

The CSA Mid-Year Meeting at Huntsville

By Col. Deane R. Briggs

The CSA mid-year meeting was held September 13-14 at the Marriott Hotel in Huntsville, Alabama, with 35 attendees.

Local hosts Frank Crown and Mike O'Reilly and their wives Judy and Patty arranged a perfect event with a well-stocked hospitality suite and even made sure to have beautiful weather for the weekend. The trustee's met on Thursday evening and made several decisions which will be announced in *The Confederate Philatelist* and the newsletter

Dealers Roger Ballard, Tony Crumbley, Labron Harris, Trish Kaufmann, John Kimbrough, Hudson McDonald, and Jerry Palazolo carried on a very busy bourse in the trading room with many covers finding new homes.

On Friday afternoon, Mike O'Reilly gave a presentation about "Huntsville Confederate Postal History" and also about the John J. Walker Mobile correspondence showing many of these great rarities and supplying a census of the Mobile provisional covers from the Walker correspondence that he has documented during a 30-year period.

Frank Crown gave a presentation about "Research in Confederate Postal History," which highlighted the need to verify references and, in many cases, the need to go back to original sources. Statements made in articles are often embellished by the author.

A Friday evening reception in the hospitality suite, with enough hors d'oeuvres to make a meal and wonderful desserts, was hosted by the Crowns and O'Reillys. It was truly a standing room only event.

A Southern Supper was held on Saturday evening in the Columbia Room at the Marriott. The enjoyable meal and fellowship were carried over into the hospitality suite for the rest of the evening.

Huntsville was a special city to visit and most attendees enjoyed a lengthy visit to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center that was located next to the Marriott Hotel. One of three surviving Saturn V Rockets was on display as were some real moon rocks.

Huntsville has an historic downtown section that includes numerous beautifully restored antebellum homes. Several attendees viewed these homes on a driving tour.

All in all, it was a great experience, made special by hosts Frank and Mike, and enjoyed by all.



Huntsville Meeting Reflections



Frank Crown's presentation.

Photos By
Gen. John L. Kimbrough



Tony Crumbley, Rich Murphy, and John Walker.



Betty and Paul Benson, Kevin and Christy Waldrup.



Hospitality Room reception.



Southern Supper — From Left: Frank Crown, Trish Kaufmann, Judy Crown, Patty O'Reilly, Mike O'Reilly, and Ray Pietruszka.



Jerry Palazolo, Labron Harris, Maurice Bursey, and Rich Murphy.