

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
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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



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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Archival photos and historical documents provide a fascinating view of Guntersville before the lake came up.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.