



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 2009

Vol. 5, No. 3

Without a past, there is no future

Welcome to the 33rd 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 on **March 14, 2009**, at **10:00 am** in the conference room of the Liberty Library. **Note that this is a corrected date from that previously published.** The society attendees will rehearse society activities planned for the three days during the Bicentennial.

Future Meeting Schedule

March 14, 2009, 10:00 am — Quarterly society meeting. The program will be a dress rehearsal of the activities planned for the April 30—May 2, 2009, society commemoration of 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 13, 2009, 10:00 am — Annual society meeting with election of officers for the next fiscal year. Other program details to be announced.

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

Important Notice!!!!

Volunteers Needed

Mrs. Vera Prestridge, chairman of the Little Red Schoolhouse Committee, needs volunteers to work at the LRSH on April 30—May 2, 2009, to assist with visitors. If you can help for at least one 3-hour shift (10 am to 1 pm or 1 pm to 4 pm) on at least one of the three days, please contact Mrs. Prestridge at 601-657-4700.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of February 14, 2009 meeting

DRAFT

Vice President Greg Barron called the meeting to order at 10:07 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. He reported that President Oma Gordon, though present, had asked that he chair the meeting. There were 18 attendees. VP Barron opened the meeting with prayer.

VP Barron asked if everyone had read the minutes of the January 9 meeting and

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whether there were changes to be made. Secy. Anderson reported that a correction to the information on the Longmire Family book done by Mr. Roger Barnes needed to be made. Also, it was indicated that the dates for the first three quarterly meetings discussed by VP Barron were incorrect and the proper dates were indicated. Dawn Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; David Dreyer seconded. The minutes were approved by vote of the attendees. The treasurer's report was approved in a like manner.

President Report: Pres. Gordon thanked the society and individuals for their expression of sympathy upon the death of Mr. Bill Gordon. She added that Mr. Bill wants us to assure that the society is and remains a success.

VP Report: VP Barron reported:

- Mrs. Frances Phares has arranged for society involvement at an event to be held March 7, 2009, at the Library on Bluebonnet Ave. in Baton Rouge, LA. A society table will be set up with flyers and other information made available to interested parties.
- Dawn Taylor has created a flyer for the events to be held by the society on Thursday, April 30, through Saturday, May 2, 2009, during the Bicentennial week. The flyer has now been put in final form and printing of 1000 copies has been authorized by the Executive Committee. Distribution will begin as soon as the flyers are available.
- The quarterly meeting on March 14, 2009, will have a rehearsal of the society's Bicentennial week activities rather

than having a formal program as in times past.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson asked members to pass the word to anyone they recruit for membership that the member application must be completed in total and in a readable form so that adequate contact and information is provided.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock had a printed report. The bank balance as of the date of the meeting was \$6219.66.

Committee Reports:

- WPA books – Pres. Gordon reported that there had been no book sales in the last month and that about 50 copies remain.
- Society Bicentennial details – About 40 of the bronze doubloons are left for sale; when they're gone, they're gone, no restrike. Linda Lea has arranged for a covered wagon to be made available for the society to ride in to participate in the Bicentennial parade on May 2. Pres. Gordon has made arrangements for adequate signage to be in place to identify the society.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported that the protective grill work over the lower floor windows has been cleaned, painted and finally reinstalled. Also, the town washed the building down with a pressure sprayer. She reported that she had received a contract from someone in Alabama wanting info on available records; the records sounded like things the court house rather than the society would have available. Mrs. Prestridge intends that the LRSH will be open from 10 am until 4 pm on all three society bicentennial event days (4/30 – 5/2) but that she will need volunteers to help with the visitors. At least two people will be needed on each floor for the open

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- hours. She would like volunteers to be available for at least 3 hours at a stretch.
- Natchez District Marker – VP Barron confirmed that the marker has not yet been put back up so plans are being made to contact State Representative Sam Mims and seek political assistance with the MDOT.

Old business: James Allen Causey briefly discussed some of the plans for tours of historic sites during the Bicentennial week.

New business: Dawn Taylor showed a mock-up of a commemorative fan that the society is considering having made up for sale during the Bicentennial events and thereafter. This project will be pursued once the flyer has been turned over to the printer for printing.

Other business: VP Barron recognized Mr. Tommy Wixon and Mr. Bill Marsalis who spoke briefly on their project to reclaim and improve the appearance of the Marsalis Family Cemetery from its natural state. A special cemetery project bank account has been established for donations to this effort. The Marsalis family name dates from early Amite Co. history and is in the genealogy of a number of Amite Co. families.

Hearing no additional business, VP Barron adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am. James Allen Causey offered the closing prayer.

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