



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

October 2012

Vol. 8, No. 10

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting: The next meeting will be a special abbreviated business meeting on **October 13, 2012, at 10:00 am** at the **Liberty Presbyterian Church**. A special program on the **7th Mississippi Infantry Regiment CSA** will be held, followed by a **Memorial Service at the Confederate Monument** next to the church. A **pot luck luncheon** will be held at the **Liberty Library Conference Room** following the service.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of September 8, 2012 meeting

DRAFT

President Greg Barron called the meeting to order at 10:00 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 16 attendees. Gay Blalock gave the invocation.

Pres. Barron recognized Vera Prestridge who introduced prospective new member Joanna Hearn to the group. In reciprocation, each member in attendance introduced themselves.

Future Meeting Schedule

October 13, 2012, 10:00 am — Special meeting at the Historic Liberty Presbyterian Church featuring Ron Skellie speaking on his new book Lest We Forget - The Immortal Seventh Mississippi. A Memorial is also planned at the Confederate Monument before the luncheon at the Conference Room of the Liberty Library, which will be a "Pot Luck Luncheon", everyone will bring a dish. A photo scanning session will be held in the afternoon as well.

November 10, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

December 1, 2012, Anticipated date of Open House. Details to be determined.

January 12, 2013, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

February 9, 2013, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

Special President Report: Pres. Barron reported: As reported last month, the society meeting on October 13 will be a special one at the Liberty Presbyterian Church. Dewey DeLee has agreed to provide floral decorations for the sanctuary. Walt Gaston will open with prayer. Following a brief business meeting at 10:00 am, a program will be presented by Ron Skellie from Acworth, GA, who recently completed a unit history on the 7th Mississippi Infantry Regiment (CSA). This regiment drew heavily on manpower from Southwest Mississippi. Following the program in the sanctuary, a memorial service will be held at the Confederate monument next to the church. The SW MS Genealogical Society has been invited to attend and other interested persons are expected as well.

In preparation for the pot luck luncheon in the meeting room of the library following the pro-

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stridge reported that there were no visitors in the last month.

Old Business: None.

gram at the church, the meeting room will be open between 9:00 and 10:00 am for those who plan to join the pot luck luncheon to drop off their food contributions. The equipment for the photo scanning session will also be set up. At about 10:00 am the room will be locked for security of the equipment and will be kept locked until the group returns for the luncheon.

After the luncheon, Sam King will again be scanning photos provided by volunteers. A number of people with photos have indicated their intention to participate.

Pres. Barron took up the minutes of the August meeting. Linda Lea made a motion to adopt the minutes; Oma Gordon seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

President Report: No additional report.

Vice President Report: VP Dawn Taylor announced:

The library meeting room will be set up on October 12 for the luncheon the next day. Volunteers to help with the arranging of the furniture are needed.

Mary Ann Gearhardt will be checking on the schedule and logistics of the Rose Hill Cemetery tour in Meridian, MS. A group tour may be arranged if scheduling permits and there is interest.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson had no report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock reported that the society currently has a bank balance of \$6486.22. Jan Villar made a motion to approved the Treasurer's report; Ann Brumfield seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

LRSH COMMITTEE REPORT: Mrs. Vera Pre-

New Business: Pres. Barron commented on research he had recently done to determine why some old family photos of persons that were not of Catholic or Episcopal faiths showed palm fronds that have significance in Catholic/Episcopal Palm Sunday observances. He learned that it was a holdover from a British Isles custom which had itself been held over from the earlier Catholic era. The "palm" was often actually willow. In another matter, Jan Villar had a photo album showing photos of a variety of persons she is seeking to identify.

Other Business: None.

Following the conclusion of the business meeting, representatives of the Mississippi Digital Library (housed at the University of Southern Mississippi) were recognized. A brief program explaining the purpose of the digital library program was given. The ACHGS is the only county historical/genealogical society that has joined the library membership. We have not yet submitted any photos to the library.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

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Melvin Davis White, born 23 May 1910; died 20 Feb 1998 in Baton Rouge, LA, son of Forrest Archie and Maude Elizabeth Cockerham White, married Edna Earle Massey. They were the parents of four daughters: Carolyn Sue, Linda Gail, Barbara Ann, and Julie Marie. His siblings were: Edgar L, Inez P, Forest A, Sidney S "Sid", Jules W, Edwin L, Raymond M, and Cecil F.

Share your genealogy and Amite County stories by sending to Frances Phares, PO Box 1639, Clinton, LA or phrances@att.net Your corrections and additional information solicited.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1927

Class Roll - Immer W. Ball, Parnell Causey, Frank Marion Cox, Hilda Lacy Gordon, J. M. Hoff, Wallace R. Jackson, Agnes Leard, Thomas S. Lewis, Josephine Juanita Maddox, Lola Mae McGehee, Orien J. Pearson, Ernest Randall, Louis M. Ratcliff, Eva Ernestine Shurley, Dorris Otile Stewart, Julia Wilhelmena Street, Inez Talbert, Davis White

Immer W "Dad" Ball, born abt 1909, was the son of Jessie Ball and Miss Day. His siblings were: Jewell, Annie L, Bickham, and Jessie D Ball.

Parnell "Pete" Causey, born 21 Sep 1908; died Oct 1953 Tennessee. After graduating from Mississippi State, he was a manager of a cheese plant in Tennessee. In the summers, he played semi-pro baseball as a pitcher. He married **Sammie Nabors** whose father was a representative to the Mississippi legislature. They met while visiting relatives in Shelby, MS, where Parnell's parents, Jonas Oliver and Florence Shaw Causey were living. His siblings were: Irene and Henry Grady.

Frank Marion Cox, the son of Thomas Marion and Frances "Fannie" Taylor Cox, married Edith Ruth Jones, daughter of Henry L Jones and Julia E Causey Jones on 1 Jul 1929, Amite Co, MS. They had one daughter, Ruthie Nell Cox Singleton. His siblings were: Edith, Elma, Etta Belle, Gillia, Thomas Carlton "Tommy", and Allison.

Joseph M Hoff, born 25 September 1907; died 31 December 1973. He was the husband of Inez Tarver. After graduating from AHS, he attended Louisiana State University. He was employed with Mississippi Power and Light Company in Tylertown, later being transferred to Lexington. During World War II, he worked in Greenwood, MS. After the war he came back to Lexington where he was the proprietor of electrical, plumbing and freight businesses. They were the parents of two daughters: Martha Lee Adcock of Baton Rouge and Joanna Hearn of Liberty. J M's siblings were: Hollis Benton, Dan, Paul, and Annie.

Hilda Lacy Gordon, born 16 January 1911, Amite County, MS; died 16 August 1997 in New Orleans area, was the daughter of Hon. Charles Tucker Gordon and Margaret Lucille Butler Gordon. She was vice-president of the class of 1927. She married Robert St Clair "Bob" Smith from South Carolina in 1936. After "Bob"'s accidental death in 1961, she married Eric C Labenstein in 1970. Eric died about 1995. Hilda was a teacher of English in the Liberty Consolidated school for a few years before accepting a position as teacher of English with the St Martin's Episcopal School in Metairie, LA where she resided and taught for numerous years. She had one daughter, Margaret Elizabeth Sollars, a lawyer in Thibodeaux, LA. Her siblings were: Charles B, Joseph D, Margaret, Mary L "Meb", William, Nell, Kenneth, and Clifford.

Wallace R. "Booster" Jackson, born 11 Sep 1909; died Jul 1982 in Baton Rouge, LA, son of Wallace A Jackson and Mary Virginia "Mamie" Causey, married 24 Oct 1937 in Amite County Jean Toler, daughter of Wyatt Larue Toler and Hazel Beard. "Booster" worked for one of the plants in Baton Rouge and was an enthusiastic Amite County historian and genealogist. His siblings were: Reba, Maude, Ruth, and Frances

Agnes Leard - Mittie Barney McLean remembered Agnes being a very sweet person, who resided with Mittie's Aunt Maud McLean Bates after graduation. Joe Hoff remembered her father, Professor Leard, coming into the area and teaching at the Woodland School west of Liberty for a number of years. Professor Leard may have taught in Liberty, too. It is thought that he married a wife from Amite County, MS; she may have been a Toler.

Thomas Street Lewis, born 18 Jul 1909; died 12 Apr 1963 from a gunshot wound; he was the son of Dr. Henry Leander Lewis and Katie Victoria Street Lewis. He married Pauline Hamilton, born 21 May 1908; died 11 Jun 1977. He spent most of his life where he was born in the Street community, Amite

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County, MS. Thomas and Pauline adopted two children: Tom and Ginger. His siblings were: Evelyn, Katherine, Pearle E, Ethel S, Henry L, Charles D, Aline, and James B.

Josephine Juanita Maddox was the daughter of K W Maddox and Exie A Turnipseed; Davis Maddox was her brother. Exie's parents were Jerome E "Jerry" and M Ada Anders Turnipseed. Joseph Hoff remembered that the family moved to the Memphis area abt 1927.

Lola Mae McGehee, born 15 Feb 1909, died 12 Mar 1976, daughter of William Henry "Willie" and Queenie Nunnery McGehee, married 12 Apr 1936 James Leroy Tumey, born 26 Nov 1907; died 19 Aug 1980, son of Samuel T Tumey and Mary Strong. Lola was one of the proprietors of the M & T store, a general store in Liberty; Leroy was a barber, operating a barber shop on main street Liberty for numerous years. Her siblings were: Reba Dell and Willie Lee

Orien J. Pearson, born 8 Aug 1907 in Amite County, was the son of Harvey Pearson and Lula Imogene Stokes. His siblings were Alzadie, Nannie Elizabeth, Willie Amos, Jesse Annis, Carey Benard, James Culley, Vonnie Lee, and Mars Joseph.

Ernest Randall, born abt 1908, was the son of Van Allen H and Mattie E Rainer Randall. He was secretary of the class of 1927. Maude J Barney remembered Ernest, his brothers (Roddis and B J), Leland Stokes, and other young men singing with Professor Stout's men's singing group at the Liberty Presbyterian Church.

Louis Meade "Son" Ratcliff, born 21 Sep 1908, Liberty, MS; died 24 Mar 1968 at Liberty, married 14 Nov 1940, Brookhaven, MS, Virginia Sue Phillips, born 20 Aug 1913, Brookhaven; died 21 Feb 1980, Liberty. His parents were Louis Meade and Mary Virginia Van Norman Ratcliff. They were the parents of one child - Mary Aileen Ratcliff. "Son" was Baptist, a civil engineer for the State Highway Department, and served in the European Theater of Operations with the Army 258th Engineers in World War II.

Eva Ernestine Shurley, born 16 Apr 1909; died 17 Aug 1960, married R Elliott Adams, 21 Dec 1930 in Amite Co, MS. They were the parents of one son, Bobby L Adams, deceased in 2002. Her parents were James Linfield and Martha Jane Newman Shurley. Eva taught school in the Mars Hill area schools for numerous years. Her siblings were: Hilton N, Mary, Rosa E, James L "Jimmy", John T "Johnny", and Price E.

Dorris Otile Stewart, born about 1911, was the daughter of Robert Sitman and Ary Ann Robinson Stewart. After graduating from MSCW, it is thought Dorris worked in the medical field in another state. On retirement, she removed to Raymond, MS where her sister Lurline was residing. Lurline was a longtime teacher of mathematics at Hinds Junior College. Other siblings: Sitman H, Larry, and Robert "Bobby" killed in action World War II.

Julia Wilhelmena Street was the daughter of Charles Napoleon Street and Mary P Davis Street. She married Edgar Shrenkgost and they resided in McComb, MS. Her sister, Annie Norwood Street, also resided in McComb.

Inez Talbert was the daughter of Robert Orlando Talbert and Hoyte Emily Drummond. She married 19 Sep 1931 in Amite County, MS Joseph M Hoff. On graduating from the Amite County Agricultural High School, Inez attended college at MSCW, Columbus, MS - later residing in Lexington, MS from 1939-1972, where she was a homemaker and bookkeeper. While living in Lexington, she was an active member of the First Baptist Church, Benjamin Humphrey's Chapter of the Daughter's of the American Revolution (DAR), serving as Regent from 1966-1972. In 1972, she returned to her beloved Amite County - spending many happy years in Liberty. She was a member of Liberty Baptist Church, Amite River Chapter of the DAR, State Chairman of American Indian Affairs, 1971-1974, Genealogical Records, 1974-1977, and Amite River Chapter Chairman for National Defense and for DAR Magazine, 1977-1978. Her latter years were spent in Baton Rouge, where she resided until her death. Her siblings were: Pearl, Robert Lee and Sue.

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Final Dues Notice

If your name is on the following list, your dues have not been paid for the membership year beginning July 1, 2012, If you have paid your dues, contact Treasurer Gay Blalock at 601-657-8807 to assure that she has received the payment. If dues are not paid (or any errors resolved) by the end of October, your name will be removed from active membership and no further notices will be sent.

John & Inez Bond
Francis & Carolyn Boyd
Larry L. Carruth
Horace G. Causey
Mary E. Conner
Deborah Davis
Nelson Dawson
Dewey & Jane DeLee
Carolyn Dent
David Dreyer
Nan Rutledge Fulcher
C.V. Glennis
Kay Higginbotham
James F. Jackson
Patricia Anne Fleming Jarrett
Grady Frank Lea
Linda Honea Lea
Vicki J. Netterville
James A. Robertson
Joan Terrell Schade
Allen C. Terrell
Clifton & Kathryn Terrell
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Charles A. Womack

ACHGS Standing Committees and Chairpersons

Linda Honea Lea— Nominating Committee
Vera Prestridge — Little Red Schoolhouse
Dan Morgan — Amite County History
Nelson Dawson — Amite County Family History
Mary Pallon, Jennie Livingston, Bobby Haygood — Amite County Cemeteries
Linda Honea Lea — Hospitality
Gay Blalock — Special Events and Food
Greg Barron — Programs and Publicity
James Allen Causey — Tours and Amite County Landmarks

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**
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Liberty, MS 39645