



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

William G. Barron, President
Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary

Dawn Taylor, Vice Pres.
N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

Oma J. Gordon, Council-at-large
Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

July 2009

Vol. 5, No. 7

Without a past, there is no future

Welcome to the 37th 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 business meeting on July 11, 2009, at 10:00 am in the conference room of the Liberty Library.

Special Presentation at October 10, 2009, Meeting

President Barron reports that he has scheduled Dr. Wm. Scarborough to speak on "Plantation Economy" at the October 10, 2009, meeting. More will be published on this later.

Future Meeting Schedule

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

August 8, 2009, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

September 12, 2009, 10:00 am — Quarterly meeting. Hopefully the field trip to Woodville cancelled last year will be rescheduled.

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

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

New Newsletter Feature Added

Note that we have added a genealogy & family history page to the newsletter beginning with this issue. If you wish to contribute information from your research, please respond to the questionnaire at the bottom of page 3. Since the newsletter is double-sided, this feature will normally be limited to about two pages of text although short run-over may be allowed when space permits.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of June 12, 2009 meeting

DRAFT

President Oma Gordon called the meeting to order at 10:10 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 15 attendees. VP Greg Barron opened the meeting with prayer.

Pres. Gordon asked if everyone had read the minutes of the May 9 meeting and whether there were changes to be made. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Linda Lea and seconded by Carolyn Dent. The minutes were approved by vote of the attendees.

President Report: Pres. Gordon thanked everyone for their support of her during her time as society president and assured everyone that she would remain to help with the society though not as a president.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock provided a printed report. The bank balance as of the date of the meeting was \$5383.60 plus cash on hand of

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

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\$95.00 for a total of \$5478.60. Nelson Dawson made a motion to approve the report; Dawn Taylor seconded. The report was approved by vote of the members attending.

VP Report:

- VP Barron reported that he was attempting to schedule a special presentation by Dr. William K. Scarborough for the meeting on August 8, 2009. Dr. Scarborough is well versed in the history of the Old South Plantation System and the agricultural economics of that era.
- VP Barron then recommended that the society pursue the obtaining of recognition by the MS. Dept. of Archives and History of the Little Red Schoolhouse as a Mississippi Historical Site. This official recognition would enable the society to obtain an official state historical marker (such as that recently reinstalled by the side of Hwy. 24 denoting the Old Natchez District). The society would have to finance the marker (estimated cost of \$1500 to \$2000) and have it reviewed and authorized by the MS Dept of Archives and History in order to be able to purchase and erect an official marker. Although the time for obtaining the marker may be more protracted than if the society had one made on its own, the cost would be about the same and the LRSH would then be on the official list of historic places in the state. VP Barron put the proposal in the form of a motion to proceed with applying to the state; Nelson Dawson seconded. The motion passed by vote of the members attending.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson reminded everyone that voting on officers for the next fiscal year would be concluded today and urged anyone not yet casting a ballot to do so as soon as the business meeting adjourned so that the nominating/elections committee could close

the polls and count votes.

Committee Reports:

- WPA books – Pres. Gordon reported that there are about 12 book sets left.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Vera Prestridge was not present for the meeting

Old business: None.

New business:

- Pres. Gordon recognized Mrs. Eva Frances Phares and asked her to discuss her ideas on adding to family research and beginning to add genealogical nature to the newsletter. A variety of specific ideas were discussed but it was decided to begin with Mrs. Phares providing a one to two page genealogy or family history write-up to Secretary Anderson for inclusion in the newsletter and to see if that generates interest in other members who may like to contribute to either Mrs. Phares' information or to the newsletter directly.
- Pres. Gordon passed around a photo album given by Sue Severson containing a variety of photos from the Bicentennial activities.

Other business: None

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:50 in order for the election process to be concluded. Wayne Anderson performed a few songs to entertain the attendees until the voting and counting were concluded.

Pres. Gordon recognized Mrs. Jeannine Dixon for a report on the election results. Mrs. Dixon reported that although less than half the eligible voters cast ballots, the vote for the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee was unanimous. The officers for the 2009-2010 fiscal year are:

President:	Greg Barron
Vice President:	Dawn Taylor
Secretary:	Wayne Anderson
Treasurer:	Gay Blalock
Exec. Committee:	Oma J. Gordon

**BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAMILY CONNECTION 1808-1865
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 2008
ARIEL, AMITE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

Compiled and Edited by Frances D. Phares
April 15, 2009

This manuscript includes genealogical and historical data on many of the early settlers of Amite County. Some of the families with connections include: John Anderson, Cage Family, Alexander Callender, Albert Scott Caston, Elizabeth Dowager Causey, Dorcas Neilson Holmes Dickey, Roger Dunn, Henry Dunn, Robert Germany, Moses Gordon, Henry Hanna, Arzelia Dixon Henderson, William J. Hughes, Willie Wingate Jackson, Sarah McMillan Knox Kinabrew, Elizabeth "Eliza" Wren Lowrey, Reverend Ephraim Thornton McLean, Charity Jones McMillan, Jonathan E. Montgomery, Major John Nesmith IV, Reverend John Patterson, William E. Phillips, Mary Starr Pomeroy, Peter Ratcliff, Jordan Jasper Reese, Robert Roberts, Adaline Jane Causey Smith, John Smylie of Scotland's family, Mason Spears, Frank H. Wilkinson, and others.

Included in this 300 page volume are fifty pages of data on Major John Nesmith's ten children, with thirty pages on the descendants of Jane C. Nesmith, wife of Benjamin Anderson, and eleven on descendants of Elizabeth O. "Bessie" Nesmith, wife of Benjamin Graves. Also included are fifty pages on John Smylie of Scotland's descendant. The 25 paged index contains many other surnames.

Copies can be purchased for \$30.00. Add \$5.00 for shipping and handling. Make checks payable to: Amite County Historical & Genealogical Society. Send to: Frances D. Phares, P. O. Box 1639, Clinton, LA 70722

With this issue, additional pages will be added to the Newsletter, which will include more Amite County Historical and Genealogical news. Your help will be needed. To get started, please fill in the form below.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

Surnames Being Researched:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |

Filling out the above form will indicate your interest in this Historical/Genealogical project.

Mail to: Frances D. Phares, P. O. Box 1639, Clinton, LA 70722

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Oliver William Caulfield MD was born on May 22, 1814 in Virginia or Tennessee. He died on March 23, 1852 in E Baton Rouge Parish, LA and was buried in Amite County on land claimed by the US government to be used for training soldiers during World War II, known as Camp Van Dorn.. (The surname Caulfield is sometimes shown in records as Cawfield and Cauldfield.)

May 4, 2004, Bobby Haygood and Jennie Livingston photographed Dr. O. W. Caulfield's marker, which can be seen on <http://amitecemeteryphotos.multiply.com> .

Dr. Caulfield, the son of John Robert Caulfield and Fannie Johnson, was married to Ruth Caroline Johnson, daughter of William Perkins Johnson and Ruth Gray, on January 10, 1835 in Amite Co, MS. Ruth Caroline Johnson was born in 1816 in South Carolina and died between 1878/79 in Amite County. Dewey DeLee of Clinton, LA remembered the Caulfield Cemetery before World War II and contributed that in addition to Dr. Caulfield, his wife and her parents plus other family members were buried at this location. The markers were marble. Bobby Haygood remembers when his father-in-law, Percy Pierce, was the owner of the property after Van Dorn days, there were more markers. During a timber sale, the cemetery was vandalized, leaving Dr. Caulfield's marker, which was probably too heavy to lift. Jack Jones of Norwood, LA owned the property in 2009. The Caulfields had four children: Sarah A., William Perkins Johnson, Frances Catherine "Fannie", and Annie Ruth.

1. **Sarah A Caulfield** was born about 1836 in Amite Co, MS and was married to Ansel S Carruth, MD on October 16, 1862 in E Feliciana Par, LA. They divorced but had one child: Henry M or Harry Carruth, who was married to Amanda Elizabeth Trask, daughter of William Elliot Trask Sr and Catherine Camilla Reece, on September 17, 1913 in Amite Co, MS. Amanda was born on October 7, 1879 in Louisiana and died on October 9, 1958. On March 7, 1876 in Amite County, Sarah A Caulfield was married a second time to William Caulfield, son of Isaac Robertson Caulfield MD and Sarah E. Gayle. William Caulfield was born 1837 in LA and died in 1910 and was buried in Oaklawn Cemetery, Centreville, MS. William was a Pvt Co K 4 Regt La Inf CSA.
2. **William Perkins Johnson Caulfield** MD was born about 1838 in Amite Co, MS. He was married to Izabella "Belle" White, daughter of Eli White and Mahetabel "Nettie" Hannah Harrell, on December 15, 1870 in E Feliciana Par, LA. Izabella "Belle" White was born on January 25, 1852. She died on March 24, 1932 and was buried in Town of Norwood Cemetery, Norwood, LA. Their children were : Hettie Octavia, Albert D, John DeLee "Johnnie", Frances "Fannie" Ruth, Elizabeth Hannah "Lizzie", Henry Marston, Annie Eugenia "Gena", and Thomas Boatner "Tommie".
3. **Frances Catherine "Fannie" Caulfield** was born on January 12, 1840 in Amite Co, MS. She died on March 18, 1922 and was buried in Grove Hill Cemetery, Dallas, TX. "Fannie" Caulfield married Alexander Scott DeLee MD on September 10, 1859 in Amite Co, MS. Alexander Scott was born 1839 and died January 1878. Alexander Scott received his Medical Degree from Tulane University, New Orleans, LA and served as a physician in the Confederate Army. Their children were: William Caulfield, John Livingstone, Charles Pinckney, Annie Marsten, Louis Perkins, Augustus Scott and Hatcher
4. **Annie Ruth Caulfield** was born July 23, 1849 in Amite Co, MS and died December 24, 1934. Annie Ruth married John Newton DeLee on October 15, 1868 in the Dr. O. W. Caul-

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field home; Dr. Caulfield was deceased at this time. John Newton DeLee was born October 15, 1849 and died December 13, 1937. Both were buried in Clear Creek Cemetery, E Feliciana Parish, LA. Their children were: Hannah Elizabeth, Mary E., Augustus William, Ruth Catherine, John L., Annie, Lovie Virginia, Julia Antoinette, Thomas Kernan, and Daniel Webster "Dan" DeLee.

Similar family genealogies and historic Bits and Pieces will be a new addition to The Newsletter. Genealogical data with more generations plus other data of interest will be included in a manuscript to be displayed and sold at the December Open House.

***** Special Reminder Notice *****

Anyone wishing to take a tour or a group through the LRSH should make a prior appointment with the Chairman of the LRSH Committee. The LRSH is open by appointment only and those on that Committee give of their time to make these tours possible.

Mrs. Vera Prestridge is Chairperson of that Committee . Please go through that Committee when requesting a tour.

LRSH Committee Chairperson: Mrs. Vera Prestridge 601-657-4700

Committee Members: Walt Gaston
Greg Barron
Oma Gordon
Jeannine Dixon
Ann Brumfield

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