



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

August 2009

Vol. 5, No. 8

Without a past, there is no future

Welcome to the 38th 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 August 8, 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

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.

December 5, 2009, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm — Annual Open House and membership drive. Details to be announced.

New Newsletter Feature

Note that we are continuing the genealogy & family history page to the newsletter. If you wish to contribute information from your research, please respond to the questionnaire at the bottom of page 3 in the July issue or contact this editor for a new copy. Since this feature may not consume all the allotted space, other features with Amite County connection may be inserted.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of July 11, 2009 meeting

DRAFT

President Greg Barron called the meeting to order at 10:02 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 18 attendees. Treasurer Gay Blalock opened the meeting with prayer.

Pres. Barron asked if everyone had read the minutes of the June 13 meeting and whether there were changes to be made. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Dan Morgan and seconded by Vera Prestridge. The minutes were approved by vote of the attendees.

President Report: Pres. Barron reported that the August meeting will feature the CD of Bicentennial photos being compiled by Dawn Taylor. The September meeting will be the field trip to Rosemont and other Woodville attractions. In October, a program will be held featuring Dr. Wm. K. Scarborough from USM speaking on Old South Plantation Economy. In November, the meeting will be a regular meeting featuring the final planning for the

(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

(Continued from page 1)

December open house. There will be no business meeting in December due to the Open House on the first Saturday of the month. On the matter of a historical marker for the Little Red Schoolhouse, Pres. Barron reported that the cost of the marker would be in the \$1700 to \$1800 range depending on the size of lettering chosen. The cost will cover the marker, the mounting pole and delivery to the DOT barn in Liberty; the society will be responsible for installation. Since the LRSH is on the National Register of Historic Places, the application process through the MS Dept. of Archives and History will be somewhat easier although the Dept. will have to approve the application and the marker text before the marker can be manufactured.

Vice President Preport: VP Dawn Taylor gave a final call for submission of Bicentennial photos to her for inclusion in the compilation.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson gave a verbal report on the recent virus infection of the society website and the fact that it is down except for a new main page explaining the problem. The site will be rebuilt as time permits; however, since the attached message board was the likely entry point for the hacker that infected the site, that feature will not be reactivated.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock provided a printed report. The bank balance as of the date of the meeting was \$5945.87. Wayne Anderson made a motion to approve the report; Linda Lea seconded. The report was approved by vote of the members attending.

Committee Reports:

- WPA books – There have been no more WPA books sold since last meeting so there are about 12 book sets left.
- Little Red Schoolhouse – Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported that during the last

month there have been several visitors from MS, TX and WI. Also there were a 28 visitors from the McGehee Family reunion that toured the LRSH and contributed \$117.00 in merchandise sales and donations. Glen Huff loaned a display on K.L. Butler, a local educator in 1870.

Old business: None.

New business:

- Pres. Barron recognized Mrs. Eva Frances Phares who passed out sign-up forms for all member to complete if they wish to be identified as researchers on family genealogies. This information will be used to refer inquiries on certain family names and to add to Mrs. Phares' information for the newsletter feature if contributors wish to have material added.
- Cathy Jaecke made a donation of a photo of the Lawson family.
- Pres. Barron acknowledged the donation of Civil War Equipment reference book by Wayne Anderson.
- Pres. Barron requested that members let him know if they had any suggestions on speakers and/or topics for the quarterly meetings next year.
- Pres. Barron reported that the library conference room has been reserved for the second Saturday of each month for next year's meetings.
- Pres. Barron reported that Mrs. Vera Prestridge would be the chair for the committee to decide on the proposed text for the historical marker. She asked for a few volunteers to help her with that task.
- Cathy Jaecke reported that one of her relatives, Bobby Kinabrew, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and she requested that he be added to everyone's prayer lists. Gay Blalock added the same request for Mrs. Geraldine Blalock and Mr. Duck.

Other business: None

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:35 upon motion by Linda Lea and second by Dan Morgan. Walt Gaston offered the closing prayer.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Amite County Physician
By Eva Francis Phares

Charles Tillman Dixon, MD was born January 7, 1816 in North Carolina, probably Raleigh. He died February 26, 1861 in Amite County and was buried in the McDowell/Dixon cemetery on old highway 24 (Bobby Louis Caston place in 2008). He died of a heart attack while getting into his buggy parked on the street between the Presbyterian Church and the drug store in the town of Liberty.

Dr. Dixon's father, Henry "Hal" Edmund Dixon, was born June 25, 1785 in Halifax Co, Virginia and died February 15, 1875 in Cole County, Missouri; his mother, Nancy Bolton (Boulton), was born January 31, 1794 in Virginia or Person County, NC and died Nov 25, 1873 in Cole County, Missouri. His paternal grandparents were: Edmund (Edward) Dixon, Sr, born January 3, 1753; died October 10, 1834 in Cole Co, Missouri and Catherine Warren, born Oct 24, 1757 and died March 16, 1838 in Cole County, Missouri. (Edward Dixon served as a private in the 1st Virginia state Regiment.) His maternal grandparents were: Thomas Meriwether (Meriweather) Bolton and Phoebe Waller.

Dr. Dixon's siblings were: Elizabeth Jeter Dixon, born about 1810; William Powell Dixon, born May 11, 1812 in Person Co, NC and died May 19, 1893 in Milam County, Texas; Thomas B Dixon born about 1815 and died about 1842; Henry Edward (Edmund) Dixon, Jr, born Dec 18, 1819, NC and died 1898; and Nancy "Nannie" W Dixon, born July 6, 1820, Raleigh NC and died Mar 14, 1902 in St. Joseph, MO.

Nancy "Nannie" Dixon married General Jonathan Miles Bassett, who was a Union general. In the book, History of Buchanan County, Missouri, 1881, page 674, it is mentioned that lawyer Bassett was chosen a delegate to the state convention, called at Jefferson City, Missouri to frame a new constitution, which the people rejected. While at the convention, he met "Nannie" and they were married in 1850. Her niece, Fannie Dixon Brewer, corresponded with Nancy and one letter, from NWD Bassett to Mrs. Fannie D. Brewer, Liberty, Miss. dated March 14, 1902, remains in the possession of Dr. Dixon's great-grandson, David Morris Dixon, Jr., Liberty. From this correspondence, it is evident that there was some communication over the years. It is believed that Fannie may have visited her Aunt Nannie in Missouri and some indications that Nannie may have visited relatives in Amite County.

Dr. C. T. Dixon married Nancy McDowell, daughter of Thomas McDowell and Mary Polly Butler. They were the parents of nine children: Mary Alice Dixon, born May 5, 1844 and died on Nov 13, 1913, married Hiram M. Faust; Thomas Henry Dixon, born Mar 24, 1846 and died Apr 23, 1904 of a gunshot wound married Mary Pipes "Puss" Flynn; Helon Eliza Dixon, born February 1848 and died Dec 29, 1922 married Hugh Bennett Butler; Frances A. "Fannie" Dixon, born Jan 3, 1850 and died Oct 16, 1932 married Peter Rabb Brewer; Martha Virginia "Matt" Dixon, born Sep 16, 1854 and died November 10, 1932 married James Felix Turnipseed; Russell McDowell Dixon married Martha E. "Molly" Strawn; Nancy Ophelia "Nannie" Dixon, born Dec 9, 1854 and died Jan 2, 1897 married William Crawford Sharp; Charles Tillman Dixon, Jr., born Dec 19, 1856 and died Apr 28, 1934 married Allie Z. Avery; Lillian B. "Lillie" Dixon, born Aug. 1860 and died about 1938 in Birmingham, AL married Robert Birdsong "Bob" Sudduth.

(Continued from page 3)

The first known record of Dr. Dixon in Amite County was on June 30, 1843, when Charles T. Dixon and Archibald Frith signed a marriage bond, witnessed by S. R. Davis, Clerk Probate. His marriage to Nancy McDowell, daughter of Thomas McDowell and Mary Butler, was solemnized on July 4, 1843. Dr. Dixon became a member of the Liberty Presbyterian Church in 1850, a trustee of the church in 1852 and an elder in 1858. It is said that the family had a parrot, who had a foul mouth. When the Presbyterian minister came calling, his cage was covered. Their home was located between State Highway 569 and Pecan Orchard Road a few miles northeast of Liberty.

Dr. Dixon's family line migrated from Halifax County, Virginia to Caswell County North Carolina and on to the Raleigh, NC area, where daughter Nancy and possibly Charles Tillman were born. After 1830, the family migrated on to Cole County, Missouri. When the town of Marion in Cole County was incorporated November 10, 1837, as a possible capitol city of Missouri, Charles T. Dixon was a trustee -- thought to be the Charles T, who came to Amite County. It is not known where Dr. Dixon attended Medical School or when he attended, but believed to be Jefferson Medical College, established in Philadelphia, PA in 1824.

Many family stories have been told about his coming to Amite County. One story is that Thomas H. McDowell encouraged him to come to Amite County to treat some of his ailing relatives - maybe his wife. All that is known is that his Medical diploma written in Latin along with other family memorabilia was kept on top of the wardrobe in the Charles Tillman Dixon, Jr. home north of Liberty. Dr. Dixon's secretary, filled with his medical books and records, were kept in the same room. Charles T. "Pap" referred to them when treating horses with "fistalows" and other ailments. In the spring of 1944, the Charles T. Dixon, Jr. home on Dixon Road burned destroying the family records, leaving only memories..

Quote from Source Book For Mississippi History Amite County, Volume III, Book Two, page 432 ". . . . He [Dr. William Jones] began the study of medicine in 1852, under the tutorship of Drs. Dickson [Dixon] and T. J. Spurloch [Spurlock]. . . . " In the estate records of David Henry Hazlewood, who lived near Berwick, there are medical bills dated after 1852 listing Dr. C. T. Dixon as attending physician..

Other stories were told by Helen "Kate" Barney Robinson, wife of Lee Robinson and daughter of Martha "Mattie" McDowell Barney, and George Barney. "Mattie" was the sister of Nancy McDowell Dixon, wife of Dr. Dixon. "Kate" related that her mother, "Mattie", told many stories of accompanying Dr. Dixon on house calls - the perils of traveling in the night in miserable weather and roads - assisting him as a nurse. "Mattie" may have also been his navigator, since she grew up in the area. After "Big Sister Nancy" married, "Mattie" was the oldest daughter left with her father, a widower, so she was probably very mature for her age. Nancy and Mattie's only brother, Russell Davis McDowell was killed December 31, 1862 at the Battle of Murfreesboro. Many family members have carried his name to the present.

His surviving great-grandchildren are: D. M. Dixon, Virginia Mabry, Eva Frances Phares, Howard Russell Dixon, James Dixon, Charles Tillman Dixon, III, Shirley Ann Miller, and Emerson Robinson Dixon. His descendants are numerous in the Amite County area.

The Empty Coat

Edited and arranged from an anonymous poem contributed to the Southern Herald, April 22, 1918

'Taint no use, a hangin' there on its peg no more,
Sleeves a showin' too much wear, pocket badly tore.
Prob'bly when the war is done, it'll be too small
Guess he'll have another one – if he returns at all, if he returns at all.

Chorus:

Now it looks so sad and lonely, just a hangin' there.
But it's sacred in our eyes, something like a prayer, something like a prayer.

Seems like yeste'day I stood, watched him 'bout his chores
Bringin' in the kitchen wood, stompin' 'cross the floor.
Laughed to see his snoopin' around like he used to snoop
Whistlin' happy when he found his Ma was making soup, his Ma was making soup.

Now that he ain't here no more, our own hearts' delight
We glance at the old coat he wore 'fore he went to fight
Nights when all doors was shet, 'fore I got up stairs
I'd touch his sleeve and find it wet – he'd been cryin' there, he'd been cryin' there.

Bridge:

Now somethin's smartin' my eyes too, have to wink 'em tight,
When I whisper, "Proud of you; goodnight, lad, goodnight, goodnight, lad, goodnight."

'Taint no use, a hangin' there on its peg no more,
Sleeves a showin' too much wear, pocket badly tore.
Prob'bly when the war is done, it'll be too small
Guess he'll have another one – if he returns at all, if he returns at all.

Chorus:

Now it looks so sad and lonely, just a hangin' there.
But it's sacred in our eyes, something like a prayer, something like a prayer.

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