



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

January 2015

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Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

There will be a regular business meeting at 10:00 am on January 10, 2015, in the conference room of the Liberty Library. A program honoring veterans will be presented. Following the meeting, interested attendees may attend a tour of the Camp Van Dorn Museum in Centreville.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the December 13, 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 11 attendees.

Pres. Taylor then moved to the draft minutes of the October 11, 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. Greg Barron made a motion to adopt the minutes; Linda Lea seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

President Report:

Pres. Taylor reported that the Battle of Liberty commemoration on November 8 was a good day with a large attendance.

She gave a special thanks to Bert and Gay Blalock for arranging for young people to help with setting up things for the commemoration.

The souvenir booklets from the commemoration did not sell out and are still available for those who didn't get one on Nov. 8. Greg Barron interjected and called for a round of applause for Alice Carol Gray who did such a tremendous job editing the souvenir booklet.

Pres. Taylor mentioned two recent feature stories by Ernest Herndon in the *Enterprise-Journal*. One was a commemorative article on Veterans' Day which featured James Allen Causey. The other was the article covering the Battle of Liberty commemoration.

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Future Meeting Schedule

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.

May 2, 2015, 10:00 am — Participation in Liberty Heritage Day activities. No regular meeting.

June 13, 2015, 10:00 am — Annual membership meeting with election of officers in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

July 11, 2015 — Traditionally there has been no meeting in July. If it is decided that a meeting is needed, this listing will be updated with the details.

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You may contact this editor at:
Wayne B. Anderson, Sr.
1737 Bridgers Drive
Raymond, MS 39154
Or by e-mail at
sitemanager@achgs.org

Pres. Taylor asked if the group would like to have a program recognizing veterans in January. James Allen Causey added information about activities at the Camp Van Dorn Museum and added that he could provide ACHGS members with free admission to the World War II Museum in New Orleans.

Pres. Taylor suggested touring the Camp Van Dorn Museum following the program at the January meeting.

Pres. Taylor recognized Greg Barron who announced that the Stockdale Rangers SCV Camp was planning to hold their Lee-Jackson Banquet again. It will be at 6:00 pm on January 17, 2015 at the Tangipahoa Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. It will be a pot-luck meal and all attendees are asked to bring a dish suitable to provide several portions. There will be a band providing music following the banquet.

Pres. Taylor reported that the Executive Committee had approved a donation of \$50 to the Stockdale Rangers SCV Camp to help defray the cost of the band for the Lee-Jackson Banquet. The Camp assisted the society greatly with the Battle of Liberty commemoration and this was a way to give back for their assistance.

Pres. Taylor announced that George and Susan Bragg are moving to Orange Beach, Alabama, though they will continue to participate in the ACHGS as time permits. They plan to donate some material to the ACHGS.

The society has received an invitation from the Mississippi Genealogical Society for members to participate in a workshop on January 17. Pres. Taylor can provide more details to any interested.

Vice President Report: VP Nancy Martin was not present due to continuing recovery from her injuries from a car wreck. Pres. Taylor reported that

Nancy had managed to visit on Nov. 8 for a short time. Pres. Taylor also took this opportunity to welcome Mary Ann Huff back following her recent illness.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson had no report.

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer's report shows a bank balance of \$11,380.86. Some expenses for the Battle of Liberty commemoration remain to be paid so this balance will decline some. Greg Barron interjected that the expense item for event insurance on the report was reduced from the usual price thanks to Tom Lewis' assistance. Pres. Taylor added that to recoup the cost for the calendars, the price will be reduced to \$5.00 per calendar to move them on out as soon as possible. Greg Barron made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; Linda Lea seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

LRSB COMMITTEE: Greg Barron reported that the LRSB has had a few visitors plus two others called about scheduling visits.

CEMETERIES COMMITTEE: In George Bragg's absence Pres. Taylor reported that more volunteers are needed to help upload photos and complete the Find-a-Grave database information.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Other Business:

On the first Saturday in February, Mary Pallon is scheduling a clean-up day in Rodney. Pres. Taylor encouraged volunteering if anyone has the time available. She and at least one other have already made plans to help.

Mrs. Vera Prestridge announced that she had her scrapbook of photos and other memorabilia from the party given for her birthday and retirement from the LRSB committee. Anyone interested is welcome to look through it.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am. Bert Blalock was asked to give a blessing for the food for the Christmas luncheon.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Mrs. Frances Phares has no "Bits and Pieces" column for this issue so I decided to offer some military/war related song lyrics in keeping with the intended honoring of veterans at the January meeting.

A tribute to Camp Van Dorn:

Ballad of Camp Van Dorn

Lyrics © 2006, Wayne B. Anderson
Melody traditional ("Rosin the Bow")

They came from all over this country
To the South to a place newly-born
To learn how be good soldiers
And train at Camp Van Dorn
And train at Camp Van Dorn, train at Camp Van Dorn
To learn how to be good soldiers and train at Camp Van Dorn

When the world went to Hell in the 40s
East and West both were war-torn
The need for more soldiers was dire
Then to us came Camp Van Dorn
To us came Camp Van Dorn, to us came Camp Van Dorn
Good men and true were sent here when to us came Camp Van Dorn

Far from any big city
Some homesick and feeling forlorn
They learned to fight for their country
When trained at Camp Van Dorn
When trained at Camp Van Dorn, when trained at Camp Van Dorn
They learned to fight for their country when trained at Camp Van Dorn

The 63rd and 99th Divisions
Had thousands of warriors born
In Ike's ETO they fought hard
And left 10,000 to mourn
Left 10,000 to mourn, and left 10,000 to mourn
In Ike's ETO they fought hard and left 10,000 to mourn

And lest we forget support units
Who shared in the load that was borne
They all learned to shoulder their burden
In training at Camp Van Dorn
In training at Camp Van Dorn, training at Camp Van Dorn
They all learned to shoulder their burden in training at Camp Van Dorn

So much time has passed by
And more of that group we mourn

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Keep alive the memories they left us
And that of Camp Van Dorn
The memory of Camp Van Dorn, the memory of Camp Van Dorn
Keep alive the memories they left us and that of Camp Van Dorn

A parent's worry for his son away at war:

The Empty Coat

From a poem submitted anonymously to the *Southern Herald*, April 22, 1918
Reprinted in the Amite County WPA book project
Lyrical arrangement and melody © 2006, Wayne B. Anderson

'Tain't no use, a hangin' there on its peg no more,
Sleeves a showin' too much wear, pocket badly tore.
Prob'bly when the war is done, it'll be too small
Guess he'll have another one – if he returns at all, if he returns at all.

Chorus:

Now it looks so sad and lonely, just a hangin' there.
But it's sacred in our eyes, something like a prayer, something like a prayer.

Seems like yeste'day I stood, watched him 'bout his chores
Bringin' in the kitchen wood, stompin' 'cross the floor.
Laughed to see his snoopin' around like he used to snoop
Whistlin' happy when he found his Ma was making soup, his Ma was making soup.

Now that he ain't here no more, our own hearts' delight
We glance at the old coat he wore 'fore he went to fight
Nights when all doors was shet, 'fore I got up stairs
I'd touch his sleeve and find it wet – he'd been cryin' there, he'd been cryin' there.

Second choru:

Now somethin's smartin' my eyes too, have to wink 'em tight,
When I whisper, "Proud of you; goodnight, lad, goodnight, goodnight, lad, goodnight."

'Tain't no use, a hangin' there on its peg no more,
Sleeves a showin' too much wear, pocket badly tore.
Prob'bly when the war is done, it'll be too small
Guess he'll have another one – if he returns at all, if he returns at all.

Chorus:

Now it looks so sad and lonely, just a hangin' there.
But it's sacred in our eyes, something like a prayer, something like a prayer.

Finally, a comforting message to an old soldier reliving his war memories:

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Fight No More

© 2004, Wayne B. Anderson

He's an old man who's lived a full life,
Seen both good and bad, day by day.
But no more does he live in our time and place
Bad memories have called him away.

He and his brother and a lot of their friends
Went off to the fight in Spring, '62
Sickness and Yankees put them to the test
By the end of '64, his fighting was through.

Chorus:

You can put down your musket and rest
You don't have to fight no more.
The Yankees are gone and you're here at home
You don't have to fight no more.

Six months in a cold Yankee prison
Starvin' and freezin', pinin' for home
Missin' his family, missin' his friends
Wonderin' when his end will come.

By June, '65 it's finally over
Home is a long way, but he'll get there
Many years ahead to live as man should
With loved ones around him, his dreams to share.

Chorus

He's an old man who's lived a full life,
Seen both good and bad, day by day.
But no more does he live in our time and place
Bad memories have called him away.

Chorus

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