



# Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Oma J. Gordon, President  
Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary  
Nelson Dawson, Council-at-large  
Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

William G. Barron, Vice Pres.  
N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

February 2009

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Without a past, there is no future

## Welcome to the 32nd 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 regular monthly meeting on February 14, 2009, at 10:00 am in the conference room of the Liberty Library.

### Future Meeting Schedule

**February 14, 2009**, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**March 7, 2009**, 10:00 am — Quarterly society meeting. The program will be a dress rehearsal of the activities planned for the April 30, 2009, Society Day commemorating the 200th anniversary of the founding of Liberty and Amite County.

**April 11, 2009**, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**May 9, 2009**, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**June 6, 2009**, 10:00 am — Annual society meeting with election of officers for the next fiscal year. Other program details to be announced.

## AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of January 9, 2009 meeting

**DRAFT**

Vice President Greg Barron called the meeting to order at 10:04 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. He reported that President Oma Gordon would be absent due to the illness of her husband. There were 16 attendees. VP Barron asked Bro. Walt Gaston to open the meeting with prayer.

President Report: There was no report due to the absence of Pres. Gordon.

VP Report: VP Barron gave a brief report in which he:

- recapped the Open House event on December 6 and reported that based on the count made by a reporter from the Magnolia Gazette, over 250 persons attended;
- reported that ample funds were now available for paying the piper's attendance for the Bicentennial;
- reported that about 55 of the bronze doubloons are left for sale;
- listed the calendar dates for the quarterly meetings and the activities planned for those dates which include  
>>March 7, 2009 – Rehearsal of the society's activities planned for the Bicentennial  
>>June 8, 2009 – Annual meeting and election of officers  
>>September 2, 2009 – Tour of Rosemont

(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)

*(Continued from page 1)*

and other historic buildings at Woodville (postponed from 2008 because of Hurricane Gustav damage)

>>December 5, 2009 – Annual Open House

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson reported that one correction to the draft minutes of November 8, 2008 needed to be made – Bethel Presbyterian Church should be Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock was absent but had left a printed report to be given. The bank balance as of the date of the meeting was \$5731.41.

VP Barron asked if everyone had read the minutes of the November 8 meeting and whether there were changes to be made in addition to the correction reported by Secy. Anderson. Nelson Dawson made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; Glen Huff and Bill Rimes both seconded. The minutes were approved by vote of the attendees. The treasurer's report was approved in a like manner.

Committee Reports: Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported the following:

- Open House – Mrs. Prestridge thanked all who helped with the open house and reported that 232 individuals formally signed in as attending and that \$310 was received from new members with an additional \$35 in donations. She has sent thank-you notes to the non-member principals who helped with the event including Jonah Ford who owns the Felder-Richmond house and Jimmy Honea who lives on the property as caretaker. She reported that Glen Huff had sent a thank-you

letter that was printed in the Southern Herald newspaper and thanked him for that gesture.

- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Prestridge welcomed Bro. Walt Gaston to the society and to the LRSH Committee. She reported that the LRSH will be open for visiting on a walk-in basis on all three days of the main Bicentennial observance (April 30 through May 2, 2009).
- Natchez District Marker -- She reported that although the MDOT has obtained the pole for reinstalling the marker, it has not yet been erected.

Old business: None.

New business: Glen Huff reported that he had received a call from member Roger Barnes in California stating that the newly edited version of the Longmeyer history is available. Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported that the protective bars for the first floor windows of the LRSH are currently being refinished but suggested that the society should urge the reinstallation of the bars before the Bicentennial. James Allen Causey reported that the new town map of Liberty that was to be used for tours during the Bicentennial is fraught with errors and may require either a reprint or on errata sheet to be made accurate. Also, he reported that some sites may not be available for visitation due to land owner prohibition of access.

Other business: Glen Huff thanked Mrs. Vera Prestridge for her willingness to open the LRSH on Christmas Eve for an unexpected visit.

Hearing no additional business, VP Barron adjourned the meeting at 10:53 am. Nelson Dawson offered the closing prayer.

## In Memoriam William Moyse (Bill) Gordon

A loving and caring husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather passed away in his home in Baton Rouge, La on January 20, 2009. A native of Liberty, Ms. He fought a 11 year courageous battle with cancer and then died with complications from heart surgery.

He was born June 10<sup>th</sup> 1926. He served in the 583<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion in 1944-46, serving in LaHarve France and in Germany and retired from Gulf States Utilities in 1986.

Visitation at Brown Funeral Home in Liberty, Ms. from 5 P.M. until 9 P.M. Thursday, January 22nd with religious services in the Funeral Home Chapel at 10 AM January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Burial at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery on Highway 569 S, Liberty, MS.

He is survived by his wife of 59 year, Oma Earl Jones Gordon, one son, William Earl Gordon, Baton Rouge, two daughters Cheryl Jean Gordon, Baton Rouge, Madelyn Faye Gordon Weir and husband, Donald Weir, Liberty, two grandchildren, Michael Lee Weir, Baton Rouge, Michele Leigh Weir May and husband Steve Allen May, Springfield, La. One great grandson Ladyn Allen May, Springfield, La. One sister, Demaris Rollins of Liberty, Ms.

Preceded in death by his parents Moyse and Maud Gardner Gordon, 4 sisters, Ruth Avis Toler, Elizabeth Hunt, Dorothy Hess, and Ruby Day Steele. Two brothers, Carol Milton Gordon and Edgar Hugh (Pete) Gordon.

Pallbearers: Wayne Anderson, Greg Barron, Bobby Haygood, James Newman, Tommie Toler and Jimmy Steele. Honorary Pallbearers: Frank Spillman and Travis Leggett.

In lieu of flowers he requested donations to be made to The Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2, Liberty, MS 39645 or to Hospice In His Care, 3233 South Sherwood Forest Blvd, Suite 102, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. Thanks to very special people during his illness, Dr. William Moore, Dr. Georgia Reine and her wonderful staff. Hospice in His Care staff, Alicia, Dee and Kim.

### **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 & War Between the States – Dan Morgan & Joey Wall  
Tours of Homes & Landmarks – James Allen Causey (provide maps/directions)  
Hospitality/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 LRSH)**  
**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 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**