



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

June 2007

Vol. 3, No. 6

Without a past, there is no future

Welcome to the 13th issue of the ACHGS newsletter —

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 quarterly Saturday meeting and will be the "annual" meeting specified in the Constitution and By-Laws:

Location: Meeting Room, Liberty Library

Date: June 9, 2007 Time: 10:00 am

Special Note: This meeting will include a presentation following the business meeting by member David Dreyer on the McKnight Family. Final voting for officers for the next fiscal year will also take place. Following the presentation, a pot luck lunch will be served (be sure to bring a dish suitable for feeding several). Beverages and supplies will be provided.

Future Meeting Schedule

A new list of meeting times and dates will be included in the next issue to cover the entire upcoming fiscal year.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of 10 May 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 13 attendees. She then asked James Allen Causey to open the meeting with prayer.

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

President Report: Pres. Gordon indicated that she had put out copies of the Mississippi Federation of Historical Societies' newsletter in which our donation of books to the archives was reported. She also reported that correspondence from our counterpart society in Newton County has been received asking about how we went about reprinting the WPA books and indicating that they were considering a similar project. She indicated that, in addition to the WPA book reproduction, Newton County is also putting in a list of all the World War II veterans from the county since the books were originally issued before 1940. She indicated that she would like us to consider doing that as well (at least place the list at the LRS if not publish it) and asked if anyone was aware whether a comprehensive list of World War II veterans from Amite County had ever been compiled. Various members indicated that certain individuals have done work on this; James Allen Causey indicated that he would look further into it to see what was already available and in whose possession the information was currently. Pres. Gordon added that the same kind of compilation for the Korean War would be good as well. James Allen Causey added that lists of veterans buried in the various cemeteries

(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

around the county is intended to be a part of the Bicentennial tours of historical sites in 2009.

VP Report: VP Barron reported the following:

- On May 20, 2007, a memorial dedication sponsored by the Stockdale Rangers SCV Camp will be held at 2:00 pm at the Stockdale home in Summit. As many of the society as can attend are cordially invited to participate.
- The June 9, 2007, quarterly meeting will also be the "annual" meeting called for in the Constitution and By-Laws. The schedule will be to begin with society business about 10:00 am in the meeting room of the library. Following business, at about 11:00 am, member David Dreyer will present a program on the McKnight family of Amite County. Afterward, a pot luck lunch will be held with members providing the food and the society providing the beverages and supplies. The LRSH will be open after lunch for visiting.
- Square nails that were removed by Greg Barron and his son Will from the sanctuary of the East Fork Baptist during renovation were donated to Mrs. Vera Prestridge to be placed in the LRSH. The construction of the sanctuary dates to 1887 but the standard nails in use by that time were similar to the modern round nails; square nails were used because Mr. Dickey, the man contracted for the construction, used old materials that he had on hand. The builder ran the sawmill (water-powered), known later as Dickey's Mill, on Hominy Creek and was also the carpenter. The nails probably were originally made in the 1850-1865 era.
- An aside discussion resulted from Dan Morgan's question about the package left on the bench outside and designated as a donation for the LRSH. This proved to be a large group picture of all the costumed citizens that participated in the Sesquicentennial in 1959. The donor was unidentified.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock provided a written Treasurer's report showing that the society has a balance of \$7107.69 as of the day of the meeting. Greg Barron moved that the report be approved; Jeannine Dixon seconded; the report was adopted as presented.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson discussed the following:

- Announced that American Legion will have the traveling Viet Nam Memorial wall in Jackson for about a week ending on the 21st.
- 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.
- Explained the voting procedures again similar to discussion given last month.
- Showed example of ballot to be mailed out for voting.
- Discussed details of proposed changes to Constitution and By-Laws.
- Reiterated ballots and instructions will be sent out immediately after the May meeting with the slate of candidates and the ballot 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.

Committee Reports:

- Mrs. Jeanine Dixon gave the Nominating Committee report stating that the committee recommends Oma J. Gordon for President, Greg Barron for Vice President, Wayne Anderson for Secretary, Gay Blalock for Treasurer and Nelson Dawson for Executive Board Member at Large. She then asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to adopt the committee's report. Mrs. Vera Prestridge moved the adoption of the report; Dan Morgan seconded; the motion passed

(Continued on page 3)

without dissention.

- WPA Book Reprint – Pres. Oma Gordon reported that 25 sets remain in stock, have sold 129 sets, and presented one set to the MS Dept. of Archives and History. 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.
- Bicentennial Committee – Pres Gordon reported 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. She then asked Greg Barron to report on recent conversation with Hattie Nunnery about other Bicentennial planning. Her reported that in that conversation it was learned that Mrs. Canetti O'Brien will be editor of the Bicentennial history book. Mrs. O'Brien is reputed to be very good with projects like that. Wayne Parker has already started to work on arranging for reenactments during the Bicentennial week in 2009. Office space has been provided at the county Human Resources office.
- 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 the second series of postcards have been finished and are available for sale. The LRSH was opened for Liberty Heritage Day and was visited by several people. Mrs. Oma added that we're still trying to get a banner done for display at the LRSH.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Lessie McCarstle was not present for the meeting.

Old business: Pres. Oma Gordon reported that there is nothing new on the artifacts in the old Virgie Hays house. She reported that a Tennessee resident that she has assisted with research has donated several boxes to the society with genealogy information, much of which involves Amite Co. in some ways.

New business: Mr. James Allen Causey asked for everyone to look up the section, range and township references for their houses for inclusion in a database and bring the info to the next meeting. Greg has volunteered to be publicity chairman and will be handling that in the future. New web site for the Bicentennial is at www.amitecounty200.com.

After a call for any additional business, Mr. Bill Gordon moved adjournment. Pres. Oma Gordon closed the meeting with prayer. The society adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

ACHGS Standing Committees and Chairpersons

This information will be printed next month and thereafter following conclusion of all changes to committee chairs that will likely occur in the next month.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On June 6, 2007, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will present a lunch time (12:00 noon until 1:00 pm) program in their *History is Lunch* series on the Battles of Liberty and Woodville. The presenter will be Historian Plater Robinson that some of you may remember from the 2005 Open House at the Little Red Schoolhouse. The program will be presented at the William F. Winter Archives Building in Jackson.

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