



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

William G. Barron, President Dawn Taylor, Vice Pres.
 Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer
 Oma J. Gordon, Council-at-large
 Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

April 2012

Vol. 8, No. 4

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting: The next meeting will be a regular business meeting at 10:00 am, April 14, 2012, in the meeting room of the Liberty Library. Mr. Sam King will present a program on his experiences with historical and genealogical research..

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of March 10 meeting

DRAFT

President Greg Barron called the meeting to order at 10:12 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 13 attendees. Linda Lea gave the invocation.

Future Meeting Schedule

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 — Annual meeting with election of officers 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.

October 13, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

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.

Pres. Barron took up the minutes of the February meeting and asked that a correction be made to the day and date of the "Tall Ships" field trip. The correction was to change Tuesday, April 17th to Thursday, April 19th. The correction was noted and Linda Lea made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected with Dan Morgan seconding. The motion was approved by all present.

President Greg Barron welcomed everyone then moved directly into the executive reports.

President Report: Pres. Barron reported: Heritage Day will be on May 5, 2012. We want to concentrate on the LRSH and member exhibitions in the library conference room. It had been suggested that the society include an art exhibit this year; however, this was rejected since it would conflict with the art exhibit sponsored by the Kelly Law Firm at their offices. Similarly, having a book signing by one or more local authors was rejected since that is being done by Robert Stratton. President Barron will inform Ricky Stratton of the plans for the LRSH and member exhibits as the society's contribution to Heritage Day.

Those planning to attend the field trip to New Or-

(Continued on page 2)

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leans on Thursday, April 19th to see the "tall ships" should remit their \$60 per person fee to President Barron by April 1 in order to reserve a place on the bus.

There will be no formal program due to Mrs. Frances Phares being absent; however, she asked Pres. Barron to announce that Mr. Sam King will present a program in April and Mr. Anders, the new publisher of the Wilk-Amite Record will present a program at the June Annual Meeting.

April Meeting Program

At our next meeting in the Conference Room of the Liberty Library on April 7, 10:00 a.m., we are pleased to announce Sam King, also known in his Liberty school days as "Sammie" King, will present our program. Sam is the son of Loyd and Ruby Graves King, who shared his mother's memories in a previous newsletter. He is owner and President of ID Group of Ridgeland, MS, which sells and services Photo ID, Accountability, Access Control and Video Surveillance equipment and solutions throughout Mississippi and Louisiana. He will give a "Photo Presentation of Lessons Learned and Rewarding Experiences doing Family Genealogy." Bring a friend and don't miss this meeting!!!

Vice President Report: None

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock presented reported that the society currently has a bank balance of \$907.34. Vera Prestridge made a motion to approved the Treasurer's report; Oma Gordon seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson reported that FamilySearch (affiliated with the LDS Church) is seeking volunteers to assist with indexing the 1940 Census for Amite County which is due to be released by the federal government in early April. The society won't approach this as a society project but will put any members who wish to volunteer individually in touch with the appropriate persons at FamilySearch.

LRSB COMMITTEE REPORT: Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported that there were no visitors at the Little Red Schoolhouse in the last month. A school group is scheduled to visit on April 5; the group will be visiting a number of historical and institutional sites in Liberty. On Friday, April 27, a class of '62 reunion group will be visiting. For Heritage Day, she's planning to have the LRSB open from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. She is putting out a call for volunteers to work at least a 3-hour shift hosting visitors. She needs at least two people on each floor at all times.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. James Allen Causey discussed a bit of the planning he has been involved in for a number of years. The fire districts will be the unit of accountability for historical and genealogical preservation.

Other Business: There were no items requiring society action; however, a number of informational items were presented.

Oma Gordon showed several pictures she has recently acquired. Two were of a riverboat in the Carter Packet Co. that used to dock on the river west of Woodville. One photo showed a somewhat crowded dock in New Orleans where cotton packet riverboats docked to off-load. Another photo showed smaller riverboats that plied the waters of the Yazoo and other rivers in the Mississippi Delta. The final picture was of the "General Haupt" steam locomotive.

Dan Morgan talking about the old book he has acquired that was owned by Jacob Thompson

Mrs. Laramore showed an engraving of a British Admiral who fought in the War of 1812. The engraving dates to 1795.

President Barron adjourned the business meeting at about 10:57 am.

BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

FRANCIS WREN SMILEY

1. **Francis Wren Smiley**, son of Nathaniel Francis Smiley and Martha Anne Andrews, was born on 26 Feb 1887 in Amite Co, MS, and died on 1 Aug 1963. Wren attended the Bethany School, Ariel, Amite Co, MS and is shown in the Bethany School photograph dated about 1901. **Mississippi Sgt Medical Department World War I. Francis Wren Smiley and Margaret "Maggie" Hazlewood** were married on 2 May 1920 in Amite Co, MS. **Margaret "Maggie" Hazlewood**, daughter of William David "Billy" Hazlewood and Elaine Leona Toler, was born on 26 Aug 1891 in Amite Co, MS and died on 26 Apr 1954. Both were buried in Bethany Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Ariel, MS. After marriage Wren and "Maggie" removed to Clarksdale where he delivered milk and was a mail carrier. One family story is that before house mail deliveries in the country, he organized a mail delivery service for families living in rural Coahoma county, which later led to becoming a mail carrier. Francis Wren Smiley and Margaret "Maggie" Hazlewood had the following children:

1.1. **David Leslie Smiley** was born on 17 Mar 1921 in Clarksdale, Coahoma Co, MS and died on 27 Dec 2004. He resided at 7145 Renoldo St, Winston Salem, SC 27106. His Sunday School classes were broadcast on WFDD, an affiliate of PBS radio, for numerous years in the Winston Salem, NC area.

Why I became an historian

The ancient Roman essayist and orator Marcus Tullius Cicero wrote that people who do not know history must forever remain infants. We begin to grow up when we become aware that we have contributed but little to humanity's treasure, and are obligated to those who went before for nearly everything that makes us who we are. For me that awareness came when I was eight years old. My second grade teacher drew a map on the chalkboard to show the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the New World. I can see her standing before the class just as if it were yesterday and not a lifetime removed. She drew a country that looked like a leg and a boot kicking a triangular football that was Sicily. She told us that in Genoa on the west coast of that athletic leg a man was born who did something of surpassing importance more than four hundred years before I was born. Next, the teacher drew a line to show the route those three tiny ships took. She read the stirring poem "Columbus" by Joaquin Miller:

**Behind him lay the gray Azores
Behind the Gates of Hercules;
Before him not the ghost of shores,
Before him only shoreless seas.
The good mate said: "Now must we pray,
For lo! The very stars are gone.
Brave Admiral speak, what shall I say?"
"Why, say 'Sail on! And on!"**

The map, the discovery, the courage, and the consequences, all aroused my imagination. Dimly I apprehended the fact that the land upon which I lived was a New World, its existence unknown [to] those who gave me my language, the priestly nation who gave me my religion or to the Scots

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

who provided my family name and lineage. The ripples of my awareness extended from that startling revelation. I discovered a library filled with books about other daring and innovative people. I read about those who solved the mystery of the flooding of the Nile, and who began the age of the wheel, and who learned how to measure the passage of time. The study of Latin was another revelation. It taught me that long before people of the Mediterranean world knew of a Scotland (or a Smiley) they knew words which became the very building blocks for the language I heard around me every day.

David Leslie Smiley and **Helen Madison** were married on 27 Oct 1945 in Dallas, TX. **Helen Madison** died on 16 Mar 2005. David Leslie Smiley and Helen Madison had the following child:

1.1.1. **Kay Smiley** was born on 27 Nov 1950 in Madison, WI. **Kay Smiley** and **Josh McKaughan** were married 8 Nov 1986. **Josh McKaughan** was a history teacher in Mar 2012.

1.2. **Sara Frances Smiley** was born in 1923 and died in 2005. Sara was a graduate of Clarksdale High School and Mississippi College. She taught at Tutwiler and Southwest Community College, Summit, MS. Sara resided at 106 Sinclair St, McComb, MS. **Sara Frances Smiley** and **Johnnie Lee Crawford** were married. **Johnnie Lee Crawford**, son of Joe and Ruby Crawford, was born in 1925 in Walthall Co, MS and died in 1961. Both were buried in Hollywood Cemetery, McComb, Miss. Johnnie Lee was an accountant with Great Southern Wire Box Company in Fernwood, Pike Co, MS. Sara Frances Smiley and Johnnie Lee Crawford had the following child:

1.2.1. **Linda Diane Crawford** was born on 28 Oct 1951 in McComb, Pike Co, MS. Diane attended Southwest Community College and graduated from University of Southern Mississippi school of Social Work. She worked for the State of Mississippi as a social worker in Adams County before retiring in June of 2011. **Linda Diane Crawford** and **Luther Jackson "Jack" Lazarus** were married on 4 Jun 1977 in Central Baptist Church, McComb, Pike Co, MS. **Luther Jackson "Jack" Lazarus**, son of Herman Lee Lazarus and Rachel Marie Ballard, was born on 4 Sep 1945 in McComb, MS. Diane and Jack lived in Natchez, MS, Mar 2012

1.3. **William Clayton "Billy" Smiley** was born on 14 Mar 1926 in Clarksdale, Coahoma Co, MS. He died on 23 Jan 2002 and was buried in Memorial Gardens, Clarksdale, MS. Billy was born on 14 March 1926 and died 23 January 2002. Billy worked with South Central Bell and resided in Greenville, MS. **William Clayton "Billy" Smiley** and **Frances Irene Green** were married in 1948. **Frances Irene Green** was born on 8 Mar 1927 in Lambert, Quitman Co, MS and died in 2006. Frances graduated from Lambert High School, Quitman Co, MS. Frances' family moved from Lambert, MS to Clarksdale, MS. William Clayton "Billy" Smiley and Frances Irene Green had the following children:

1.3.1. **Sharon Smiley** was born on 22 Jun 1949. **Sharon Smiley** and **Thomas Gaston "Tom" Hutchison** were married on 7 Aug 1971. Tom was employed with Wastequip in Alexandria, LA, where they resided in Mar 2012. **Thomas Gaston "Tom" Hutchison** was born on 5 Aug 1949 in Indianola, MS.

1.3.2. **Frances Wren Smiley** was born on 30 Dec 1953. **Frances Wren Smiley** and **Kenny Dukes** were married. They divorced. .

1.4. **Charles Robinson Smiley** was born on 8 Jul 1931 in Clarksdale, Coahoma Co, MS. Charles joined the US Air Force in 1950, his last year at Clarksdale High School, Clarksdale, MS.

(Continued on page 5)

Charles Robinson Smiley and **Joan Marie Lowthian** were married on 8 May 1954 in Las Vegas, NV. They married while Charles was in service. **Joan Marie Lowthian**, daughter of Timothy Lyle Lowthian and Leona Dorothy Graf, was born on 6 Jun 1930 in Unionville, Michigan. Joan was a nurse in California, Mississippi, and Michigan. Charles and Joan were residing in Unionville, Michigan, March 2012. Charles Robinson Smiley and Joan Marie Lowthian had the following children:

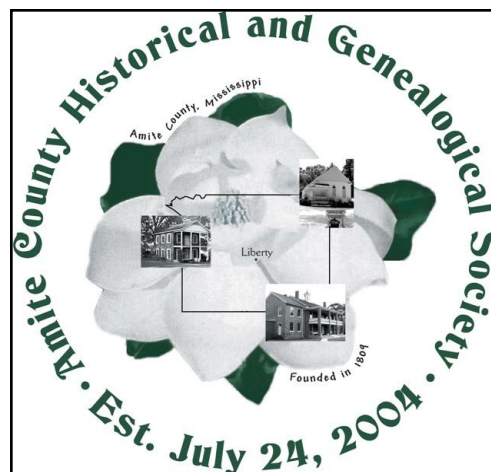
1.4.1. **Lisa Rene Smiley** was born on 1 Dec 1956. **Lisa Rene Smiley** and **Job West** were married. They were divorced.

1.4.2. **Melinda Margaret Smiley** was born on 2 Nov 1961. **Melinda Margaret Smiley** and **David Rix** were married.

1.4.3. **Kevin Wren Smiley** was born on 8 Oct 1964. **Kevin Wren Smiley** and **Kristin Melsen** were married on 8 Oct 1964.

Francis Wren Smiley and **(2) Katie Mae Hazlewood** were married in Jul 1956.

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.



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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