

# Looking Back

## How Well Do You Know Huntsville?

Written by Deane Dayton



Nancy Rohr

### Who am I?

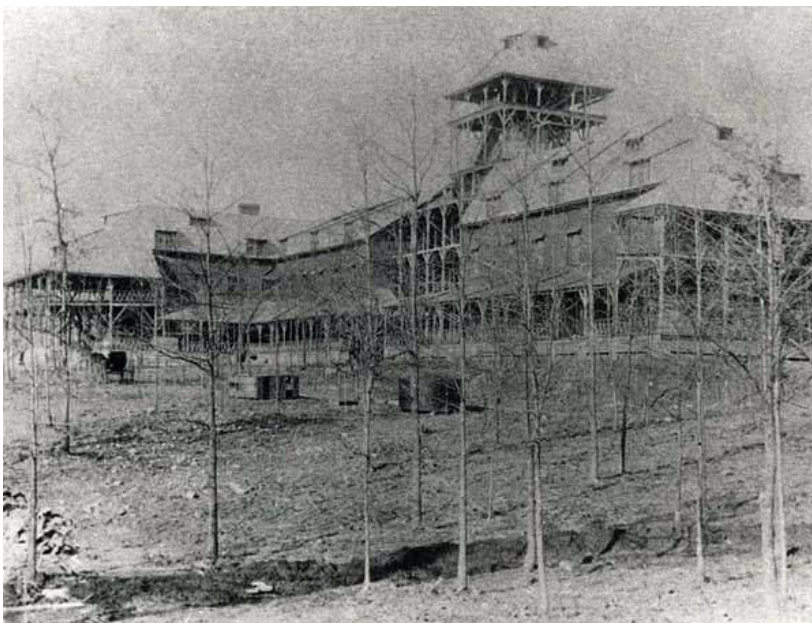
- A. W. T. Hutchins
- B. James O'Shaughnessy
- C. Michael O'Shaughnessy
- D. Tracy Pratt



Deane Dayton

### Where am I?

- A. Kildare Street
- B. O'Shaughnessy Avenue
- C. Pratt Avenue
- D. Washington Street



Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Digital Archives

### Where was I?

- A. Dallas Street
- B. Dug Hill Road
- C. Old Chimney Road
- D. Triana Boulevard

## Answers to **How Well Do You Know Huntsville?**

<p><b>Who am I?</b></p> <p>C. Michael O'Shaughnessy</p>	<p>Michael O'Shaughnessy founded the Huntsville Cotton Oil Company in 1881, signaling the start of investment in the Huntsville cotton industry by wealthy outsiders. He and his brother James also helped form the Northern Alabama Improvement Company with other local investors.</p> <p>Northern Dollars for Huntsville Spindles by Patricia H. Ryan</p>
<p><b>Where am I?</b></p> <p>A. Kildare Street</p>	<p>This house, originally located on 71 acres at 2005 Kildare Street NW near the corner of Oakwood Avenue and Kildare Street, was built by Michael O'Shaughnessy in the 1880s at a cost of \$65,000. He called the house "Kildare" in honor of the Irish country where he was born. Completed in 1887, it served as his home until 1900, when the house was purchased for Virginia McCormick at a price of \$36,000. Her father was Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the McCormick Reaper.</p> <p>Historic Huntsville Quarterly, Volume XXVIII, Nos. 2 &amp; 3, Summer /Fall 2002</p>
<p><b>Where was I?</b></p> <p>C. Old Chimney Road</p>	<p>"Located atop Monte Sano Mountain in Huntsville, the Monte Sano Hotel opened in 1887. The 233-room Victorian hotel was built by the Northern Alabama Improvement Company, with the assistance of Michael and James O'Shaughnessy, and attracted wealthy investors to the Tennessee Valley."</p> <p>'Monte Sano' is Italian for 'mountain of health' and the hotel was considered by many to be a health resort. "Guests arrived via the Monte Sano Railway, which transported passengers from the Memphis &amp; Charleston Railroad Depot in downtown Huntsville to the top of Monte Sano mountain. Famous guests who have stayed there include William H. Vanderbilt, William Waldorf Astor, Walter Damrosch, Jay Gould, and Helen Keller. The hotel closed in 1900 and became the summer residence of the Garth family before it was dismantled for scrap in 1944."</p> <p>The Huntsville-Madison Library Digital Archives</p>

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](http://HuntsvilleHistoryCollection.org).