



## 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

September 2009

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Without a past, there is no future

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be a **quarterly meeting on September 12, 2009**. Members will assemble at the Little Red Schoolhouse at 9:00 am and travel as a group to Rosemont in Woodville. Pres. Barron reports that: "Mabel Clark is to meet us at Rosemont and give a lecture, 'The Boyhood of Jefferson Davis.' Lunch (bring your own) there at the pavilion and of course the cemetery tour. The cost will be approximately \$10.00 each but the caretaker / custodian may give us a break."

"After a sack lunch at the pavilion, with iced down drinks provided by The Society, Mrs. Mabel then will lead us into Woodville for a tour, with stops including the Wilkinson County Museum / Old Bank Building - Railroad and the African American Museum. Our Society will pick up this fee / donation for everyone on the trip, they are much like us and have no set fees but rely on donations from groups coming to tour their museums, per Polly Rosenblatt and Mrs. Mabel Clark."

### Future Meeting Schedule

**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. Dr. Wm. Scarborough to speak on "Plantation Economy."

**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.

### **AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Minutes of August 8, 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 9 attendees. Walt Gaston opened the meeting with prayer.

Pres. Barron asked if everyone had read the minutes of the July 11 meeting and whether there were changes to be made. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Linda Lea and seconded by Ann Brumfield. The minutes were approved by vote of the attendees.

President Report: Pres. Barron announced that members participating in the field trip to Rosemont and other Woodville historical venues should plan to be at the Little Red Schoolhouse at 9:00 am on September 12 in order to assemble the vehicle caravan for travel to Woodville. Plans are being made on the Open House on the first Saturday of December. Current planning is for holding it this year at the LRSH and to issue written invitations to local town and county officials to solicit their attendance. This is proposed because a number of these officials do not seem to be on board with the current goings-on with the society and this would be a good opportunity to educate them in a less formal setting. He reminded attendees of the special presentation by Dr. Scarborough at the October meeting.

Vice President Report: VP Dawn Taylor reported that the committee had finalized wording to be proposed for the historical marker that is desired

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for the LRSH. She read the wording and, hearing no objections from the attendees, stated that the application to the MS Dept. of Archives and History for the marker will proceed.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson had no report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock provided a printed report. The bank balance as of the date of the meeting was \$6213.38. Ann Brumfield made a motion to approve the report; Walt Gaston 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 – There were no visitors to the LRSH during the previous month.

Old business:

- VP Dawn Taylor reported that the CD of photos from the Bicentennial has not yet been finished due to other pressing matters.
- Pres. Barron reported that Frances Phares has suggested that special genealogy publication she had previously proposed be set up for a three times per year issuance schedule with the first to be complete by the time of the Open House. Each issue will be approximately 100 pages long and will cover families about which info has been published in the short newsletter column in previous months. The first issue will be offered free to members and made available for sale to non-members. Future issues will carry a cost for all who obtain one.

New business:

- Pres. Barron again mentioned the open house planning and the need to encourage

attendance by local officials so that they can be made aware of all the society's activities and accomplishments.

- A picture of the LRSH after the snowfall last winter has been made available to the society. Pres. Barron asked if members thought that this image would be appropriate to place on a society Christmas card, sets of which could be sold as another fund-raiser. Members agreed that it should be pursued and a small committee was formed to work on this further.
- It was suggested that the society "support" a military unit (specifically the National Guard MP unit based in Clinton, MS) seeing active service overseas. The members agreed that this would be a good thing to do. Support will involve sending the NG members cards of well wishes and other "goodies" that aren't available to them in the war zone.
- Pres. Barron reminded members that there will be a \$10.00 per person fee to tour the Rosemont property.

Other business: None

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.



# BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

## Amite County Physicians THOMAS JEFFERSON SPURLOCK MD

**1. Thomas Jefferson Spurlock M D** was born on January 18, 1813 in Liberty, Amite Co , MS and died on September 13, 1878 in Big Ben, LA on Bayou des Glaises. It is not known where Dr. Spurlock attended medical school. (Could he and Dr. Dixon have attended the same medical school??? In 1852 they tutored William Jones.) His parents were Allen Spurlock, born about 1775 probably in Surry Co, NC and died before August 1864 in Amite County and Frances Traylor, born about 1782 and died January 15, 1846 in Amite County. His seven known siblings were:

**William H (A) Spurlock** was born about 1799 in Oglethorpe, GA. and was married on October 2, 1817 in Amite Co, MS to **Lavinia Winbourn** born about 1799 in SC. By 1860 Census the family was residing in Rockport, Simpson County, MS. \$650 real estate and \$9,987 personal estate. His name was shown as William Allen Spurlock in father's will probated August 8, 1864.

**Mary "Polly" Spurlock** was born on January 1, 1800 in Oglethorpe, GA. She died on January 12, 1888 in Osyka, MS. "Polly" was married to (1) **Henry Jones** (son of William Jones Sr and Sarah "Sally" Buckley) on November 22, 1817 in Amite Co, MS. Henry Jones was born about 1800 in Barnwell Co, S C and died in 1833, probably in Amite Co, MS. Their children were:

**1.** Sarah "Sally" Buckley Jones who was married to (1) H C Moore and (2) William W Lowrey (son of William Lowrey and Susannah) on February 2, 1837 in Amite Co, MS. **2.** Elvira (Elvina) Jones was married to (1) Elijah Thompson and (2) Ransom Jackson Causey (grandson Enoch B Causey MD practiced medicine in Amite County, the Mississippi Delta , and Franklinton, Louisiana.) **3.** William Jones (III) MD began his study of Medicine in 1852 under the tutorship of Drs. Dickson [C T Dixon] and T. J. Spurloch [Spurlock] and received a medical degree from the Louisiana Medical College at New Orleans in 1857. Dr. Jones was married to (1) Catharine Burris in 1849 in Amite County (2) Sarah Stilliein 1857 in Ponchatoula, LA. and (3) Margaret Addison in 1872. **Mary "Polly" Spurlock** was married to (2) **Edward S Brown** on January 2, 1835 in Amite Co, MS.

**Josiah V Spurlock** was born about 1802 in Oglethorpe, GA and died before November 17, 1841. Josiah was married to (1) **Rebecca A Knox** on February 21, 1826 in Amite Co, MS. and (2) **Mary Ann Winborne** on December 20, 1832

**John Spurlock** was born about 1802 in Oglethorpe, GA and died before November 17, 1841. John was married to **Nancy Garner** on March 11, 1819 in Amite Co, MS. Daughter was **Louisa V Spurlock**.

**Allen Spurlock Jr** was born about 1804 in Oglethorpe, GA and died in 1849. Clyde Whittington remembers hearing Allen, Jr died in the Mexican War. Allen Spurlock Jr was married to (1) **Calista Ann Robinson** on August 21, 1834 in Amite Co, MS. to (2) **Mary (Polly) Hughey** (daughter of James Hughey and Anna Harper) on April 9, 1839 in Amite Co. Mary (Polly) Hughey was born about 1810 and died before 1850. Their children were: Thomas Jefferson Spurlock and James Spurlock, who lived with their grandfather, Allen Spurlock and his second wife, Martha. Thomas Jefferson was working in Baton Rouge at te time of the Civil War, so he enlisted with Co E 1 La Cav CSA Thomas Jefferson was married to Sarah Gardner (daughter of Sylvanus Gardner and Mary Ann Gordon) on October 19, 1865 in Amite Co, MS.:

**Elizabeth Spurlock** was born about 1806 in Oglethorpe, GA. She died before November 17, 1841. Elizabeth was married to **Wilford Garner** on June 21, 1826 in Amite Co, MS. One known child - Benjamin F Garner.

**James Monroe Spurlock** was born abt 1817 in Amite county. He married Caroline S. Russell January 14, 1836 in Amite county.

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*Orphans Court Record, Amite Co, MS*

*Henry Jones - Mary & William Jones & Thos J Spurlock, administrators of estate 11-18-33*

*Mary Jones granted land to Allen & T J Spurlock 1-2-1835; Wilfred Garner granted to T J Spurlock power of attorney 1-28-1836; Receiver to T J Spurlock land on 7-6-1838; Allen Spurlock, Sr to T J Spurlock Land 7-31-1838*

*James Denman to Thos J Spurlock Land 7-31-1838; Thos J Spurlock to Hamp Burris Land 8-2-1838; T J Spurlock witnessed the will of James Denman - Aug 10, 1838; T J Spurlock Admr to Lemuel Keith Land 3-12-1839; T J Spurlock to Union Bank Land 5-1-1839; Edmund Andrews - Administrator of the estate. Thomas J Spurlock May 24 , 1841; Thos J Spurlock to E G Wicker power of attorney 12-21-1841; T J Spurlock witnessed the will of Hugh Montgomery on July 16, 1846; T J Spurlock witnessed the will of Elizabeth Denman on Mar 8, 1846; Allen Spurlock to Thos J Spurlock power of attorney 10-25-53; Allen S Spurlock and wife to T J Spurlock Land 8-17-1855; T J Spurlock and wife to Hewitt Gordon Land 6-1-1859; Drury Cook granted land to T J Spurlock on 11-18-59*

Thomas Jefferson Spurlock M D was married to (1) Eliza Roberson Hunt on January 18, 1831 in Amite Co, MS. **Eliza Roberson** was born on September 19, 1811 in Columbia, GA and died on August 11, 1859. Location not known. The 1860's Census shows Dr. Spurlock and children in Avoyelles Parish; Thos J. was a planter; value of his personal property was \$30,000 and real estate property was \$200,000. It is believed, but not documented that Dr. Spurlock was also a planter in Avoyelles Parish prior to his move from Amite county. March 28, 1865 in Avoyelles Parish, he sold 519+ acres of land and personal property with mortgage to John W. Thomas, his son-in-law for \$5,000. Dr. T. J. and Eliza had the following children:

1.1. **Lillian Spurlock** was born about 1833 and was married to **Mr Weathersby**.

1.2. **Letitia Spurlock** was born about 1835 and was married to **John Everett Jr, MD** on January 18, 1849 in Amite Co, MS. Their children were: Lizza Everett, Franklin Everett, Dora Everett, and Dewitt Everett MD

1.3. **Melissa Spurlock** was born on February 8, 1837 in Liberty, Amite Co , MS and died on September 29, 1917 in Opelousas, LA. Melissa was married to **David Walker Foster** (son of Robert Foster and Elizabeth Grant) on April 3, 1856 in Dr Spurlock's home in Amite County, MS. They had the following children: Paul Foster, Infant Foster, David Foster, Joy Foster, Hope Foster, Ernest Foster, Trust Foster, Grace Foster, Abraham Foster, Mary Foster, and one unknown child, who was born and died in British Honduras.

1.4. **Sarah Ann Spurlock** was born on August 7, 1839 and was married to **John W Thomas** on April 4 1861 in Avoyelles Parish, LA. John W Thomas was their child.

1.5. **Ann Elizabeth Spurlock** was born in 1841. Ann Elizabeth was married to **Henry Gorbin**. They had the following children: Eunice Gorbin, Tubith Gorbin, Alice Gorbin, Mary Elizabeth Gorbin, and Henrietta Gorbin

1.6. **Lucinda Spurlock** was born on May 6, 1844 in Amite Co, MS. She died on November 10, 1927, in Big Ben, LA on Bayou des Glaises and was buried in Bayou des Glaises Baptist Church Cemetery. Lucinda Spurlock was married to **Elam Selser Rusk** (son of William Rusk and Mary Selser) on June 10, 1860 in Bordelonville, Avoyelles Parish, LA. They had the following children: Mary Elizabeth "Mollie" Rusk, Rena Rusk, Lillian Rusk, Ada Rusk, Hettie Helen Rusk, Arthur S Rusk, William J "Willie" Rusk, Edward David "Ned" Rusk, Elam J Rusk, Elie Rusk, and Lillie Rusk

1.7. **Frances Spurlock** was born on March 23, 1847.

1.8. **Thomas Andral Spurlock** was born on August 24, 1850 in Liberty, Amite Co , MS and died on March 2, 1925 in Kleinwood, LA, Bayou des Glaises. Thomas was married to **Claudia Cornelia Rush** (daughter of Charles Rush and Nancy Irion) on September 4, 1879 in Bayou des Glaises Bap-

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tist Church. Rev A J Terry performed the wedding ceremony. They had the following children: Clara Irian Spurlock was married to R Lee Carruth MD; Thomas Jefferson Spurlock II was married to Esther Maude Marshall; Dora Eliza Spurlock was married to John F Havard; Virginia Blanche Spurlock was married to Leroy Branch Williams; Mary Ethel "Mae" Spurlock; was married to William Clarence George; Daisy Maude Spurlock; Ernest Percival Spurlock was married to Nellie May Marshall; Edward Rush Spurlock was married to Margaret Colton Cain; and Alva Royden Spurlock was married to Omye Brunson. (Thomas J. Spurlock IV, grandson of Thomas Jefferson Spurlock II, contributed to this Spurlock research.)

**Thomas Jefferson Spurlock M D** was married to (2) **Mary A Rush** on July 17, 1866 in Bayou Des Glaises, LA. They had two children:

1.9. **Mary Ellen Spurlock** was born July 1867 and died on January 15, 1956 in New Orleans, LA. She was blessed in Garden of Memories, New Orleans, Jefferson Parish, LA. Mary Ellen Spurlock was married to William Branch Marshall on February 1, 1886 in Avoyelles Parish, LA.

1.10. **Emma Virginia Spurlock** was born in 1869 and was married to John Branch Marshall on September 20, 1888 in Avoyelles Parish, LA.

This is an effort to unscramble the Thomas Jefferson Spurlock families, who resided in Amite County and were connected with the East Fork Baptist Church. From childhood, the Spurlock name connected me to larkspurs, a favorite in Amite County gardens of that period. The next issue will feature Dr. Thomas Jefferson Spurlock, born in Tennessee.

You are invited to critique **Bits and Pieces of Amite County History** in the Newsletters. Your additions and corrections are solicited. Also, submit data on physicians not featured in Amite County Bicentennial book.



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### ACHGS Standing Committees and Chairpersons

Jeannine Dixon — Nominating Committee

Vera Prestridge — Little Red Schoolhouse

Dot Whittington — Archives (at the LRSB)

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**  
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