



Civilization Comes to the 'Big Spring:

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 1823

Sarah Huff Fisk

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Catch a glimpse of Huntsville, Alabama as it was in 1823!

Visit the little town in the untamed southern wilderness where John Hunt built the first cabin near Big Spring in 1805. Meet the streams of settlers, builders, and merchants, who came to try their fortunes in the rich area. Learn how these capable pioneers built the early town from materials at hand: trees felled in the forest, wooden pegs for nails, clay baked into bricks, and the products of the blacksmith's forge.

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**SARAH HUFF FISK**, after years of research into early Huntsville, ably gives her conception of the appearance of some seventy of the first buildings around the Public Square. With no photographs to guide, she used information from deeds, old newspapers, and the few surviving buildings from the era. Lot sizes are to scale.

Each structure is numbered to relate it to the documented text. One by one their stories are told: owners, builders, the succession of merchants, their goods as advertised in the local newspapers, the offices of doctors, lawyers, the commerce of a bustling town — and some of its problems.

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Read how the waters of Big Spring were put to use for the town's civilized needs, and of the great fires that destroyed most of these buildings before the advent of photography.

The text centers on the buildings and their occupants, but also reflects the wild rush of Federal land sales and the town in 1819 when Huntsville played host to the convention that organized the State of Alabama.

Here is a fully-indexed book naming businesses and professional men, builders, artisans, and many others who lived in early Huntsville.

An 18x24-1/2 print of the full scene suitable for framing is available from the publisher.

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