



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

November 2014

Vol. 11, No. 10

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

There will be no meeting in November due to the commemoration of the Battle of Liberty.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the September 13, 2014 meeting

DRAFT

Future Meeting Schedule

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.

June 13, 2015, 10:00 am — Annual membership meeting with election of officers in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:03 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 20 attendees. Pres. Taylor welcomed the attendees then asked Bert Blalock to give the invocation.

Pres. Taylor then moved to the draft minutes of the September 13, 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. Greg Barron made a motion to adopt the minutes; George Bragg seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

President Report:

Pres. Taylor reported that the souvenir book to be sold at the Battle of Liberty event is nearing completion.

The proof copy of the new 2015 calendar has been received. It was passed around for all to examine. Final alterations will be communicated to the printer as soon as possible so that the printing may be finished and the calendars made available for sale on November 8.

Sam King has arranged for insurance for the Battle of Liberty event on Nov. 8.

John Shivers, President of the Chamber of Commerce, has arranged for Port-a-potties for the Nov. 8 event. He has also arranged for tractors to be available to pull the "hay ride" wag-

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ons on the tours. Wagons are still being sought.

Pres. Taylor urged everyone to pray for good weather for Nov. 8.

Greg Barron has arranged for a number of period antique weapons to be on display on Nov. 8.

We will have assistance that day from individuals connected to the Champion Hill event.

Three churches have committed to run food vending booths on Nov. 8.

Pres. Taylor reported that the Battle of Liberty historical marker has been approved by the Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History and is scheduled to be shipped to the DoT facility in McComb on October 24. The society will have to arrange to have the installation made and completed by Nov. 8.

Mrs. Frances Phares interjected a brief discussion on a resolution put forward by Amite Countians in 1812 objecting to admission of Mississippi as a state of the US.

There was additional lengthy discussion of more details of the events to be held on November 8.

Vice President Report: VP Nancy Martin was not present due to continuing recovery from her injuries from a car wreck.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson was not present.

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer's report shows a bank balance of \$7354.74. Sam King made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; Oma Gordon seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

LRSH COMMITTEE: Greg Barron reported that the LRSH is currently a bit cluttered due to all the preparations for the Battle of Liberty commemoration and recent participation in fall street fairs.

In the last month there have been only a couple of sight-seeing visitors but none doing research.

CEMETERIES COMMITTEE: George Bragg discussed the current status of Find-a-Grave updating. Site visitors and updating volunteers can now view data in batches so that the data may be checked more quickly. The main conflict issue is that the names of cemeteries in Find-a-Grave do not always match the name that we have.

STEERING COMMITTEE: No additional information beyond that already covered in the President's report above.

Interjection by Pres. Taylor: The group failed to settle on a preference of calendar design earlier. It was decided to go with white page borders around the darker photo areas (as done on the 2014 calendar).

Old Business: None.

New Business: Greg Barron reported that he is ordering black powder for the Battle of Liberty event, most of which will be in turn purchased by the reenactors for their use. Some will be given to the operators of the artillery demonstration.

Other Business:

James Allen Causey contributed that he had recently heard about "Dirt Road Wisdom" on the "Thacker Mountain" broadcast on MPB radio. He talked about old phrases like "lick log" that few people use anymore.

Marty Lovett reported that someone asked about "Camp David" that was supposedly near her current place of residence. She doesn't know anything about it and wondered if anyone else did. Sam King indicated he'd heard of it and would like to locate the site of it but that will have to wait until cold weather thins the foliage and drives the snakes into hibernation.

Pres. Taylor pointed out that the society will have a regular meeting in December but suggested bringing a variety of food for a Christmas lunch/party following the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Letters of Matthew Dunn (continuing from last issue)

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

July 7th My Dear according to promise I will proceed with my letter. I am blessed with good health this morning as usual, Clem has just received a letter from Julia of the 26th June She Sent me word that you were all well---I am glad that She thinks So much of me as She writes to Clem regularly and it enables me to hear from you. If you write I never receive your letters, But I think you certainly write---Julia wrote that Bro Shirk was very Sick which I was very Sorry to Hear. I would hate to hear of his death. She also Stated that Nora McElwie had joined the church. And that they were expecting to hold a protracted meeting at Liberty. It is a pleasure to me to hear of Such, though it would be a greater pleasure to me if I could be with you to attend them. But God only knows when I will be permitted to enjoy that privilege [sic] again---She Spoke of Crops looking fine but grassy---I am anxious to hear of your crop and all the news generally. I Suppose [sic] Lem & Veturia have got things all right---I would like to know how you come out as regards your tax in kind---as I Suppose it is being collected---I reckon you will Soon have watermelons and Peaches. I have not Seen a ripe Plum nor a watermelon in no Shape nor form this Season. We are getting green apples occasionally---This is a great fruit country but it will not do us no good as a large army destroys every thing within reach. How I wish that I could be with you about two months to get Milk and Butter, Vegetables etc---We are getting plenty of cornbread & Bacon and Sometimes a few Vegetables and Coffee. The Soldiers are nearly Starved for Vegetables. They cook Polk Pursley, May pop leaves and other weeds as Substitutes for greens---Andrew tried to buy me a cabbage head a few days ago but he was charged eight dollars for one head. Irish potatoes are \$40.00 per Bushel. My Dear you have never felt the effects of the war as Some have you know nothing of its horrors---Therefore you Should be cheerful and consider yourself greatly blessed--and I pray God that you may never See what I have---Tell Sis to write to me and Lizzie also, and let me know the news of the neighborhood. Tell your Pa to think of me if he Should ever get a Soft-Shell Turtle. Tell Uncle Billy to take good care of you, especially when the Cavalry is about. Tell Laura and Dink they must learn fast and let me hear how they are getting along. Tell Cary to let me know how his puppy is getting on and his name---Tell the Darkies to keep all things Straight. Tell Levi to eat Some catfish for me---Respects to all. let Ma hear from me. Direct to Atlanta Ga and your letters will come by mail---kiss the little ones, and may God bless you all, and we meet again on earth is the prayer of your husband. Good bye my darling. M. A. Dunn give my best respects to Julia---I will try and Send you a paper. Let Levi read it when you get through with it

Mat

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[Atlamta], Georgia
July 8th 1864

Dear Stumpy,

Since I began writing to you, I have received your letter of the 23 & 24 of June---which Col Hurst brought me---And I will proceed to answer it. It is unnecessary for me to State how proud I was to receive a letter from you after So long a Silence, as you can judge from your own feelings---I am in good health and it is my desire to live to See the termination of this cruel war. We had a pretty tight fight last evening on the left of our line, in front of Gen Woods Corps. Reports Say we captured 2500 prisoners---Lieutenant General A. P. Stewart assumed command at our Corps today in place of Gen Polk I was pleased to hear that you were all do [sic] So well---I think you Should feel thankful that you are So amply provided for. You Spoke of your fine garden and Such a quantity of Milk & Butter which is very good living without any thing else---I often think of your rich luxuries. And though I am deprived of it all, yet you have no idea [how] proud I am to know that you can enjoy it. I was glad to hear that your provisions were holding out So well---I hope your crop will turn out well. The tievines & burrs will not hurt the corn like grass---I think you are getting along finely. I wish that I could only be with you to enjoy it. As to the managing, you have just as good managers as I am. I am perfectly Satisfied with your Managers. But I know you would like to have me with you. But my dear you must not expect me at Such a time as this, unless I Should get a furlough wound, and that I dont want---if the war continues I have no idea when I will ever get home, as Furloughs are very uncertain. But you must not let this trouble you. As to Clothes you need not trouble yourself about that, I am Still wearing my old jeans pants and they are pretty good. I have worn them every day Since i left home. I can draw all kinds of Clothing from the government. You may Send me Some Socks Sometimes if you should have a chance, though I have plenty at present. I am too far from you now to expect much. And I don't need much. Andrew keeps my clothes in good order. We can't attend our Bible Class now, but I hope it will Soon be So we can. You never told me whether your Pa was in the Service or not. I am proud to hear the children are learning So fast. I must close for this time as we will go now out on Picket in a few minutes. I will try and finish this paper before Col Hurst gets off. I will remember you all in my petitions to God and I hope he will continue to bless us as he has done. Good bye at present. M. A. Dunn

July 11th. My Dear I am blessed with an opportunity of writing to you again. I am Still well as usual. This letter may be old when you get it as I don't know exactly when Hurst will Start. But it will be acceptable. I have not much to write. Any one furnishing a Substitute now (a non conscript) will be entitled to a 40 days Furlough. So if you hear of one wishing to join our Co that is not Subject to Conscription---just Send him up. He must bring a certificate from his Parents to Show that they are willing for him to join the Service. Several of our Co will get Furloughs under that order as Soon as this Scrape is over I don't know of any one that you will get---But you can only be on the look out. I know you will do all you can---I am in hopes you will have time after you lay the crops by to make that fence between us and the Corcoran place, and to deaden Some land down next to the Neyland place. I would like to have about twelve acres deadened, I dont want any thing deadened that will do for rails or building purposes---It

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can be done in a few days---your crossing your Stock with Dixon I think a good idea our Stock of Cattle Seem to be increasing very fast, you will take good care of our Bull. You must not neglect getting your Salt in due time, I would like to Send you Some money but we have not drawn a cent for Six months---The boys are all without---Andrew keeps me Supplied---The Company owes me about \$130.00, and the government about \$260.00 Clear of all expenses. And I could Send you the whole of it if I could collect it. I reckon Mr. Capell can pay you any time you will call on him. Tell Laura she must Soon learn to write So she can write me a letter, and She must try and get a Ticket every month. Tell Dink She must not let Dosia beat her--- You never say any think about Millard So I don't know whether he is living with you or not. The Yanks have been quiet for the last day or two and we are lounging about takeing [sic] a little rest for the first time in two months. Georgia is the best water country I ever Saw. I think it is a pleasant country to live in when times are good. Well I reckon this letter will Satisfy you for awhile. You must write me regular. The mail is open from here to Liberty. I reckon Hatch Tobe is at home or will be Soon & George Causey You can Send letters by them---let Julia know of the Chance Farewell my dear---many kisses---Yours M. A. Dunn.

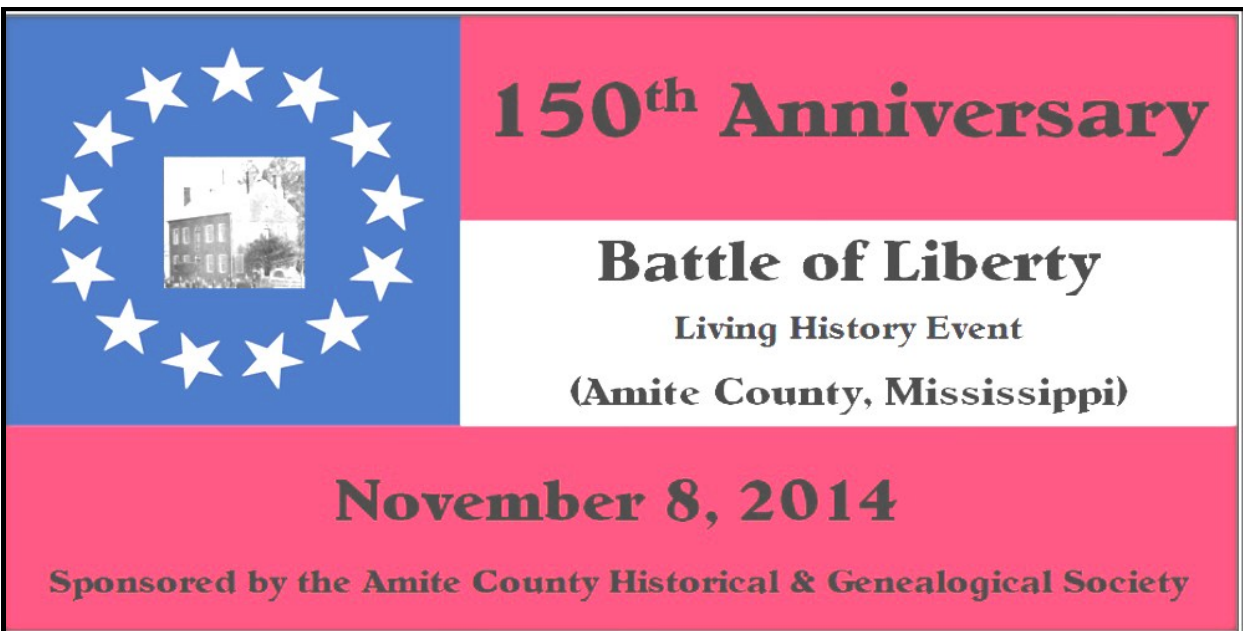
If you have information that you think would be of interest to the society and are willing to share, please snail mail or e-mail the information to the address below.

Mail to:

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

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

Don't forget! Remind all your friends!



150th Anniversary

Battle of Liberty
Living History Event
(Amite County, Mississippi)

November 8, 2014

Sponsored by the Amite County Historical & Genealogical Society

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
Genealogical Society**
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Liberty, MS 39645