

# Welcome

**NOT MANY ARMORIES WERE BUILT OF NATIVE STONE. SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL WE TURNED OURS INTO A MUSEUM.**

The Guntersville Museum turned a city landmark into the cornerstone of an entire cultural district. The facility was built in 1936 prior to World War II, as a military armory for Company E, 167th Infantry Division. Built under the Works Progress Act (WPA), the building was constructed of local rough limestone. With its distinctive castellated (castle-like) architecture, the Museum sits on a tree-covered hilltop adjacent to Guntersville's highly rated Public Library and overlooking the acclaimed Whole Backstage Community Theatre.



## The Guntersville Museum

1215 Rayburn Avenue  
Guntersville, Alabama 35976  
Phone: (256) 571-7597  
Fax: (256) 571-7584  
[www.guntersvillemuseum.org](http://www.guntersvillemuseum.org)  
email: [guntersvillemuseum@guntersvilleal.org](mailto:guntersvillemuseum@guntersvilleal.org)

### Museum Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Closed Mondays

### Admission Free

**For more information contact Julie Patton, Museum Director.**



[guntersvilleal.org](http://guntersvilleal.org)



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# The Guntersville Museum



**A UNIQUE HISTORICAL SETTING  
FOR PERMANENT COLLECTIONS  
AND CURRENT EXHIBITS.**



*69,000 acres of water.  
10,000 years of history.  
Hundreds of objects and exhibits.  
And one great way to explore  
Guntersville.*

Welcome to the Guntersville Museum.  
Being located at the southernmost  
point of the Tennessee River, Lake  
Guntersville provides a unique  
vantage point on history and  
the culture of the region.  
As a living repository, the  
Museum offers visitors  
a chance to explore  
everything from  
Native American  
artifacts to  
interesting local  
personalities.

### **TVA AND THE MAKING OF THE LAKE.**

Archival photos and historical documents provide a fascinating view of Guntersville before the lake came up. Exhibits also illustrate activities during construction of the dam that created almost a thousand miles of mountain-lakes shoreline. The combination of engineering prowess and socio-economic benefits to the region make for interesting history, especially as viewed through vintage photography.



### **THIS ONE IS FOR THE BIRDS.**

As part of our Natural History collection, the museum is fortunate to have a local treasure that fascinated generations of local residents who attended the old City Elementary “Rock School.” In the lobby of that school, and now at the new museum, was a superb display of mostly native birds collected and mounted by the late Bessie Rayburn Samuel in the 1920s. Bessie actually taught herself taxidermy, and this unique display was a resource for the state’s first book on ornithology.

### **A VIEW INTO THE PAST.**

An impressive Native American exhibit – the Percy Barnard Collection – is augmented by other locally- and regionally-collected artifacts dating to the Paleo-Indian era. The first inhabitants of the area left a rich history, and the museum’s collection provides an interesting view into that past.



### **LOCAL ART, NATIONAL ACCLAIM.**

The museum is home to a permanent collection of work by nationally-acclaimed local artist Frank Nelson. A variety of landscapes and still lifes captured by Frank’s unique touch are often on display in the Katherine and Buck Woodall Gallery.



### **FAMOUS SONS AND DAUGHTERS.**

The museum includes exhibits about John Gunter, the city’s namesake. Gunter was the first white man to this area in the late 1700s and married Catherine, the daughter of a Cherokee chieftain. John’s famous great-grandson was Will Rogers, who has become an adopted son of the lake city, and the museum includes several interesting pieces about this American legend.