



## Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Dawn Taylor, President

Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary

Nancy Martin, Vice Pres.

N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

William G. Barron, Council-at-large

Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

October 2014

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Without a past, there is no future

### Next meeting:

The society will hold a regular business meeting on **October 11, 2014**, at **10:00 am** in the conference room of the **Liberty Library**.

### AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the September 13, 2014 meeting

**DRAFT**

### Future Meeting Schedule

**October 11, 2014, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**November 8, 2014** — Commemoration of the Battle of Liberty on its 150th Anniversary. There will be no regular membership meeting in November.

**December 13, 2014 (Tentative)** — Business meeting. Due to Battle of Liberty event in November, no public Open House event will be scheduled. Information will be updated as plans are finalized.

**January 10, 2015, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**February 14, 2015, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**March 14, 2015, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**April 11, 2015, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**May 2, 2015, 10:00 am** — Participation in Liberty Heritage Day activities. No regular meeting.

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:00 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 20 attendees. Greg Barron gave the invocation.

Pres. Taylor then moved to the draft minutes of the August 9, 2014 meeting. She asked if anyone had corrections or objections to the draft minutes. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. James Allen Causey made a motion to adopt the minutes; Gay Blalock seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

Vice President Report: VP Nancy Martin was not present due to her injuries from a car wreck. Pres. Taylor gave a brief report that Nancy is recuperating slowly. She is now at home and undergoing rehabilitation.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson was not present.

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer's report shows a bank balance of \$9119.19. Debbie Miller made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; Sam King seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

President Report:

Pres. Taylor discussed the status of the approval of the Battle of Liberty historical marker by the Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History.

**Secretary's Note: Thanks to Greg Barron for taking notes at the September meeting so the minutes could be prepared.**

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**Raymond, MS 39154**

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Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Other Business: Regina Melson pointed out that there will be information on the release of the slaves included in both the Battle of Liberty booklet as well as in a handout sheet to be distributed on November 8.

Pres. Taylor brought up the matter of doing a 2015 calendar for sale by the society as was done for 2014. A mock-up of the calendar has already been prepared and was made available for examination by the attendees. The society will go ahead with printing of a 2015 calendar. Price will remain at \$10 per calendar.

There was discussion of the booklet for the Battle of Liberty commemoration. Alice Carol Gray is editing the booklet which will include the history of the Battle of Liberty as well as other articles. The price will be kept reasonable at \$2 to \$3 per booklet. A vote was called from the members on whether they wished to proceed with the booklet. Sam King made the motion; Debbie Miller seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of going ahead.

Pres. Taylor presented a draft copy of the schedule of activities for the November 8, 2014 Battle of Liberty commemoration. There was diverse discussion of specific portions of the schedule. Pres. Taylor pointed out that the program at the Confederate Monument is the responsibility of the society to plan and carry out.

President Taylor discussed the statistics of visits to the Battle of Liberty web site and to the blog there.

There was discussion of merchandise sales.

Greg Barron made a motion to accept the President's report; Mary Ann Gerhardt seconded. The motion passed without dissent.

LRSH COMMITTEE: Greg Barron reported that there had been no activity at the LRSH.

STEERING COMMITTEE: No new information. See President's report above.

Gay Blalock made a motion to adjourn; Dawn Taylor seconded. All voted in favor.

*(Continued from page 5)*

Knew better. Andrew is fatter than you Saw him.. he Stays at the Commissary and helps to cook for the Regt. as it Saves a Soldier and he is in a Safe place and is properly cared for. He comes in every few days and brings my Clothes. He keeps my Clothes in good order. When any of the mess need any clothes he lets them wear his until he washes theirs as many of the boys only have one suit. And the negroes get more Clothes than they want. He met with Tad one day but never knew him for Some time. Veturia wrote to Clem and Stated that Celia looked as Sweet as ever She Saw when she was baptized, and closed by Saying that She was in hopes that Jimmy and her could make a match Someday---But Jimmy Says he never Studies about the girls. I would like to See her marry as good as Boy as Jimmy. Tell Tody that her Beaux is all right yet and is makeing [sic] a Splendid Soldier. I must close as it is about night, but if I am permitted I will continue it tomorrow, I expect I will Send this by Antony Faust as I understand he is in Atlanta on his way to the 7th Miss Regt to See Hiram. I think he has come up after John Wilkinson. If I can write more I will close with the hope that God will bless you and our dear little ones. You must pray for us and our Success. Yours as ever M. A. Dunn

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**If you have information that you think would be of interest to the society and are willing to share, please snail mail or e-mail the information to the address below.**

**Mail to:**

**Frances D. Phares, P. O. Box 1639, Clinton, LA 70722**

**or to my e-mail address: phrances@att.net**

# BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

## Letters of Matthew Dunn (continuing from last issue)

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*For new readers or to refresh memories, see the biographical sketch of Matthew Dunn in the July 2014 newsletter.*

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April 19th, 64

Monte Vello  
Shelby Co.  
Ala

My Dear Wife, I received yours by [Bob] Capell yesterday evening and am blessed with the privileges [sic] of answering it, though I am on duty to day [sic] and cant write a very lengthy letter. I was very much pleased to hear that you were all mending. Your letter you Sent me by J. R. Duff Stated that you were very unwell which caused me to be very uneasy. Duff was the man that Saw Ephraim and told him to tell you to Send me a letter. Ephraim ought to have known him. I was very proud to hear that Laura was So well pleased with her School & learning So fast. I wish Dink could have kept well and continued going with Laura---Tell Laura She must Stand head in her Class all the time and not to let any of them beat her. Tell her to Send me word who is in her class--I was really Sorry to hear of your loosing [sic] all your pigs again as they were all the dependence for meat two years from now. But I hope you can raise Some from the Sows you got from Uncle Jim. It looks very much like all his Negroes will leave. I reckon it troubles the old fellow a great [d]eal---you Seem to be very much behind with the Crop but I reckon you are as well off as Some who have to plant over---I am Sorry you cant get a work horse, but I have made Some good crops with Old Mike and I reckon he can do it again. I wish that I could attend to Such things for you, but you know how it is. I hope there will be Some provisions made for you. I think Levi will bring you out all right. I was a little Surprised to hear of Lem Brown Sitting up to My old Sweet Heart. (I Supose [sic] it was Tilday Horton.). He will get a fine wife if he makes the landing. I dont blame the girls for marrying when they will marry good Southern men, but I dont like this way they have of marrying Yankee officers. And from what I can learn Some of them are marrying who have husbands in the army---I was Surprised to hear that Dock & Bud had joined the Calvary. I would like to know what Command they belong too [sic]. I hear that the Cavalry are Stealing horses on a large Scale down there---It looks like they are a perfect disgrace to our Country. Though I know there are good men among them You wanted to know Something about my furlough. I am afraid that my going home a few days will deprive me of my regular Furlough. Though I am going to give them a riffle for it---when my time comes which will be in the course of two or three months---Getting Furloughs under the Reenlisting order has been Suspended until further Orders---We still get under the old Order---But I hope we will all go home before another year in Peace---Then I will ask for no Furlough. As long as we all keep well I think we ought to be Satisfied. Although it Seems like a hard trial to be apart So long---I was Sorry to hear of Ellen Ducks misfortune---Levi wrote me that She had lost pretty well all She had---Supposed to be Stolen by negroes. But she ought not to leave her house entirely alone these times. You need not trouble yourself about my Clothes now as I am too far to get anything from home unless it is Socks or Something that is light. one pair of the Socks you Sent me by Bob I think are too fine for Camp. I hate to wear Such Socks every day in mud and water. It looks like extravagance---I can get Clothes here whenever I need them. I got my Shoe Strings. I was Sorry to hear of your bad luck with chickens. I would like to have Some of your vegetables about now. Though we get plenty of Ba-

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

con & Bread--you Spoke of my Sending you Some thread, Buttons etc but I am afraid I will not have the Chance Soon as I am too far from home---you never said any thing about the note I sent you in the letter by Bob but I Suppose [sic] you received it. I want to Send you Some money as Soon as I can get it. I reckon we will be paid off Soon Andrew can keep me in pocket money and I will Send you all I get. Andrew is as fat as you ever Saw him. Tell Levi I cant write to him now for the want of time. But he must continue writing to me---Tell Leatha She must not become weary in well doing, for old Planes work better after they become Smooth. You must do the best you can. Send me letters by every opportunity. I think Mrs. Kirkland is bad off. I was deceived in her. I must close---Tell Tody that W. R. R. is very well---my respects to all. Tell the Darkeys howdy for me. Tell Carey he must be a good Boy. Kiss them all, and a Sweet one for you. May God bless you and preserve you and may we all meet again in peace. M. A. Dunn

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Chattahoochie River

Near Atlanta ga

July 6th, 1864

Dear Wife. I avail myself of the present opportunity to convey you a few lines as I know you are nearly crazy about me. I expect my delay causes you to think that I am either dead or have forsaken or forgotten you. But when I explain to you the cause, I hope you will pardon me---I have heard that all communication was Stopped. That is not [sic] letters were allowed to pass out of our lines but none prevented from coming in, and Seeing letters from the County occasionally and none speaking of any of you getting letters, caused me to believe that the letters were Stopped at Atlanta. I wrote to you by Bro Shirk, though a very hasty letter, which I Suppose you have received. I have received none from you Since the 20th of May---So you imagine my feelings---Though I have heard from you Several times indirectly---once through Peter, and once through a letter from Julia to Clem---I have been looking for a letter from you every day as there is nothing to prevent your letters from coming to me by mail---I wrote you a long letter about the time we left Monte Vallo and Sent if to you by Mr Arick Wilson, but I heard that he lost the whole mail---I also Sent Some resolutions by him to be published in the "Advocate" relative to the death of our "*Brave*" and Christen [sic] Soldier C. B. Strawn---also a copy of the Same to his Sister, Mrs. Fanny Maxey. I Suppose [sic] all were lost which I regret very much. I was 'Secretary' for the committee---I have enjoyed good health considering what I have endured. This is the Sixty first day Since we Started on this campaign. And there has scarcely been a day during that time but what Some portion of the army has been engaged with the Enemy---And Some as hard fighting as we have had Since the war began. But our army has been greatly blessed. We have repulsed the Enemy every time they attacked us. But still they force us to retreat by flank movements---all we ask of them is to meet us *Squarely*. But they avoid that whenever they can. I dont know how it will terminate, But one thing I feel Satisfied about, that is General Johnston will manage the affair as well as any other General---I think he is doing all he can to prevent Sherman from reinforcing Grant in Virginia. Citizens may feel alarmed at his manouvers [sic] by not knowing all the particulars. But he knows what he is doing. I think he has it within his power to cut off the Enemy Supplies at any time if he would. But he dont wish it for Some reasons best known to himself. We are Capturing more of less Prisoners every day. Our loss in the Regt. has been in Killed & Wounded about 80, during the whole Siege---One from my mess killed (Josiah Lee) and one wounded (J. C. Wilkinson) I have run Some narrow excapes, but for Some cause or other, I am yet Spared---We have great reasons for thanking God for his *blessings* during this Siege---For never did an army endure more in every respect than we have which the History of this war will Show to those of us who live to See it. Our Corps Commander {Gen Leonidas Polk} who was killed on the 14th of last month, Said that he had never been on Such a

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Campaign as the present one. His death Seemed to throw a gloom over the whole army, especially his Corps. I think he was a true Christian as well as a good Commander. The death of little Allck Dunn was a Solemn thing. he lived a few hours after he was Shot, and talked to the last, advising his friends to prepare to meet death, and for them to write to his Mother, not to grieve after him as he was fully prepared for death. He plead with his Brother to be a Christian that he might when he come [sic] to die, feel as he did. His parents Should not grieve for him but Should feel proud that they raised Such a Son. But poor Tom McElvie never knew what killed him as he was torn all to pieces by a Shell. And I am afraid that he was not as well prepared as Some others. But I must quit telling you of the horrors of war, as I expect you are in very low Spirits anyhow---But you can See the great necessity why a *Soldier* Should be a Christian. Tad wrote me Some time before he joined the Church that he could See that Christians made the best Soldiers, which is certainly true, as they would not fear the consequences after death as others would---I have not seen Tad in about three weeks, but I presume he is all right or I would have heard it. Our Lieutenant Colonel was Shot through his hand and leg, the latter being amputated afterwards. Our Major was wounded in the arm in the Same fight. Captain Jackson was Slightly wounded on the ankle. But he never Stopped doing duty. He is now acting as Lieutenant Col & Capt. Powell, Major. Capt. Jackson will be our Major I think. The news from Virginia is encouraging and I do hope and pray that our two armies which are now engaged with the Enemy will be Successful in the end. If So I think we may expect an early Peace. If not I will dread the result. As our defeat will have a great bearing on the minds of the northern People in the approaching Election. Whenever we are forced to evacuate our fortifications we only require 24 hours to make necessary preparations again. But they came on us once before we were prepared (I mean in the way of Fortifications) and they boasted as they came up that they had us from behind our Breastworks, when we pitched into them and when we quit them, we had an old field covered with dead and wounded Yankees. They gave the old field a blue Cast. They bring three or four lines against us every time they attempt to charge our works, but So far, their efforts have proven ineffectual. The Scene would be frightening to one who is not a true Lover of his *Country*. We have Prayer meeting occasionally on our lines when Mr Sherman will allow it. Stumpy, I am taxing you with a long letter, but as you have not been troubled much with me lately, I reckon you will not grumble---And what I have written you can Show to your friends, as I withheld all Secrets and Soft talk on that account. But I may Slip something in this that you would not wish all to See. I have heard from a good Source that Lem & Veturia are to be married Soon. I was expecting it as I heard that She was complaining of living a very lonely life. You may always listen for Something when you hear a Widow talking in that way---But I was thinking that the Cavalry was company enough for all those who were living Such a lonely life. They are great Company for the *lonely* in many portions of our country---But I Suppose [sic] it is not the case in Amite now Since Scott has taken command. So the old Widowers have a better Showing---I heard the Cavalry were pressing all horses that are worth any thing in the country, but I hope it is not So bad as that. I was glad to hear that Leatha had taken the School, though from the way Laura and Dink were progressing, I would Suppose [sic] that Vick was a good Teacher. I hope Leatha can keep the School. I hear She had about 30 Scholars. Tell her that I Saw a letter from Willie a few days ago and he was very well, he was at Okolona, Miss, he had traded his horse for a fine mare---I Suppose [sic] you have had a geat deal of rain which I expect has put you all very much in the grass---I received a letter a few days ago from Mrs Wilkinson in answer to one I wrote her by Bro Shirk--relative to the Situation of Mr Wilkinson, which I felt was my duty as a mess Mate of his. She Stated that crops were very grassy and that they had had too much rain on the lowlands---My letter Seemed to give her great relief and She Seemed very thankful to me for the favor I had done her. I had all of Joe Lea['s] little pocket tricks Saved to Send his Parents and Sent them a lock of his hair. I would like to hear from Porter, It was reported here once that he was dead, but it never caused me any uneasiness as I

(Continued on page 2)

**Annual Membership Contribution**  
**Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society**  
**PO Box 2**  
**Liberty, MS 39645**

**Check or circle choice**

- \$15.00 – Individual    \$25.00 – Family    \$50.00 – Sponsor or Ancestor Memorial  
 \$200.00 – Lifetime    \$10.00 – Student (under 18)    \$10.00 – Senior (over 65)

All contributions are tax-deductible.

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

**(Please print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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):

**Amite County Historical and  
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**PO Box 2**  
**Liberty, MS 39645**