



## 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

April 2014 Vol. 10, No. 4

Without a past, there is no future

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be a regular business meeting at 10:00 am on April 12, 2014, in the meeting room of the Liberty Library..

### AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of February 8, 2014 meeting

**DRAFT**

#### Future Meeting Schedule

**April 12, 2014, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**May 3, 2014, 10:00 am** — Liberty Heritage Day events. No regular business meeting.

**June 14, 2014, 10:00 am** — Annual membership meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**July 2014** — Traditionally, no meeting is held in July.

**August 9, 2014, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**September 13, 2014, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**October 13, 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.

**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.

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:10 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 15 attendees. Greg Barron gave the invocation.

Pres. Taylor then moved to the draft January meeting minutes. She asked if anyone had corrections or objections to the draft minutes. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Linda Lea made a motion to adopt the minutes; Mary Anne Huff seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

#### President Report:

The Steering Committee has not met yet so there is no news.

Raffle tickets are still for sale.

Work has begun on a design for a souvenir doubloon for the Battle of Liberty commemoration. (A doubloon from the Bicentennial was passed around as an example for those that haven't seen one previously.)

The Rodney trip is scheduled for March 8. It will replace the regular meeting for March. Car poolers should be at the LRSH/Library area early enough to allow an 8:00 am departure. The group will go to Lorman to meet others coming from elsewhere and for a bathroom break. The group will be at Rodney from 10:00 am to noon, will picnic at Rodney (bring something for your lunch). The group will go back to Natchez to go on Allen Terrell's ar-

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ranged tour of Natchez City Cemetery led by Don Estes (2:00 pm) and, afterward, will visit Alice Carol Gray's home in Natchez. Call President Taylor if you need to work out any issues.

May 3 is Heritage Day. Debbie & Fred Miller will do portrayals of Rev. Shirk and his wife. Volunteers to help with LRSH and with meeting room activities are needed. Mrs. Phares has donated a quilt to the society so we will have a Heritage Day-only raffle. President Taylor suggested that we have a Battle of Franklin display in the meeting room.

Vice President Report: VP Nancy Martin deferred to Oma Gordon and President Taylor regarding the status of Find-a-Grave updating. President Taylor explained status; each volunteer is asked to take a whole cemetery at a time to update existing grave listings and add any new ones. Mrs. Oma discussed a couple of newly discovered cemeteries and the need to photograph them before the weather gets too hot. Greg Barron mentioned that a Weathersby Cemetery that is far off the road has been found on the David Anderson property (west of Liberty, north of Hwy 24).

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson had no report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock was absent but sent a report. President Taylor gave the report which shows a bank balance of \$7891.55 with more recent receipts still to add. Kit Prestridge made a \$100 donation in honor of Mrs. Vera. Greg Barron made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; Oma Gordon seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.'

**OPEN HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Mary Ann Gerhardt added a thank you to Wayne Anderson for providing music at the Open House.

**LRSH COMMITTEE:** There was no activity at the LRSH in the last month.

**STEERING COMMITTEE:** No activity.

Old Business: None.

New Business:  
President Taylor asked if the group wanted to do another T-shirt. This one will be a new shirt with reference to the Battle of Liberty. Volunteers are needed to run the T-shirt project. The committees list needs to be updated. Suggestions from members are needed.

Other Business: Greg Barron gave a report on the SCV Lee-Jackson banquet. The band was good; they can be available to the society. President Taylor wants to have them for the Battle of Liberty weekend.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

### Special Sunday Field Trip

Special arrangements have been made for a private tour of the Prospect Hill Plantation. There is an admission charge of \$10 per person. The tour, and other activities afterward, is planned for Sunday, April 13, 2014. If you are unable to be at the April 12 meeting and would like additional information on the field trip, please contact President Dawn Taylor at 225-719-2379 or by e-mail to: [mysteryofprovidence@yahoo.com](mailto:mysteryofprovidence@yahoo.com). Alternatively you may contact VP Nancy Martin at 601-341-9891 or by e-mail to: [martin6210@bellsouth.net](mailto:martin6210@bellsouth.net).

More information is being posted on the society web site at <http://www.achgs.org/>.

You may contact this editor at:  
**Wayne B. Anderson, Sr.**  
**1737 Bridgers Drive**  
**Raymond, MS 39154**  
Or by e-mail at  
**sitemanager@achgs.org**

# BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

## FRANKLIN EUGENE BUTLER MD

1. Franklin Eugene Butler MD, son of William Clayton (Charles) Butler and Margaret Eleanor Bennett was born in 1849 and died in 1898.

Transcript of License, No. 1357, Issued to Dr. Franklin Eugene Butler, 24th day of April 1882 by Wirt Johnston, Secretary Mississippi State Board of Health. Dr. Butler was thirty two years old and was resident in Amite County, postoffice address is Summit, Pike Co, Miss. and had spent about three years in professional studies under the supervision of Dr. T. J. Everett as preceptor, whose postoffice address is Leland, Texas and attended two courses of Lectures at New Orleans School of Medicine Medical School, who did graduate at New Orleans School of Medicine Medical College and who has spent Clinical lectures in hospital during courses attended and has practiced medicine thirteen years, and has chosen as his School of Practice that of the Allopathic Physician. His moral character references were: Citizens of Amite County..

Franklin Eugene Butler MD and Mary Rebecca McDowell were married on 13 Sep 1875 in Amite Co, MS. Mary Rebecca McDowell, daughter of William Francis "Bill" McDowell and Esther Elizabeth "Hester" Brown, was born on 23 Oct 1848 in Amite Co, MS. She died on 17 Jul 1925 and was buried in Mars Hill Baptist Church Cemetery, Amite Co, MS. They had the following children:

1.1. Charles Herbert Butler MD was born on 26 Jul 1876 and died on 20 Jan 1951

US Census 1930 - Beat 4, Amite County, Miss - Charlie H Butler, 53 years, practicing physician, Home valued at \$5,000; Donniss L, wife 33 yrs; children: Charles H, 12 yrs; Lewis L, 11 yrs; Francis E, 9 yrs; Avie M. 6 yrs; Aubra E, 4 yrs; Martha W, 1 8/12. Also Lillian B McDowell, aunt, 68 years; Howard L, Niece?, 13 yrs.

McComb Enterprise? Sep 11, 2002.

Dr. Charles Herbert Butler, son of Dr Eugene Franklin Butler and Mary Rebecca McDowell of Smithdale, followed in his father's footsteps in becoming a doctor, a course which would change his life forever.

Both father and son graduated from Tulane Medical School in New Orleans. Before becoming a licensed doctor, Charlie assisted his father with deliveries of babies. He received his license in 1903 to practice medicine in Mississippi. He then practiced with his father in the Smithdale area until Dr Eugene's death and continued with the practice until his own death in 1951.

On the night of Sept 13, 1896, Dr Eugene and his son were summoned to the home of James L Hewitt to deliver a baby, Donniss Lee Hewitt. The events of this night would forever alter Dr. Charlie's life.

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Dr. Charlie, a young man of 20, stood in awe of this sweet little girl he had just helped bring into the world and made an innocent remark which would later become a reality. "I just might marry this beautiful little girl someday," Dr Charlie said, according to stories passed down. That baby girl captured his heart and 20 years later, when Dr Charlie was 40 and Donniss was 20, the couple married in August 1916.

They had a family of eight children, six of whom are still living: Louis Lansing Butler, Francis Edwin Butler and James Hilton Butler, Marie Butler Shultz, Martha Washington Fenler (born on George Washington's birthday) and Carolyn Cheryl Heslip. Carolyn is the youngest of the children and was born when Dr. Charlie was 60 years old. Charles Hugh Butler died in 1980 and Audrey Eugenia Buckley in 1987.

Dr Charlie and his wife lived in the house that his family moved into when he was 4 months old. The house was built in 1876 in Smitndale and is still [2002] occupied by a member of the Butler family, Francis Edwin Butler. Francis has a museum of old family relics in the house with many antique furnishings used by his parents. He still has his father's appointment books from his medical practice. "The house is filled with memories and possible secrets", Marie Shultz, daughter of Dr. Charlie, said. "There was always someone coming and going. In fact, the activity around the house with family, friends and patients was akin to chaos."

Shultz, her husband Chick, her brother Edwin and childhood friend Liddell Hay Heme-ter, had many stories of the goings-on in the Butler family household. They shared stories of growing up in such a loving family, and all seemed to have the utmost respect for Dr. Charlie and his wife. "They taught their children respect for all people with whom they may come in contact with. They instilled honesty and stressed independence," Shultz said.

Shultz is the historian of the family, documenting everything and storing the informa-tion on index cards placed in a small green file box on her coffee table. "Being one of the six remaining children in the family, I'm convinced that it would be difficult to find a closer or more loving family," Shultz said.

Hemeter, a friend of Carolyn, still considers herself a part of this family. She even at-tended the recent 126th family reunion. She never met Dr. Charlie and only became acquainted with Carolyn when the family moved to McComb on New York Avenue. Hemeter did get to know Mrs. Butler very well. "Those who never knew Mrs. Butler missed a blessing, and those who loved and knew her will never forget," Hemeter said of her "adoptive mother."

Dr. Charlie was born July 26, 1876, 20 years before his wife. He died in January 1951. Mrs. Butler died 20 years after her husband in 1971. The couple was born 20 years apart and died 20 years apart. Both were 74 when they died.

Charles Herbert Butler MD and Danice (Donnis) Lee Hewitt were married on 3 Aug 1916 in Amite Co, MS. Danice (Donnis) Lee Hewitt, daughter of James "Jim" Lewis (Louis) Hewitt and Perla Mae Terrell, was born on 13 Sep 1896 and died on 11 Jul 1971. Both were buried in Mars Hill Baptist Church Cemetery, Amite Co, MS. They were of Smithdale, Amite Co, MS.

1.2. Frank Howard Butler, Supt of Education for Amite Co, MS 1912-1916, was born about 1879 and died in 1929.

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"Howard Butler, son of Dr Frank Butler, was born in the Smithdale community and spent the greater part of his life there. Born of musical family, he began the study of music early and continued to work diligently for many years. He specialized in violin and became an accomplished violinist. It is said that at one time the Butler family organized an orchestra (The Jolly Butler Band) and traveled over the county giving concerts.

He was elected county superintendent of education in 1912, and during his term of office he organized an orchestra in Liberty. In 1916 he married Miss Fay Hall of Liberty, and moved to McComb where they remained until his death in 1930, his wife preceding him to the grave a few years." Source Material For Mississippi History, Amite County, Vol III, Vol III, Part Two, p 209

Frank Howard Butler and Fay Hayten Hall were married on 6 Jan 1915 in Liberty, Amite Co, MS. Fay Hayten Hall, daughter of Robert Nesbitt Hall and Mary Emma Lea, was born on 4 Mar 1891 in TX or MS. She died on 17 Apr 1926 and was buried in Hollywood Cemetery, McComb, Pike Co, MS.

1.3. Douglas Russell Butler was born on 16 Mar 1881 and died on 17 Nov 1954. Douglas Russell Butler and Mary Avis Gardner were married on 30 Dec 1903. Mary Avis Gardner, daughter of Seaborn Gardner and Mariah A Gordon, was born on 4 Jan 1883 and died on 25 Sep 1951. Both were buried in Mars Hill Cemetery, Amite Co, MS.

1.4. William McDowell Butler was born on 8 Nov 1883. He died on 4 Oct 1898 and was buried in Butler Cemetery, Amite Co, MS.

1.5. Bertram Eugene Butler was born on 2 Nov 1889 and died on 10 Jan 1959. Bertram Eugene Butler and Mamie Kornrumpf were married on 6 Sep 1917 in Pike Co, MS. Mamie Kornrumpf, daughter of Henry Kornrumpf and Priscilla Jane Williams, was born on 10 Dec 1897 and died on 29 Oct 1985. Both were buried in Hollywood Cemetery, McComb, Pike Co, MS.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Please send your corrections and additions to Frances D Phares, PO Box 1639, Clinton, LA 70722 or [pfrances@att.net](mailto:pfrances@att.net). More generations will be included in Amite County Mississippi Historical & Genealogical Connections, Volume VI.**

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**Memorials and Honorariums may be sent to Amite County Historical & Genealogical Society, PO Box 2, Liberty, MS 39645. Please indicate the name of person remembered or honored with address to send the acknowledgment if known.**

### **ACHGS Standing Committees and Chairpersons**

**Due to changes in membership and in makeup of committees, the Standing Committees are being reevaluated and reformed. Once this process is complete, a new list will be posted.**

**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):

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