



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

February 2015

Vol. 12, No. 2

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

There will be a regular business meeting at 10:00 am on February 14, 2015, in the conference room of the Liberty Library.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the January 10, 2015 meeting

DRAFT

Future Meeting Schedule

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.

August 8, 2015, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

September 12, 2015, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

October 10, 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 10:15 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 10 members and two Causey-family guests brought by James Allen Causey attending. President Taylor was the only Executive Board member in attendance.

Since copies of the draft December 2014 meeting minutes were not available due to the absence of society secretary Wayne Anderson, adoption of the minutes was tabled until the February meeting.

President Report:

There are still a large number of the 2015 calendar available for sale. The price has been reduced to \$5.00 per copy if purchased in person, postage will be required for orders filled by mail (contact Dawn Taylor or see the society Facebook page for postage cost).

Reminder: On the first Saturday in February, Mary Pallon, Lifetime Member of the society, is scheduling a clean-up day in Rodney. Volunteers are encouraged to help out. The Historic Rodney Foundation is hoping to perform stabilization work on the buildings to preserve them. Since Mary Pallon has done so much for the ACHGS in preserving and promoting Amite County history, Pres. Taylor encourages all members who can to assist on the Rodney clean-up. Pres. Taylor and Past President

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Remembering the Battle of New Orleans

*This year marks the Bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans in which a number of Amite Countians participated. The following is from a posting on the society's Facebook page by **Greg Barron** on January 8, 2015. (Since Greg's posting didn't migrate into my word processor without errors, I made a few corrections to eliminate those errors and made a few editorial changes for readability.)*

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

Greg Barron have committed to attend to represent the society.

Vice President Report: VP Nancy Martin was not present due to continuing recovery from her injuries from her July 4, 2014, car wreck. VP Martin hopes to return for meetings in the near future. Until then, your thoughts and prayers for her continued recovery are appreciated.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson was not present.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock could not be present but provided a Treasurer's Report to Pres. Taylor before the meeting. The Treasurer's report shows a bank balance of \$10,000.14. Expenses for the Battle of Liberty commemoration mentioned last month have now been paid resulting in the decline of the balance from December.

COMMITTEES: No reports.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Other Business:

There was discussion of the Camp Van Dorn Museum and the field trip to be made following the meeting.

Darlene Williams shared her scrapbook from when her father was stationed at Camp Van Dorn and his WWII service.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Today 200 years ago, many men from Amite County were seeing the Battle of New Orleans unfold before them; Hinds Mississippi Dragoons were in the thick of the Battle. Hinds had recruited in Liberty for the War of 1812. Our men, among them my great-great-grandfather Benjamin Anderson, heeded this call to become part of Hinds Mississippi Dragoons. During this battle, Hinds Mississippi Dragoons charged a ditch concealing the British, the men having been ordered to fire downward into the British line at the jump. They did as ordered, regrouped, and did the same on return. The British were taken by complete surprise as well as by bewilderment, never having a thought that the ditch would have an outright attack upon it. *(Taken from The Military History of Mississippi by Dunbar Rowland.)*

Other Amite Countians were there with other units, some arriving hours later and even the next day or so after the battle. D.W. Cook's Mississippi Militia arrived right after the battle. Cook's men were discharged in New Orleans, another great-great-great grandfather, W. Thomas Barron was in Cook's unit. Remember our Heritage and History.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Mrs. Frances Phares has moved on to some other projects and will be contributing to this feature only occasionally. The society owes Mrs Frances a big debt of gratitude for making this newsletter feature possible for all these years.

As editor I will be searching for stories, articles, and other genealogical and/or historical information having connection to Amite County. I may from time to time incorporate postings from the society's Facebook page. Due to the difficulty of reproducing photographic images in the print copies of the newsletter (which a large number of our members receive since they are not internet-active), inclusion of photos will be rarely done.

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. Unlike Mrs. Frances whose original encouragement to share is given at the end of this section, 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. Do not send photos by any means but electronic file. 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.

*The following is something **Greg Barron** shared with the society several years ago. I am uncertain of the newspaper which printed this, probably a local one since there seems to be no concern that readers would not comprehend what and where Amite Co. was. I've tried to reproduce this in an approximation of the relative type sizes used in the original article.*

Horrible Tragedy in Amite Co.

LUM CLEVELAND AND WIFE KILLED

Monday morning, about 9 o'clock, June 27, 1915, Sherriff Bates received a telephone message to come to the home of Lum Cleveland, about 10 miles northeast of Liberty, as Mr. Cleveland and his wife had both been shot dead. Hastily summoning Cary Hughey, W. A. Williams and Omer Carroll, they hurried to the scene in an auto, and found one of the most a gruesome scenes imaginable.

Cleveland's wife was lying near the house just inside of the field, being shot in one side of the head and through an arm and one side; further on in the field was her husband with his head

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shot almost entirely away, and several other wounds on his person.

A survey of the premises showed that the person doing the killing had evidently started to shooting at the old couple while they were in the kitchen, and when they attempted to escape, had followed them up, shooting them down as they ran and finishing his deadly work in a deliberate, dastardly manner.

Dupety (sic) Sheriff Butler had been left behind to phone to Crystal Springs for blood hounds which he did, but about 1 p. m., while awaiting their arrival, the Sheriff received a message from Mr. Butler that Allen Westbrook had just come in, coolly admitted the killing and asked to be locked in jail, where he was quickly placed.

Westbrook is a son-in-law of Cleveland, and claims that the aged couple was the cause of his wife and children leaving him.

The houses were only a few hundred yards apart, and a short time ago Cleveland had Westbrook arrested. charged with threatening his life, and upon his trial, June 26th, he was placed under a peace bond. He at once returned home, near Hebron, and the old couple becoming alarmed went to the house of another married daughter where they remained until Monday morning. Westbrook went to the Cleveland home immediately, had some words with the old man, went back for his shot gun, and on his return did the murder.

He says he killed the wife first, and is said to show no emotion at all.

In fact, we are told, he said he expected to be hung and was ready to take his medicine.

He is a member of a prominent family of our county, a son of Henry Adam Westbrook, and about 38 years of age.

Mr. Cleveland was reared near Bates Mill, was bout (sic) 63 years of age, and in 1872 married Miss Ella Mixon, sister of A. J. Mixon, and aunt of Hon. W. B. Mixon of McComb. He had 3 grown sons, we think, 2 married daughters, and a boy about 14 who was just reaching home in time to see his father shot down, and who, we believe, ran to B. Moore's to give the alarm.

The dogs reached the scene about 2 p. m. and were brought on to Liberty.

It has been a long time since our citizens have been so awfully shocked, and indignation and righteous wrath have been terribly aroused.

A petition has been circulated asking for a special term of court, and people generally are awaiting the result.

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Talk common at such time is being largely indulged in, and comment from us is useless, but we believe law will prevail.

As we were ready for press the Sheriff told us that Judge Jackson who is holding court Meadville would be home Saturday to call and arrange for a Special Term.

*The following is from an article thought to be from a local newspaper in mid-April 1942. This was contributed to the society Facebook page in the form of a photo of the original newspaper clipping by **Virgil Roberts**.*

MEN CALLED FOR MILITAR SERVICE FOR MAY QUOTA

The following men left Wednesday morning for Camp Shelby. where they will be inducted into the service.

Carey D. Reynolds, Marvin W. Harvey, Bilbo Johnson, Clifton A. Bowlin, Benny Johnson, Norwood D. Reynolds, Grady Putt, William H. McKenzie, Reuben M. Stubbs, Joseph C. Arnold. Ivy W. Sandifer, Ellis Butler, Robert C. Partin, James E. Wilkinson, Clyde H. Graves, David H. Kirkland, John T. Morgan, Webb J. Roberts, Aubry B. Hurst, Joe M. Self, Thomas J. Reeves, Thomas K. Netterville. Price E. Shirley, Edward J. Baxter, V. Moyese Carroll, Charles R. Tarver, Clifton L. Campbell, Robert L. Morgan.

Bliss G. Bradley, Burley Freeman, A. B. Westbrook, Jefferson K. Arnold, Larry L. Jackson, Leo L. Jones, Archie E. Cleveland, Richard E. Shaw, Albert B. Forman, Burwell Bass, Aubrey C. Kirkland, Gordon L. Wroten.

Emmitt J. Huff, Jefferson D. Pray, Lee Russel Bean, Robert C. Bradshaw, Earl L. Neyland, Wilford G. Longmire, James H. Anderson, Thomas Carl Walsh, John R. Murray, Thomas J. Larimore, Joseph L. Hughes, Wallace L. Higgins, Thomas W. Arnold, Leroy McDaniel, Clifford Huff.

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**
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