



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

March 2015

Vol. 12, No. 3

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

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

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the February 14, 2015 meeting

DRAFT

Future Meeting Schedule

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.

November 14, 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 10:00 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 16 members attending.

The minutes from the December 13, 2014, meetings were approved. A motion was made by Greg Barron and seconded by Joanna Hearn. The motion carried. The minutes from the January 10, 2015, meeting were approved. A motion was made by Greg Barron and seconded by Gay Blalock. The motion carried.

President Report:

Plans for Heritage Day Participation – The society will be on the lawn in front of the Little Red School House. Jim and Bobbie Ann Baker are planning to bring their Civil War Tent and do living history.

There will be a work day for cleaning in and around the Little Red School House immediately following the March meeting. We will have a pot luck lunch in the meeting room or on the lawn following the two hour clean up.

Vice President Report: No report.

Secretary Report: No report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock reported we have paid all Battle of Liberty expenses and have \$10,005.14 as balance on hand.

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You may contact this editor at:
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Raymond, MS 39154
Or by e-mail at
sitemanager@achgs.org

COMMITTEES: Little Red School House—Greg Barron reported that one couple visited the LRSH in the last month. They were very excited to find that we have the school attendance records.

A motion to accept all the officers' and committee reports was made by Greg Barron and seconded by Vera Prestridge. The motion carried.

Old Business: Some merchandise from the Battle of Liberty observance and the 2015 calendars are still available. Calendars are \$5/each. T-shirts are \$5/each with adult medium and youth sizes available.

New Business: There was discussion of whether there was interest in having a spring field trip to Jackson to tour both the newly renovated New Capitol and the Old Capitol. Greg Barron is researching bus travel and cost as well as investigating the other arrangements needed for the tour. Plans are to tour on Saturday so that older children may attend.

Other Business:

David Dryer shared that Ann Moody, author of [Coming of Age in Mississippi](#) passed away at her home in Gloster this month at the age of 74. She was a lifelong civil rights activist and participated in the Woolworth Lunch Counter sit-in in Jackson, Mississippi in 1964 during Freedom Summer.

James Allen Causey brought a copy of the new Amite County maps that are available at the Amite County Courthouse in Debbie Kirkland's office.

Dewey DeLee from Clinton, Louisiana has invited everyone to the Clinton Confederate Memo-

rial Day observance on April 26, 2015, at 4:00 pm at the Cemetery on Marston Street. There will be a meal at the DeLee home following the ceremony at the cemetery.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 am. George Bragg then presented a program on the Find-a-Grave mobile application. After a 30-minute program and discussion, interested members left to go to the Talbert Cemetery on Berwick-Cassels Road to photograph the cemetery. Many of the photos of this cemetery taken previously that had been on the old Amite Cemeteries web site were found to be too small to upload to the Find-a-Grave web site.

[Thanks to President Dawn Taylor for providing the meeting notes that enabled creation of these minutes.]

Family Reunion Announcements

The 3rd Annual Duck/Oakes Family Reunion will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015, at Percy Quin State Park. Very little contact information was provided in the e-mail announcement. The announcement was sent originally by Beverly from e-mail address thestuckeyes78@bellsouth.net with no phone or postal address provided.

The 52nd Honea—Anderson Family Reunion will be held Sunday, May 17, 2015, at Glading Baptist Church. Family members are invited to arrive for church services at 10:30 am. A pot luck luncheon will be held in the pavilion following the service (at about noon). Each attending family should bring a dish suitable to serve several people. The reunion activities will run until about 3:30 pm. Family members with Facebook accounts may wish to visit, and possibly join, the Honea-Anderson Connection and/or the Honea-Anderson Reunion Project Facebook groups. For more reunion information, e-mail to: Gladys_white@aol.com.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Amite County Logging Railroads

This information was gleaned from the "Mississippi Rails" web site. The specific URL for the logging railroads list is http://www.Mississippirailroads.com/Amite_Co.htm; this page will lead to other pages with much more information than is summarized here.

H. G. Butler (1900-1903), also known as **Foster Creek Lumber Co.** (1903-1908), operated a 36" gauge, 30-lb rail railroad. The company was headquartered in Knoxville, Mississippi with the mill located at Butler (Dayton), Mississippi. The mill capacity was 20,000 ft/day and operated from 1900 to 1908. In 1902 the company was operation 2 miles of track and owned one locomotive.

Foster Creek Lumber & Manufacturing Co. (also known as **Crosby Lumber Co.**) operated a standard gauge railroad. The company was headquartered in Stephenson, Mississippi, later called Crosby, Mississippi, after 1935. The mill and associated railroad operated from 1910 until 1963.

Sam & Ike W. Hoskins operated a 2-mile long logging railroad of unknown gauge, 25-lb rail. The company was headquartered in Brookhaven, Mississippi, with the mill located in Coles, Mississippi. The mill capacity was 20,000 ft/day and ran from 1903 until 1910.

The following three companies are apparently sequential variations of the same lumber operation (possibly with variation in ownership).

W. L. Robinson Lumber Co. operated a standard gauge, 30 to 56-lb rail logging railroad of 11 miles length from 1905 until 1913. The mill was located in Gloster, Mississippi.

Valley Lumber Co. operated a standard gauge, 30 to 56-lb rail logging railroad of 11 miles length from 1913 until 1915. The company was headquartered in Camden, Arkansas, with the mill located in Gloster, Mississippi.

Gloster Lumber Co. operated a standard gauge, 56-lb rail, logging railroad from 1915 until 1933; in 1927 the railroad was 24 miles long. The company was headquartered in Camden, Arkansas, with the mill located in Gloster, Mississippi. The mill capacity was 45,000 ft/day.

The following is a reprise of a feature I published three years ago on the occasion of the 176th anniversary of the Battle of the Alamo. Some new information and speculation has come to light since then so I'm offering a slightly edited version of that article on the 179th anniversary of the battle.

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Siege/Battle of the Alamo February 23 – March 6, 1836

Though I'm not a trained historian, I do a lot of reading about historical events and frequently find that what I thought were facts are just folk tales not verifiable in any way. March 6, 2015, marks the 179th anniversary of the battle of the Alamo, so I thought I'd offer a few things I learned.

Mississippians at the Alamo

The web site <http://www.alamodescendants.org/> lists the following men from Mississippi among the defenders present in the Alamo on February 24, 1836, the second day of the siege:

Clark, M.B.
Millsaps, Isaac
Moore, William A.
Pagan, George
Parker, Christopher Adams

Since accurate records of the entire siege period and final battle are not available, it is not known if all these men died there or were among those who chose to leave prior to the battle. No details on any of these men could be found on this web site so it's not clear what historical evidence shows these men to have been in the Alamo.

(A point of speculation: Isaac Millsaps, one of the 5 defenders purportedly from Mississippi, is listed on one web site as having been a resident of Gonzales, Texas, and a member of a volunteer Gonzales militia group. He was married with children and supposedly his wife was blind. Interestingly, in the 1960 John Wayne production of "The Alamo" a character named Jocko Robinson with a blind wife named Nell was featured in a short scene in which Jocko was concerned for his wife's and family's welfare when they were evacuating from the Alamo and he considered leaving with his family. In the movie, his wife forces him to stay because to leave would be cowardly. Were the Robinson characters suggested by the information known about the real life Millsaps family?

Other Details: Facts or Legends?

Most of the "facts" of the Alamo's defense cannot be verified but only classified into categories as being reasonable or unreasonable possibilities. Verified facts include:

The Mexican army was led by President General Antonio López de Santa Anna. Although titled "President," Santa Anna could be better described as a dictator. He chose to lead his army because he was an admirer of Napoleon and fancied himself a commander of similar ability. One of the Napoleonic tactics was to offer to accept the surrender of his enemy at the outset of a clash and to give good surrender terms but with the caveat that failure to take the offer would mean the French would give no quarter once the fighting commenced. Santa Anna took this one step further and demanded his officers give no quarter if the defenders were still in the Alamo when the Mexican army reached the site. Of course that made the battle a short one (probably about half an hour) with no defenders being allowed to live. Any who surrendered were summarily executed.

The commander of the volunteers in the Alamo was Colonel William B. Travis, at least from Febru-

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ary 24 until the end. The initial withdrawal into the Alamo was led by Jim Bowie, who also held the rank of colonel but Bowie collapsed from illness on February 24 and relinquished active command. Both Bowie and Travis held the rank of colonel in the volunteer Texian army commanded by Sam Houston. (NOTE: In that era, settlers from the US and its territories were called “Texians” or “Texicans,” not “Texans.” Mexico-born immigrants were called “Tejanos.”)

Both Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, who already enjoyed folk hero status, were at the Alamo (along with others who accompanied them). Bowie had previously settled in Texas and married a Mexican woman. Crockett and some of his friends from Tennessee had gone to Texas after hearing about the struggle against Mexican rule.

Most modern depictions of the final battle show it being fought in broad daylight. It actually began between 5:00 and 5:30 am, lasted about half an hour, and was over by the time the sun rose high enough to light the area.

The exact number of Alamo defenders is not known. A frequently quoted number is 182, the total of 179 volunteers plus Travis, Bowie and Bowie’s body servant. The story/legend that Travis drew a line in the dirt and asked those who would die for “freedom and glory” to cross the line cannot be verified. When the story of the Alamo made it into song, as all such dramatic events do, the story had 179 of 180 crossing the line. The 180th man, who lived for a few months after being wounded escaping the Alamo, said all 180 crossed but he was designated to take a message back to Sam Houston and went out after dark on that mission. Following the victory over the Mexicans later, the man’s claims were apparently dismissed as cover for cowardice.

Santa Anna claimed there were 600 Alamo defenders (which made his army’s loss of 600 to 800 soldiers more of an even match in the fight); most historians reject this estimate since even the word-of-mouth stories number the defenders at about 250. A recent comment on a web site devoted to the Alamo says that on-going research has raised the number of possible defenders to 257 though this number has not been conclusively accepted.

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.

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
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