



## Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

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**December 2014**

**Vol. 11, No. 12**

Without a past, there is no future

### Next meeting:

The next meeting will be a regular business meeting in the meeting room of the Liberty Library at 10:00 am. A light Christmas luncheon will follow. Please bring a covered dish to contribute to the food.

### AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the October 11, 2014 meeting

**DRAFT**

The draft minutes were published last month; no minutes for November were taken since it was the Battle of Liberty commemoration.

### Future Meeting Schedule

**December 13, 2014** — Business meeting at 10:00 am in the meeting room of the Liberty Library. A pot luck Christmas luncheon will follow. Please bring a covered dish to contribute to the food. Contact Gay Blalock to verify what dishes are most needed.

**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.

**July 13, 2015** — No meeting unless a need for one is determined by the Executive Committee.



Although the Battle of Liberty Commemoration events are now past, the web site remains active and includes blog articles on Amite Co. history as well as a "store" for members and other interested persons to order commemoration-related and other society items. Visit:

<http://www.thebattleofliberty.org/>

You may contact this editor at:  
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# 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 and see the chronological installments of the Dunn letters in the July and subsequent issues. This installment concludes the letters.*

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Atlanta Ga  
August 1st 1864

Dear Stumpy, I avail myself of the present opportunity to write you a few lines---knowing that you are uneasy about me. I think I will have an opportunity of Sending this a portion of the way by hand. I am happy to Say to you that my life is yet Spared and my health is good. I sent word to you in Clems letter a few days ago that Tad was wounded on the 22nd but it was a mistake. But Since then on the 27th he was in another battle and was Shot through the Leg below the knee which caused his leg to be amputated above the knee. His Brigade went in the fight before ours, and as we went in I met him lying on the Road Side. I Stopped with him a few minutes and he told me that he did not think the bone was broken. But I supose[sic] after the Doctors examined it they thought it best to take it off. I know it will nearly kill Ma to hear of it but it is a portion of the horrors of this Cruel war The fight he was in on the 22nd was a very hard one but a complete thing on our part. He captured three Horses & Jimmy Perkins one. Their Brigade captured 14 pieces of artillery and many Prisoners. They charged the Yankee works and the Yankees being very Stubborn they remained behind their Breastworks until our men Scaled them. they then had a hand to hand fight. Our Boys Shot until they got in close quarters then not having Bayonets they clubbed them with their guns. They broke a great many of their guns but they captured others in their place. Our force engaged took 1900 prisoners & 27 pieces of artillery. Our Division met with a Serious misfortune on the 20th of July---we charged the Yankees and our Brigade being on the extreme right of the Division we.were badly cut to pieces by a Brigade on our right not coming up to Support our flank---over half of our Regt that was engaged was killed and wounded. Out Co was not into it as we were on other duty. Our Reg Suffered worse than any other, being on the flank and was exposed to an enfilading [sic] fire. We lost our Col. He charged waving his Sword until he fell. Capt. Jackson commanded during the balance of the engagement. Out colorbearer was killed. Others attempted to get the colors and were wounded. So we lost our colors. The 22nd Reg had three color bearers Shot down, one was Claudy Davis, he was waving the colors when he fell. Amite County will never raise a more gallant Son than he was. 7 men were killed & wounded in Saving their flag. It was a very bloody affair. Peter was Shot through the knee joint in the fight with Tad. But I never Saw him. I am afraid it will cause him to lose his leg also. I have not heard where they were Sent. Jimmy came out all right John H Turnipseed was killed a few

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

days ago while on Picket. We are losing Some of our near and dear friends but I hope God will Soon Stop it. We are enduring many hardships but I try and Submit to it cheerfully, feeling assured that we will come out all right. I suppose Porter & Betty are married at last. It must have been a Sudden thing as you never Spoke of it in your letter of the 24th. that is the last letter I have had from you. I am very anxious to hear from home. Oh my love if I could only See you and our dear little ones again what a pleasure it would be. But God only knows whether I will have that privilege or not. I want you to try and raise them up right. Train them while they are young---And if I am not Spared to See you I hope we will meet in a happier world. I want you to be fully reconciled for it if I am wounded I will be at home as Soon as I can and if I am killed I hope that I am prepared to go---But my daily Prayers are that we may meet on earth again in peace and health---I want to hear from your crop and how you are getting along generally and how the children are getting on at School. Try and send me a letter by hand every chance you have as the Yankees cut our Rail Roads occasionally which Stops communication. Tell Julia that Clem will not write as paper is scarce but he is all right and Hemp & Prior also, and Jimmy Tell Ma that Tad will be Sent home as Soon as he is able. He will be apt to have her a letter written to let her know of his location. He is done with this war but poor fellow his life will be but little Satisfaction. Our Company has not been in any hard fighting yet. we have about 60 men in the Co. Andrew is well---Tell the Darkies they must think of my hardships and try and do the best they can for me at home---Tell Cousin Lewis that Jimmy is all right, and give him my respects. I cant write all the news for want of paper, and this is badly done as I am writing on a plate. Tell Levi to write to me---Tell Uncle Billy Johns that Frank is Safe yet, and tell him to remember us in his prayers---Stumpy I hope you are doing well, let me hear from you. My respects to your Pa's Family. I hope we may Soon have better times. Kiss the children and tell them to be good children. I hope God will bless us, good bye my dear. Your husband M. A. Dunn

Andrew has just come in with a nice Bucket of rice & Squash & a very fancy Shirt for me. He keeps me in good clothes---Aug[u]st 2nd M. A. Dunn

Atlanta Ga  
Aug[u]st 22nd 1864

Dear Nora. I will pen you a few lines this morning as I will have an opportunity of Sending it by hand a portion of the way---Though I have no important news. My health never was much better, which I consider a great blessing. The Yankees for the past few days have made Some demonstrations upon our Picket line, but their efforts So far have proven ineffectual. They Shelled us rapidly yesterday all day and one came very near getting me which has been the case Several times before But God for some purpose, unknown to me, has spared me---He has taken three of my mess in killed and wounded Since we have been on this Campaign, And not only have I lost mess mates, but I have lost my bed mate, my best friend in Camp and neighbor at home---Poor Clem is no more. But when I took the last look at him I felt very happy to think that he had gone to a better world, and left So honorable a name to be transmitted to *loved* and *dear* ones behind---I started Julia a dispatch on the next morning after his death which I reckon

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

has been received by this time. And it makes my heart throb within my breast when I imagine her feelings, with her little Fatherless ones weeping over her lap as She called them around her to tell them of the fate of that Father, which they had So anxiously been looking for and being altogether insensible of the cause for which he So cheerfully yielded up his life. And his dear Mother who would naturally feel that She had lost her main Staff of life, he being the eldest Son. But I must leave that Subject as you will learn the particulars from the letter which I wrote to Julia---Our meeting is Still going on and the Lord is greatly blessing us. about 60 have joined the church. Among our acquaintances were Jimmy---Monroe Causey and Caddy Causey. Mon' joined the Presbyterians. We have prayer meetings every night when we dont have preaching, and it would make ones heart rejoice to see the interest taken by our young members. I am glad to hear of the great revival in Liberty---I hope the good work will go on until we receive a great blessing nationally as well as Spiritually. I would like very much to be at home to go to church with you and I heard Clem express a Similar desire a few days ago---But God knows all things best and we Should Submit to our fate cheerfully---But the day is certainly not far ahead when Some of us may enjoy that privilege [sic], but we know not which it will be---Let us be prepared for the result, let it be as it may---I was very uneasy about your Pa for Several days. Julia Sent me word through Clems letter that he was quite Sick. Fielding Morgan Sent me word also. But I suppose he is improving very fast, which I learned in your last letter by Toler and also a letter that Cousin Lewis wrote to Peter [Green}. It not being known where Peter was I opened his letter knowing who it was from by the hand write. And I could keep it as the Yankees dont allow us Such privileges now. I will Send it to him if I am permitted to keep it---and learn where he is. But I think he will go home as Soon as he is able. Tad is doing very well. I received a letter from him a few days ago which I will send to you if I dont forget it. I was very sorry to hear of Uncle Davys death. Preaching has begun So I must dispense with writing for awhile---[The following was written shortly afterwards]. Well as the cruel Yankees Shelled us So we could not hear but a portion of a Sermon---The Text you will find in Isiah [sic] 53rd Chapt. 3rd verse---So I will proceed to close this portion of my letter. Though it is threatening rain I may write another Short letter before this gets off as I dont expect to Start it before tomorrow. Julia's letter and Socks to Clem were received and were handed over to Jimmy---Remember me to the littles ones---My Respects to Julia and Family, and Friends. Yours Respectfully Mat. A. Dunn

Gadsen Ala  
Oct 21st 1864

Dear Stumpy, I have just received yours of the 9th Oct,---and as I have just heard of an opportunity of sending a letter by hand I will proceed to answer it though it will be hastily done as it is nearly Sun down. I am blessed with good health, but nearly tired to death. We have been for several weeks operating in Sherman's rear. We have torn up the rail road about 40 miles and captured several garrisons with 1500 or 2000 Prisoners & 800 negroes. It has been a very exciting time for us although very laborious---We went as high up on the road as Tunnel hill which is a few miles below the Tennessee line. We are now in North Alabama and will turn our

*(Continued on page 5)*

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course for Tennessee when we Start again which will be in the morning I guess. We are resting today to draw shoes & Clothing which is greatly needed. I am glad to hear that you are sending me some clothes as i am barefooted & naked. Since we have been on this raid I have worn out every thing I had nearly. It has been an awful time on every thing. We expect to draw Shoes tonight also Clothing. I am in hopes we will soon be fitted up again. Andrew kept me in such things while I had him---I am uneasy about him now as I Started him to Tad about the 26th of Sept and I suppose Ma and Tad had left Barnesville several days before that time he will follow on after them but I dont know whether my pass would take him through or not, he had money to pay his way---I think though he will go home if he can. I get my information concerning Peters death from Some of his Brigade and I cant yet learn for certain whether he is dead or not---but I hope it is not So---Tell Uncle Lewis that Jimmie is all right, not seriously hurt. I dont know how to advise you about Joe & Biddy---I would like to humor both of them but I dont know how we can take both of them as it would be running us in debt---Joe would be of more service to us than Biddy. She is poor property. I would rather not have her for certain reasons---I will try for a furlough but I ought to know what time the Sale will come off If we have to contract a debt for a negroe [sic] it would be better to get such a one as Joe than Biddy--I cant advise you as I would wish to as I dont know all the particulars. Uncle Lewis will give you good advice and if I am not present I want you to go to him or Some one that will give you good advice---I would like to be with you, but do as you think best---I hope Andrew will soon be at home to help you. I was glad to hear that Ma & Tad had started home. I am Sorry that Laura cant get well. I am glad that you are getting along So well. I would like to have Some of your Butter and potatoes. I must close as it is nearly dark. Kiss the children for me I would like to give them. If you can get a paper containing Clems obituary Send it me---I dreamed of kissing some of my old Female friends last night, and I hope it will soon be the case---I shall continue to think of you in my prayers and I hope God will bless us in the future as he has in the past. I wish I could write more direct to Jacksonville Ala respects to all  
May God bless you  
Yours 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](mailto:phrances@att.net)**



**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**  
**PO Box 2**  
**Liberty, MS 39645**