Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society
Oma J. Gordon, President  William G. Barron, Vice Pres.
Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary  N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer
Robert Stratton, Council-at-large  Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

Welcome to the 10th issue of the ACHGS newsletter —
In keeping with the announcement made in the last issue, it has been decided to start printing the newsletter more frequently when the previous month's business warrants the publication of lengthy minutes.
In any month that this newsletter is sent out, the postcard notices of the meetings will not be sent to avoid duplication of effort.
Since this will increase postage costs, it is important that members give feedback on whether they prefer issues this frequently. Please let this editor know your thoughts on this (see e-mail and mail addresses elsewhere in this issue.
Thank you.

Contact: Historic Natchez Foundation
Tel: 601-442-2500, e-mail: hnf@natchez.org
Web site: www.natchez.org

Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration
SOUTHERN ACCENTS: Language in the Deep South, February 22-25/2007 at the Natchez Convention Center

Natchez Spring Pilgrimage
March 10-April 14, 2007
For more info call 601-446-6631 or 1-800-647-6742, e-mail visit@natchezpilgrimage.com
Web site: www.natchezpilgrimage.com

Future Meeting Schedule
Thursday, February 8, 2007, 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 10, 2007, 10:00 am
Thursday, April 12, 2007, 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 10, 2006, 7:00 pm
Saturday, June 9, 2006, 10:00 am

Last time we asked...
Why could the Liberty White train not run on the existing tracks running north and south through McComb?
The answer: The track gauge (the width between the tracks) was narrow compared to standard tracks such as those on the line through McComb.

Sorry, no new trivia question this month.
Draft Minutes of 11 January 2007 meeting

President Oma Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the courtroom, Amite County Courthouse, Liberty, MS. There were 23 attendees. Jeannine Dixon was asked to open the meeting with prayer.

Due to the number of new members and guest present, President Gordon introduced the officers and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

Pres. Gordon asked if all present had reviewed the draft minutes of the November meeting. After a few moments to allow those who had not read through the draft to do so, Doug Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. James Allen Causey seconded. The motion passed without dissention.

President's Report: Pres. Gordon summarized all the activities and accomplishments of the ACHGS during 2006. Details covered included:

1. the printing of the WPA books and subsequent sale (as of the meeting, 116 sets of the 150 have been sold);
2. recognized the accomplishments of Mrs. Vera Prestridge (and VP Barron) in getting the LRSH operating for tours by appointment, including the printing and distribution of the LRSH flyers, the framing for display of the charcoal prints showing four views of the LRSH in a bygone day, the printing of the post cards for sale, the printing of the note cards featuring the charcoal print images and the efforts made to get the LRSH first floor cleaned up and rearranged to reduce clutter and facilitate visitors;
3. recognized the efforts made by Mrs. Lessie McCastle to rid the 2nd floor museum area of accumulated junk and facilitate visitors;
4. the installation of the venetian blinds on the windows in the LRSH; and
5. the donation of the WPA books and the Amite Co. marriage records books to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Pres. Gordon also reported that she had accepted donation of additional research materials for the LRSH, including a CD on the Prestridge family, one covering the Jones, Downs, Holmes, Tucker, Muse and McGehee families, and one showing images of the homes of Amite County. Finally, Pres. Gordon indicated that she had made a limited number of copies of the MS History Newsletter available for those who wanted copies and pointed out that members could receive their own copy directly from the MDAH by signing up for the free subscription as described in the newsletter itself.

VP Report: VP Barron reported on the following:

1. briefly discussed the December 9, 2006, open house and membership drive and thanked all those who helped with the efforts that day;
2. reported that the society has now received membership dues from the first applicant outside the United States, Mr. Ronald Land of Glasgow, Scotland, UK;
3. reported that his son, Will, had turned 12 and was submitting an application to become a student member in his own right;
4. reported that the society will be receiving a gift of two used Hewlett-Packard PCs from the Pike-Amite Library System due to replacement of the library system computers (one has already been received but is not yet operable while another from the Gloster branch is expected in the next week or two);
5. reported that he and son Will were presenting two items on long term loan for display in the LRSH – a shadow-boxed display of hand-crafted agate beads, ca. 1850, originating in the Idar-Oberstein area of Germany, and a similarly boxed display of two pennies with the likeness of a young Queen Victoria, a pin from the Queen's jubilee in 1887, and several stamps.
6. reported that Dale and Gloria Williams of the Smithdale Community had given the society, through him for display in the 2nd floor museum of the LRSH, a set of crutches found in the old Parker Home in the Hebron Community that was likely used by a returning Confederate veteran; and
7. reported that he had purchased, on behalf of the society and with the approval of Pres. Gordon, a book called Family Maps of Amite County, Mississippi Land Plat Deed, ISBN 1-3203-0349-X, to be kept available for research at the LRSH.

Secretary's Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson had no report other than to again ask if everyone was receiving a copy of the newsletter now that it was being published monthly. Again some members reported not receiving the mail copy of the newsletter and those members were asked to talk with Secy. Anderson after the meeting to verify mailing information.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock verbally provided a Treasurer's report that, since the November 9, 2006, meeting when the bank balance was $4856.72, the society has received $3372.20 and had expenses of $1958.77 resulting in a balance as of the meeting date of $6280.77. Due a problem having copies made of the hard copy of the report for members, no formal vote on approval of the Treasurer's report was taken.

Prior to the committee reports being given, Pres. Gordon asked Mrs. Vera Prestridge to show the (Continued on page 3)
members the framed picture of the LRSH she had received as a Christmas gift from her daughter. Pres. Gordon then announced that an additional print had been donated to the society and that the Executive Board had authorized payment to have the image framed just as Mrs. Vera's picture so that it could be hung in the LRSH.

Pres. Gordon also reported that she had received a donation of some boxes of news clippings from the mid-20th century that would be placed into protective sleeves and added to family files that were being set up in the LRSH.

VP Barron reminded the group that the next Saturday meeting would be in March, at which time a program would be presented by Myron Noonkester from Wm. Carey College.

Mrs. Jeanine Dixon announced that she was donating a book on the Marsalis family to the society.

Committee Reports:
- Little Red Schoolhouse - Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported that as a result of the newspaper notice about the December open house, a lady in Osyka had contacted her about information she wished to donate to the society relative to the builder of the LRSH, Rev. Shirk. Mrs. Vera and probably others will visit with this lady in the near future to see what records &/or artifacts she wishes to donate.
- Membership - Jeannine Dixon reported that as of the last accounting prior to the meeting, the society had 140 members.

Old business: No items of old business, other than those covered above, were brought up.

New business:
- Mr. James Allen Causey spoke briefly about the intent to create a directory of veterans from the county and how that would be ultimately tied into bigger population data projects that would ultimately be internet accessible for researchers.
- Doug Lewis gave a short eulogizing report on the loss of the old Delos Cassels house by fire.
- David Dreyer talked about events of possible historical interest taking place in Natchez in the near future including a symposium on February 8, 9 & 10 on “History and Memory” and an event by the Natchez Literary and Cinema on February 22-25, 2007, with the theme “Southern Accents: Language in the Deep South.” He also reported that Marshal Miller of the Coles area, who was an authority on Franklin County history had recently passed away.

Following a closing prayer by Gay Blalock, the business meeting adjourned at about 8:00 PM.

ACHGS Standing Committees and Chairpersons

These chairpersons will pick a committee to assist them. Feel free to offer your help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chairperson(s)</th>
<th>Contact info</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amite County History</td>
<td>Kenneth Gordon</td>
<td>601-657-8352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives (LRSH)</td>
<td>Lessie McCarstle</td>
<td>601-657-5888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries</td>
<td>Bobby Haygood, Jennie Livingston</td>
<td>601-657-486, 601-276-7127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History</td>
<td>Nelson Dawson</td>
<td>601-657-9208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Lois Bates</td>
<td>601-657-4176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Ann Brumfield</td>
<td>601-684-2031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Jeannine Dixon</td>
<td>601-657-8915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>Greg Barron</td>
<td>601-684-3018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Melanie Hubbs, Robert Stratton</td>
<td>601-684-2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>Kay Fleming</td>
<td>580-747-5218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tours</td>
<td>James Allen Causey</td>
<td>601-657-8412</td>
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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 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):