



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

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July 2014

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Without a past, there is no future

Notice: The society will not meet in July. July has traditionally been a low-attendance month due to vacations and other conflicts. The next meeting will be a regular business meeting on August 9, 2014, at 10:00 am in the conference room of the Liberty Library.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The draft minutes of the June 14, 2014 meeting will be published in the August newsletter.

Future Meeting Schedule

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. 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.

You may contact this editor at:
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 Raymond, MS 39154
 Or by e-mail at
sitemanager@achgs.org

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.

Special Web Site for the Battle of Liberty Event

Visit the special web site at:
<http://www.thebattleofliberty.org/> to see the list of planned events and times and read through the entries on the blog page.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Letters of Matthew Dunn

To refresh memories, here is the Matthew A. Dunn write-up from the Dunn Family history in last month's newsletter:

Mathew Andrew Dunn was born on 15 Dec 1833 in East Feliciana Parish, LA. Abt 1855, Mathew married Virginia Lenora Perkins, daughter of Dalcho Perkins and Sarah Ann Hunt. **Lenora**, was born on 17 Nov 1839 in Amite County and died there on 26 Apr 1935. After marriage, they lived in East Feliciana Parish until 1858. In 1859, they moved to Amite County and on August 25, 1859, Mathew bought a farm containing 320 acres in the county.

US Census Amite Co, MS 1860 - No 411, Matheus (Mathew) Dunn was 25 years old, planter, real estate valued at \$1500; Elnora Dunn was 20 yrs; Jane was 4 yrs; Mary was 3 yrs; Susan was 1 yr; No 410 was Wm C Phares; No 412 was Jefferson Anderson. 1860 Census Slave schedule shows Mathew A Dunn with 4 slaves.

At Liberty, Mississippi, on March 1, 1862, Mathew enlisted as a private in the Confederate Army - joining the Amite Defenders, Company K, Thirty-third Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers. He was granted a furlough from 13th day of May to the 1st of June, 1862, at which time he was to rejoin his Regiment at Grenada, Mississippi. Furlough papers were signed by Capt Moses Jackson and D. W. Hurst.

During the war, Dunn wrote regularly to his wife and in some of letters, she is addressed as "Stumpy". His letters are of particular interest because they were written wholly from the viewpoint of an enlisted man. The letters were published in *Journal of Mississippi History*, Volume I, January - October 1939, pages 110 - 127. [Contributed from Betty Lou Cain papers.] These letters will be republished in *Amite County Historical & Genealogical Society Newsletter*.

Newton Station [Mississippi] Sept 5th 1862

Dear Stumpy,

I will pen you a few lines as I have a chance of Sending it by har__ though I have not much encouragement to write. I have not had a letter from you Since Clem came up. [Clem Lea was the nearest neighbor of Dunn in Amite County.] I don't understand why you did not Send one by Feeling Morgan [,] Mart Newman or Thad Dunn. I was very much disappointed. I have been Sending you letters every few days. I am anxious to hear whether you got the money I sent you by Thad or not. Stumpy Clem is about to get off home again. He is going to get Feeling Morgan to take his place for a month. he came up to join the Co but his being under age and without his Fathers written consent he could not be Sworn in. So Clem is about to get him for a month. had I known of the Chance before Clem did I should have given him a rifle myself. Clem gives him \$50.00. I would do the Same. So if you find any one who wishes to try the Service for a month Send him up he can get a fifty out of me about now you will See that we

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have left Morton. we came back to the Reg last night. Stumpy our Co is Still getting recruits, and I think it is a honor to belong to old [33rd] Col Hurst Says that he had rather be Capt of Co K than Major of a Reg--- he seems to think a great deal of Capt Jackson now & the whole Co -- Stumpy -- Jimmy Cox will Send a Book home called: Morgan & his Men: which you must read. It is very interesting but I expect it will cause you to Shed Some tears, but poor Morgan is in prison now -- My Dear I will tell you of a little Scrape I got into a few days ago while at Morton. I was guarding Some prisoners in town and was ordered by the Provost Marshal to take two men and go about 2 1/2 miles in the country to arrest Some men who had acted very impolitely with a Citazen [sic] one of them was finally knocked down by the Citazen [sic] and I expect will die. they were all drunk -- there were three of them. I was furnished with an ambulance and I and the detail drove out and when I got to the place I found one man lying under a tree asleep -- I posted a guard over him until I got the wounded man in the ambulance and I then awoke him & he pitched into us for a fight and we had a nice time of it -- he was a very Stout man and just drunk enough to be a fool ---I avoided useing [sic] our guns on him as he was drinking -- but I will never be imposed on by another as I was by him. In the Scuffle I got him by the hair of the head, and about that time one of the [men] who was assisting me let him go and run. he tore loose from me and broke after him. I then ordered the guard to take him which was Soon done -- the other one never Showed fight --after I got them to the guard house the one that fought us so tried to make his escape by the guard at the door -- I Saw he would make his escape when I put my gun against his breast and pushed him back into the house he gritted his teeth at me and asked me if I dared to treat him So -- I told him he could not come through that door -- finally he jumped out at a place where there was no guard and made his escape -- I have been Sore from the scuffle ever Since. I Supose [sic] you are through with fodder now, and how I would like to be at home to See the fine corn and eat Potatoes & Butter and get other good things? you know I am a great Boy for good things -- I hear that People are Selling cotton pretty rapidly in your country [This reference is probably to the Southern practice of selling cotton to Federal purchasing agents after the capture of Fort Henry and Donelson.] I dont know whether it is right or not -- I expect you will have to give Levi up as the Conscript law will take him -- and then I dont know what you will do unless your Pa will attend to you -- But I hope the war will close this winter and I can attend to your wants -- you can Send letters now by mail as there is a mail line from Woodville to Brandon. Write often. I am first. Give my Respects to Mrs. Blount and many kisses & prayers for your all. Your loved one. 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**

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