

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

February 2017

Vol. 13, No. 2

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be a regular business meeting at 10:00 am on February 11, 2017, in the conference room of the Liberty Library. A field trip will follow the meeting (see page 2).

Future Meeting Schedule

February 11, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS. Filed trip following meeting.

March 11, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

March 18, 2017 — Field trip to New Orleans to visit Chalmette Battlefield and other sites.

April 8, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

May 6, 2017 — Heritage Day. Society activities to be announced. No regular meeting.

June 10, 2017 — Annual meeting with election of officers in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

July 2017 — No meeting.

August 12, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

September 9, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

October 14, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

November 11, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the January 14, 2017 meeting

DRAFT

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. James Allen Causey gave the invocation. There were 12 attendees present.

The minutes of both the October 8, and the November 12, 2016, meetings were taken up for approval. A motion to approve minutes for both months was made by Joanna Hearn and seconded by Greg Barron. The motion carried.

President Report:

Open House turned out good even though the weather was rainy and generally not conducive to outside activity.

The next Open House will take place on December 2, 2017, at the Amite County Courthouse. In response to a question of whether a tour of the courthouse and an explanation of the records housed there could be included, VP Barron explained that some county officials would be pre-

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sent to respond to visitor inquiries but he was not able at this point to promise that a formal tour or opening of the records for research could be arranged.

Pres. Taylor reminded the group about the planned New Orleans trip on March 18, 2017, and referred to the information included in the January newsletter.

Vice President Report: VP Barron commented further on the New Orleans field trip and reminded the group that a number of Amite County volunteers fought with Hinds' unit in the War of 1812 battle. Many of these volunteers received grants of land in return for their service.

Secretary Report: None.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock was not present but provided a Treasurer's report through Pres. Dawn Taylor. The balance of the Society's account on Friday, January 13, 2017, was \$12, 259.90.

COMMITTEES: No additional reports.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Other Business: VP Barron reported that a field trip to visit the grave site of Col. Thomas Hinds in Jefferson County was tentatively planned following the February meeting; however, an attempt to visit the site in preparation for the field trip had encountered difficulty with gaining access to the site. If this difficulty cannot be overcome, an alternative activity may be substituted.

Announcements: A reenactment/encampment open to the public is scheduled for February 25, 2017, at the John Ford home in Marion County.

Following a motion by Linda Lea and a sec-

ond by Wayne Anderson, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am. David Dreyer then present a short program entitled "The Passing of the Torch 1920."

February Field Trip

Earlier, the society had planned a field trip to visit the grave of Col. Thomas Hinds in Jefferson County; however, a visit to the actual cemetery site could not be arranged with the landowner and the presence of a pit bull guarding the house nearby poses a risk should the dog break his tie rope. Consequently, an alternate trip has been planned to visit the Agrippa Gayden Cemetery.

VP Greg Barron's announced this change in plans on the Society's group page on Facebook and reported that while this trip will require less road travel, the cemetery is more remote. Tom Lewis has arranged permission for the society to visit the cemetery and arranged for a guide to get everyone there.

Pres. Dawn Taylor has reported that a couple of additional stops are planned. Those interested may also wish to have lunch with the group at Vine's in Centreville.

For more on Agrippa Gayden and family see the "Bits and Pieces..." feature beginning on page 3.

March Field Trip

Pres. Taylor reports that 22 people have signed up for the trip on March 18, 2017, to visit War of 1812 Chalmette battlefield site and other historic places in the New Orleans area. There's still room so if you wish to go, see the field trip description and signup form in the January newsletter. If you no longer have your newsletter, you can print it out from the web site at <http://www.achgs.org/newsletters.htm>.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

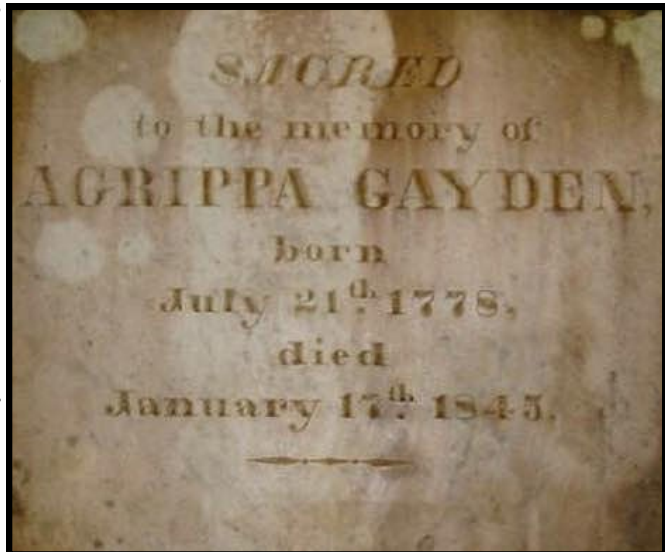
Due to the decision to change the field trip for February from a visit to the grave of Col. Thomas Hinds to a visit to the grave of Agrippa Gayden, the originally planned column on Col. Hinds will be deferred until the March newsletter so that those planning to go on the February field trip may learn a little about Agrippa Gayden and family prior to the trip.

The following was compiled by Mary Pallon and posted to the Society's group page on Facebook as a matter of general historical interest. The reference for the original source used by Mary Pallon is given at the end of the article.

The Facebook posting was made in one continuous paragraph and, after being copied and pasted into a document in preparation for including the article here, it was found to contain a few minor errors in spelling and word spacing. These have been corrected by the editor. No change has been made to abbreviations and capitalizations that were obviously done under a grammar standard and conventions different from those used today.

G. Gayden, Esq., is a prominent planter of East Feliciana parish, La., but is a native of Amite county, Miss., where he was born in January, 1825, a son of Agrippa and Margaret (Lee) Gayden, the former born in South Carolina and the latter in Tennessee. Agrippa Gayden came west with his parents in 1801 and settled in Amite county, Miss., ten miles south of Liberty, several other families coming thither at the same time. They went overland to the muscle shoals of the Tennessee river, there built a flatboat and floated down the rivers to Natchez, when they came across country to Amite county, Miss.

Agrippa Gayden was born in 1779, a son of George Gayden, a native of South Carolina and a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Of the children born to the latter, Agrippa was the second eldest son and the third child in a family of three daughters and four sons, all of whom lived and died in Mississippi. Margaret (Lee) Gayden was born in Tennessee in 1800, while her parents were on their way from Virginia to Mississippi. She was the daughter of David and Nancy (Clay) Lee, the latter being a relative of Henry Clay. In 1802 they settled near the Gaydens in Amite county, and here their daughter met and married Mr. Gayden, who became a well-to-do planter, and was



a soldier in the War of 1812 and a participant in the battle of New Orleans under General Jackson. He was an active whig in politics and died in 1845, his wife following him to the grave the same year, his death occurring in January and hers in October. She was a member of the

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Presbyterian church and a worthy Christian in every respect.

Of the seven children she bore her husband, five lived to be grown, but I. G. Gayden, the subject of this sketch, is the only one now living. George Gayden, a son, died leaving a family, but all are now deceased; Mary became the wife of Dr. Joseph Redhead, both now deceased; Elvira married Albert Cage and is now dead; Franklin died leaving a family, some of whom are yet living; Minerva died at the age of six years and William when one year old. I. G. Gayden was the second child and was reared in Amite county, Miss., where he remained until 1848, receiving his education in the common schools until he was twelve years of age, then entering Oakland college, from which he graduated six years later. He then returned home and managed his father's plantation until 1846, when he joined the Mexican army on the first call for troops, becoming a member of the Firm Mississippi regiment commanded by Col. Jeff. Davis. He was in the battles of Monteray and Buena Vista.

He enjoyed perfect health during his entire service, and the year after his return to Mississippi was actively employed in planting. In 1848 he came to Louisiana and became a resident of East Feliciana parish. His plantation is one of the oldest in the parish and is admirably tilled, all the buildings about the place being kept in good repair and the land in an excellent agricultural condition. He was married to Miss Ellen Scott, the daughter of Thomas W. and Elizabeth (Kirkland) Scott, natives of South Carolina, the former's birth occurring in 1789. He came to Louisiana about 1804, with his father, John Scott, who was one of the oldest settlers of the parish. Thomas W. Scott first settled on what is now known as the R. E. Thompson place, but in 1834 or 1835 settled on the plantation on which the subject of this sketch is now residing, the present residence being built soon after. It is a large two-story frame building and is one of the best preserved of the old houses in the section.

Mrs. Gayden was the second of a family of six children, was born in the parish in 1823, was reared here and died in 1864, an earnest member of the Presbyterian church at the time of her death. She became the mother of seven children, three of whom are now deceased, but those living are: Agrippa, a graduate of Centenary college and now assistant physician and surgeon at the Asylum of Jackson, La.; Milerva, wife of K. N. Perkins, residing near Norwood; Ellen, wife of Duncan Norwood, residing near Norwood station; and Mary, wife of Henry S. Perkins, also residing near Norwood. Those deceased were: Margaret, who died at the age of five years; Thomas Scott, who died when three years old, and Martha, who died at the age of one year.

After the death of the mother of these children Mr. Gayden was married to Martha J. Thompson, a daughter of O. M. Thompson, now deceased. She was the third of eight children, seven of whom were sons. She was reared in sight of where she is now residing, and received her education in Jackson, La. She has borne Mr. Gayden eight children: Julia, wife of Dr. S.J. Perkins, of Norwood; George; Ivy May; William Percy; Octavia; Joseph R.; Iveson G. Jr., and Margaret, who is four years of age.

During the Civil war Mr. Gayden served in Maj. Ed Scott's command in the battle of Baton Rouge and at Jackson, La. He has always been industrious and pushing and on his fine plantation about sixty hands are employed the year rounds. Gayden station is in the center of his

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plantation, and here Mr. Gayden is employed in conducting a general supply store and in ginning and milling. He is a democrat in politics, was made postmaster of Gayden in 1885, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, although he was reared a Presbyterian.

Biographical and Historical Memoires of Louisiana, (vol. 1), p. 441-442. Published by the Goodspeed Publishing Company, Chicago, 1892

The headstone close-up on page 3 accompanied the Facebook group posting and apparently originated from Find-a-Grave.

**FORD'S
ENCAMPMENT**
The Marion County Historical Society

at the historic
JOHN FORD HOME
Sandy Hook, MS
February 25, 2017
Camps open at 9am

<http://marioncountyevents.weebly.com>

**VISIT
MISSISSIPPI**

Contributions to Newsletter

Society members and other newsletter readers who have stories, family information, or other information that might be of interest relative to Amite County history or genealogy are encouraged to share through the newsletter. Contact this editor and I will send you the instructions for how to submit your contribution.

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