



# Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Oma J. Gordon, President  
Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary  
William G. Barron, Vice Pres.  
N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer  
Nelson Dawson, Council-at-large  
Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

March 2008

Vol. 4, No. 3

Without a past, there is no future

## Welcome to the 22nd issue of the ACHGS newsletter —

Please let this editor know your thoughts and suggestions on this newsletter (see e-mail and mail addresses elsewhere in this issue.)

Please notify this editor by the best means if you wish to change the manner (e-mail or regular mail) in which you receive this newsletter.

Thank you.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be a quarterly meeting with a field trip. Persons wishing to drive caravan-style to the meeting from Liberty should arrive at the Little Red Schoolhouse by 9:30 am. Please provide your own lunch and bring lawn chairs for each person in your group. A business meeting will be held at the house at the arboretum around 10:00 am with lunch and grounds tour to follow. In case of inclement weather, the business meeting will be held at the Liberty Library meeting room. See the minutes for other details.

**Location:** Gloster Arboretum, Gloster, MS

**Date:** March 8, 2008 **Time:** 10:00 am

### Future Meeting Schedule

(Note change of dates, time and place for the rest of this fiscal year. See minutes, page 2, column 1, "New Business".)

**March 8, 2008, 10:00 am** — Quarterly meeting at Gloster Arboretum

**April 12, 2008, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting at Liberty Library meeting room.

**May 10, 2008, 10:00 am** — Regular monthly meeting

**June 14, 2008, 10:00 am** — Annual Membership meeting

## AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of February 14, 2008 meeting

**DRAFT**

President Oma Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the courtroom of the Amite County courthouse in Liberty, MS. There were 20 attendees. President Oma Gordon asked Mildred Morgan to open the meeting with prayer.

President Gordon asked if all had read the minutes. Hearing no questions, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Linda Lea made a motion; James Allen Causey seconded. The motion passed without dissention.

- President Report: Pres. Gordon had no report
- VP Report: VP Barron reported the following:
  1. The society has been presented with old record books from the Hyman Mercantile Company in Summit. The records consist of a variety of documents regarding business conducted with, for or by the company in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The books were found as a result of work being done for renovations; Kenneth Dixon was instrumental in having the books made available to the society.
  2. The March meeting will be on Saturday, March 8, 2008, and will consist of a self-guided tour of the Gloster Arboretum in Gloster. VP Barron recognized David Dreyer who has spearheaded the planning for the arboretum visit. Plans are for attendees wishing to drive over as part of a caravan (so that everyone can find the arboretum) to

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assemble at the Little Red Schoolhouse between 9:00 and 9:30 am. At the arboretum, a short business meeting will be held at the house there. Members should bring their own lunch including drinks. A lawn chair should also be brought since there is no seating available at the arboretum. Following the business meeting and lunch, members may tour the grounds on their own. Some parts can be accessed by car but others require walking to see all the various plantings in the area. If the weather is too bad to allow for such outdoor activities, the meeting will be held at the Liberty Library meeting room and the LRSB will be opened for anyone wishing to do a little research in lieu of the arboretum tour.

- Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson had no report.
- Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock handed out copies of the Treasurer's report then covered details verbally as well. The report covered the last month. The balance on hand as of the meeting date was \$7817.70. Linda Lea made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Mildred Morgan seconded. The report was approved without dissention.

#### New business:

- VP Barron explained that, due to requests by a number of elderly members and others who cannot drive at night, the Executive Board has decided to try holding all meetings on the second Saturday of the month, mornings at 10:00 am, in the meeting room of the Liberty Library. Pres. Gordon asked for a show of hands from those present on which meeting schedule was preferred; the majority of the members indicated preference for the Saturday schedule.

- VP Barron announced that a special memorial fund set up in memory of Susan Barnes, Life Member who recently passed away was accepting donations. The fund will be used to acquire a book on Andrew Jackson and his involvement with Mississippi in preparation for the Battle of New Orleans. The book will be inscribed with an appropriate memorial dedication.
- Plans have become more complete on obtaining commemorative coins for the Bicentennial. One thousand commemorative coins in aluminum can be produced for a set-up cost of \$725 plus a product cost of \$700 for a total of \$1425. These aluminum coins would be the items for giveaway at the Bicentennial. To offset most of the cost of the aluminum coins, an additional 250 coins could be struck in bronze for approximately \$5 per coin and then be sold as a finer version of the commemorative coin for \$10 each. This would generate enough revenue to offset all but \$175 of the up front cost on the aluminum coins. The images on the coins would be the society logo (with the small inset pictures removed from the magnolia) and the LRSB each side will contain appropriate succinct text to identify that the coin is a society commemoration of the bicentennial. After some further discussion, Nelson Dawson moved that we proceed with the coins as described; Bill Rimes seconded. The motion passed without dissention.
- Pres. Gordon asked Mrs. Vera Prestridge for her help in unveiling the final, now acceptable version of the society banner which was first ordered over a year ago.

#### Committee Reports:

- Pres. Gordon reported that only 4 sets of the WPA books remain of the original 150 sets. Due to having received a number of inquiries of whether copies would be available for sale during the Bicentennial, it was decided to order another printing of 50 sets.
- Pres. Gordon expressed her thanks to Mayor Ricky Stratton for his assistance to the society both as many and as publisher of the **South-**

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**ern Herald.**

- Vera Prestridge reported that the school records have all been arranged and cataloged at the LRSH in the new shelving on the second floor. She reminded other members of the committee that visitors can come to visit and research these books but that the attending committee person should remain with the visitors so that the books do not become mixed up and none are "borrowed" and removed.
- James Allen Causey gave a report on some aspects of planned for the historical sites tours.

Old business: No one had any items.

Other comments: David Dreyer reported that he had received a copy of a letter written in the early 1800s with Amite County connections. A copy of this has been presented to Mrs. Vera Prestridge to be made available at the LRSH. Mr. Dreyer was asked about the recent documentary on Mississippi Educational TV about the African prince that was a slave near Natchez. It was shown on 2/4 and may be repeated. VP Barron reported that due to a need for a photo of Dr. Tichenor, the antiseptic company has been contacted and they have agreed to work with the society in providing Dr. Tichenor information.

Pres. Gordon asked James Allen Causey to dismiss the meeting with prayer. The meeting closed at about 8:05 PM.

**ACHGS Bicentennial Committees**

Little Red Schoolhouse – Vera Prestridge  
Genealogy Research – Nelson Dawson and Eva Frances Phares  
History of County – Kenneth Gordon and Glen Huff  
Cemeteries – Bobby Haygood and Mary Pallon  
Artifacts (Upstairs in LRSH) – Greg Barron and Dot Whittington  
Military – Joey Wall  
War Between the States – Dan Morgan  
Tours of Homes & Landmarks – James Allen Causey  
Hospitality (incl. merchandise sales) – Linda Honea Lea  
ACHGS Membership – Jeannine Dixon  
Special Events (incl. food/drink) – Gay Blalock  
Entertainment – Wayne Anderson

**ACHGS Standing Committees and Chairpersons**

**Jeannine Dixon — Nominating Committee**  
**Vera Prestridge — Little Red Schoolhouse**  
**Dot Whittington — Archives (at the Little Red Schoolhouse)**  
**Kenneth Gordon — Amite County History**  
**Nelson Dawson — Amite County Family History**  
**Bobby Haygood — Amite County Cemeteries**  
**Linda Honea Lea — Hospitality**  
**Gay Blalock — Special Events and Food**  
**Robert Stratton — Special Events Publicity**  
**Greg Barron — Programs and Publicity**  
**James Allen Causey — Tours and Amite County Landmarks**

Anyone interested in helping with one of the committees should contact the committee chairman or contact President Oma Gordon to be referred to the committee chairman.

**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 Ancestor 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**