



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Oma J. Gordon, President
Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary
Robert Stratton, Council-at-large
Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

William G. Barron, Vice Pres.
N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

February 2007

Vol. 3, No. 2

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be a regular 2nd Thursday nighttime meeting:

Location: Courtroom in the Amite County Courthouse in Liberty.

Date: February 8, 2007 Time: 7:00 pm

Inquiry about historical information:

Bill King, Houston, TX, has asked via e-mail:

"If you know of any researchers who are doing work on the Mississippi Territory Militia units of 1813, please provide me their names and addresses and contact phone numbers.

William Witherington, Jr served as an Ensign in the 17th Regiment, Mississippi Territory Militia, his commission sworn in 1813."

If anyone reading this is informed in this specific area, please either contact Mr. King directly at BillKing@houston.rr.com or provide contact information to this editor at the address on page 2 and I will pass the information on to Mr. King.

Upcoming area events:

7th Biennial Historic Natchez Conference

NEVER PAST: History and Memory in the Old Natchez District, February 7-10, 2007

Future Meeting Schedule

Thursday, February 8, 2006, 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 10, 2006, 10:00 am

Thursday, April 12, 2006, 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 10, 2006, 7:00 pm

Saturday, June 9, 2006, 10:00 am

Thursday meetings will be in the courtroom of the Amite County Courthouse. The location and time of Saturday meetings will be determined by the activities planned. Members will be given ample prior notice of changes.

Welcome to the 10th issue of the ACHGS newsletter —

In keeping with the announcement made in the last issue, it has been decided to start printing the newsletter more frequently when the previous month's business warrants the publication of lengthy minutes.

In any month that this newsletter is sent out, the postcard notices of the meetings will not be sent to avoid duplication of effort.

Since this will increase postage costs, it is important that members give feedback on whether they prefer issues this frequently. Please let this editor know your thoughts on this (see e-mail and mail addresses elsewhere in this issue.

Thank you.

Contact: Historic Natchez Foundation
Tel: 601-442-2500, e-mail: hnf@natchez.org
Web site: www.natchez.org

Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration

SOUTHERN ACCENTS: Language in the Deep

South, February 22-25/2007 at the Natchez Convention Center

Natchez Spring Pilgrimage

March 10-April 14, 2007

For more info call 601-446-6631 or 1-800-647-6742, e-mail visit@natchezpilgrimage.com

Web site: www.natchezpilgrimage.com

Last time we asked...

Why could the Liberty White train not run on the existing tracks running north and south through McComb?

The answer: The track gauge (the width between the tracks) was narrow compared to standard tracks such as those on the line through McComb.

Sorry, no new trivia question this month.

You may contact this editor at:

Wayne B. Anderson, Sr.

1737 Bridgers Drive

Raymond, MS 39154

Or by e-mail at sitemanager@achgs.org

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Draft Minutes of 11 January 2007 meeting

President Oma Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the courtroom, Amite County Courthouse, Liberty, MS. There were 23 attendees. Jeannine Dixon was asked to open the meeting with prayer.

Due to the number of new members and guest present, President Gordon introduced the officers and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

Pres. Gordon asked if all present had reviewed the draft minutes of the November meeting. After a few moments to allow those who had not read through the draft to do so, Doug Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. James Allen Causey seconded. The motion passed without dissention.

President Report: Pres. Gordon summarized all the activities and accomplishments of the ACHGS during 2006. Details covered included:

1. the printing of the WPA books and subsequent sale (as of the meeting, 116 sets of the 150 have been sold);
2. recognized the accomplishments of Mrs. Vera Prestridge (and VP Barron) in getting the LRSB operating for tours by appointment, including the printing and distribution of the LRSB flyers, the framing for display of the charcoal prints showing four views of the LRSB in a bygone day, the printing of the post cards sets for sale, the printing of the note cards featuring the charcoal print images and the efforts made to get the LRSB first floor cleaned up and rearranged to reduce clutter and facilitate visitors;
3. recognized the efforts made by Mrs. Lessie McCastle to rid the 2nd floor museum area of accumulated junk and facilitate visitors;
4. the installation of the venetian blinds on the windows in the LRSB; and
5. the donation of the WPA books and the Amite Co. marriage records books to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Pres. Gordon also reported that she had accepted donation of additional research materials for the LRSB, including a CD on the Prestridge family, one covering the Jones, Downs, Holmes, Tucker, Muse and McGehee families, and one showing images of the homes of Amite County. Finally, Pres. Gordon indicated that she had made a limited number of copies of the MS History Newsletter available for those who wanted copies and pointed out that members could receive their own

copy directly from the MDAH by signing up for the free subscription as described in the newsletter itself.

VP Report: VP Barron reported on the following:

1. briefly discussed the December 9, 2006, open house and membership drive and thanked all those who helped with the efforts that day;
2. reported that the society has now received membership dues from the first applicant outside the United States, Mr. Ronald Land of Glasgow, Scotland, UK;
3. reported that his son, Will, had turned 12 and was submitting an application to become a student member in his own right;
4. reported that the society will be receiving a gift of two used Hewlett-Packard PCs from the Pike-Amite Library System due to replacement of the library system computers (one has already been received but is not yet operable while another from the Gloster branch is expected in the next week or two);
5. reported that he and son Will were presenting two items on long term loan for display in the LRSB – a shadow-boxed display of hand-crafted agate beads, ca. 1850, originating in the Idar-Oberstein area of Germany, and a similarly boxed display of two pennies with the likeness of a young Queen Victoria, a pin from the Queen's jubilee in 1887, and several stamps.
6. reported that Dale and Gloria Williams of the Smithdale Community had given the society, through him for display in the 2nd floor museum of the LRSB, a set of crutches found in the old Parker Home in the Hebron Community that was likely used by a returning Confederate veteran; and
7. reported that he had purchased, on behalf of the society and with the approval of Pres. Gordon, a book called Family Maps of Amite County, Mississippi Land Plat Deed, ISBN 1-3203-0349-X, to be kept available for research at the LRSB.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson had no report other than to again ask if everyone was receiving a copy of the newsletter now that it was being published monthly. Again some members reported not receiving the mail copy of the newsletter and those members were asked to talk with Secy. Anderson after the meeting to verify mailing information.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock verbally provided a Treasurer's report that, since the November 9, 2006, meeting when the bank balance was \$4856.72, the society has received \$3372.20 and had expenses of \$1958.77 resulting in a balance as of the meeting date of \$6280.77. Due a problem having copies made of the hard copy of the report for members, no formal vote on approval of the Treasurer's report was taken.

Prior to the committee reports being given, Pres. Gordon asked Mrs. Vera Prestridge to show the

(Continued on page 3)

members the framed picture of the LRSH she had received as a Christmas gift from her daughter. Pres. Gordon then announced that an additional print had been donated to the society and that the Executive Board had authorized payment to have the image framed just as Mrs. Vera's picture so that it could be hung in the LRSH.

Pres. Gordon also reported that she had received a donation of some boxes of news clippings from the mid-20th century that would be placed into protective sleeves and added to family files that were being set up in the LRSH.

VP Barron reminded the group that the next Saturday meeting would be in March, at which time a program would be presented by Myron Noonkester from Wm. Carey College.

Mrs. Jeanine Dixon announced that she was donating a book on the Marsalis family to the society.

Committee Reports:

- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported that as a result of the newspaper notice about the December open house, a lady in Osyka had contacted her about information she wished to donate to the society relative to the builder of the LRSH, Rev. Shirk. Mrs. Vera and probably others will visit with this lady in the near future to see what records &/or artifacts she wishes to donate.
- Membership – Jeannine Dixon reported that as of the last accounting prior to the meeting, the society had 140 members.

Old business: No items of old business, other than those covered above, were brought up.

New business:

- Mr. James Allen Causey spoke briefly about the intent to create a directory of veterans from the county and how that would be ultimately tied into bigger population data projects that would ultimately be internet accessible for researchers.
- Doug Lewis gave a short eulogizing report on the loss of the old Delos Cassels house by fire.
- David Dreyer talked about events of possible historical interest taking place in Natchez in the near future including a symposium on February 8, 9 & 10 on "History and Memory" and an event by the Natchez Literary and Cinema on February 22-25, 2007, with the theme "Southern Accents: Language in the Deep South." He also reported that Marshal Miller of the Coles area, who was an authority on Franklin County history had recently passed away.

Following a closing prayer by Gay Blalock, the business meeting adjourned at about 8:00 PM.

ACHGS Standing Committees and Chairpersons

These chairpersons will pick a committee to assist them. Feel free to offer your help.

Committee	Chairperson(s)	Contact info
Amite County History	Kenneth Gordon	601-657-8352
Archives (LRSH)	Lessie McCarstle	601-657-5888
Cemeteries	Bobby Haygood Jennie Livingston	601-657-486 601-276-7127
Family History	Nelson Dawson	601-657-9208
Food	Lois Bates	601-657-4176
Hospitality	Ann Brumfield	601-684-2031
Membership	Jeannine Dixon	601-657-8915
Programs	Greg Barron	601-684-3018
Publicity	Melanie Hubbs Robert Stratton	601-684-2003
Special Events	Kay Fleming	580-747-5218
Tours	James Allen Causey	601-657-8412

Annual Membership Contribution
Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society
PO Box 2
Liberty, MS 39645

Check or circle choice

- \$15.00 – Individual \$25.00 – Family \$50.00 – Sponsor or Memorial
 \$200.00 – Lifetime \$10.00 – Student (under 18) \$10.00 – Senior (over 65)

All contributions are tax-deductible.

Please make checks or money orders payable to **Amite Co. Historical and Genealogical Society**.

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ Zip+4: _____

Telephone(s): _____

E-mail address: _____

Thank you for joining the Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society. Your contribution helps us continue to collect and preserve historic treasures from Amite County's past, as well as to promote family history. Membership also provides an opportunity to attend programs and participate in special events.

I am interested in helping with:

- Archives Membership Programs Newsletter Other (specify):

**Amite County Historical and
Genealogical Society**
PO Box 2
Liberty, MS 39645