



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Dawn Taylor, President

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November 2018

Vol. 14, No. 9

WITHOUT A PAST, THERE IS NO FUTURE

OPEN HOUSE—DECEMBER 1, 2018 FROM 10 AM –1 PM
MCGEHEE BEALL HOUSE — HOME OF ROBIN ELLIOTT
5170 PECAN ROAD, LIBERTY, MS

OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION/SCHEDULE FOR MEMBERS:

- Planning meeting November 29th at 6:00 PM — Guapos Mexican Restaurant in Smithdale, MS—anyone helping with open house day will need to be in attendance if at all possible.
- November 30, 2018 at 1:00 PM — Set up at the McGehee Beall House
- December 1, 2018 at 8:30 AM — Be at open house early to help finish setup and get your assignments! **Please send an email to amitecohistory@gmail.com or call one of the executive committee members to volunteer!**
- All members who will be hosting a room in the house need to be at the house by 9:00 AM to read over the script and receive instructions. We will try to have the room scripts available at the meeting on November 29th.
- As many members as possible need to be dressed in 1830-1865 period costume. Room hosts are required to wear period costume.
- Members need to bring finger foods
- We need members to staff the tables for merchandise, food, door prizes, tickets to the house, and registration.
- Bring your lawn chairs! We will have an acoustic band, Larry Wallace & Friends, performing from the dormer balcony!

WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS!

Future Meeting Schedule

Note: Time and place of regular meetings is 10:00 am in the Liberty Baptist Church Family Life Center unless otherwise announced. Any change of location will be posted on the LRSB door on the day of the meeting, the FB page, and an email will be sent as a reminder.

January 12, 2019 — Regular monthly meeting

February 9, 2019 — Regular monthly meeting

March 9, 2019 — Regular monthly meeting

April 13, 2019 — Regular monthly meeting

May 4, 2019 — **Heritage Days—LRSB will be open**

May 11, 2019 - Regularly monthly meeting

June 8, 2019 - Regularly monthly meeting

July 13, 2019 - Regularly monthly meeting

August 13, 2019 - Regularly monthly meeting

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE OPEN

2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month

2:00 - 4:00 PM

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HOST

Please email amitecohistory@gmail.com

**or contact an executive committee
member to volunteer**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership:

Remember to remind all your Facebook friends who are members of our Facebook page that unless they join the society by December 31, 2018 they will be removed as a Facebook page member and will not be allowed to post on the Facebook page. They will only be allowed to view the posts.

Newsletter Change:

The newsletter is being changed from monthly to quarterly starting with the November issue. This will allow for a better quality newsletter that will include color photographs. We are still asking that you write contributing articles so that the newsletter can remain pertinent and interesting.

Shiloh Field Trip:

There is a tentative trip planned for April 2019. Please keep this in mind and provide any suggestions you may have to the executive board.

Holiday Cards for Sale:

We have plenty of holiday cards for sale! Please encourage people to buy them to send as Christmas cards! We will be selling them at the open house on December 1st. \$10.00 for a pack of 12 with four Amite County winter scenes!

History of the McGehee – Beall House

By Robin Elliott

This marvelous Amite County home was built in about 1845 by **William Hansford Crawford McGehee** on land originally owned by his grandfather, Samuel McGehee. Samuel, who was originally from Virginia, received land grants in Mississippi for his service. Samuel came to Amite County from Georgia in about 1805, bringing with him ten of his twelve children, the last two, David and Nancy, were born in Mississippi. Three of Samuel's youngest sons each married a sister from the Downs family. Two of the sons got married in 1819 and the third got married in 1823. Samuel's 11th child, David McGehee (1797-1848) married Mariah Downs. David and Mariah's firstborn son was **William Hansford Crawford McGehee**.

William H. C. McGehee (born 1820/22) married **Amanda Ophelia Jones** (1829-1888) on January 5, 1843 and had four children before William died of tuberculosis between November 1859 and January 1860. Their four children were Woodford-Livingston (1848-1926), **Jane "Janie" Ophelia** (1848-1926), Martha Elwood (1850-1947), and Mariah C. "Mollie" (1858-1946). Mr. Joseph S. Reeves became the executor of W. H. C. McGehee's estate, and not long after, married Mr. McGehee's widow. Amanda and Mr. Reeves had a couple of children together. It seems that Mr. Reeves was, according to my Grandmother, "a Dandy", and Amanda was afraid Mr. Reeves might lose some of her property gambling, so she decided to divide up the properties (some with houses and some with no house) between all of her children, including the children she had with Mr. Reeves. All of the children's names were put in a hat, and names were drawn for each piece of property. The name of Jane Ophelia "Janie" McGehee was drawn (by her step-father, as she was a minor) to receive the property. The house came with approximately 160 acres of land, small cottages for "the hands", a log barn, a Dove Coat, Smoke house, out house, and the main house which is located at 5170 Pecan Road, Liberty.

The Second "Owner"

Jane Ophelia "Janie" McGehee was born December 12, 1848, most likely IN the house she would later own. In 1867, at the age of 19, Janie married Thaddeus Ridley Beall. They had five children, Elisha Vivian, Claudius Van "Jack", Martha "Mattie" Amanda, Ethel Estelle "Edyie", and Thomas Thaddeus. Mattie Beall married Isiah Tucker in 1890 in Baton Rouge. They moved to Texas and had two daughters, after which Mr. Tucker passed away in 1893. Mattie returned to Liberty to live with her parents with her two young daughters, Mary Ethel (1891-1958) and Ira Beall (1893-1970), in the McGehee-Beall house, during which time she married Leon Compton McGehee. Mattie and Leon either shared the McGehee house with her parents or lived in the General Store that her parents owned a little less than a mile from the house (approximately located at the current intersection of Pecan Road and Freeman Road.) On November 7, 1914, T. R. Beall and Janie Ophelia McGehee Beall "sold for \$1.00" the house on Pecan Road with 152 acres (more or less) to Mattie McGehee and her husband, Leon Compton "Coon" McGehee "for the love and affection we have for our daughter and the further consideration of their taking care of us during our natural lives."

The Third "Owner"

Martha "Mattie" Amanda Beall Tucker McGehee and her husband Leon Compton McGehee took full possession of the McGehee-Beall House upon the death of Mattie's parents, (Janie and Thaddeus Ridley Beall). While living in the McGehee-Beall house, Mattie had six more children with Leon - Lilly Beall (1896-1984), Hattie Helen (1898-1992), Janie Lee (1900-1989), Tommie Alene (died in infancy), Thomas Leon "Tommie" (1905-1988), and Thadius Claude "Nuda" (1902-1918), who died from appendicitis on the way to the hospital in McComb from Liberty in a wagon with his sister singing to him, "I'll take you home again Kathleen". In their old age, Mattie and Leon decided to live apart. Mattie was left to run the "farm" on her own and it apparently overwhelmed her, so she decided to sell the land and house including all the crops, equipment and animals. The house was listed with a realtor in March of 1936 with selling price of \$3,000.

The Fourth "Owner"

On October 12, 1943, **Alney Jones and wife, Janie Lee McGehee Jones** (born in the McGehee-Beall house in Oct 1900) purchased the house and land from Mrs. Jones parents, Mattie A. McGehee and Leon C. McGehee for the sum of \$1,100.00. Alney Jones was a Liberty Native, but employed with Esso in Baton Rouge. They lived in Zachary and had two children, **Robbie Adair Jones Yaun** and **Alney Webster Jones, Jr.** They therefore rented the McGehee-Beall house to Alney's brother, John Jones and his wife, Jency Jones for several years. The Jones' had five children, three daughters and two sons, Sara, Sue, Dan, Raiford and another daughter who died as a child. They lived in the McGehee-Beall house for several years. Upon the death of Janie Lee McGehee Jones, her two children divided up the land, with Robbie Jones Yaun getting the house and the land upon which it was built. Alney Jones, Jr. received more land than Robbie to compensate for the value of the house.

The Fifth "Owner"

In 1972, Janie Lee McGehee Jones and son Alney Webster Jones, Jr. "sold" to **Robbie Adair Jones Yaun** 46 acres with the house for the sum of \$10.00. Robie Yaun was the mother of seven children - Robin, Jesse, Charles, Janie, Lucy, John and Ben Yaun. Long before her death, after retiring from a job as a social worker for the state of Louisiana, and moving to "the Farm", Robbie decided to have all of the furnishings in the house appraised. After an annual family reunion, when all of her children could be present, (although two of her sons, Jesse and Charles, were at that time deceased), Robbie decided to have all of the children sit in the parlor and go down the list of the inventory of the furnishings in the house and decide who would get what when she passed away. Most importantly, it would be decided who would get the house. It soon was clear that several people wanted the same things, so to keep it "fair", it was decided that we would draw names of all the people who wanted the same items. The drawn name would get the item in question. First up, and most

important was the house itself and certain items that were thought to be original to the house. A hat was held above the head of Robbie Yaun for the lucky winner to be drawn.

The Sixth "Owner"

And the winner of the lucky drawing for the house was..... **Robin Adair Yaun Schexnayder Elliott !!!!!**

Once again, the house was won by drawing a name from a hat! **Robin** was born December 10, 1947, almost 100 years after **Jane Ophelia "Janie" McGehee** (first drawing winner) was born on December 12, 1848)!!!!

Robin is the current owner/occupant of the McGehee-Beall House. Robin Elliott has three sons, Jeffrey Michael Schexnayder, David Allen Schexnayder and Zachary Steele Elliott.

The next owner of the McGehee-Beall house is yet to be determined!!

*** This document was prepared by Robin Yaun Elliott in October 2017 using as reference for dates, names, ect from the McGehee Decendants Volume III by Jane N and Ethel C. Woodall Grider published 1991 in a limited edition of 1,000 copies.

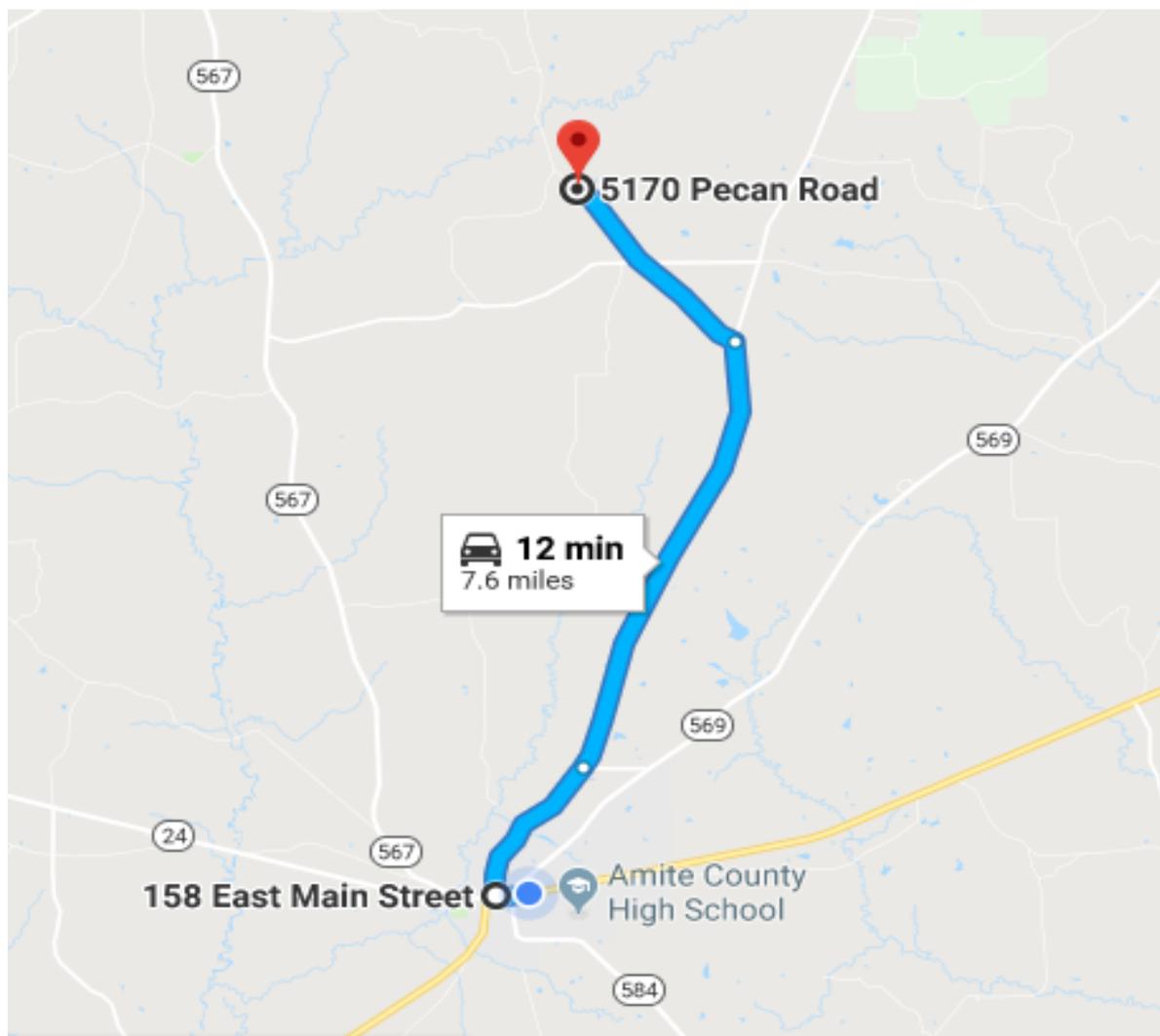
DIRECTIONS TO MCGEHEE-BEALL HOUSE

From the east on Main Street, Liberty, MS

- 1) Take a right at the Bargain Furniture Store and head north on Meadville Road.
- 2) Go approximately 4 miles up Meadville Road to Parson Hill Church which will be on the left
- 3) Take a left at Parson Hill Church - this is Pecan Road
- 4) Go approximately 1.9 miles to 5170 Pecan Road which will be on the right immediately after the volunteer fire department

From the west on Main Street, Liberty, MS

- 1) Take a left at Bargain Furniture Store and head north on Meadville Road
- 2) Follow steps 2-4 listed above



AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of November 10, 2018 meeting

DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Liberty Baptist Church Family Life Center in Liberty, MS. Everyone enjoyed a nice breakfast. President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. There were 9 in attendance.

Invocation: Bert Blalock

Minutes: Minutes from the October 13, 2018 meeting were considered for approval. Linda Lea made a motion to approve. Virginia Zeigler second. Motion approved.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

President: Open house announcements. We are to bring food and dress up in period costume if at all possible. We need about 8 people in the rooms and would like those people in costume. Members need to be there by 9 am. We need to start set up on Friday so we need people to assist. Band will be "unplugged". Larry Wallace oversees the band. His band has played at the Lee-Jackson banquet. House has open dormer with porch and the band will be up there in the front. People can set up chairs. We need someone for merchandise table and raffle ticket table and in each room. Can use PayPal, checks, cash with the merchandise table. We need to get members signed up ahead of time for these positions. Sonya Johnson, Virginia Zeigler, and Sylvia Johnson have signed up to be in rooms but 5 more people are needed. We need people in charge of food tables. Someone needs to direct people to park, maybe Boy Scouts or some young adults – need 3-4. We need to keep people from blocking the drive. We will publish map/directions in the newsletter. Greg will mark the road with signs and balloons early Saturday morning. Bert in charge of parking. Will have portable toilet. Dawn will see if she can get history group to help that day. Need to take register book with two people at register table. Mary Ann Gerhardt and Linda Lea have volunteered to man the register table. Marcia McLaurin can float with the her phone to allow PayPal for credit cards use. Will have to get mylar balloons to put by the road to mark the house. Liability insurance for the event was purchased through Liberty Insurance Agency. Allen Terrell's wife will take pictures. It was decided that the society will provide two sandwich trays. Virginia Zeigler from McComb will pick up a sandwich trays from Walmart supplied by the society. Robin Elliott will have script for each room. We will print a bulletin type brochure to pass out at the house. Gay Blalock will do punch and hot chocolate. We need people to bring long extension cords. Will do coffee also. Possibly do fruit infused water. Already bought plates, cups, napkins at Sam's Club.

Treasurers report: Gay Blalock. \$12,649.90. Motion to approve by Virginia Zeigler. Linda Lea 2nd.

Motion to adjourn by Gay Blalock, Maryann Gerhardt 2nd. Meeting adjourned.

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)+

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Prefer newsletter to be mailed Prefer newsletter to be emailed

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):

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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