



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Oma J. Gordon, President

Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary

William G. Barron, Vice Pres.

N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

Robert Stratton, Council-at-large

Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

March 2007

Vol. 3, No. 3

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be a quarterly Saturday day meeting and will be held on a **special earlier date** of March 3, 2007, in order to use the library meeting room for the meeting, speaker presentation and lunch. The regular business meeting will begin at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 3. A special presentation will be made about 11:00 am by Myron Noonkester from William Carey College who will speak on "Why the British Left Mississippi." Following the presentation at about noon, we will have a pot luck lunch. **Please bring a dish suitable for serving several people** with a moderate portion; drinks, ice and cups will be provided by the society.

Recapping:

Location: Meeting room at the library in Liberty across the street from the Little Red Schoolhouse

Date: March 3, 2007 **Time:** 10:00 am until the conclusion of lunch about 1:00 pm.

Sorry, no new trivia question this month.

Future Meeting Schedule

Saturday, March 3, 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.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Draft Minutes of 8 February 2007 meeting

President Oma Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the courtroom, Amite County Courthouse, Liberty, MS. There were 18 attendees. James Allen Causey was asked to open the meeting with prayer.

President Gordon made the announcement that Mrs. Mary Stratton had dropped out as volunteer editor of the Bicentennial book and that, as yet, no one had been chosen to replace her. She also reported that the last scheduled meeting of the Bicentennial Committee had been cancelled without a new meeting date scheduled and that no other guidance had been provided to the subcommittees of volunteers.

President Gordon then asked if all present had reviewed the draft minutes of the January meeting. After a few moments to allow those who had not read through the draft to do so, Cheryl

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Cowden moved to approve the minutes as written. James Allen Causey seconded. The motion passed without dissention.

President Report: Pres. Gordon reported the following:

- She, Mrs. Vera Prestridge and Mr. Kenneth Gordon recently visited with Mrs. Willson in Osyka who had recently informed Pres. Gordon that she knew the location of the burial place of Rev. Shirk, the man who started the school for which the Little Red Schoolhouse was used as a music room. Pres. Gordon took a number of digital photos of the headstones but due to the lateness of the hour and the staining on the headstones, the images did not prove to be of a very high quality.
- The Executive Board decided to purchase a copy of the Jones County history book for use by any members that may have ancestors who lived in that area. The book will be placed at the LRSH.
- Mr. Donnie Vines wishes to donate artifacts that are currently located in the deserted Virgie Hays house. Pres. Gordon asked for volunteers to assist and set a tentative date of February 15 to have the volunteers meet and go through the artifacts in the house to discard deteriorated or unwanted items and papers so that the society will not have to move out all the donated house contents.
- County Clerk Ronnie Taylor has asked for any society members with time and interest in doing research on county records to contact his office. He's seeking additional help in responding to research requests that his staff does not have time to do. Volunteers will receive modest payment for their efforts.

VP Report: VP Barron reported the following:

- Because of conflicts with the availability of the Library meeting room, the Saturday meeting/presentation scheduled for March 10 has been moved to March 3. This will be the third quarterly meeting to be held on a Saturday pur-

suant to the decision made at the July 2006 meeting and will be the second meeting with a speaker presentation. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am, the speaker will follow at 11:00 am and a potluck lunch will conclude the day at about 12:00 noon. The speaker will be Myron Noonkester from William Carey College who will speak on "Why the British Left Mississippi." All members are asked to bring a dish to add to the potluck lunch spread. The LRSH will be open following the meeting if any members wish to do any research or look around at the records and artifacts that have now been accumulated.

- VP Barron and his son Will have made a presentation (long term loan) of a communion glass from East Fork Baptist Church. This glass was in use from the 1930s until the latter 1980s. It will be placed for viewing on the first floor of the LRSH.
- Mr. Ronald Land, the society's first international member, has received the book and the certificate sent last month by the society and has expressed his appreciation for the society's generosity.
- The two computers donated to the society by the library system have proven to be unusable since they were not operated as stand-alone units but as terminals on a mainframe/server computer. The cost to upgrade them to stand-alone capability is very high and their age may result in them breaking down or being difficult to operate; therefore, the purchase of a new computer is being evaluated by the society. First indications are that one new unit and necessary software could be bought with warranty for about the cost that has been estimated to make the two old units usable but without any warranty.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson had no report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock provided Treasurer's report that the society has a balance of \$6852.29.

Committee Reports:

- WPA Book Reprint – Pres. Oma Gordon reported that about 40 sets of the books remain for sale.
- Bicentennial Committee – Pres Gordon reported that there was no other news to report

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- beyond that she gave in the beginning of the meeting.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported the following:
 1. A picture of Governor Ross Barnett’s Colonels (honorary title bestowed on supporters) has been received.
 2. She gave a recap of the visit with Mrs. Willson from her perspective.
 3. She showed a 1926 public school diploma for Ruthie Nell Sterling that had been found.
 4. She showed the now-framed picture of the LRSH that will be hung there.
 - Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Lessie McCarstle was not present for the meeting.

Old business: It was reported that the old window gratings that had protected the LRSH windows will be cleaned, primed, painted and reinstalled in the near future.

New business: Mrs. Linda Lea asked about the historical marker that had been taken from alongside Hwy. 24 following timber cutting and right-of-way clearing some year or more ago. Although this had been discussed in the past, she was curious to know if any progress had been made toward having it put back up. No one knew of any immediate plans to that end although the sign is still stored outside at the courthouse. VP Barron seemed to know the most about the current status and why the marker was removed to begin with.

Before the meeting closed, Dan Morgan indicated that he had brought a book containing an old map of the Alabama Territory and said that it contained an indication of the location of the now non-existent town of Port Hazard which was near the confluence of the two forks of the Amite River but just inside the Mississippi state line. Other information that he had read indicated that a number of forts were constructed along the 31st parallel and wondered if Port Hazard had originally been Fort Hazard. He had the map and a magnifier available for any that wanted to view the map of that era.

Following a closing prayer by Jeannine Dixon, 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