

The Huntsville Historical Review; Editorial Policy

The Huntsville Historical Review, a biyearly journal sponsored by the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, is the primary voice for local historians to document Madison County history. This journal reflects the richness and diversity of Madison County and North Alabama. A casual examination of every community in the world reveals the character of its citizens and, if you look closely, voices from the past express their expectations for the future. Today is based upon our collective experience and the socialization of our ancestor's existence.

Although this publication focuses on local history, what happens here has roots often connected by state, regional, national, and international events. In an effort to build on past traditions and continue the quality of our *Review*, an editorial policy will be implemented to guide contributors who wish to submit manuscripts, book reviews, or notes of historical significance to our community. The Historical Society wants you to submit articles for publication. We will assist you toward that goal.

Presentations to family and acquaintances become oral history. Publishing your story in the *Review* insures you and your story are immortal. You can contribute to our history through the *Huntsville Historical Review*.

Manuscript Preparation and Submission

Please submit an electronic copy of your article or book review to arleymccormick@comcast.net or hmchistoricalociety@gmail.com.

Review Content and Style

- There is no limit on word count. The manuscript can be divided into parts published in separate volumes of the *Review*.
- In matters of form and style, a good guide is *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- If you choose to include footnotes, the preferred citation method for full articles would be best.
- Manuscripts should be in Times New Roman 12-point font. Microsoft Word (not PDF)
- This is a guide and not intended to discourage the creative process nor constrain authors from contributing to the *Review*.

Book Reviews

Please limit your book review to topics relevant to local, state, or southern history. A good review should clearly and concisely describe the nature, scope, and thesis of a book that would be relevant to Madison County history. Emphasis on local and regional history will be given in order to help readers expand and contextualize their knowledge. Your review should be helpful to the general reader interested in Madison County or North Alabama and these are good rules to follow when writing a book review:

- Your first obligation for a book review is to explain the subject of the book and the author's central thesis or main points.
- Your second obligation is to evaluate how successfully the author has made his/her point. Is the author's argument reasonable, logical, and consistent?

- Your third obligation is to set the book into a broader context. If you can, place the book into a wider context by looking at broader issues.
- Your fourth obligation is to render a judgment on the value of the book as a contribution to historical scholarship.

News and Notes Submissions

Please limited to 250 words and include contact information. If you are making an inquiry or asking a question. The editor has the right to change or delete wording or information.

Little Reminders . . . Good Writing Rules

- Write in the active voice and past tense.
- Cast your sentences in the positive.
- Topic sentences should be clear and straightforward statements of what the paragraph is about. Every sentence in a paragraph should work to explain the topic sentence.
- Write in the third person.

An Invitation to Membership

Membership in the Society will give you an opportunity to express your interest and participate in preserving the history of Huntsville and Madison County. Enjoy the opportunity to be with other individuals who share your interest in our history by attending the Society's four meetings a year, each one featuring a speaker of local or regional note. A membership includes subscription to *The Huntsville Historical Review*.

If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a member, please share this application.