



# 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

May 2007

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Without a past, there is no future

## Welcome to the 12th 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:** May 10, 2007 **Time:** 7:00 pm

**Special Note:** The slate of candidates for the next fiscal year will be formally announced by the Nominating Committee and an additional explanation will be provided on how voting will be conducted (see draft minutes herein for additional info on elections).

### Future Meeting Schedule

**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

Minutes of 12 April 2007 meeting

### DRAFT

President Oma Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the court room of the Amite County Courthouse in Liberty, MS. There were 19 attendees. President Oma Gordon announced that James Allen Causey was not present due to his wife's recent surgery for colon cancer and commencement of chemotherapy. She also reported that John Davis Tynes is ill. She asked that all members remember these unfortunate Amite Countians in their prayers. She then asked Jeannine Dixon to open the meeting with prayer.

President Gordon then asked if all present had reviewed the draft minutes of the March meeting. After a few moments to allow those who had not read through the draft to do so, Nelson Dawson moved to approve the minutes as written. Jeannine Dixon seconded. The motion passed without dissent.

President Report: Pres. Gordon reported that member Kay Fleming has moved to Texas due to her husband's location in his employment with Exxon. She also reported that the \$500 gift from Exxon for furtherance of the society by an employee who is a member of the society will not be approved this year.

VP Report: VP Barron reported the following:

- Extra copies of the booklet that Dr. Noonkester used for his presentation in March are available for those who did not receive a copy.
- The next quarterly meeting will be 9 June 2007 and will include a business meeting, a presentation on the McKnight Family and a pot-luck luncheon at the library meeting room as the society did in March.

(Continued on page 2)

You may contact this editor at:  
**Wayne B. Anderson, Sr.**  
**1737 Bridgers Drive**  
**Raymond, MS 39154**  
Or by e-mail at [sitemanager@achgs.org](mailto:sitemanager@achgs.org)

- The September quarterly meeting will be a field trip to the Pike-Amite Library in McComb for an explanation of the materials held in the library and the upgrades that have been made to the library research systems. The meeting will begin at the usual 10:00 AM time and a business meeting will be held if needed in the library meeting room. At 11:00 AM Gabriele Morley will make the presentation on the library. Instead of a pot-luck luncheon, the group will go to a local area restaurant for a dutch-treat lunch.
- The printing of the next set of postcards has been negotiated with the printer and work will begin on that shortly. This set will consist of 5 cards, all in color, of Amite County landmarks as they are today including the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Presbyterian Church, the Confederate Monument, the Courthouse and Ebenezer Baptist Church.
- VP Barron presented a copy of the minutes the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Association to the society.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock provided a written Treasurer's report showing that the society has a balance of \$6671.36 as of the day of the meeting. Mildred Morgan moved that the report be approved; Ann Rimes seconded; the report was adopted as presented.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson discussed the following:

- Members who wish to receive the newsletter and other occasional publications need to assure that the address (either e-mail or postal address) to which the items are sent is working and is correct in the society's records. Every month a number of newsletters are not deliverable for various reasons.
- Members are encouraged to sign on to the forum to increase activity and information exchange; however, due to the excessive number of bogus members applying, mostly spam advertising sources, joining the forum has been changed to a manual process using e-

mail outside the forum operation. Anyone wanting to join can send an e-mail to [sitemanager@achgs.org](mailto:sitemanager@achgs.org) with a sufficient amount of information to identify who they are and why they wish to join the forum and will be given instructions on how to proceed.

- The time for the annual meeting is approaching and this marks the time of the year when officers are elected. This year's annual meeting will be the June quarterly meeting to assure the society complies with the specified annual meeting month in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- Pursuant to the decision of the Executive Board, the election of officers will be made a more formal procedure this time. It will be done in a manner to give all members everywhere an opportunity to vote whether they can attend meetings in person or not. The Executive Board has appointed a Nominations and Elections Committee to propose a slate of candidates and to perform the formal functions of registering votes cast and counting votes after polling closes. All members will be sent written ballots to cast either by return mail or in person. This mailing will also include a full set of directions for assuring a properly cast vote and the envelopes necessary to cast a vote by mail. Ballots and instructions will be sent out immediately after the May meeting when the slate of candidates and the ballot are finalized. Voting will conclude at the close of the business meeting at the 9 June 2007 meeting and votes will be counted after lunch is concluded or at such other time as the committee deems necessary and announces at the meeting.
- In addition to the election of officers, the annual balloting will also contain a proposal to change the Constitution and By-Laws to eliminate unworkable aspects, add capability for periodic full-member voting as a permanent procedure, clarify intent of some existing sections and bring the society's operating rules and procedures more in line with what the members appear to want while preserving the society's non-profit organization status. The ballot mailing will contain more explanation.

Committee Reports:

*(Continued on page 3)*

- WPA Book Reprint – Pres. Oma Gordon reported that 3 more sets of the books have been sold. She also showed some examples of how information in the books has prompted others to send in information that complements some of the WPA information.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Pres. Oma Gordon described the recent visit by Mr. Wicks and others from Pearl River County and their research on author Pearl Rivers who attended the girls' school (which included the LRSH) for a time.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Pres. Oma Gordon reported that Mrs. Vera Prestridge has suggested that the LRSH be opened for visitors on Heritage Day (May 5) whether or not any members wanted to operate a table at the Vance Park area where the bulk of activities would be occurring. No members indicated a willingness to volunteer for the duty at Vance Park, so the society will limit its activity to the LRSH.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported that three families called for arranged LRSH visits last month so the word of it being available for visitation is getting out.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Lessie McCarstle was not present for the meeting.
- Bicentennial Committee – Pres Gordon reported that she had heard that the Amite Co. Board of Supervisors has approved a total of \$45,000 to be allocated over the three years 2007-2009 for planning and executing the Bicentennial observance activities.

Old business: Pres. Oma Gordon reported that the banner that she had sought to have manufactured locally will not be done. The maker of the banner does not appear able to follow through with his proposal so other possible sources will be looked into.

New business: Mrs. Mildred Morgan reported that a new lawyer has opened up an office in the old hardware store building and has indicated that he and his wife are interested in joining the society. His secretary has also expressed an interest.

After a call for any additional business, Pres. Gordon asked Gay Blalock to close the meeting with prayer. The society adjourned at approximately 8:10 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  
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**PO Box 2**  
**Liberty, MS 39645**