Next meeting: The next meeting will be a regular business meeting at 10:00 am on February 8, 2014, in the meeting room of the Liberty Library.

**AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Minutes of January 11 20143 meeting

**DRAFT**

President Dawn Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:06 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 17 attendees. Pres. Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pres. Taylor then moved to the draft November meeting minutes. She asked if anyone had corrections or objections to the draft minutes. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Greg Barron made a motion to adopt the minutes; Nancy Martin seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

**President Report:**
The society participants in the Gloster Christmas parade had a good time. They learned though that throwing out candy or beads gets more attention from the onlookers.

The Open House went well though attendance was less than hoped for. The notice of the open house did not appear in the Wilk-Amite Record as was expected. Publisher Casey Campbell subsequently did a big story with pictures in the next issue.

Pres. Taylor thanked the Huffs for allowing the use of their home and remarked on how beautifully the house was decorated for the event.

**Vice President Report:** VP Nancy Martin reported that more volunteers are needed for the Find-a-Grave updating project. Anyone interested

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in helping can contact Nancy or Oma Gordon to volunteer.

Secretary Report: Secy. Anderson reminded everyone that beginning with the last renewals of membership, membership cards have been issued showing when the current membership term expires. If anyone hasn’t gotten a card, notify Wayne Anderson at siteManager@ACHGS.org or by phone to 601-857-8272. Pres. Dawn Taylor requested that the membership year criteria be explained in the next newsletter.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock was not present so no reported was available.

OPEN HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT: Mary Ann Gerhardt reported on details of the Open House on December 14, 2013.

LRSH COMMITTEE REPORT: There was no activity at the LRSH in the last month. Mrs. Vera and Mrs. Ann Brumfield registered 47 attendees at the Open House.

CALENDAR COMMITTEE: Mrs. Oma Gordon thanked everyone for their help in selling the calendars. Only a handful remain. Most of the sales were from supplies placed at Blalock’s Grocery.

STEERING COMMITTEE: Pres. Dawn Taylor reported that:
Work is continuing on arrangements for the Battle of Liberty observance on November 8, 2014. The society has already collected enough money to cover the cost of the historic marker. A site for the marker is still being sought. Due to the variety of other memorials and markers already on the court house lawn, another location will be sought to assure the marker gets appropriate attention.
Work is also continuing on the design of a collectible doubloon addressing the Battle of Liberty to be sold as a fund-raiser.
For Heritage Day, actors are being sought to portray Reverend Shirk and his family; this dramatization will be at the house across the road where Rev. Shirk is thought to have lived.

Old Business: None.

New Business:
Greg Barron reminded the group that the Stockdale Rangers SCV Camp has invited the society to participate in the Lee-Jackson Banquet 6:00 pm on January 18 at the Tangipahoa Baptist Church Family Life Center. The banquet is pot luck so bring a dish suitable to provide several servings. It has been promised that a band will provide musical entertainment.
Mrs. Frances Phares reported that a new book about the Waddell and Seales Families of Amite County has been published.
Greg Barron reported that he is reading through the book on Songs and Ballads of the Revolutionary War that Mrs. Phares presented two months ago and he will give a brief report on the book at the February meeting.

Other Business:
Pres. Taylor asked for members to make suggestions on possible field trips this year. She suggested going to Rodney in March in lieu of a business meeting at Liberty. Another suggestion was to go to Beauvoir on the coast later in the year.
Mr. James Allen Causey recommended the state registry (book) as a good source of information on the state.
Pres. Taylor thanked all the society members who worked on the Open House.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.
 BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Bits and pieces of Amite County news, believed to be of interest to the Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society, were gleaned from the six volumes of the Woodville Republican, Mississippi’s oldest existing newspaper. These volumes, published by Heritage Books, Inc. were abstracted and compiled by O’Levia Neil Wilson Wiese. With permission from the compiler, members of the society have a chance to take a peek at her compilations.

Continuing from: The Woodville Republican, Volume 4

May 10, 1879 - Col. Neilson’s horse ran away and threw him from his buggy. His left wrist was fractured and he also suffered a bruise over the right eye. Drs. Magruder and Therrel were called in and set the broken limb without causing much suffering. Jun 21, 1879 - Col Neilson gets around very well with his broken arm and will soon have it ready for action.

July 19, 1879 - Mrs. Sarah Anne Dorsey, who died recently in New Orleans left her whole estate to Ex-President Davis. She was a native of Natchez and was a writer of considerable merit. At her request, her remains were buried in Natchez. This legacy of Mrs. Dorsey will make the circumstances of Mr. Davis quite easy and comfortable. He courts quiet retirement and reflection and in his little study, with a good library and a diligent secretary to record his observations and recollections, relieved of all the cares and anxieties of active life, he will spend his declining years.

August 23, 1879 - The law of Texas which requires trains going out of the State to stop thirty minutes on the Texas side of the line has just gone into force. The penalty for violating the law is $40, and several conductors have already had to pay the penalty. They think that a stop of 10 minutes is long enough to look through the train for escaped criminals.

December 6, 1879 - We, the undersigned citizens of Wilkinson County, do hereby call a meeting of our fellow citizens to assemble at the Court House in Woodville on Dec 15th to consider the feasibility of constructing a narrow-gauge Railroad, from Woodville to Liberty, and to take the necessary steps to put it through if it be deemed practicable: T V Noland, C P Neilson, Joseph Redhead, Thos Johns, Felix Embree, Peter Moller, Geo T McGehee, H S Van Eaton, R C McNeil, Hugh L Davis, C G McGehee, Thos H Gildart.

December 20, 1879 - C P Neilson, R M McGehee, and Douglas Embree were appointed to attend the Railroad meeting in Liberty. Isaac T Hart, M H Woodruff and John S Lewis were to canvas the support of the Railroad.

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January 10, 1880 - Colonel B. F. Johns of Amite, a very able lawyer and legislator, was elected Speaker of the House.

January 23, 1880 - **Liberty Herald**: Mr. James A. Parker, living several miles from town was shot by the accidental discharge of his gun. His heel was literally torn to pieces and as he was already lame of one leg from white swelling, he is now a cripple for life in the other. Truly the hand of Providence has dealt hard with this unfortunate man.

August 12, 1880 - Mr. Stephen Jackson, living about nine miles northwest of Liberty, had a 79 feet well bored. A few days after it was finished, a sound issued from the well resembling that made by a bellows when in motion. It was found that a current of cool air was coming out at the top sufficient to blow a light hat off when placed over it. The blowing occurs during the afternoon, and can be heard for several yards. Will someone explain the phenomenon? (Liberty Herald)

**The Woodville Republican: Volume 5: January 1, 1881 - December 22, 1883**

January 1, 1881 - Prof. R. J. Pemble, Principal of "Bethany Male and Femine Institute" announces that the school will reopen on January 11th. Our aim will be to communicate as thorough interaction as the mind of the pupil is capable of receiving. We refer to Rev. W.[R] S. McAllister, Mr. J. W. Anderson and the community generally of Centreville and to Col. C. P. Neilson of Woodville.

C. P. Neilson, Attorney and Counsellor at Law, Woodville, Miss., will practice in all the Courts of Wilkinson, Amite, Pike, and Franklin counties, and the Supreme and Federal courts at Jackson. His office located on Commercial Row over J. R. Berry's Drug Store.

Jan 7, 1882, "Letter to the editor from J. D. Calahan. 'I was born in Wilkinson County; near neighbors to my father were Gov Poindexter, Gov Scott, Gov Brandon and Judge Pinckney Smith. I went to school at Wilkinson Academy, the same school house in which Jefferson Davis was a pupil; I am in my sixty-fourth year.' . . . . . . .

June 3, 1882 - We clip the following notice from the **Liberty Herald**, of the death of Mrs. Virginia G. Cowdin, formerly of this place. "Died in Platonia, Texas, on the 19th inst., Mrs. Virginia G. Cowdin, in the 63rd year of her age. Mrs. Cowdin was a Virginian by birth, and removed to this county from Woodville, Miss., in 1844, when she was the widow of George L. Poindexter. She subsequently married Dr. T. G. Cowdin of this place, and resided here until 1879, when being again a widow, she moved to Texas, whence came the sad tidings of her death."

The Vicksburg Herald relates, as a pleasant little episode, how Jefferson Davis, on the occasion of his late visit to his plantation in Davis' Bend was serenaded by a colored band, the speech that the ex-Confederate chieftain made to the boys, and that he returned the compliment by presenting the members of the band with new and handsome uniforms. The leader of the band is
B. T. Montgomery, the son of one of Mr. Davis' former slaves, and the brother of the present treasurer of Warren County.

July 29, 1882 - W A Gallent notifies the Public that he is ready to engage in mechanical work of any kind, and Gin work of all kinds is a specialty. Mr W A Gallent has a patent attachment to a gin brush which is said to be a great advantage, particularly in ginning damp or wet cotton.

August 8, 1882  Woodville Republican - We are informed that on the evening of Tuesday last, Mr. E. B. McLain, of this county, lost two fine mares by lightning. Liberty Herald
Aug 19, 1882 - Mr W A Gallent offers his services to the public as Carpenter and builder.

November 11, 1882 - Dr. J. R. Sample, assisted by Dr. W. M. Wroton, of Magnolia, performed an operation in minor surgery upon Dr. Bryant of Liberty, last Monday, much to the relief of the patient, who has consulted several eminent surgeons in New Orleans without avail. The disease, a perineal abscess probably caused by a blind fistula, was of long standing, ably alleviated, and there is every prospect that Dr. will be restored to his former health and usefulness, a consummation which will be the source of such gratification to his many friends. Summit Intelligence

Editor's Note: This is the fifth part of a lengthy collection of news items; it is expected that six or seven parts will be needed to publish the collected items.

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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.

An Explanation of the Membership Year

All membership types except Life Membership are for a 12-month period defined as the society’s fiscal year—July through June of the following calendar year. However, new (first time) members who join on or after the December Open House date receive the rest of the current fiscal year plus an additional fiscal year. This extra period is applicable only to the first membership enrollment if it comes at about mid-year or later. Members can qualify for this benefit in membership year only once. Next month: Regaining membership after a lapse in dues.

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