



## 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

May 2014

Vol. 10, No. 5

Without a past, there is no future

**Next meeting:** There will be a short meeting at 9:00 am in the Library Conference Room for the purpose of receiving the final report of the Nominating Committee for the next election. The room will then be opened at 10:00 am until 2:00 pm for Heritage Day activities (see p. 5).

### Future Meeting Schedule

**May 3, 2014, 10:00 am** — Liberty Heritage Day events. Very brief business meeting at 9:00 am before the library conference room is opened for Heritage Day.

**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.

### Premier Party

Members in good standing are invited to a party at 7:00 pm on Friday, May 2, 2014, in the conference room of the library in Liberty. The party celebrates the premier of the revised and expanded video "A Historical Walking Tour of Liberty" created by Sam King. Please bring a dish of your favorite party food and watch the preview showing of the new DVD. The DVD will be offered for sale for \$15 each at Heritage Day.

### AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of April 12, 2014 meeting

#### **DRAFT**

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 21 attendees. Bert Blalock gave the invocation and blessed the refreshments. Visitors Stefania Svetich and Regina Melson were welcomed as was returning member Marti Lovett.

Pres. Taylor then moved to the draft February 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. Sam King made a motion to adopt the minutes; Nancy Martin seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

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President Report:

On Heritage Day (May 3) the society will operate in three venues—the Library conference room, the LRSB, and a booth in the vendor area in the parking lot of the old Kellwood plant. Genealogy information including Mrs. Frances Phares' books will be available in the conference room. There will also be sales of DVDs and t-shirts and a hospitality area for society members. The LRSB will be open for visitors. Both the conference room and the LRSB will be open from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. The vendor booth will be open from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. The volunteers there will be selling the society merchandise, raffle tickets for the November 8 raffle, and subscriptions for the Battle of Liberty commemorative bronze doubloon.

Linda Lea was recognized and she reminded the group that the officer nominations for the next fiscal year must be finalized by the May 3 date.

Vice President Report: VP Nancy Martin reported:

The Find-a-Grave updating effort needs more volunteers.

The new society t-shirts (commemorating the Battle of Liberty) should be in by Heritage Day. They will be available in two colors, blue and gray.

Regina Melson showed pictures of a quilt created by her sister-in-law Dorothy Melson featuring a Confederate First National (Stars and Bars) design. Dorothy Melson is donating this quilt to the society to auction off as a fund-raiser on November 8 during the Battle of Liberty commemoration.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson was absent

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer's report shows a bank balance of \$8421.28. Sam King made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; Dawn Taylor seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

LRSB COMMITTEE: Mrs. Vera Prestridge announced that she has resigned as chairman and Joanna Hearn has resigned as co-chair of the committee citing health reasons. The Executive Committee has appointed Greg Barron as chairman. The attendees gave Mrs. Vera a standing ovation for her work with the LRSB.

At this point discussion was held on the planned field trip on April 13 to visit Prospect Hill, Rocky Springs, and Christ Church at Church Hill.

STEERING COMMITTEE: Reported:

There was additional discussion on the Melson quilt donation for auction.

The Liberty Chamber of Commerce has pledged to do all they can in support of the society with respect to the Battle of Liberty commemoration.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Mary Pallon has donated a large number of books and other research material to the society for the library.

Mrs. Frances Phares reported that the next book in her family history/genealogy series should be ready for sale by Heritage Day.

Other Business: None

The business meeting adjourned.

**Secretary's Note:**

A special thank you goes out to Greg Barron for taking the notes on the last meeting for preparation of the minutes. Thanks also to Pres. Dawn Taylor for clarifying some of the details about Heritage Day activities.

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**

**Amite County Mississippi Historical & Genealogical Connections, Volume VI**

**Bits and pieces of Amite County History from the**

***Woodville Republican*, Mississippi's oldest newspaper  
*Liberty Advocate* (Liberty, Miss.), James J. Graves, Editor**

**Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of Reverend Doctor Robert McGehee  
and Wessie Brumfield McGehee, by Patricia McGehee Sargent**

**Robert Edward Stewart Descendants**

**Franklin Eugene Butler MD Descendants**

**Moses Whittington Descendants**

**James Robinson Descendants**

**Thomas McDowell Descendants**

**Russell Davis Moore Sr. Descendants**

***The Southern Herald*, Liberty, Miss. April 26, 1895**

***The Southern Herald*, Liberty, Miss. May 3, 1895**

**Town of Liberty US Census 1930**

**Dr. Robert Morris Butler Drug Store photo and story**

**Town of Liberty west view photo  
Town of Liberty east view photo  
Liberty Main Street photo about 1914**

**Sharp's Economy Store and Elsie Hatten Wilson Sharp Heuman photos  
Dr. Edward Carroll house photo and story**

This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Joseph "Joe" Benjamin Hoff, whose enthusiastic and extensive Amite County research - shared generously - has added life and energy to the seven booklets published by the Amite County Historical & Genealogical Society.

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Joe, son of Herbert Spencer Hoff and Hattie Antoinette "Nettie" Nelson, was born on 11 July 1920 in Amite County. He passed away on 13 April, 2013 in Orleans Parish, LA. The celebration of his life by his family and friends was held at the Liberty Baptist Church, followed by burial in Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery, Gloster. On the 13 April 2014, the family returned to Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery to remember his sense of place and love for family gatherings.

Joe graduated from Liberty High School in 1939 and Copiah Lincoln Junior College in 1941. Following employment with the highway department for 2 1/2 years, he enrolled in Mississippi College where he graduated in 1944. After graduation, he was employed with Sinclair Oil Company in California for two years and later with Chevron, formerly Standard Oil, as a Lab Technician for 24 years. He met his wife, Grace L. Lutz, in Dover, Delaware in 1965 and they were married the following March. They were blessed with forty-seven years of marriage and four children: Linda Louise, Joseph Warren, Laura Ellen, and Lewis Lutz Hoff.

His bouts with osteomyelitis and other health problems didn't slow him down and keep him from returning to Amite County to keep in touch with its people, the land, and share historical and genealogical information. Good memories seemed to follow him and he always had a good story. After the Bicentennial, he sent the following notes.

May 8, 2009

I enjoyed the Bicentennial so much!! I met so many people from the past I had completely forgotten about. One was Cynthy Sharp daughter of William Sharp and Elsie Hatten Wilson and her cousin "Little" Joe Sharp who was Clerk of the Senate when John William Powell was Senator. Daddy was doorman of the Senate at the time and had the time of his life among the big wigs just before he died. . . . .

May 6, 2009

I got this article off the Internet. Dr. Oschner now owns the Baptist Hospital where all my children were born. Dr. George H. Tichenor, Jr. practiced at the Baptist and lived about four blocks from the hospital. He lived to be a hundred I think. His grandchildren by a different name live in the house today.

Dr. Tichenor was married in the Liberty Street Baptist Church in Canton not in Liberty. There may be other errors, no! He never the less was a great man - More than I Knew.

Most of the photos used in Volume VI were copied by Joe from the Amite & Liberty Mississippi Celebrating 200 years book, compiled by Robert Glen Huff and Hattie Pearl Nunnery. His memories were shared on the back of the copied photos. These memories gave life to the photos for me. Other contributions are included in this booklet.

Amite County Mississippi Historical & Genealogical Connections Volume I, Volume II ( Number 1 & 2), Volume III & Volume IV may be purchased for \$10 each on Heritage Day. Volume

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V & VI may be purchased for \$15 each on Heritage Day. Add \$5 for shipping and handling if mailed.

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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**

\* \* \* \* \*

**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.**

### **Heritage Day Activities**

Society activities will be taking place at three places for Heritage Day:

From 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, the library conference room will have a membership table accepting member dues payments and offering the new t-shirts and DVD for sale. Mrs. Frances Phares will have her computer set up for genealogy work and will be selling her various family history and genealogy booklets. The room will also be used as a hospitality area for members.

From 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, the Little Red Schoolhouse will be open for visitor tours.

From about 10:00 am until 6:00 pm, the society will have a vendor booth in the vendor area (parking lot of the old Kellwood plant) offering membership enrollment, and sale of society merchandise and raffle tickets for the November 8 raffle.

All these are within easy walking distance of one another so everyone should be able to visit all three locations.

### **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):

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