Next meeting: The next meeting will be regular meeting at 10:00 am on November 12, 2011, in the conference room of the library in Liberty.

Future Meeting Schedule

November 12, 2011, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS. A presentation will be made by representatives of the DAR.

December 3, 2011, 10:00 am — Annual Open House and Membership Drive at the Decatur/Butler House.

January 14, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

February 11, 2012, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

March 10, 2012, 10:00 am — Quarterly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS. Program to be announced.

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 — Quarterly meeting 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.

AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of October 8, 2011 meeting
DRAFT

President Greg Barron called the meeting to order at 10:01 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 13 attendees.

The draft minutes from the September 10, 2011 meeting were presented for approval. 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: Much of the merchandise available in the LRSH has been reduced in price. The new prices are: WPA Books $75; single post cards $0.25/each; Christmas Cards $8/pack; 8x10 prints of the LRSH are 4 for $1.00 (this does not include those that have been hand-colored).

The November meeting is a very important meeting and all members are encouraged to attend as the final plans for the open house will be discussed and finalized.

Pres. Barron presented the membership with a dough-bowl filled with buckeyes and gave a report on all the old wives’ tales about buckeyes. Mrs. Vera Prestridge shared that when she was in Kansas she learned the buckeye was called a “Toby” meaning “good luck charm”.

Vice President Report: VP Dawn Taylor’s reported: The quilt has been quilted out of the frames and (Continued on page 2)
A Little Red Schoolhouse Records Presentation:

Highlights included:

The members were encouraged to add clippings about Amite County and county families (filed by surname) to the files and were also asked to complete Ancestral Charts even if their ancestors were not from Amite County. The completed forms are to become a part of the files in the LRSH collection.

There are large white binders that cover a great deal of Amite County History: Railroads; Indians; Schools; Civil War; Maps of the County, etc.

There are many books available to members: The Casey Books; Jersey Settlers; most of the books can be checked out for one month by ACHGS Members.

The upstairs houses a collection of land abstracts that were brought from a land surveyor’s office in Collins, MS by Jim Freeman. They take the land back to the original land grant where possible. The abstracts are indexed but you must know the details (section number, township, etc.) in order to make use of the index or the abstracts themselves.

It was reported that John Carter is creating a film about Liberty, MS and a clip from the movie can be viewed at www.libertymississippi.movie.com. Donations for the completion of the film are being solicited.

Other Business: None

President Barron adjourned the meeting.

My thanks to Dawn Taylor for taking notes on the October meeting in my absence. Without her help these minutes could not have been prepared.

—Wayne Anderson, Secretary
BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

Albert G. O’Neal

1. Albert G O’Neal, son of Washington O’Neal and Matilda Caroline Marsalis, was born on 9 Nov 1851 and died on 15 Sep 1887. He was buried in Union Methodist Cemetery, Amite Co, MS. Albert G O’Neal and Alice E Berryhill (cousins) were married on 23 Sep 1869 in Amite Co, MS. Alice E Berryhill, daughter of George Washington "Wash" Berryhill and Margaret Ann Robinson, was born on 21 Jun 1854(1851). She died on 13 Oct 1915. They had the following children: Royal R O’Neal and Annie L Roberts were married on 23 Dec 1889 in Amite Co, MS. Annie L Roberts, daughter of John F Roberts and Phoebe S Robertson, was born on 22 Jun 1872 and died on 28 May 1962. They had the following children who died young: Child O’Neal, Maudie M O’Neal, Minnie L O’Neal, Robert R O’Neal, Willie E O’Neal.

1.2. Lillian Roberta "Lillie" O’Neal was born on 25 Jul 1872 in Amite Co, MS. Lillie was a midwife. Lillian Roberta "Lillie" O’Neal and William Thomas Graves were married on 21 Nov 1888 in Amite Co, MS. William Thomas Graves, son of John Scott Graves and Sarah Boatner "Sally" Butler, was born on 30 Jan 1868. He was buried in Roseland Cemetery, Gloster, MS. They had the following children:

1.2.1. James Albert Graves was born on 6 Oct 1889 and died on 30 Jun 1957. James Albert Graves and Lula Knight were married on 10 Mar 1916. Lula Knight, daughter of Samuel Van Victor Knight and Margaret A "Maggie" Hancock, was born on 19 Apr 1898 and died on 11 Aug 1980. Both buried in Graves Chapel Cemetery, Amite Co, MS.

1.2.2. Etta Louise Graves was born on 22 Aug 1891. She died on 5 Sep 1962. Etta Louise Graves and (1) Henry Grady Stokes were married on 24 Dec 1911. Henry Grady Stokes, son of Shelby Courtney Stokes and Perla Coyla Aaron, was born on 18 Oct 1890 in Amite Co, MS. He died on 1 Jan 1953 and was buried in Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery, Amite Co, MS.

Etta Louise Graves and (2) Lucius Eugene Gardner (cousins) were married after 1914. Lucius Eugene Gardner, son of Sylvanus Moore Gardner and Laura A Berryhill, was born on 4 Mar 1887 in, Amite Co, MS. Resided in Houston, TX.

1.2.3. Lloyd Roberta Graves was born on 28 Jan 1894 and died on 29 Sep 1975. Lloyd Roberta Graves and Charlie Beryl Tarbutton were married on 10 Dec 1916.

1.2.4. George Barney (Barnie) Graves was born on 18 Aug 1895 and died on 25 Apr 1979. George Barney (Barnie) Graves and (1) Julia Edna Stokes were married on 18 Apr 1917. Julia Edna Stokes, daughter of Shelby Courtney Stokes and Perla Coyla Aaron, was born on 29 Jul 1898 in Amite Co, MS and died on 21 Aug 1960. Both were buried in Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery, Amite Co, MS. George Barney (Barnie) Graves and (2) Clara Brantley were married 18 April 1961 in East Feliciana Parish, LA. Clara Brantley, daughter of Frank Marion Brantley and Sarah Hinton "Sweet" Walsh, was born on 15 Nov 1895 and died on 23 Jan 1992 in Baton Rouge, LA.

1.2.5. William Thomas Graves Jr was born on 9 May 1898. He died on 28 Mar 1961 and was buried in Graves Chapel Cemetery, Amite Co, MS. William Thomas Graves Jr and Iola Gay were married on 5 Apr 1925.

(Continued on page 4)
1.2.6. **Alice Loreen Graves** was born on 28 May 1901. **Alice Loreen Graves** and Frank H Holland were married on 24 May 1926 in Amite Co, MS. **Frank H Holland** was born on 7 Dec 1901.

1.2.7. **James Calhoon Graves** was born on 25 Jul 1903. **James Calhoon Graves** and Ruby Easley were married.

1.2.8. **Bessie Edwina Graves** was born on 8 Oct 1906. Bessie Edwina Graves and Clem Lee Kirkland Sr were married on 20 Nov 1926 in Amite Co, MS. **Clem Lee Kirkland Sr**, son of Perry Watkins Kirkland and Emma Jane Cox, was born on 18 Aug 1902. He died on 8 Jul 1977 in Menard, TX. Pvt USA WW II

1.2.9. **Ruby Maurine Graves** was born on 8 Sep 1909. **Ruby Maurine Graves** and Lloyd King were married on 27 Jan 1927. **Lloyd King** was born on 16 Aug 1909.

1.2.10. **Clyde Hugh Graves** was born on 8 Sep 1914. **Clyde Hugh Graves** and Norma Ellen Foreman were married on 13 Jun 1953 in Wilkinson Co, MS. **Norma Ellen Foreman**, daughter of Vernon Foreman and Eula Wilkinson, was born on 5 Dec 1932. She died about 30 May 2011 and was buried in Graves Chapel Cemetery, Amite Co, MS.

1.3. **Martha A O'Neal** was born about 1876.

1.4. **Samuel A O'Neal** was born in 1878 in Amite Co, MS. **Samuel A O'Neal** and Fredonia E "Donia" McNeil were married on 4 Mar 1891 in Amite Co, MS. **Fredonia E "Donia" McNeil**, daughter of Daniel A McNeil and Edna (Edney) White, was born about 1861.

1.5. **Bertha A O'Neal** was born in 1880 in Amite Co, MS. **Bertha A O'Neal** and Robert Roberts were married on 21 Oct 1896 in Amite Co, MS.

1.6. **John H O'Neal** was born abt 1883 in Amite Co, MS. John was a retail merchant.

**RUBY MAURINE "GRAVES" KING**

Memories as written by her hand

*Contributed with permission by Sam King*

On Sept. 8, 1909, I [1.2.9 above] was born the 9th child to Lillian Roberta O'Neal Graves and William Thomas Graves. Their 1st child was John Albert, then Etta, Lloyd, Barney, Willie, Alice, Jimmie, Bessie, Ruby, and Clyde. Mama's brother Uncle John O'Neal named me Ruby Maurine Graves who gave me a dress.

They told me a big storm came while mama was in bed and they had to move her and me across the hall into another bedroom as it blew out the windows and water was pouring in the room. There were several storms in September also.

We had a very large two story house which was nearly like the one I live in today. It had stained glass panels on each side of the door in front that led into a large hall. We had two large rooms on each side of hall and two small rooms also. We had a stairway at the end of the hall that went upstairs. There was a large hall up there & two rooms. One room each side of the hall. One of the rooms was our doll house. Bessie and I spent many hours up there playing with our dolls.

I remember one time Alice had her beau in the front parlor room downstairs and two of us children fixed up a ghost on a clothes hanger & waved it across the window downstairs. She just had a fit as she was very scared so we had lots of fun out of her.

One day before I was five yrs. old, Momma carried me down the road where Barney lived to cut briars. She put me under some bushes with tea cakes and water & she was cutting the briars out of a fence corner. She and Papa had separated and she was pregnant with Clyde. Papa came up to the fence and asked momma was she going to live with him. She told him no, she couldn't, as he drank all the time. So he looked up the road and down the road & then he pulled a long pearl handle
pistol out of his back pocket & told her if she didn't, then cursed her & told her he was going to stop her clock from ticking. I run and got in front of her as I was scared, so she threw the hoe down & told him to please not kill her. She took my hand and we run across the field to a black man's house, Uncle Robert & Leathey Moore's. She got someone to go to Liberty for the Sheriff who was Mann Causey. He called Uncle John O'Neal in Baton Rouge & they went out there and told Pap if he would leave the country they wouldn't press charges. So he left and went to Little Rock, Arkansas.

That night I slept in one of the cleanest high feather beds I ever slept in. The sheets & spread were white. They had to help me up in the bed. Aunt Leathey fixed us the best biscuits & gravy for breakfast and I never forgot her. When she got old, I would go across the field & sweep her yards and under the kitchen. Then she would fix gravy & biscuits for me and I'd run home before dark.

--To be continued--

Welcome New Member: Barbara D'Zan-Terry, 2009 South Lakeshore Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-2030; Telephone: 919-929-1677; bdzan@juno.com

She sent the following message: “My ggg-grandmother was Eliza Louisa Mullen, who married Lindsey Dixon. Lindsey's mother was Henrietta Ritty Boothe, originally of Orange County, NC, who married John Dixon. Henrietta's father was Daniel Boothe--one of our DAR patriots.” Barbara is interested in contacting anyone interested in these lines.

*****

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.

November Program:
At our meeting in the Conference Room of the Liberty Library on November 12, 10:00 a.m., we will welcome Canetti O'Brien, Vice Regent and Past Regent of the Amite River Chapter of Daughter's of the American Revolution and Marilyn Harvey, who is secretary, as speakers. This will be an opportunity to hear the work another historical and genealogical group is doing in Amite County. Join us and bring a friend.

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

Any member interested in helping should contact the committee chairman or Pres. Greg Barron.
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)

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Please make checks or money orders payable to Amite Co. Historical and Genealogical Society.

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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):

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