

## 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

March 2016

Vol. 12, No. 3

Without a past, there is no future

### Next meeting:

The next meeting will be a regular business meeting on **March 12, 2016** at **10:00 am** in the conference room of the **Liberty library**. A program on **reminiscences from the 1930s** will follow (see notice on page 2).

### AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the February 13, 2016 meeting

**DRAFT**

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:12 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 27 members attending. Pres. Taylor gave the invocation.

### Future Meeting Schedule

**March 12, 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 7, 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.

**September 10, 2016** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**October 8, 2016** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**November 12, 2016** — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**December 3, 2016** — Annual Open House, details TBA.

The draft minutes of the January 9, 2016, meeting were taken up. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sam King and seconded by Mary Ann Gerhardt. The motion carried.

President Report: Heritage Day will be on May 7, 2016. The society' involvement will focus on genealogical research. The LRSB will be open for visitors. More specific planning and commitments from volunteers will be discussed in the March and April meeting. effort.

#### Vice President Report:

VP Barron called on members to clear their calendars for March 12 (the March meeting date) and consider attending events at the McRaven house in Vicksburg. Various reenactment groups will be providing living history displays around the grounds for the beginning of the Vicksburg Pilgrimage. Pres. Taylor suggested that if there is interest, the society could travel to Vicksburg in a convoy following the March meeting.

The work day suggested in January to take place following the meeting is being postponed to a later time.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Secretary Report: No report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock was not present

COMMITTEES: No reports


Old Business: None

New Business: None

Other Business: None

Announcements: President Taylor announced that the next Rodney Clean-up Day is scheduled for April 2, 2016. Anyone wishing to participate may either travel on their own or join the other volunteers from the society by meeting at the library. Contact Pres. Taylor at 225-719-2379 to verify details. This effort was organized by Trent Lewis who has also announced that a special memorial ceremony for Confederate veterans buried in the Rodney Cemetery will be held at noon on April 2.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am and the floor was turned over to Mrs. Frances Phares who introduced Trish McGehee who presented a program on the George A. McGehee family.

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

### For Your Calendars

**March 12, 2016 — Living history activities and house tours at McRaven in Vicksburg will be held March 12 and 13, which is the beginning of the Vicksburg Spring Pilgrimage. If there is interest, society members could caravan to Vicksburg following the March meeting.**

**April 2, 2016 — Work day at Rodney for anyone wishing to volunteer. Contact Dawn Taylor at number given in the draft minutes to learn more. A special memorial ceremony will be held at the cemetery at noon in memory of the Confederate soldiers buried there.**

### Reminiscences of the 1930s

Mrs. Frances Phares has planned another program from the society and reports the following:

"The Amite County Historical & Genealogical Society will meet Saturday, March 12, 2016, 10:00 a.m. in the meeting room at the Liberty library. Members, friends, interested Amite County researchers and history enthusiast are invited to come and join the conversation. Hattie Nunnery, Bess Van Norman Simmons, Kenneth Gordon, Eva Frances Dixon Phares and others will be sharing in the conversation.

"The 1930 Town of Liberty census included in the Amite County Mississippi Historical & Genealogical Connections, Volume VI will be used by participants as part of the dialogue and can be purchased at the meeting. In addition to your presence, you may bring any artifacts of this period that you think might be of interest."

Submitted by Frances Phares from the **Woodville Republican**

The 2016 Official Mississippi State Highway map is more than just a regular map. The map not only shows the state's highways and roadways, but also gives information about some of the top things you can do around our state, such as Mississippi's musical legacy and outdoor recreation.

The 2016 Official Mississippi State Highway map is available now, and MDOT offers the map to the public free of charge.

MDOT also offers other specialty maps to the public such as city and county maps.

For more information about the maps MDOT offers or to request your free copy of the 2016 Official Mississippi State Highway map, contact MDOT Map Sales at 601-359-7045 or visit [www.GoMDOT.com](http://www.GoMDOT.com).

*Editor's Note: The smaller county maps are \$1 & larger a little more.*

## BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

### The *Liberty Advocate* Newspaper

The Liberty Advocate was a weekly newspaper published at Liberty beginning in 1835. The first issue available in the on-line archives is Volume II, Number 8, dated January 24, 1837. (If the paper was a weekly and this one was issued in the 4th week of the first month of the second year of publication, it is unclear how it could be number 8 of volume 2.)

At the time of this early issue, the editor was listed as James J. Graves. By March of 1838, the editorial identifier had been changed to read Graves and Smiley, Editors (no first names provided) and a publisher identification had been added—A.W. Forsythe. The initial "A" stood for "Augustus."

Interestingly, the masthead identification of the location of publication was listed as "Liberty, (MI.)" instead of the then typical abbreviation of "Miss." for the state. Of course today the "MI" abbreviation would be construed to be Michigan, not Mississippi.

The paper's slogan or motto appeared in the masthead below the paper name. The editors or publisher chose a quote from Thomas Jefferson which reads: "When powers are assumed which have not been delegated, a NULLIFICATION of the act is the rightful remedy." Jefferson and the other Founders published many opinion pieces ranging from simple one-sentence statements to lengthy treatises on the theories of government, specifically a republic such as had been created by the Constitution. The fact that the paper's motto was this particular Jefferson quote goes to show that nullification as a tool to preserve states' rights was being kept in the forefront of politics long before the late 1850s when the differences between the southern states and the federal government became irresolvable.

Unfortunately, the internet archive of this paper contains only a few issues. Many of the years of publication are not available at all. The last issue was published on December 22, 1866. By this point the masthead motto/quote had disappeared.

The paper contents included all the typical small-town newspaper material—legal ads, commercial ads, news of local politics and government, and business announcements (which were tantamount to commercial ads). The paper also reprinted significant news stories from papers published in larger cities. Some of these stories were so lengthy that much of page could be filled with "news" from outside the area. The paper also published works of fiction and poetry; these were probably reserved as filler materials to help assure each issue was filled with text.

Below are some scans of typical short articles and the articles' contents in text since some scans are difficult to read.

**LIBERTY, MARCH 21, 1837.**

*Mr. Hall*—Please announce MORGAN DAVIS Esq., as a candidate to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of F. C. Talbert, Esq., in our next Legislature, and oblige  
MANY VOTERS OF AMITE.

The STATE RIGHTS ASSOCIATION OF AMITE COUNTY are requested to meet at the Court House in Liberty, on Monday the 10th day of April next—it being the first day of Court.

Owing to the derangement of the mails, we have received nothing from the editor this week. By a gentleman, who conversed with *Mr. Graves* on Thursday last, we learn that he declines holding a poll for the Legislature, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of *Mr. Talbert*.

***All on this page are from the  
March 21, 1837 edition.***

*Note that the text contains an error in the date. The paper issue date is 1837 but the duty call is for 1836.*

The Company E, of the Liberty Beat, are hereby commanded to rendezvous in the town of Liberty, on Saturday, April 8th, armed and equipped, as the law directs.  
JOHN E. FRITH, Captain.

Our patience has been put to the test this week. Owing to the heavy rains, and the *strike* among the mail riders, we have had but one mail since our last publication, by which we received only four newspapers, and they as barren of news as our debtors would have us believe their pockets are of cash. However, we have culled over our old exchanges and found matter sufficient to fill our sheet, which we present to our readers for what it is worth.

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ATTENTION COMPANY.



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JOHN E. FRITH, Captain.  
March 21, 1836. 16

**All on this page are from the July 19, 1862 edition.**

Confederate States of America  
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Headquarters, Department No. 1.  
Headqt's 2<sup>nd</sup> District, South Miss.  
Fayette, Miss., July 13, 1862.  
SPECIAL ORDER }  
No. 4 } XXXIII

FABIUS H. SLEEPER is hereby appointed Provost Marshall of Amite County, Mississippi, in place of E. M. Davis, heretofore appointed, who does not wish to accept. He will immediately enter upon the active discharge of his duties and will from time to time report his actions to these Head Quarters as well as for such instructions as he may require.

By order of  
W. N. R. Beale,  
Brig. Genl. Comdg 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. So. Miss.  
John R. Fellows, Aid-de-Camp, and  
A. A. G.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.  
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A. A. G. 23

GENERAL ORDERS.  
PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE, }  
LIBERTY, MISS., July 16th, 1862. }  
GENERAL ORDERS No. 1.  
R. P. STRATTON is hereby appointed Deputy Provost Marshall in the town of Liberty, and his orders will be obeyed accordingly.  
F. H. SLEEPER,  
MARSHAL.

PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE }  
LIBERTY, MISS., July 16th, 1862. }  
GENERAL ORDERS No. 2.  
T. N. L. ANDERSON is hereby appointed Deputy Provost Marshal at Centerville. His orders will be obeyed accordingly, and he will report his acts to this office weekly.  
F. H. SLEEPER,  
PROVOST MARSHAL.

GENERAL ORDERS  
Provost Marshall's Office  
Liberty, Miss., July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1862  
General Orders No. 1  
R. P. Stratton is hereby appointed Deputy Provost Marshall in the town of Liberty, and his orders will be obeyed accordingly.  
F. H. Sleeper,  
Marshal

GENERAL ORDERS  
Provost Marshall's Office  
Liberty, Miss., July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1862  
General Orders No. 2  
T. N. L. Anderson is hereby appointed Deputy Provost Marshal in the town of Liberty. His orders will be obeyed accordingly and he will report his acts to this office weekly.  
F. H. Sleeper,  
Provost Marshal

