTAUQUA

Huntsville has maintained an annual seven day Chautauqua for a number of years.



The Elks Theatre, constructed in 1906 at a cost of \$110,000, was located on the north side of Eustis Avenue between Greene Street and East Side Square. It was demolished in 1967.



Detail of the richly decorated central pediment of the Elks building. The arch is flanked by theatrical masks and the intertwined letters B.P.O.E.

# BRIEF FACTS ABOUT THE COTTON MILL INDUSTRY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

Total Spindles in the Mills of Huntsville, 232,492.

Horse Power 12 to 15000.

Bales of Cotton Consumed weekly, 827; yearly, 43,004 or slightly more than the average that is raised in Madison County.

Coal consumed weekly, 1400 tons or one train load of 35 cars; yearly, 73,528 tons or 52 trains of 35 cars each.

Yards of cloth manufactured weekly, 1,358,814; yearly, 70,653,328.

The weekly production of cloth put end to end will reach from Huntsville to Philadelphia, approximately 800 miles; yearly production will reach 1  $\frac{3}{5}$  times around the world.

Pounds of Yarn manufactured in the Yarn Mills weekly, 88,807; yearly, 4,580,-524.

The soft yarn made would furnish underwear for the women of Alabama and Mississippi.

The total pounds of yarn made weekly in all Mills, Yarn and cloth Mills inclusive, 397,950; yearly, 20,-693,400.

Tying the weekly production of Yarn into one strand would measure 398,876 miles or about 16 times around the world; yearly, 20,737,900 miles or about 830 times around the world.

One pound of Cotton when spun into yarn will reach from Huntsville to Decatur.

Acreage under roof devoted to Cotton Manufacturing, approximately 30.

Total Pay Roll weekly, \$27,876.83; yearly, \$1,449,-595.16.

Total employees counting all mills, 3,320.

Population supported by Mills, 8,300.

Average number of Yarn made, 21.13.

Total Value of products produced weekly, \$238,770.00; yearly, \$12,416,040.00.

# AUTO ROUTE, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA TO ALL FLORIDA AND ALABAMA POINTS, VIA GADSDEN

To Florida go via Guntersville, Gadsden, Rome and Atlanta. To New Orleans and Mobile go via Gadsden, Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma.

## Mileage.

- 0 **HUNTSVILLE**, Court House on left, First National Bank Building on right. Jog straight ahead South on macadam pike.
- 5.8 **LILLYFLAG**, Cross RR track; straight thru four corners; straight thru at 9.7.
- 11 **WHITESBURGH**, The Tennessee River, bear left around store house. (Caution.) Do not cross river at Ferry located just around curve to right. Turn right over iron and wood bridge following road straight ahead with poles. Cross wood and iron bridge at 12.4 then bear right over winding road. Cross RR then pass church at 13.9.
- 14.6 **HOBBS ISLAND (TAYLORSVILLE)**, Station on right; straight thru, following gravel road and poles. Pass church on right at 16. Pass school house on right at 16.6. Cross wood and iron bridge at 18.1. Sharp turn to right at 19.1. Straight ahead; keep to right at 20.7. Keep to right at 21. Church on right at 21.4. Straight ahead at 24.2. Turn right at 24.4 into:
- 24.6 **NEW HOPE**, P. O. on left. Straight thru; bear left with poles at 24.8. Bear left at 25.4. Cross iron and wood bridge at 26.2. Keep straight ahead at 27.2. Old school house on right at 28.4. Church on left at 29. Keep straight ahead with travel at 29.4. Cross colvert and bear left at 30.
- 32.1 **COTTONVILLE**, Store on left, straight thru; Fork; take left at 32.7. Church on left at 33. Cross two wood colverts at 34.4. Go over long winding hill at 36.2. Sharp turn to right at 37.6. School house on left at 38.7.

- 42.8 Bear right down hill to Tennessee River Ferry; cross here to Guntersville; ferry runs day and night. Necessary to call for ferry at night as it anchors during the night on the Guntersville side. Two large gasoline power ferries each handling five cars. Toll \$1.00. Go straight out from ferry. Four-corners; turn right with travel at 43.6.
- 44 **GUNTERSVILLE**, four-corners; Court house on left; straight thru. Brick church on left at 44.1. Pass watering trough in middle of road, at 45.5. Avoid right hand road at 45.9. Go thru covered bridge at 46.4. Go up winding road to Sand Mountain at 47.2.
- 48.3 Top of Mountain. Irregular four-corners; bear left with travel 50. Thru covered bridge at 51.7. Go thru bridge again at 52.4. Pass Cemetery on left at 54.
- 54.4 **ALBERTSVILLE**, Four corners; straight thru. Cross RR station on right at 54.7. Take right at 54.8. Forks, keep right at 56.2. Cross iron bridge at 58.8. Cross RR at 60.
- 62 **BOAZ**, Straight thru; P. O. on right. Pass church on right; thru covered bridge. Forks; take left at 60.9. Cross RR. Church and school house on right at 65.8. The tourist is now across Sand Mountain or plateau a distance of 17.5 miles at an elevation of about 2,000 feet above sea level which was the original elevation of this entire section which extends North East for hundreds of miles at a width of about 15 to 30 miles.
- 68 Descend long winding magnificent road with wide sweeping curves. A grand view of the valley on right at 68.5. Bottom of mountain at 69.6. Cross iron bridge and bear left and then right over another mountain at 76.2. Four-corners; straight thru at 78.3. Turn left, RR on right at 78.4.
- 78.7 **ATTALLA**, Bank on left; Four-corners; straight thru with trolley, crossing RR. Keep straight up hill at 78.9. Cross concrete bridge at 79.6. Cross RR at 80.
- 81.3 **ALABAMA CITY**, P. O. on right; cross RR and follow trolley. Cross concrete bridge 82. Forks; take left at 82.2. Bear right; pass Southern RR shop on left at 82.6. Cross RR. Four-corners; meeting trolley; turn left Broad St. 83.
- 84 **GADSDEN**, Court House on left; turn left one block Printup Hotel, corner Fourth and Locust where Gadsden Auto Club is located. Adolph Reich President. Call on them for logs and information to all points South.

**HUNTSVILLE to GADSDEN 84 miles.**

Huntsville to Birmingham via Gadsden 144 miles.

Huntsville to Rome via Gadsden 148 miles.

Huntsville to Atlanta via Gadsden and Rome 206 miles.

Do not depend upon the public to give correct information. Call on the Auto Club or Commercial Association in each city. They usually furnish correct information.

**"SEE AMERICA FIRST"**

Good hotels at Guntersville, Albertsville and Boaz. Accommodations can also be secured at New Hope.

(EDITOR'S NOTE): Other Auto Routes in the 1919 Chamber of Commerce booklet gave instructions for travel from Huntsville to the Tennessee cities of Memphis, Chattanooga, and Nashville.

The Memphis route guided the tourist through Florence, Alabama (68 miles) to Corinth, Mississippi (136.1 miles) where one was advised to call on the Corinth Chamber of Commerce for further information. No total mileage to Memphis was provided. The roads to Florence were noted as being "gravel, stone and dirt roads, most of which are in poor shape. This is a section of the Mussel (sic) Shoals Highway." Travelers to Decatur were instructed to take the Huntsville to Florence Route to mileage 23, "then turn sharp to left straight thru to Decatur."

The roads to Chattanooga (117.6 miles) must have been fairly good, but the route to Nashville (114.8 miles) was noted with a warning: "Gravel and stone roads with short stretches of dirt. Thru hilly farming country. Roads first class in dry weather. Two hours of sunshine after a heavy rain puts roads in fine condition. . . Good hotels at Fayetteville, Shelbyville and Murphreesboro."

Each Auto Route ended with the same admonition found at the conclusion of the Florida and points South route given above - the public could not be relied upon for correct road information.

Heavy  
Outline  
Indicates  
Best  
Road

## Take the best all year road thru

# HUNTSVILLE, Ala.

## to Florida

**THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
 extends a most hearty welcome  
 to all tourists and others visiting  
 and passing through HUNTSVILLE,  
 ALABAMA.

We furnish logs and maps descriptive of the  
 best highways radiating from HUNTSVILLE,  
 ALABAMA.

We will be glad to show you the points of  
 interest throughout HUNTSVILLE, ALA-  
 BAMA, and Madison County.

We not only want you to feel but to KNOW  
 that our time,  
 attention and as-  
 sistance are  
 your disposal.

We will consider  
 it an honor to  
 have you call at  
 our office for a  
 personal chat,  
 and a privilege to  
 furnish you de-  
 tailed information  
 on all subjects.

*All mileages  
radiate from  
Huntsville*

STREET SCENE IN HUNTSVILLE

To the South the Road  
 takes to the East the  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Building, South Street,  
 Box 1000, Huntsville, Ala.

HUNTSVILLE AND MADISON  
 COUNTY CHAMBER OF  
 COMMERCE  
 P. O. Aiken, Gen'l Secy.

THE HUNTSVILLE BIG SPRING  
 PHOTO BY J. H. BROWN, JUNIOR, BY AP

A map of the "best all year road thru Huntsville, Ala. to Florida" was part of the cover illustration of the 1919 Chamber of Commerce booklet.

# IMPERIAL MADISON COUNTY

Madison County is bounded on the South by the beautiful Tennessee River, which passes through the most picturesque scenery from Huntsville North, to be seen in the United States East of the Mississippi River. Just visualize for yourself a succession of fertile valleys in the height of a luxuriant cultivation, with fields on every side, rich with their several crops, orchards in the bloom of Spring or heavy with their luscious fruits, with purple peaked mountains dropped around in the most effective spots, all against a beautiful sky, with roads like white ribbons winding and unfurling before you; brooks of crystal water purling along, making a soft accompaniment to the songs of the birds, and you have a mild approach to what a drive around about Huntsville is in summer. An actual drive through this verdant series of valleys with its promiscuous mountain peaks, will convey a better idea than any word picture possibly could.

## EDUCATIONAL

The rural schools in Madison County are equal to any schools in the State. Under the consolidated school system every boy and girl in Madison County is able to

obtain a high school education and be at home every night. Sixteen automobile school trucks carry the scholars to and from school each day.

## MINERALS

The mountains of the County have rich deposits of white and gray marble, which is susceptible to a polish equal to the Italian marble. Madison County has vast stores of limestone equal to any for the manufacture of cement.

Coal has been located in various parts of the county, but it has not yet been developed except a mine located on Monte Sano, about twenty minutes drive from Huntsville, where forty tons of coal is being mined daily. Small natural gas wells and a splendid grade of petroleum oil has been discovered, but not in paying quantities.

## NURSERIES

Madison County nurseries are among the largest in the world in acreage and production and constitute one of the important factors in the county's wealth.

The nursery industry was established here in 1858, and has constantly grown, shipping the products to every

State in the Union and to all parts of South America, Canada, Mexico, and to many more distant foreign lands.

Peach, pear, apple, cherry, plum, and pecan trees, with all varieties of ornamental plants and shade trees are largely propagated here.

### HIGHWAYS

Improved Highways are being built through all sections of Madison County, which is the pioneer good road county of Alabama and was one of the first counties of Alabama to secure Federal aid for roads.

Madison County has four hundred and fifty miles of hard surfaced graded roads radiating in every direction from Huntsville. The County Highway Department spends about seventy thousand dollars each year for good roads. Madison County is fortunate in having five state trunk highways.

In February Madison County will vote on a State Bond Issue, which with Federal capital, will build fifty million dollars worth of hard roads, enabling the farmer to sell his products at the best market in place of the nearest market.

### TAX RATE

The State tax rate is 65 cents on each one hundred dollars assessed valuation. The county tax rate is \$1.15, making a total of \$1.80. The assessed valuation of Madison County is over \$16,000,000. The assessment is 60 per cent of the valuation.

### FERTILIZERS

The farming lands of Madison County are located near the great phosphate beds of Tennessee, and the development of Muscle Shoals on the Tennessee River, the greatest hydro-electric power in the United States, will not only make this valley the leading manufacturing center of the world but will give the farmers cheap nitrates, together with the inexhaustible supply of potash contained in these soils, will enable the farmers to make their already productive lands produce crops greatly in excess of their normal production.

### FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK

Madison County while the accepted leader among the counties of the State in production of agricultural crops was one of the first counties of the State to actively conduct farmers extension work.

Under the management of an efficient all time Government Agricultural Agent and an all time Home Demonstration Agent, the farmers Co-operative Extension work is proving to be the greatest idea ever infused into the workings of any one class of American Citizens.

The Pig Clubs have increased the size and lowered the cost of pigs, and the Corn Clubs are a potent factor in the increased production of corn. Home Demonstration Work and Canning Clubs are active in Madison County.



**MADISON COUNTY PIG CLUB**



**CAVE SPRING FARM BERKSHIRES**



**Four Horse Double Disk                      Two Horse Gheck Row Planter**  
**Slant Tooth Harrow**  
**PLANTING CORN AT CAVE SPRING FARM**  
**The Chauffeur of a one-mule-power bull tongue will never make**  
**a record-breaking corn crop.**

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Field crops produced in  
Madison County - \$11,656,500.  
Live Stock sold - \$3,607,000.  
Total production -  
\$15,263,500.

#### **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY**

Madison County's remarkable agricultural productivity makes it an ideal location for farmers. Though one of the smaller counties of the state having an area of only 800 square miles, produced last year (1918) \$15,263,500 in farm crops and live stock; over six million dollars more than any other county in Alabama.

Madison County's agricultural products won first prize at the Alabama State Fair in Birmingham for thirty consecutive years which is a remarkable record. While

Madison County diversifies more than any other county in Alabama, 32,000 bales of cotton were produced during 1918 which is far beyond the production of any other county in the State.

#### **CROP FAILURE NEVER KNOWN**

A crop failure in Madison County has never been known, as the soil is deep red clay, usually forty to sixty feet to bed rock. It is susceptible to a high state of cultivation, well drained, yet holding moisture in the immense clay reservoir for times of deficient rainfall.

In the beautiful and picturesque Tennessee Valley is where the hardy grasses and grains of the North meet with the tender cotton plant

of the South in a congenial soil that enables them to produce their maximum yield.

#### PRICE OF LAND

Lands are advancing in price every year. They will never be cheaper than they are now. Good land sells from \$20 to \$150 per acre depending on location and improvement, based on present production, which is not near what they would be if efficiently worked. Madison County land should sell at \$300 to \$700 per acre.

#### LIVE STOCK

Madison County is unsurpassed as a live stock and hog producing county. The Tennessee Valley produces the finest horses in the United States. The Piedmont Stock Farm is equal to any blooded stock farm in the United States. Hog raising in Madison County has untold advantages and beef is produced very cheaply. Conditions all favor the cheapest production. Live Stock can be raised 40 per cent cheaper than in the North.



A MADISON COUNTY PRODUCT



Live Stock can be raised 40 per cent cheaper than in the North

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#### HOME SEEKERS

A home seeker who wishes to escape the rigors of a Northern winter, the perplexing labor problems and the long feeding period will welcome this country where climatic conditions enable him to work almost every day in the year and produce two crops on the same land. He will produce the same crops and raise the same live stock that he raised at his former home at less expense with a ready market at his very door, without having to encounter the inconvenience of a settler in a pioneer country that has not the roads, schools, churches and social conditions that he will find in this county.

#### HEARTY WELCOME EXTENDED TO ALL

Through its Chamber of Commerce Huntsville and Madison County wish to extend a hearty welcome to all home seekers, should they desire to engage in agricultural pursuits, the organization will assist them. If the prospective resident wishes to engage in a manufacturing enterprise the association will supply all details.

HUNTSVILLE AND MADISON COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P. O. Aiken, Secretary.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE HUNTSVILLE AND MADISON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MR. CLARENDON DAVIS, President.

W. L. LYLE, Vice-President, in charge of Wholesale Trade.

R. E. SPRAGINS, Vice-President, in charge of Good Roads.

E. L. LOVE, Vice-President, in charge of Conventions.

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C. F. STRIPLIN, County Agricultural Agent.

MISS EVELYN PEYTON, County Home Demonstration Agent.

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## CITY OF HUNTSVILLE AND MADISON COUNTY OFFICIALS

### CITY OFFICIALS

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T. L. PATTON, Treasurer and City Clerk

EARL R. FORD, Recorder

R. C. JOHNSTON, Superintendent of City Public Schools

### COUNTY OFFICIALS

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J. C. LOWE, Sheriff

CARTER H. RICE, Circuit Clerk

S. R. BUTLER, Superintendent of Education

CHARLES FLETCHER, Tax Adjuster

GEORGE DARWIN, Tax Assessor

T. M. PHILLIPS, Tax Collector

R. C. BRICKELL, Judge of Circuit Court

MISS FANNIE CABINESS, Register of Circuit Court

J. W. B. HAWKINS, Judge of Inferior Court

E. C. BETTS, Deputy Solicitor for Madison County

DR. CARL A. GROTE, Health Officer, Madison County Board of  
Health



**SCIENTIFIC WAY OF FARMING**

**Several hundred of these tractors are now in use  
on Madison County Farms.**



*from*

Historic Huntsville Foundation, Inc.

P. O. Box 786

Huntsville, Alabama 35804

