

About the Drawing:

“The Public Square and Big Spring, Huntsville, Alabama, 1823” was created in 1974 by Sarah Huff Fisk in observance of the 150th anniversary of Huntsville’s Waterworks, the oldest water system in the United States west of the Appalachian Mountains. The drawing is based on the artist’s extensive research of land records, deeds, building descriptions and other historical data. Her bird’s-eye view shows the pumping of water from the Big Spring to the courthouse square through hollowed-out logs. Daily life around the town square is also depicted.

About the Artist:



Sarah Huff Fisk

Sarah Huff Fisk

(March 16, 1915 – December 31, 2006)

Huntsville historian, author and artist, Sarah Huff Fisk was a descendant of pioneer families in Madison County and a life-long resident of Huntsville/Madison County. She was a member of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society and served as its president for four years. She was chairman of the mayor’s ad hoc committee to research and plan for the reconstruction of Constitution Hall Park and served on the first city board

appointed to operate it. As a member of the Historical Society, she held numerous other positions including chairman to erect many of the historical markers in Madison County. She was also chairman of the committee to research early communities in the county and to map the downtown area as it was in 1819. She was the artist for “A New Map of Huntsville, Alabama, 1819,” which was recognized by the American Association for State and Local History.

Sarah Huff Fisk’s illustrations have appeared in five textbooks used in Alabama schools. At the time of her death, Mrs. Fisk had six books in print, the most recent being *Lost Writings of Howard Weeden as “Flake White,”* which she published in 2005 with co-author Linda Wright Riley. Other books by Fisk include *Shadows on the Wall: The Life and Works of Howard Weeden* (with co-author Frances Roberts); *Civilization Comes to Big Spring: Huntsville, Alabama 1823*; *Found Among the Fragments*; *Built Upon the Fragments*; and *Long Ago in Madison County* (illustrator).