



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

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Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary

William G. Barron, Vice Pres.

N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

Allen Terrell, Council-at-large

Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

May 2017

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Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be a brief business meeting at 9:30 am on May 6, 2017, at the Little Red School House in Liberty prior to commencement of the society's Heritage Day Activities. Business will be limited to receiving the report of the Nominating Committee and authorizing the election process to proceed.

Future Meeting Schedule

May 6, 2017 — Heritage Day (10:00 am-2:00 pm). 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.

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 April 8, 2017 meeting

DRAFT

The meeting was held at the site of the Confederate Monument adjacent to the Presbyterian Church. Ladies of the Brent Rifles Chapter #2137 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy conducted a short program assisted by members of the ACHGS, as described in the following:

UDC Prayer—Tammy Strickland, UDC Chapter President

"The Significance of Confederate History Month"—Rita Brister, UDC Chapter Historian and Past President

Raising of the flag by ACHGS VP Greg Barron and Secretary Wayne Anderson

Salute to the Confederate Flag—Sonya Johnson, UDC Chapter Recording Secretary and Allen Terrell, flag bearer

Singing of "Dixie" led by Gail Spinnato, UDC Chapter Member.

President Dawn Taylor then called the ACHGS business meeting to order at 10:15 am. There were 17 attendees present.

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The minutes of the February 11 and March 11, 2017, meetings were considered for approval. Sylvia Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes; Nelson Dawson seconded. The two sets of minutes were approved without dissent.

President Report:

The society will have both the Library meeting room and the Little Red School House open on Heritage Day, May 6, 2017, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. A brief business meeting will be held at 9:30 am in the LRSH to receive the report of the Nominating Committee and authorize proceeding into the annual election process for officers. Anyone wishing to run for office or nominate someone (they must be willing to serve) should be present. VP Greg Barron will need volunteers to help manage traffic through the LRSH during its publicly open hours. Volunteers should contact Greg directly at williamgbarron@msn.com or by telephone at 601-810-7843.

The New Orleans field trip on March 18, 2017, went well and all attendees seemed to enjoy themselves.

The society is planning a field trip on Saturday, May 20, 2017, to the reenactment of the Battle of Champion Hill with a subsequent trip on to the Canton area to see a display of slave cabins. A bus will be arranged for if sufficient attendees indicate interest. Contact Dawn Taylor for details and sign-up at rdawnt@gmail.com or by phone at 225-719-2379.

Preliminary interest is being sought on whether any members would be interested in attending the annual historical event at Ft. Mims in Alabama on August 26, 2017. Due to the distance and the rural location of Ft. Mims, this trip may have to be an overnight one. More specifics will be developed in the near future.

Vice President Report: VP Barron's only information was to report that a Mr. Griffin had visited the LRSH with his granddaughter recently.

Secretary Report: None.

Treasurer Report: None presented.

A motion was made by Terry Ferguson to accept the executive reports; Kay Berry seconded. The motion carried.

COMMITTEES: No additional reports.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Other Business: None

Announcements: Sylvia Jackson reported that the Brookhaven SCV Camp would be doing cemetery clean-up at the Williams Cemetery north of Ruth (Lincoln County) on Topisaw Church Road in the afternoon. If anyone would like to help or visit the cemetery, they would be welcome to travel over after the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Terry Ferguson and seconded by Neil Randall. The motion carried.

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.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Since I haven't received any write-ups or suggestions for column material lately, I thought I'd share photos from the flag ceremony held at the last meeting that were posted to the society's Facebook group page. For those that receive the newsletter by mail, I'll try to reproduce the images as clearly as possible but they won't be in color. Photo credit key: WGB means Greg Barron; NR means Neil Randall; no credit means this editor.



Confederate Monument
(looking north) Cr: WGB



The UDC Ladies
Cr: NR



Allen Terrell
Flag-bearer for battle flag Cr: WGB



Above: The Magnolia Tree Flag flying next to the monument. Cr: WGB

Left: The UDC Ladies and Allen Terrell
Cr: NR



A Brief History of the Magnolia Tree Flag

On January 9, 1861, Mississippi formally seceded from the United States, the second southern state to do so after South Carolina. At the celebration after the secession vote, the Bonnie Blue Flag, which had been used in the past for short-lived southern territorial demarcation including the Republic of West Florida, was raised as the flag for the Republic of Mississippi. It is said that itinerant actor/musician Harry McCarthy, an Irishman, witnessed the raising of the Bonnie Blue and was inspired to pen the lyrics to "The Bonnie Blue Flag" and set it to the tune of an old Irish song "The Jaunting Car." The song became one of the most popular nationalistic songs of the Confederacy, second only to "Dixie."



The Bonnie Blue Flag

On January 26, 1861, Mississippi formally adopted a State flag and used the Bonnie Blue as the canton (upper left corner). The flag otherwise was white with a depiction of a magnolia

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tree which was commonly used to indicate Mississippi in popular culture. The fly edge (the edge opposite the staff-mounting edge) contained red trim, technically a red fringe, but in most depiction today it is simply a red strip down the fly edge.

The Magnolia Tree flag remained the only officially adopted flag for Mississippi for over 30 years. Since it did not contain any of the symbols generally considered to be "Confederate," by the post-war military government and later the Reconstruction government, it survived until the Mississippi legislature made a conscious decision to redesign it.



On April 23, 1894, the Magnolia Tree flag was retired and replaced with the flag currently in use. This design was reaffirmed by a referendum vote of the people February 7, 2001.

Reference: The Flags of the Confederacy, An Illustrated History by Devereaux D. Cannon, 1988

Repeating for your information:

Time is short

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.

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