



## Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Dawn Taylor, President

Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary

Allen Terrell, Council-at-large

Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

William G. Barron, Vice Pres.

N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

April 2017

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Without a past, there is no future

### Next meeting:

The next meeting will be a special brief business meeting at 10:00 am on March 11, 2017, at the Confederate Monument in Liberty. A flag-raising ceremony will follow the meeting. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be in the usual place at the library.

### Future Meeting Schedule

**April 8, 2017** — Monthly meeting and flag-raising ceremony at the Confederate Monument in Liberty, MS. (See above.)

**May 6, 2017** — Heritage Day (10:00 am-2:00 pm). See draft minutes for planned Society activities. A very brief meeting at 9:30 am in the LRSH will precede the Heritage Day activities.

**May 20, 2017** — Field trip to Champion Hill Anniversary event. See page 2 for details.

**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.

**August 26 or 27, 2017** — Tentative. Possible field trip to the annual commemoration event of Fort Mims Massacre. See page 2.

**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.

### AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the March 11, 2017 meeting

**DRAFT**

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order in the Little Red School House at 10:10 am. Sam King gave the invocation. There were 16 attendees present.

Due to the absence of Secy. Wayne Anderson, action on the minutes of the February 11, 2017, meeting was postponed until the April meeting.

#### President Report:

Pres. Taylor discussed the status of plans for the New Orleans field trip scheduled for March 18, 2017.

Heritage Day is May 6, 2017, and the society will participate in the usual manner. Both the Library meeting room and the Little Red School House will be open. Tours of the LRSH will be conducted as needed between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.; volunteers to assist with the LRSH will be needed. Tentative plans are to have demonstrations of homemade toys such as yarn dolls, button spinners

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and spool cars. Volunteers to assist with these are needed. We will need to make up kits for the kids to make their own. Everything will be on the lawn of the LRSH, weather permitting.

Election of officers is coming up in June and nominations need to be made by the May 6th meeting which will be held at 9:30 am May 6th in the LRSH.

**Vice President Report:**

VP Barron reported that the society had received a donation of all four volumes of Grady Howell's compilation of Mississippians in Confederate Service.

There was discussion of what flag should be raised at the Confederate Monument. It seems they are constantly being stolen so it was decided to use the Magnolia State Flag.

Secretary Report: None.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock provided a Treasurer's report. The balance of the Society's account is \$11,626.73.

A motion was made by Sonya Johnson to accept the executive reports; Sylvia Jackson seconded. The motion carried.

COMMITTEES: No additional reports.

Old Business: None

New Business: Sylvia Blake Jackson's ancestors were at Fort Mims at the Fort Mims Massacre. She shared that they have an even to commemorate the massacre the last weekend of August. This year that is August 26-27. There was discussion about taking a bus from McComb. Details will be given at the April meeting.

Other Business: None

Announcements: None

A motion to adjourn was made by Sam King and seconded by Mary Ann Gerhardt. The motion carried.

### **154th Anniversary of the Battle of Champion Hill**

President Dawn Taylor has announced that the society is planning to travel to Champion Hill for the 154th Anniversary Event on May 20, 2017. More details about Champion Hill can be found at:

<http://www.battleofchampionhill.org/>.

If there is enough interest we will travel by bus. Bus seats will be \$30 per seat. After the morning at Champion Hill we will travel to see the slave cabins at Tilda Bogue outside of Canton that Sam King has photographed so beautifully. We will stop in Canton for a short look around and have supper at Hamil's in Ridgeland. We should arrive back in McComb by 8:00 or 8:30 pm.

### **Fort Mims Massacre Annual Commemoration Event**

The society is seeking input on whether the membership would be interested in participating in a bus trip to the Fort Mims event which will be held August 26-27, 2017. The Ft. Mims organization has both a web site and a Facebook page but has not as yet posted a flyer for this year's event.

Probably the field trip would have to be on the 26th (a Saturday); however, all such details will be worked out after the level of interest is determined.

Ft. Mims (Alabama) is tied to Amite Co. in two ways: some members have ancestors who were at Ft. Mims and some have ancestors who were volunteers in the military forces that fought in the Creek Indian war.

## BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

*This month we're back to the newspaper archives to see what was making the papers 125 years ago in Amite County. The following are all from the April 1, 1892, edition of the Southern Herald.*

*There was apparently no "big" news to report with a large part of the paper given over to printing of serialized novels, short stories, and short news bits that, while possibly interesting to at least some of the readership, were not much more than filler with no sense of current events importance attached.*

*The first somewhat lengthy piece having local interest or importance was on page 2 of this edition. Some of you may not have been aware but there was a college in the East Fork area in the late 1800s. Apparently the college suffered a fire which did quite a bit of damage and curtailed the ability of the institution to function as it had earlier. The president of the college subsequently resigned and used a letter to the paper to publicly explain why.*

### **A Letter from Eastfork.**

Mr. Editor—If you will allow me a statement in your most valuable paper, I will answer a question asked by a host of my friends. They have asked me, "Why have you resigned your position as President of Eastfork College?" To this query I would say that I have done so, for two reasons, viz:

1st, To become President of a Commercial College at Meridian, Miss.

2nd, To build up a practice of Law in that city.

The financial depression that is so destructive to the best interest of our country, and that is bearing so heavily upon the good farmers of Amite county has alike operated in letting down the school interest here.

This has also made it necessary for me or Prof. Butt to resign, or that we both work for almost no salary. Hence, this in connection with the two reasons above given fully answers the question.

My stay on the vermilion hills of Amite county and in association with the good people of this vicinity has been very pleasant indeed.

The loss that I have sustained by fire has been a trial almost insurmountable. I am unable to interpret the cause of this loss, just now, but I trust that God who sees and knows all things will yet reveal it.

I have labored honestly and conscientiously, desiring to have a school at Eastfork that would be at least the pride of this section.

And though the place now be marked by open space, debris and ruin, and though the school is not just what it has been, all will admit that prior to the fire the school had achieved much success. I have not been able to make it such a success since the valuable property and fixtures have been reduced to ashes—I do not believe it is my fault—where is the man in the record and history of school teachers whose talent and skill would give him power to hold up any such enterprise after a calamity so disastrous as the one that has confronted and demolished the school property here. Therefore, I modestly point with pride to the school and its record prior to the burning of building, etc., etc.

Unity of mind and concert of action is rapidly rebuilding a strong interest for Eastfork College, and I predict that by the opening of another session all will have been regained and in a happy running order.

Although I am going to labor in another field, in a different part of the State, I shall ever have fond memories and pleasant recollections of Eastfork and its kind people; and especially the students whom I have loved so dearly for nearly two sessions. \*

May God bless the school, the patrons and students.

Yours truly, S. S. NETTLES.

The following are short bits from page 3:

**THE SOUTHERN HERALD.**  
 Liberty, Miss., April 1, 1892.

Liberty is ahead of some towns. We have a K. P. lodge.

We are having nice weather after the terrible rains of last week.

The base ball season is now open and Fox and Carroll have got 'em.

The Amite river was higher last week, than it has been for some years.

A new supply of ladies and childrens shoes just received by Brewer Bros. & Co.

Mr. W. E. Gill and wife have returned from a visit to relatives in Pike county.

When you need syrup, try a gallon of Fancy Gold Hill. For sale by R. L. Weathersby.

Gents and boys straw hats, a full supply, cheap for cash, by Brewer Bros. & Co.

Fourteen men rode the goat Monday night. This goat was a Great-goer, a species somewhat finer than the Angora.

Many thanks to the following named parties for cash favors in the last few days: T H Van Norman, W T Butler, J C Anders.

Dr. Robinson, of Magnolia, and Mr. J. A. Sparkman, Dep. Circuit Clerk of Pike county, were visitors to our town last and this week.

Messrs. Davis, Lazar, Abrahms and Tull were visitors to our office this week. We did not make a very careful search, but so far have not missed anything.

The gardens are dead, also the fruit, and nearly all early vegetation. We hope the blackberries are still solid. If not, we are in a bad fix, and it isn't good to be here.

**Notice.**

Our mill is now in running order and we are prepared to furnish all kinds of lumber at short notice.— Place your orders early and often.

W. M. GORDON & Co.

Fox & Carroll have added to their stock of groceries and confectioneries a nice line of gent's furnishing goods. Come quick and purchase a pretty scarf, a nice handkerchief, a Spring straw, or something else in our line.

The College nine and the Town nine played a match game last Wednesday which resulted in a victory for the town. The score stood 28 to 4. The College said two of their best were not here, but the town boys were not in practice.

There will be no preaching at the Methodist church in this place Sunday next, as unforeseen circumstances prevent Rev. J. N. Tucker to come. At the same time we are authorized to announce that on the fourth Sunday in April—regular appointment—communion services will be held.

On account of sickness the pastor of the Methodist church in this place, Rev. Mr. Campbell, was prohibited to fill his appointment on Sunday last, we are sorry to say and in his place Rev. Mr. Kelly delivered a highly interesting and instructive sermon on christian love to a large and attentive congregation.

Examinations will be held in the court house, Liberty, on Thursday and Friday of first and third weeks in April for white teachers; same days second and fourth weeks of April for colored teachers. The examinations will be held under the laws enacted in 1886 and 1890, under such regulations as may be prescribed by State Board of Education. GEO. A. MCGEEHEE,  
Co. Sup't. Pub. Ed.

### A Card.

The regular conference meeting of the Liberty Baptist church will be held on Saturday before the second Sunday in April—business of importance. The members are earnestly requested to be present.  
R. J. STEWART, Pastor.

During the Summer months Prof Marsalis will open a Commercial course in his school. He intends being prepared to teach a full and complete course of book-keeping, short-hand, telegraphy, etc. Competent teachers will be engaged. Look out for his ad. next week.

Dr. Theodore Rothman is now teaching the night-class in German at the College. Now is your chance to learn how to twist your tongue, and as the school will be run at all hours, day and night, Winter and Summer, it will not be our fault if you fail to get your knowledge.

### 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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