



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

September 2014

Vol. 10, No. 9

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

The society will hold a regular business meeting on **September 13, 2014, at 10:00 am** in the conference room of the Liberty Library.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the August 9, 2014 meeting

DRAFT

Future Meeting Schedule

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

October 11, 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.

April 11, 2015, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:01 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 15 attendees. President Taylor suggested that those in the back move closer to the podium so that hearing the proceeding would not be a problem. Guests were introduced (unfortunately this secretary could not hear the names of the guests when introductions were made). Greg Barron gave the invocation.

Pres. Taylor then moved to the draft minutes of the June 14, 2014 meeting. 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; Joanne Hearn seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

President Report:

There has been no Steering Committee meeting in the last month. A brief meeting is planned following the society meeting. A more formal meeting will be held on August 16.

Pres. Taylor is trying to use the blog feature of the Battle of Liberty web site to promote other aspects of Amite County.

The DVDs has sold well. Sales were aided by an article written by Ernest Herndon in the *Enterprise Journal* newspaper.

Pres. Taylor recognized Greg Barron who asked if a calendar would be done this year. He

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pointed out that work would need to begin immediately in order to have a calendar to sell at the November 8 Battle of Liberty commemoration. After some discussion it was decided to not pursue a calendar this year since we have so many other activities in progress. Will look at doing one next year.

Pres. Taylor showed some examples of a project Sam King has been working on to get photos and create a map of all the water mills that once ran in Amite County.

Pres. Taylor reported that the Battle of Liberty reenactment will probably not be possible due to a shortage of reenactors that can be present. She suggested that an alternative may be to have first-person reenactments of Confederates and others buried in the Liberty Cemetery.

Four churches has committed to provide food vending on November 8. One or two more may be added by then.

Vice President Report: VP Nancy Martin was not present due to her injuries from a car wreck. Pres. Taylor explained the details.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson had no report.

Dewey DeLee interjected the suggestion that a sympathy card be sent to Mrs. Frances Phares expressing condolences on the death of her sister.

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer's report shows a bank balance of \$8911.79. Greg Barron made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; Wayne Anderson seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

LRSH COMMITTEE:

Greg Barron reported that there were three visitors during the last month who were researching the Whittington family.

A number of visitors from the Blalock reunion were hosted recently.

The LRSH now has more genealogy reference materials than the library.

A collection of genealogy material covering Amite, Franklin, and Pike Counties was discovered to be available for purchase. The entire lot was obtained for \$150.

Authentic 1860s artifacts are needed for the Battle of Liberty display. If anyone knows of artifacts that could be loaned for the November 8 weekend event, please let Greg Barron know.

STEERING COMMITTEE: No new information. See President's report above.

Old Business:

Pres. Taylor presented Life Member certificates to Sam King and Jim Freeman.

Pres. Taylor reported that Mrs. Vera Prestridge sent a Thank You card for the June celebration of her birthday and her retirement as chair of the LRSH Committee.

New Business:

Pres. Taylor asked that members who attended classes in the LRSH to write their memories and e-mail them to her for posting on the blog.

Anyone who wants to attend the Angels on the Bluff this year should put their name on the list being circulated. Pres. Taylor will buy the tickets and each attendee will pay her. The event is usually on the second weekend in November but specifics for this year have not been made public yet. Once tickets go on sale they are sold out fast so anyone wanting to go should sign the list.

Other possible field trips being considered are trips to CelticFest in Jackson and to Beauvoir in November.

The annual Sacred Harp singing at Antioch Church (north of Forest, MS) will be on August 23rd.

Other Business:

Mrs. Vera Prestridge asked if the society will have liability insurance effective when we have events at such places as the LRSH. Pres. Taylor replied that the Steering Committee will have insurance coverage that covers the day of the event only.

Pres. Taylor reminded members of all the items that will be in the drawing on the day of the Battle of Liberty commemoration.

Billy Anders reported that the Presbyterian Church in Gloster is available.

Billy Anders reported that the Wilk-Amite Record may be taken over by another entity so, hopefully, it will continue to be published.

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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.

Bear Creek Camp---Nov 7th 1863
Canton Miss

Dear Stumpy---As this is a beautiful Saturday evening and I am on duty and but little to do---I will Spend a portion of it in writing to you---Nero expects to Start down home in the morning and it will be a good opportunity to Send it. I am enjoying excellent health, much better than common---I was disappointed in not getting a letter by Major Webb. I dont know of any chance to get one Soon--as it Seems John Hazelwood is not coming back Soon. Henry Buck will be the next chance that I know of ---Stumpy I have made an effort for a Furlough but failed ---and an order came from Gen Loring today---not to let any off under no considerations---only according to the old rule which is one Furlough for every twenty five men in the Reg--- according to that as Several is ahead of me, it will be Some time next Summer before I will be entitled to one---It really Seems that the best Soldiers are the Sufferers in this war. But if it is right I will try and Submit to it---with a hope that we will have peace before that time and all will be on an equality once more---Some thinks it will not be long before we will be disbanded, But I dont know what their hopes are based upon. Jeff Davis Said in a Speech he made in Meridian a few days ago that in a Short time we would hear Some thing that would be cheering to us--So I hope day is beginning to dawn---So I hope that day is beginning to dawn---Every thing seems to be quiet now. I think we will remain here for Some time---Our duty would be very light if it was not for the Deserters we have to guard. Our Cavalry bring them in and we keep them under guard until they can be tried by a Court Martial. Some are wearing a ball and chain which they have to wear during the war and live on bread and water a portion of the time--More of them I expect will be Shot. There is no Chance now for a Substitute We are debarred of all Such privilliges [sic] ---I have not heard from you Since Clem came up. I am very uneasy, I dont know what I would do if I was to hear of any of you being very Sick and no chance to get to you. But if Such Should ever be the case I want you to let me know it. I hope though we may all keep well and meet again. I have never enjoyed better health in my life than I do now. I dont know what to tell you about hireing [sic] Bob for another year---If you cant pay him in Confederate money I dont See how you can hire him any longer---you had better get Levi to see Covington on the Subject. I dont See how he can refuse the money at this time as its [sic] all we have. If Andrew [Andrew was a slave, who later spent much time with Dunn at the front.] should take a notion to the Yankees which I hope never will, Bob would be a great help to you and would be less apt to runaway [sic] than a grown one---do whatever your Pa and Levi think best. I can Send you Some money if you need it. I have more than I want in Camp--we are getting plenty of Potatoes at two and three dollars per Bushel---our Beek[?] continues to

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keep good---I am anxious to hear how your Crop is turning out---I Suppose [sic] Am Ivey is married, and Mrs. Cavin it Seems the war cant prevent marrying---Dock brags [sic] on little Holly. he Says he is the very picture of health and is really a fine looking Boy---But he advises me not to Desert to go See him---I appreciate his advise [sic] but it looks like that I could not be blamed much if I was to Desert---Though I never expect to leave my command without leave---I have never had a mark for any neglect of duty Since I have been in the Service---and I dont intend that I ever Shall if it can be avoided. I think that is more than any other member of the Co can Say. Some get put on extra duty occasionally-but they never get me---Still they wont give me a Furlough---I wrote to Dock and Tad yesterday---I heard from Dock a few days ago---he was well---try and keep Mrs Blunt [sic] with you as She will be Company for you---Let me know all the news in the neighborhood I owe old man Duck 7 or 8 dollars for Some work he done on the gin which you might pay if you have money---and pay Corocoran for Blacksmithing---I can Send you the money you need it---Pay every debt you can ---I Suptose[sic] people are Selling Cotton rapidly---Stumpy it is rumored here in camp that Sam Chance was Caught by our Cavalry with negroe [sic] dogs in a Sink hole---and conscripted---I took the responsibility on myself to contradict the report---as I thought it a mistake. Let me know whether there is any thing of it or not---urge the Darkies to keep Straight---tell them to carry on business as though I was present---many Sweet kisses from your loved one. No more goodbye---M. A. D.

Demopolis, Ala----
March 31st 1864

My Dear Wife,

I have an opportunity of writing you a few lines, and will consider it nothing amiss, as I know you are proud to hear from me at any time. Though I have no news of great importance. I am very well as usual, Andrew is unwell and has been for Several days with cold, but is improving---We are organizing Bible Classes throughout the Army which I am very much pleased with. The plan is to have a Class in each Company and recite lessons Semiweekly. We have a Teacher & two assistant Teachers to each Company. Capt. Jackson is our Teacher, I am 1st Asst and Clem is 2nd. There will be Superintendents for the Regty. Capt. [Jackson] is absent at this time, which causes all the duty to fall upon me---I consider it a hard task, yet I am willing to do all that I can, as I feel it to be nothing more than my duty. Though I am Sensible of my incompetency. There is Still Some talk of us moving to Mississippi but I cant tell when I received a letter from Tad yesterday which I will Send to you. I infer from what he writes that Jimmie is at home on furlough. I was much disappointed in not getting a letter from Tom McE-lure--I think he might have notified you of his leaving. I dont attach any blame to you in Such cases [MS. *illegible*]

From all I can gather the Citizens are well pleased with Col. Dillons Cavalry, which I Suptose [sic] is Still in the neighborhood. Some Seem to think that he is working to the Yankees advantage, in Some respects. I think it Should be Seen into. I reckon that man Watkins they killed was perfectly innocent of their Charges---I think many of the Cavalry merit a Similar punishment. I would rather See them more eager to crush out those who are invading our country. I expect they are a nuisance to the neighborhood---I wish we could keep a good cavalry in the

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State Its [sic] reported that Col Jno Scott of the 1st La Cavalry is to be Sent down here. If So I am in hopes there will be a change in some things. I am nearly crazy for a letter to hear how every thing is going on. It has been over Six weeks Since my last letter was written. So you may imagine how I feel---. These beautiful Spring days makes [sic] me want to be planting Corn very much. I think if I outlive this war and get back home, I will enjoy farming better than ever I did. I am anxious to hear how much corn you have planted, and how every thing is going on generally. I am in hopes that you will get along well, and will make as fine crop as you did last year. You must try and have a good Garden. I hope that I will be fortunate enough to get home in the Summer. I am afraid the fruit is destroyed by cold. You must write me a long letter by Bob Capell, you must let me know how you were pleased with your needles which I sent by Dunk Byrd. Try and send me Some Gutta Perchs Combs and I will Supply you all with rings. I Cant hear from Dock & Bud, but I reckon they are yet at home as Bud would be Sent here to Parole Camp. I See Tom Talbert Occasionally. I am in hopes Laura [daughter] will be pleased with School. I want to try and get her a book of Some kind that may encourage her to learn. I am afraid you will be troubled about books--Tell Millard he must take good care of the pigs and when I come home I will give him one---I think if you will boil Corn with a little ashes in it about once a week and give your hogs, you will find it makes them[MS, illegible] [I send you letters every] week by hand, and I would be better Satisfied if I could get them as often from you---But we must try and be contended [sic], And consider that we have been greatly blessed. There are trials hard to endure But I Suppose [sic] we deserve all the punishment that is being inflicted upon us---We must hope and pray for better times. We Should all try and do our duty and I think Peace will crown our efforts. We must not forget the 8th of April. I hope every Soldier who is battling for his country will humble himself before his God on that day, that we may have better times. Respects to all, goodbye

Yours as ever (a Kiss) 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**

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Billy Anders asked who was responsible in the county for placing name signs on waterways that cross the roads. He would like to see Tanyard Creek marked with name signs. Billy Anders has published a book on aviation entitled Foxtrot, We're on the Way.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:57 am.

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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PO Box 2
Liberty, MS 39645