

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of November 12, 2011 meeting

Approved by vote of membership attending the 14 January 2012 meeting

President Greg Barron called the meeting to order at 10:04 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 18 attendees. Mrs. Frances Phares gave the invocation.

The draft minutes from the October 8, 2011 meeting were presented for approval. At VP Dawn Taylor's request, Sect. Anderson made a slight wording change on the VP report concerning the cost of the quilt and the profit realized thus far on the raffle. Oma Gordon made a motion to approve; Vera Prestridge seconded. The minutes were approved as written by vote of the members present.

President Report: Pres. Barron reported:

- The MS Dept. of Archives and History has sent a letter of thanks to the society for its nomination of William Leo Hansberry to the Mississippi Hall of Fame.
- Pres. Barron has received from an anonymous source a number of books, Sweetly Be, by long-time columnist Rose Bud Stevens (Mamie Willoughby) who lived on Hwy. 24 near the east border of the county.

Vice President Report: VP Dawn Taylor's reported:

- Open House will be held from 12 noon to 3 pm at the Decatur Butler house on Hwy 567, northwest of Liberty. This is also known as the Tommy Talbert house. Members who are volunteering to help should arrive by 11:00 am. A notice of the event will be put in the paper. Parking will be available along the semi-circular drive. Someone will be needed to help direct visitors to parking. A sign-up sheet for providing refreshments is being circulated for volunteers to indicate what type of food they will bring.
- VP Taylor and Linda Lea attended the first ever presentation of "Shadows of the Past" tour of the Vicksburg National Military Park. Park Rangers took groups through a series of stops on a tour of the park. Reenactors portrayed participants of the Vicksburg siege at various points on the tour.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson had no report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock presented reported that the society currently has a bank balance of \$5137.90. Wayne Anderson made a motion to approved the Treasurer's report; Linda Lea seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

LRSB COMMITTEE REPORT: Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported that new member, Irene Van Norman, has agreed to serve as a LRSB committee member. There will be a tour of the LRSB by attendees of a class reunion in April 2012. In the approach to Christmas, the Christmas cards are selling; Mrs. Vera will continue to sell as long as there is a demand.

Old Business: Pres. Barron gave a brief update on member Bill Rimes who has been ill in recent months. Currently he is in Beacham Hospital in Magnolia.

New Business: New business included:

- A new bill concerning access to historic cemeteries is being prepared for legislative filing in the next session of the Legislature. A previous bill failed to be approved out of committee.
- Jim Freeman, at the request of Pres. Barron, attended a recent public hearing on this cemeteries bill held in Hattiesburg. The hearing was attended by 16 people. Two legislators were present. The new bill will be drafted to confine its impact to just the aspect of access by visitors and protections on the relative liability issues that may arise for both the visitors and the landowners. Other aspects of previous bills, such as maintenance of cemeteries by governmental agencies, will be left out of the new version so as to not obscure the real purpose of the bill. It is hoped that the bill can be crafted in such a way that the main opponent of previous bills, the Farm Bureau, will be able to put their support behind the new bill.
- Jim Freeman contributed a genealogy book to the society for the LRSB collection.
- Mrs. Vilar asked if the society had ever considered offering small scholarships to students to encourage involvement of younger people in the society. Secretary Anderson pointed out that while granting

scholarships would be worthwhile when and if extra funds were available, the rules and procedures for selecting a recipient would need to be crafted by an attorney so that the society could be protected from liability and lawsuits from litigious parties.

- Jim Freeman gave the society a heads-up that the "tall ships" (the multi-masted wooden vessels common in the 18th and 19th centuries) would be in New Orleans April 17-23, 2012, in observance of the bicentennial of the War of 1812.
- Jan Vilar informed the group that the Maritime Museum in Norfolk, VA, has put parts of the recovered iron-clad warship *Monitor* on display.

Other Business: Linda Lea announced that some members would be traveling after the meeting to Washington, MS for the Wirt Adams reenactment.

Monthly Program: Mrs. Frances Phares introduced Mrs. Canetti O'Brien and Mrs. Marilyn Harvey who presented a short program on the Daughters of the American Revolution and its activities. Mrs. O'Brien is currently Vice Regent of the DAR and Mrs. Harvey is Secretary. A number of handouts were made available to the attendees. Of primary interest to the local area is the information that the Mississippi DAR owns *Rosalie* antebellum home in Natchez and have a genealogy library there that is available to researchers.

President Barron adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.