



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

March 2020

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WITHOUT A PAST, THERE IS NO FUTURE

AMITE COUNTY AND HER HISTORY—April 11, 2020

Presentation by Greg Barron, VP

Greg will be presenting the program that was scheduled to be held at the Liberty Library on February 12, 2020. He will also be discussing genealogy and the important role of DNA in discovering your ancestors. Please plan to attend! Greg is a fascinating speaker!

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING:

Date: March 14, 2020

Time: 11:00 AM

Executive Committee (Officers) Meet at 10:00 AM

Place: Liberty Baptist Church Family Life Center

Future Meeting Schedule

Note: *Time and place of regular meetings is 11:00 am at the Liberty Baptist Church Family Life Center unless otherwise specified:*

April 11, 2020: Field trip to Carter Mixon Cemetery has been postponed. Regular business meeting and program by Greg Barron, VP.

May 2, 2020: HERITAGE DAYS!!!!

June 13, 2020: Annual meeting with voting for officers. Potluck lunch! Please bring your favorite food to share!

July — NO MEETING.

August 8, 2020: Regular business meeting

Announcements:

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!

NEWSLETTER:

If anyone has experience with writing newsletters, owns Microsoft Publisher, and is willing to help with or write the newsletter, please email us at amitecohistory@gmail.com or call Marcia McLaurin at (601) 988-4077 so we can discuss this possibility with you.

June 13, 2020 Annual Meeting

Please be thinking about officer nominations for the next fiscal year starting July 1, 2020. We will be voting on June 13th at the annual meeting.

You may submit nominations for officers to amitecohistory@gmail.com by May 31, 2020.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Thanks to all who have paid their dues!

ACHGS Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2020

Meeting was held at the Liberty Baptist Church FLC. There were 10 people in attendance. Dawn Taylor and Marcia McLaurin participated by phone.

Meeting called to order at 11:10 by Greg Barron, VP.

Bert Blalock gave invocation.

Minutes were sent out via email. Motion to accept minutes as read Virginia Zeigler, 2nd Neil Randall. Minutes approved.

Dawn Taylor – President’s report. Eva Frances Phares sold several Bethany Books. We lost Oma Gordon and Nelson Dawson last week. Funeral for Nelson next Saturday.

Greg Barron - VP report: Program scheduled for Wednesday of next week at the library at 1:00. Amite County History and her people. Librarian was fascinated by a conversation she had with Greg and he will present this program. Leonard Cowart is in attendance today and has relatives in the Carter Mixon Cemetery. Used to be able to drive to this cemetery. The loggers have demolished all landmarks to this cemetery. Want to go to this cemetery in April. Jacob Cook will be re-doing our website. Heritage days is set. We will move the field trip up to April. Greg spoke at length about Oma Gordon’s contributions to the society. In her obituary she requested that all memorial donations go to the historical society.

Financial report by Gay Blalock. Motion to approve Greg Barron, second Neil Randall. Financial report approved.

Flag needs replacing by the confederate monument in Liberty. 1st National Flag will be ordered by Dawn Taylor.

Gay is requesting all bible records that haven’t been included in the existing bible record book. Her sister is re-doing the bible record book. Please submit a copy of these records to Gay Blalock at gayblalock@gmail.com.

Sonya said that there is a program about the historic Ponchatula train wreck at Holmesville on February 29th. We will possibly be taking books to sell.

Gay Blalock made motion to adjourn. Neil Randall second.

In Memory of Nelson L. Dawson 1933-2020

By Neil Randall

Mr. Nelson Dawson, a native son of Amite County went to be with his Lord and Savior on January 29, 2020. Mr. Nelson grew up in the Busy Corner Community, he was a graduate of Oxford High School, and studied at Southwest Mississippi Junior College before joining the Armed Forces. After returning from military service, Nelson served with the Baton Rouge Fire Department as a Fire Prevention Chief. After his retirement in 1988, Nelson returned to Amite County, where he served as Arson Investigator for the Amite County Sheriff Department. Mr. Nelson was the thirteenth (and last) child of his parents, Luther Cleveland Dawson and Tressie Melissa "Allie" Bateman Dawson. Mr. Nelson was a true genealogist. Over the years he published three books on the Bateman and Dawson families. Most of the research for his books was done the old fashioned way: traveling to the Carolinas and Europe, working with phone lists, making court house visits and interviewing people. Mr. Nelson started using Family Tree Maker software at some point shortly after it came on the market. Over the years, Nelson was able to amass a large family tree with over 100,000 names. Mr. Nelson and our good friend, Glen Huff, collaborated on building out the family tree lines for generations. In recent years, Nelson submitted a DNA test, added his tree to Ancestry.com, and continued to keep up with the latest in research technology. Nelson loved his pets and beautiful yard, enjoyed daily visits to the Liberty Courthouse and the Liberty Drug Store for coffee (photo below). Mr. Nelson shared so much with so many over the years, opening up new windows into the past. He had a way of making you feel like you were his best friend! As we learned at his funeral, he had that effect on most everyone that knew him. His was a lifetime of service to his faith, family, nation, community, and friends.



In Memory Oma Earl Jones Gordon 1932-2020

By William Greg Barron



The Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society lost another stalwart member with the passing of as I like to say "Our" Oma Gordon. Oma had the same nature as I do, Do What Needs to Be Done, Ask Questions Later because Once Something is effectively done, little will be done to negate. Oma and her husband, Bill Gordon, put The Society on the sound financial footing that it enjoys today and, yes, I was a co-conspirator in this affair-- the Publication of the WPA Public Works Project Books for Amite County, Mississippi. Oma and I had done our homework, the copyright of the Federal Government had long expired which meant the two volumes were just waiting to be published. I had removed the two volume originals from the Little Red School House Collection, loaning them to Oma Gordon for the sole purpose of a creating a clear copy for publication. This project took her

one week of solid work then she and I went to a Publisher in Baker, Louisiana. A quote of \$7,000 to publish was given to us, which was an amount The Society did not have. Oma and Bill Gordon, without second thought, advanced publication in The Society's name by a loan paying all publishing costs. These Volumes initially sold for \$125.00 a set and within two months, the loan was repaid in FULL, these books sold on their own. The first printing quickly Sold Out and a second printing was ordered, they too sold quickly. In the 2nd printing a pagination mistake was made which did not affect the book's content and was only realized toward the end of the book's sale, Oma went back to the publisher who in turn actually published a 3rd printing gratis. Those are the few remaining books on sale.....

Our Oma liked to sojourn throughout The County taking photographs and learning the history of every old place and cemetery that could be imagined and some that could not be, on many occasions, we rambled together... One of the Highlights that she told me she enjoyed most was "The Invasion" as we came to refer to it. I scheduled a time to see the Antebellum home of Mr. Hosea Carraway on Highway 24, built by builder, if memory holds, Drury Cook in the 1830's. At one time, Mrs. A. E. Cole of Gloster (known in East Fork as Mrs. M. E. Bornman) owned this house. Much of the period furniture within the house came from Mrs. Louise Martin Carraway's Family. Being a private residence of a very private man, the home had never been on tour let alone been photographed. On this day Mrs. Oma changed that and got her photographs, preserving this historic home for posterity.

Cemeteries were also a Delight! One day, Oma, Jeannie Livingston and I embarked on an all-day sojourn on Longleaf Farms. The Cemetery Tour given by David Anderson was the highlight of that day! The remote Cemetery of the 19th Century Preacher Zachariah Reeves was our first destination. While we were there, David Anderson received a phone call from a Cutter (logger) that he had just found another Cemetery. They had turned over several markers and determined it to be a Weathersby Cemetery. We went to this location immediately. This Cemetery is Not Recorded and remains so, a regret that has not been rectified...

Our Oma served as President, Vice President and Board Member at Large, Mr. Bill in the Black Hat always in The Picture with a Helping Hand... Oma loved Her Family, Her Heritage and Her History and Our County of Amite as No Other, She was truly a Daughter of The South.... And as they did in the 19th Century, I will sign off, One that Knew Her, WGB.

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: _____

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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