Table of Contents

	Page No.
Forward - The Chronological History of Huntsville	28
From the Author	29
Imagination and Evolution	30
Chapter 1	33
The first Huntsville Area Settlers—the Paleo Indians	33
The Children of the Middle Waters—The Wahzhazhi	35
The Louisiana Purchase, the Arkansas Territory, and Treaties	36
Chapter 2	38
The first settlers arrive in Madison County	38
We need a town—the original plat	39
Statehood, the War Eagle Post Office and Name Changes	40
The Original Survey of the Huntsville Area by the U.S. Land Office	43
1838—1839: Sevierville expands once more	44
Early Businesses in Sevierville	46
The End of Sevierville – Huntsville Returns	46
Chapter 3	47
Huntsville in the 1840's	47
The first school in Huntsville	48
The Second Courthouse is built on the public square	48
Early land patents in the Huntsville area	48
Chapter 4	53
1850— Huntsville – the teenage years	53
Merchants and Tradesmen in Huntsville, 1850	53

Early Huntsville Postmasters	54
The first Masonic Lodge is chartered	54
Huntsville becomes a college town	55
Isaac Murphy and his family move to Huntsville	56
The first Newspaper has issues	56
Necessities of Pioneer Life – A Jail before a Church	57
A Masonic Tragedy – Violence on the Square	57
Chapter 5	59
Huntsville and the 1860's—the worst of times	59
Isaac Murphy elected as delegate to the Convention on Secession	60
War hits close to home – The Battle of Pea Ridge	60
Murphy's Life is threatened	61
Madison County and the War	62
The Murphy Daughters Visit Their Father at Pea Ridge	63
Local Guerillas Attack the Murphy Escort	63
The Battle of Prairie Grove	64
Herron's Army Moves toward Huntsville	65
Local Citizens Arrested	67
Troops Begin to Leave Huntsville	69
News of the Shooting Spreads: Baldwin Arrested and Charged	71
The Aftermath of War and the Massacre	73
The end of Odeon Lodge No. 44 and their schools	75
Afterword	76
The Civil War: No major battles around Huntsville - just daily ones	76
Reconstruction – Slow but Steady	77

Plans to rebuild the 3rd Courthouse	79
Chapter 6	80
The decade of Rebuilding: the 1870's	80
Local Businesses and Trades in the 1870's	80
Huntsville becomes an Incorporated Town	81
Huntsville Lodge No. 364 is instituted	81
Huntsville Methodist Episcopal Church South finds a new Home	82
The 2nd Jail is burned to the ground	82
After 42 years, the Newspaper Arrives	82
Plans to rebuild the Huntsville Academy	83
Chapter 7	85
Huntsville and the 1880's – times are getting better	85
Commerce and Construction continues to increase	85
The 4th Madison County Courthouse	87
A Mayor and Town Council – To Be or Not to Be	88
The earliest known picture of Huntsville	89
Christmas in the early 1880's	90
Organizational Announcements	91
Huntsville College opens in 1881	92
Textbooks in Use in the 1880's Huntsville College	92
A new concept in education: the graded school	93
Groceries and Saloons begin to lose their popularity	94
The Madison County Record changes ownership as well as its name	95
Other Businesses in Huntsville in the late 1880's	96
New types of businesses and products	97

Housing shortage in Huntsville	98
Circuit Court	98
Account of an 1884 Huntsville Wedding	98
A jail is built to last for the next 60 years	100
The end of the decade of the 1880's	100
The 1880 census of Huntsville	102
Chapter 8	103
Huntsville enters the decade of the gay '90's	103
A new institution: the Madison County Bank	103
Professor Jesse Bird & Bird College	105
Give me that old time religion – Two new churches formed	117
Newspaper Wars – May the best man win	118
Huntsville not isolated from "The Panic of 1893"	119
Businesses and Professionals known to exit in Huntsville during the 1890's	120
The 1890's General and Grocery Store	122
Meeting Dates and Times in the 1890's	123
The Temperance movement gains a foothold in Huntsville	124
Chapter 9	125
Huntsville enters the new millennium – The decade of the 1900's	125
What on earth happened to Huntsville in 1901?	125
The telephone comes to Huntsville	126
Huntsville Swept by fire	127
Huntsville prepares to construct its 5th Courthouse	129
Huntsville – When everything old is new again – Rebuilding after the fire	132
Lewis College	134

The four year vacation – Huntsville returns as a town	136
Another Bank is established – The Bank of Huntsville	137
The status of Huntsville Commerce after the 1902 fire	138
Businesses in Huntsville after the 1902 fire	139
Madison County Bank and the Bank of Huntsville Merge	141
News tidbits to end the decade of the 1900's	142
Chapter 10	146
The Decade of 1910 begins in slow motion but picks up speed	146
Motion pictures come to Huntsville	146
The Farmers and Merchants Bank	147
The Huntsville Booster Club and the Huntsville Improvement Association	148
Huntsville elects a Mayor and Town Council	150
The First National Bank is robbed	151
Comfort Food comes to Huntsville – Ice is nice	152
The Huntsville business scene; 1910 - 1913	153
Madison County Telephone Company Issues First Phone Directory	155
Huntsville Academy - Huntsville High School	157
Another major fire – the college building burns to the ground	158
Teacher Institute held in Huntsville in June, 1913	159
Huntsville is about to become "Famous"	160
Huntsville Boosters Attend Washington County Fair	162
Annual Confederate Reunion Organized	162
Let's turn Huntsville's night into day	164
Huntsville Town Government: on, off, on, off, on, now off again	164
A few Huntsville notable moments before the war	165

Huntsville, Madison County and WWI	167
Closing out the decade of 1910	169
A view of south Huntsville – the circus comes to town	173
Chapter 11	175
Huntsville enters the roaring twenties and roars back	175
Automobiles become as common place as horse flies	175
Business as usual in 1920's Huntsville – Almost	177
Yarbrough Klan No. 120, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan	178
A demonstration of the Radio	179
Electricity until bedtime courtesy of Walter Gaskill	179
Huntsville Reunion continues to be huge event	180
Other notable events and observations during the early 1920's	181
The Madison County Fair and School Meet is born	183
What do you think of a town where the hogs run at large?	184
Old Funeral Customs	187
Huntsville School District faces educational bankruptcy	188
The Huntsville Dozen	190
Another Half of Huntsville Business District Burned	191
Enough is Enough – Time for Huntsville to take a stand	194
The Square as we know it today is about to be born	195
A lasting town government is about to be born	197
The Huntsville Community Club – a quasi-Chamber of Commerce	199
The Mayor and Town Council get right to work	200
First Ordinances of the new City of Huntsville	201
View of the North and East sides of the Square after the fire of 1925	217

Huntsville Schools in real trouble	220
The Huntsville Community Institute	221
Huntsville to have general electrical service	228
The Huntsville Community Institute faces a reality	229
A new beginning for education in Huntsville - Senate Bill 117	231
Huntsville State Vocational School	235
Thanks to the School District, Huntsville gains large residential area	239
The 1920's - The Greatest Decade Ever	240
Milk Condensary Plant is considered, constructed, closed all in one year	243
The Great Depression Begins	244
List of Huntsville Businesses in May, 1929	245
Huntsville State Vocational School is dedicated	245
Huntsville to have running water	247
Chapter 12	248
The 1930's – One-hundred years of existence	248
New additions and changes around town	248
The end of prohibition	250
Arkansas introduces a new tax	250
Funeral Services expand in Huntsville	251
Huntsville State Vocational School continues to build	252
Activities a must for young people – Huntsville Athletics is born	253
Home Economics and Agriculture Building added to H.S.V.S. Campus	258
Huntsville lands membership in state professional baseball league	259
R.F.D. comes to Huntsville post office	261
Fire threatens Huntsville once again	262

Arkansas and Madison County celebrate 100 years	262
Huntsville once again falling into despair	264
Huntsville Public Square to be paved	265
Huntsville Fire Department Formed	267
Huntsville Notables during the 1930's	268
Huntsville grade school announced	270
Public Works Administration continues to build in Madison County	271
The end of the great building decade of the 1930's	273
Chapter 13	275
The 1940's – War, Déjà vu, Peace then Dryness	275
A brief prelude to War	275
Goodbye Dixie Theatre, Hello Madison Theatre	276
An engineer of the State Health Department: "Deplorable"	277
Lights of REA dim for Huntsville	278
More Improvements to Highway 68	279
Miscellaneous City observations during the first part of the 40's	280
Another Huntsville Institution – The Huntsville Livestock Auction	280
Life around Huntsville during WWII	281
Miscellaneous City observations during the first part of the 40's – Part II	284
The Friendship Club	285
Keep your dogs and chickens at home	285
Oh Happy Day!	287
Madison County Votes to go dry, 997 – 499	289
Huntsville has another big fire	291
You can't keep doing the same thing over and over expecting different results	292

The new and improved Huntsville Fire Department	292	
The City Election of 1947	295	
Madison Post No. 137 to Hayes-Smith Post No. 137 of the American Legion	296	
From Barnes to Mid-Continent Dairy to the Model Cheese Factory and finally, P	et Milk	297
New Buildings at H.S.V.S completed following the War	298	
Mayor Burr Wiggins – From Town to City	300	
Natural Gas Comes to Huntsville	301	
The end of the decade of the 1940's	302	
Huntsville ends the decade with the largest extravaganza ever	304	
Chapter 14	312	
The decade of the 1950's – looks like Huntsville's got it made in the shade!	312	
The Madison County Memorial Hospital	313	
Night time sports come to Huntsville	316	
New REA substation completed January 1950	317	
Polio and the March of Dimes	317	
1950 State Basketball Champions	318	
Rabies Epidemic hits area	319	
Highway 68 and 23 paving	319	
City Issues first financial statement	319	
Huntsville to have new water system – town spring to be abandoned	320	
Editor Orval Faubus accepts administrative post with governor	321	
Huntsville cannot have a champion Football team without a Jr. High team	322	
Soule and Roberts named co-fire chiefs	322	
Hospital is listed in critical condition	323	
The City Election of 1952	324	

Parking a problem in Huntsville	325
Faubus not to be candidate in Governor's Race or maybe	326
Dr. Austin Smith to open clinic in hospital building	326
U. S. House of Representatives considering funding for new Dam project	327
Faubus in Run-off for Governor – and Wins!!	327
By 1954 and 1955, East Mountain was being called Governor's Hill	328
The closed hospital still making headlines	336
The Beeby Clinic	336
Huntsville Chamber of Commerce is Re-organized	338
Dedication of the new Farm Bureau Co-op Store	339
Huntsville Post Office to move after 30 years on the west side of square	340
Grade School expands with new buildings	341
Legislative Council rejects budget for H.S.V.S.	341
1957 brings a new editor and an important speaker to Huntsville	342
City Council meets with Carroll Electric to discuss improved street lighting	343
Legislature abolishes H.S.V.S	343
1957 Car tags to have numerical prefix for each county	343
New Mattress Factory and Western Auto Store to open	344
Huntsville Junior High School Established	344
Madison County Telephone under new management	345
City Attorney charged with Embezzlement	345
City Council institutes City Privilege Tax	346
Highway Department issues plan for routing of Highway 68 through Huntsville	346
Huntsville Schools enroll record 1,463 students in 1957	347
Huntsville – Land of the Crossbow?	347

Arlis Coger donates acreage for fairgrounds	348
City Council approves fire truck resolution to place bond issue before voters	349
Mayor Hawkins resigns; Steward Edwards named acting mayor; Boyd Roberts wins mayor's race	e 349
Huntsville High School holds first graduation	350
Another election for the Fire Engine Bond Issue	350
Huntsville will play host for the National Crossbow Tournament	351
Faubus: Gallup Poll: one of the ten most admired men in the world	352
A new water and sewer system for Huntsville: Making the move	352
Huntsville's first major industry: A Garment Factory	353
A Huntsville Landmark is constructed: The Crossbow Restaurant	354
Two Grand Openings in a week	357
Crossbow Corporation Formed	358
Huntsville Church of Christ	358
Telephone Company obtains loan from REA to expand service	359
Gladys Ellis arrested	359
Big Crowds Attend Crossbow Tourney	359
Chapter 15	361
The 1960's - Jinx, You Owe Me a Coke!!	361
Erton Womack named City Marshal – Faubus to run for 4th term	362
Factory Meets Payroll with Silver Dollars	363
Governor's Hill becoming new residential area	363
The 1960 U.S. Census – Not all that good for Madison County	363
Huntsville and Madison County in bad need of an economics lesson	364
Dr. Ivan Box to open practice in Huntsville	365
Progress Being Made towards re-opening hospital	365

The Madison County Memorial Hospital Reopens	366
The first drive-in: The Dari Delite	367
Crossbow Corporation to start full-scale production	367
Claymore Manufacturing Company purchases Garment Factory	368
The General Election of 1960	369
Carroll Electric opens new office in Huntsville	369
"Yeah, and I'm President Eisenhower"	370
Madison County Telephone dial phone system goes on line	370
Another major fire threatens the Huntsville public square	372
Modernization has its price	373
There's a whole lot of shakin' goin' on in Huntsville	373
A personal remembrance from a kid's viewpoint	374
Deatherage and Sharp buy Jack's Hardware	374
Overcrowding and deficiencies at the Junior High and Elementary Schools	375
Voters approve school millage	376
Withrow Springs to become state park	376
Patience seems to be the name of the game	377
Huntsville has an appetite that it cannot satisfy	378
Still Destroyed by officers in Huntsville	379
Dwight Holcomb named hospital Administrator	379
No contest in 1962 city elections	380
The Huntsville Emergency Communications Center; A.K.A: Bomb Shelter	380
City approved for Loan on Water and Sewer System	383
New Street signs installed at intersections	384
Huntsville's first brush with unionization	384

Dr. Gerald Fowler opens office in old Beeby Clinic	385
The first retail franchise in Huntsville: The Ben Franklin Store	386
1964 – the future of the nation and Huntsville uncertain	387
Drs. Smith and Box let contract for 70-bed nursing home	387
A new school superintendent	389
The End of a long, hard road not quite	389
State Department recommends building program for Huntsville schools	391
Boyd Roberts wins another term as mayor in 1964	394
New Home of the Madison County Record	395
The 7th National Crossbow Tournament – 1964	396
The Mid-Sixties – the younger set becomes more involved	397
Huntsville Notables during the mid-1960's	397
Ex-Convicts captured after gun battle	398
Final Inspection made of new water-sewer system	400
Oh my, not again!	400
The Huntsville Business District during the mid-1960's	401
Board recommends sale of Madison County Hospital	407
Faubus not running for 7th term – Building new home in Huntsville	407
Highway Department proposes change in traffic patterns downtown	409
Womack resigns as town marshal – DeWeese hired	411
Many Improvements being made in city in 1966	411
Four races develop for city offices – Roberts defeated	412
Mayor Sprott goes right to work	413
Faubus House opened to public	414
Mayor Sprott resigns – then rescinds resignation	416

There's going to be trouble right here in Huntsville City	417
Good news arrives none too soon for Huntsville	419
Grant for neighborhood facility approved	419
City Officials elected without opposition in 1968	419
Petitions being circulated again calling for resignation of mayor	420
New Superintendent for the Huntsville School District	420
Will it ever end?	421
Scott's Family Center	422
10,000th patient enters local hospital	422
Mayor Sprott submits resignation - accepted	422
Mayor Shinn – time to get down to business	423
Henry Neal	423
Chapter 16	425
The 1970's – A period of innovation and modernization	425
State police to close substation on governor's hill	425
New Post Office Dedicated	425
1970 City Officials	426
Steve Austin Smith – the youngest legislator	427
Fire destroys IGA and Garment Factory	427
At last, paved streets on the horizon	428
New physician for Huntsville	428
Two new buildings announced for Huntsville in 1971	429
Another labor survey is conducted	430
V.F.W. Post chartered	430
12-bed addition to the Madison County Hospital	430

Swift Dairy and Poultry Company announce building of a plant in Huntsville	431
Francis J. Murray retires as MCR editor: David Fox assumes post	432
Swift lets contract for construction of new turkey processing plant	432
From Ambulance to Emergency Medical Service	433
Swift Opens New Facility	434
American Savings and Loan opens in Huntsville	435
The days of blank drafts and counter checks are gone with the wind	436
White Way Café & Town and County Store burn	436
24 Hour dispatch comes to city and county	437
Madison County Hospital changes name	437
School Board approves girls' basketball	438
A Huntsville tradition is born – the fireman's bean feed	438
Huntsville applies for Bicentennial Designation	438
Myers Robertson resigns as Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Carl Nelson hired	439
Kiwanis Club organized	440
A new cuisine – Mexican Food comes to Huntsville	440
A Bicentennial celebration – Huntsville style	441
1975 come to an end with changes in groceries and the news	442
It's show time once again at The Madison	443
Farmers Market Opens on Huntsville Square	443
Health Care Expansion slated for Huntsville	444
Back to Back Celebrations	445
Tragedy marks Huntsville's second 100 years	446
NACC opens Huntsville campus	446
Huntsville 1977 scenes	446

Hospital under new management	447
Madison County EMS moves into new station	447
LaBarge Electronics to locate plant in Huntsville	448
25th Annual Crossbow Tournament held	449
Office of the City Clerk established	450
New Hospital planned	450
The decade ends with the opening of the third LaBarge plant in Huntsville	450
Chapter 17	452
The decade of the 1980's – more change and metamorphosis	452
After 40 years, the Huntsville Livestock Auction is no more	452
Huntsville Garment Factory closes	453
Ground breaking for new Hospital	453
You just never know about Wal-Mart	454
The drought of 1980 highlights two major Huntsville problems	454
City purchases land for parking lot	455
Wal-Mart opened with bomb threat and ribbon cutting	456
City Council opposes sales tax	456
Storm Damages estimated in millions	457
Lon Garrett home purchased and restored	457
Countywide sales tax defeated	459
Huntsville Memorial Hospital dedicated	459
Tom Hargis Dies	460
An ecclesiastical triad	460
Housing Authority begins two apartment projects	461
If at first you don't succeed, try, try again	461

Deaths ruled murder-suicide	462
Arlis Coger opens museum	462
City-County Airport Commission formed	463
Square metamorphosis to begin	463
Mother Earth is calling: close the dump and expand the sewer plant	464
Municipal projects	464
Chamber of Commerce reorganized	465
Mike Atwell named city marshal – soon to be chief of police	465
State to assist in solid waste problem	465
City facing personnel issues – airport construction continues	466
City Park to become a reality	466
Huntsville's first Radio Station	467
Highest Airport in the state dedicated	468
The 1980's was becoming the Me! Me! Me! generation of status seekers	469
Beaver Lake water source proposed for city and county	469
Huntsville schools in trouble once again	470
City needs more money	471
Highway 68 to U.S. 412	472
Huntsville to join the new Beaver Water Project	472
Council to ask for 1% sales tax again – this time successfully	473
Gene Shinn retires as fire chief – Fred Northcross, III named fire chief	473
New High School dedicated	474
The 1980's end on a positive note	475
Chapter 18	476
The electronic age – decade of the 1990's	476

New construction begins the decade	476
Hospital Administrator and two board members resign	477
Madison Bank and Trust opens in Huntsville	478
HHS team wins state Quiz Bowl Championship	478
Meadowview Nursing Home opens	479
More Problems than Solutions	480
First Savings and Loan Association closes doors	480
Ending 1991 with a flurry of activities to begin 1992	481
Concerned citizens seek answers from hospital board	482
Some progress being made	483
Huntsville bypass set as priority by highway department	484
Groundbreaking for transfer station and recycling center	484
Hospital Closing Imminent	485
Council purchases Trail of Tears Museum building for City Hall	485
Highway Department announces possible routes for bypass	486
New Senior Activity Center to be built in Huntsville	486
Huntsville elects new mayor	487
Governor Faubus laid to rest	487
Huntsville Landmark goes up in flames	488
Construction begins on Cedar Bluff subdivision	489
Butterball holds another groundbreaking	489
Fire Department rating drops from an eight to a six	489
New Senior Activities Center completed	490
Water problems continue to plague city	490
Ed Sharn retires for H.P.D. – Steve Corkern named new chief	4 91

Need for industrial park and annexation discussed	491
City Council approves first one-million dollar budget	491
Two new construction projects announced	492
Larry Garrett named utility executive director	492
City remembers Sheriff Ralph Baker	492
Voters defeat annexation plan	493
Ending the 20th Century	493
Chapter 19	495
The new millennium begins – 2000 - 2012	495
Business as usual in Huntsville	495
LaBarge to expand Huntsville facility	497
City loses three officials	497
Madison County 911 goes on line on 9-11-2001	498
Not much happening these days	498
Countryside Medical Clinic to become Boston Mountain Rural Health	499
Moving forward by 2003	500
Fire Department to begin annual fireworks display	503
Town Branch bridge project commences	503
Superintendent Dana Samples leaves school district	504
Dr. Alvin Lievsay to become Huntsville's 17th Superintendent	505
Joanna Taylor becomes Huntsville's third District Court Judge	505
2005 city officials sworn into office	505
Madison County Record celebrates 125th year	506
City Council authorizes sales tax vote	506
Huntsville Pantry to move into building	507

Groundbreaking for new library held	507
Opening of College Street extension turns into controversy	508
Thompson to move trucking company to bypass	509
HHS basketball wins 4-A state tournament	509
Anna Mary's Cakes	510
One year later: more championships and National Coach of the Year	510
Shelby Sisemore named Huntsville School District Superintendent	512
Huntsville Volunteer Fire Department achieves incredible ISO rating	512
Carroll Electric to move into new quarters	513
Boston Mountain Rural Health moves into new clinic	513
NW Regional Housing Authority announces HUD apartments for seniors	514
Huntsville makes the silver screen	514
Walking Trail opens with better health program	515
"Old Main" becomes a casualty	515
Lottery tickets go on sale	516
Ozark Guidance Center purchases day care building	516
Chamber of Commerce moves into new office	517
Golden Arches arrive in Huntsville	517
First State Bank of NW Arkansas opens new branch	518
New Middle School building completed	519
Mayor Bates retires	519
Kevin Hatfield becomes Huntsville's 22nd Mayor	520
District flip-flops administrators	520
2011 - A busy year for the city	520
2010 LLS Federal Census – Good news	522

Springtime – work continues	522
City ends year on a positive note	523
Flags raised – time capsule buried	524
City Celebrates its 175th Anniversary	526
The Story continues	529
Appendix of Local Officials	530
Index	539