



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

August 2014

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Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

The society will hold a regular business meeting on August 9, 2014, at 10:00 am in the conference room of the Liberty Library.

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.

March 14, 2015, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the June 14, 2014 meeting

DRAFT

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:21 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 19 attendees. Walt Gaston gave the invocation and blessed the refreshments.

President Taylor remarked that one purpose of the meeting was to honor Mrs. Vera Prestridge for her service with the Little Red Schoolhouse. She gave a brief tribute to Mrs. Vera and presented her with a thank-you gift from the society. Pres. Taylor then explained that all were invited to partake of the wide variety of refreshments once the meeting and the voting were completed.

Pres. Taylor then moved to the draft April and May meeting minutes. She asked if anyone had corrections or objections to the draft minutes. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the April minutes. Sam King made a motion to adopt the minutes; Linda Lea seconded. The motion was approved by all present. The process was repeated for the May minutes with Debbie Miller making the motion to approve and Mary Ann Gerhardt seconding. The motion was approved.

President Report:

Heritage Day went very well. She thanked all those who helped and thanked outside volunteers.

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

Pres. Taylor and others met with the Chamber of Commerce about the Battle of Liberty observance.

A new web page specifically for the Battle of Liberty has been created. Pres. Taylor plans to use a blog feature on this site to post more detailed write-ups about Amite County subjects.

She thanked David Dreyer and Allen Terrell for donations of books to the society.

She recognized Bert Blalock who presented a donated work of art created by a native of Amite County, Dennis Blalock

Vice President Report: VP Nancy Martin was not present.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson had no report..

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer's report shows a bank balance of \$10,889.99. Greg Barron made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; Sam King seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

STEERING COMMITTEE:

The Battle of Liberty commemoration elements planned thus far include the commemorative doubloons, T-shirts, and tickets for the drawing.

At the current time, arrangements have been made for three churches to operate food vending booths. Three more are being sought.

The society will also commemorate the Battle of Franklin during the Battle of Liberty commemoration.

LRSH COMMITTEE:

Greg Barron explained that he has replaced Mrs. Vera Prestridge as chair of the LRSH Committee but added that she is still on the committee. The LRSH was cleaned top to bottom at the first of June.

There are an increased number of genealogical researchers coming to visit.

He explained how the Battle of Liberty commemorative doubloon came about. This is the second issue of a doubloon, the first being the Bicentennial doubloon. More issues with other themes will likely be done in the future. The front side of each issue will reflect the theme or purpose of the doubloon while the back side will be the same for all issues. The society has 267 of the Battle of Liberty doubloon to sell.

Greg Barron made a motion to accept the committee reports; Linda Lea seconded. The committee reports were approved without dissent.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Other Business: David Cate suggested that the term "chair" be used instead of other forms of the title.

A final call for voting produced no one who had not yet voted so votes were counted. Linda Lea, Chair of the Nominating Committee, gave the result of 56 ballots cast with all incumbents being reelected for another year.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:09 am and was followed by a celebration of Mrs. Vera Prestridge's service as LRSH chair.

ACHGS Standing Committees and Chairs

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.

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.

Meridian [Mississippi] Oct 13th ---63

My Dear Stumpy---I will Send you a few lines by Major G. F. Webb---as it has been just one week Since I wrote you last---and you are like I am. would like to have one every week---but I only get one from you every month---I am in fine health and am anxiously awaiting a letter by Clem. He has deceived me---his time has been out about a week---just Such will Soon cause the Furlough System to be Stopped. I have made no effort as yet for a Furlough as I have been waiting to See what Clem would bring me---I am the only married man now in the Company but what has been at home within the last year---and I certainly ought to have a Furlough. we are having an interesting meeting going on now at night [Hollis Dunn] eight were babtized [sic] last Sunday. On yesterday our Brigade was ordered out to witness a Scene that I hope my eyes will never behold again---but it is to be the case next Friday. That is Seeing men Shot for De-
sertion. I Saw three Shot yesterday---they were Seated on their Coffins with their arms con-
fined and blind-folded---the executioners were placed about fifteen paces in front--two were
Shot dead---the third one never fell---one of the Non-Com-Officers had him to kill. He walked
up to him very deliberately and Shot him through. this was a horrible sight and a painful duty
to perform, but the affair was well conducted---one of them had a family---one of them made
his escape from the guard yesterday morning before their execution---the Corporal Shot at him
twice but failed to Stop him. Skirmishers were immediately thrown out for him when he was
found and brought in again---it was him that had to be killed by the Sergeant---this war is calcu-
lated to harden the Softest heart---I am very uneasy about Some of our Boys---but my dear you
will never hear of that being my fate---I want to live & die honorably. I was aroused yesterday
morning about 4 O'Clock by Dock & Wells---they came on the cars from Brandon to Meridian
and they came out to our Camp. I was astonished. I knew Wells' voice but did not reckognize
[sic] Dock. they left about day light for Enterprize [sic] which was only 16 miles. I could not
talk with them as much as I would have liked. Dock was astonished at me looking So well---he
Said that he told you when he went home that I looked exactly like old Uncle Scites--but I
know you dont believe that---I hope you will have the pleasure of judging for yourself before a
great while---it is thought we will go back towards Jackson. If we do and I cant get off before
then I will try and make it then---Dock told me that it was believed that Celia and George White
would make a match Some day---that astonished me---Though marrying must go on. (for Sol-
diers are greatly needed) Tell Mary Jane that I have a Beaux picked out for her. he is a Lieu-
tenant in our Reg. There will be no end to marrying after this war closes. One year ago today I
Started home on Furlough---but I had rather have my present health than to be as I was then
with a furlough, I want my next Furlough to be a well one. I am So anxious to See the Chil-

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dren again. I know they would not look natural to me now---especially Carey & Holly [Hollis Dunn]---I Study a geat deal about the Children in the neighborhood. Mr Shirk told me that Bailey Seemed to be entirely well---I was glad to hear that---I had a talk with Miss Emma while they were at Enterprize [sic] which made me think of old times. they all Seemed very proud to See us---I Suppose [sic] Bud is not able to come back yet. I never thought to ask Dock anything about Porter. I expect he will be conscripted if he is fattening as I have heard---Charley Neilson told me that he Saw you in Liberty one day while he was at home but he did not know it was you at the time---I told him I thought I would recognize you if I could meet with you---I have not heard any thing definite from Tad Since I last wrote you. I think he is all right. you can write by mail now if you Should not have an opportunity of Sending by hand---it is reported that Gen Stephen Lea [Stephen D. Lee] (our cavalry officer) has taken Memphis---[Braxton] Bragg & Rosencaus [W. S. Rosecrans] seem to be quiet now. Tell Levi [Levi was probably the overseer of Dunn's farm.] to write to me occasionally---from what Dock told me I dont think Jarret gave you enough for your Cotton---he Said he gave Ma eight cents and that Booker Kent was giving ten cents---I would be well pleased if we could pay our debts with it as a good price---I would like to have Some of your Potatoes---they Sell here from four to Six dollars per Bushel--and very Small ones---Potatoes and Butter would be a great treat about now---well I had better close as I have written all the news---I may get to writing foolishness--- --- ---let me hear all the news---Tell the Darkies I want to try and come home to See them gather the crop. tell Carey he must Save Some Pindars & Pop corn.---and that he must have Cricket & Scalim fat So we can ride them. tell Laura & Dink they must have Something pretty to show me.

give my Respects to L.W. H. & Family and to Mrs. Blunt [sic]---many kisses for you & the little ones---Your Husband M. A. Dunn

Meridian Lauderdale Co Miss

Camp near Canton [Mississippi]

Nov. 1st 1863

Dear Stumpy.

I embrace this opportunity of writing to you---and must explain to you why I have not written Sooner. When we left Brandon two weeks ago our baggage was sent back to Meridian. Knapsacks & all cooking utencils [sic] except a few for each Company. As we were expecting to have a fight Somewhere near---and did not want any Surplus Baggage---but as is generally the Case when the Yankees heard the 33rd Reg. was advancing on them---they began to retreat--no fight as yet and no prospects Soon as I can See. But we have never got our Baggage yet. We are a dirty Set of Fellows about this time. I have bought writing material and will try and write you every week as usual. I never enjoyed better health in my life. I feel like that now is the time for me to go home---but it Seems that I can't make the necessary arrangements to get off. as Soon as Clem returned I spoke to Capt Jackson about My Furlough---I told him as Soon as the anticipated fight was over I want him to try and put it through he left in a few days to attend the Legislature and I have Since Spoken to Lt Carroll but I cant get him to Start it. I see no chance but to tough it out. I have not Seen any thing of Mr. Hemenway yet. I think that I could have made the arrangement with Frank Jackson if I had known that he was not going to

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take Hols place---Hol went back home without reporting to the ConScript Office. Clem Spoke to Frank on his way up here in case he did not take Hols place to take mine, and he insinuated that he would, but I dont know whether Capt would be willing to it or not. I never wanted to be at home worse in my life and little idea had I when I left that it would be twelve months before I returned. But not being a Commissioned Officer is all that has caused it. A great distinction is being made between the two. I could tell a great deal that I cant write. I want to be at home partly to eat Some Gruffy & Potatoes & Butter---etc---I have heard from Dock once Since he got to Enterprize[sic]. he was well---. I must close as it is threatening rain. I am expecting a letter by John Hazelwood. Nothing from Tad--tell Pa that I would like to get a letter from him Let Ma hear from me---give my respects to L. W. H. & Family & Mrs Blunt[sic].---many kisses for you & the dear little ones. 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**

ACHGS Officer Injured in Automobile Collision

For those who may not have heard the news through the Facebook page, ACHGS member and VP, Nancy Martin, and her daughter Anna were in a terrible head-on collision about 4:30 pm on July 12. Fortunately, both of them were wearing seat belts. Nancy was airlifted to University Medical Center in Jackson at 9:00 pm and placed in ICU awaiting surgery on her leg. She has severe damage to her leg, air pockets in one lung, several cracked ribs, and contusions to her heart, though no permanent damage.

After multiple surgeries on her leg and treatment of her other injuries, she was moved late on July 22 to University Rehabilitation Center. Her mailing address is 777 Lakeland Drive, Room 108, Jackson, MS 39216. Her room phone # is 601-815-0108. She can receive calls and visitors.

Nancy's daughter Anna was taken to Southwest Regional Medical Center in McComb where she had surgery on her injured leg/foot. She is now home and on the mend though she's on crutches for the moment.

Via a Facebook posting, Nancy has expressed her thanks to everyone for their prayers and well-wishes. Please keep both she and Anna in your prayers as they recuperate. Hopefully, we'll have Nancy back at her VP duties very soon.

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.

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
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