

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY 27, 1946, KINGFISHER, OKLAHOMA.

The Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society convened May 27, 1946, at Kingfisher. Following registration of members and visitors, the President, Judge Robert L. Williams, called the meeting to order in Memorial Hall.

The Secretary called the roll which showed the following Board Members present: Judge R. L. Williams, Hon. George L. Bowman, Dr. I. N. McCash, Hon. Thomas J. Harrison, Dr. E. E. Dale, Mrs. John R. Williams, Mrs. Anna B. Korn and Dr. Charles Evans, the Secretary.

The Staff Members present were: Mrs. J. G. Cubage, Miss Muriel H. Wright and Mrs. O. J. Cook.

The President requested the Secretary to read a letter from Dr. McCash, asking to be excused at 1:00 o'clock because of other engagements. It was so ordered.

The President asked for the Secretary's report, which in substance was as follows:

It is with regret that on May 10, I was called to Washington, D. C. to the bedside of my granddaughter, because of serious illness, which prevented my making a detailed report ten days before the assembling of this Board at its Annual Meeting, May 27, 1946. However, I place before you now an outline of all matters of importance:

The provisions set forth by the Board in its meeting of April 22, 1946 whereby the Secretary and President were authorized to buy a microfilm reader was carried out in so far as making and filing with the Board of Affairs a requisition, which they have not yet acted upon, Mr. Virgil Browne, Chairman, reports they were waiting for the filing of competitive bids. The Secretary has requested the Custodian of Newspapers, Mrs. Cook, to prepare a special number of documents, involving not more than \$250.00 for the first filming. The request was in line with W. J. Peterson's motion at the April meeting.

All donors mentioned in the Minutes of the April Meeting have been sent letters of thanks in appreciation for their gifts. Mr. George Forsythe was notified, as the Board directed, to secure material, etc., as set out in the Minutes of said meeting, for the ralling in the statuary room. He said he would proceed to carry out the order.

All papers, minutes, etc., pertaining to the gift of Mr. Thomas J. Harrison of a tract of ground in Sec. 26, Twp. 19, Range 19, to the Society were filed for preservation.

Mr. Lew Wentz was notified of the Board's action inviting him to place his portrait in the Art Gallery of the Oklahoma Historical Society in line with motion made by Mr. H. L. Muldrow.

All money authorized by the Board for expenses of Miss Muriel H. Wright to Washington was issued by appropriate voucher and Miss Wright has made the journey and returned to her work.

Mrs. John R. Williams and the Secretary appointed to investigate the location or whereabouts of any of the silver service on the Battleship

Oklahoma at its sinking has been carefully attended to and the committee is ready to report.

Mr. Aaron Tilley elected to succeed Mr. Malone as guard through a committee appointed by the President with authority to act—resigned on April 29, 1946 to take effect May 15, 1946 and upon the recommendation of Mrs. Anna Korn, Mr. Frank Greer was presented to the committee composed of Judge Taylor, Mayor R. A. Hefner and the Secretary to take the place of Mr. Tilley when the Board met in Kingfisher to pass upon his selection.

All of the departments have carried out their work since last report with fidelity and efficiency and reports in detail will be given by each to Members of the Board ten days before the meeting in July.

Hon. Thomas J. Harrison made the motion that the Secretary's report be accepted. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Korn and carried.

Dr. Evans presented the attitude of the Board of Public Affairs in building the tunnel of the Historical Building as set forth in moneys provided by the last legislature for that purpose. He said that after being pressed to a conclusion, the Board of Public Affairs wrote a letter in which it stated: Due to a great rise of cost in materials and labor they would not be able to build the tunnel for \$17,500, as set forth by legislative appropriation that it would take twice that amount to build it now.

Judge Williams presented to the Board the view that he believed the Board of Public Affairs should be given notice by the Board of Directors to have money transferred from the other items of appropriation made by the legislature such as light, repair, etc., and to push the work so they could have surer and better heat for next winter in the Historical Building.

Motion was made by Mrs. Anna B. Korn that the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society accept the view of Judge Williams and the Board of Public Affairs be notified by the Secretary to that effect. The motion was seconded by Hon. Thomas J. Harrison and carried.

Dr. B. B. Chapman, History Department of the Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, was recognized by the President. Dr. Chapman stated that due to a fire in the buildings in Washington, D. C., the regular census reports of 1890 of Oklahoma Territory were destroyed. He further stated that these records were badly needed by the historians and researchers in the State and if the Board of the Oklahoma Historical Society would assist him he could secure microfilm copies of a special census taken for the original seven counties in 1890.

Judge Williams stated the Oklahoma Historical Society would assist in assembling all papers and materials for micro-filming such census provided it did not cost the Society too much.

Dr. E. E. Dale made Judge Williams' statement into the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Korn and carried.

The Secretary read a letter he had received from the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States written by Mabelle A. White, Department Secretary of Oklahoma.

Mrs. Korn made the motion that the Secretary write a letter of thanks and appreciation to Miss White, telling her we carry an Oklahoma War Memorial List, but we invite the Auxiliary to work with us in this worthy project.

The motion was seconded by Hon. George L. Bowman and carried.

Judge Williams stressed the need of County histories. He suggested that we try and get a good detail history of every county in the State and that we start with the County of Kingfisher.

Dr. E. E. Dale stated that many of the students at the Oklahoma University wrote the history of their county for their thesis in working out their Master's Degree and like all histories, some are good and others too general to be of historic value.

Dr. I. N. McCash made the motion that the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society make an effort to get a complete history of every county in the state.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Korn and carried.

The Secretary, Dr. Charles Evans, read a letter from the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C. in regard to a marker for the grave of the late Nathaniel Pryor, it reads as follows:

Mr. Charles Evans, Secretary
Oklahoma Historical Society
Historical Building
Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma
Dear Mr. Evans:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of recent date regarding a Government stone to mark the grave of the late Nathaniel Pryor.

There is enclosed an application form which should be completed and returned to this office whereupon steps will be taken to furnishing a marker for the above veteran's grave.

You are assured every consideration will be given the case.

For the Quartermaster General:

Sincerely yours,
George M. McVeigh
1st Lt., QMC
Assistant.

On motion of George L. Bowman, the meeting stood adjourned. During the recess a group picture was made of the Board of Directors, also, a group picture of all members attending the morning business session. At 12:00 Noon members and visitors were guests at a luncheon given by the Chamber of Commerce.

Hon. George L. Bowman acted as toastmaster and introduced Mr. C. P. Wickmiller, Mr. John Chamberlain and Mr. O. E. Brewster. These gentlemen made the run in '89 and Mr. Wickmiller is a charter member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, joining two days after it was organized in Kingfisher, May 27, 1893.

From 1:00 o'clock to 1:30 o'clock there were cars to take the visitors and members on a tour visiting the historical places of Kingfisher, among which was the beautiful cemetery in which are buried three of the members who were present at the organization of the State Historical Society in Kingfisher on May 27, 1893, to-wit: Hon. Abram J. Seay, a member and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Oklahoma from the date of its organization on May 23, 1890 until the fall of 1891. He became Governor of Oklahoma Territory on February 1, 1892 and held that office until May, 1897, when he was succeeded by Governor Renfrow.

He died December 22, 1915 with interment in the Kingfisher cemetery. J. L. Admire of the "Kingfisher Press" and J. C. Roberts, then Mayor of Kingfisher but a resident of Enid at the time of his death, were also members present at the organization of the Historical Society.

The afternoon program started at 1:30 o'clock with Hon. George L. Bowman presiding.

Miss Anne Mary Bentley, Oklahoma City, delighted the audience with her rendition of Paderewski's Chopin Polonaise.

Addresses of welcome were given by W. D. Watts, mayor and Harold Hubbard, President of the Chamber of Commerce. Historical talks on the Indian Territory, Oklahoma Territory, Kingfisher Study Club, and the Historical Society were made by Judge Robert L. Williams, President; Dr. E. E. Dale, Mrs. W. S. Whirlow and Dr. Charles Evans, Secretary.

Hon. Thomas J. Harrison, Pryor, invited the Oklahoma Historical Society to Pryor for the next Annual Meeting. The President stated the invitation was appreciated and an official vote would be taken at the next regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

After the program the meeting adjourned.

ROBERT L. WILLIAMS, President.

DR. CHARLES EVANS, Secretary.