



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Dawn Taylor, President

William G. Barron, Vice President

Marcia Gordon McLaurin, Secretary & Newsletter Editor

N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

Neil Randall, Council-at-Large

January 2021 Vol. 17, No. 1

WITHOUT A PAST, THERE IS NO FUTURE

**ALL IN-PERSON SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS POSTPONED
UNTIL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED IN FULL
MEETINGS WILL BE VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM MEETING**

VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING:

Date: January 9, 2021

Place: Virtual meeting for members via Zoom.

Time: 11am – 12pm Central Time (you can join meeting as early as 10:45)

Zoom Meeting info:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/94204342995?](https://zoom.us/j/94204342995?pwd=U3FHcFlXK3J3QitXMxNMSWHzSk5Ldz09)

[pwd=U3FHcFlXK3J3QitXMxNMSWHzSk5Ldz09](https://zoom.us/j/94204342995?pwd=U3FHcFlXK3J3QitXMxNMSWHzSk5Ldz09)

Meeting ID: 942 0434 2995

Passcode: 130848

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,94204342995# US (Houston)

+16465588656,,94204342995# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 942 0434 2995

**WE WILL HAVE A TIME OF SHARING
FOLLOWING THE MEETING!**

Announcements:

INSTRUCTIONS HERE FOR ZOOM MEETING:

Please use the link sent to you in the newsletter email if possible. If not, then use the phone number provided that is in your local area code.

LRSH:

Closed for renovations until further notice. There will be a notification about helping with renovations in the near future.

MEMBER AUTOBIOGRAPHIES:

We are asking all members who are willing to please submit a mini-autobiography to help other members get to know you! Please include where you live, your connection to Amite County, your hobbies, family information, etc. You get the drift! Include anything that would help others get to know you better! One member will be published in each newsletter! How exciting!

CAPTAIN HIRAM MORGAN CEREMONY:

We are asking that family members of any of the members of Company B, Mississippi 33rd Infantry who don't currently have a biography written on the website www.angelfire.com/ms3/davidg33/rosters.htm please write one and submit it to us either by mail at P. O. Box 2 Liberty, MS 39645 or by email at amitecohistory@gmail.com by March 1, 2021 so that we may have these biographies for the ceremony.

Eliza Jane Poitevent Nicholson —“Pearl Rivers”

1859 Graduate of Amite Female Seminary in Liberty, Mississippi

Eliza Jane Poitevent was born in Gainesville, Hancock, MS, on March 11, 1843. She was the third of five children in a prosperous family. However, at the age of 9 she moved to the Picayune area to live with her aunt and uncle. From there she was sent to Liberty to attend the Amite Female Seminary, graduating in 1859 as the “wildest girl in school.”

Eliza loved writing and after the Civil War began submitting her work to newspapers and magazines under the pseudonym “Pearl Rivers”. Her poems were published in the New Orleans literary sheet, *The South*, and in the *New York Home Journal* and the *New York Ledger*. She was first published in the New Orleans newspaper *The Daily Picayune* on October 17, 1866, and after 1867, all of her work was published in this paper.

During one of her visits to her grandfather in New Orleans, Eliza met the owner of *The Daily Picayune*, Alva M. Holbrook. He asked her to become literary editor of the paper in 1870 and she continued to write under her pseudonym. She married Mr. Holbrook, who was divorced and 34 years her senior, in 1872. The marriage was unhappy and at one point, Mr. Holbrook’s ex-wife attacked Eliza with a pistol and a bottle of rum which led to a messy and protracted court battle. Mr. Holbrook died in 1876, in bankruptcy, owing \$80,000, and left the newspaper to Eliza. Prior to his death, Eliza had fallen in love with a married George Nicholson, the business manager of the paper. A year after the death of his wife, George married Eliza in 1878.

Mr. Nicholson bought 25% interest in *The Daily Picayune* and together, he and Eliza managed to pay down the debt, increase advertising revenue, and increase circulation. She had added stories on women and sports as well as adding a children’s page and a gossip column. She hired several women as columnists and reporters as she was also an outspoken proponent of women in the workforce and promoted equal pay. She had managed to change the paper into a family newspaper and between 1880 and 1890 the circulation more than tripled while the paper grew in size and influence. Under Eliza, the paper fought corruption, gave strong opinions on public works on the Mississippi River, supported railroad construction, advocated political changes, and took other principled stands, reflecting the views of its readers. As Eliza loved animals, she wrote editorials criticizing dog fighting and the beating of horses and mules. She was a driving force in launching the New Orleans Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1888.

Eliza became the first president of the National Women’s Press Association in 1884, and became the first honorary member of the New York Women’s Press Club. In March 1886, the editor of the New York magazine *Forest and Stream* invited “Mr. E. J. Nicholson” to be vice-president of the Audubon Society. Two weeks later, the editor apologized for assuming she was a man and ranking her with the “inferior sex.”

Eliza and her husband both succumbed to influenza two weeks apart in February of 1896 leaving two teenage children.

Eliza’s early work was rhyming verse that was mainly pastoral with some poetry being romantic. However, it was not viewed in retrospect as exceptional. However, Dr. W. H. Holcomb, a scholarly critic during her time, wrote of her book *Lyrics* that “She stands by this volume ahead of any other Southern poet, and no female writer in America, from Mrs. Sigourney to the Cary [sic] sisters, has evidence more poetic genius.”

Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society Meeting

November 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 am. Nine were in attendance via Zoom.

Invocation: Greg Barron

Minutes: The minutes were read by Marcia McLaurin. Jean Roberts made a motion to accept the minutes. Gay Blalock 2nd. Minutes approved as read.

President's Report: On December 12 we will tentatively have Christmas either at the LRSH outside under a tent, at the Liberty Baptist Church Family Life Center or at Gay Blalock's outdoor pavilion. Gay will check to see if the internet works over there. We will leave our options open until closer to the day to check the weather forecast.

VP report: none

Treasurer's Report: Balance on hand as of November 14, 2020 is \$39,225.39. The PayPal account has a balance of \$1,395.23.

Old Business: none

Announcements: Jean Roberts announced that there will be a grave marking ceremony on November 21, 2020 for her ancestor John Bankston who was a Revolutionary soldier. This will be held at the Dyson Cemetery out from Tangipahoa, LA. There was a tragedy at the Prescott Cemetery in that a car veered into the cemetery and tore up a chain link fence about a week ago. This cemetery is located at the corner of Quinton and Prescott Rd off the Magnolia/Gillsburg Rd. The Amite County Sheriff is pursuing this as they do know who did it. The Anderson Swearingen Cemetery was cleaned last Saturday. It is located out from 98 with brick wall around it. Greg suggested that we go to the Gordon Cemetery the afternoon after the December meeting to scout it out prior to the ceremony in April.

Motion to adjourn by Greg Barron. 2nd Neil Randall. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.

We would like to have a program in January.

Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society Meeting

December 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 11:12 AM. 8 were in attendance via Zoom.

Invocation: Dawn Taylor

Minutes: The minutes were read by Marcia McLaurin. Virginia Zeigler made a motion to accept minutes. Trish Sargent 2nd. Motion approved.

President's Report: The LRSH is actively being worked on. The contractor from Louisiana, Brian, has begun work on shoring up the posts. Tommy Carraway is working on the windows, taking out rot, caulking, painting, and refinishing the security bars. Decision has been made that we can leave the stucco on the walls. Therefore we will remove the paneling and put stucco back on the walls where there is currently none. There was stucco under the paneling. We are still planning on having the dedication at the Captain Morgan gravesite in April.

VP Report: None

Treasurer's Report: None – absent

Secretary's Report: None

New Business: Glenn Huff is wanting Neil Randall to look at some old records to see if we want them.

Old Business: Sue Severson is publishing a revised edition of the family Bible record book. This will add about 10 additional Bibles to the current compilation. She can still add more if she receives them. Trish Sargent has a McGehee bible she will add. You may contact Sue at Scsevereson@gmail.com to email her these records. She will have these ready for Heritage Days in May 2021, hopefully in person. We need to decide how many copies we want. Sue needs a copy of the cover, title page, original owner, current owner, and copies of relevant pages.

Announcements: None

Motion to adjourn Greg Barron, 2nd Trish Sargent. Meeting adjourned at 11:49.

MEMBERS WILLING TO SHARE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	EMAIL	PHONE	FAMILY NAMES
Anderson	Thad Dudley	thad@seniorsbluebook.com	228-396-4602	Anderson, Swearingen, Gillis
Barron	Greg (William)	williamgbarron@msn.com	601-810-7843	Barron, Erwin, Anderson, Dean, Deer, Marsalis, Myers, Ward, Gayden, Morgan, Collins, Bickham, Richardson, Huckabee, Newsmith
Blalock	Gay	gayblalock@gmail.com	601-657-8807	Spillman, Shuckrow, Weathersby, Jackson
Boyd	Susan	Susan.boyd1@icloud.com	601-660-2550	DAR specialist
Cate	David	davidjcate@comcast.net	832-266-9545	Kennedy, Gillespie, Cotton, Ellis, Erwin/Ervin, Marsh, Blocker, Patterson, Brasfield, Bassfield, Bechtel
Clark	Angela			Gallegly
Cook	Jacob	jacobcook82@gmail.com	803-443-3114	Shurley, Taylor, Jones, McMillan, Lundberg
Cratty	Chery	Chery3@me.com		Dunn, Phares
Crowell	Millijon Mila	billnmila@sbcglobal.net	512-788-7644	Harrington, Terrell, Godbold, Jones (professional genealogist)
Crump-Russell	Helen	hrussell9671@gmail.com	318-789-8396	Butler, Nunnery, Johns
Daniels	David A.	davidadaniels@comcast.net	615-517-5225	Daniels, Causey, Jackson, Buford, Nesmith
Elliott	Robin	robinelliott@att.net	504-453-0831	McGehee
Fortenberry	Teresa	taf6768@aol.com	404-296-6768	Simmons, Goslin, Covington, Washburn
Freeman	J. Ralph	freeman333@bellsouth.net	601-730-2816	
Griffith	Diane	ldgros@aol.com	630-248-0084	Pray, Wilson, Prescott
Jeffers	Joan T.	Joan.jeffers@gmail.com	775-846-4691	Bates
Jensen	Frode	skipjen@aol.com	435-200-9901	McLean, Bates, Weathersby
Johnson	Sonya	sonyacj@gmail.com	601-248-3347	Matthews, Kirkland, Belue, Nettles, Allred, Bowlin, Pettis, Chisolm
Johnson	Sylvia	sylviajohnson3@bellsouth.net	601-876-5602	Turnipseed, Wells, Williams, Walker, Brent, Bridges, Gunnell, Alexander, Boyd, Thompson, Conerly, Norman, Spencer
Khayat	Susannah	susannahkhayat@gmail.com	404-556-7040	Walker, Benthall, Jackson, Jenkins
Lane	Maurice	mauricelane@att.net	205-988-3521	Lane, Garner, Cook, Addison, Sleppy
Lofton	Kathryn	kathrynlofton@yahoo.com	904-403-7158	
Lovgren	Wendy	mx287308@SBCGlobal.net		Anderson, Causey, Daniels, Jackson, Jenkins, Perkins, Smylie
McGehee	Debra	debby_higgins@yahoo.com	985-259-1322	McGehee, Dykes, Downs, Muse, DeJarnette, Varnado, Hutto, Strickland, Easterling, Higgins, Passman, Taylor, Thomas, O'Neil, Watson, McKenzie, Richardson, Talley, Warrne, Butler, Morris
McGraw	Marie K.	marie410@att.net	601-924-5788	McGraw
McLaurin	Marcia	geemarcia@gmail.com	601-988-4077	Gordon, Butler, Newman, Burris, Barron, Causey
Parker	Marti	lipseylibrary@yahoo.com	601-320-4474	James M. Miller descendant
Parks	Tracy	tracyparks@comcast.net	901-409-7751	

LAST	FIRST	EMAIL	PHONE	FAMILY NAMES
Payne	Jennifer	jenpayne10@gmail.com	832-696-5973	Cain, Caston, Cunningham, Covington, Cockerham, Huff, Jones, Longmire, Moore, Payne
Price	Gregory	gaprice@comcast.net	601-856-0009	Price, Rollins, Bunch
Prospere	Katherine	prospere@cableone.net	601-597-0955	Middleton, Thornhill, Emfinger, Barksdale
Randall	Neil	Jrand57@msn.com	985-290-2325	Randall, roundtree, James, Lusk, Whiteside, Roberts, Coleman, Page, Tanner, Bowlin, Lindsey, Small, Cothorn, Pierce, Thigpen, Richardson, Prine, McKay, Ward, Harrell, Hopgood, Duncan, Conerly, Farmer, Dees, Jackson, Wilkinson
Roberts	Jean	jeanroberts@comcast.net	303-431-9191	Bankston, Hall, McElveen, Carter, Coates, Prescott, Jones, Conerly, Ward, Scott, Guy, Magee, Herring, Miller, Roberts, Wall, Varner/Vernon, Gordon, Hope, Smit, Simmons (Bogue Chitto), Tyler, Davis
House	Ary "Robbie"	robbiehouse47@gmail.com	662-654-1773	Barney, Robinson
Sargent	Patricia	trishsar1@yahoo.com	803-665-8332	McGehee, Brumfield, Cotton, Muse
Turner	Martha	martha.turner58@yahoo.com	540-645-2013	Butler, Gordon, Robinson, Turn, Quin, McElveen, Brumfield, Campbell
Victor	Patricia	Pkvictor.hou@gmail.com	281-384-2757	Richard Curtis, Phoebe Courtney, Talkbert, Johns, Lea, Perkins, Slade, Reeves/Rees
Walker	Carole	cawalker@scarletmail.rutgers.edu	404-963-1231	Walker, Jackson
Williams	Darlene	williamsdart21@yahoo.com	601-248-3215	Corban/Corbin, Whittington, Causey, Butler, Bradley, Smith, Farr, Jackson, Bass, Temple
Williams	Lynn	lwilliams226@gmail.com	601-730-3206	Williams, Vardell, Garner, Simmons, Ball
Wilson	Debra	kpmagindw@aol.com	970-234-2718	Littleton, Capell, Fielding, Baron, McCoy, Covert
Young	Rob	ryoung51@gmail.com	228-265-1294	Young, McGehee, Nunnery, Thornton, Wilkinson
Zeigler	Virginia H.	ginyaz@bellsouth.net	601-249-5467	Edwards, Turner, Zeigler, Bates, Rawlinson

If you are willing to share your contact information with other members, please let us know by emailing us at amitecohistory@gmail.com or text Marcia @ 601-988-4077 with your family names.

**Annual Membership Contribution
Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society**

PO Box 2

Liberty, MS 39645

amitecohistory@gmail.com

Check or circle choice

- \$15.00 – Individual \$25.00 – Family \$10.00 – Senior (over 65)
 \$200.00 – Lifetime \$150 -- Lifetime, couple 70+ age \$100 - Lifetime, 70+ individual
 \$10.00 – Student (under 18) \$50.00 – Sponsor or Ancestor Memorial

All contributions are tax-deductible.

Please make checks or money orders payable to: **Amite Co. Historical and Genealogical Society.**

Please send PayPal payments to: **amitecohistory@gmail.com**

(Please print)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Amite County Families to whom I am related: _____

YOU MAY SHARE MY CONTACT INFORMATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS for FAMILY RESEARCH PURPOSES:

YES NO

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Zip+4: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Thank you for joining the Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society. Your contribution helps us continue to collect and preserve historic treasures from Amite County's past, as well as to promote family history. Membership also provides an opportunity to attend programs and participate in special events.

I am interested in helping with:

Archives Membership Programs Newsletter Other (specify):

Prefer newsletter to be mailed () Prefer newsletter to be emailed ()

Please let us know if you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email instead of snail mail. This would allow us to save money on postage which would in turn allow money to be spent more prudently.

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