



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

August 2015

Vol. 11, No. 8

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be a regular business meeting on August 8, 2015, at 10:00 am in the conference room of the Liberty library.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the June 13, 2015 meeting

DRAFT

Future Meeting Schedule

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 — Meeting will be replaced by a field trip to visit the old and new Capitol buildings in Jackson.

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.

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.

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:05 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 17 members attending. Greg Barron gave the invocation.

The minutes from the April 11 and May 2, 2015, meetings were approved. A motion was made by Greg Barron and seconded by Sam King. The motion carried.

President Report: President Taylor limited her report to a reminder that no meeting would be held in July.

Vice President Report: No report.

Secretary Report: No report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock reported we have \$10,998.44 as balance on hand. Joann Hearn made a motion to approve the report; Debbie Miller seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEES: The committees had no activity to report.

(Continued on page 2)

You may contact this editor at:
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Old Business: The field trip to Jackson to tour the old and new capitol buildings is being re-scheduled to take the place of the September 2015 meeting. A list of attendees who are committing to go needs to be finalized by the August 8 meeting.

New Business: None.

The business meeting was suspended at this point to allow for conclusion of voting and counting of ballots. The program speaker, Plater Robinson, was introduced by Mrs. Frances Phares. Mr. Robinson spoke at some length on his Great Great Grandfather John T. Nolan, who served in the Confederate Army finishing his service in the area around Liberty.

At the conclusion of the program, the final business items were resumed.

Results of Election: There were 56 members who voted. The voting was unanimous in favor of the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee. The officers for the July 2015-June 2016 fiscal year are:

President—Dawn Taylor
Vice President—Greg Barron
Secretary—Wayne Anderson
Treasurer—Gay Blalock
Executive Committee At-Large Member—Allen Terrell

Following the announcement of election results, Greg Barron asked to make announcements:

He commended Plater Robinson on the depth of research that went into his program.

Open House is scheduled for December 5, 2015, and will be held at the William Gardner House in the east part of the county. Arrangements have been made for a piper, for Ernest Herndon to play some fiddle tunes, and for Dub Brock to entertain.

Greg has acquired two new books on Newt Knight. The movie on the "Free State of Jones" has been filming recently in Clinton, LA, and will probably be ready for release in early to mid-2016. As soon as final details are available on when and where the movie will be showing, Greg plans to put together a group trip to see the movie.

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Lea and seconded by Debbie Miller. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.

Angels on the Bluff 2015

Those of you that were at the April Meeting may recall we talked about doing this event again as a group. Traditionally this happens on the same Saturday as our Nov. Meeting but this time it is the week before. I would love for a group of us to go over in the morning and spend the day if not the night and do the 5pm tour of Angels on the Bluff. Last year tickets were \$25 each. I can purchase them as a group up to 20 people. If you plan to go and want me to get your ticket please comment below or inbox me. Thanks!

Important Message for Members

The Executive Committee reminds members that no one should state matters of personal opinion in any public forum in a manner that implies or causes others to construe that the member's statement is the opinion of the society. If any issue arises on which the society needs to take a position publicly, that position will be decided upon by the Executive Committee and made public by an officer or a designee of the Board. More simply put,

(Continued on page 5)

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

This month's installment comes from the WPA books. Two sections having to do with Amite Countians in the military and involved in World War I. Since the WPA books were published before World War II occurred, World War I is simply called the World War.

These sections may be found on pages 340-343 of Volume I, Section IX. Wars. Footnotes denoting original sources for the information have not been retained in this transcription.

Overseas Casualties

Only two Amite World War soldiers were killed in action overseas. The whereabouts of the family of one of them is unknown. The following article was published in the Southern Herald, Liberty newspaper, May 27, 1921, as copied from a Summit, Mississippi newspaper. "War Heroes body brought home to rest in family burying ground.

"The flag-draped box containing the steel case where-in lay the body of Private Carl L. Wells, of Company K, 153d Infantry, Machine Gun Company 23rd, and who fell in battle at Château Thierry in July, 1918, at the age of 22 years, reach Summit this Wednesday noon, being accompanied home by Private Jerry R. Watkins, of Fort McPherson, who formally delivered the body to his aged father, George W. Wells, of Smithdale, who, with his family were here to take the body home for internment in the East Fork Cemetery, near their home. All of the stores were closed on the arrival of the train, and citizens of the town were at the station. The faculty and pupils of the high school marched in a body carrying the colors.

"Rev. R. L. Bunyard, pastor of the Baptist church, was chairman of the meeting. The body was escorted before the waiting assemblage by the Legionnaires. W. B. Mixon spoke for thirty minutes, honoring the returned soldiers, whom he has known since infancy. 'My Country' was sung by the choir and the body was placed up on the hearse, the casket being completely covered by many beautiful floral designs in the national colors. Invocation and benediction was by the Rev. A. S. Oliver."

From the Southern Herald, October 25, 1918, the following article concerning another Amite County soldier is copied: "Mr. Lindsey Anderson, who lives in O'Neal's precinct, received a message this week that his son, Bryan, who volunteered in the Forestry service, was wounded in battle, September 18, and died on the 20th. His captain wrote to that effect, and we suppose the young man had been transferred. This is the second Amite County boy to give his life in the war, and our hearts go out to their parents."

Distinguished Soldiers

LEWIS DEAN CAUSEY was born at Berwick, Mississippi, July 5, 1883. He was appointed naval cadet from Mississippi, May 7, 1902. On July 1, 1902, his title was changed to midshipman and on February 14, 1906, he was detailed to the Asiatic Station for duty, taking passage from Seattle, Washington, March 10. On March 18, 1908, he was commissioned ensign, and on No-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

ember 20 was ordered to report to C-in-C, Atlantic Fleet for duty, and was assigned to the "Virginia."

March 10, 1911, he was commissioned ad interim lieutenant, junior grade and was detailed to duty under submarine instruction to the Atlantic Submarine Flotilla; reported May 2, and was assigned to E-One, and quartered on Tonopah, May 4. He was commissioned as a regular lieutenant on March 7, 1913, and detailed August 21, 1914, to the Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, Rhode Island. May 31, 1916, he was placed in command of the Second Division, Submarine Flotilla, Atlantic Fleet. He was commissioned a regular lieutenant commander on October 13, 1917, from July 1, and on July 10, 1922, was commissioned regular commander.

After serving in various departments of the United States Navy 30 years, Lewis Dean Causey, at his own request, was transferred to the retired list. During the period of time, as stated, he qualified for command of submarines, completed Naval War College Senior course, was awarded a Victory Medal (Submarine Clasp) World War service, and was awarded the Navy Cross for service during this war as set forth in the following: "For distinguished service in the line of the profession as Commanding Officer, Submarine Detachment, Azores Islands."

WILLIAM ISAIHAH CAUSEY was born at Berwick, Mississippi, August 15, 1889. He was appointed midshipman from Mississippi, July 3, 1909. He was commissioned as regular ensign from June 7, 1913; regular lieutenant, junior grade, June 7, 1916, lieutenant commander, temporary, September 21, 1918. Passing over a number of years of his service, on March 27, 1929, he is with the United States Fleet (aide on staff of commander-in-chief; additional duty fleet communication officer.) He was commissioned ad interim commander from October 1, 1933, and on February 12, 1934, was commissioned as a regular commander from October 1, 1933. He is still with the United States Navy and was awarded a Mexican Campaign Medal and a "Victory Medal -- World War Transport Clasp -- U.S.S. Wilhelmina, 26 March, 1918, 27 October, 1918."

RANSOM TURNER SHARP was born a few miles north of Liberty on the farm of his father, David Sharp, July 22, 1888,. He enlisted as a private at Memphis, Tennessee, April 7, 1911, and was assigned to the Twenty-eighth U.S. Infantry, which was the home border patrol at San Antonio, Texas. From there he went with the regiment to St. Paul, Minnesota, and remained there until February, 1913, when the regiment was again ordered to the border, this time to Galveston, Texas. He spent one year in the camp there, and then sailed to Vera Cruz, Mexico, with his regiment, where they were engaged in outpost duty most of the time, until the withdrawal of troops in November, 1914. He states that he "saw by that time that if he was to succeed in the army he would have to do much studying." He applied for permission to take the competitive examination for promotion to the grade of sergeant, Quartermaster Corps; was successful in this examination, and received an appointment to that grade. He was promoted to sergeant-first-class in May, 1916, and quartermaster sergeant, Quartermaster Corps in February, 1917. He received his first commission of the captain and the reserves in May, 1917, and has been a commissioned officer since that time. All of these promotions were the result of competitive examinations.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

His assignment since receiving his first commission have been as follows:

May 1917 – Paymaster, Fort Bliss, Texas
June 1917 to October 1918 Storage Officer, Q.M. Depot, San Antonio
November, 1918 to September, 1919, Paymaster, New York Port of Embarkation
October, 1919 to May, 1924, Assistant Quartermaster, Ft. Bliss Texas
June, 1924 to June, 1928 Assistant to the Quartermaster General, U.S. Army
July, 1929 to July, 1931 Procurement Planning Officer for the Assistant Secretary of War in California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, and Idaho.
July, 1931 to November, 1932 Student Quartermaster Corps School, Philadelphia Pennsylvania.
December, 1932 to 1934, Assistant Department Quartermaster, Headquarters Philippines Department, Manila, P.I.
Since January, 1935 he has been purchasing and contracting officer, New York General Depot.

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.

(Continued from page 2)

no individual members should express an opinion on behalf of the society unless approved to do so by prior Executive Board action.

A society member may have and express a personal opinion on any topic; however, the society's charitable organization status under the tax laws, state and federal, must be protected by not involving the society in any political matters. If the society were to lose its charitable organization status, it would not be able to continue to function since the cost of the annual accounting and reporting requirements could consume most if not all of the annual revenue the society currently receives.

With the current polarization of public opinion over various Confederate symbols and monuments and over the Mississippi state flag, new organizations are popping up with the supposed purpose of furthering the goals of one side or the other. Some have begun to solicit funding from the public. The Executive Board cautions all members that such organizations are not charities, they are political action organizations; therefore, contributions by individuals are not tax deductible. Also, it's very possible that some of them are confidence games wherein the donations will go primarily to line someone's pockets. Be careful with your money.

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