

THE HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL REVIEW

Volume 9 July – October, 1979

PUBLISHED BY

The Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

OFFICERS
OF
THE HUNTSVILLE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1978 — 1979

PRESIDENT
Mrs. Wayne L. Smith

Vice-President
Dr. A. B. Pearson

Treasurer
Henry S. Marks

Secretary
Mrs. Kelly Pruitt

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DIRECTORS

Miss Sophye Lowe Young
Ezell Terry
Mrs. Richard Gilliam

Harvie Jones
Mrs. Thomas Rosborough
Elbert L. Watson

PAST PRESIDENTS

Miss Alice Thomas
Robert Smith
Joe Falt, Jr.

Dr. Philip Mason

Dr. Frances Roberts
Mrs. Sarah Fisk
Dr. William McKissack

PUBLICATIONS

Editor
Henry S. Marks

BOARD OF EDITORIAL ADVISORS

Ezell Terry, Chairman
Dr. William McKissack
Helen Akens

Cleo Cason
Philip Mason

The Huntsville Historical Review

Volume 9 July – October , 1979

EDITOR
HENRY S. MARKS

PUBLISHED BY
THE HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CONTENTS

THE HISTORY OF THE HUNTSVILLE
SCHOOL SYSTEM

INCEPTION TO AUTONOMY
The Centennial History Committee 3

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

CONTRIBUTORS

THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE was created to develop a comprehensive history of the Huntsville School System during the period 1875 to 1975, as a Centennial project. This paper comprises the first two chapters of this history. It is hoped that the remaining years, on which research is still being undertaken, will be covered in later issues of the Review.

Dr. V. M. Burkett, Ex-Officio
Dr. Floyd McLeod, Ex-Officio (deceased)
Mariola Jernigan, Ex-Officio
Ellen Burchfield, Chairman

Mrs. Thomas Arrington
Joanna Cleary
Patricia Crouse
Dr. Harry A. Engle
Mrs. Richard Gilliam
Mrs. Ladye Hamm
Mrs. Marguerite Lacey
Dr. W. M. McKissack
Mrs. John W. McCaleb
Mr. H. E. Monroe, Sr.

Mr. George Newby
Mr. James Record
Mrs. Earl Reinbolt
Mrs. Bessie Russell
Dr. Ottis Skipper
Dr. Harold Steel
Mrs. Ray Vandiver
Mrs. P. J. Vinson
Mr. Perry O. Ward

Editorial Committee:

Harry A. Engle
Henry S. Marks
Harold Steele

D. SHELBY COUNCE
Superintendent
Huntsville City Schools

THE HISTORY OF THE
HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL SYSTEM
INCEPTION TO AUTONOMY

by

The Centennial History Committee

The purpose of this paper is to present in one source many of the early decisions and efforts of dedicated leaders to provide educational opportunities for the young people of Huntsville, Alabama. This study embraces a time span from essential educational events prior to Alabama's attaining statehood to the first decade of the twentieth century, as the leaders of Huntsville City Schools successfully struggled for autonomy.

From the Spanish, French, and British occupations of what is now Alabama, few records of educational accomplishments have survived. In 1799, however, twenty years before the state's admission to the Union, a school for the children of the wealthy was founded on Lake Tensaw near Alabama's Gulf Coast.¹

Educational philosophy had been expressed in the Ordinance of 1787, creating the Northwest Territory. In 1798 the Mississippi Territory was established and was granted identical rights and terms, with the exception of the slavery section.² The sixteenth section of every township was to be set aside for educational purposes; schools and "the means of education were to be forever encouraged."³ Article 14 of the present Alabama Constitution, adopted in 1901, declares the state's policy of fostering education in a manner consistent with available resources. The legislature could by law provide for the establishment of schools by such persons, agencies, or municipalities, at such

places as it might prescribe.⁴ The Huntsville City Schools Board of Education Handbook states that: "A preponderance of legal opinion interprets education to be a function of the state. In Alabama, the state constitution provides for the fostering of a system of public education."⁵

Huntsville's location only a few miles from the Tennessee River provided routes for settlers to come from areas that had already reached statehood. Huntsville became one of the most promising little villages on the American frontier⁶ and was the first incorporated town in the future State of Alabama.

"An Act to Incorporate the Town of Huntsville, Madison County"⁷ was granted on December 9, 1811 by the Legislative Council and the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory. Later charters, each granted in response to a specific need, recognized education as being within the province of the town.

On November 25, 1812, the Green Academy was founded in Huntsville on the lot now occupied by East Clinton Elementary School. While Green Academy was a private school, it also received public support. Revenue was derived from a lottery, sale of bank stock, and appropriations by the legislature.⁸ The difficulty in distinguishing between private and public schools arose frequently.

On March 3, 1817, the Alabama Territory was formed from the eastern part of the older Mississippi Territory. All laws in force in the Mississippi Territory were to remain in force until changed by the Alabama Assembly. Governor William Wyatt Bibb, in addressing the territorial legislature of Alabama at St. Stephens

on January 19, 1818, stressed the need for education.⁹

Congress responded to Alabama's petition for statehood by an enabling act. Under this act, the inhabitants of the Alabama Territory were authorized to form a constitution and a state government. Qualified voters were to choose representatives to meet at Huntsville in a constitutional convention on Monday, July 5, 1819. The convention, assembled on Huntsville's Franklin Street, just south of the square, submitted a constitution to the Congress. The State Constitution declared that schools and the means of education were to be forever encouraged in this state. The state was to apply for funds raised from federally granted lands for the use of schools.¹⁰

Alabama was admitted to the Union on December 14, 1819, by a Congressional resolution signed by President Monroe, who had recently visited Huntsville and other parts of the state. A proclamation by J. W. Walker, president of the constitutional convention, made on August 2, 1819 on the part of the people of Alabama, had accepted the obligation of statehood.¹¹

On December 17, 1819, this first legislature approved the election of agents whose duty it would be to protect the school lands, lease them under prescribed terms and apply the proceeds to education.¹² Three years later, on January 1, 1823, the legislature outlined the duties of school commissioners and school trustees as administrative units. Mobile moved faster than Huntsville and in 1826 formulated a pioneer school system. However, there being no superintendent, the Mobile system was weak in administration.¹³ Even so, progress was made and deserves extra commendation because the school system's foundations were laid during the economic recovery after the panic of 1819.¹⁴

There had been private instruction and some organized schools in Huntsville since its early settlement. Mr. Wyatt Bishop had operated a school for boys just south of the Big Spring in 1807. Mr. and Mrs. Jessie H. Posey and Mr. and Mrs. McKay are mentioned as early teachers. Several months before Alabama was admitted to the Union, Mrs. O'Reilly and Mr. Horton advertised their schools in the Alabama Republican. There were many such notices, all couched in a style that the twentieth century minds finds delightful.

A measure approved January 9, 1828, by the State of Alabama empowered the board of mayor and aldermen to establish a primary school, to employ teachers, and if necessary to increase taxes with limits. A proviso was included that such school or schools be open for the tuition without charge for all the free white children of the corporation.¹⁵

After organizing their board, the mayor and aldermen passed Ordinance 5, which exempted churches and schoolhouses from taxation.¹⁶ A committee of aldermen was appointed to confer with the school commissioners of the township. The State School Act of 1823 had created and incorporated townships and school districts. A board of three town commissioners was to administer school lands, establish and support schools, and provide for the examination and certification of teachers. Annual reports were to be made to the legislature.¹⁷ There is evidence that schools within the limits of Huntsville had been operated under this system. The city council approved by resolution the establishment of a primary school to commence at or as near as practicable to the beginning of the year 1830.¹⁸

A second resolution specified that the

school be based upon the Lancastrian plan. This plan, also known as a monitorial system, was developed by Joseph Lancaster of England, whereby large groups of students could be taught by relatively few teachers using a rote memorization method of instruction. The superintendence and control of the school was under the mayor and aldermen of Huntsville, whose duty it would be to employ a suitable teacher, to fix a reasonable salary, and to see that the teacher properly and faithfully performed his duties. A tax of six and a half cents per every hundred dollars' worth of property for the support of the school was laid, this to be in addition to income from the sixteenth section funds and from the Masonic Hall fund. A committee was appointed to receive subscriptions and donations. The board minutes of July 25, 1829, disclose the appointment of a committee on the subject of a primary school. Uncertainty about available funds, linked with the questioned legality of the election of certain sixteenth section trustees, was cause for concern.

The act of 1823 had made explicit reference to collecting tuition fees, subscriptions, and donations. Any school established would be partly public and partly private. General W.F. Perry, the first state superintendent of schools, distinguished between the two when he said that as a means of improving the character of common school instruction it was the policy of the law to maintain a well-defined distinction between public and private schools, denying participation in school funds to any school not instructed by a teacher or teachers duly approved by competent authority. He further said that the main object of this was to "prevent worthless teachers from getting up little schools in pine pole pens. . . and having public funds

frittered away on them"¹⁹

At a called meeting of the city council on December 25, 1829, Mr. Jesse H. Posey entered into a contract to teach a primary school at the Masonic Hall.²⁰ The life of the school was brief, as a final settlement with Posey was made on November 14, 1831. At that time, his school served an area population of 1774, according to the most recent census.²¹

Another effort to set up a primary school was made in 1839 when the city of Huntsville minutes recorded a resolution to that effect. The resolution was adopted, but the matter seems to have been dropped.²² The charter signed on January 16, 1844, had a section which provided for the establishment of a primary school or schools for the tuition of all free white children and for the employment of the proper teachers at suitable salaries.²³

This was a period of confusion about finances. It followed a time of rivalry between the private banks and the Bank of the State of Alabama. The law requiring the bank to contribute \$200,000 for schools was repealed in 1843, and for the next five years there was almost no public school revenue. The legislature asked Congress for several donations, one donation to be the equivalent of sixteenth section funds already disposed of.²⁴ By 1836 there was a surplus in the United States Treasury, and by an act of Congress the surplus was apportioned to the several states, Alabama receiving \$669,086.80. For the special benefit of townships in which sixteenth section funds were of little value, Congress allotted additional land from acreage already set aside for internal improvements.²⁵

State Superintendent Perry assumed his office under the general school act of 1854 by which the state school system was created. In the same year, he inaugurated a school fund distribution program somewhat similar to the minimum program of today. It directed the apportionment of school monies in such a way as to give the districts or townships having no trust funds an equal per capita apportionment with the districts or townships having such trusts and income.²⁶

To Superintendent Perry the people of the state were also indebted for an outlined course of study including orthography, reading, penmanship, mental and written arithmetic, geography, history of the United States and outlines of universal history, English grammar, exercises in English composition, natural philosophy and astronomy, bookkeeping, physiology and hygiene, and the Constitution of the United States. The pupils were classified into five groups. One group was given exercises in definition. The classification of pupils was intended to conform as nearly as possible to that natural order in which human faculties are developed in childhood.²⁷

When Perry became superintendent in 1854, resistance to taxation was strong, although many people realized that a sound state system was essential. Supervision was centralized under the state superintendent. On the county level, the supervisory boards were to be presided over by probate judges, and a tax of not more than ten percent on real and personal property was allowed. An enactment in 1856 created the office of county superintendent of schools and outlined his duties.²⁸ This act was pertinent to the City of Huntsville as well as to the county because Hunts-

ville was not set apart as a special school district until 1875.

The years 1830 and 1831 are notable for the opening of two girls' schools. Both the Huntsville Female Seminary and the Monte Sano Female Academy opened their doors during this time.²⁹ These schools, considered today by most Huntsvillians to be contemporaneous with Green Academy, were considered fully as efficient as the boys' schools of the day, and one visitor to Huntsville considered Green Academy the equal of any western school.³⁰

The Huntsville Green Academy was not considered at the time an institution of primary training. The Democrat stated in its January 4, 1825 issue that it "was intended to occupy a station superior to that of the Elemental English school, to be a place of instruction for boys, who have passed the mere rudiments of English learning; and for young gentlemen."³¹

The Academy had begun during territorial days. The territorial legislature passed an act on November 25, 1812, declaring that "there shall be established in Madison County, an academy, which shall bear the name of Green Academy."³² But no money was provided for the academy; the trustees were merely empowered to raise money for the institution by lottery. In December, 1816, the legislature granted \$500 to the academy, but this was not nearly enough.

Finally, in November, 1818, the legislature of the territory (by this time Mississippi had already achieved statehood and the remaining area had become the territory of Alabama) provided for the fiscal independence of the academy. An act was passed providing for the sale of a number of shares in the Planters'

and Merchants' Bank of Huntsville, the profits from the sale to be divided among the old stockholders of the academy, and the rest granted to the academy. This raised almost \$2,000 for the school, and additional funds were sought from the community for the construction of a campus.

General John Brahan donated land for the campus, and buildings were erected by 1823. At the time the site was about a quarter of a mile east of Huntsville, located in a grove of trees. When the city limits were extended, it became the northeast corner at the intersection of East Clinton and Calhoun streets.

Green Academy was the second chartered academy in the Alabama Territory. It was considered by many to be the most important educational institution in the territory and later in the state, until the University of Alabama opened in 1831. The Democrat, in its August 22, 1828, issue, wrote of the academy that "there is not a Seminary of its kind. . . west of the Alleghany Mountains."³³

In 1825, the tuition fee was \$25, payable quarterly in equal installments. This seems little to us today, yet in ante-bellum days it was a large sum of money, and only the more affluent families could send their young men to the institution. This may explain why enrollment never was very high. The Southern Advocate proclaimed in August 1828, that nearly 50 students were enrolled, "with every prospect of (enrollment) becoming much larger."³⁴

The academic success of the institution can be judged by the many graduates who went on to distinction in Alabama. For example,

the student roster in 1828 included such well-known ante-bellum family names in Huntsville as Birney, Chambers, Clay, Clemens, Mastin and Veitch. Clement Clairborne Clay, for instance, son of the eighth governor of Alabama, was a student at the academy in the late 1820's, and would later serve his state as a senator, in both the Federal and Confederate senates.

The grading system used by the institution shortly before the Civil War was basically the same used in our public schools now: 100 was excellent, "The Highest Degree of Merit"; 90 was very good; 80 good; 70 "Tolerable"; 60 unsatisfactory; and 50 "Deficient."

Green Academy continued to operate until its buildings were burned by Federal troops during the Civil War. Later, the institution became a part of the public school system. The trustees deeded the property to the city during the 1860's, and in 1882 the first public school was constructed on the site.

The modern notion that women did not receive much formal education in the antebellum South is contradicted by the history of the Huntsville Female Seminary, the Monte Sano Female Academy and the Huntsville Female College.

In 1831, the Huntsville Female Seminary was opened on the south side of Randolph Avenue. Although very little is known about its beginning, the aims of the school were "to develop all that is good in mind and heart; and to suppress all that is evil; to nurture the moral and physical, as well as the intellectual powers; to form the true woman, as well as the accomplished lady."³⁵ It served as a hospital during the Civil War. Classes were resumed after the war, but after struggling for a few

years, the Seminary closed in 1875.

At about the same time the Seminary was established, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, became interested in a girls' academy. In 1827, an effort was made to open a Madison Female Academy, but the project never went beyond the planning stage. Reverend James Rowe, who was pastor of the Huntsville church in 1826, realized the need for higher education for women, and he and his wife opened the Monte Sano Female Academy in 1830. Mrs. Rowe died of rheumatism four years later and the school was closed. The Rowes had great expectations for the school and had Mrs. Rowe lived it might have become an important educational institution.³⁶

For many years, leaders in the area wanted to establish a college for females. Finally in 1845, Madame J. Hamilton Childs established the Bascom Female Institution in Huntsville.³⁷ Madame Childs, later to be very closely identified with Athens State College, began operating in the Masonic Temple. However, her school was not regarded by many of the concerned people of Huntsville as an institution of higher learning, or, as was known then, one "of high grade for the education of girls and young ladies."³⁸

Around 1850, a group of citizens met with the Reverend Edward Slater of the Methodist Church and his successor Robert Young. A committee, composed of "men of wealth," was formed and supported by the church. Final plans were made in February, 1851, for the establishment of the college. The Methodist Church was then the largest denomination in the city and claimed the largest membership in North Alabama. With such a large and

influential organization backing them, members of the committee decided to raise \$10,000 to create the college. So confident were they of reaching their goal, they passed a resolution declaring the institution would begin classes on the first Monday of the following September, which was only seven months away. By May, subscriptions had reached \$9,000. Next was the problem of finding quarters until a permanent structure could be erected. The committee turned to Madame Childs, who was operating her school in the Masonic Temple. She was hired as assistant principal, and her students became the nucleus of the new school. In August, permission was granted to the Methodist Church to occupy the same rooms in the temple.³⁹

A charter for "The Bascom Female Institute" was obtained from the Alabama Legislature in January, 1852. The name of the school was changed to the "Huntsville Female College" in December, 1855, when the legislature amended the charter.

By this time, the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church had accepted responsibility for the guidance and operation of the institution, and permanent quarters had been erected on Randolph Avenue, three blocks east of the courthouse square.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid in June, 1853. The structure was three stories high and of Greek Revival style. Constructed of brick, it featured four large Ionic columns on the front and measured 164 feet wide and 52 feet in depth. A very large building, it contained rooms for 100 boarding students and had servants' quarters, classrooms, a dining room, a drawing room and a chapel. Later, a fourth story was added on for more dormitory space.

The school was well accepted by the people of Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley. Very quickly it earned a regional reputation, and by 1859 the enrollment totaled 184, with 70 boarders from six southern states.

Student life was spartan compared to the present. The school's motto "Good Success" was to be achieved through hard work and proper respect for elders. A demerit system was used in grading, and at one time each demerit cost a half point in grades. If a student received twenty, she was dismissed from the college.

Attire was strictly regulated. Uniform dress was required in both summer and winter, and no ostentatious use of jewelry or other ornamentation was allowed.

Instructors at the college were just as strictly regulated. Many of the college catalogs carried a list of "Duties of Teachers." A typical list prohibited instructors from leaving Huntsville without the permission of the highest authority. Faculty members were prohibited from giving instruction of any kind beyond the college, whether paid or not. Teachers were to be impartial, yet fair. They could not receive calls during school hours and had to make sure their pupils tended to their studies, obeyed the rules and regulations and were in their dormitories when they were supposed to be.

Following the list of dos and don'ts, prospective teachers were informed that if they could not abide by the rules, they should not seek employment.

Huntsville Female College continued to

operate until the Civil War. During the conflict, classes were suspended. They were resumed by the early 1870's. In 1888, the college was sold at public auction, because the church could no longer support its operation. Finally, the main building caught fire on the night of January 8, 1895. The Huntsville Mercury announced in its next edition that "the once proud alma mater of thousands of Southern matrons and maidens (was) a pile of smouldering ruins." The college was moved to Gadsden. Half a century of service was ended in Huntsville.⁴⁰

Quite naturally, perhaps, all the attention directed toward private education worked somewhat to the disadvantage of public education forces before the Civil War. Public education during these times experienced a number of problems and/or weaknesses.

In a letter of Superintendent Perry to Mr. C. O. Shepherd of Huntsville, dated January 7, 1858, Perry noted that the state school law was not framed for such localities as Huntsville but for more than 50,000 square miles of territory, in which most of the teachers were deplorably ignorant and schools, of necessity, were of the humblest grade.⁴¹

People attacked the system for placing too much power in the hands of the county superintendents and for excessive expenditures. However, the county and state superintendents were given very little with which to accomplish the transformation demanded of them.⁴² Even as late as 1877, the county superintendent was a finance officer, not a supervisor.⁴³ As indicated in the act of 1823, the three trustees were the supervisors for each school.

Another weakness was inherent in the edu-

cational philosophy of the day. The average person, even the average educator, did not understand the need for education on the secondary level, and little provision for it was made until an evolving consciousness brought a recognition of the need to bridge the gap between primary and college work. Perhaps this need was not quickly felt due to teacher-training programs at Barton Academy in Mobile, at the state university, and at the normal school at Montgomery.⁴⁴

The normal school at Huntsville was not developed until later, but the town seems to have been flourishing before the Civil War. In summarizing the period 1820-1861, Edward Chambers Betts, author of the Early History of Huntsville, Alabama, listed three weekly newspapers, four architects, twenty-four lawyers, twelve doctors, seven schools, and numerous industries and enterprises in Huntsville.⁴⁵ According to the 1860 census, the city had a population of 3,634 people.⁴⁶ A library had been established before Alabama became a state. Records indicate that William Atwood purchased two shares of stock in the Huntsville Library Company on December 10, 1818.⁴⁷ The company was incorporated in 1823. Library service over the years has been of inestimable value to the schools, whether public or private.

The Civil War and Reconstruction periods ushered in a new phase of Alabama history. In addition to the general burdens of the Civil War and its aftermath, the state had to prepare three constitutions during the decade from 1860 to 1870. The constitution that became operative on June 25, 1868, had an important bearing on education. Section I of this constitution declared that the common

schools and other educational institutions of the state were to be under the management of a board of education.⁴⁸ Abolished by the constitution of 1875,⁴⁹ this board was nevertheless the agency which constituted Huntsville a separate school district. The re-creation of this state board occurred in 1919.⁵⁰ During the intervening years, the state's school system was under the management of a superintendent.

Immediately after the Civil War, many if not most of the churches and the newspapers over the state were in agreement that some form of education for the recently freed slaves would have to be devised. In accord with this view, Rust Normal Institute, a pioneer school established in Huntsville in 1865 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, is said to have been the first tuition-free school for black children in this vicinity.⁵¹ During this time and the remainder of the nineteenth century, congregations that presumably established schools, even for a short period of time, were the St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church, the Lakeside Methodist Episcopal Church, the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, St. John's African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Second Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Missionary Baptist Church.⁵² Since many of the schools receiving church support were tuition-free, they were partly private and partly public-funded. One such institution was the Labor Institute, a night school for adults, who were required to pay a weekly fee of twenty-five cents.⁵³

Meanwhile, Huntsville continued to move toward the establishment of a city school system separate from the county system. It may be assumed that a petition to have Huntsville made a separate school district was submitted

to the State Board of Education, for that body then responded with a series of acts which cover a period of years.

Mr. William B. Figures, mayor of Huntsville in 1869, reminded the aldermen that the existing charter of Huntsville had given the mayor and aldermen power to establish a school or schools for the children of the community, to employ teachers, and to fix their salaries. He said that this had not been implemented and closed with a strong statement that the need to do so was urgent.⁵⁴ Evidently, the aldermen and citizens reacted favorably to his appeal. It is likely that a petition for a new charter was made, for an incorporating act, known as the Charter of 1869, was approved in March 1870.⁵⁵

A local ordinance was passed in 1873 which provided that monies not to exceed twelve hundred dollars be appropriated in order to enable the Huntsville schools to continue in operation for five months from the first day of January, 1873. This sum was to come from any funds that might be in the treasury and be paid to the teachers monthly upon certificates duly signed by the county superintendent of public instruction. Subsequently, Mr. A. W. McCullough, county superintendent of schools, certified the amounts due the teachers.

Another ordinance directed that a committee of three be appointed by the mayor to prepare memorials to the legislature to have enacted such laws as were necessary for the separation of county and city organizations, for financial support, and for construction of school buildings.

The city secured from the legislature permission to issue bonds to carry out its ob-

jectives.⁵⁶ In view of the panic of 1873, the additional responsibility assumed by the city takes on greater proportions. Alabama's educational system was adversely affected not only by the panic, but also by fiscal improprieties. Large amounts of the state's school revenue had been diverted to other needs in violation of the constitution. Drains on the state funds resulted also from the fact that there were too many school officials, some administrators were incompetent or dishonest, and some of the school taxes were never collected. The state's credit was so low that borrowing had become impossible.⁵⁷ There was no alternative to ordering the schools closed from the first of January to the first of October, 1873, with the exception of those that had other means of support, such as those in Huntsville.⁵⁸

Alabama also received some monies for educational purposes from private sources. Contributions were made by the trustees of the Peabody Fund to the state upon the principle that they helped most those who helped themselves most, for the board of the fund maintained that it would not underwrite more than about one-fourth of the cost of a particular operation. This fund provided \$57,150 to Alabama over a period of seven years (1868-1875) to stimulate local aid, improve teaching, and improve the grading of schools.⁵⁹ There are no entries in the Huntsville city council's minutes indicating that its schools were actually closed in 1873.

The general picture during this preparatory period shows Huntsville moving carefully toward the greater autonomy of city systems. Also, lessons may have been learned all across the state from prior mistakes. During this time, the city superintendency assumed a sep-

arate and significant role in school administration throughout Alabama. This followed the national trend, for in 1870 there were less than thirty city superintendents in the entire country, while their number had increased to 142 by 1876.⁶⁰

When the city council was ready to implement the provisions of the State Board of Education, it received and immediately acted upon a message, from State Superintendent of Education S. J. Mayhew, which included the statement that "the City of Huntsville is constituted a separate school district for the regulation of free public schools."⁶¹

And so, with the acceptance of responsibility by the city council on January 7, 1875, there came into being Huntsville's city system of schools. Though still a segment of the state system, it had established its identity as a district separate from the county.

By the early days of January, 1875, the new school system was an entity in its own right. On January 9, the mayor and aldermen met with the new city superintendent of schools, Mr. Sidney J. Mayhew. Two school principals were elected. The appointments were apparently ratified by the city council, when salaries for principals and assistant principals were set to range from forty-five to sixty-five dollars a month.⁶²

Mr. Mayhew, who had been president of the Huntsville Female Seminary, was active in civic and religious affairs.⁶³ A stained glass window bearing his name is still to be seen today in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville.

Mr. William Hooper Council is generally regarded as the founder of the Normal School in Huntsville. The school, established pri-

marily for the training of black teachers, is known today as the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. Councill was certified as one of the first two educators at this school after a rigid examination by Mr. Mayhew, and his subsequent acceptance by the Board of Commissioners of Normal.⁶⁴

It was not without perplexities that the city undertook its new responsibilities, some of them financial, because of reduced funds for schools under the 1875 constitution. A resolution to borrow two thousand dollars from Mr. Mayhew was approved. An appropriation of \$250 to pay the teachers for September was made and an agreement a month later to pay \$30 per school month for five months to a teacher who was not designated in the minutes. It was resolved on January 9, 1876, that the note to Mr. Mayhew be paid. In the spring of that year, an alderman introduced a resolution to turn over the salaries of the aldermen to the school fund. This did not pass. The city council authorized payment of thirty dollars to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and twenty-five dollars to the Methodist Church as rent for school quarters for black children. There was an all-man faculty of four. The same thing happened when teachers were appointed in 1876. However, records for 1882 and 1883 show that Miss Susie P. Mastin was one of the teachers for these two years. There may have been other women named in council minutes that are now missing.

There was much astir in the legislative field at that time. Of local importance was an act giving Huntsville permission to issue bonds.⁶⁵ The Constitution of 1875 set school attendance ages as seven to twenty-one. It ordered separate schools for the races, limited administrative expense to four percent of the

total school income, and authorized the legislature to appropriate to the schools \$100,000 a year in addition to other sources of income. The net result, however, was a decrease in revenue. In spite of disadvantages, school attendance improved. From 1877 to 1882, the city's business seems to have been managed in the same way as in other years when there were entries recording the election and remuneration of the teachers by the council, not by the superintendent. The mayor and aldermen also paid rent on buildings or rooms for schools, bought furniture, and employed janitors. By a resolution, principals were allowed to buy chalk. A school census taken in 1875 showed a count of 1,673 persons of school age, five to twenty-one years of age.⁶⁶

Apparently, it was necessary to rent whatever buildings or rooms were available. The Weekly Independent advertised that Mr. D.C.B. Connerly and Mr. R. C. Morrison were opening Huntsville High School for boys in the Masonic Hall.⁶⁷ This was a private school. Inconsistent terminology is sometimes found in the minutes of the city council. The same person is termed principal at one time and superintendent at another. Mr. Mayhew was definitely the superintendent of schools. An order mentioned in the city council minutes of February 26, 1876, called for the payment of \$140 salary to S. J. Mayhew as the superintendent.⁶⁸

Mr. Mayhew's state reports for 1875 summarized the school year ending on September 30. It provided nine months' tuition at a cost of \$9.66 per pupil as compared with a cost of thirty to fifty dollars per pupil in private schools. The year's contribution of \$4.61 for each pupil had been generously supplemented by the donation of the city authorities and that of the Peabody Fund.⁶⁹

There is an apparent discrepancy between Mr. Mayhew's narrative report, 1875, and the account of closing exercises in a local newspaper. Here the length of the school term was said to have been less than six months.⁷⁰ The discrepancy disappears when it is recalled that his report was made on September 30. The beginning and ending dates of school terms are not always clear.

Mr. J.A.B. Lovett was elected principal of the white school in 1882. He held the position until resigning in 1886, when Mr. D.B. Young again assumed the principalship. In commenting upon the handicaps and advances in education, Dr. A.B. Moore, author of the History of Alabama, pointed out that progress in public school education at that time was greatly retarded by the constitutional limits upon local taxation. He considered the most notable feature of the school history of the time to be the growth of city and town schools governed by local boards under the supervision of the state superintendent of education. In mentioning Huntsville's Mr. Lovett as one of three state leaders in laying the foundation of education, Mr. Moore said that a great harvest of education and social consciousness had grown from a few seeds sown by the old professors while they themselves lived on very little of this world's goods.⁷¹

Sometime before September, 1889, Mr. Lovett was back in office, for during that month the old question of whether public schools were free schools was again raised. Mr. Lovett then announced that all high school departments, with the exception of music and art, would be absolutely free. He signed the announcement as superintendent.⁷²

At the time of Mr. Lovett's resignation in 1886 he had been elected every year for five

years. It was during this time that the city constructed a publicly-owned school building that was comfortable and attractive. After consultation with the trustees of Green Academy, which had been burned during the Civil War, an ad hoc committee presented acceptable terms for the erection of a building on the academy's lot, where East Clinton Elementary School now stands. A lease of fifty dollars a year was approved. A contract with Mr. James M. Hutchens for a frame building to cost four thousand dollars was made. It was decided to confer with Mr. M.W. Steele about seeing that specifications were adhered to, with the stipulation that the school committee have a fence built to separate boys and girls.⁷³

Some items from city council minutes give an idea of the direct relationship between council and schools, as follows:

May 20, 1884. Council members were invited by Mr. Charles Hendley, principal, to attend the examinations and the school picnic. The invitation was accepted.

June 8, 1889. Mr. Charles Hendley, retiring principal, thanked the council for its confidence in him over a period of ten years.

September 2, 1890. The council set the salary of the janitor at the black school at fifteen dollars a month.

January 6, 1891. The principal of the Rust School asked for a donation. The council agreed to buy three tons of coal.

January 5, 1900. The council offered ten medals, five for each school. These were to be given each year, four for

music, two for elocution, two for original essays, and two for orations.

Newspapers helped to complete the picture of school activities:

May 23, 1885. Eight pupils received certificates for completion of the second grade.

November 3, 1900. Miss Clay explained how our president is elected. The choral class under the direction of Mrs. Scruggs and Miss Clay presented musical numbers. It was announced that the librarian had finished sorting and stamping the books.

May 7, 1892. Closing exercises were being planned for the sixteenth of May at the Opera House. A local minister would be the speaker. There would be a fifteen cent admission charge.

September 10, 1903. School opened with 225 pupils.

November 10, 1903. Second and fourth grade pupils were doing charity work.

One school in the city system merits special mention. From its founding until it was set aside as a specialized center in 1971, the William Hooper Councill School retained its identity and also its location except temporarily, when it was necessary to use space at the Masonic Hall while an addition to the Councill School was being built.

The movement toward the erection of a building for the Councill School began with a discussion of the crowded conditions by the mayor and aldermen. Informing the public of the great need was a task undertaken by the Huntsville Gazette. It reported that the city

council had appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of buying a lot. In response to public interest, in July of 1891 there was a gathering of citizens at the courthouse. With the view of buying land, seven trustees were appointed and instructed to incorporate at once. The trustees began to solicit funds with the help of the Weekly Gazette.

On August 9, 1894, the city of Huntsville acquired from S.P. Binford et al., Parcel number 27, the original one-acre tract for Councill High School, having a frontage of 157 feet on the south side of Pelham Street. The city paid \$1,000 for the property. The original trustees had purchased the lot on August 20, 1891, filed for record on August 10, 1894, and it was recorded on September 22, 1894.⁷⁴

The acquisition of the lot by the city of Huntsville came about during the principalship of Mr. J.F. Humphrey, who had entered upon his duties in 1891.⁷⁵ He was succeeded by Mr. H.C. Binford, Jr., in 1898, and Mr. Binford by Mrs. Sophie Scruggs in 1906. Mrs. Scruggs was the last person to serve as principal of the Councill School under the supervision of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Huntsville.⁷⁶

A newspaper article of June 1, 1892, described the closing exercises of the white school. There was an opening devotional, a speaker, and the delivery of the high grade certificates, including certificates for commercial studies, for typing and stenography, and for literacy merit. The newspaper paid tribute to the management of the school by the principal and his board of assistants.

The beginning pages of this study noted that the Ordinance of 1787 recognized that

education is necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind. Over the years, specialized aspects of this philosophy have emerged. Teacher preparation was emphasized by an action of the city council requiring Huntsville teachers to have at least a second grade certificate.⁷⁷ A normal school was established in Madison County. The legislature in 1899 established a uniform system for the examination and licensing of teachers, which was strengthened by an amending act in 1907. A reporter's account of his visit to a Huntsville school told of up-to-date teaching methods and of the inclusion of girls in advanced levels of learning.

Teachers began to develop and experiment with their theories of education. They began to organize. A Huntsville newspaper noted that teachers of the city and the county met in the United States Courtroom and organized a teachers' institute.⁷⁸ A school census was ordered soon afterward and those applying for teaching positions were notified of dates for taking examinations and checking certificates.

Locally, the high school concept took root. The beginning and growth of high school work in Huntsville public schools cannot be traced accurately or completely. At least some high school work seemed to be in progress by 1885. The movement toward high school culminated in 1907 in a legislative measure requiring a high school in every county of Alabama unless there was already a normal school or an agricultural school.⁷⁹ Throughout this period, Mr. W.J. Humphrey served as an assistant principal, and as principal of the white school after Mr. Acuff had resigned in 1899.⁸⁰

The legislature of 1898 had added \$100,000 to the direct appropriation and passed a tax levy of one mill for the public schools. How-

ever, Moore, in the History of Alabama, commented that Eutaw, Athens, and Huntsville were among the last towns in the state to surrender to the public schools.⁸¹ Loretto Academy, now known as St. Mary's School, was founded in 1901 and still stands on East Holmes Avenue, as what might be considered a monument to the faithfulness of Catholic officials and lay people.

The constitution of 1875 did not allow the state, counties, or towns to engage in works of internal improvement or to lend money or credit to any private or corporate enterprise whatsoever.⁸² It is to the credit of good management on the part of many that the schools were kept open at all. The reduced funds resulting from constitutional limitations hampered but did not inhibit progress. Although another financial blow was dealt by the panic of 1893, there were offsetting factors. Huntsville was located on one of the two main railroad systems of the state, the Southern, and also on a branch line of the other, the Louisville and Nashville. Local effort had provided the cotton farmer with marketing facilities, and in a period of industrial expansion cotton mills were built on the outskirts of Huntsville. None of these mill "villages" were within the city limits.

The 1901 constitution left the school ages, seven to twenty-one, unchanged; it provided that not more than four percent of the school money was to be used for any purpose other than teachers' salaries, and it allowed Huntsville to levy one half of one percent in taxes to pay interest on bonds.⁸³ As the school population approached the 2,440 persons shown in the next census, the city council ordered an issue of \$40,000 in bonds. A contract for a brick school building on the Green Academy

lot was let to Mr. A. M. Booth.

In the early years of the twentieth century, there was a clamor for more and better schools for Huntsville. A 1903 agreement with the state superintendent of education resulted in a second school system under his sponsorship. The Huntsville Herald on November 1, 1903, announced that the state superintendent had appointed Mr. James H. Pride superintendent of the Huntsville School District. This district, also known as the state system, received state and county money, leaving only local funds for the schools for which the city council had accepted the responsibility by resolution on January 7, 1875. Each system regarded itself as the legally constituted one, and schools were being operated by both systems, both supported by public funds. It should be noted here that contradictory items of information have been found. Consequently, both Mr. Pride and Mr. S. R. Butler, who was also connected with the state system, have been accorded places in the list of superintendents.

The complexities of a dual system were resolved in 1907. A bill to assure the existence of the state system was passed by both houses and signed by the governor, but victory was transitory. This same legislature prepared and passed a general code of laws for the state, which contained what was called the municipal code.⁸⁴ It was found that the general law, also bearing the governor's signature, had nullified the local school act. A newspaper headline gave the news that the local school board law was invalid and that the responsibility for schools rested on the city council. By way of explanation, it was pointed out that the new code had conferred upon the city council the power of electing the school

board and had stipulated that five members were to be elected for staggered terms of from one to five years. After the election of the first board, the members were to be elected for a term of five years.⁸⁵

This was greeted by debate, by editorials and, on the part of some, by consternation. The August 17, 1907, issue of the Evening Banner announced that the municipal code was being applied to Huntsville by the city council. Also, by resolution the city was being governed under the provisions of the new municipal code. The paper followed the unfolding controversy. A minority of the city council was to ask an injunction against the municipal code. A meeting of citizens had been held. Three attorneys had been retained to test the legality of the act.⁸⁶

The municipal code is long and involved. Only the part applying to schools is considered here. On August 20, 1907, the city council met and acted on the announcement that its majority position with regard to the city's public schools was valid. By ordinance it adopted the general municipal laws of the State of Alabama, citing the enactment by name. Section one named the specifics of the adopting ordinance, taking the new code as the charter and fundamental law of the mayor and aldermen. Section two identified the corporate name as the City of Huntsville.

In spite of bitter protests on the part of the minority members, Mayor Earl Smith, presiding, stated that, in compliance with the municipal code, it was necessary to elect a board of education; consequently, in late August, 1907, a five-man board was chosen.⁸⁷ Mr. J. D. Humphrey became president and Mr. W. T. Hutchens vice-president. The mayor served as acting secretary. A vice-principal

of the white school was selected at a salary of a hundred dollars a month.⁸⁸ In less than a week, the new board held another meeting and elected faculties. A statement to the public was ordered to appear in the Evening Banner, in which the board members pledged their best efforts for the public good and asked the cooperation of the patrons for themselves and for the teachers they had chosen. The election of Mr. J.D. Ragland, a Huntsville resident, to the superintendency on September 25, 1907, completed their immediate task. His salary was set at \$1,200, payable quarterly.⁸⁹ The Evening Banner noted Mr. Ragland's appointment with the explanation that the office of superintendent of schools was required by the municipal code and was not to be confused with the principalship.⁹⁰

The minutes of the board of education of June 13, 1908, ordered the reimbursement of Mr. Grayson for the expense of conferring with Attorney General Garber in Montgomery. In this conference, Mr. Garber had upheld the legality of the board's existence. Quo Warranto proceedings were filed in the Law and Equity Court on December 16, 1907, by attorneys for William J. Humphrey, seeking to prove that the local act creating the school board sponsored by the state was unconstitutional. The matter was put to rest on December 31, 1907, when Judge Betts ruled in favor of the petition filed by Mr. Humphrey in the quo warranto proceedings.⁹¹ The board appointed by the city council was now clearly the legally constituted one. From this point on, its actions were recognized as official.

Mr. Robert Emmett Sessions was appointed principal of the white school on May 25, 1908.⁹² Two weeks later, he was authorized to employ two teachers, one for the lower grades and one

for the high school department. In a short time, he was promoted to the superintendency, though the exact date is not clear in the minutes of the board.

A brief summary of the first steps taken by the city council and the school board in applying the municipal code to the public schools serves as a reminder that the new law was promptly and fully complied with:

Section 1349. As soon as practicable, the city council elected five members of the required board of education.

Section 1350. The board of education, immediately after being chosen, selected its officers. Mr. Earl Smith, mayor, served as acting clerk. When Mr. Ragland was made superintendent, he became clerk of the board.

Section 1352. Prior to submitting to the city council on July 10, 1908, an estimate of expenses for the next scholastic year, Mr. Humphrey reported the expenditures for the year just past. The total was \$8,622.81, almost all for teachers' salaries. In addition to this amount spent by the board of education, the city council had spent \$2,147.53, partly for repairs to the school buildings. Thus the cost of the school term was \$10,810.34.⁹³

Among personal and family mementos of Huntsville families, there are diplomas signed by Mr. Ragland. They were presented at the graduating exercises of the class of

1908, the first under the administration of the new board of education.⁹⁴ Also, reminiscences of the state-sponsored school system are generously shared.

A spirit of good will between the city council and the board of education seems to have been evident. At the time the location of the proposed high school for Madison County still had not been decided, the council considered making an appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars a year, provided that the high school be under the management of Huntsville's board of education. Mr. Humphrey appeared before the council on July 7, 1908 to say that there was less restlessness among the pupils after they accepted the legality of the new administration according to the ruling of Judge Betts.⁹⁵ The time had come for healing wounds and recognizing fundamental unity of purpose. The way from the generalized philosophy of education of 1787 had been long and at times clouded by issues that had to be resolved. With their clearing, there had come a new sense of assurance, and a new readiness to move forward.

FOOTNOTES

¹Alabama Almanac and Book of Facts, 1955-6. Source: Alabama, a guide to the Deep South (American Guide Series) published by Hastings House. Copyright 1915, Jesse M. Richardson and Herbert R. Padgett, p. 303.

²Code of Alabama. Adopted by Act of the Legislature of Alabama. Prepared by James J. Mayfield, Code Commissioner, Atlanta, Georgia. Foote and Davies, Printer and Binder, 1923. Supplemental Act to Act for the Government of the Mississippi Territory, Vol. 1, Political. Approved 10 May 1800, p. 22.

³Harry Toulmin, Digest of the Laws of Alabama, Statutes and Regulations in Force at the End of the General Assembly, January 1823. Ginn and Curtis. J. & J. Harper, Printers, New York, 1823, Chap. I, Article 3, p. 539.

⁴Public School Laws of the State of Alabama. Reprinted from the Code of Alabama, Recompiled 1958 and 1969. Pocket Pasts. Authorized by State Board of Education. The Michie Company, Charlottesville, Va., 1970, Copyright 1970, p. 19.

⁵Board of Education Handbook, (Alabama), Huntsville City Schools, 1973-4. Fletcher E. Seldon, President; V. M. Burkett, Superintendent. Prepared by the administrative staff in conjunction with the Information Services Office. Print Shop, Huntsville City Schools, p. 19.

⁶Thomas Perkins Abernethy, The Formative Period in Alabama, 1815-1828. University: University of Alabama Press, 1965, p. 24.

⁷Harry Toulmin, Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama, Chap. V, Section 1, p. 774.

⁸Henry Marks, Sketches of the Tennessee Valley in Antebellum Days. Huntsville: Southern Press, Inc., 1976, p. 72.

⁹Edward Chambers Betts, Early History of Huntsville, Alabama, 1804 to 1870. 1909, Revised 1916. Montgomery, Alabama, The Brown Printing Co., 1916. Copyright 1916, p. 39; Statutes of the Mississippi Territory, Edition 1816, pp. 56-57, 453; and Toulmin's Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama, pp. 45, 46 and (Huntsville) Alabama Republican, 10 Nov. 1920.

¹⁰ Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, pp. 96-98.

¹¹ Edward Chambers Betts, Early History of Huntsville, Alabama, pp. 35-37; and Marker on East side of square, Huntsville, Alabama.

¹² Harry Toulmin, Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama, 17 December 1819, Chap. VIII, p. 644.

¹³ Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, pp. 321-326.

¹⁴ Fremont P. Wirth, The Development of America, Copyright 1936, American Book Company. Made in U.S.A., E. P. 25, p. 279.

¹⁵ Acts Passed at the Ninth Annual Session of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama. Began and Held in the Town of Tuscaloosa, third Monday in November, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-seven, Tuscaloosa. Printed by Dugald McFarlane, State Printer, 1828, p. 145.

¹⁶ Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, 1828-34, pp. 19, 105.

¹⁷ Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, pp. 321-322.

¹⁸ Minutes, City of Huntsville, 1828-34. Dates: 9 March 1829; 18 November 1829; 9 December 1829; pp. 76, 105, 108.

¹⁹ Stephen Beauregard Weeks, History of Public School Education in Alabama. United States Bureau of Education, Bulletin No. 12, originally published in 1915. Negro Universities Press, Westport, Connecticut, p. 72. Letter to C. O. Shepherd, 7 January 1858. Official Letter Book, 1858-60. M. S.

²⁰Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, 1828-34, 25 December 1829, p. 114; 8 February 1830, p. 120; 14 November 1831, p. 161.

²¹Edward Chambers Betts, Early History of Huntsville, Alabama, p. 48.

²²Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, 19 February 1839, p. 106.

²³Acts Passed at the General Assembly of the State of Alabama, Begun and Held in the City of Tuscaloosa on the first Monday in December 1843. Tuscaloosa, John McCormick, State Printer, 1844, 16 January 1844, p. 153.

²⁴Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, p. 223.

²⁵Saffold Berney, Handbook of Alabama, A Complete Index to the State, with Maps. Second and Revised Edition, Birmingham, Alabama; Roberts & Son, Printers and Binders, 1892, pp. 170-171.

²⁶Stephen Beauregard Weeks, History of Public School Education in Alabama, p. 116.

²⁷Stephen Beauregard Weeks, History of Public School Education in Alabama, pp. 65, 66. Forms for the use of officers of free public schools, etc., Montgomery, 1854, pp. 16-17.

²⁸Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, pp. 331-333.

²⁹Helen Ellis, "Higher Education Has Been a Vital Interest of Huntsville Since Its First Effort in 1812," The Huntsville Times, September 26, 1965.

³⁰Marks, Sketches of the Tennessee Valley,
p. 72.

³¹Ibid.

³²Ibid.

³³Ibid.

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Ellis, Times, September 26, 1965.

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷Marks, Sketches of the Tennessee Valley,
p. 81.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Ibid.

⁴⁰Ibid., p. 82.

⁴¹Stephen Beauregard Weeks, History of
Public School Education in Alabama. Official
Letter Book, 1858-60, M.S., p. 72.

⁴²Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama,
p. 333.

⁴³Stephen Beauregard Weeks, History of
Public School Education in Alabama, p. 116.

⁴⁴Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama,
pp. 335-348.

⁴⁵Edward Chambers Betts, Early History of
Huntsville, Alabama, p. 48.

⁴⁶Population, Huntsville, Madison County.

Prepared by Huntsville Planning Commission, March 1965, Section II, p. 22. Source: Projection by William Matthews, Huntsville Planning Commission.

⁴⁷Commemorative Album Celebrating Our City's Sesquicentennial of Progress, Huntsville, Alabama, p. 61.

⁴⁸Code of Alabama, Adopted by Act of the Legislature of Alabama, 1923. Vol. 1 Political, Section 1, p. 140; Section 5, p. 141.

⁴⁹Vol. 1, Political, 1923 Code (Alabama). . . . "That the board of education of this state is hereby abolished." Schedule, Section 8, p. 423.

⁵⁰Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, p. 744.

⁵¹Huntsville Gazette, January 16, 1886.

⁵²Huntsville Gazette, January 16, 1886; June 1891; July 25, 1885; and May 6, 1893.

⁵³Huntsville Gazette, January 15, 1887.

⁵⁴Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book D, 5 January 1869, p. 403.

⁵⁵1869 Acts of the General Assembly of Alabama, Session 1869-70, Commencing on Second Monday in November, Montgomery, Ala., John G. Stokes & Co., State Printers, 1870, p. 412.

⁵⁶Acts of the General Assembly, passed at the Session of 1874-5. Held in the City of Montgomery, Commencing Nov. 16, 1874, Montgomery, Ala. W.W. Screws, State Printer 1875, December 2, 1874; No. 174; p. 606.

⁵⁷ Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, p. 516.

⁵⁸ Stephen Beauregard Weeks, History of Public School Education in Alabama, pp. 101-102.

⁵⁹ Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, pp. 516-17.

⁶⁰ Fremont P. Wirth, Development of America, p. 676.

⁶¹ Minutes (Alabama) City of Huntsville, January 7, 1875.

⁶² Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book F, pp. 326, 409.

⁶³ Williams' (Alabama) Huntsville Directory, City Guide, and Business Mirror, Vol. 1, 1859-60, Coltart & Son, No. 10 Commercial Row.

⁶⁴ Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book F, 10 May 1875, p. 381; 24 August 1875, p. 409; 24 September 1875, p. 423; 9 January 1876, p. 449; 21 March 1876, p. 465.

⁶⁵ Stephen Beauregard Weeks, History of Public School Education in Alabama, p. 110.

⁶⁶ Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book F, 5 October 1875, pp. 425-26; 7 September 1875, p. 412; 7 October 1876, p. 431; 3 October 1876, p. 430.

⁶⁷ (Huntsville) Weekly Independent, 9 January 1875.

⁶⁸ Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book F, 26 February 1876, p. 340.

69 Alabama Department of Education, Report of John M. McKleroy, Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Alabama for the scholastic year ending 30 September 1875, pp. 111-112.

70 (Alabama) Huntsville Weekly Democrat, 10 June 1875.

71 Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, pp. 546, 551.

72 (Huntsville, Alabama) Weekly Mercury, 25 September 1889.

73 Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book 1, 12 May 1882, 10 July 1882, 16 January 1883, 3 August 1886; pp. 9, 18, 19, 55, 255.

74 Madison County Deed Record Book 75, p. 109 and Marguerite D. Lacey, The Social, Economic and Political Life of the Negro in Madison County From 1880 to 1900 (unpublished), p. 53.

75 Compilation, Rosa B. Allen and Charles V. Handley, Jr., Self-Evaluation Report of William Hooper Councill High School, 1959-1960.

76 Ibid.

77 Minutes (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book 2, 20 June 1899, p. 345.

78 (Alabama) Huntsville Independent, 26 February 1880.

79 General Laws (and Joint Resolutions) of the Legislature, passed at the Session of 1907. Held at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, Commencing Tuesday, 8 Jan. 1907. The

Brown Printing Co., State Printers and Binders, Montgomery, Ala., 1907, No. 757, p. 728.

⁸⁰Minutes (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book 2, 20 June 1899, p. 344; 19 September 1899, p. 368.

⁸¹Albert Burton Moore, History of Alabama, p. 503.

⁸²Ibid.

⁸³1923 Code, Alabama, Section 216, Vol. 1, Political, p. 379.

⁸⁴The Acts of Alabama, Adopted by Act of the Legislature of Alabama, approved 27 July 1907, Entitled "An Act to Adopt a Code of Laws for the State of Alabama." In three volumes. Prepared by James J. Mayfield, Code Commissioner. Nashville, Tennessee, Marshall & Bruce Company, Printers & Binders, 1907.

⁸⁵(Huntsville, Alabama) Evening Banner, 6 August 1907.

⁸⁶(Huntsville, Alabama) Evening Banner, 17 August 1907; 21 August 1907; 27 August 1907; 30 August 1907.

⁸⁷Minutes, (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book 3, 20 August 1907, p. 307; 21 August 1907, pp. 310-311.

⁸⁸Minutes of the Board of Education of the City of Huntsville, 21 August 1907.

⁸⁹Minutes of the Board of Education of the City of Huntsville, 26 August 1907, 9 September 1907, 25 September 1907.

⁹⁰(Huntsville) Evening Banner, 26 September 1907.

⁹¹(Huntsville) Evening Banner, 24 September 1907, 16 December 1907, 31 December 1907.

⁹²Minutes of the Board of Education of the City of Huntsville, 5 March 1908, 25 May 1908.

⁹³Minutes (Alabama) City of Huntsville, 9 July 1908, 10 July 1908, pp. 475-476.

⁹⁴(Huntsville) Weekly Democrat, 29 May 1908.

⁹⁵Minutes (Alabama) City of Huntsville, Book 3, pp. 415, 474.



The Huntsville Historical Review is sent to all members of the Huntsville Historical Society. The annual membership is \$5.00. Libraries and organizations may receive the Review on a subscription basis for \$5.00 per year. Single issues may be obtained for \$1.00 each.

Correspondence concerning contributions, editorial matters, and gifts should be sent to Henry S. Marks, 301-2 Terry Hutchens Building, Huntsville, Alabama 35801.

Responsibility for statement of facts or opinions made by contributors to the Review is not assumed by either the editor, Board of Editorial Advisors, or Huntsville Historical Society. Questions or comments concerning such matters should be addressed to the authors.

Permission to reprint any article in whole or in part is given, provided credit is given to the Review.

The editor and Board of Editorial Advisors are primarily interested in articles and documents pertaining to Madison County. Articles on the history of other sections of the state or area will be considered when they relate to Madison County. All copy, including footnotes, should be double-spaced with the footnotes typed on separate sheets at the end of the article. The author should submit an original and a carbon.

