Our next meeting of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society will be held on **Sunday, September 14 at 2 pm**, at the public library on Monroe Street. We hope to see you there.

We have an unusual program in that we will have two speakers! Our first speaker will be **Dr. Sam Spry of Spry Funeral Home**. This business was started 95 years ago by his father! In addition, Dr. Spry served as Madison County Coroner from 1970 to 1990. He will talk about some of the interesting cases he has worked on, burial customs unique to the South, recent trends in funerals, and historical “finds” in old Madison County cemeteries. Why do we use vaults? The answer probably isn’t what you think. Did you know that some early coffins were made out of cast iron and some out of glass?

Our second speaker will be **retired Major Bobby Smith**, whose 40-year career with the **Huntsville Police Department** encompassed some very interesting times and events, including the controversial tenure of Chief Sal Vizzini. His book, **“Honor Behind the Badge – the Bobby Smith Story”** will be available to buy. This story is worthy of a fabulous movie complete with murder, espionage, drug smuggling, and mystery to spare!

This will be a most interesting program and we hope you will invite guests to join us.

**Other items of note:**

- Did you know that 100 years ago, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo? As a result, Austria-Hungary declared war against Serbia and World War I began. Although the U.S. did not get involved until 1917, the world is commemorating this event and we, the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, would like to take a special part in promoting this commemoration!
- **University of Alabama student John O’Brien** is this year’s recipient of the **John Rison Jones Annual Scholarship**. Award winners are chosen based on their research in Southern history. John researched and wrote the story **“If You Build it, They Will Come: the Housing Authority and Huntsville, 1941-1960.”** John received $250 and our sincerest best wishes for his scholastic endeavors.

- On **Sunday, September 28**, the **Huntsville Veterans’ Museum** is presenting a
special program for members and guests of the Huntsville - Madison County Historical Society. We will see the 40 et 8 passenger car and hear about the Rainbow Division, among other stories about our Alabama boys. This isn’t just for the men! Please join us at 2 pm and bring guests with you. Special admission for us is an affordable $3.

The Veterans’ Memorial Museum is located at 2060 Old Airport Rod, SW, Huntsville, 35801. Their phone number is (256) 883-3737. Cross streets are South Memorial Parkway and Leeman Ferry Road SW. Please make a special effort to attend this event. If you have never been to the museum, you will be very impressed.

We have been asked to participate in a large Civil War Sesquicentennial event for the final year which is 2015. A number of historical societies across Alabama are planning to join in, and there may be grant money available to support them. If you have ideas or are interested, please let us know by contacting Jacque Reeves at jacquereeves@avalontours.net. Thinking waaaaay ahead, we are less than five years away from the 200th anniversary of the year Alabama became a state. And just where did that happen? Right here in Huntsville. Plans are already underway to commemorate this event in a big way.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2014-2015, send a check for $25 to:

HMCHS
P.O. Box 666
Huntsville, AL 35804

Please include your e-mail address.

Thank you for your continued support of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society. See you on September 14th!