Looking Back

How Well Do You Know Huntsville?

Written by Deane Dayton



Photo by Mathew Brady

Who am I?

- A. William D. Chadick
- B. John A. Logan
- C. William McDowell
- D. Ormsby M. Mitchel



Photo by Deane Dayton

Where am I?

- A. Adams Street
- B. Franklin Street
- C. McClung Avenue
- D. Randolph Avenue



Etching from Harper's Weekly

Where was I?

- A. Adams Street
- B. Franklin Street
- C. McClung Avenue
- D. Randolph Avenue

Answers to How Well Do You Know Huntsville?

Who am I? D. Ormsby M. Mitchel	General Ormsby M. Mitchel led the initial occupation of Huntsville by Union troops in 1862. During that occupation 12 prominent citizens were held as prisoners by General Mitchel until they agreed to sign a statement condemning guerrilla warfare.
Where am I? A. Adams Street	This house, located at 517 Adams Street and built in 1848, was the home of William McDowell, a wealthy Huntsville merchant who was one of the twelve prominent citizens imprisoned by General Mitchel. It served as headquarters for both General Mitchel and General John A. Logan during the Union occupations of Huntsville. Some people call this the "backwards house" because, according to rumor, it was built facing the wrong direction while McDowell was traveling in Europe.
Where was I? A. Adams Street	This etching from the March 19, 1864 issue of Harper's Weekly depicts the McDowell house while it was serving as the headquarters for General Logan. Facing north toward the town, it provides glimpses of other houses and churches which still exist today.

For more information on the history of Huntsville visit the Heritage Room at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library or the Huntsville History Collection at HuntsvilleHistoryCollection.org.