

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

July 24th, 1947

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by the President, Judge Robert L. Williams, July 24th, 1947 at 10 A. M. in the Board Room of the Oklahoma Historical Building, Oklahoma City, Okla.

The roll call showed the following members present: Judge R. L. Williams, Judge Thomas H. Doyle, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Gen. W. S. Key, Mrs. Jessie Moore, Mr. Jim Biggerstaff, Hon. George L. Bowman, Mrs. J. Garfield Buell, Judge Harry Campbell, Judge Thomas A. Edwards, 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. Charles Evans.

The secretary read letters and telegrams of regret at not being able to be present from all absent members. Judge Doyle moved that the excuses given by these members be accepted, seconded by Dr. Harbour and carried.

Dr. McCash moved that the reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed with, subject to being read at any future meeting at the request of any Board Member. Motion seconded by Dr. Harbour and carried.

Mrs. John R. Williams reported that the Silver Service from the Battleship Oklahoma had been received, polished and put in good condition, and was now on display in the museum in two cases that had been procured from the south wing of the museum. She asked that when new cases were secured, that they be fitted with black or blue velvet lining. Dr. Harbour moved that new cases be fitted with black velvet linings, seconded by Mrs. Williams and carried.

Mrs. Williams inquired if the Society had a picture showing the cemetery at Pearl Harbor with the graves of the known and unknown dead from the Battleship Oklahoma, and asked that one be secured to be kept with the Silver Service, and it was directed that such picture be secured.

Mr. Bowman moved that a vote of thanks for Mrs. Williams' work in securing this Silver Service be placed in the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Moore and carried.

Judge Edwards moved that Congressman Monroney and other officials, local and in Washington, D. C., who had helped in securing the Silver Service be sent a resolution of thanks, seconded by Mr. Milam and carried.

Judge Doyle asked if a list of the officers and crew members of the Battleship Oklahoma had been made for our records here. Mrs. Buell moved that a record of the officers of the Battleship Oklahoma be secured, designating those who had survived and those who had not, seconded by General Key and carried. Mr. Milam amended this motion to say officers

and crew members, with consent of Mrs. Buell and Gen. Key, which amendment carried.

A list of gifts received in the library and museum since the last Board Meeting was read by the Secretary as follows:

**LIBRARY:** Five Miscellaneous volumes of Genealogy; 23 vol. on Masonry collected and presented by Mr. H. L. Muldrow; 69 vol. of Miscellaneous material given by the Library Commission; 4 vol. from the Military College in Washington, D. C.; 11 vol. from the State and Federal Government; *Kinfolks*, by W. C. Harilee, given by the Southern Literature Dept., of the U.D.C. 3 vol.; *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers*, 1820, by C. S. Brigham, gift of Clarence Brain, 2 vol.; *Art Folio of the Shenandoah Valley*, by John W. Wayland, given by Marie Moseley; *Joshua Beene and God*, by Jewel Gibson, given by J. Stanley Clark; *Early History of the Cherokees*, by Emmett Starr, Photostatic copy of *The Death Song of the Cherokee Indians*, also original copy of same, all the foregoing being the gift of Mr. J. B. Milam; *The Encyclopædia Britannica*, 32 vol. comprising the 11th and 12th editions (Cambridge, Eng., 1910) gift of Miss Muriel Wright.

**MUSEUM:** Indian Pottery Jar, gift of Mrs. R. A. Conkling; brake drum, a relic of the Leedey Tornado, gift of Kile Moorehead; rail spike, grooved trolley wire, plain trolley wire, all used in Oklahoma City Street Cars, the gift of Wm. Hahn. Also the following pictures have been accessioned: Oklahoma Railway Tracks, Seventeenth Street Station, Oklahoma Railway Power House, 1910, Delmar Gardens, West Main Street Car, 1907, South Walker Street Crossing, Oklahoma State Fair Grounds in 1908, First Car Barn in Oklahoma City, View of Sub Station, Station Shelter at Delmar Garden; all the gift of John B. Fink; Street Car at McAlester, Street Car at Miami, Oklahoma, Street Car, Oklahoma City, all the gift of Adolphus Brandt; Evans Hall, Central State College, Edmond, Okla., Methodist Church, Edmond, Christian Church, Edmond; Historical Marker, Central State Normal, Edmond; Frisco Train; Rock Island Train, all the gift of John B. Fink; Photograph of First Electoral College of Oklahoma Meeting at Guthrie, Okla., Jan. 11th, 1909, the gift of Mr. Leo Myer, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mr. Bowman moved that the gifts be accepted and the donors sent a vote of thanks from the Board of Directors, seconded by Mrs. John R. Williams, and carried.

A list of applicants for membership since the last Board Meeting was read by the Secretary as follows:

**ANNUAL:** Mrs. E. D. Avery, Tulsa; Paul L. Bennett, Oklahoma City; W. T. Brunson, Oklahoma City; Mrs. J. W. Childs, Tulsa; C. W. Clift, Oklahoma City; E. S. Dunnaway, Bartlesville; Mrs. Zora Lannon Hait, Bartlesville; Mrs. Katie O. Jantz, Custer City; E. Fred Johnson, Tulsa; Thomas C. Locke, Pryor; George Miller, Sr., Oklahoma City; Dudley C. Monk, Pasadena, Calif.; Myrtle Murray, College Station, Texas; Lloyd V. Newton, Miami; Mrs. Olive L. Nussbaum, Muskogee; Meck L. Richardson, Stonewall; Jack Scott, Wewoka; Alexander J. Walker, Baltimore, Md.; Ed Galt, San Antonio, Texas.

Judge Doyle moved that the applicants be accepted for membership in the class as presented, seconded by Mrs. Buell and carried.

Dr. McCash inquired concerning the procedure for becoming a Life Member, stating that he was a young man and wished to take advantage of the provision for life membership. Upon being told that the procedure entailed presenting a fee of \$25.00, he tendered his check for that amount, but Judge Doyle moved at this point that as an expression of the Society's appreciation of Dr. McCash's services to the State and the Society that

he be given a life membership in the Society and his check be not accepted. Motion was seconded by Mr. Biggerstaff and carried. Dr. McCash expressed his thanks and appreciation for this action of the Board.

The secretary stated that Mrs. Anzelle McCuen, who had been elected at the Annual Meeting at Pryor, May 26th, to succeed Miss Martha Mulholland as Chief Clerk, had asked for a leave of absence until October 1st, and Miss Mulholland had agreed to continue until she could take over her duties. Judge Doyle moved that Mrs. McCuen's request be granted, seconded by Mr. Bowman and carried.

Mrs. Moore moved that Miss Mulholland be given a vote of thanks for her seventeen years of service to the Society, seconded by Judge Doyle and carried.

Judge Doyle moved that a certificate of Life Membership in the Society be given Miss Mulholland without any financial charge therefor, seconded by Dr. Harbour and carried.

Dr. Evans reported that due to Miss Muriel Wright being granted a six months leave of absence beginning July 1st, 1947, it had been necessary to secure someone to replace her for that period and Mrs. Lillian Delly of Oklahoma City had been procured. Dr. McCash moved that Mrs. Delly be approved for the position, seconded by Judge Edwards, and carried.

Mrs. Korn read a letter from Dr. B. B. Chapman, of Stillwater, asking that the 1949 Annual Meeting of the Society be held at Stillwater, and moved that this invitation be placed in the minutes and held for further action at a future date. Motion was seconded by Judge Doyle and carried.

Judge Williams presented a booklet entitled "Three Decades in the Muskogee City Schools", and Mrs. Harbour moved that this be filed with educational papers and the assistant superintendent, Mr. Claude C. Harris, sent a vote of thanks for same. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Buell and carried.

The president read the list of committees of the Society as follows:

**COMMITTEES—1947-1948:**

*Executive:* Robert L. Williams, President; Thomas H. Doyle, President Emeritus; Emma Estill-Harbour, Vice President; William S. Key, Vice President; Jessie R. Moore, Treasurer; Robert A. Hefner, Sr., Baxter Taylor; Dr. Charles Evans, Secretary.

*Publication & Editorial:* Robert L. Williams, President, Chairman; Emma Estill-Harbour; V. Pres.; Harry Campbell; Edward Everett Dale; Jim Biggerstaff, James H. Gardner, and Dr. Charles Evans, Secretary.

*Membership:* H. L. Muldrow, Chairman; J. B. Milam, and Edward Everett Dale.

*Library and Museum:* Baxter Taylor, Chairman; Mrs. Blanche Lucas, V. Chairman; George L. Bowman, Robert A. Hefner, Sr., Robert L. Williams, ex officio.

*Art Committee:* Robt. A. Hefner, Sr., Chairman; Baxter Taylor, V. Chairman; Mrs. Frank Korn.

*Marking Historic Spots:* James H. Gardner, Chairman; Gen. W. S. Key, Harry Campbell, Mrs. John R. Williams, Edward C. Lawson.

*Sequoyah Shrine:* Thomas J. Harrison, Jim Biggerstaff, R. M. Mountcastle.

*Robert M. Jones Cemetery:* Robert L. Williams, Chairman; Arthur N. Leecraft.

*Chickasaw Capitol:* Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Mrs. John R. Williams, H. L. Muldrow.

*Fort Gibson:* Grant Foreman, Chairman; Thomas J. Harrison, Chairman, Active; Jim Biggerstaff, J. F. Brett, R. M. Mountcastle.

*Parks on West Side of State:* Thomas A. Edwards, Chairman; T. G. Cook, Mrs. John R. Williams, George L. Bowman.

*Supervision of Maps:* H. L. Muldrow, Emma Estill-Harbour,, Dr. Charles Evans.

*Special Committee to Preserve Historical Places:* J. B. Milam, Emma Estill-Harbour, and Mrs. Blanche Lucas.

*Committee on Printing Pamphlets and Exhibits in Society:* Jim Biggerstaff, Baxter Taylor and Robert A. Hefner, Sr.

*Committee on Accepting Clothing, etc., for Museum:* Baxter Taylor, Emma Estill-Harbour, H. L. Muldrow.

*Committee on Securing Banners of the Choctaws, Creeks, Chickasaws and Seminoles, and Cherokees:* Jessie R. Moore, J. B. Milam, and Thos. J. Harrison.

*Dam Sites:* H. L. Muldrow.

*Silver Service:* Mrs. John R. Williams.

*Committee on Map Cases for the Library:* H. L. Muldrow, Chairman; R. A. Hefner, and Baxter Taylor.

*Committee for Purchasing Cases for Flag Room:* Baxter Taylor, Chairman, R. A. Hefner, Blanche Lucas, H. L. Muldrow, Mrs. Frank Korn.

*Special Committee to Make Provisions for Placing and Protecting the Busts of Ex-Governors, presented by Dr. Jenkins.*

*Committee to Arrange Suitable Exercises in each County of the State in which as Many as Five Members of the Society Reside, to observe dates Representing Historical Events, in Connection with other organizations in the State who will join therein:* Mrs. Frank Korn, Chairman; Blanche Lucas, Mrs. Jessie E. Moore, Mrs. John R. Williams, Dr. Charles Evans, Secy.

General Key moved that the secretary be instructed to publish a list of all committees and furnish each committee member with a copy of the list, seconded by Dr. Harbour and carried.

Mr. Muldrow inquired as to whether the Society possessed up-to-date abstracts on the property owned by the Society. There was a great deal of discussion at this point by different Board Members concerning the matter, it being the opinion of several attorneys that there was no necessity of an abstract. Judge Williams appointed Mr. Muldrow and Judge Taylor as a committee to investigate this.

Mr. Biggerstaff offered for consideration the matter of the preservation and caring for of the Fort Gibson Stockade, and stated that through error, this part of the historical site had not been placed under the control of the Planning and Resources Board by the last Legislature, and moved that negotiations be opened with the State Park Department with a view to turning all of this site over to the Park Board. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Buell and carried.

Gen. Key brought up the question of working out some arrangement with the Planning and Resources Board to preserve historical sites now under the trusteeship of the Society, but no action was taken on the matter.

Mr. Milam moved that a resolution be passed by the Board of Directors expressing their regret at the death of former United States Senator Robert L. Owen in the city of Washington, July 19th, 1947, and incorporated in the minutes of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Moore and carried, and the following Resolution thereby adopted:

*"Be It Resolved* by the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society that we learn with profound regret of the death of Robert L. Owen, who served the State of Oklahoma for eighteen years as its United States Senator and in his life exemplified every virtue of a faithful citizen, a loyal Oklahoman and an eminent American."

Mrs. John R. Williams brought up the matter of having a guard on duty at the building, since it was also being used by other organizations, and doors were kept open after the Society was closed, and it was stipulated that after closing period all offices be locked by the custodian except doors to offices set apart for use of other organizations.

The question of smoking by tenants of the building was brought up and the danger of fire hazards to records, etc. Mrs. Harbour moved that a fireproof partition be installed between the space used by them and the Indian Archives, same to be paid for out of the private funds, seconded by Gen. Key, and carried.

Judge Williams spoke of talks he had had and letters he had exchanged with the Office of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee concerning the records that had been destroyed.

Gen. Key made an announcement concerning the banquet being given by the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce at 7 p. m. at the Skirvin Hotel, honoring Gen. Ira C. Eaker, and his associate officers. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, he extended an invitation to the members of the Board of Directors to attend, and stated that a table had been set aside for their use, the only table so reserved. He expressed the hope that every member present would be able to attend. He also stated that about forty members (almost the entire Board of Directors) of the Chamber of Commerce, and fellow officers of Lt. Gen. Eaker were coming out in a body to attend the unveiling of the Eaker portrait at 2 P.M. and expressed the hope that all members of the Board of Directors of the Society would be able to remain for the afternoon session.

There was a motion by Mr. Bowman that the meeting be recessed until 2 P. M., seconded by Mrs. Harbour, and carried.

The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors reconvened in the auditorium of the Historical Building at 2 P. M., in accordance with the motion made and carried in the morning session, and after the Chairman had called the meeting to order, he stated that the purpose for which they had met was to accept from the friends of Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker the portrait painted by the celebrated artist, Boris Gordon, of Washington, D. C.; this portrait to be placed in the halls of the Historical Society of Oklahoma.

A large and distinguished audience was present, embracing not only citizens from all professions from Oklahoma City, but a large number of state officials, lead by Lt. Gov. James W. Berry, Acting Governor, since Governor Roy J. Turner was out of the city; and celebrated army officers of high rank from all over the United States.

Judge Williams called upon Dr. I. N. McCash for the invocation, after which in a few well-placed remarks, he introduced Gen. W. S. Key of

Oklahoma City, as chosen by the friends of Lt. Gen. Eaker to present the portrait to the Society.

General Key said in part: "Just a brief time ago, we who sit here were surrounded by all of the danger, the distress, and the chaos of the greatest struggle America has ever known. This nation, whose history proves that it is devoted to peace, had been dragged into a world conflict. Once again we believed that our liberties were at stake; our way of living, bequeathed us by our first fathers and defended at Lexington and New Orleans, at Monterey, in the Argonne and along the Rhine, were challenged, and we went forth to meet that challenge with our army upon the land, our ships upon the sea, and our squadrons in the air.

"Germany under Hitler was a crafty, a trained, and a mighty foe. The history of World War II will reveal that at certain hours it was not clear who would be the victor in the awful struggle. There is a time in every contest where the choice of the hour for combat, the arrangement of a battalion or a regiment upon the field, the choice of a man to lead and direct, must decide for victory or defeat. Who can tell what would have been the story had another than Gen. Eisenhower or Adm. King, or Gen. Spaatz been chosen to lead the charge either on land, sea or air?

"So, as I see it, when the land forces of our country were interlocked with that of the enemy, and the question arose as to how we could blast the strength of central Germany from its deeply entrenched position, destiny was with us. When Gen. Spaatz called upon the man from Oklahoma, this man whose portrait today we shall place in the halls of this building to honor it as we keep sacred our devotions to liberty, he went with a courage and skill that won him the recognition of America and the devotion not only of his commanding and associate generals, but tribute from all liberty loving people of the world.

Oklahoma, who nourished this man in his earliest years, whose homes have been those of his neighbors, whose schools and churches have been his friends, salutes him with pride beyond any measure of words this day, as he comes to receive the best honor we can give him. Thank God, he has made it so that when history tells of his deeds, it must also mention Oklahoma."

At the conclusion of Gen. Key's speech, Judge Williams introduced Mrs. J. Garfield Buell of Tulsa, member of the Board of Directors, and asked her to unveil the portrait. She, in a most interesting and pleasant manner told a story of how some twenty or more years before, she expressed a desire to see her garden in Muskogee from the air. The command at Box Field assured her she would be given that privilege and placed a plane and a pilot, one Capt. Eaker, at her disposal. She went aloft and had not gone very far before the turning and banking and the peculiar spirals the pilot made all but deprived her of her breath. She saw her garden from the air, but she resolved never to let such a thing occur again. So, turning to Lt. Gen. Eaker, she told the audience, "This gentleman here gave me the only ride in an airplane I ever had or ever expect to have."

The audience rose en masse and with lusty cheers expressed their tribute to this son of Oklahoma.

Lt. Gen. Eaker at once endeared himself to his audience by saying that he was very glad to be home. He went on to say that there were times in his World War II experiences when he did not know whether he would be permitted to do this, since one A. Hitler had said that he intended to hang him on sight. He said that it was very pleasant to know that instead of hanging in Germany, he would hang in Oklahoma.

He related a little incident in his life that included Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. In organizing his air squadron in England, an attempt was made by the Royal Air Force to have his group incorporated into the Royal Air Force, but this he resisted. When he was called upon to bomb Hitler out of Central Germany, he maintained that this could be done only by blasting their strongholds during daylight hours. The RAF said that only night bombings should be permitted for it was impossible to resist Germany's airforces by daylight bombings. The question was put into the lap of Winston Churchill, who asked Franklin Roosevelt to send for Gen. Eaker. He said, "I told the prime minister that if he wanted me to do the job, I could only do it well by daylight. If not that way, he could find someone else." Churchill finally, after speaking with Roosevelt, called him and said, "Son, we will try it your way."

Gen. Eaker expressed profound gratitude for the action of his friends in placing his portrait in the State Historical Society. He pledged his best efforts of the years to come that this kindly act might not be regretted.

Upon a motion by Dr. McCash, seconded by Gen. Key, the meeting adjourned to meet the last Thursday in October, for its next quarterly meeting.