



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

September 2013 **Vol. 9, No. 9**

Without a past, there is no future

Next meeting: The next meeting will be a regular business meeting at 10:00 am on September 14, 2013, in the meeting room of the Liberty Library.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of August 10, 2013 meeting

DRAFT

Future Meeting Schedule

September 14, 2013, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

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

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

December 14, 2013, Time TBA — Annual Society Open House and Membership Drive.

January 11, 2014, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

February 8, 2014, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

March 8, 2014, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

April 12, 2014, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

May 10, 2014, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

June 14, 2014, 10:00 am — Annual membership meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:12 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 18 attendees. Mary Ann Gerhardt gave the invocation.

Pres. Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting then moved directly to the minutes of the meeting in June. Pres. Taylor pointed out an error in the bank balance reported in the draft minutes where a digit was omitted from the balance. The corrected value should be \$5877.74. She then asked if anyone had any other corrections. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Greg Barron made a motion to adopt the minutes as corrected; Linda Lea seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

President Report:

Pres. Taylor circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers to commit to provide refreshments at future meetings.

She reported that a Sacred Harp singing was scheduled for August 24 and 25 in central Mississippi. Anyone interested in attending can see her for additional information.

She circulated a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in attending "Angels on the Bluff" in Natchez to sign up if they wished to attend with the society group. The admission is \$25 and should be given to Dawn after the meeting.

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She announced that a committee is needed to make arrangements for the December Open House. Preliminary plans still call for looking at a Gloster venue on the second Saturday in December (the 14th). Later in the meeting, she returned to this item and asked what time of day the members thought the open house should be held. Also, she asked in members would want to participate in the Gloster Christmas Parade if it is held on December 14. Decisions on time and parade participation will be decided later. Gay Blalock and Mary Ann Gerhardt volunteered to help on this project.

Members of the society have been invited by the Southwest Mississippi Genealogical Society to attend a presentation by representatives from the MS Dept. of Archives and History. The event will be at the library in McComb on September 24, 2013 at 6:00 pm. The event is free.

She asked what the members thought of doing a calendar featuring pictures of old Amite Co. homes (and maybe other buildings). It was generally agreed that the calendar images should be new ones, i.e., not used previously on society materials or publications. It was decided that a committee composed of Oma Gordon, Nancy Martin, James Allen Causey, and Sam King would work (with Pres. Taylor) on putting something together.

She announced that a commemoration of the Battle of Liberty was scheduled for November 8, 2014, and the society will work around that date, perhaps holding the Open House in November instead of December.

She announced that CelticFest will be held at Jackson on September 7, 2013.

Vice President Report:

VP Nancy Martin reported that a letter was written to the Board of Supervisors and presented to them in their last meeting. The letter requests the Board's assistance in getting the problems with the Little Red Schoolhouse structure repaired. The Board committed to fixing the immediate problem of the water leak on the back of the structure. They asked for a completed inspection by maintenance personnel of the other problems reported by the society.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson had no report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock reported that the society currently has a bank balance of \$6175.79. Sam King made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Greg Barron seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

LRSH COMMITTEE REPORT:

Recently family members attending a family reunion visited and toured the LRSH.

Supervisor Warren Leake visited the LRSH to do an inspection for the Board of Supervisors and had the upstairs lights repaired.

Mrs. Vera has looked into getting some type of memento item to give to children and school class members who tour the LRSH. Will probably settle on pencils with the society/LRSH logo.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Items included:

Greg Barron presented a copy of Tom Lalick's book on Grierson Raid to the society for the library.

He also presented a publication containing excerpts from Dunbar Rowland's Military History of Mississippi covering Amite County's involvement in the War of 1812.

Other Business: Pres. Taylor announced that she and other contributors are going to begin a genealogy column for the Southern Herald. Initially, the column will address the victims of the Gloster tornado of April 6, 1935.

Following the conclusion of all business, Joanna Hearn presented information from the recent cemetery workshop in Natchez entitled "History of Cemetery Development."

The meeting adjourned at about 11:30 am.

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You may contact this editor at:
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Or by e-mail at
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BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

**Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of
Reverend Doctor Robert Marshall McGehee and Wessie Brumfield McGehee**
by Patricia McGehee Sargent
as told to her by
Stephen Hardin McGehee

It was time to leave. We'd been suited with ties for WAY too long - an hour or two. Really, a few minutes is too long. We had met second, third cousins, friends, and parishioners - too many people I didn't know. We were the hosts, with parents, uncles, aunts and first cousins. This was the celebration of our grandparents' fiftieth wedding anniversary,. Wessie Eula Brumfield married Robert Marshall McGehee in the morning of June 1920. Now the years of "thick and thin" called for a party. Cousin Dolly [Robinson] graciously opened her ante-bellum home where we now stood, hankering to leave.

My fifteen year-old eyes had seen and tasted enough. We had tasted little sandwiches, cheese, other fancy foods, and drunk punch to capacity. Good. But now it was time for a cooling off treat.

Even our West Virginia summer wasn't this melty hot. We were in south Mississippi in 1970, where more than the weather sizzled.

We looked for a safe way to ease away without notice. Younger brother, John, liked the idea. We looked for a safe way to ease away without notice. The back hallway seemed to be the best. Guests, fully engaged in sights other than the McGehee boys, I signaled John. With stealth and zeal, we separately departed. Meeting outside, we shed ties and coats - dropping them at the car and headed east on West St. Mary's Street.

We didn't know our exact route, but we knew where we were headed. Two years ago, we had discovered the ice cream parlor at Gordon Carr's Drugstore. That was our current destination.

Unfamiliar with the town, we just started walking straight down the street. After several blocks, we had not come to Main Street - figured we were parallel to it. We turned left, walked two blocks and came to Main Street. Not seeing Gordon Carr's Drugstore at that point, we turned right, walked across the railroad tracks. On that corner stood a storefront with a screen door. From the inside, we heard rock n' roll music. Above the door a sign glowed, **'bar'**.

Suddenly a woman exploded from within - slamming the door. Her ebony face shown serious, like my 8th grade math teacher's after a quiz error.

"What are you boys doing here?" she shouted, eyes piercing our faces.

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"We're just trying to find the drugstore with the ice cream," I answered.

"You shouldn't be in this part of town. You're not safe. Who are your? Who is your family?"

"I'm Steve McGehee and this is my brother John."

"Are you Miss Wessie's grandchildren?"

"Yes, Ma'am."

"Wait here!"

She went inside the building like a flash. We heard her dialing a phone. Heard quietly speaking into the receiver. She was back in less than two minutes - standing beside us on the sidewalk.

"I'm staying with you until your grandmother gets here. From now on, you stay near your grandma's place and don't ever cross those tracks, you hear?"

Bumfuzzled as we were about our situation, we were afraid to ask what was going on. Why would we stay on the other side of the tracks in this village??? At home, we rode bicycles on the tracks.

Within five minutes, we saw Granddad's old dodge approaching. Grandmother pulled up to the curb. "Get in, boys, Hello, Mrs. Brown. Thank you for calling."

I felt that several parts had been left out of the brief conversation. We waved. Mrs. Brown returned the wave as Grandmother turned the corner and doubled back toward home.

"Boys, Mrs. Brown and I work together to feed some hungry people. Here some white people and some dark people do not get along. This episode is between us. We will not tell Granddad. Do you understand?"

"Yes," we said. But we really didn't understand.

Dr. Robert Marshall McGehee, son of George Addison McGehee and Amazon Cotten, married **Wessie Eula Brumfield**, daughter of George Albert Brumfield MD and Ophelia Crane on 29 Jun 1920 in Tylertown, Mississippi. They were the parents of four sons:

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1. **Dr. Ralph Marshall McGehee**, born 23 Apr 1921, Magnolia, MS and died 2 Aug 2005, Brentwood, TX married **Ellen Lowe** 27 Feb 1945. Their children were: **Peggy Frances, Jo Ellen, and Ralph Lowe**.
2. **Rev. Joseph Albert McGehee**, born 20 Aug 1922, Magnolia, MS and died 1 Mar 1999, Conroe, TX, married **Coline Austin Thies** 28 Aug 1946, Davidson, NC. Their children were: **Joseph Albert Jr., Blanche Claire, and David Robert**.
3. **Vernon Brumfield McGehee**, born 15 Mar 1924, Mansfield, LA and died 6 Jan 1978, Panama City, FL married **Anna Faye Hardin** 18 Dec 1948, Washington, DC. Their children were: **Patricia Ann, Linda Faye, Stephen Hardin, and John Marshall**
4. **Rev. Robert Grafton McGehee**, born 29 Dec 1926, Mansfield, LA married **Corinne Smith**, 20 Feb 1952, Valdosta, GA. Their children were: **Georgia Smith, Mary Weiss, Robert Marshall II**.

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Share your Amite County genealogy, stories, additions, and corrections by sending to Frances Phares, PO Box 1639, Clinton, LA 70722 or phrances@att.net.

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Memorials and Honorariums may be sent to Amite County Historical & Genealogical Society, PO Box 2, Liberty, MS 39645. Please indicate the name of person remembered or honored with address to send the acknowledgment if known.



ACHGS Standing Committees and Chairpersons

Due to changes in membership and in makeup of committees, the Standing Committees are being reevaluated and reformed. Once this process is complete, a new list will be posted.

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