



## Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

William G. Barron, President  
Wayne B. Anderson, Secretary

Dawn Taylor, Vice Pres.  
N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

Oma J. Gordon, Council-at-large  
Wayne B. Anderson — Newsletter Editor

August 2011

Vol. 7, No. 8

Without a past, there is no future

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be regular business meeting at 10:00 am on August 13, 2011, in the conference room of the library in Liberty.

### AMITE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of June 11, 2011 meeting

**DRAFT**

#### Future Meeting Schedule

**August 13, 2011**, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS

**September 10, 2011**, 10:00 am — Quarterly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS. See program announcement on page 2.

**October 8, 2011**, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**November 12, 2011**, 10:00 am — Regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the library in Liberty, MS.

**December 3, 2011**, 10:00 am — Annual Open House and Membership Drive. Location to be announced.

**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, 2011**, 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.

President Greg Barron called the meeting to order at 10:00 am in the meeting room of the Liberty library. There were 15 attendees. James Allen Causey gave the invocation.

The draft minutes from the April 9, 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. The draft of the abbreviated minutes from the May 14, 2011 meeting were also presented for approval. Dawn Taylor made a motion to approve; Frances Phares seconded. The minutes were approved as written by vote of the members present.

President Report: Pres. Barron reported that:

The Heritage Day activities and displays were well received by the visitors. Dawn Taylor was commended for organizing the Heritage Day event.

The question of whether the ACAHGS will receive the John H. Parker papers for the research library has now been settled. The society will not receive the papers. The society plans no further involvement with the disposition of the papers nor with any use to which they may be put for historical and genealogical research.

Vice President Report: VP Dawn Taylor thanked all that helped with the displays and demonstrations

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You may contact this editor at:  
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Or by e-mail at [sitemanager@achgs.org](mailto:sitemanager@achgs.org)

on Heritage Day.

Secretary Report: Secy. Wayne Anderson reported that the society web site has finally been restored to about the same condition and with the same content it had before it was hacked and contaminated with a virus.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Gay Blalock gave a written report. The society account currently stands at \$4765.06. Oma Gordon made a motion to approve the report; Wayne Anderson seconded. The report was approved without dissent.

LRSH COMMITTEE REPORT: Mrs. Vera Prestridge reported that the LRSH had 168 visitors on Heritage Day. She thanked all those that helped with the LRSH. She also reported that the society had received the donation of an old family home bell. The bell had belonged to the Gordon family but had come into the possession of Roy Wilkerson who donated it to the society.

Old Business: None

New Business: The question was raised again about publishing a member list/phone directory. It was pointed out that a significant number of members had objected in the past to their info being made public since persons outside the society could easily obtain a copy of the list. It was suggested that members be asked to opt in or out insofar as data being published; however, this would likely cause a great deal of work to keep the list current and make changes as members changed their minds or the member rolls changed. There is no plan at present to publish a list for use by the general membership. Special lists can be made for committee chairpersons and officers as the need arises; however, such special use lists are not to be published publicly.

Other Business: The only remaining business was conclusion of the voting for the next year's officers and the counting of votes. The business meeting was suspended to allow the voting to be completed.

Mrs. Frances Phares introduced the society's guest speaker for the quarterly program, Dr. Jimmy Robertson. Doctor Robertson has written two books, Jimmy's Hope and Sweet Alice; the latter is an autobiography. He is currently working on a third book. He read selected passages from the books.

Following the presentation, Linda Lea, chair of the Nominating Committee, gave the results of the voting. There were 48 ballots returned; however, only 45 were voted, all for the nominated candidates.

Norman Stevenson gave the closing prayer and the business meeting was adjourned.

**September program:**

Retired USAF Colonel, James L. Hendrickson will be out guest speaker at our meeting on September 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the library. He is a resident of Jackson, Louisiana, where he is restoring three ante-bellum homes and is currently secretary of the Jackson Historic District Commission, vice president of the Jackson Assembly, and treasurer of the Jackson Tourism Enhancement Committee. Plan to attend and interact with our speaker.

**Officers Elected for  
Next Fiscal Year**

The following officers were re-elected to their respective offices for the next fiscal year:

President—William G. Barron  
Vice President—Dawn Taylor  
Secretary—Wayne Anderson  
Treasurer—Gay Blalock  
At-large Exec. Committee—Oma Gordon

## BITS AND PIECES OF AMITE COUNTY HISTORY

*Note: Although some editing has been done, this still contains some grammar and punctuation errors which have been left so as to not interrupt the flow of the narrative. —Editor*

FROM MR. A. C. CRAWFORD  
CENTREVILLE, MISS.  
DEC. 20, 1930

Dear Herald:

I have just had occasion to convert business with pleasure and visit Summit, McComb, Liberty and Gloster. On my arrival at Summit I stopped at the Old Summit Hotel, once kept by "Mama Warring", of Liberty Hotel Fame. Now it is kept by her daughter Mrs. Maggie Lilly Wheeler. I think Maggie can bake the best pancakes ever flopped over a griddle and bake a cake or pie to suit any epicures taste. After enjoying a splendid dinner by a slight manipulation of the telephone, we had my old friends John Lilly, Anna Davis Cain, her beautiful daughter and little Bob her grandson in the Hotel Lobby. With the room made comfortable by a good office stove, we proceeded to live life over for some fifty or sixty years back, by telling jokes and stories that happened there and we had a glorious good time. Time passed only too quickly and I had to board the train for McComb.

On a visit last spring, I met my fathers old friend, Dr. Butler and wife, she was Tom Fords daughter. I knew her as a little girl, had the pleasure of decorating the fathers mantle with an I. Thomas clock. She informed me the clock was still in the family and still ticking and has been since 1884. I met Mr. Jenkins and his wife. He is manager of the Wholesale Gro. Co. She is Dr. Butlers daughter and takes quite an active part in Eastern Star work. Also met Will Davis, Jim Fly, the Druggist[,] Covington the Mule man. I got fixed up at the barber shop that has born its sign for the past sixty years. The son of its owner fixed me up. I viewed the old Hiller building that has stood as a monument to its memory for the past sixty years. Hiller was a remarkable man in his own way. He was a man of very limited education as education goes now day, but God Almighty endowed him with a wonderful memory. I am told that during the busy cotton season, he would do his days work without the aid of note book or pencil. And at the end of his days work he could give you the grade, weight and price of every bale of cotton he had bought that day and the names of the men from whom he bought it. He could give the price of a bale of cotton right off the reel in fractional figures and the figures did not lie by a fraction. He told me once that as far as he could see a team coming down the street he could tell you who the team belonged to and give you the drivers name.

On arrival at McComb I called on my old friend Rutledge proprietor of the Economy Drugstore. And a member the city council. We first met and commented over friendships for life at Uvalde Texas in 1905 or 6. We were both there trying to save our little wives life from the ravages of T. B. My wife gave up the fight in Oct. 1914 and his followed a year or two after. His wife was the daughter of a dear friend, Judge Theo McKnight. My wife was the daughter of Reverend H. S. Archer. Rutledge is a splendid old Scout and I love Him.

I was invited to share Thanksgiving dinner with Kinfolks, Ella Gordon Smylie, Myrtis her daughter and Big Bob her son. As Clyde Martin had to drive the Iron Horse and pull throttle of one of the I. C. Fast engines, he was deprived of the pleasure of joining us at the table and doing justice to the Thanksgiving turkey. After enjoying a splendid and well cooked dinner, with Turkey and all the good

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things that go with it we went into the family sitting room and spent a very enjoyable evening. Ella Gordon Smiley is a very remarkable woman. Seventy-six years of age and as young and gay as a girl of sweet sixteen. She can give you the history pedigree and family tree of nearly every family that has lived in Amite County for the past fifty or sixty years. When I bid her farewell I said this: Ella next Spring when the birds begin to sing and the flowers are in bloom and all nature is clothed in its richest robes of green, I want you to come to the Old Crawford Home and visit my sister Ophelia and myself. And stay until you are tired of your visit. She replied: "Ab I will do that on one condition, and that is that you will find me a "Nice Beau" while I am there." I promised her I would do that if I had to use a search light to find him.

I was invited for a ride over to Liberty by Mr. Terrell, bookkeeper for Liberty Merc. Co. and found him to be a very pleasant man, and a very interesting gentleman. I enjoyed the ride and his company very much. Dear Old Liberty, I love it and why should I not? It is my birthright according to my Mothers own statement of which I have no right to question. On the 13th day of July 1856 and about the 13th hour I stepped out into the great arena of life and took a peep at this glorious old world of ours. At the old Spillman place. It was afterward known as the Geo. Barney place 1 mile out on the old Jackson Road. While I have carried these unlucky numbers nearly seventy-five years, and it made me a little stoop shouldered to pack them, yet I feel like a live wire and am still in the ring.

I spent two days very pleasantly visiting in Liberty, old friends and kinfolks. I spent one pleasant night with John and Maggie Turnipseed and viewed the ground of my Grandfathers old home where my father was born. Viewed the agricultural grounds where the old school building use to stand. It was there that my mother and father first met and learned to love each other. I called on John McElwee and Mother, also some kinsmen at the Ford Sales Garage. I visited the Court House and all the boys, and I registered so that I could vote for them at the next election. I called on A. B. Carroll[,] Harry Jackson and family John Andrews and Kate my kinfolks. Dropped in at The Herald Office where poor old Ace is sadly missed, viewed the old Raiford and Barney Bldg. as I passed called on my old friends Sam and Jim Robinson. I saw an old school mate on the streets Tom Berryhill, Tom Van Norman and other old friends. Owing to rain, I missed several calls which I regretted very much.

While at Liberty I was the guest of the Bates Hotel, My kinfolks. Now just a word to Ye Poor Knights of the Grip. As one of you, for the past forty years, I think you know what I mean when I say that Hotel Proprietors are born and not made. Velma Bates is a Natural born Hotel Woman. She has a way of her own that makes you feel perfectly at ease and at home. She will invite you to a table of well cooked food and plenty of it. She will serve hot biscuits that would make hard hearted man love his mother-in-law, and will remind you of those your Grandmother use to make. She will give you a nice clean room with a grate and a big fat goose hair bed in it, and it makes you feel like folding yourself in the arms of Sweet Morpheus and sleep of a week. If it is cold enough to enjoy a fire the porter will build you a fire and make the room perfectly comfortable to get up and dress by. Now we poor dogs who have had to live out of hotels and cheap boarding houses for low these many years, know how to appreciate these things. And if any of you boys get run down at the heel, sick and blue, go to the Bates Hotel and let Velma doctor you up with good treatment.

I boarded the early mail car for Gloster and had a very pleasant ride over with the mail man and his wife. On my arrival I spent the time between trains visiting old friends. Will Tatum, Max Kahn, Dr. Lea, Dr. Brumfield, Tuaner Lowery, Pollard McGehee and several others. While waiting for my train many pleasant thoughts were flashed upon the screen of memory. (I could see the Post Oak grove in front of Sam Van Normans home, where the first picnic was given, ever held at Gloster. It is all

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occupied by brick walls and handsome residences. The Picnic was given to celebrate the advent of the Iron Horse, July 4, 1884. Its track of steel was only laid as far as Centreville. There were people there representing three or four counties and part of Louisiana. After spending a glorious day and part of the night, at a ball given by the Whittington Hotel, every one returned home taking many kind thoughts and pleasant memories of the occasion home with them.

--Courtesy of H. H. "Mickey" Forrester's family papers.

*Albert Capell "Ab" Crawford, grandson of Van Tromp Crawford and Margaret Maria Dunn, sold stoves in Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Colorado, Utah, Texas, and other states - later became Superintendent of the Wrought Iron Range Company.*

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Share your genealogy and Amite County stories by sending to Frances Phares, PO Box 1639, Clinton, LA or [phrances@att.net](mailto:phrances@att.net) Your corrections and additional information solicited.



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### **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)

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**