

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT  
PRYOR, May 26, 1947

The regular Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society was held at Pryor, Oklahoma, May 26th, 1947. The meeting opened with Judge R. L. Williams presiding. The roll call was taken and the following members answered present:

Judge R. L. Williams, Mr. Jim Biggerstaff, Mrs. J. Garfield Buell, Judge Harry Campbell, Hon. Thomas J. Harrison, Mrs. Frank Korn, Mr. Edward C. Lawson, Mrs. Blanche Lucas, Hon. R. M. Mountcastle, Judge Baxter Taylor, Gen. William S. Key, and Dr. James H. Gardner.

A list of the new members of the Society making application for membership since the last meeting of the Board, Jan. 24th, 1947, was presented and the following were elected as members of the Oklahoma Historical Society:

**LIFE:** Mrs. Lucna Neff Graham, Boise City; William Edward Gilmore, Henryetta; Judge R. H. Hudson, Bartlesville; Mrs. Bertha O. Meek, Ponca City; Pat H. Pruner, Oklahoma City; David P. Richardson, Union City; Mrs. Lewis L. Snow, Woodward; Mrs. Isabel Howe Stanley, Hugo.

**ANNUAL:** Effa Alexander, Oklahoma City; Ary M. Allen, St. Louis, Mo.; Darlene G. Anderson, Bartlesville; Mrs. Phoebe S. Bachelder, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Theresa D. Black, Enid; A. Bleckley, Adelaide, Australia; Mrs. Edna Bohnke, Mead; Elbert B. Bowen, Elk City; E. D. Brewer, Tulsa; Cordis Ellis Butts, St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. H. D. Cannon, Bartlesville; Tom Chrystal, Perkins; George W. Corr, Muskogee; Mrs. Rosie Davenport, Paden; Moita Davis, Forgan; B. E. Dozier, Shidler; T. J. Ellis, Ochelata; Robt. K. Everest, Oklahoma City; Justin W. Faherty, Oklahoma City; Mrs. S. F. Fancher, Okmulgee; William H. Fowler, Chicago, Ill.; Fred William Floyd, Bethany; Arda E. Frans, Lawton; Mrs. Maud N. Gilmore, Hooker; Eunice Goble, Stillwater; Mrs. A. C. Guffy, Weatherford; Mrs. Kathleen W. Hagaman, Conway, Texas; Mrs. David Hardin, Shawnee; Herman G. Haury, Putnam; Tommy Hughes, III, Cushing; J. Henry Johnston, Oklahoma City; John M. Kane, Bartlesville; Fred King, Guymon; Mrs. Robt. A. Keller, Marietta; Mrs. Norma R. Kerr, Bartlesville; George W. Koch, Muskogee; A. Alex Laney, Pawhuska; John Henry Melton, Stillwater; Mrs. J. V. Morton, Sayre; Mrs. H. N. Naylor, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Preston Nelson, Sayre; Mrs. Demma Ray Oldham, Oklahoma City; Rahe L. Oldham, Tulsa; Herbert M. Peck, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Pauline Poe, Oklahoma City; Iris Powell, Balko; Mrs. Clover F. Powers, Oklahoma City; Charles R. Rayburn, Norman; Mrs. Mattie Ream, Wapanucka; Mrs. Martha Rinsland, Norman; Mike Ross, Winston-Salem, N. C.; L. A. Rowland, Bartlesville; L. O. Sassin, Optima; Ralph L. Senter, Oklahoma City; Wilson Berry Smith, Adelaide, Australia; Mrs. Annie M. Sooter, Oklahoma City; Constance Spruce, Bethany; Lloyd Gene Sturm, Muskogee; Mrs. J. E. Taulman, Hubbard, Texas; F. L. Thomas, Cushing; Fred A. Tillman, Pawhuska; Dover P. Trent, Oklahoma City; James E. Trotman, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Ruth A. Wagner, Shidler; Charles T. Waller, El Reno; J. A. Watson, Bristow; Mrs. J. B. White, Oklahoma City; Cleve M. Whiteside, Ft. Worth, Texas; Charles R. Coper Williams, Wetumka; Frank N. Williams, Muskogee; Henry Clay Wilson, Muskogee; George F. Wood, Tulsa; Mrs. Ima S. Wood, Tulsa.

Mr. Biggerstaff moved that they be accepted in the class as read by the Secretary and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Korn. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Secretary presented the application of Mrs. Myrtle Jean Cook for the position of Curator of the museum to take the place of Mrs. Annie Cubage, who resigned effective March 31st, 1947. Mr. Baxter Taylor moved that Mrs. Myrtle Jean Cook be elected to this position and this motion was seconded by Mrs. Korn. The motion was carried unanimously.

The President of the Board announced that Mrs. Anzelle B. McCuen had made application to succeed Miss Martha Mulholland for the position of Chief Clerk. Miss Mulholland had been serving as an interim appointment since Mrs. Mabel Hammerly, the former Chief Clerk, moved to Oregon. The President, Judge Williams, read letters setting forth the endorsements, qualifications, and experience of other applicants, together with the endorsements of Mrs. McCuen, and Mrs. Korn stated that she was one of the ablest women in Oklahoma and made a motion that she be elected to fill the place as Chief Clerk. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and the motion was carried, and Mrs. McCuen was elected as Chief Clerk, her service to begin July 1, 1947.

The President of the Board stated that Miss Muriel H. Wright had been requested by Dr. E. E. Dale, a member of the Board of Directors, to perform a service for the Rockefeller Foundation in getting out an Indian Handbook of Oklahoma and that this would take her from her duties as Assistant Editor and research for six months; beginning July 1st, 1947; her salary and expenses for such service for the Foundation to be paid by the Foundation. A motion was made by Mr. T. J. Harrison that the furlough of six months beginning July 1st, 1947, be granted to Miss Wright under these conditions. It was seconded by Mrs. Blanche Lucas and the motion was carried.

At this point a telegram from Mrs. Jessie Moore, Treasurer of the Society, was read by the Secretary, expressing regrets of her inability to be present.

The Secretary pointed out that with the sanction of the Executive Committee of the Board, a case was purchased for holding the silver service of the Battleship U.S.S. *Oklahoma*, at a cost of about \$211.00. He said that with the sanction of the Executive Committee, he had secured the services of the Senter Plating Company of Oklahoma City for polishing and restoring to proper condition all of the pieces of the silver service, and that they were now ready to be exhibited for observation. He further stated that with the assistance of Mrs. Myrtle Jean Cook, Curator, that two cases in the museum had been found that would serve as safe and serviceable for placing of the silver service at this time and he asked the Board that he be granted permission to use these cases. Mrs. Buell moved that this plan be approved. This was seconded by Mr. Harrison and the motion was carried. President Williams appointed said Mrs. Cook, Mrs. John R. Williams and the Secretary to carry out this temporary plan.

The Secretary stated that the Senter Plating Company charged \$50.00 for cleaning and \$25.00 for insurance on the silver as it was being taken out of the building to be polished and restored. Mr. Taylor moved that these charges, together with the expense of \$211.00 for the purchase of the permanent case for the silver be allowed. Mrs. Lucas seconded the motion and it was carried.

The President of the Board at this time stated that the next meeting would be on July 24th, 1947. This would be the first Thursday after the

fourth Wednesday, and Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker was to be present at this meeting and at two o'clock in the afternoon, the portrait of Lt. Gen. Eaker would be presented to the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Chairman of the Board pointed out that Lt. Gen. Eaker graduated at Southeastern State College of Oklahoma and that his fame belongs to the whole state, as well as the United States. He called attention to the fact that on the evening of July 24th at 7:30 P.M., a banquet would be given by the Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma City in honor of Lt. Gen. Eaker and he hoped that the largest possible number of the Board of Directors would be present.

The Chairman at this time presented to the Board a list of books from the Americus Book Company of Americus, Georgia, to be purchased by the Board of Directors for the library. Mr. Taylor moved that the Secretary be given authority to purchase these books. Mrs. Korn seconded the motion, which was duly carried.

At this point a letter was read from Hon. J. B. Milam of Claremore, member of the Board of Directors, expressing his regrets that due to the advice of his physician, he was unable to attend the meeting at Pryor. Judge Williams paid sincere tribute to the worth and character of Mr. Milam and suggested that a motion be made wherein the Board of Directors and members send their greetings to Mr. Milam and their hopes for his improvement through the summer so that he could be in attendance at the next meeting July 24th. Judge Campbell made a motion to this effect and it was seconded by Mr. Biggerstaff and carried.

Mr. Biggerstaff at this time submitted to the Board the point that the Twenty-first Legislature recently adjourned and had turned over the property of Ft. Gibson site as formerly held by the Board of the Planning and Resources Board, but he believed that the bill authorizing same did not include the Old Barracks property. He insisted that they should have done that. The President stated that he would hear a motion to the effect that Mr. Mountcastle, Mr. Biggerstaff and Mr. Harrison be appointed a committee to take charge of all matters relating to the Ft. Gibson Barracks as set forth by Mr. Biggerstaff. Mr. Taylor made the motion that this committee of three be so appointed by the Board and this was seconded by Mrs. Lucas. The motion carried.

Mr. Mountcastle stated that the telephone in the Ft. Gibson headquarters was about to be removed and there was a need for a phone in the custodian's building.

Mr. T. J. Harrison suggested that the Secretary write a letter to the custodian of the building suggesting that the telephone be not removed. Judge Williams, Chairman of the Board, objected to any step being taken that would make the State Historical Society liable in this action. Mr. Mountcastle made a motion to authorize the Secretary to write to Mr. Marvin Holland, custodian, showing the need for a phone and requesting him through the proper authorities and by supervision of the committee composed of Mr. Mountcastle, Mr. Biggerstaff and Mr. Harrison to develop a plan without cost to the Society to retain the telephone. Mrs. Buell seconded the motion and it was carried.

At this time, Mrs. Korn presented a gift from Mrs. Frances Haskell, a beautiful picture, a medallion of her mother, Mrs. Lillian Haskell, wife of the late C. N. Naskell, first governor of Oklahoma, to be donated to the Society, which was accepted.

At this point a motion was made that the meeting adjourn for continuance of the following program of the Annual Meeting as arranged by the Hon. T. J. Harrison, and the local committee, set forth as follows:

- 10:00 Annual Meeting called to order by the President  
 Welcome Address .....Warren Hadley,  
 Mayor of Pryor, Oklahoma  
 Response .....Mrs. J. Garfield Buell, Tulsa  
 Member of the Board of Directors.
- 10:30 Historical Phases of the Grand River Valley: Dr. Grant Foreman,  
 Muskogee—Oklahoma's foremost historian.
- 11:00 Dams on the Grand River: W. R. Holway, Consulting Engineer  
 for the Grand River Dam Authority.
- 11:20 The Heart of the Cherokee Nation: J. B. Milam, Chief of the  
 Chercekes and member of the Board of Directors.
- 11:40 Recess
- LUNCHEON
- 12:15 R. M. Mountcastle .....Muskogee, Oklahoma  
 Member of the Board of Directors, Presiding  
 Introduction of Officers, Members of Staff, and Members of  
 Historical Society:  
 Address: Oklahoma History and World War II.  
 Gen. William S. Key, Member of the Board of Directors.
- 1:15 Recess
- 1:30 Leave Community Building for a tour of interesting points in  
 Mayes County, which will include a visit to the site of the  
 former Oklahoma Ordinance Works; Whitaker State Home near  
 Pryor; Salina, location of the first permanent white settlement in  
 Oklahoma; the Saline salt wells near Salina; the Spavinaw Dam  
 at Spavinaw; and the Grand River Dam and Lake of the Chero-  
 kees.  
 Returning to Pryor about 5:30 P. M.  
 Adjournment.

The members retired to the auditorium of the Graham Community Building where the Hon. R. L. Williams, President of the Society, called the meeting to order and in a few words expressed his pleasure at the splendid attendance and offered tribute to Mr. Thos. J. Harrison and his committee for arranging everything in splendid order. He at this time called the Hon. George Bowman, of Kingfisher, member of the Board of Directors, to preside and Judge Bowman came forward and called Mr. Harrison to set forth some details of the program. Mr. Harrison in a very forceful manner and in happy enthusiasm called attention to the city of Pryor as one of the most noted spots of Oklahoma history, and appropriate for this meeting. He traced the history from the earliest days of the Spanish possession on through the time as a part of the Louisiana Purchase; then a portion of the United States until the Secession struggle held it for a time under the Confederate States; then on through American history to the present hour. He said the citizens of Pryor were offering a good dinner to all and after that a sight seeing and historical trip arranged by the city for everyone who desired to go.

At this point, Judge Bowman called upon the Secretary, Dr. Evans, to state in the form of a motion a vote of thanks and warm appreciation for the hard work and excellent reception the people of Pryor had put into the arrangements for this meeting. This included Mr. Harrison, sponsor of the program; Mrs. J. L. Mitchell, for the arrangements for the dinner; Mr. and Mrs. Childers, directors of the Whitaker State Home; the young ladies of that Home who served the table; Mrs. Mary K. Son, for recording the minutes of the meeting; and all those who had made the

auditorium beautiful with decorations and flowers; and everyone that had offered cars and aid of any kind. The motion was seconded and unanimously accepted with applause.

Mrs. Warren Hadley, Mayor of Pryor, gave a happy address of welcome and a response in brief was made by Mrs. J. Garfield Buell of Tulsa, member of the board of Directors.

Dr. Grant Foreman of Muskogee sent his regrets that he could not be present because of ill health, on advice of his physician, and asked that his paper, "The Historical Phases of the Grand River Valley", be read by someone Mr. Harrison and the committee might select. The Hon. J. Gus Bethell, State Representative of Mayes County and Pryor, forcefully read the paper, which was full of new and remarkable history of the Grand River Valley. It was received with sincere applause and immediately a motion was made by Mrs. Buell to request Dr. Foreman to send it for publication to the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*. This motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and unanimously carried, and the paper will appear in the *Chronicles*.

Mr. W. R. Holway, consulting engineer for the Grand River Dam Authority was not able to be present and asked that his wife present his subject. Mrs. Holway read this article in such a precise and interesting manner that it won the attention of everyone present. A motion was made that Mr. Holway send this article in to the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* for publication and after being duly seconded, the motion carried.

The Hon. J. B. Milam, Chief of the Cherokees, and member of the Board of Directors, had for his subject the "Heart of the Cherokee Nation", but as stated in the preceding minutes, he was not able to be present.

After finishing the program there was a recess of the Society and friends until 12:15, when all present were seated at tables spread with a bounty of good food, which Pryor, under the direction of Mrs. J. L. Mitchell, of the city, had prepared. Beautiful young ladies from the Whitaker State Home of Oklahoma, situated at Pryor, charmingly and efficiently served the guests.

Mr. R. M. Mountcastle, of Muskogee, member of the Board of Directors, presided and began with an introduction of officers, members of the staff, and members of the Historical Society. All in turn arose and gave their names and business. Among the guests was Mr. W. A. Graham, "ninety-six years young", as Mr. Mountcastle termed him, and who was the philanthropist that had given Pryor the splendid building in which the Association held its meetings.

The toastmaster introduced, with splendid tribute to his service and to his splendid record as a citizen and soldier. General W. S. Key, member of the Board of Directors, who spoke on "The Army and Navy in Oklahoma". General Key traced the history of Oklahoma from its earliest days as a training ground for some of the most famous and outstanding generals in all the wars of the United States since the Revolution. He pointed out that Col. Chouteau, founder of the white settlement and trading post at Salina, was the fourteenth officer to graduate from West Point. This was a surprise hit to the minds of all, for while some of the audience may have known that Col. Chouteau was a graduate of West Point, they did not recall that he rated among the first fourteen officers graduating at West Point. He told how Zachary Taylor, Col. Jefferson Davis, Col. Marcy, and Albert Sidney Johnson and others of great renown had found early training in the lands now embraced by Oklahoma. He paid earnest tribute to Oklahoma's soldiers and sailors in World War I and World War II.

He said, "If you are proud of the deeds of valour performed by your sons on the battlefield of World War I and World War II, let me say to you that the men and women who served and fought upon those fields are equally as proud of your valiant support at home." The general reported that two hundred thousand artillery officers enrolled in the nation's army during the second World War and that ninety percent received their training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Along with the training of these officers, Oklahoma gave 280,000 men to the Army and Navy. He spoke words of praise and devotion to the American Navy and said that both the Army and Navy, as relates to Oklahoma, deserve equal tribute. He said that Oklahoma was among the ten top states in purchasing War Bonds and had given a billion and a half dollars, or over fourteen bonds for each family.

After the dinner, the citizenship of Pryor brought cars to the auditorium and took the directors and members of the Society and visitors on a tour of interesting points in Mayes County, and the Valley, such as the site of the Oklahoma Ordinance Works; Whitaker State Home; Salina, location of the first permanent white settlement in that part of the state; the Saline salt wells near Salina; the Spavinaw dam at Spavinaw, and the Grand River Dam and Lake of the Cherokees. All members of the Society expressed their deep gratification and pleasure upon seeing these marvellous points of interest. It was the sense of the whole membership that Mr. Thos. J. Harrison, as director of the Society, and a life member for twenty-five years, had proved himself a most capable sponsor and host of this meeting.

ROBERT L. WILLIAMS,  
President

CHARLES EVANS, Secretary