



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Dawn Taylor, President

Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary

William G. Barron, Vice Pres.

N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

Allen Terrell, Council-at-large

Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

November 2015

Vol. 11, No. 11

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be a regular business meeting on **November 14, 2015, at 10:00 am** in the conference room of the Liberty library.

Future Meeting Schedule

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

December 5, 2015 — Open House at the William Gardner House.

January 9, 2016 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

February 11, 2016 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

March 11, 2016 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

April 9, 2016 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS

May 1, 2016 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS

June 11, 2016 — Annual meeting with election of officers in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS

July 2016 — Traditionally the society has not met in July. If this should change, appropriate changes will be made in this schedule.

August 13, 2016 — Regularly monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the October 10, 2015 meeting

DRAFT

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:01 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 12 members attending. Greg Barron gave the invocation.

The draft minutes were taken up. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Greg Barron and seconded by James Allen Causey. The motion carried.

President Report:

President Taylor reminded members that the Sawdust and Splinters Festival will be held Oct 23-25. The society will participate with a display of logging industry photos courtesy of Sam King. Volunteers are needed to work the display table. See Dawn Taylor to arrange a time to work. Volunteers will be admitted free of charge if their names are on the society list that will be given to the gatekeeper.

Vice President Report:

The field trip to Jackson to tour the capitol went well. Sam Mims who hosted the group went beyond expectations in both the tour as well as providing a catered lunch.

The Open House will be December 5, 2015, at the Gardner House. Hours will be 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Secretary Report: No report.

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Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock reported we have \$11,170.32 as balance on hand. Greg Barron made a motion to approve the report; Ann Brumfield seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEES

LRSH: VP Greg Barron had no news on the LRSH.
Hospitality: At next month's meeting, the committee will have a sign-up sheet for food at Open House. Those who wish to contribute food, please sign-up at the meeting or contact Gay Blalock. A motion was made by Linda Lea to accept the committee reports, Dawn Taylor seconded. The motion passed.

Jim Freeman interjected at this point and reported on the recent presentation by H. Grady Howell, Jr., at the Library in McComb arranged by the Southwest Mississippi Genealogical Society.

New Business: None

Old Business: Pres. Taylor plans has purchased tickets for the last tour (8:45 pm) on November 7, 2015, for the "Angels on the Bluff" event. At the time of the meeting she has 7 tickets available. The plan is to get together at midday to arrange the carpool. The group will then go to Natchez where David Dreyer will give a tour of the African-American Museum. Afterward those of the group that wish to get supper will do so and the group will go to the Natchez Visitor Center by 8:30 pm to check in and begin the tour. Anyone wanting tickets can text or otherwise contact Dawn Taylor.

Other Business: None

Announcements:

Douglas Blalock who painted the still life image that was raffled at the Battle of Liberty event last year has died.

Dawn Taylor plans to begin putting together the display boards for Sawdust and Splinters following adjournment of the meeting. Volunteers to help are requested.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gay Blalock and seconded by Jim Freeman. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

Contributions

If members have information they would like to contribute, please feel free to offer it by contacting me at one of the addresses shown in the box on page 2. I will not be able to accept/use just anything submitted. If information is sent by e-mail, it must be in the body of the message, in a *MS Word* document, or in a PDF document. If images of documents are sent they must be in JPG format so that I can attempt to convert them to text via an optical character reading application. If information is sent by postal mail, it should be in typewritten text, not handwritten, and should be a copy that doesn't have to be returned. Since about half our members receive the newsletter by print copy and the copying process will not adequately display photos, I cannot illustrate text write-ups. If photos are sent, do so only by electronic files in JPG format but don't assume the photos will appear in the newsletter. Photos sent in this manner may sometimes be put on the society's Facebook group page if they are likely to have wide appeal. I realize these criteria may prevent the sharing of some information; however, I must place some limits on the amount of time I devote to the newsletter each month since I have other projects including another monthly newsletter that I work on periodically.

Date: October 27, 2015

To: Dawn Taylor, President
ACHGS

From: John Shivers, President
Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce

Ref: Sawdust and Splinters

Dear Dawn,

Time did not permit me to talk or spend much time with you or any of the ACHGS members. For that I apologize. I want to Thank Each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication in helping us show Amite County support and commitment to our home place.

Mike Hobgood, and his staff of SawDust and Splinters were greatly appreciated for all of your efforts. Mike did not get around and introduce himself like he had wanted. His Grandmother passed away Thursday night late. But the event had to go on.

To give you some insight with this event, our plans are for this to be an annual event each year. This all started at Heritage Days. Mike was so impressed with Heritage Days that he contacted the Chamber for assistance. When we met with him he was committed to moving this event to Hattiesburg. We discussed that the Chamber only works for our home of Liberty Amite County Ms. I suggested that he take a look at Vance Park to consider locating SawDust and Splinters event to our area and then we could support him after more discussions. 5 Months later, Liberty is now the New Home of SawDust and Splinters. Once this event catches on we all feel this event will grow into national attention.

Amite County, The Town of Liberty and local merchants will benefit greatly due to new money coming into our area.

Again, Thanks to all of you for everything you did and joining us to help promote this event and our home. We look forward to your help again in 2016.

See you at Heritage Days 2016! We will soon start planning soon.

Best Regards,


John Shivers, President
Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Southern Chronicles
1996 by Cheryl Romaine

TWO DUTCH FARMERS IN DISTRESS

I know not whether this story is true nor who the author is for this is a mystery to me. This is one of a collection of articles that were titled, Touchlight, and were published in *The Southern Herald Newspaper* many years ago. I do know that I enjoy reading the articles for indeed many stories are ageless as is this one.

My Dear Herald,

"I hadn't laughed before yesterday for nearly twelve months, A Centreville man told me a story that had enough fun in it to make two or three laughs, and here it is: In the early part of the spring about the first of February perhaps, two Dutch farmers came from upper Saukum down to Centreville to trade and maybe drink some beer. The journey was short, but there were adventure in it.

"Now Mose Goff and Peter Staut had been getting up this trip several days. They had spent two of them in making a deep box seat for Mose's brand new wagon which he had lately bought.

"Late a Friday evening the last screw was driven home and the cheery old chaps were elated with their job. It looked fine they thought, and the Centreville fellows would admire their turnout tomorrow. So it was agreed that Peter should come over bright and early the next morning, after a sunrise breakfast, they would go to town.

"Peter was prompt to time, and found Mose in his little stable with his great lantern lit, beginning preparations for the day. They both went furiously to work - feeding and rubbing the ponies, righting the harness, greasing the axles, and doing twenty big and little things, which only Dutch farmers do when making a wagon trip to their market town.

"They had everything about ready when Mose's wife called them from the kitchen to come to breakfast. They were glad to hear this. They had been up a long time, and busy at that and were hungry. As they passed by the snug little kitchen window into the house the odor of fresh sausage a frying, of scrambled eggs and onion gravy quickened the step and edged the appetites of our friends. They hurried through washpan and hair comb requirement, and walked vigorously into the inviting breakfast table.

"Dutchmen eat for the pleasure of the thing, while we do it from necessity. Peter and Mose laid on with all their voracious ability this morning. Toward the close of the meal, Mose's children - five or six of whom were sleeping in an adjoining room - began snoring, snorting and struggling in their morning nap, and betrayed croup and heavy suppers were common in the family.

"Mose's wife now took an active part in affairs. She turned upon Mose and told him in a very decided manner that he 'musn't' come home any more without the croup medicine for the children. This made the third time she had told him about it, and she didn't want to be bothered any more. Mose had learned to respect that emphatic manner of his spouse. He knew to his cost that Dutch wives, like other wives, were the devil to pay when their wrong headed husband had offended beyond the third time. That medicine should come.

"They hurried out to the stable and got into the wagon. Now the fit was tight, for there was much squeezing and settling down to get fairly into position. But these burly old fellows, in the eager excitement of the trip, didn't pay their usual attention to personal comfort, and Mose, snatching the reins and giving the word, put the fat, firey little garrons (small sturdy workhorses) to their sped.

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"The morning was fine and bracing. Spring was in the air and the Dutchmen enjoyed things with great satisfaction. They talked of their farms, their cows and sheep, their goats and geese, and the nearness of plow time.

"When the morning had passed into the warmth of sunny day, they began to get restive. Peter, who was of great girth and wind, reached behind and unbuckled his breeches strap, and a mile or two more found it convenient to let loose two or three top buttons in front. As they reached Way Anderson's old pond they proposed to stop and blow awhile. Here these stout Dutchman discovered to their dismay and horror, that their great fat sides and thighs were as tightly tongued and grooved together as a new parlor floor.

"The oaths and the exclamations and unmouthable expressions which they uttered are not suited for decorous narrative like this. They squirmed and squeezed and jumped and jerked, and used all the variations of side pull and see saw to get apart. But it was no go. The Siamese twins were little better bound together. In blank despair they turned to each other an inquiring look - what must they do? Peter proposed at once to go back home. Mose was not ready. He had more business and responsibility in the trip than his friend, and his angry, disappointed wife at home clamoring about the medicine was not to be overlooked.

"He raised his great cheezy eyes and Peter, suspecting him of contriving some plan by which they were to go on, in a low growl called the name of Gordon Anderson. This baffled Mose. To run the gauntlet of those Centreville fellows, with this veteran joker at the head of them, had turned aside firmer men than he was. He slapped his knees and scratched his shaggy head with great energy. A fine idea struck him, which he immediately communicated to Peter. They would go right on to town - do all their trading from the wagon - say nothing to nobody but business, and go back home quick.

"Peter was badly worried, and neither consenting or refusing, Mose caught the reins and drove one. Conversation slackened from now on. When they got in the edge of town Mose proposed to take a glass of beer. No Dutchman, even in the extremity of death, will refuse this national nectar, so they drove up and tipped off a bottle of beer apiece. It had a fine effect, and the old fellows went to trading from store to store like they meant business.

"They soon drank strong whisky punch together and this was a fatal error. Both Dutchman soon showed distress. Much was at stake, however, and they put all their vigor out to finish their business. They were nearly done. Two curry combs and a calf rope at Charley Germany's and they were ready for home, and down to Charley's they dashed. They had just paid for the articles from the wagon and put them away, when their dreaded enemy, Gordon Anderson, himself, rode into town.

"His wicked eye was never known to miss a piece of fun, and detecting the situation at a glance, he fired upon the dismayed Dutchmen. A dozen other madcaps joined the hue and cry. They soon had them bayed and surrounded and poured joke and laugh on them at a furious rate. After having twenty minutes of fun, Gordon and Tom Lusk took pity on our friends, and finding two shovel handles and a bridge plank, after considerable punching and poking prized them apart. How angry they were at the laughing crowd but how glad they were to be free."

Printed in The Southern Herald, Liberty, Mississippi, 25 April 1996, Page 4



