



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

July 2017

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Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

As is customary, there will be no July meeting. The next meeting will be August 12, 2017. Note that due to issues with use of the library facility, another meeting site is being sought. See next month's newsletter for any update on meeting location.

Future Meeting Schedule

Note: Time of regular meetings is 10:00 am unless otherwise specified.

July 2017 — No meeting.

August 12, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting. Location TBA.

August 25-26, 2017 — Field trip to the annual commemoration event of Fort Mims Massacre. See article.

September 9, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting. Location TBA.

October 14, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting. Location TBA.

November 11, 2017 — Regular monthly meeting. Location TBA.

December 2, 2017 — Open House at Amite County Courthouse, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

January 13, 2018 — Regular monthly meeting. Location TBA.

February 10, 2018 — Regular monthly meeting. Location TBA.

March 10, 2018 — Regular monthly meeting. Location TBA.

April 14, 2018 — Regular monthly meeting. Location TBA.

May 5, 2017 — Heritage Day. Details TBA.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the June 10, 2017 meeting

DRAFT

The meeting was held in the Little Red School House. President Dawn Taylor called the ACHGS business meeting to order at 10:13 am. There were 14 attendees present.

V.P. Greg Barron gave the invocation. He included special of Mrs. Frances Phares and Dewey Delee praying for divine help in overcoming their current physical problems.

The minutes of the April 8 and May 6, 2017, meetings were considered for approval. Allen Terrell made a motion to approve the minutes; Nelson Dawson seconded. The two sets of minutes were approved without dissent.

President Report:

Dawn Taylor attended the recent Southwest Mississippi Genealogical Society meeting and heard a program on the Scenic Rivers Development project which seeks to boost tourism in the area.

Plans are coming together for the field trip to Fort Mims for the reenactment and other activities taking place on August 26 & 27, 2017. Current plans are leave on Friday about 3:00 pm

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and travel to a motel in the area so that most of Saturday can be devoted to the Ft. Mims activities. Once the list of attendees is finalized and depending on the attendees desires and abilities, an earlier departure time may be set so as to allow reaching the area earlier. Heritage Day activities went well with about 150 visitors to the Little Red School House.

Vice President Report: VP Barron reported that the Open House this year will be on December 2, 2017, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Amite County Courthouse. County offices (other than tax assessor) will be open to the public. Society members will be needed to assist with the activities and the management of visitors during the event.

Secretary Report: None.

Treasurer Report: None; Treasurer absent

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

COMMITTEES: Pres. Taylor reported on the status of the election process for officers. She read the slate of candidates (all incumbents) and reported that concluding the election at the meeting would not be possible since the ballots cast by mail (the majority) were in the hands of Treasurer Gay Blalock who receives the mail and she was not present. Attempts to contact her by phone have failed. The results of the voting will, therefore, have to be reported in the next newsletter.

Old Business: Pres. Taylor reported that there are only ten copies of the Sue Severson Bible Records book left for sale at the Little Red School House.

New Business:

The field trip to visit Camp Moore in Tangipahoa Parish, LA, which had been tentatively planned for this month after the meeting, will now be planned for September 9, 2017, following the meeting.

Although not finalized at this point, the society may have a guest at the August 12 meeting. A lady with a lot of stories from her early years in this area may be able to come relate some of those stories. She is over 90 so her

stories are from the early 20th century. Preliminary planning is underway for a multi-day field trip next spring to the Shiloh Battlefield. Current planning is looking at having a bus to travel to Memphis where a train will be taken on to Shiloh. Arrangements for return are yet to be made. There will be more on this as details develop.

Other Business: None

Announcements:

Sylvia Johnson who is active in the Fort Mims event gave a brief run-down of the activities that take place. Admission to the event is \$5.00 per person. The day begins with an opening ceremony which is followed by a re-enactment of the "Battle of Burnt Corn." The small museum on the site will be open over most of the two days of the event and, in addition to artifacts normally housed there, will have artifacts loaned by the State of Alabama Archives.

Some newer members have asked about the society logo T-shirts and Dawn Taylor is looking into having a new run made. Note that the shirts are intended for members only and are not to be sold or given away to non-members. Dawn is looking into current costs. Contact her by email at rdawnt@gmail.com and provide the size(s) needed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Barron and seconded by Mary Ann Gerhardt. The motion carried.

Election Results

A total of 58 ballots were cast in the officer election. The incumbent officers were unanimously re-elected.

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 there seems to be sufficient interest in a field trip to the Ft. Mims commemoration event the last weekend in August, I thought this column should be used to serve up a bit more information on the historical events to be commemorated.

Amite County is tied to Ft. Mims and the Creek Indian war in two respects: Some Amite Countians have family ties to persons who were at or in the area of Ft. Mims when the massacre occurred and others have family ties to men who were in volunteer duty with military (militia) forces and fought the Creeks after the massacre.

The information which follows is taken from two articles on the web site "Encyclopedia of Alabama." Full URL addresses are given at the end of each section along with the article's list of additional references.

THE START OF HOSTILITIES:

The first true battle occurred near Burnt Corn Creek around noon on July 27, 1813. when militia forces (thought to number 180) under the command of Col. James Caller attacked a group of Creeks of the Red Stick faction. (The faction was so named because of their use of distinctively colored red war clubs.) This militia action was in response to the Red Stick Creeks attacking and burned two or more plantations, some owned by non-Red Stick Creeks, taking prisoners for sale as slaves, for ransom, or to trade. The Creeks had then traveled into Spanish territory in Florida seeking to buy weapons. Col. Caller hope to ambush the war party on their return to Alabama territory.

Militia scouts detected the Red Stick Creeks near Burnt Corn Creek where they had stopped for a noon meal. Caller ordered his men into immediate attack and they drove the Creeks from their camp into the brush. Thinking they had routed the Creeks, the militia men began ransacking the camp, taking much of the gunpowder and shot the Creeks had obtained in Florida. The Creeks regrouped and counter-attacked . The militia, either purposefully or mistakenly understanding Col. Caller's order to withdraw and regroup on a nearby hill, fled the site, leaving the field to the Creeks.

Although the militia damaged the Creeks' ability to fight by depleting their firearm materiel, the Creeks actually won the battle and apparently were emboldened by the victory.

Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3081> . Internet article entitled "Battle of Burnt Corn Creek" by James P. Kaetz, Auburn University

Additional Resources:

Bunn, Mike, and Clay Williams. Battle for the Southern Frontier: The Creek War and the War of 1812. Charleston, S.C.: The History Press 2008.

Halbert, H. S., and T. H. Ball. The Creek War of 1813 and 1814. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1969.

Waselkov, Gregory A. A Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Redstick War of 1813-14. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2006

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FT. MIMS BATTLE AND MASSACRE:



Most older adults today, perhaps indoctrinated by all the old Westerns that depicted the U.S. Cavalry fighting off marauding Indians from their fortified stockades, think of a formidable fortress when the word "fort" is used. Ft. Mims, however, was not such a fortress. When tensions began rising with the Red Stick Creeks, Samuel Mims, a wealthy landowner in the Tensasaw District of the Mississippi Territory, had a stockade fence built around buildings on his property. During the month following the Burnt Corn Creek encounter, some 400 settlers, U.S.-allied Creeks, and associated slaves took refuge on the Mims property from possible war-party attacks. In addition to the civilian settlers, there was a 100-man garrison of Mississippi Territorial Volunteers under the command of Major Daniel Beasley and a 45-man militia group under Capt. Dixon Bailey, a Creek.

On August 30, 1813, a force of 700 Red Stick Creeks attacked Ft. Mims. The attack came as a surprise with the first attackers, leaders of the uprising, entering through the stockade's still open gate. Half of Major Beasley's volunteer militia as well as Maj. Beasley himself, fell to the attackers within the first few minutes. Capt. Bailey and his militia were able to drive back the attackers and close the stockade. The remaining defenders were able to hold off the attackers for four hours but when the Red Stick were able to set most of the buildings afire with flaming arrows, their resistance collapsed.

As with most events in by-gone eras, exact details are difficult to come by due to records not being kept, being lost, or being secreted away in someone's private belongings, so exact casualty counts are unknown. It can be said that at least 250 defenders died and at least 100 captives were taken.

As would be true 23 years later when a similar massacre occurred at the Alamo, the cry to remember the fallen would prove to be the catalyst needed to turn the tide against the attackers and put an end to the Red Stick faction's resistance. The end of resistance came in the decisive victory of the U.S forces over the Creek in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend on March 27, 1814. The outrage over the Ft. Mims massacre, however, would not end with the Red Stick Creeks' defeat. The Creek nation was forced to cede over 21 million acres of land to the U.S. government and, late, Creeks not willing to give up their traditional Indian culture were relocated to western territory.

Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1121> . Fort Mims Battle and Massacre by Gregory A. Waselkov, University of South Alabama.

Additional Resources

Halbert, Henry S., and Timothy H. Ball. The Creek War of 1813 and 1814. Edited by Frank L. Owsley Jr. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1995.

Owsley, Frank L., Jr. Struggle for the Gulf Borderlands: The Creek War and the Battle of New Orleans, 1812-1815. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1981.

Waselkov, Gregory A. Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Redstick War of 1813-14. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2006

Special Invitation from SWMGS

The ACHGS has received through President Dawn Taylor a special invitation to attend the next meeting of the Southwest Mississippi Genealogical Society on July 29. Virginia Zeigler, who is also a member of ACHGS, extended the invitation via email as follows, in part:

"The SWMGS wants to invite the members of the ACHGS to our July meeting. It's Saturday, July 29, at the Brock camp on the Bogue Chitto--the details and driving directions will be in the newsletter... The SWMGS will provide the meat, so we need a guesstimate of how many of your members will attend."

Since this is the only information available to the ACHGS, we suggest you contact Virginia Zeigler directly with any questions or to be counted to attend. She may be contacted via email at ginyaz@bellsouth.net or by telephone at (601) 249-5467.

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