

Sarah Huff Fisk

Built Upon the Fragments

In 1880's Huntsville, Alabama



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The Cover (drawn by the author) depicts a scene from Washington Street in Huntsville between Clinton Street and the public square in about 1880. The old Brittain Franks House with its porches stands on the east corner adjoining the Johnson House, which had at that time both brick and frame sections. The tiny building, site of the old Slack Confectionery, and the next frame building were rented for business or residence usage. On the west corner, the fire bell tower rises above the town's antiquated Market House. The Baker Marble Yard was located about halfway along this west side (and out of the picture). A detailed map of the area precedes Chapter 1.

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In this new book, **SARAH HUFF FISK** turns to one of the most interesting periods in Huntsville's history. The bitterness of the South's defeat in the Civil War lingers, yet events never dreamed of are about to take place in town, as prosperous newcomers invest in the beautiful valley and nearby Monte Sano.

John Gideon Baker of Owego, New York, is among the newcomers. His mission, in late 1875, is to reopen the Baker Marble Yard, which his uncle, Albert Baker, had established back in 1851. The business had flourished until war raging in the area brought its collapse. After that, danger and near starvation forced the Baker family's return to New York state, yet memories of their pleasant years in Huntsville continue to call them back.

As daunting as John's task seems in a strange town, he soon finds friends who remember his uncle. While times improve and his talent for working with stone rescues the Marble Yard, he is able to invest in several profitable business ideas of his own. Plenty of danger and excitement comes from membership as a volunteer in the Huntsville Steam Fire Company.

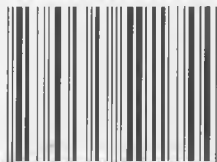
In 1876, John marries Mattie Elliott, daughter of Emily and William Elliott, and the many joyous or sad experiences of their young family typify the times in which they lived.

Real characters moving through the actual events, problems, and delights of that long-ago day bring this true story to life.

Return of the Albert Baker family is eventually accomplished, and handsome examples of their remarkable monument art can still be seen in Maple Hill Cemetery, Huntsville's historic graveyard.

The dangers and hardships of the Civil War in Huntsville were told by the author in *Found Among The Fragments, A Story of Love and Courage*, published by Pinhook Publishing Company in 1997.

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