



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

October 2019

Vol. 15, No. 6

WITHOUT A PAST, THERE IS NO FUTURE

MEMBER AUTOBIOGRAPHIES!!!

We are asking all members who would be willing to please submit a mini-autobiography to help other members get to know you better! 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!

Power Point presentation by Bill Hinson. Trip to Natchez for Angels on the Bluff after the meeting. Pot Luck Lunch - bring your favorites!

Date: November 9, 2019

Time: 10:00 AM - **NOTE TIME CHANGE!**

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:*

December 14, 2019: Christmas Party! Pot luck! Regular business meeting.

January 11, 2019: Regular business meeting.

February 8, 2019: Regular business meeting.

March 14, 2020: Regular business meeting.

The September 20-22 trip to the Shiloh Battlefield was a blast!!! Shout out to Neil Randall for planning the wonderful trip!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!
Thanks to all who have paid their dues!

Announcements:

TIME CHANGE FOR MEETINGS: We have had some requests to change the meeting time from 10:00 to 11:00 as it is felt that we meet too early. We began meeting at 11:00 at the September 7, 2019 meeting.

Angels on the Bluff - Natchez:

November 9, 2019. The deadline for tickets has passed. If you will be attending we will depart separately after the meeting. Please pay Dawn Taylor for your tickets if you have not already done so!

LRSH:

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

ANNUAL DUES ARE PAST DUE !!!!! -

40 people still owe!

If you have not sent in your payment, please do so ASAP!

We need to mail out membership cards and would like as many people to have paid as possible before this is done.

Dues may be mailed to: PO Box 2, Liberty, MS, 39645

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

Please send PayPal payments to:

amitecohistory@gmail.com

Please fill out a new form regardless of payment type so that we may have your correct contact info - see the last page of the newsletter for the new form.

ACHGS Meeting Minutes - September 7, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Dawn Taylor at 11:15 am. There were 10 in attendance.

Invocation by Greg Barron, VP.

President's report:

Shiloh Trip Sept. 20-22, 2019. Neil Randall reported about trip plans. We will be traveling from McComb at 8 am Friday, September 20th. We plan to meet at the hotel and check in then head to the Corinth visitor's center. This gives us 2-3 hours in Corinth to see the Civil War Museum and the Interpretive Center. Then we can ride around touring downtown until dinner. BBQ or pizza is planned for Friday night's dinner. We will be eating at the famous Catfish Hotel overlooking the Tennessee River on Saturday night. We will depart the hotel at 9 am Saturday morning and head for the Battle of Shiloh Visitors Center and shop then watch the video that starts on the hour. There should be a driving tour CD at the bookstore. The Indian mounds are on the tour. There are 8 stops. Sylvia Campbell suggested that on Sunday morning we could perhaps go to William's cemetery which would be on the way back before you get to the interstate.

We discussed possibly having our annual open house in December, but as there is no possible venue at the moment, we decided that we would not have the open house this year. Be thinking about possible venues for next year or a fund raiser for the LRSH.

There may be a possible field trip to Bond's dairy farm in December.

We have lots of Shiloh Books that need to sell. They can be shipped. We believe we have 60 left to sell for \$15 each.

LRSH – We may possibly be getting some trustees from the Sheriff's office to help us move boxes upstairs in preparation for the interior wall demolition. Greg Barron will speak with the Sheriff about it soon. We need to clear the room before we tear the sheetrock and paneling down.

We need to try to plan some fund raisers. We ask that all members please brainstorm about possibilities. One idea that is being tossed around is to have a beer tasting with our local home brewers, Mark Van Norman and Gary Haygood. This idea has not yet been discussed with them.

There was no VP report.

There was no Treasurer's Report due to the treasurer being absent.

There was no new business.

The July minutes were approved as they appeared in the July newsletter. Virginia Zeigler made a motion to approve. Neil Randall 2nd.

There was no old business.

Announcements: Phantom of Founders Cemetery is on October 10 – 4 tours starting at 5 pm. Founders Cemetery dedication is November 9th. Angels on the Bluff November 9th.

Motion to adjourn. Neil Randall made motion, Mary Ann Gerhardt 2nd. Motion passed. Adjourned at 12:00

ACHGS Meeting Minutes - October 12, 2019

Meeting was held at LBC FLC. There were 6 in attendance. Meeting was called to order by Greg Barron, VP at 11:22.

Invocation by Greg Barron, VP

President: Absent

Minutes: Motion to accept minutes Greg Barron, Second Sonya Johnson. Minutes accepted as written.

VP Report - Greg Barron:

We haven't gotten to move the LRSB contents from downstairs to upstairs. Both Sam King and Freddie Cook have had surgery. Sam is taking chemo treatments. Nothing is being done to the LRSB at the moment. Walls are drying out nicely. Drainage project is working well. We still need to remove the sheetrock and plaster. Nails and wire were used to put the plaster on. Nails were put into the brick unfortunately. If you remove the nail, you will break the brick. Probably done in the early part of the 20th century. These bricks are soft fired not hard fired. Good news is we can remove the sheetrock without disturbing the nails.

Shiloh trip was wonderful! We held up physically very well despite our personal infirmities. We went to the monument where the Amite County soldiers were fighting. At the bottom of the hill there was a spring that was diverted in two directions into a creek. The mass confederate burial was near this MS monument. The only graves that were marked were those of the Union Army in the cemetery. There were MS soldiers buried there but only after the war. We started at the visitors' center and went to Pittsburgh landing where the Union soldiers landed on the Tennessee River. An account of the trip will be included in the October newsletter. We had a fabulous time driving around Corinth and looking at the various architecture types riding around the streets. We ate in a drug store that opened in 1865. The soda fountain was put in in the early 1900's, excellent malts and limeade with slugburgers! The Grady Howell book on Shiloh includes all this information. We would like to get the book for the LRSB library.

There were many Amite County men killed at Franklin, TN. We would like to eventually plan a field trip there and write a booklet doing a genealogy of these soldiers. This would be similar to the 1812 book. This would help people find their ancestors. The battle was held in November 1864 and then on to Nashville in December. There are Amite County soldiers buried there.

Treasurer's Report: Absent

Secretary's Report: We would like to start putting a mini autobiography of each member in the newsletter each month. This way members who are unable to attend meetings can get to know one another.

Old Business: Trip to John Bond dairy farm in Gillsburg is a possible field trip in December. The Bond house has a museum. We will not have open house in December. We were considering the Winston Wilkinson House, but Mrs. Casey recently passed away so we will not make that request at this time.

New Business: Will be covered in November when Dawn returns.

Announcements: November meeting is at 10 am on November 9th and will have a potluck lunch. Chiseled in Stone – Bill Hinson will be a speaker. Then we will depart for Natchez to go to Angels on the bluff. Founders Cemetery in Tylertown dedication at 1:00 PM on November 9th.

Motion to adjourn at 12:43 by Linda Lea, Virginia Zeigler second. Meeting adjourned at 12:43.

SHILOH BATTLEGROUND FIELD TRIP

September 20-22, 2019

The members attending were William Barron, Dawn Taylor, Marcia Gordon McLaurin, Liz Mason-Honea, Neil Randall, and Linda Brasfield Randall. William (Greg), Dawn, Marcia, and Liz drove up from Liberty and met Neil and Linda on Friday afternoon in Corinth, Mississippi. Marcia was pilot and driver with Dawn (and Liz) as chart engineer of our vehicle. The trip was well planned. The first stop was in Madison, MS for coffee at Cups. Once we got on the Natchez Trace, we stopped at Witch Dance, Mississippi. Where the witches danced in antiquity of Native American lore, now only spirits dance at this site. There were no more stops until Corinth, Mississippi in Alcorn County. Corinth was viewed as a definite boon to this trip as it was of utmost importance to the Confederate States of America. This was because it was a noted railroad hub due to the fact that two railroads crossed, in compass form, in the middle of town. The Battle of Corinth took place October 3 - 4, 1862, well after the major Battle at Shiloh but related in context as the Union wanted Corinth and ultimately seized control in Northeast Mississippi. Corinth of today is a delightful old town composed of architecture from antebellum days; post War 1870's which blends Dutch into a building or two reminiscent of Willemstad, Curaçao, Netherlands, Antilles; a Church in French Style; and of course, popular at the time, the Mansard roof. We met Neil and Linda at 2:00 PM at the Borroum's Drug Store which is in an 1843 building. It is the oldest drug store in Mississippi, founded in 1865, and contains the original old-fashioned period soda fountain and restaurant featuring the famous slug burger. The slug burger, which consists of a mixture of pork and then deep fried, was sold for 5 cents during the depression. The cheeseburger, onion rings, fresh limeade, malts, and reuben sandwich were awesome, as was the slug burger, which we split. Supper that night was at Pizza Grocery which was true Italian! We shared various pizzas...Prosciutto, Fig, Duck, Greek. The cheeses on these pizzas... goat, feta, mozzarella...were awesome. Mary Van Wart West, one of our new members from Hattiesburg, suggested this wonderful restaurant. This was not pizza one would get in McComb!

On Saturday we had breakfast in the hotel and headed out for the Shiloh Battlefield around 9:00 am. The Battle of Shiloh, which took place on Sunday, April 6 and Monday, April 7, 1862, was two hellish days and nights. The Society was well prepared beforehand by reading the booklet by Mary Pallon and Virgil Roberts, which is a fitting memorial to those who fought at Shiloh from Amite County, combined with Grady Howell's presentation on Mississippi at Shiloh. This preparation enabled us, as descendants, to walk in our ancestor's footsteps as we did at Chalmette, The Battle of New Orleans some years back. The film at the Visitors Center is a must, well presented and gives a good overall view for perspective. Before the tour began, Neil and William wandered off to talk to a "Union" living historian who was giving a speech on the grounds. We, of course, were disappointed that there was no Confederate historian giving this speech. There was a most impressionable audience of youngsters from California and the Northwest visiting the site that day as well. The living historian was very thorough...even with some zeal...but there was no mention of exactly what the Confederacy was still using for arms in this early Battle in the Western Theater. Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River was stop #1 of 10 on the driving tour. Miles of intertwining road were ahead of us to traverse several times to get the full gist of this driving tour. The Union Army landed at Pittsburg Landing by steamboat. Shiloh Church was a center of the fighting. The AWESOME Mississippi Monument in bronze depicts a fitting Memorial on the spot where our forefathers fought. There is a flowing spring at the base of the hill creating a small creek...that creek witnessed The Battle. The Confederate Mass Grave is just beyond the creek holding the bones of our Mississippi dead, including our Amite County soldiers. There was a solemn, somber reflection given in the shade of a large black walnut tree on this beautiful small stream, a tranquil rest given those losing their lives at this Battle. God, Honor, Heritage, History and Blood ... "The wounds of some soldiers glowed that night, a place called The Hornet's Nest and small streams ran red...". There was only a fraction to be seen that day,

but we toured the entire battlefield, though not stopping at all of the stops. Supper was at the Catfish Hotel on The Tennessee River which had excellent food. As William “knew” there could be no improvement on or comparison to Middendorf's or Penn's fried fish, he opted for Tennessee style baby back ribs, which he felt were very good but not as good as our local fare.

On Sunday we had a leisurely breakfast at the hotel in Corinth, then began the reverse trip back home which began a rural route through Northeast Mississippi headed to Oxford and the Ole Miss Campus with its Confederate Monument. This leg of The Trip was very interesting. The first stop after leaving Corinth was Hodges Chapel Cemetery in Prentiss County which holds one of Dawn's ancestors. This cemetery was irregular and followed the lay and curvature of the land. Quick observation noted that this cemetery was once the burying spot of folk associated with the adjacent church. Quickly scanning a few of the graves here indicated that many had been CSA Soldiers from a four-county area which post war was split into much smaller county units during and after reconstruction in the State. After finding Dawn's relative, we ventured further east to the battlefield at Brice's Crossroads (also known as The Battle of Tishomingo Creek) which took place on June 10, 1864 at the same time The Battle of Guntown was being fought near Baldwin, Mississippi. The battle was a complete and total CSA victory by General Nathan Bedford Forrest. This defeat led to the resignation of the Union Commander, Brigadier General Samuel D. Sturgis, upon reaching Memphis. The crossroads of a four-county area was another compass point which contains a marker denoting where Tippah, Tishomingo, Pontotoc, and Itawamba Counties came together at one point in time prior to the counties splitting into smaller units. Fighting was intense here with Forrest inflicting severe casualties. This Battle was just one of the many examples of General Forrest at his best. Having stopped and toured the Battlefield, our next stop was in Lafayette County at Lebanon Cemetery to look for another one of Dawn's ancestors, Rufus Norton Boren, who was at Fort Donelson in Tennessee and possibly his brother in the same Unit. Several CSA graves were found in this rural environment in a very old cemetery. After touring the cemetery, we noticed what appeared to be either a root cellar/storm Shelter/sweet potato house, dug not just yesterday, in the side of a road bank. William felt we could not linger in this area, making the wise assumption that we would most likely be considered uninvited and probably unwelcome tourists in this dry dust rural hamlet which was much like some still found in the Homochitto hills of west Amite County. The next stop was Oxford, Lafayette County, and Ole Miss. We first toured Oxford by car. When we gazed over at Neilson's Department Store circa 1839, we spotted the horrendous “Stennis Banner of Political Correctness” instead of the beautiful current flag of the State of Mississippi. Next, we went onto campus to view the Confederate monument on the circle. This monument is currently under much debate and may be removed sooner than later. William was not politically correct in his actions at either of the Confederate monuments...neither the one in the town square nor in the circle on campus. William stood before it to have his picture made while holding an iPad with the Confederate battle flag. We also saw the beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows of Ventress Hall across the street and pondered whether they will be the next Confederate memorial that is removed from campus. From Oxford on South, haste was made, admiring Madison's over-the-top architecture, stopping at an immense two-story Kroger. The last meal of this sojourn was at Newk's Eatery. We highly recommend the huge black and bleu salad as well as the twelve-layer cakes...strawberry, caramel, and red velvet, a piece of each returned to Amite County. We had an awesome trip with great companions, but we were happy to be back home in Amite County and missed all of you who weren't able to be with us on this fun escapade!

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)

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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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