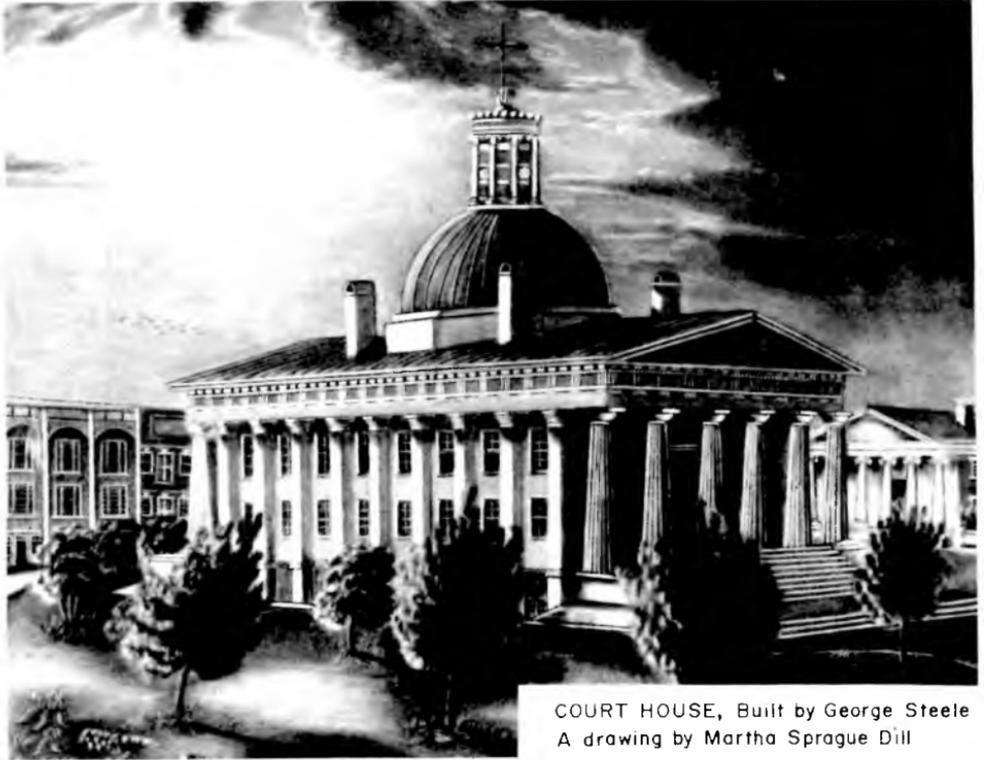


Five Dollars



COURT HOUSE, Built by George Steele
A drawing by Martha Sprague Dill

Winter - Spring

1990

THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE
QUARTERLY
of Local Architecture and Preservation

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COVER PHOTO:

Charcoal Drawing of George Steele's Madison County Courthouse done by Martha Sprague Dill before the Civil War. Years later, Walter B. Jones, State Geologist, announced there is oil under the courthouse. See *Huntsville Times*, June 14, 1964, p. 47. Brick buildings on square may be work of the Brandon brothers.

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from the Editor

The Historic Huntsville Quarterly evolved from a newsletter to an important journal of local architecture and preservation. Under the skillful and dedicated editorship of Linda Bayer Allen it took on the shape, form and function it has maintained to this day. When Micky Maroney took the editorship in 1984, she, too, put in long, loving hours to making *The Quarterly* a welcome guest in each member's home. Now, the challenge has been given to me to carry on the tradition of a quality publication. With Micky by my side as Associate Editor and Linda only a holler away, I look forward with confidence to a happy tenure as editor.

We urge lovers of history, architecture, and preservation to sharpen your pencils, load your cameras, and write articles for *The Quarterly*. Letters to the Editor are welcome. So are reviews of books, articles, and presentations. We seek photographs of houses, gardens, and community buildings. This is your quarterly. Let us hear from you.

What's in a name?

Plenty, when the name is Jones. Ironically, and unplanned, the theme of this quarterly is Jones - Harvie Jones - architect, the Joneses, and Jones Valley, the tragic scene of the destructive Killer Tornado of November 15, 1989.

Long before November 15th, I had asked Harvie to submit for publication his "Art in Architecture" presentation many of us had enjoyed seeing in the Civic Center. I was keen on securing this as the *Quarterly's* first article under its new editor. I planned to accompany the article with a brief sketch of Harvie. Thus the *Quarterly's* readership would be doubly served: to a first class article written by a man who embodies the preservation movement in Alabama and to a close-up view of that man.

November 15, 1989, brought Jones Valley into our hearts and minds forever. The great wind that swooped down and through our beautiful valley has swept away whole buildings and lives. New or rebuilt structures will appear. Let us hope that in our rush to restore order and to get back to business as usual, we do not neglect the precepts of sound architecture so elegantly espoused by Harvie Jones.

John Rison Jones put it best: "keeping up with the Joneses is a genealogical nightmare." To help sort out some of the Joneses, two family charts are included. Usually, family history or genealogy is out of *Historic Huntsville Quarterly's* purview. However, few families have contributed so much to the building and historic preservation of our city or state. Numerous area buildings and structures bear the imprint of one or another member of these distinguished families. One traces its local roots back to Isaac Criner who settled the county before John Hunt, and the other extends back to the Brandon brothers, Huntsville's original brickbuilders.

No doubt family history and business history as well become *Quarterly* material when they bear on the buildings, artifacts, and structures created by those citizens. Harvie Jones' family literally has helped to survey the land, map its possibilities, lay the pipe, carve out the roads, construct water and sewage systems, build bridges, dig foundations, design buildings, restore architecture, and create for Huntsville a unique blending of old and new, town and country. Ray B. Jones, President of G. W. Jones and Sons has graciously allowed *The Quarterly* to reprint its centennial history, "The Story of G. W. Jones and Sons 1886 - 1986." Local history is enriched.



MARGARET HENSON'S HUNTSVILLE

The tornado of '89 reminds us that there is a spirit of Huntsville that in a moment's notice turns thousands of us into volunteers. That is our way, as Margaret Henson's Huntsville attests.

The Panic of 1893 brought hard times to Huntsville, especially to the laboring class, and by 1895, there were many destitute families in town. Private donations and church charities were not enough to take care of all the needy, so a group of philanthropic people formed an organization called the United Charities.

The existing charities were pooled into this one big organization, much like our United Way of today, and committees were appointed. One committee convinced the Mayor and the Alderman that a city hospital, directed by United Charities,

was necessary. The city fathers arranged to rent a house on Mill Street, which is a little street between Holmes and Wheeler, and a City Hospital was opened June 12, 1895. Everyone in town was invited to the opening and asked to bring at least one useful item, such as a piece of china -- as a donation, of course. As far as we know, this was the first city hospital. There are very few records of it, but we believe it was strictly a charity hospital.

Another way United Charities eased the distress of the poor was to appoint committees to investigate needy cases that were reported to them. These committees indeed found deplorable situations. At one house, they found the mother dying, her eight children sick, and the father trying to take care of them all. There was no food

in the house whatsoever. The mother died two days later, but the children all lived, thanks to the United Charities. At another house, the mother, father, and seven children were all sick and starving, and there was only one bed which was a mattress filled with grass. Two of the children died, but the rest were saved. There were many families who needed help, but these two, it seems, were among the most pitiful.

Believe it or not, the city officials objected to United Charities' investigations because of the bad publicity for Huntsville. But fortunately, the women who were in charge of these investigations felt this was the most effective way to help the poor. They, being influential leaders in town, persevered in their endeavor and finally convinced the city fathers that not only was their way the best way to lend aid, but that the city must act to relieve crowded

conditions in the poverty stricken areas.

As far as recognizing the needs of others and wanting to help, times haven't changed much. But, it seems to me, that now, more men take active part in this type charity than they did back in the 1890's when they were willing to put up the money and let the women do the work.

Margaret Henson of the Public Library's Heritage Room is a Huntsville native and descendant of Thomas Bibb, second governor of Alabama. Margaret's informative talks prepared for radio, will now be featured in print.



Photo Courtesy of The Huntsville Times

ART IN ARCHITECTURE - SOME HUNTSVILLE EXAMPLES -

Harvie P. Jones, F.A.I.A.

People throughout history have used art to raise the spaces they occupy to a cultural and symbolic level above that of mere shelter. The definition of the art of “architecture” versus “building” is that architecture goes beyond bare functional needs and attempts to address the human spirit and esthetic sense. “Art in Architecture” could be defined as architectural features which require artistic skills of sculpture, mosaics, or painting that are different from those of the architect.

The earliest known examples of what could be called art in architecture are perhaps the cave paintings of France, which date back to the Cro-Magnon period, up to 35,000 years ago. The cave paintings are thought to be ceremonial and religious rather than mere decoration or a recording of successful hunts, and much of the history of art in architecture to the present day addresses these same symbolic purposes. The ancient temples of Egypt, Greece, and Rome served the



(1) Egyptian relief carving in stone, 1370 B.C. The Egyptians used murals, reliefs and sculptured architectural elements in their buildings. Their tapered columns with base, shaft and plant-like capitals must surely have influenced the development of the later Greek forms, for the basic elements and ideas are quite similar.

same symbolic and ceremonial ends in a vastly more refined and ambitious way. Much architectural art has also been devoted to glorifying particular rulers, their battles, and power. Yet, we know that art was used to make ancient dwellings (be they palaces or ordinary houses) more pleasant places in which to live. The excavated Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, covered by volcanic ash in A.D. 79, have provided us with many intact examples of such domestic art in the form of murals, mosaics, and sculptured architectural elements.



The best "art in architecture" is that which is inseparably integrated into the building elements rather than merely applied like an after-thought. A Greek ionic column is a structural member, yet it is much more. It is a work of high art, involving a sophisticated yet simple use of geometry in plotting the gentle swell of the column shaft, the spiral curve of the vaults and the elliptical cross-

(2) **The Roman Forum.** These 2,000 year-old sculptured "orders" (columns & cornices) were influenced by those of the conquered Greeks, but were altered in proportion to express the power of the Roman civilization.

sections of the base-moulds. Its proportions were refined over a considerable time period. The earliest examples were quite crude in comparison to the later ones.

The ancient Greek temples have

an air of restrained intellectual sophistication (except in their coatings of wildly bright paints such as turquoise and red-orange, long ago washed off but evidenced by paint traces and excavated intact structures). By contrast, the medieval Gothic churches and cathedrals exuded a feeling of vigorous but crude spirituality (which effectively overwhelmed the intellectual aura of their highly sophisticated structural systems). The Renaissance saw a return to sophistication and refinement with the new and original use of the classical forms and "orders" first developed by the ancient Greeks, and then modified by the Romans 1,500 years before the Renaissance.

The Baroque period following the Renaissance retained the ancient classical elements but used them in a highly exuberant and experimental manner. The word "baroque" originally meant a misshapen pearl, and was a term of derogation for the "misshapen" Baroque architecture. "Gothic" was similarly a derogatory term. In our own era, the now-beloved post-Impressionist painters of early-twentieth century France were initially labeled "wild beasts" (Les Fauves) by a critic. New art is apparently never comfortable art, at first.

Frank Lloyd Wright, probably America's greatest architect (and who integrated abstract art into an inseparable and organic part of his buildings), was not accepted and recognized by the architectural establishment until he was an old man.

The 18th century American version of the English Georgian style was an outgrowth of the 16th century Baroque. Its elements of sculpture included broken pediments, urns, and heavy-turned and sculptured balusters: all classical elements derived from the ancient Roman/Greek forms but heavily modified to suit 18th century tastes.

Perhaps as a reaction to the heaviness of the Georgian, the Federal Period (called Neoclassical in England) emphasized lightness and delicacy. Classical elements were still used in the Federal Period but were totally transformed in effect by extreme attenuation. Columns were very slender and mouldings were thin, stretched, and light. Paint colors were rich, bright, and multi-hued (George Washington's recently restored dining room at Mt. Vernon is a good and carefully-researched example). Huntsville has a number of fairly intact Federal Period examples. One that is both re-

stored and accessible is the 1819 Maria Howard Weeden House museum. Another accessible example is the reconstructed Constitution Hall Village.

The Greek Revival of circa 1835-55 (in Huntsville) saw a return to heaviness of scale, this time based more on ancient Greek proportions and forms.

Architecture, along with all esthetic endeavors, has always been see-sawing from one extreme to another, and as the 19th century wore on, the see-saw speeded up to a dizzying pace with several competing styles proceeding simultaneously, and with admixtures of several sty-



listic influences incorporated in many single buildings. The latter part of the 19th century included such styles as Gothic Revival, Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Egyptian Revival, Queen Anne, Eastlake, Stick Style, Second Empire, Beaux Arts Classical, and others, all loosely lumped together as "Victorian."

The first half of the 20th century was the heyday of both abstract art and "abstract" architecture. It was felt that buildings of pure geometry, properly proportioned, were all the "art" that was needed, and were expressive of modern machine

(3) 1835 tomb in Maple Hill Cemetery signed by the Huntsville architect George Steele. A small and elegant example of the Greek Revival in sculptured limestone. Maple Hill Cemetery is a vast sculpture-garden with statuary, stained glass, cast iron, and a 170-year assortment of funerary art. In the 19th century, cemeteries such as Maple Hill were designed as places for pleasant Sunday strolls, and if you can subdue any hangups about death, they are still so. Many strollers can be seen in Maple Hill, for they know a pleasant and interesting place for a walk when they see it.



(4) The Church of the Nativity, 1859. Detail of ornament cast into the Gothic-Revival gatepost. This gatepost is an example of mid-19th century industrialization; an identical design can be found at a Mobile cemetery. Cast-iron building components in 1859 could be picked out of catalogues just as most parts for buildings are today.

(5) Overall view of the cast-iron gate at the 1859 Church of the Nativity.





(6) First Methodist Church, circa 1870. This Romanesque-Revival church building has characteristic round-top windows whose arch bolection-moulds rest on sculptured heads, just as seen in the 10th century European Romanesque works. The grouping of the windows in pairs is an Italianate device, an example of two stylistic influences in a single building.

(7) Victorian porch, corner of Randolph and White Streets. Architects today should relearn the use of shadows in design. The Victorians understood very well, as this example attests.



technology. Where conventional art was incorporated it was usually as an independent object used as counterpoint, a famous and successful example being the German architect Mies Van Der Rohe's 1929 "Barcelona Pavilion" wherein a modern statue's organic forms, carefully placed in a courtyard, set off the crisp and planar geometry of the small and elegant exhibition building.

The later half of the 20th century has seen a return to exploration of classical forms (in a new and shallow "post-modern" fashion already declared "dead" by the arbiters of architectural fashion). The plethora of recent buildings with triangular-top gable appliques with a circular or semi-circular opening in the triangle is the "hallmark cliché" of "Post Modern." It is a motif first used (elegantly) by the Italian architect Andrea Palladio in the 16th century and now used in a casual knee-jerk fashion on buildings of every sort.

The latest architectural movement, about 10 years old, is "Deconstruction," which looks suspiciously close kin to the old "Constructivism" of the early 20th century. We also have with us "Modern Revival" where the early 20th-century idioms of the

architect Le Corbusier are warmed-over, expanded, and presented as something brand-new. In sum, the later half of the 20th century is an age of architectural eclecticism rivaling that of the Victorian latter 19th century (not even mentioned are "New Brutalism," "High Tech," the "Metabolists," or several other now-forgotten latter 20th century "movements"). There are no accepted current "right answers", so the architectural journals generally attempt to judge buildings on their design quality rather than on their philosophy or antecedents. If history is any guide, a new "right answer" is just around the turn of the century. Whether it will incorporate art as an organic part of the building or as an afterthought add-on, we will have to wait and see.

When first approached by the Huntsville Museum of Art about the subject of Huntsville "Art in Architecture" my offhand and unthinking response was "I don't think we have any of that." I was wrong. A few minutes' reflection brought to mind many examples of all types. Communities which are bigger and richer will have both more and finer examples. Until the mid 20th century, Huntsville was a small town of about the present population of Athens, and rich and

numerous examples of art in architecture are not to be expected. But the collection is well worth a tour to see. Walking is required. Nothing of any detail can be seen or appreciated from a moving

automobile.

The best areas to tour are the historic downtown areas (with public entry available into the several churches and museums), the

Twickenham and Old Town historic districts, and Maple Hill Cemetery. Guide books are available at the Madison County Tourism Board in the Courthouse. Instead of generally and vaguely looking, as most of us normally do, look at details. The form and shape of a column capital, cornice, cast-iron fence post, or even a shadow of an architectural element can be quite beautiful. You will not see such things at 15 m.p.h. in a car.



(8) Adams Street, shadows of a fence combining cast and wrought iron elements enliven an ordinary concrete walk. The shadow is more attractive than the object itself.

The following photographs, all but two from Huntsville, deliberately blank off general views to force you to see the details, which

I wager most viewers will not recognize without reading the captions.

This small selection of details is just a taste of what there is to see for those with an eye for beauty.



(9) Fence of cast and wrought iron elements combined, 310 Williams Avenue, date unknown, perhaps late 19th century. An example of decorative elements economically mass-produced by casting in a mould.



(10) Schiffman Building, 1895, East Side of Square. A fine, lively example of Romanesque Revival, where the idea seemed to be that absolutely nothing lines up or matches, with results that brighten the day of the observer. This is a bracket, carved in stone.



(11) Schiffman Building, 1895, wrought iron basement grille. A utilitarian device treated in an artistic way. A lesson that needs to be relearned.

(12) Schiffman Building, 1895, side-entry stone arch. The fact that only the springer stones of the arch have foliated carving makes them seem more elegant than if all the stones were carved; an example of the power of contrast.



(13) Schiffman Building, 1895, polished brass entry lock.

(14) Struve Building, 1900, Washington Street and Clinton Avenue. Again we see familiar classical elements such as floral swags, an acanthus leaf, and moulded cornices, this time in painted stamped sheet-metal. This method of making fireproof and inexpensive large-scale ornaments for commercial buildings prevailed in the latter 19th century. A number of examples survive in downtown Huntsville, but the naked-looking building tops on the south side of the Square have unfortunately lost their large and elaborate metal cornices.



(15) May and Cooney Dry-Goods Store, 1913, East Side of the Square. Terra cotta floral and geometric forms combining several bright ceramic fused colors. The feeling here is Art Nouveau, particularly in the “M & C” logo at the arch ends. The use of multiple bright glaze colors is unusual for terra cotta.



(16) Terry-Hutchens Building, 1925, Clinton Avenue. An example of "Commercial Gothic" in terra cotta, like the 1928 Times Building but completely different in feeling. The difference is the absence here of the Art Deco influence that is strong in the Times Building.



(17) Terry-Hutchens Building, 1928, Clinton Avenue. The top floor window sills of this "Commercial Gothic" office building have gargoyles of bright green glazed terra cotta frogs, each about 12 inches tall. A delightful example of humor and fun in architecture, as was true of their original use in Romanesque and Gothic structures of medieval Europe.



(18) Wall of concrete inverted arches and chain swags, McClung Avenue. Probably 19-teens, as is the house it fronts. A case of an attractive shadow cast by an architectural element.

(19) (below) The Huntsville Times Building, 1928, Holmes Avenue. This Baroque-like cartouche contains classical elements such as floral swags and bundled reeds. It is made of the ancient ceramic material terra cotta ("cooked earth") that was revived and much-used in the latter 19th and early 20th century.





(19) The Huntsville Times Building, 1928, Holmes Avenue. This Baroque-like cartouche contains classical elements such as floral swags and bundled reeds. It is made of the ancient ceramic material terra cotta (“cooked earth”) that was revived and much-used in the latter 19th and early 20th



(21) The Huntsville Times Building, 1928. Four terra cotta eagles like this one guard the two entry arches. The Times Building was Huntsville’s first tall building, and used modified Gothic motifs in an Art Deco way to emphasize the building’s then-audacious twelve-story height.



(22) Pediment, old 1932-35 post office (now Federal Court-house) on Holmes Avenue. The anthemion-like element at the corner and the peak of the Pediment is called an acroterion. The proportions and decoration of this Beaux-Arts Classical entry are derived from ancient Greek antecedents.

(23) Greek Orthodox Church, University Drive, 1970's. In contrast to the modern idioms of the mural at the First Baptist Church, these contemporary icons are done to a strict set of stylistic rules laid down in medieval times and still used in Greek Orthodox Churches.





(24) First Baptist Church, 1960, Governors Drive. This ceramic-mosaic mural is probably Huntsville's largest example of architectural art. It is an ancient art form dating back to thousands of years before the time of Christ. This mural was planned as an integral part of the building.

(25) General Shale Brick Co. Office, Whitesburg Drive, 1980's. A carved-brick mural produced by gouging the soft unbaked bricks into the desired profiles, firing them, and laying them up like a conventional brick wall (more tricky than it sounds).



Harvie Jones is the quiet, professorial-looking good citizen people often see picking up litter on his daily treks home to lunch and back. One of Huntsville's most outstanding citizens, his work has brought Huntsville and himself national recognition. The City may dote on the recognition, but Harvie just keeps working, always looking for good architecture to save and restore for future generations.

Featured recently in Clem Labine's Traditional Building, May/June 1989, the magazine recognizes Harvie as "one of the South's leading preservation architects." His training at Georgia Institute of Technology was typical of architecture schools in the 1950's. Harvie was prepared, when he paired up with William Herrin in 1967, to design houses and buildings for Huntsville's space-age future. He and the firm have done plenty of that, the bulk of their business in fact. But as Huntsville expanded its population and spread its city limits, it left much of the older central city intact. This core soon had Harvie all wrapped up in its preservation.

The historical reconstruction of Constitution Hall Park followed by restoration of the Howard Weeden House inspired Harvie to learn every thing he

could about buildings and building techniques in the region's Federal period. These projects lead to others. Now Harvie can county "a library of over 5,000 annotated photographs of more than 200 historic structures," (Shouldn't we have an archives for those photographs?) but he has lost count of the structures he has looked at and advised about.

He has served numerous years on the Alabama Historical Commission and the AIA Committee on Historic Resources. Always happy to share his knowledge and enthusiasm for historic architecture, Harvie has helped produce five audio-visual programs on the subject.

What would he have us learn? "Harvie's approach to restoration is to leave as much original material as feasible, patching in only where necessary." He would stress that "old buildings teach us what wears well over time, both technically and esthetically." Aged bricks, for example, are patinated and look better than new. "Old buildings," he reminds us, "have many lessons to teach about human scale, warmth, and friendliness." Above all, Harvie stresses, "A building of any period, old or recent, deserves to keep its own character."

THE HOUSE THAT ISAIAH BUILT

Charles S. Rice

The 1850s were a prosperous decade for Huntsville, as indeed for most of the South. It was during these affluent years just prior to the War Between the States that many of the South's finest homes were built. The war would soon bring financial ruin, however, and these lovely homes would remain as relics of a way of life that had vanished forever.

One such antebellum dwelling has stood on the northeast corner of Huntsville's Holmes and Calhoun streets for more than 130 years. This is the story of that house and, in part, of the families who have called it home.

The builder, Isaiah Dill, was a prominent attorney and insurance agent in 19th century Huntsville. Dill was born in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on Christmas day, 1806. He moved South when he came of age, and practiced law in several small cities before moving to Huntsville in 1843. Dill had served as deputy register in chancery for the circuit court in Moulton, Alabama, and was chosen to fill the post of register in chancery for Huntsville on or shortly after his arrival.

On March 5, 1846, Isaiah Dill married Martha E. Sprague, daughter of a local artist.



Martha's father, Henry Sprague, had died when she was a child. According to family tradition, Sprague was finally poisoned from his habit of touching his paint brushes to his tongue. The old red-brick Sprague home still stands on the northwest corner of Randolph and Green streets.

The new Mrs. Dill was raised by a stepfather, but apparently inherited some of her father's talent. Martha was a skillful portraitist and had graduated at the top of her class at the Huntsville Female Seminary in 1838.

By the mid-1850s, Isaiah Dill was a wealthy gentleman with a sizable family including six children. Therefore, on October 25, 1855, he purchased 2.56 acres of land on what then was the edge of Huntsville from Meredith and Mary Smith Calhoun. The price for the homesite was \$1,150. Thomas J. Taylor, in his manuscript *History of Madison County, Alabama*, written during the 1880s, notes the following:

Stephen Cayton and William Gurley were among the first to settle south of Holmes Street, and in 1857, Thomas H. Hewlett built the house where S. S. Darwin now lives and Isaiah Dill on the corner east of him...

The house is said to have taken two years to build, and the date of 1857 apparently marks its completion. This would appear to be confirmed by a record in the courthouse of a trust deed for \$2,300 made to Martha Dill's mother, Elizabeth Sydnor. The deed states that Mrs. Sydnor had sold her home on April 29, 1857, and that "said money was advanced to me to aid in building my present residence in the city of Huntsville." The Thomas Hewlett mentioned by Taylor was another prominent citizen. Hewlett had purchased his lot of .44 acres just one day after Isaiah Dill on October 26, 1855. The two houses stood on the opposite corners of Holmes and Calhoun





mantels, while the bannister was beautifully shaped from cherry. Plastering the walls and ceilings completed the interior.

In appearance, the Dill house is Federal with Greek Revival influences. The 1861 map of Huntsville clearly shows the rear porch to be original, while the front porch apparently is not indicated and was possibly added by the Dills after that date. The plan of the house is of a type that descended from the old dog-run log cabin. A large entry hall, divided by a doorway, passes through the center of the house. Two large rooms open off of the hall on either side.

until 1977. Then, after a fire had damaged the Hewlett house, it was torn down.

Isaiah Dill built his home well back from the street on both the Holmes and Calhoun sides. The work is believed to have been supervised by Dill's friend and neighbor, Matthew W. Steele, son of famous Huntsville architect George Steele. All walls, both exterior and interior, are composed of 18 inches of hand-made brick. The floorboards are random width, edge cut pine. Poplar was used for the door frames, window frames, and

The parlor, front entry hall, and dining room all display elaborate woodwork reminiscent of fluted Greek columns. The woodwork of the remaining rooms, not meant for show, is much plainer. The downstairs doors are four-panel Federal fashion, while the upstairs doors are two-panel Greek Revival. The parlor is distinguished by splendid sliding six-panel pocket doors, which can be opened for special occasions. The downstairs ceilings are twelve feet in height, and every doorway is surmounted by a transom to allow in more light.

The upstairs of the house consists of the landing and four large bedrooms. The bedroom on the southeast has an attached balcony. Interestingly, the house was built to include closets. Two upstairs bedrooms and a downstairs room which apparently also served as a bedroom have closets formed from the space between the fireplace and the adjacent wall. Small trunk rooms were built for the two bedrooms facing Calhoun Street.



The arrangement of the house is well thought out and is much like that of the central portion of Oak Lawn, a large plantation dwelling built in the 1840s. The woodwork is almost identical with that found in George Steele's own Plantation home, Oak Place.

The parlor and front entry hall of Isaiah Dill's home were both originally papered with the same floral patterned wallpaper. With the exception of the upstairs trunk rooms, all other rooms were painted. The choice of colors at the time must have been limited, for the original colors discovered during restoration

were gray, a dark red, and a pumpkin-like orange.

There are a total of eight fireplaces, five exterior doors plus the balcony door, and 29 windows. A small storage room on the back porch completed the house and added two more windows.

The spacious house was built as one unit, and not added to at various periods as many older antebellum houses are. It is reported to have cost \$9,000 to build Isaiah Dill's home, a considerable sum at a time when a laborer might be paid a dollar a day. The kitchen was located just south of the house in the brick servant

quarters, which also contained two comfortable bedrooms for the Dill slaves, a family of nine headed by Uncle Parker and Aunt Nancy. Other structures included the stables and a small shop where Martha Dill's stepfather, William Sydnor, practiced his trade as a cabinetmaker. The city limits passed through the yard, which was completely enclosed by a wooden fence.

The original occupants of Isaiah's house were he and his wife Martha, their children -- Henry, Mary, Charles, Ellen, and Arthur, and Elizabeth and William Sydnor. Isaiah's brother, Andrew H. Dill, joined him in his law practice for some years and also lived in the house just prior to the Civil War. Andrew left Huntsville about 1860 and moved to Chicago. One child was born to the Dills in the house, a daughter, Carrie, in 1858. Another child, baby Frank, had died on July 30, 1857, possibly in the house.

Just prior to the Civil War, Isaiah Dill's fortunes were at their highest. In addition to his position as register in chancery for Madison County, he was a practicing attorney, an agent for three Northern insurance companies, and secretary of the North Alabama Telegraph Company. He was

also prominent in the Odd Fellows and was a ruling elder of the First Presbyterian Church. Then the war brought disaster.

On the morning of April 11, 1862, Huntsville awakened to the sound of cannon fire near the railway depot. A Union army led by Brigadier General O. M. Mitchell had pounced on the defenseless city. Huntsville would remain under Union occupation throughout most of the last three years of the war.

A Union regiment moved into the buildings of the Greene Academy, the private boys school directly south of the Dills' property, and the war literally came to the Dills' doorstep. Dill family tradition recalls some of the wartime events of long ago. The Northern soldiers made short work of the family's poultry, even though one private who was caught in the act was punished by his commanding officer by being forced to carry a heavy log across his shoulders from sunrise to sunset. The Dills decided to remove temptation from the soldiers' midst by the unusual expedient of covering an upstairs bedroom floor with newspapers and bringing the remaining chickens into the house. The soldiers could still hear the rooster crowing every morning, but

could not find him anywhere. After a few days, chickens were removed to the attic for obvious reasons. The Dill children also were quite distressed when Union soldiers took turns racing on Isaiah's old carriage horse. The overaged animal had been retired and given to the children as a pet. They never saw their horse again.

Nevertheless, relations with the occupying army seem to have been fairly friendly during the early years of the war. When twelve-year-old Mary Dill came down with typhoid fever, the Northern officers sent over a slab of beef to make her some broth. Later, however, conditions grew

worse. The family silver was hidden away, as Union soldiers began entering the kitchen to take anything they wanted. Drunken soldiers often fired their rifles into the air or into the streets. In November, 1863, an inoffensive civilian was shot by a soldier as he walked past the Dills' house. The bullet shattered a bone in the unfortunate man's arm, and the doctors had to amputate. A year later, on November 26, 1864, Union soldiers angry at having to evacuate the city set fire to the Greene Academy. The school was destroyed. When the Confederate army re-occupied Huntsville a few days later, 17-year-old Henry Dill took the opportunity to enlist in



Company A, 4th Alabama Cavalry. He served under General Forrest until the surrender in May, 1865.

The end of the war found Isaiah Dill in an embarrassing situation. Although he had been a Douglas Democrat and opposed to secession, he subsequently accepted the appointment of commissioner for the Confederate District Court for the Northern Division of Alabama. He was therefore required to petition for the restoration of his United States citizenship. Isaiah did so on August 9, 1865, and his pardon was granted by President Andrew Johnson on September 29, 1865.

Dill's pardon application provides a glimpse of the ordeal experienced by Huntsville residents during the war. "In October, 1863," he wrote, "a horse was forcibly taken from me by some United States troops under the command of General Crook, who were then passing through Huntsville. During the latter part of the year 1863, and from thence on to March 1865, at various times, some four hundred feet running measure of my fencing was destroyed by the Federal troops who during that time occupied Huntsville. And, in the latter part of December 1864, my stables and some other outbuildings

about the stable lot were removed by the Federal soldiers; whether destroyed or not I do not know." During the Reconstruction period following the Civil War, Isaiah Dill lost the position of register in chancery he had held for a quarter of a century. In 1871, however, he was honored by being selected Alabama grand master for the Odd Fellows. He also represented Alabama in the Grand Lodge of the Odd Fellows of the United States.

Isaiah died on July 5, 1877, at the age of 71. His funeral was held in the lovely parlor of his home.

The Dill children now numbered five, young Charles Dill having died in 1873, at the age of only 23. Uncertain what to do with their home, they turned for advice to one of their father's friends and fellow attorneys. He suggested that they sell their house at public auction on the courthouse steps, as was the common practice. The auction was held on August 12, 1878. The winning bid was \$4,400, considerably less than the \$11,000 the property had been valued at in the U.S. census of 1860.

Sadly, the Dill children divided the money and moved from their home of over twenty years. Henry Dill, M.D., settled in

Tuscumbia. Arthur Dill remained as a Huntsville policeman. Mary Dill dedicated her life to teaching generations of Huntsville's children in a small private school of her own, while her sister Ellen taught in a college at Abingdon, Virginia.

Three other families have called Isaiah Dill's house home in the 113 year since his death. The first of these was headed by Robert L. Pulley, a wealthy landowner of Limestone County who purchased the house at the auction in 1878. The Pulleys and their seven children would live in the house for the next forty years. Robert Pulley died on April 10, 1901, but his will provided that the house would remain in his wife's possession for as long as she lived.

The old house underwent a number of changes during the Pulleys' occupancy. Sometime around the turn of the century, the red brick house was painted ivory. Gas lights were installed and then replaced with electric. A frame kitchen was added just off the back porch, though the brick servants quarters continued to be used. The downstairs bedroom closet was broken through and a frame bathroom added. Water closets were still such novelties that the handle

bore the word 'press.'

Automobiles were beginning to replace horses in the early 1900s, and one of Huntsville's first cars was a Stanley Steamer owned by Terie Pulley's husband, T. H. Wade. A neighbor recalls that Tom Wade must have spent as much time starting his steamer each morning as it would have taken to walk to his office on the courthouse square. Wade apparently considered it worth the trouble.

The rear sections of the lot were also sold off at this time. Henry Chase of Chase Nursery built his beautiful home on one of them and a dentist named C. Walter Krantz built an attractive Edgar Love-designed house on the other. Dr. Krantz soon had to move to Colorado for reasons of health, and sold his home to the Dreger family, who live in it to this day.

Georgia Strong Pulley died on December 27, 1919, and her children decided to put the house on the market once more.

The next family to occupy the house was that of William H. Cummings, who secured it for \$15,500 on February 2, 1920. Cummings owned the Huntsville Furniture Company, and also was

the RCA Victor dealer for all of North Alabama. His shop stood on the courthouse square between Harrison Brothers Hardware and H. C. Blake Plumbing.

During the Second World War it became almost a patriotic duty to provide housing for the workers. The house was divided into apartments. Bathrooms and small kitchens were added for each apartment. The end of the balcony was sawn off to accommodate a new staircase for the tenants. In 1955, another section of the property was sold and the century-old servants quarters were torn down. The house remained as apartments until the late 1960s, and then stood empty for several years following Cummings' death.

Water leaking through the roof damaged most of the plaster ceilings while the house was unoccupied. Wallpaper hung in shreds in almost every room. Nevertheless, the basic structure of the house remained sound and about one acre of land remained. The original brick walk still led to the front porch, and much of the old iron fence stretches across the Calhoun Street frontage. In March, 1972, Charles E. and Frances Seaman Rice became the new owners. The Rices immediately began



converting the house back into a one family dwelling. The ceilings almost all had to be replaced and the many layers of damaged wallpaper carefully removed. The floors, which had been painted at various times, were sanded clean and termite damaged boards replaced. Several of the



fireplaces had been converted to small coal boxes long ago, and were opened up to their original appearance. The wooden additions made by both the Pulley and Cummings families had been riddled by termites and had to be torn down. Eventually, the old Pulley kitchen was reconstructed in the backyard as a studio.

Some changes were necessary to modernize the house. The downstairs bedroom was converted to a kitchen, and the two upstairs trunk rooms were combined to allow for a bathroom. Both central heating and air conditioning were added. However, only one part of the house as it now appears is not original. A brick utility room was built where the Pulley family's wooden bath-

room had stood in the rear of the house. This room contains another bathroom as well as the washer and dryer, and was deliberately made to appear as a late Victorian addition.

One unexpected advantage of restoring an old home turned out to be the interesting people one meets. Over the past sixteen years, the Rices have become acquainted with members of all the families who have owned the house that Isaiah built. The late Mrs. Elizabeth Dill Punch, daughter of Isaiah Dill's son Arthur, proved to be a valuable source of information on the early history of the house. Her sister-in-law, Mrs. Edna Dreger Dill, provided additional information. Edna Dill's brother,



Alvin Dreger, has spent his entire life living next to the house and also knows many stories about it. And, one day Robert Pulley, a grandson of Robert L. Pulley, stopped by and told of his childhood memories visiting his grandmother in the house before the First World War. The Rices were even surprised to meet several descendants of Reuben Street, the man who was shot in front of the house during the Civil War.

Frances and Charles Rice in fact became so interested in their home, that with the encouragement of architect Harvie Jones, they were prime movers in the creation of the Old Town Historic Preservation District. The purpose of the district is to help insure that this house and the many other historic homes in the area will continue to survive for future generations to enjoy. Let us hope that it succeeds.

Charles Seaman Rice graduated from the University of California and California Polytechnic State University. He served as an army combat engineer in Vietnam and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. He has been a university lecturer, a freelance writer, and editor of Thailand's leading tourist magazine. He is active in Freemasonry and is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Notices from *The ALABAMA REPUBLICAN*

November 14, 1818

The subscribers inform the inhabitants of Huntsville and Madison County generally that they carry on the house, sign, and ornamental painting and glazing business in all its branches, they are well acquainted with all the modern improvements in the art, from their experience can promise full satisfaction to all who may favor them with orders in their line of business. Apply near Mr. Patton's Cotton Gin, or at Phelan & Dillen's.

Henry Sprague & Austin Porter

October 26, 1821

Henry Sprague informs his friends and the public that he has removed his shop next door south of the Printing Office, where all kinds of sign and ornamental painting will be done at the shortest notice.

NB -- Orders from all parts of the State attended to.

A House That Got Away



The Hewlett House, located on the corner of Holmes and Calhoun, built in 1857 and torn down in 1977.



Keeping Up With The Joneses

John Rison Jones

Keeping up with the Joneses in a genealogical sense is more like trying to find them, to identify and separate them, and to make heads or tails out of a family that had a penchant for naming their children for their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, cousins and friends. It is not uncommon to find five or six John Joneses among five or six John Joneses! I spent considerable years corresponding with the late and noted Alabama genealogist, Kathleen Paul Jones, the wife of Howard Jones, and her sister-in-law, Pauline Jones Gandrud, trying to straighten out one or two of the early Jones settlers in Madison County and the Brandon family. That it was (and remains) a nightmare is an understatement.

In addition to the similarity of names, the aftermath of the Civil War left families divided, personal records destroyed, or that greater evil, the burned court house. In the case of the Joneses, the Yankees didn't do it, but a disastrous fire in 1869 de-

stroyed all of the records of Buckingham County, Virginia, as well as the Court House which Thomas Jefferson designed. Any hope of tracing families of Buckingham County is a lost cause although adjacent counties may offer clues. This is where the similarity of names can often be of great assistance.

Then there was the general migration westward that further isolated families as young sons and married daughters were to seek land in the West. As we in the East continue to search for clues among scattered legal records, illegible court and census records, and missing family Bibles, we can only hope that from the West will come a similar search. But that hope is in jeopardy. We pay too little attention to the present condition of those critical records of our past that permit us to document our houses and the people who once lived in them. Historic preservation and genealogy must be handmaidens for the future.

There is a direct connection between my Jones family and the early building of this beloved city. My great, great grandfather, Major William Jones, and his family of a wife and seven children, came to Huntsville in 1818 from Campbell County, Virginia (the Lynchburg area) which was once the frontier in Virginia. Two of the Jones sons, William H. and LeRoy Hipkins Jones, were to marry daughters of William Brandon, who with his brother, Thomas, were the earliest and best known builders of the city before the arrival of George Steele.

The Brandons were the sons of the Rev. Josiah Brandon of Lincoln County, Tennessee, and his wife, Rachel Brown. Josiah has an elusive, if interesting background. He was the son of Thomas Brandon, who lived in Burke County, North Carolina. It is virtually impossible to trace this Thomas Brandon because of another kind of destruction of records. Josiah, the son, has the distinction of having one of the largest pension files for a Revolutionary Veteran. When he applied for his pension in 1832, several of his neighbors in Lincoln County wrote to the Secre-

tary of War to inform him that Josiah was a Tory, that he had been captured at King's Mountain where his father, a colonel of militia, had been killed. The young Josiah was born in 1765 -- was paroled to his widowed mother, and sometime after 1805, began to seek lands in Tennessee. I should add that Josiah was awarded a pension based on three years service against the Cherokees. But North Carolinians were not cordial to their Tory families after the Revolution. Virtually all traces were removed, primarily to sustain illegal land seizures.

About 1812, Josiah finally settled in the eastern portion of Lincoln County, near Lynchburg, where his church, Brandon Chapel, still stands, and Josiah's grave is nearby on a hill.

The brothers, Thomas and William, were apparently active in Davidson and Williamson Counties in Tennessee. They were to return to Williamson County to marry Sample sisters, the daughters of Robert Sample, a landowner in Franklin, Tennessee. The Brandons were among the early settlers of Madison County,

coming here in 1809, and it is believed that they learned their trade as brickmasons, or mechanics to use the contemporary term, in Franklin.

Judge Thomas Taylor credits the brothers as the first major builders of the newly organized city of Huntsville. He wrote that they came with nothing but their trowels and their great skills, and from a "straggling village they left a city of brick and stone."

We know from Anne Royall's description of Huntsville in 1817, that it was a flourishing city. Anne wrote that Huntsville:

"contained about 260 houses, principally made of brick; it has a court house [built by John Hickman in 1817] and Market House. There is a large square in the centre of the town, like the towns of Ohio, and facing this are stores, twelve in number. These buildings form a solid wall, though divided into apartments. The workmanship is the best that I have seen in all the states; and several of the houses are three stories high, and very large ... Nothing like it in our country."

Anne Royall
LETTERS FROM ALABAMA
1829, pages 43-44

Thus, in the early Huntsville, it was impossible not to see a Brandon building from almost any vista. It is only now that we are beginning to identify Brandon residences, since all of the original buildings around the square have been victims of progress. In a future article, I will explore those remaining examples of Huntsville before the coming of the Greek Revival and George Steele.

With LeRoy Hipkins and William H. Jones, the only sons of Major William Jones, to continue to reside in Huntsville, the Jones-Brandon alliances produced a number of children who were to inter-marry with other early pioneer families of the County. Thomas Brandon and his wife had six daughters, several were to marry locally and a number of prominent families trace their ancestry back to Josiah through Thomas. William died in 1848, Thomas died in Aberdeen, Mississippi in 1859.

John Rison Jones is a Huntsville native who has recently retired from a career in Washington, D.C. having gained international recognition as the originator and director of Upward Bound.

A man for all seasons, John Rison received his Ph.D. in History from the University of North Carolina. He taught at Southern Methodist University and at Washington and Lee before assuming positions with the State Department and the Education Department. Back amidst the homes he loves, he is presently preparing a brochure for the Huntsville Pilgrimage tour of homes, April 21 - 22, 1990.



**The daughters
of Mary Ann
Brandon and
LeRoy Hipkins
Jones**

**(back row, left to
right) Lucy and
Agness Walker**

**(front row, left to
right) Mary and
Arabella**

Bits and Pieces About the Jones

James Record's History of Madison County

A Dream Come True contains the following list of Jones in "Madison Countians of Distinction," (Vol II, 1978, pp 684-685.)

Jones, Charles Gordon - Director, Association of U.S. Army; Director of Boy Scouts Council; Board member, Huntsville Civic Symphony; Board member, Central City Association; Board member, UGF; Board member, Sales and Marketing Executives; Board member, Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee; Board member, Metropolitan Kiwanis Club; President, Henderson National Bank.

Jones, Edwin - President, Alabama Button Clover Growers Association, 1950.

Jones, Frances - Noted for work with children.

Jones, Harvie Paul - President, Music Appreciation Club, 1968-1969; President, Arts Council, 1970-1972; Huntsville Beautification Board, 1969-1971; Vice President, Central City Association, 1971; President Huntsville Art League and Museum Association, 1963; Designer of Huntsville Municipal Building.

Jones, J. C. - Grand Senior Councilor, United Commercial Travelers, 1910.

Jones, Joyce Lerman - Publicity Chairman for practically all civic drives in Madison County; President, Council of Church Women; President, Huntsville Study Circle, 1970-1971; Board of Directors, Community Chest; Board of Directors, TB Association; Board of Directors, Press Club; Freelance photographer and writer.

Jones, Raymond B. - Advisory Board, Department of Conservation, 1969.

Jones, Mrs. Thomas W. - Only woman ever to receive a plaque from the YMCA (for 61 years of service); a founder of Huntsville's Red Cross Woman of the year 1955; Red Cross Worker for 50 years; 1957 award for longest service to Crippled Children Clinic, 26 years; UGF award Outstanding achievement.

Jones, Thomas W. - Board YMCA 1910-1968; President YMCA, 1943; Began Probate Judge Office, 1894; back 1904 to 1916; Probate Judge, 1917-1930 and 1935-1945; Register, 1941-1953; Charter Member 1919 Kiwanis; President Historical Society; Kiwanis Club gave a cabin at YMCA Camp Chalakee in his memory; Began work in Probate Judge Office in 1894, thence to Circuit Court Clerk's Office; 2 years private bookkeeping work and back as Clerk of the Probate office for 12 years until 1916; thence to being Circuit Court Clerk nominee; Probate Judge 1919 to 1958 except for one term, 1930-1935, during which time he was Register; Charter Member Kiwanis Club; President Crippled Children Association; Deputy, Circuit Court Clerk, 1897-1900.

Jones, Vern - State Parliamentarian, Alabama Refrigerations Service Engineers 1971; Served as President 1975-76. Alabama State Association Refrigerations Service Engineers; Deputy Director, Region 7.

Jones, Dr. Walter B. - Governor Kiwanis District 1950-1951; President, Southeastern Section American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering; President, Alabama Academy of Sciences; President, Alabama Wildlife Federation; Vice President, Southeastern Geological Association; President, Sigma XI; State Geologist, 1927-1961; Director of Museum of Natural History, Alabama, 1927-1967; Director of Conservation, Alabama 1939-49; President, American Association of State Geologists, 1948; President, Alabama Numismatic Society, 1962-1965, Secretary, Son of Confederate Branch of American Association, District Governor Kiwanis, 1949.

G. W. JONES & SONS

In the fall of 1804, Joseph and Isaac Criner worked hard cutting logs enough to erect two log cabins near what is now the "Big Spring" in downtown Huntsville, Alabama. Their plan was to return to this cabin site in the spring of 1805 from their homes in Lincoln County, Tennessee, and establish a new settlement. Consequently, in the spring of 1805, both men and their families began the trip back to the "Big Spring"; however, they stopped short of their destination and settled near what is now New Market, Alabama, on Mountain Fork Creek.

The Criner brothers were the first white settlers in what is now called Madison County, Alabama. Shortly after establishing their homes on Mountain Fork Creek, John Hunt and a man named Bean came to the settlement inquiring about the abundance of game in the area and asking for information of the "Big Spring". A few weeks later, Bean returned on his way back to Tennessee and told the Criners that Hunt had decided to settle at the "Big Spring." John Hunt thus became the first white settler at the "Big Spring" and was soon followed down what is now known as Winchester Road by several families, some of which were named Walker, Davis, McBroom, Reese, and Jones. The settlement was named Twickenham, but in 1811 it was more appropriately named Huntsville in honor of its first settler, John Hunt, who probably constructed his first cabin with some of the logs cut by the Criner brothers in 1804.

Huntsville began to grow as more families joined those already established; and the Criners cleared land and began to grow crops, raise cattle, and establish themselves on this new frontier. From this beginning in the early 1800's until 1860, Huntsville and Madison County continued to grow. Agriculture, particularly cotton, was the mainstay; and the area progressed on a parallel with most of rural America during this period. In 1813, Andrew Jackson camped for three days in Huntsville on his return from a battle with the Creek Indians at Horseshoe Bend. President James Monroe visited the city in 1819 to prepare the way for Alabama to enter the union. Alabama's first governor, William Wyatt Bibb, was inaugurated the same year; and the first Alabama Legislature convened in Huntsville's Constitution Hall, making Huntsville the first state capital.

In 1840, the Huntsville Meridian was established and a marker erected in Maple Hill Cemetery to delineate all lands west of Huntsville as Range West and all lands east of Huntsville as Range East for all of North

Alabama. Isaac Criner's descendants eventually would use the section, township and range grid system for many years as land surveyors and engineers.

Prosperity and progress continued for the fledgling community as well as for the Criners and their descendants. In 1860, the town population was 3,634 as it began to gear up for war.

One of the Criner men, Isaac, met and married Nancy McCain; and they had a daughter, Martha Woodson Criner, born on February 6, 1836. Martha Criner married William Henderson Moore on October 2, 1865; and they had a daughter — Elvalena Moore, born on December 28, 1868, who was to later become the wife of George Walter Jones (G. W. Jones).

Like most Southerners, the descendants of Isaac Criner prepared for war. Isaac died after the Civil War at the age of 93; his world in the new frontier had flourished, and his offspring had prospered for those fifty odd years from 1804 until 1860. Little did he realize the impact his descendants would have on the area for the next 150 years following his early settlement in the county.

1860 — 1886

Union forces wasted little time realizing that Alabama was important to its success in the war. Huntsville was strategically located on the Memphis and Charleston railroad and Union troops captured the city on April 18, 1862, seizing eighteen locomotives and one hundred freight cars. Later in the fall of 1862, Confederate forces regained control of Huntsville only to lose control again to the Federals in July 1863, who occupied the city until the end of the war.

Life for the Criners and other civilians during these periods of occupation was hard, to say the least. One of the primary goals of the Federal occupation forces was to search and destroy as much food and material as possible. Foodstuffs were at a premium. Butter sold for three dollars per pound; salt, eight dollars a sack; bacon, ten dollars per pound — while cotton dropped to eight cents per pound. Isaac Criner and his family sought ways to survive in these trying times. Family-owned slaves worked hand-in-hand with family members to survive. Being farmers, the Criners had foodstuffs available; however, after a few Yankee raids their storehouse of food diminished. To combat the raids, a system was worked

out to post a guard during daylight hours to watch for the Yankees. A young black boy named Johnny was to give the signal "Yankee's a 'coming'" whenever a patrol was spotted. The system worked very well, for each member of the household had a duty to perform in hiding food and other items of value. The slave cook Lily had a big hoop skirt that had small pockets sewn on the inside into which went the silverware. Johnny was to run the horses to the mountain, and Rebecca was to begin spinning yarn with a spinning wheel on a rug neatly placed over a trap door in the floor where the salt meat was stored. Stories abound surrounding these raids and the war years concerning the Criner family homestead.

One of the most interesting stories involved the slave boy Johnny who was the keeper of the horses. Isaac Criner had one particular stud horse that was special because of his fine qualities. During one Yankee raid, Johnny was too slow getting the horses to the mountain and was captured by the Yankees along with this fine horse and a few mares. The Yankee commander took the horse for his personal mount, with Johnny as his groomsmen. This detachment was soon headed north into Tennessee, and Johnny and the stallion saw several battles and skirmishes between the Union and Confederate forces. Johnny recalled several battles but could not recall their names; however, one that he remembered was "The Battle of Nashville." Johnny's duties consisted of caring for the commander's mount, shining boots, and other camp chores. He seemed to get along well with the Union officers and was respectful and obedient. At the Battle of Nashville, Union forces had a relatively easy victory enroute to Shiloh, and the officers all got drunk. The victory party raged on into the night until the whole Union command fell asleep. Johnny seized this opportunity, saddled the stallion, and rode off into the night toward what he hoped was Mountain Fork Creek and home. Traveling by night, asking directions, and telling his story to other southerners along the way, Johnny gradually made his way south. Directions came hard; however, after many weeks of traveling, he arrived home to a big celebration on Mountain Fork Creek. Isaac Criner described the event of the homecoming of Johnny as parallel to the coming home of the prodigal son in the Bible. They had a big feast of what they had, and all rejoiced at the return of the son who was lost for so long.

Isaac Criner's baby daughter, Martha Woodson, continued her courtship with William Henderson Moore throughout the war years. Moore was a prolific love letter writer and wrote Miss Woodson, as he called her, often. (These letters are still preserved in the G. W. Jones & Sons files and

provide good reading about portions of the war). Moore was from Lincoln County, Tennessee, and was working as a clerk in a store in Fayetteville when war broke out. He volunteered in the First Tennessee Regiment, with whom he served the entire four years. He must have lived a charmed life, for during these long years he was not once wounded. His first letter of record to Miss Woodson came from Lynchburg, Virginia, dated May 21, 1861. A portion of one of these letters is as follows, copied directly as Moore wrote to his sweetheart:

*Camp 1st Tennessee Regiment
Between Fredericksburg & Ft. Royal, Va.
December 19, 1862*

Miss Woodson,

According to your request, I attempt to give you a few items that you may know that I am well and as the boys say about being in a battle, I have "seen the elephant." That is I have been in a fight. And thank God, I came out unhurt, though much of a bargain, as the morning that the battle opened, our Regiment was laying under the heaviest shelling. Majors Buchanan, Sawyers, Sanders and myself were lying behind a tree and a bombshell struck the tree about the ground, tearing the tree all to pieces. It wounded all but myself, though stunning me considerable and nearly covering me in dirt. By this time for two miles in front of us was black with the pomp and splendor of the Federal army and it was the grandest sight I ever beheld. And a frightful one it was, for it seemed to me they had enough to whip the whole world. They came four columns deep in front of us. We were ordered into our ditches and reserve our fire until they got within range and then we turned loose upon them, killing and wounding them almost by regiments until they could not stand it any longer. They broke and all the running they did it. The second column came and we soon put them in a fix for scaddling, and such running was never heard of. Then the third column came and turned a Brigade on our left until the Yankees got in our rear. We began to think we were gone up, but the Bloody 1st never faltering held our position until those on our left received reinforcements and drove the enemy back. Then our whole line charged them about half a mile. They poured shell and grapeshot into us all the time then we fell back to our entrenchments and the way they poured the grapeshot into us wasn't slow. They came as thick as hail. I thought I would never get back to the

ditches for I was never as give out as I was. When I got to the ditch, I didn't take time to step into it — I just fell into it and lay there for some time until I got breath. In our company, we lost one killed and two wounded. Major, lieutenant colonel and colonel were wounded. Col. Turney was severely wounded through the head. We lost in the Regiment 49 wounded and six killed. I never saw sutch slaughter, as was on the Yankee side. They were lying in heaps and the field in which they were in caught fire from our shells and the poor wounded Yankees burned to death. Oh, I never saw such a horrible sigft in my life. I am thankful that I came out unhurt. We lay under their shelling for three days and nights. If it wasn't for the shelling, I wouldn't mind it so mutch. You must excuse writing, for I have to write on my knee. When I got to camp, the ground was covered with snow and how cold it was. I came very near freezing. We had to lie upon the cold ground and will have to the rest of the winter. Oh, but we see a hard time indeed. But I can endure it better now than I could last winter. I hope old J. Johnston will keep the Yankees out of Tennessee and we can hear from each other often. If the Yankees should come into your country and you should leave, you must write immediately. The estimate of the Yankee loss is 18,000 (I think it is that much) and ours wasn't more than 3,000.

W.H.M.

The South as well as the whole nation was greatly relieved on April 9, 1865, when this terrible war finally ended. William Henderson Moore returned to Mountain Fork Creek after the war and married his sweetheart, Martha Woodson Criner on October 2, 1865. He made his home on the Isaac Criner farm and lived out his life farming and raising three girls, one of whom was Elvalena Moore.

Elvalena Moore grew up on Mountain Fork Creek and married George Walter Jones on February 12, 1890. G. W. Jones, a strapping young man of 24 when he married, was the son of Major George Washington Jones of the 4th Alabama Infantry of the Confederate Army. The Jones side of the family had also been involved in the great war. George Washington Jones was fortunate enough to be an infantry officer and live through four years of the war, only to die of a heart attack two years after the surrender at Appomattox. One year after his return from the war, a son, G. W. Jones, was born to this soldier and his wife on June 22, 1866.

G. W. Jones lived with his uncle — William Brown Jones — whom he called Uncle "Will," was educated in both private (Plevna Institute) and public schools in the area, and particularly excelled in math. G. W. Jones, who took an early interest in the survey work his uncle performed for the county and the public, would accompany his Uncle Will on survey assignments and soon became proficient in the trade. In 1886 (exact date unknown), with the help of his Uncle Will and a portion of the savings from the family farm, George Walter Jones founded G. W. Jones, Civil Engineering, at 307 Franklin Street in Huntsville, Alabama. The entrance to the firm has remained at that location for the past one hundred years. The business flourished for the young engineer and surveyor from the beginning. The firm offered services in engineering, surveying, and abstracting; and as the Gay Nineties ushered itself into American life, G. W. Jones's firm began to grow.



G. W. JONES & SONS ABOUT 1921



Elvalena Moore Jones or "Mama" Jones, wife of G. W. Jones at her home on Randolph Street, 1940

Below
G. W. Jones working at his office, September 24, 1921



G. W. Jones evidently took time out from his new business to court Elvalena Moore, for on February 12, 1890, they were married. After a brief honeymoon at the Monte Sano Hotel, they set up housekeeping on a farm in the Hurricane Creek community near Maysville. This was the farm that had passed to G. W. Jones when his Uncle Will had died. Mrs. Jones took over the management of the farm while G. W. Jones continued his engineering and surveying profession. The farm consisted of about 1,000 acres, and the efficient management of Mrs. Jones soon had the farm showing a profit.

Huntsville and Madison County grew, as did the G.W. Jones family. Howard Criner Jones was born on December 11, 1890, followed by Raymond William on October 8, 1892; Walter Bryan on February 25, 1895; Edwin Whiting on December 7, 1896; Pauline, May 9, 1904; and Carl Tannahill on December 12, 1908. A bigger house was required with the expanding family; so the father of this growing family would survey all day and build on the new house at night with "Mama Jones," as Elvalena was now called, holding the lantern. The couple continued their lifestyle of engineering, farming, and raising a family until 1911 when they moved to town and built a house at the corner of Randolph and White Streets (which is now part of the Annie C. Merts Center).

Huntsville's population grew from 7,611 in 1910 to 11,554 in 1930. The sons were becoming of working age, so about the time the family moved to town the name of the firm was changed to G. W. Jones & Sons. The boys all worked in the firm and attended the University of Alabama and became civil engineers except Walter. He studied geology at the University of Alabama and Johns Hopkins University, receiving his Ph.D. in 1920. Howard, Raymond, Walter, and Edwin were football players and in college played for the Crimson Tide of Alabama. Howard, who was nicknamed "Sheep," was probably one of the better players. While playing at guard, he once made the headlines of the *Atlanta Constitution* by knocking out five Georgia Tech linemen — the caption read, "Sheep Wrecks Right Side of Tech Line."

Howard became an outstanding farmer, a master surveyor, married Kathleen Paul, and made his home at New Market, Alabama. He served in World War I with Company C, 304 Ammunition Train in France and Germany and had four children: Howard C. Jr., Harvie P., Edith Jones

Ledbetter, and Emily Jones Good. Howard was active in the firm from 1916 until his death in 1962.

Raymond was quite a leader and business man in the community, helping organize the National Guard in Huntsville. The armory on South Parkway is named Fort Raymond W. Jones in his honor. He developed the total service concept of G. W. Jones & Sons, offering property appraisals, engineering, abstracts, insurance real estate and farm loans, with the first farm loan made in 1922 at an interest rate of 3½ percent. Raymond was quite an outdoorsman, polo player, hunter and fisherman. He married Irene O'Neill, and they had one daughter, Peggy Jones Miller.

Walter also was quite an outdoorsman, hunter and fisherman and was well-known statewide. He served in World War I and World War II, the latter as a lieutenant colonel in the South Pacific. He served as the first director of conservation for the State of Alabama, and being generally recognized as one of the nation's finest geologists, he was state geologist of Alabama for over thirty years, and served as curator of Mound State Park in Moundville, Alabama. The University of Alabama named its Oil and Gas Board Building in his honor following his retirement. After retirement, he was associated with G. W. Jones & Sons regularly concerning geologic and foundation problems. Walter married Hazel Phelps, and they had three sons: Nelson, Douglas, and Warren.

Edwin received his B.S. degree from the University of Alabama in 1918. He was heavily involved with the National guard and served in World War II in Alaska, attaining the rank of brigadier general. Edwin served as a civil engineer and partner in the firm from 1918 until his death in 1956. He was one of the county's best cattlemen and was also instrumental in bringing the pasture grass KY-31-Fescue to Alabama. Edwin married Katherine Simmerman; and they had two daughters, Nancy Jones Walker, and Barbara Jones Schmieder. Katherine's mother, Mrs. Anna B. Simmerman, also made her home in Huntsville and made many contributions to the community as well as the firm.

Pauline, the only girl in the family, graduated from Peabody Conservatory of Music. She was a fine pianist and a nationally recognized genealogist. Pauline married Bennie William Grandrud; and they had one son, William.

Carl, the youngest in the family, graduated from the University of Alabama in 1929 with a B.S. degree in civil engineering. He served during

World War II in Alaska and Europe, attaining the rank of full colonel. Carl was the dynamic leader in bringing much industry into Huntsville during the 1950's and 1960's and was responsible for some intricate engineering design projects, one of which was the Huntsville-Madison County Airport, which was named the Carl T. Jones Field in his honor. The University of Alabama inducted Carl into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame posthumously in 1983. He served as a partner in the firm from 1939 until his death in 1967. Carl married Elizabeth Bryant; and they had three children: Raymond Bryant, Elizabeth Jones Lowe (known as "Betsy"), and Carolyn Jones Blue.



**EDWIN
JONES**

**HOWARD
JONES**

**RAYMOND
JONES**

**WALTER
JONES**

**CARL
JONES**

G. W. Jones & Sons progressed in the first four decades of the 1900's at a slow to moderate pace. With America entering World War I, Howard, Walter, Edwin and Raymond went into the service. The war was followed by the Depression of the thirties and all the problems related to running a business with little revenue. G. W. Jones and his sons kept the business viable; and during all of the turmoil and financial strains from the war, the Depression, and educating the children, with courage and faith G. W. Jones held the firm and his family together. Surveying and abstract work were the primary sources of income; however, occasionally a paving project or a unique engineering problem would arise and demand the services of the firm.

Raymond passed away at an early age in 1931 of pneumonia, just two years before sulphur drugs were discovered which probably would have saved his life. The family really mourned his death, for he was an outstanding leader and an exceptional engineer.

As World War II approached, all the surviving sons were married and had begun to establish themselves as community and business leaders of extraordinary abilities, in spite of the depression and other hardships. Walter, Edwin and Carl were to be heavily involved in World War II, as were grandsons Howard Jr. and Nelson. G. W. Jones was to remain in charge of the firm as the war began, having already been in business about 55 years by the time the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

1939 — 1957

In 1939, G. W. Jones & Sons was struggling with not a great deal of business. Raymond had been gone for eight years, and Huntsville had experienced only moderate growth. Walter was busy serving as state geologist and G. W. Jones, Edwin and Howard remained in the firm doing property line work, abstracts, and the like, while Carl had gone to work for the Forest Service in Knoxville, Tennessee, following graduation. Carl and Edwin decided in 1939 it was time to exert new ideas and leadership in an attempt to get things going for the firm. In that year Carl returned to Huntsville to assist in the firm's known activities, but also to join Edwin in purchasing a farm south of Huntsville, hoping the farm would produce revenue should the engineering firm falter. The 2,500 acre farm was run-down and had been on the market for four years. A big house built in 1823 by slave labor was considered the main dwelling. The plan was for Carl and

his wife, Betty, and family to move into the house and be the on-site manager. Edwin and Carl would spend most of their time in the engineering business and farm on the side.

The farm organization was made up basically of share-croppers who lived on the place, and who farmed various acreages with teams of mules. At one time, there were 26 families and 26 teams of mules working about 800 acres on what is now the Jones Valley farm. Much work was required on the main house, and a lot of the early effort was spent trying to make it livable. "Mama" Jones thought it was terrible that Carl would ask his pretty wife to live in such a dump. She was so insistent that she told Betty to simply say "no" to the moving. In time, Carl prevailed; and the family moved into the big house in the spring of 1939.

Five months after occupying the farmhouse, the National Guard in Huntsville was mobilized in anticipation of the war which was still about a year away. Both Ed and Carl were activated and the trauma to the firm and family was great. Not only did this disrupt the ongoing engineering and abstracting business, but now Betty (a city girl) was left in charge of the farm. Little did any of the family realize that this predicament would last for five long years.

The sons and grandsons of G. W. Jones, five of them, served the nation and paid a dear price for some of the freedoms we enjoy today. **Brigadier General Edwin W. Jones** served as commander of a segment of the army in Nome, Alaska, for the duration of the war. **Colonel Carl T. Jones** also served in Alaska and made two amphibious landings at Attu and Kiska. Later he was recalled by name to the European theater and was on Patton's left flank through St. Lo and on to Berlin. **Lt. Colonel Walter B. Jones** served in the South Pacific with an Army Air Corps Group, particularly in Australia. Later in the war he was reassigned to perform engineering and geologic work in New Guinea for which he was better suited. **PFC Howard C. Jones, Jr.** served with the 20th Armored Division in France and Germany and was in Europe when the war ended. **PFC Nelson B. Jones** was in combat with the 95th Infantry Division approximately 210 days after his enlistment. He was senior class president at Huntsville High School and an outstanding man in every respect. On April 2, 1945, he paid the supreme sacrifice for his country while trying to destroy a German tank in Oerling Hausen, Germany. He was buried at Margraten Cemetery in Holland. The site of this cemetery was selected by Colonel Carl T. Jones as one of his engineering assignments while in Europe.

"Mama" Jones, at one time, had five gold stars hanging in the window of her house on Randolph Street, signifying, like so many other mothers during the war, the sacrifice her family was making toward the war effort. G. W. Jones stayed up for days listening to the radio, reading the war news, and literally grieving himself to death over his sons and grandsons and their plight in the war.

G. W. Jones and Howard worked long and hard during the war years to keep the firm going. Huntsville, like every other city, was hit hard by the war. Rationing was required, with civilians working harder than many in the military for the war effort and grieving on the side. Gold stars in one's window were highly respected because they signified a family's sacrifice to the war. Large wire enclosures around the city square were filled weekly by those at home with aluminum pots and pans which were used to make airplanes. No one went fishing or had much recreation of any sort because of rationing and the fact that it wasn't considered the thing to do with the men on the front lines.

Carl and Ed both had their army pay go directly back to the families to reduce the mortgage on the farm. Betty would write to ask them how, when and where to plant certain crops, only to get an answer (mostly censored) after the crops had been harvested. Betty became an excellent farm manager and did what she could with what knowledge she could glean from other farmers. Logs were snaked out of the bottom land with oxen and sold at a good price, with the help of the black families. She raised sorghum, from which molasses was processed, hogs, cattle, cotton, corn, and hay crops. Foodstuffs were at a premium during the war, so with the revenue from the farm and Ed and Carl's paychecks, the mortgage remained current.

Being the only white woman in the valley presented several problems for Betty and her family. Betty's mother, Lula May Bryant, moved to the farm during the war as "protection," all 97 pounds of her. Additionally, a brown puppy was given to Ray by one of the tenants. He grew into a big dog named Brownie and truly became a watchdog for the duration of the war. Brownie would keep vigilance on the house, barn and surroundings—daring anyone to come near at night, and then play with little Betsy during the day. Betty would also occasionally shoot her pistol in the air. Rumor had it that she was an excellent shot; the truth of the matter, however, was that she couldn't hit the side of the barn. In any event, Betty, Lula May and family persevered throughout those five years on the farm. Years later,

Carl and Ed were to say that had it not been for her hard work in keeping the farm going, they would not have been able to have held on to the farm during those war years when they were away.

Opportunities were rare for the family to see those serving in the armed services. Occasionally a furlough or a trip to an army base to see one of them was possible. There are many rich incidences that occurred during the war that should be recorded. One humorous one occurred when Carl came home for two days enroute to Washington from Alaska. He brought a combat "C" ration home to show the men on the farm what a soldier had to eat while in combat. After opening the "C" ration and displaying its dried meat, chocolate, dried fruit, cigarettes, toilet paper, etc., they were all amazed at the meager essentials that the army offered its men in combat. One old gentleman pushed his hat back on his head and remarked, "Mr. Carl, I knows you're a smart man, and I knows the government got some smart mens, but if'n all they gonna put in this little package for a man to eat is this little piece of meat, dried fruit and chocolate, den they sho didn't need to put no toilet paper in dar."

On September 2, 1945, the terrible war was over; and G. W. Jones' sons and one grandson returned home to the family, farm, and firm. The "office," as the business was now called, was still intact; however, little ongoing work was being performed. The burden of time weighed heavily upon G. W. Jones, who was 79 years old when the war ended. Grieving for the boys during the war and the loss of his grandson, Nelson, had rendered him an extremely old man and on January 16, 1946, G. W. Jones passed away. His life included serving as an Alabama state senator, engineer, farmer, businessman, mason, prohibitionist, patriarch of his family, and founder of G. W. Jones & Sons with his motto of "A fair measure at a fair price."

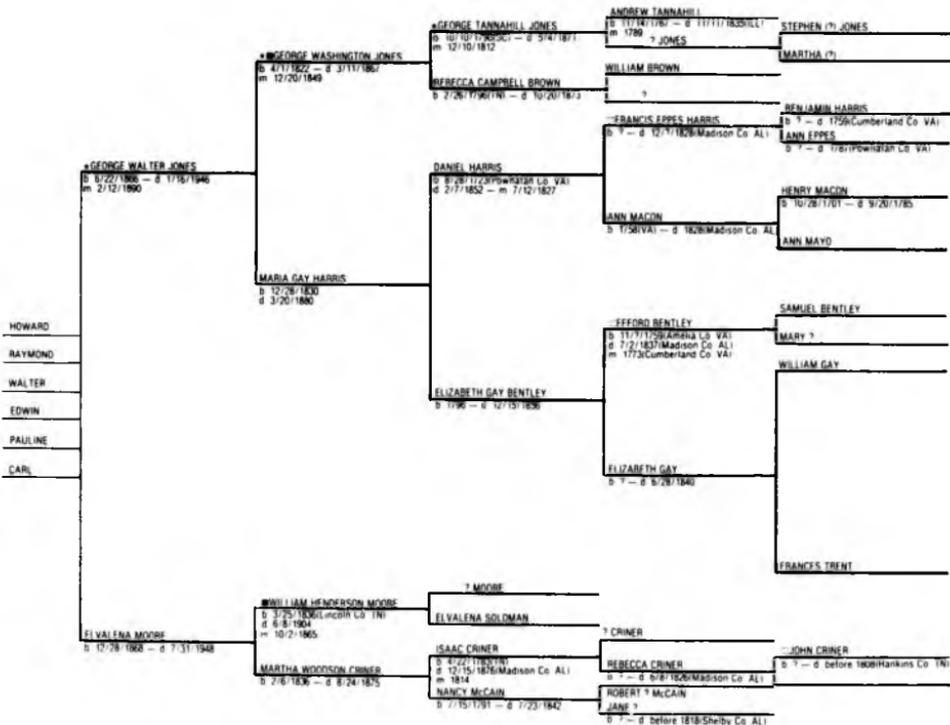
Carl and Ed rapidly began rebuilding the "office" after the war years. Returning also from the war were many key employees who would play important roles in rebuilding G. W. Jones & Sons and the city of Huntsville. Carl and Ed threw themselves immediately into improving the farm, the "office," and the community. In 1946, they were instrumental in helping expand the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee. Also in 1946, Ed made a trip to Pembroke, Kentucky, that would eventually lead to the introduction of the pasture grass KY-31-Fescue to the state of Alabama. The brothers used their political influence to try and find a use for Huntsville Arsenal which had been declared surplus and was for sale. Slowly but surely, engineering, insurance, real estate and farm sales began to increase; and the firm was once again moving ahead.

In 1950, the population of Huntsville was 16,437. Almost unknowingly, the city was on the verge of receiving its greatest single economic impact. At Christmas, 1949, the army made the decision to move Dr. Wernher Von Braun and his team of rocket scientists to the Huntsville Arsenal. Huntsville and Madison County would never be the same. When the Germans first came, they were shunned by the local population who still remembered the great war and its atrocities, and would not shop or even walk in a store near these new inhabitants. Gradually, these feelings faded, and this group of Germans became some of the city's finest citizens.

Work in the early 1950's for G. W. Jones & Sons was stimulated by the advent of this rocket team. Subdivisions, utility expansion, roads and other projects began to demand the firm's services. The office grew and from 1945 to 1955, added some of its finest employees.

The farm also grew; cattle and Certified Ky-31 Fescue seed were fast replacing cotton and corn. In 1950 a new seed cleaning and drying plant was erected, made entirely of oak lumber with all the modern conveniences. By 1955, the plant was processing over 500,000 pounds of seed annually, many of which were being produced from leased agricultural lands on Redstone Arsenal (the new name of the old Huntsville Arsenal). Edwin had worked out a lease of approximately 1,800 acres on the Arsenal. With the 1,200 acres on the homeplace, adequate acreages were available for the cattle and seed operation. Edwin also purchased 400 head of heifers from the Four-Six Ranch in Texas which was to provide a breeding base for the future. During this time, the brothers also ventured into the sheep business; however, this adventuresome excursion ended abruptly after a year or so with the statement from them that simply said, "Life's too short to raise sheep."

GENEALOGY OF G. W. & ELVALENA JONES

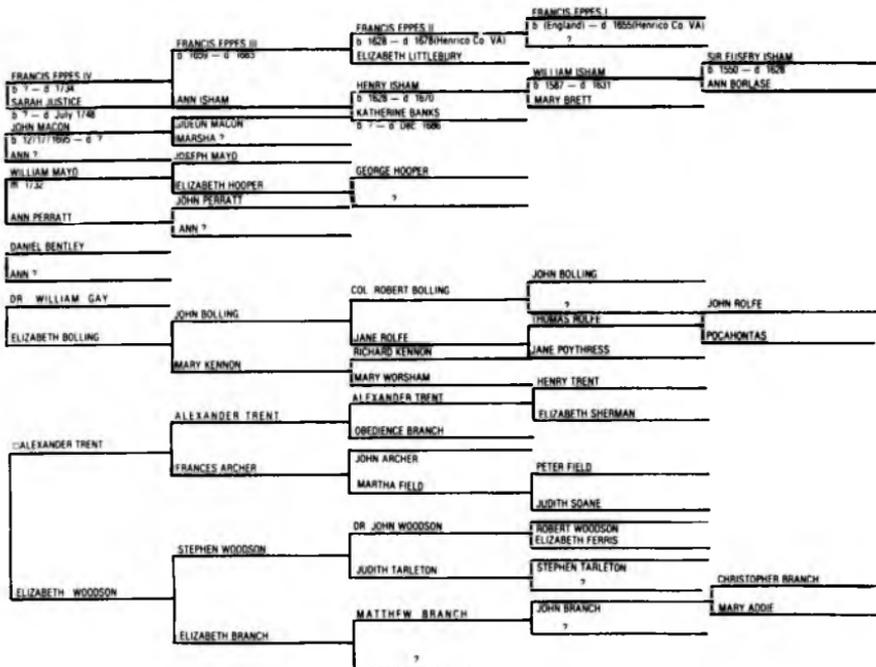


NOTE: DIRECT DECENDENTS OF
 POCAHONTAS
 ALFRED THE GREAT
 CHARLEMAGNE
 WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR
 LADY GODIVA

ROYAL DESCENT THROUGH SIR EUSEBY ISHAMI

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS
 ALABAMA STATE LEGISLATORS
 CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS

(COMPILED FROM THE WORKS OF KATHLEEN P. JONES & PAULINE J. GANDRUD)



In 1948, the only post-war grandchild of G. W. Jones was born to Carl and Betty, and she was named Carolyn Tannahill Jones. Carl's family continued living on the farm with Ray entering Auburn in 1953 to study Animal Husbandry. Much effort had gone into the farm, and both Carl and Ed felt it was a good idea to have one of the family studying agriculture for its future. Both farm and office seemed to be doing fine and growing each year with both Ed and Carl dedicated to the business, working together, in control and in good health.

Almost without warning Ed became ill, and on June 7, 1956, he passed away. The entire load of the farm and office and its many decisions suddenly fell on Carl. Ed's expertise in the cattle, engineering, and abstracting businesses was to be missed as the firm, family and community mourned his passing. Carl was faced with the immediate decision of whether to proceed with purchasing a large farm in Jackson County on which Ed was working, the settlement of Ed's estate, and many other matters that would surface in the coming months. Additionally, the engineering, insurance, abstracting and the real estate end of the business were beginning to grow, which further complicated the difficult days following Ed's death. Carl was to later say that those few years following the loss of Ed had to be his most difficult time in the business.

1957 — 1967

A new era for G. W. Jones & Sons was ushered in in 1957. Huntsville was in the thick of a race to help America see which nation would have the first satellite orbiting the earth. The city was rapidly expanding, and the demand for engineering work increased. The firm served Huntsville as its city engineer for 31 years until the city grew to such size that a full time engineer was required. The office was able to associate itself with an out-of-town firm to have a part in the design of the city's water and sewage treatment plants in the late 1950's. It was during these projects that Carl made a lifelong friendship and association with a fine engineer from Birmingham, Kenneth D. Byrd, who was to work with the firm from time to time for the next 25 years. Subdivision design and layout were much in demand, as were the other services the "office" had to offer.

Ray graduated from Auburn with a B.S. degree in Animal Husbandry in the spring of 1957. In the fall of that same year he attended "The Engineer School" at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. At the time, Ray was a first lieutenant in the National Guard with the 1169th Engineer Group (c). Carl brought Ray into the partnership of the farm and "office" upon Ed's death, and he was given the primary responsibility of the farms. The Jackson County farm presented the most immediate need in that it was primarily established in row crops and needed to be reestablished in pasture. Cattle prices were good, so the decision was made to expand the herd as quickly as practical. Consequently, Ray made a number of trips to Texas to buy cows and bulls from several ranches. Roads, fences, corrals, barns and pasture were built and established over a five-year period, beginning in 1957. Soon the Jackson County farm was becoming similar in appearance to the homeplace and the Arsenal leased property.

In 1960, another large farm was added to the farming operation at Guntersville Dam in Marshall County. Almost identical work was started on this tract as was performed on the Jackson County tract following its purchase. Fortunately for the farming operation, work was virtually completed on the Guntersville Dam farm by 1965 because in 1966 the Arsenal lease was terminated, a lease that had been held for 18 years. Cattle were shifted to the new tracts and the operation continued at a similar pace.

Ray's time was spent on the farms from spring to fall and on engineering projects in the winter, mostly surveying land lines. It was during the early 1960's that Ray got to spend a lot of time with his Uncle Howard Jones in these winter months surveying boundary lines. Many hours were spent with this master surveyor, and Ray learned much about the business of land surveying. Fortunately for Ray, circumstances allowed these two to spend this valuable time together, for on December 19, 1962, Howard died of a heart attack after having been associated with G. W. Jones & Sons for 46 years.

On September 4, 1960, Ray married Elizabeth Anne Mercer, an English teacher in the Huntsville City School System from Borden Springs, Alabama. Ray and Libby moved into a home on the farm and began their married life. On April 1, 1961, Betsy married Peter L. Lowe from Birmingham, whom she met at the University of Alabama. Peter had received his B.S. degree in Commerce and Business Administration and went to work for the "office" in the appraisal department following their move to Huntsville.

Carl was extremely busy during the early 1960's establishing a substantial base of operations for G. W. Jones & Sons. His excellent leadership and foresight projected the firm to heights never imagined by its early founder. By 1960, Huntsville's population had increased over the last decade by almost five-fold, to 72,365. Huntsville was booming, and Carl was the man of the hour. Twice he had served as president of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee. The community had awarded him "The Distinguished Citizen Award" in 1965. The county and city leaders had such confidence in Carl that they would often send him to make a pitch to prospective industries on the community's behalf. To encourage industry to locate in Huntsville, Carl was authorized to obligate the community for certain expenditures, each side always considering what he did to be fair and in the best interest of all.

In 1962 a large government space contract was let that required the successful bidder to be at work within 60 days. Huntsville, at that time, did not have a single office building that would house the 4,000 jobs necessary to complete the contract. Carl overnight mobilized a group of Huntsville businessmen who owned the old Lincoln cotton mill buildings and with their own money, renovated these buildings into office space and had the people working in 45 days, thus saving these jobs for Huntsville. These were the early days of a group called the Huntsville Industrial Associates, or HIA, which was to have an influence on Huntsville's business climate for the next 25 years, including the building and operation of the Huntsville Hilton Hotel. Many of the members of G. W. Jones's family were shareholders of HIA.

Carl was particularly effective for the community and the business as a speech maker. He was very articulate, had a booming voice, was always positive, and left a real impact on his listeners. Community leaders, politicians, business associates, and most everyone who knew "Mr. Carl," as he was affectionately called, wanted to have his opinion on things. The fast pace and the "explosion" of Huntsville's economy caused Carl's path to cross and affect many lives. One of the most significant professional feats Carl was called on to perform that would touch thousands of people was the job of designing the Huntsville-Madison County Airport. Through Carl's guidance and under the direction of the Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority, G. W. Jones & Sons took 3,000 acres of raw land west of Huntsville and designed an airport complex that has become known throughout the world. Boasting parallel, 8,000-foot runways one mile

apart with accompanying taxiways, a hotel, and golf course, the industrial complex has grown from its opening in 1967 to a passenger usage of over three-quarter million people by 1985. The airport complex designed by Carl and the "office" force received the National Achievement Award from the American Consulting Engineers Council in 1968. There are many other projects of all types that should be mentioned that were completed during the sixties; however, space will not allow their recording. Suffice it to say that at this point in its history the decade from 1957 to 1967 was G. W. Jones & Sons "finest hour."

On October 6, 1967, Carl, Ray and Walter went dove hunting in Limestone County. Carl was just back from a trip he and Betty had taken to Europe, so the three really enjoyed the hunt and being together. Carl seemed in excellent spirits and was glad to be home. The next day Carl passed away in Birmingham during the Alabama — Ole Miss football game. At age 58 he was at the pinnacle of his career, and his family as well as the community mourned the loss of this outstanding leader. Sympathy was extended the G. W. Jones & Sons family from all over the nation. Friends, family, employees, business associates and community leaders for weeks mourned the loss of its spokesman. The Huntsville Times had an editorial several weeks following Carl's death that stated, "The death of Carl Jones seems to still hang heavy over the business community." The community honored him by renaming the Huntsville-Madison County Airport the "Carl T. Jones Field" shortly after his death. The end of an era had come to a close for G. W. Jones & Sons as well as for the community, family, and those who knew Carl. During his life, he had served as a father, soldier, engineer, businessman, banker, leader of the G. W. Jones & Sons family, and, during his time, one of Huntsville's most beloved citizens.

On Monday, October 9, 1967, Ray assumed the position held by Carl both at the "office" and at the farms. In the days and weeks following Carl's death, G. W. Jones & Sons was to struggle with a number of problems and tragedies. Within the next 15 months, nine members of the G. W. Jones & Sons family passed away; some were blood family members and some employees of both "office" and farm. The organization was faced with a time of not only grief but also of many pressing problems. Among them were the settlement of Carl's estate, realignment of a "pecking order" in the chain of command, and, since Ray was no longer full time on the farm, the placement of more responsibility upon the farm managers. Ray had received his land surveyor's license by this time and was familiar with most of the "office" operations, which was fortunate.

Most employees worked hard and diligently to continue G. W. Jones & Sons, and all grieved for the loss of their leader during these most difficult days.

1967 — 1986

Conversely, however, during the period following Carl's death many good things happened to the G. W. Jones & Sons family. Even though modest, the "office" operations began to strengthen. The family grew together as it worked toward solutions to problems created by these circumstances. Some of the fifth generation of Isaac Criner were being born during this period.

Fifth generation Criners still involved in G. W. Jones & Sons are as follows:

Ray and Libby Jones — Mary Elizabeth born July 27, 1962; May Criner born September 5, 1964; and Raymond Bryant, Jr. born November 5, 1969.

Peter and Betsy Lowe — Peter Loftis, Jr. born January 29, 1962; Carl Tannahill Jones born November 1, 1963; and Sara Len born July 8, 1967.

John and Carolyn Blue were married August 16, 1969. Sarah Katherine born January 18, 1972; and John Wallace born August 29, 1973.

Carolyn had married her high school sweetheart and after completing college at the University of Alabama, John Blue began work at G. W. Jones & Sons in 1970 for the appraisal department. John has continued to work with the appraisal end of the business, attaining his RM designation in 1976, as well as expanding into real estate sales and management.

Betty and Lula May continued to live in the big house on the farm after the loss of Carl and after Carolyn's marriage. Lula May would continue living in the big house until May 10, 1984, when she passed away nine days before her 98th birthday. For over 40 years she lived very close to the family and was a great influence on Betty's children and grandchildren. Lula May Bryant was a Godly woman and one that had a wonderful influence on all with whom she had contact. It was no surprise when hundreds attended the funeral of this great lady.

In the 1970's, progress was being made also on the farm in both the seed business and in the cattle business. The time for building was over, and

the farm management could concentrate on making production operations more efficient. A big hereford bull was purchased from Montana in 1970 by the name of C Advance 601. This bull weighed 2,350 pounds; and within the next five to seven years, his breeding influence was felt throughout the entire herd. At this particular time the farm had about 1200 brood cows, mostly fall-dropped calves. The fall-dropped calves were weaned the following July at eight months of age, shipped to the homeplace, and kept until the following June. They were then sold weighing approximately 850 pounds direct to a feedlot usually up North in the corn belt.

In concert with the improvement to the cattle business, the seed operation was also undergoing drastic changes. During the mid-sixties, the harvested seed was handled in bushel-sized bags, 25,000 of them annually. The harvest involved about 35 laborers to get the 600,000 to 800,000 pounds of seed harvested each year. The advent of minimum wage caused an earnest search to find a cheaper method of harvest. A system was worked out to "bulk harvest" the crop, thus eliminating all these bags and their handling. A gin suction system was installed that unloaded the seed by air and deposited them in a big pile on the floor of the seed house. Pipes could then be reversed and the seed pulled back to the cleaner by air, which eliminated about 20 men altogether during harvest. The system worked well and is still in use today. With these two products, cattle and seed, pastures were in use throughout the year with nine months devoted to grazing and three months to seed production. This system provided stability for the farming operation not only for management but also for its employees. The early and mid-seventies was a period for operational improvements and the solidification of a farming operation which Ed and Carl began in 1939.

The population of Huntsville had grown to 139,282 by 1970, and the "office" operations of G. W. Jones & Sons expanded rapidly. Peter Lowe had received his MAI (Member Appraisal Institute) designation and was brought into ownership of the firm on January 1, 1971. On this date the "office" operations became a corporation after existing for 85 years as a partnership. Initial corporate officers and directors were as follows:

Raymond B. Jones, President and Director
Peter L. Lowe, Executive Vice President and Director
T. Martin Phillips, Vice President and Director
George T. Johnson, Secretary and Director

Phoebe White, Treasurer and Director
John D. Blue, Director
Lewis C. Pattillo, Director
Elizabeth B. Jones, Director

Peter assumed the responsibility of expanding the appraisal department, real estate development and acquisitions, as well as management of existing properties. Peter met his challenges in an exemplary manner, being very successful in putting together, in the next few years, several restaurant deals by which the "office" would build restaurant structures and lease them back to a reputable restaurant operator and developing other real estate concepts. Several significant purchases of land as well as office buildings followed during the 1970's that began to establish a different dimension to the "office" operations. The Carl Jones family became involved in a number of very profitable real estate ventures, including Governors House Apartments, the Central Bank Building, and The North Alabama Mineral Development Company, to name a few. As a result of Peter's leadership, the appraisal department continued to grow, with many large reports being produced monthly. Dollar volumes by the end of the 1970's had increased many times in the appraisal and real estate end of the business.

The engineering portion of the "office" was also undergoing some changes during the 1970's. Several key employees were added to the engineering department during this period; and as salaries and expenses increased, more efficient ways were sought to better utilize personnel. The computer age, much of which was developed in the town named for John Hunt, was a great asset in a more efficient engineering operation. DMD (Double Meridian Distance) closures of boundaries resulting from land surveys could now be completed in five or ten minutes; whereas, prior to the computer age, hours were required to perform the same operation. Because they were no longer efficient, many charts and series of procedures were discarded that had been conceived by Ed and Carl years before. Methods of gathering survey information were rechannelled into one that would be congruent with the computers. In addition, changes in requirements from the various regulatory agencies that affect engineering design also caused many alterations in conducting the engineering operations.

In the latter part of the decade of the 1970's, management of the engineering department made the decision to seek more municipal-type work. Consequently, in the late seventies and early eighties the "office" was performing engineering design on multi-million dollar road projects, as well as sanitary sewer plants and their appurtenances, airports, and for many industrial customers with a variety of engineering challenges.

Subdivisions, land surveys, and a host of other related work that had brought the "office" to the 1980's were also being continued.

Throughout all these years and even in more recent years when a younger generation was assuming managerial roles, certain older employees and family members served as a steadying influence. One of these was Walter B. Jones, affectionately known as "Dr. Walter." The last living son of G. W. Jones had continued to consult with the engineering department on geologic matters. Walter was a great influence and a source of stability and strength to the "office" during the 1970's. He was a physically strong individual, an extremely hard worker and as a geologist, second to none. On May 3, 1977, after having cut a load of firewood with an ax and putting the finishing touches on a geology report, Walter passed away. His death was mourned by the family, the community and his many, many friends far and near. The last of G. W. Jones's sons was now gone, and each son had made his own unique and invaluable contribution to what they all called the "office."



**G. W. JONES & SONS
PRESENT OFFICE**

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An Interview with Hazel Jones

Frances Robb

How did your family get to Huntsville, and how did they acquire 'The Cedars'?

My grandfather was a blacksmith and later a farmer in the community of Chebanse, Illinois. My father was born there, and about 1900, my grandfather decided to buy a farm in Alabama, to escape from Illinois' cold weather. My maternal grandparents moved here at the same time. My mother and father had grown up in the neighborhood together, and planned to marry.

My father and grandfather made two trips to Alabama to look for property. On one of these trips, my father sent a letter to his fiancée that read, "Today Pa and I saw a place that looks awful good." Not long after their wedding, all three families moved South. They rented a boxcar to ship their stock

and tools. When they arrived in Huntsville, they were met by their new neighbors -- very kind of them, very kind.

My grandfather and father grew corn, wheat, oats, and hay on the farm. Only after my grandfather died did my father begin raising a little cotton. And yes, the cedars were already here, growing along the fence rows. We lost many in the storms, especially the tornado in 1946; it took thirteen in a row, but we didn't lose a single boxwood. The maples have been here a long, long time. And I was born on the farm, in this house. I still have the record of the payment for my delivery -- \$25. Back then the doctor came to the house! And our big mastiff dog used to tree him!

The farm was purchased with my father's mother's

inheritance. Her father was Eric Nelson, who came from fishing people near Oslo. An immigrant from Norway, he came on a flatboat down the Mississippi and settled at Yorkville, Illinois, a little north of Chebanse. Eric Nelson had left his sweetheart, Ingeborg Andersdatter, behind, and he went back and got her. Her brothers made her wedding bowl of wood. It was used for a particular kind of porridge that was served on all sorts of occasions. I still have it, with her name and "1831" around the edge.

They had eleven children, and when Eric Nelson died, he left each one of the children a farm or acreage. Yes, they had worked hard, and they had prospered. Back then they sent a whole carload of hogs at a time to Chicago. The children were brought up with a sense of responsibility.

My mother was also one of a large family, the fourth

one down of a family of ten. At ten or twelve, when her father and mother went visiting, they left her in complete charge of all the children and the hired girl. Grandmother had eight sisters, and after my grandfather died in 1917, Grandmother eventually moved back to Illinois, where she lived until 1930.

Did your Illinois relatives ever visit you? What did they think of Alabama?

Yes, they would come here. To them Alabama was "furrin' country," and they never had any respect for the fertility of the soil here. Mother had a jar of black Illinois soil she kept in a curio cabinet.

Did you ever visit Illinois? Was it "foreign country" to you?

Yes, I used to visit, but it wasn't really foreign. I had heard all the stories. And

people used to exchange photographs, so I knew what they looked like.

How did you meet Walter B. Jones?

I knew Walter's brothers, one older, one younger, when I was in high school. He was taking an M.A. at the University of Alabama when I was a freshman; after teaching at the university for a year, he went on to Johns Hopkins, and spent four years there. Back then, most girls who went to college went to girls' schools. I may have been the first girl from Madison County to graduate from the University of Alabama. But it's hard to be sure. Many girls only attended in the summers, and it took a long time to graduate. I doubled up, graduating in 1921, after three years and one summer, with a degree in History and Foreign Languages, mainly French.

Walter was teaching geolo-

gy; I was taking geology. He had me doing research for him. He was planning to marry me. I wasn't sure. On Saturday nights, we'd walk the mile and a half into town to go to the movie. Afterwards, we'd stop at the Central Drug Store for a banana split. Walter knew the proprietor well; they went bird hunting. Going back we'd hurry. When it was cold, he'd hold my hand in his overcoat pocket.

Girls weren't allowed to ride in cars; you had to have a parent or grandparent with you. And curfew was at 10:30. So we'd leave for the movies just after supper in the dorm.

What was it like, living on campus back then?

Well, for two years I was a member of student government. My room, a single, was right next to the front door, and I got very sleepy trying to stay up until 10:30 to let the last ones in. There

was a stray dog on campus - we called him Sweet 'n' Pretty. He'd stay out until 11:00, and I'd have to let him in. He roomed with Dimple Moore, up on the third floor, and I could hear his little claws go clack, clack, clack up all those flights of stairs. The medical students were out after him, and we girls had to protect him.

Napoleon, a big great Dane, was another well-known dog on campus. At night, I'd walk to the Auditorium, or other places. One night my hand was swinging down at my side, and suddenly I felt his cold nose in my hand. I felt very safe with him beside me.

Tell me about your wedding.

My family sold the farm in 1919, and we lived in town for a few years. Walter got me a job with a photographer. After a few years, my father bought the farm

again, and my parents moved back. Walter and I were married in the front yard of the Cedars at 6:30 p.m. on June 30, 1924.

We were married by Walter's uncle, a Methodist minister from New Market. Walter's sister was maid of honor; two college friends were bridesmaids; and two little cousins were flower girls. My mother made pastel dresses for my attendants, and also my wedding dress, a lovely crepe de chine, beaded dress. In 1974, I wore it for my 50th wedding anniversary! Walter wore white duck pants and a blue serge jacket, and yes, he wore the same clothes for the celebration 50 years later. We decorated with Queen Anne's lace -- such a summer it was for Queen Anne's lace -- and gladioluses from the florist. We had lots of guests -- family, friends, and neighbors. A teen-aged cousin said she'd never before had enough ice cream!

Our honeymoon was spent at Walter's Army camp in North Carolina. We timed the wedding to coincide with his two weeks of reserve officers' camp; I think it was at Fort Bragg. We got there on the train.

What about life at the University in Tuscaloosa?

For a few years, until we built a house on 13th Street, we lived in several places: a one-room apartment with some old ladies for a year, then an apartment in a new house on the campus, then in the old house that became Alumni House, then a house on 13th Street, and then the one we built -- which is now an Episcopal Chapel. We raised three children on \$200 a month. Tuscaloosa was a fine place for children. Our little fellas could cruise on their bikes in safety.

The Geological Survey always had a car, at first, a little Ford that Walter name

Mandy, then a second car that Walter called "Mandy's Ghost." Later we bought our own car. When our oldest boy was a baby, we camped and fished a lot; with two small children, we camped a bit; but by the time we had three, we waited for a while until they could be left with someone reliable -- and then for only a short time.

In the late 1920s, after we had a maid to stay with the children, I worked for the Geological Survey developing and printing photographs for the Survey. My wage was fifty cents an hour. I worked in several darkrooms, including Dr. Hodges' after his retirement. Dr Hodges was official photographer for the Survey. Walter took many, many photographs, and just turned them over to me for processing. This past Christmas, the Alabama State Museum sent Christmas cards with a snow picture on them. I remember

finishing that photograph, back in 1936, the year of a very heavy snowfall.

During the Depression, under Governor B. M. Miller, state funding for the Geological Survey was cut to \$1 per year. The Survey had at least a dozen employees, black and white, and they were getting no money at all. Until the money was restored, we ran a soup kitchen to give them one meal a day. Every morning I would go down to the curb market; I'd figure how many; and Rosalie would cook them a hearty meal -- in the basement of Smith Hall.

When the boys were older, in the late 1930s, we camped a lot. It was always fun. I was the equipment chief, and toted the fossils. "Beetle" trips were very special. When Walter became State Geologist, he had met two men in Mobile, Dr. Loding and Dr. Van Aller, whose special hobby

was the study of beetles. Each year we went on a two-week camping trip in search of particular beetles for their collection -- as far away as North Carolina. We took the children, sometimes a nephew. This continued until the war, until the old gentlemen died.

During the war years -- World War II -- I came back to Huntsville with the two younger boys. Walter was a reserve officer on active duty from 1942 to 1944. Our eldest son was killed in April 1945. Not long after, we returned to Tuscaloosa.

Your husband was such a remarkable man and wore so many different hats: Director of the Alabama State Museum of Natural History, Director of the Alabama Geological Survey, and Professor of Geology at the University of Alabama. What do you think he would have considered the high-water mark of his career? Well, much of his work was

interesting, including the moment when Alabama's first oil well came in, but I think the greatest moment would be his starting the work at Moundville -- and he would be very proud that his son is continuing it. One evening, a year or so before he died, a special ceremony at Moundville was held, and Walter was given the key to the city.

What do you think was most special about Walter B.?

He was such an interesting person, an expert at all sorts of things. He could get completely engrossed in any one of his pursuits. His latest interest was in old coins and obsolete currencies; for many years he collected pipes. And, of course, in 1927, when Dr. Smith, the



State Geologist, died, Walter inherited the museum (*the Alabama State Museum of Natural History*) along with his Geology position, so he also was devoted to collecting for the Museum -- and maneuvering for collections. When Doug became head of the Geology Department, he inherited his father's old office.

Frances Robb began her educational odyssey in her hometown at Birmingham-Southern. Then she earned a Master's Degree in Medieval English Literature at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, followed by an A.B.D. in English Literature from The University of Wisconsin. Changing course a bit, Frances earned a Master's degree in Art History from Yale. Thus steeped in art, history, and literature she was associated with the National Gallery for four years and also the Yale University Art Gallery.

Frances counts seventeen years of University teaching in Texas and at the University of the South in Tennessee. Her consulting works for major and minor art museums in art and art history keeps her on the go.

She was the curator for the 1988-89 traveling exhibit Alabama Landscape Photographs funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

from the Chairman

About ten months ago, before assuming office, your brand new chairman asked, "Just what ARE all the involvements of the Historic Huntsville Foundation, and what are the Board's concerns?" This lady learned in a hurry, and now I would like to answer that same question which has come to me many times during this year from a number of interested people, including a long-distance inquirer from New York who had purchased one of our Huntsville Entertains cookbooks.

Your Foundation is VERY active and involved in the community. During the summer and fall months the Chairman was extremely busy planning the forthcoming year and getting in order Board placements with committee assignments. In September, Harrison Brothers Hardware Store benefited from a most successful Trade Day on the Square.

At the October Board meeting two of our very industrious and creative members, Dale Rhoades and Lynn Jones, presented plans to produce a Signature Quilt for a fund-raiser, pending Board approval. Having previously seen Dale's personal quilt, dating to 1880, and enjoyed her program at last spring's Annual Picnic-Meeting, the Board members voted full support to this unique project. It has become one of the most exciting endeavors in Foundation history with signatures coming in daily from MANY famous people. You'll hear more about this later, and we WILL have a big party to celebrate the Quilt's "unveiling."

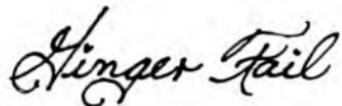
In December we enjoyed the annual Membership Tea at the lovely, warm, and inviting home of gracious Peter and Betsy Lowe. We now boast a membership of almost a thousand individuals. We have recently been stimulated by our own Harvie Jones with his program at the General Membership covered-dish supper in February. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

Events in the planning stages and just ahead of us include the annual Membership Picnic-Meeting, April 29, on the grounds of the Burritt Museum, the Movable Feast on May 5, in the gardens of several homes in the Twickenham area, "Oak Place Sesquicentennial" in August, and Trade Day on the Square, September 8 - bringing us full circle. Mark your calendars for these special occasions that promise to afford a lot of fun for everyone.

To make it all happen, however, we need LOTS of volunteers, especially for the upcoming "Feast" undertaking. Please call me (539-2817) or drop a note (310 Shady Brook Dr., 35801) to let us know if you would like to be a part of the steering committees/work crews or if you have a desire to participate in Foundation activities in any other capacity. We NEED you.

Yes, the Historic Huntsville Foundation is very much ALIVE and ON THE MOVE!

Have a lovely Springtime in our wonderful old community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginger Tail".

Chairman

**** Three Huntsville Classics ****

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Yes ___ I am interested in volunteering for a Historic
Huntsville Project. Please call me.

The HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historically or architecturally significant sites and structures throughout Huntsville and Madison County and to increase public awareness of their value to the community. The FOUNDATION is the only organization in Huntsville concerned exclusively with architectural preservation and history. Other similar organizations within Huntsville are concerned either with general history or only with those buildings located within preservation districts.

Summarized, HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION has two main objectives: preservation of historically or architecturally significant sites and structures throughout Huntsville and Madison County; and, educating the public on and increasing their awareness of this historical heritage.

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