



# 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

March 2007

Vol. 3, No. 4

Without a past, there is no future

## Welcome to the 11th issue of the ACHGS newsletter —

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 issuing newsletter monthly or near monthly 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.

### Next meeting:

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

**Location: Courtroom in the Amite County Courthouse in Liberty.**

**Date: April 12, 2007 Time: 7:00 pm**

**Sorry, no new trivia question this month.**

### Future Meeting Schedule

**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.

## AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Draft Minutes of 3 March 2007 meeting

President Oma Gordon called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM in the meeting room of the library in Liberty, MS. There were 45 attendees. Margie Causey was asked to open the meeting with prayer.

President Gordon then asked if all present had reviewed the draft minutes of the February meeting. After a few moments to allow those who had not read through the draft to do so, Greg Barron moved to approve the minutes as written. James Allen Causey seconded. The motion passed without dissent.

President Report: Pres. Gordon reported the following:

- The society has been found to be very popular among local residents. More and more individuals are making donations of artifacts and records to assist the society in its endeavors and to help assure the items preservation.
- Liberty Mayor, ***Southern Herald*** publisher, and society member Ricky Stratton has donated a large quantity of old newspaper issues predating 1950.
- As reported earlier, Mr. Donnie Vines wishes to donate artifacts that are currently located in the deserted Virgie Hays house; however, he has requested that the society delay its planned "work day" to go through the materials and evaluate what should be kept and what should be trashed. More will be announced on this later

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You may contact this editor at:

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Or by e-mail at [sitemanager@achgs.org](mailto:sitemanager@achgs.org)

when such an effort can be scheduled.

- Mrs. Joy Willson from Osyka was introduced. As reported previously, she had provided information on the location the burial plots of Rev. Shirk and his relations.
- Mr. Wicks is coming to visit the Little Red Schoolhouse.

VP Report: VP Barron reported the following:

- Mr. Rimes, who has recently been ill, was welcomed back.
- The larger than usual attendance was noted and attendees thanked for coming.
- Some comments and anecdotes about Mrs. Virgie Hays and her career teaching at Liberty were given.
- The society should express its gratitude and appreciation to Ernest Herndon at the Enterprise Journal for his efforts in helping get out the news of meetings such as this quarterly daytime meeting and news of the presentations. The increased attendance is probably due in part to Mr. Herndon's reporting.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson had no report but did relate another brief anecdote about Mrs. Virgie Hays.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock provided a Treasurer's report showing that the society has a balance of \$6474.82 as of the day of the meeting.

Committee Reports:

- WPA Book Reprint – Pres. Oma Gordon reported that about 30 sets of the books remain for sale.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Vera Prestridge had no report.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Lessie McCarstle was not present for the meeting.

- Bicentennial Committee – Pres Gordon recognized Mrs. Hattie Nunery, the Amite County Bicentennial Committee Chairman and asked her to present a brief report on the status of planning and activities for the Bicentennial. She reported the following:

1. The committee was created about a year ago.
2. Will report to the Board of Supervisors at the next meeting on the committee's recommended plans for celebrating the event.
3. The Bicentennial will be observed in the period April 27 – May 2, 2009.
4. Melanie Hubbs is handling publicity, currently a web site and promotion of the event on media (radio, TV, newspaper, etc., is planned
5. An exact list of activities has not been finalized but will likely include most or all of the following:
  - a) parade with floats
  - b) pageant (but not likely one as large as the Sesqui-Centennial one)
  - c) bands and musical groups – some in concert, some in parade
  - d) hoedowns, dances, fireworks
  - e) period clothing fashion show
  - f) tours of certain homes
  - g) walking/driving tour of Liberty using a recorded guide
  - h) presentations by Amite County authors and storytellers
  - i) local Native American history (Houma, Natchez, Choctaw tribes included, being put together by Ronnie Travis
  - j) reenactments
  - k) displays of antique cars and/or other items
  - l) historical displays, especially collections (will likely use va-

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- cant buildings in town for display of privately-owned collections)
- m) display or history of the railroads, including the Liberty White and those in the west side of the county
  - n) will have food vendors and arts and crafts displays in any outdoor activities which may draw crowds
  - o) will emphasize teaching of local history in the schools during this lead up period and in 2009

Old business: None.

New business: None

Before the meeting closed, Pres. Gordon reminded visitors and members who rarely attend meetings to be sure and sign the attendance sheet.

Following a closing prayer by Gay Blalock, the business meeting adjourned at about 10:45 AM.

After a brief break, VP Greg Barron introduced Dr. Myron C. Noonkester\* from William Carey University who presented a program on early Amite County history entitled "Why the British Left Mississippi." The verbal program was complemented with a bound booklet to which attendees could refer as various historical people, places and events were explained. The program was well presented to an attentive audience. Several remarks were made following it that if teachers had made history so interesting and entertaining in school, the students may have been more attentive in the classroom. Since the numbers of booklets were not sufficient to provide a copy for each individual, anyone wanting a copy can contact Myron Noonkester to arrange getting one. VP Barron or Dan Morgan can provide contact information if needed.

\*Dr. Noonkester is Dean of Arts, Humanities and Sciences, Professor of History and Co-Director of the Carey Center at William Carey University in Hattiesburg.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, Wayne Anderson gave a blessing and the group had lunch. Following lunch those that wished to remain visited the Little Red Schoolhouse.

## **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):

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**PO Box 2**  
**Liberty, MS 39645**