



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

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January 2012

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Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting: The next meeting will be a regular business meeting at 10:00 am, on January 14, 2012, in the conference room of the Library in Liberty. See next meeting notice in adjacent column.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Due to the December meeting being the annual Open House event, there was no business meeting.

Program Following January Meeting "Show and Tell"

The next meeting of Amite County Historical & Genealogical Society will be January 14, 2012 in the conference room of the library at 10:00 a.m. **Bring a "Show and Tell" to share with the society.** This will be a time of sharing your historical papers, books, genealogy, and other family memorabilia. Your attendance and contribution will make this a great meeting.

Future Meeting Schedule

January 14, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

February 11, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

March 10, 2012, 10:00 am — Quarterly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS. Program to be announced.

April 14, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

May 5, 2012, 10:00 am — Meeting and activities to coordinate with the Heritage Days activities.

June 9, 2012, 10:00 am — Quarterly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

July 14, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

August 11, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

September 8, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

Notice

I'm continuing to receive message returns from some member's e-mail addresses. Following a failed e-mail delivery, I will change that member's notice method to postal mail. If you want the notices by e-mail, I will need a valid e-mail address that will accept mail from the achgs.org mail site and will not be divert or delete it as spam. See my contact info below. Thanks.

You may contact this editor at:
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Or by e-mail at sitemanager@achgs.org

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

History of Mississippi from Discoverers of the Great Rivers by Hernando Desoto Including
Earlier Settlements by the French Iberville to Death of Jefferson

by Robert Lowry and William H. McCardle.

(pages 439-442)

Published in Jackson, Mississippi by R. H. Henry and Company 1891.

AMITE COUNTY

Was established February 24th, 1809, eight years prior to the admission of the state into the Union. During the Territorial Government, courts known as Justices of the Quorum, comprised of four justices of the peace, exercised jurisdiction over the property of orphans and also acted as Boards of Police. The first term held by the Justices of the Quorum in Amite was at the house of William R. Richards, on the 18th of April, 1809. It was composed of Micajah Davis, James Lee[Lea], Thomas Waggoner and Robert Montgomery. Thomas Batchelor was Register of the Court, was also Register of Deeds as early as 1810, and Clerk of the Superior Court in 1813, and Clerk of the County Court in 1818, serving until 1828. In addition to the above early settlers were David Neilson, Matthew Toole, John Nelvin, Robert Trontham [Trentham], Thomas Torrence, George Davis, Abram H. Buckhalts [Buckholts], Sylvester Dunn, Henry Cassels, David W. Hurst, (one of Mississippi's most distinguished lawyers, who was elected Supreme Judge in 1863, and was colonel of the Thirty-third Mississippi Regiment); and Col. C. P. Neilson, a leading lawyer and a colonel in the Confederate service, now located at Greenville, were both natives of Amite County; John Brown, Matthew Kinchen, Moses Myles, William Brillen, Jas. Cade, John R. Williams, Robert Lowry, Ben Hill, Jas. Gordon, Jonathan Hicks, John Smylie, Jesse Talbert, Thomas Causey, Matthew Smylie, Catesby Gordon, Isaac Jackson, West Taner, Jesse Winborne, Joshua Collins, Wm. R. Richards, Thomas Toler, James McKnight, Benjamin Cassels, Stephen Ellis, Thomas Talbert, Richard Bates, Nathaniel Wells, James Robinson and James Chandler. The first Territorial Courts were held by Thomas Rodney and Francois X. Martin. Judge George Winchester held the April and October terms of the circuit court in 1827. Judge Harry Cage held October terms, 1829-'30, April term 1831, and May term 1840. Rev. Ezra Courtney, a Baptist minister, performed the first marriage ceremony of which there is any record in the county. Rev. James Smylie, the pioneer Presbyterian minister, founded Bethany Church, on Beaver Creek, in 1831[1808]. Among other divines of an early day were Zachariah Reeves, Chas. Felder, Shadrack Young, Thomas Clinton, J. W. Kennon, Thos. Nixon, George King, John Campbell, Jas. Cain and David Cook.

The first Confederate monument in the State was erected at Liberty by the patriotic citizens of Amite county. It was designed by Capt. A. J. Lewis, of Port Gibson, and cost \$3,332, and was received by Col. C. P. Neilson on behalf of the Monumental Association, April 31st, 1871. It is a beautiful structure of Italian marble, in Corinthian style, twenty-seven feet high, on the tablets and columns of which are engraved two hundred and eighty-two names of soldiers who enlisted from this county, and lost their lives in the great struggle for independence.

Liberty, the county site, is a handsome village, and has always supported and encouraged schools. The large college hall, with its contents, including a number of pianos, was burned by the Federal soldiers during their occupancy of the town in 1863. The remaining buildings were finally handsomely fitted up, and after passing through several hands, were purchased by Prof. C. F. Massales [Marsalis], a native of the county and an educator of experience. He is assisted by an able corps of

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teachers and is liberally patronized.

Gloster, on the line of the Louisville, New Orleans & Texas Railroad, has a population of one thousand or more. This place and also Gillsburg are manifesting a laudable interest in the cause of education.

East Fork and Ebenezer Institutes are liberally patronized by their respective localities.

The Louisville, New Orleans and Texas Railroad traverses the western part of the county for about twelve miles. Gloster and Dayton are the only commercial points on the road in the limits of the county. The principal streams are the two Amite rivers, which form a junction and flow into Lake Maurapas. Beaver, Tickfaw, Hominy, Brushy and Dawson creeks are bold running and impetuous streams. Tangipahoa flows into Lake Pontchartrain. The lands of these streams are fertile and productive and the uplands by fertilization give generous yields. The county is covered with a variety of valuable timber. There are 73,999 acres of cleared land, the average value of which \$6.46. Total value of cleared lands, including, incorporated town, is \$510,292.

The population as shown by the census of 1890: Whites 7,509; colored 10,689; total, 18,198.

Senators: Thos. Torrence (1820-1823); John R. Brown (1823-1825); Chas. C. Slocumb (1826); Thos. Torrence (1827-1828); Wm. Jackson (1829-1831); Archibald Smith (1833); David Davis (1835-1836); Jehu Wall (1837-1844); John Wall (1846); E. McCoy Davis (1848, 1850); J. M. Nelson (1852, 1854); Franklin Love (1856-1858); G. H. Gordon (1859-1862); Moses Jackson (1865-1867); Wm. H. Gibbs (1870-1873); G. W. White (1874-1877); Moses Jackson (1878,1880); Thos. V. Noland (1882, 1884); Wm. F. Love (1886, 1888); J. H. Jones (1890)

Representatives: 1820 - David Davis, Wm. Gardner, Zach. Lea; 1821 - Richard Hurst, W. Jackson, _____Burton; 1822 - John Lowry, James Jones; 1823, Francis Graves, Richard Hurst, Jas. Jones; 1825 - Richard Hurst, Francis Graves, S. Weathersby; 1826 - Francis Graves, E. Smith, S. Weathersby; 1827 - S. Weathersby; 1828 - Edmund Smith, Samuel B. Marsh; 1829 - Samuel B. Marsh, Francis Graves; 1830 - Francis Graves, David Pemble; 1831 -Edmund Smith, David Pemble; 1833 - David Pemble, Wm. Vannorman; 1835 - Wm. Vannorman, David Pemble; 1836 - F. C. Talbert, John Wall; 1837 - F. C. Talbert, John Wall; 1838-1839 - Edmund Smith, J. J. Graves; 1840 - J. J. Graves, Solomon Weathersby; 1841, 1842, 1843 - T. J. Stewart, Jas M. Smiley; 1844 - J. M. Smiley; 1846 - Jas. M. Smiley, T. M. Rogers; 1848 - David W. Hurst; 1850 - Jehu Wall, F. C. Talbert; 1852 - Jehu Wall, Jas. M. Gallent; 1854 - E. L. Tarver; 1856-1857 - Jas. M. Gallent, N. L. Huff; 1858 - F. H. Sleeper; 1859, 1860, 1861 - C. E. Frith; 1861-1862- Moses Jackson; 1865,1866, 1867 - Geo. F. Webb; 1870, 1871 - A. Parker; 1872-1875 - Reuben Kendrick; 1876-1877 - B. F. Johns, Jas E. Jagers; 1878 - Wm. F. Love, E. L. Tarver; 1880 - Wm. F. Love, B. F. Johns; 1882 - F. A. McLain, C. Byrd; 1884 - Wm. F. Love, Geo. M. Govan; 1886 - W. B. Raiford, J. M. Bates; 1888 - Polk Talbert, S. M. Simmons; 1890 - Polk Talbert, Theo McKnight.

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.

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