

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 24th, 1946

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was convened in the Historical Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at 10:00 A. M., October 24, 1946, with the President, Judge Robert L. Williams, presiding.

The Secretary called the roll. The following members were present: Judge Robert L. Williams, Judge Thomas H. Doyle, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, General William S. Key, Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Senator George L. Bowman, Judge Harry Campbell, Mr. Thomas G. Cook, Dr. E. E. Dale, Dr. Grant Foreman, Judge Robert A. Hefner, Mrs. Frank Korn, Dr. I. N. McCash, Hon. J. B. Milam, Hon. H. L. Muldrow, Judge Baxter Taylor, Mrs. John R. Williams, and the Secretary, Dr. Evans.

Judge Williams reported on certain historical books, material, biographies, etc., for the Board to consider.

The President read a telegram from Mr. R. M. Mountcastle stating the reason for his inability to attend the meeting of the Board. Dr. Harbour moved that the Board accept Mr. Mountcastle's excuse. Mrs. Korn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Report on the Budget and correspondence with the Budget Officer and Board of Affairs was read by the Secretary, showing the amount of \$54,000.00 is to be submitted for the consideration of the coming Legislature for development of a steam tunnel, equipment in pump room, etc., and for redecorating; and also that contracts in the amount of \$12,379.00 approved by the last legislature for repairing and rewiring lighting system, removing skylights, etc., would be let about Jan. 1st, 1947. Motion was made by Senator Geo. L. Bowman that this report be received and filed. Seconded by Dr. I. N. McCash, and carried.

The Secretary reported that the railing for the statuary room had been completed and paid for in the amount of \$200.00, including the pedestals and stands for the statues.

Dr. McCash reported on correspondence he had had as President of the Oklahoma Memorial Association with the widow of Dr. J. B. Jenkins, the sculptor who made the busts of Governors Robert L. Williams, Lee Cruce, J. B. A. Robertson, Martin E. Trapp, William Judson Holloway, Henry S. Johnston, Charles N. Haskell, and also Dr. Fowler Border, in which she stated that, upon request of the Oklahoma Memorial Association and the Oklahoma Historical Society, she was sending to Dr. McCash a large portrait of Dr. Jenkins to be placed with the busts of the Governors. Dr. Harbour made the motion that the Secretary, upon receipt of the Jenkins portrait, place it with the busts of the Governors, and that Mrs. Jenkins and her daughter, Mrs. Miller, each be sent a copy of this resolution under seal and advised that all conditions concerning the preservation and display of same had been observed according to her husband's desires. Seconded by Mrs. Korn. Carried.

Dr. Harbour made the motion that the Secretary be instructed to get in touch with an Art instructor with reference to having the bust of Gover-

nor Lee Cruce, made by Dr. Jenkins, repaired, and that report on same be heard at the next Board meeting. Duly seconded and carried.

Mr. Charles Smith, representing the office of Col. Chorpensing of the U. S. Army Engineers of the Tulsa District, discussed with the members of the Board, using for the purpose of reference large maps of the dam sites of Wister, Hulah, Ft. Gibson and Canton, and the possibility of the inundation of fields containing material of historical and archeological value, and stated that the National Park Service received appropriations from Congress, with which to investigate such cases. He also stated that the Smithsonian Institution had been selected by the National Park Service for making investigations of this sort, and that it was the desire of the Office of the U. S. Engineers to determine and wherever practical prevent damage to historical and archeological material of value.

Dr. and Mrs. James B. Watson, of the Anthropology Department of the University of Oklahoma, spoke on the type of material that we might expect to find in these areas, their importance and location—a number of Indian mounds, etc., especially in the Wister and Fort Gibson sections. They also reported that the University of Oklahoma was sending out a party in a short time to make a check on what the dam sites covered, so that a detailed report could be given to the National Park Service and the Army Engineers.

Dr. Grant Foreman mentioned the possibility that the overflow from the Ft. Gibson dam might affect the monument at Union Mission, near Malsie, which had been set up to mark the place where the first printing press in the state was set up.

A motion was made by Mr. Muldrow that a committee of one be appointed to correlate with the representative of the University of Oklahoma in getting up plans to be of the most service in this matter. Judge Hefner seconded the motion. Carried.

The President appointed Mr. H. L. Muldrow of Norman a committee of one to take this matter up with the proper representative of the University of Oklahoma, and to report to the President.

Mrs. Moore made a motion that a vote of thanks be extended to Mr. Charles Smith of Col. Chorpensing's Office, and also to Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Watson for their courtesy in reporting to the Board. Seconded by Senator Geo. L. Bowman. Carried.

A communication from the Laboratory of Anthropology at Santa Fe, New Mexico, to accept an annual participating membership in the Laboratory with a fee of \$10.00 per year, was read by the Secretary. Motion by Judge Hefner to respectfully decline this invitation, as same was against our established rule. Seconded by Dr. Harbour. Carried.

The Secretary read a letter from Lt. Col. Arthur M. McCoy of Atlanta, Georgia, asking for the return of a loan made the museum in 1921 by his mother, Mrs. S. E. McCoy. Senator Geo. L. Bowman made the motion that the Society return the articles of the loan as listed, after the President had passed on the identity and legal rights of the heir; expense of return to be paid by Col. McCoy. Seconded by Dr. Harbour. Carried.

A letter from Mr. Paul R. Cope, State Director Veterans' Services asking for additional space in the Historical Building on account of the development of On-Job-Training was read. Motion made by Senator Bowman that the request be denied. Seconded by Judge Campbell, and carried.

Communication from Mr. Otis O. Fuller, Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, at Hugo, Oklahoma, concerning erection of an historical marker near site of old Ft. Towson on Highway # 70, was read. Judge Doyle made the motion that this matter be referred to the State Park Commission for consideration. Seconded by Senator Bowman, and carried.

The Secretary reported that Miss Hazel E. Beaty, the librarian of the Oklahoma Historical Society, wished to attend the meeting of the American Library Association in Phoenix, Arizona, in November, and wished to ask that traveling expense approximately be paid. Mr. Muldrow made the motion that a delegate be sent to this meeting at Phoenix if the money is available. Mrs. John R. Williams seconded the motion which the President stated lost upon voting.

Dr. Evans read a list of gifts that had been received during the quarter in the Library and Museum. These gifts were presented as follows:—

LIBRARY:

1. *Oil and Gas Journal*, 1910-1944. By the Oil & Gas Division of the Corporation Commission.
2. National Society of Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims. Lineage of the Members. By the Society.
3. *Battle of Verdun; Marne Battle-fields; Rheims and the Battle for its Possession*; Paris, Michelin & Cie, 1919-1920. By Stanley L. Moore, Norman, Okla.
4. *Lawson-Chester Genealogy*. Pub. in Boston, Mass. 1946. By Chester M. Lawson.
5. *Railroad Legislation*. U. S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Interstate Commerce. Pub. in N.Y. and Washington, 1919. By the Association of Railroad Executives.
6. *Mead-Clark Genealogy*. Pub. at Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1946. By Eva M. Firestone.
7. *Jack Jones, Fisherman-Philosopher* by Helen Swift (Chicago: Krock & Son, 1944.) By Dr. Charles Evans.
8. *Cherokee Hymn Book*. Compiled by Samuel A. Worcester. (Philadelphia, Pa.: American Baptist Pub. Society, 1877) Collected and presented by Judge R. L. Williams.

MUSEUM:

9. Land Grant on sheepskin of Philip Franklin Field, dated April, 1833, and signed by President Andrew Jackson; Manifest of the steamer, Pauline Carroll, St. Louis to New Orleans; Wine Bottle brought from England by Joseph Bell. By Mrs. Jim Biggerstaff.
10. Paper money from Denmark. By Edmund Bishop.
11. German officer's uniform (1st Lt.); German "Burp" gun, captured near Saulgrub; Russian Machine Gun with two clips. By Mack R. Ferrin.
12. Gold Pointed Pen with black holder, used by President Truman in signing H.R. 6407. By Gov. Robert S. Kerr.
13. German S.S. Bracelet; German flyer's cross; German bravery medal; German iron cross. By Patrick Kiggins.
14. Grain cradle; Two United States Flags used from 1867 to 1876. By T. H. Miller.
15. Pen used by President Truman in signing Bill HR 4497. By Robert L. Owen.
16. Miniature boat. By Mrs. Jess Reed.
17. Candle snuffer. By E. C. Russell.
18. United States Flag. By Arthur Spellings.

Mrs. Harbour made the motion that the Board accept the gifts listed and a letter of thanks be sent to the donors. Mrs. Korn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Korn presented the Society with some unique souvenirs from the Portland Exposition of 1905; A pearl bowl spoon and a sourvenier bottle-pipe. She also presented a paper knife enclosing a little magnifying glass, a souvenir of the meeting of the Daughters of the Confederacy in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1917. Motion by Dr. Harbour that these gifts be accepted, seconded by Mr. Milam. Carried.

Mrs. Williams presented the Society a deed dated in 1799, to some land in New Hampshire; together with some copies of the *Herald-Sentinel* published at Cloud Chief, for 1893, 1894, and 1898, that were secured by Judge Thomas A. Edwards of Cordell from Mr. R. D. Wells of Carter, Oklahoma, who at the time, was one of the joint editors of the paper when it was located at Cloud Chief (the *Herald-Sentinel* later being published at Cordell). Judge Doyle made the motion that these gifts be accepted and that letters of appreciation be sent to Judge Edwards and Mr. Wells. Motion duly seconded and carried.

Mrs. Williams presented a letter to her from Representative Mike Monroney, enclosing copies of the bills in reference to the silver service on the Battleship Oklahoma, but stated that she had not been able to get in touch with Mr. Monroney as to when the silver service will be sent to the Society. Judge Doyle made a motion that this report be received and the Secretary directed to acknowledge same with the thanks of the Board. Duly seconded and carried.

List of applications for membership were presented by the Secretary as follows:

LIFE: Thomas G. Cook, Buffalo; Ella A. Ketcham, Oklahoma City; John W. Shleppay, Tulsa; Mrs. L. M. Voss, Oklahoma City.

ANNUAL: Miss Mattie Addison, Oklahoma City; George C. Arnold, Norman; Myron O. Balcom, Stonewall; Ora Mae Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee; Judge Roy R. Carver, Ponca City; Mrs. Annabelle Cheek, Oklahoma City; James E. Clausen, Norman; Roy A. Clifford, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Beulah Jane Clinton, Tulsa; Mary Dilley, Guthrie; Charlotte D. Donnell, Oklahoma City; J. D. Downing, Oklahoma City; Pansy Duskin, Guthrie; L. D. Edgington, Ponca City; Dr. Thomas Fisher, Syracuse, N. Y.; Dr. R. E. Gibson, Ponca City; Capt. J. F. Goodwin, McAlester; Mrs. N. E. Gregg, Cordell; Garel Grunder, Norman; Mrs. J. W. Heck, Quapaw; Virginia A. Hess, Anadarko; Professor William R. Hogan, Norman; Professor Gene Hollon, Norman; Mrs. Fred Hulme, Guthrie; Joe E. Johnson, Norman; Professor Rupel Jones, Norman; E. H. Kelley, Oklahoma City; Julius W. Kelley, Ardmore; Mrs. Florence Kennedy, Norman; Mrs. Mary Kennedy, Fitzhugh; Jens C. Kjaer, Lawton; Mrs. Joe Kratz, Guthrie; Dr. John H. Krenkel, Norman; Mrs. J. G. Lewers, Sapulpa; E. J. McClendon, Norman; Mandy Vann McIntosh, Eufaula; Earle T. Miller, Tulsa; Reverend Paul D. Mitchell, Verden; Professor Max Moorhead, Norman; Professor A. L. Mortenson, Norman; Roy E. Munson, Norman; Clarence C. Patton, Wewoka; Norene Paulin, Oklahoma City; Professor H. C. Peterson, Norman; Alonzo Poling, Oklahoma City; Mrs. C. M. Power, Oklahoma City; William T. Raymond, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Nell Reaves, Oklahoma City; Mrs. James H. Rinehart, Guthrie, Oklahoma; Professor A. B. Sears, Norman; Mrs. Esther Sharp, Guthrie; Professor H. H. Terry, Norman; Fred C. Tracy, Beaver; Dr. Fred Woodson, Tulsa.

Dr. Harbour made the motion that the list of applicants be accepted in the class as indicated. Seconded by Mrs. Moore. Duly carried.

Dr. Grant Foreman reported on the trip by Mrs. Rella Looney, Archivist, to secure for the Society certain Dawes Commission records in the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes Agency; that said records as placed in twenty-four large cartons were in the attic of the Federal Building at Muskogee awaiting shipment to Oklahoma City; that Mrs. Looney had expended the sum of \$15.00 for transportation, etc. Judge Doyle made the motion that the claim for \$15.00 be allowed and warrant issued. Dr. Harbour seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Dr. Grant Foreman read a paper concerning the date of the first white settlement at Salina—discussing pro and con the claims for the different dates of this settlement. He then presented a resolution concerning this matter and asked that the Society go on record, and same after amendment was adopted with only one dissenting vote (for paper presented by Dr. Grant Foreman, with statement by Judge Williams, see Notes and Documents, page 483 this issue):

RESOLUTION: "Whereas, in the Press and through other mediums recently there have been advanced and advocated certain matters touching historical phases of Oklahoma of doubtful validity, that are opposed to well-established conclusions based on competent research of historical sources;

"Therefore, By The Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society In Regular Meeting Assembled, Be It Resolved:

"That diligent inquiry and examination of the files, archives and library of the Society fail to disclose any evidence whatever to support in any degree the claim that Jeanne Pierre Chouteau or any other Chouteau established the first white settlement in what is now Oklahoma in 1794, 1796 or any subsequent dates, prior to the date of the Louisiana Purchase on October 21, 1803; but on the contrary, all of the best available evidence negatives such a claim

"Be It Resolved, That this Society re-dedicate its influence and efforts to a broad and discriminating interest in our history on the part of the citizens of the state, to the end that they accept as historical truth only accounts based on established authority or competent proof.

"Adopted, this 24th day of October, 1946.

The Resolution in the above form was seconded by Judge Doyle and passed with one dissenting vote and one member abstaining from voting.

Senator G. L. Bowman at this point called attention of the Board of Directors to the fact that for a long time Judge Robert L. Williams had prepared for the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, necrologies of members of the Constitutional Convention and others, and that five of these had appeared in the Summer issue. He made the motion that a vote of thanks and appreciation for this work be extended to Judge Williams. Dr. Harbour seconded the motion. Carried.

Judge Taylor then said: "I note here a new face, a gentleman who did service, humbly and ably wherever he went to war when his country called. I think there was never a meeting in his absence that his name was not mentioned. We have missed him. We have thought in our hearts of him and we are truly thankful to the most High that he has been returned unto us. I move therefore that it is the sense of this Historical Society that we are profoundly honored that he has returned to us to perform his duties as a member of this Board. I refer to General William S. Key." Mrs. Korn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

General Key then said: "May I thank the eloquent and honorable friend for the fine tribute and let me thank you sincerely for the extreme courtesy the members of the Board have shown me by honoring me with re-election to this Board during my absence, and may I suggest, and I hope it won't be controversial, that we emphasize a program that we have heretofore discussed and that is the program of marking more completely the historical spots in this State. We have had today a proposal from the Boy Scouts. We have had other proposals, but no one has determined the exact spots to be marked. We have here today Dr. Dale, Dr. Foreman, Dr. Evans, and Judge Williams—all authorities on this. I would like to see a program whereby historical spots could be recorded on a large map of Oklahoma, and then a suitable marker used to mark such historic spots. Here Zachary Taylor organized his army for the Mexican War. Here Lieutenant Bragg, in the Confederate Army, brought his batteries back from Buena Vista. The great personalities of our army on both sides of the Civil War were at one time or another stationed in Oklahoma. I believe if we have a survey made and a map showing historic places, we could obtain an approximate cost of it, and I daresay that there are a number of men in Oklahoma, if we were to call it to their attention, who would be for it."

Judge Doyle stated that in connection with the remarks of General Key, we had neglected to show our appreciation to the Patriotic Organizations in Oklahoma for marking historical spots in the State. He suggested that the Secretary request from said Patriotic Organizations a list of those spots marked by them, in order that the Board might make record of same and thank them at a later date.

Mr. Bowman made the motion that the Secretary be directed to request the Patriotic Societies of Oklahoma to make reports of markers they have placed in the State and their location, so that this information can be recorded in the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* under Notes and Documents. Duly seconded and carried.

The President then introduced former United States Senator Thomas P. Gore and at Dr. Foreman's suggestion, the Board stood in tribute to him.

Judge Taylor made the motion that the meeting adjourn. Seconded by Dr. Harbour. Carried.

(Signed) ROBERT L. WILLIAMS,
President

CHARLES EVANS, Secretary