

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

October 23, 1947

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society convened in the Historical Society Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at 10:00 A.M., October 23, 1947, 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, Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Hon. George L. Bowman, Judge Harry Campbell, Hon. Thomas G. Cook, Hon. Thomas J. Harrison, Judge Robert A. Hefner, Mrs. Frank Korn, Mrs. Blanche Lucas, Hon. J. B. Milam, Hon. R. M. Mountcastle, Hon. H. L. Muldrow, Hon. W. J. Peterson, Judge Baxter Taylor and Mrs. John R. Williams.

Judge Thomas H. Doyle made the motion that absentee members be excused as having good and sufficient reasons for their absence. The motion was seconded by J. B. Milam and passed unanimously.

Judge C. Ross Hume of Anadarko, Oklahoma, was introduced to the Board, who, in turn presented John R. Osborne, Grandson of Black Beaver, celebrated Delaware chief, Jack McClain, Great grandson of Black Beaver, Mrs. Eston Rice, Great great granddaughter of Black Beaver, also Judge R. L. Lawrence and Mr. Ray Holler of the Black Beaver Council of the Boy Scouts of America of Anadarko, Oklahoma, and Mrs. E. G. Johnson, Mrs. S. G. Ambrister, Mrs. M. P. Kidd, Mrs. Gertrude S. Phillips and Mrs. Nan Hughes of the Black Beaver Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Norman, Oklahoma. Judge Hume, in presenting to the Society a picture of Black Beaver, said:

"Black Beaver, or Se-Ti-Ma-Qua, famous Delaware Scout and chief was born near St. Louis, Missouri about 1806, and is one of the best known Indians who ever lived at the Wichita Agency at Anadarko. In 1834, he accompanied the Dragoon Campaign under Col. Dodge on their visit to the Comanche and Wichitas, wild tribes of the plains. In 1846, he was a captain of Delaware and Shawnee Scouts in the War with Mexico. In 1852, he was guide and scout on Marcy's Expedition to the head of Red River. In 1850, he was guide for Elias Rector when the location of an agency and Reserve for the Wichita and Texas Reserve Indians was chosen. In 1861, he led the Federal troops from Forts Washita, Arbuckle and Cobb to Fort Leavenworth along what was later known as the Chisholm Trail. All of his property was confiscated by Confederate troops and he was never repaid for the loss. He returned to Wichita Agency and opened a farm on the south side of the Washita River where Anadarko now stands. He was one of the most progressive of the Indians, and was a leader among his own and associated tribes. He died in May 1880, and is buried in a plot near Anadarko. This picture was made many years ago, and was in the home of his daughter, Lucy Pruner, and later of his granddaughter, Mattie Sturm, and about one year ago she and her brother John R. Osborne here today, consented to give it to the Society, and it was sent to the University and a copy made and the original sent here last Spring. On behalf of these relatives I now present it to the Society".

(See *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXIV, p. 269, for an article entitled "Black Beaver" by Carolyn Thomas Foreman).

Judge R. A. Hefner made the motion that the picture of Black Beaver be accepted and that thanks be expressed to all parties who assembled and presented it to the Society. George L. Bowman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Anzell McCuen was introduced to the Board that she might explain her failure to report for duty as Chief Clerk of the Oklahoma Historical Society, to which position she was appointed by the Board at the meeting held at Pryor, Oklahoma, in May 1947, and requesting a further extension of time in which to report for duty. Judge Thomas H. Doyle moved that Mrs. McCuen be given an extension of time to report for duty as Chief Clerk of this Society. W. J. Peterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary then reported the completion of the fire-proof partition between the Indian Archives Department of this Society and the space temporarily occupied by the Veterans' of Foreign Wars and the Soldiers' Relief Commission, which expenditure to be made out of the Private funds, was authorized by the Board at its regular meeting in July 1947.

The Secretary then reported that he had been advised by Mr. C. R. Smith, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds that the replacing of the lighting system and the insulation on the fourth floor of this building should be completed about November 1, 1947; that it was being done by D. D. Layton Construction Company for the amount of \$15,398.00 out of an appropriation by the Legislature; and that the Standard Roofing and Material Company is replacing the old pitch and gravel roof on the Historical Society Building with a new twenty year bonded pitch and gravel roof for the amount of \$4,610.86, out of the same appropriation.

Judge Thomas H. Doyle made the motion that the reports of the Secretary on the building of the partition in the basement and the installing of the new lighting system on the fourth floor of the historical building be received and filed. W. J. Peterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported that the portrait of Dr. A. C. Scott which was recently presented to the historical society has been received and would be hung as soon as the repair work that has been going on in the museum is completed.

The Secretary reported the following gifts to the Society:

A beautiful collection of Alaskan Indian bead work consisting of the following: Winter boots for men, women's dance boots, men's moccasins, women's moccasins, leather fur-trimmed gloves, doll head, dog whip, two beaded hand-bags, table mat, knife-holder, miniature fur suit for men, beaded belt for women, cigarette case, flint skinning knife, a booklet containing a school project of the sixth grade at Fort Yukon, a gift of William C. Beach, a teacher in Alaska.

A gold pen that President Wilson used signing the *Federal Reserve Act* in 1913, given to Senator Robert L. Owen by President Wilson, the gift being presented by Mrs. Dorothy Owen Whittemore, daughter of the late Senator Owen.

The following articles, at the same time, were also received from Mrs. Whittemore:—A quilt made by Mrs. George B. Hester, mother of Mrs.

Robert L. Owen; small black silk parasol used by Mrs. Hester; hand embroidered dress trimmed with Irish crochet lace, Irish crochet blouse, coat and bag worn by Mrs. Robert L. Owen in 1911 and 1912; Christening dress worn by Mrs. Robert L. Owen in 1865; shoes worn by Robert L. Owen in 1856 when he was christened; medal presented to Mrs. Narcissa Owen, mother of Senator Owen, for art work exhibited at the St. Louis Fair in 1904; medal presented to Senator Robert L. Owen while he was in France; flask of Senator Owen; three miniatures set in gold breast pins—two of Senator Owen and one of Senator Owen's brother, Col. Wm. O. Owen; eighteen Confederate Bills of various denominations; two magazines, one containing an article about Senator Owen's father when he was president of the Norfolk and Western Railroad during the Civil War, the other containing an article about the universal language that Senator Owen was interested in, for all of which the Society is truly appreciative, and same are to be placed in an appropriate case to be provided by the Society out of its private funds.

Three photostatic copies of documents: a land patent signed by President Andrew Jackson, a land patent signed by President Martin Van Buren and a Confederate bond, all the gift of Mrs. J. H. McBride.

Picture of the Chickasaw Capitol at Tishomingo taken in 1898, the gift of Mrs. Agnes Fisher Colbert.

Picture of the Last Re-union of Indian Territory Deputy U. S. Marshals in 1908 at Fort Smith, Arkansas, the gift of the Adjutant General of Oklahoma.

Picture of the Old Tavern at Washington, Arkansas, the last place in the U.S.A., in 1836 as same existed, before crossing the Red River into the bounds of Mexico, the gift of J. T. Garner, Nashville, Arkansas.

Picture of Ben Dwight, gift of his mother, Mrs. Mary Jane King, Oklahoma City.

Copies of the *New Age Magazine*, presented by H. L. Muldrow for Clarence Brain.

Cancelled check as endorsed by President Wilson, the gift of Mr. V. V. Kingsbury, Tulsa.

Judge Baxter Taylor made the motion that letters of thanks be written to each of the donors of the above gifts to the Society. Mrs. Blanche Lucas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

H. L. Muldrow reported that through Mr. Clarence Brain of Oklahoma City the Society has been presented with almost a complete set of the *National Geographic Magazine* from Volume 1 to date, and that an effort will be made to secure the missing numbers from Washington.

Judge Baxter Taylor made the motion that the omitted copies of the *National Geographic Magazine* be secured and that the Society be authorized to pay for the same out of its private funds. Thomas J. Harrison seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Judge Robert L. Williams advised that the Robert L. Owen collection recently given to the Society should be kept by itself in an appropriate case to be paid for out of its private funds. Mrs. Anna Korn made the motion that the President and the Secretary be authorized to inquire as to the cost of a suitable case in which to place the Owen collection, and contract for same. Mrs. Blanche Lucas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Jessie R. Moore presented to the Society to be placed in the Indian Archives Division, the following documents relating to Governor Douglas H. Johnston's service to the Chickasaw Nation as Governor of that Nation from 1898 until his death in 1939 with the exception of the term from 1902 to 1904:

Minutes and Resolutions of the Conventions of the Chickasaw Protective Tribal Association organized by Governor Johnston to receive his reports, which met on November 11, 1929 at Tishomingo, Oklahoma, and on September 18, 1934 at Seely Chapel, and again on July 26, 1939 at Seely Chapel, after his death; Notices of the death of Governor Johnston, together with copies of the *Congressional Record* in which appeared eulogies as to him delivered in the Hall of Congress in Washington by Congressmen Boren and Cartwright of Oklahoma, and Rankin of Mississippi; and printed message of September 8, 1904 to the Legislature of the Chickasaw Nation.

Mrs. Moore stated that she was presenting these valuable papers to the Society at the request of the present Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Hon. Floyd Maytubby. Thomas J. Harrison made the motion that the Board accept the manuscripts as presented by Mrs. Moore and that they be filed with the Chickasaw records as a part of the Indian Archives, and that Gov. Maytubby be thanked for causing them to be presented to the Society. W. J. Peterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. John R. Williams presented a picture taken by her son, of the cemetery at Pearl Harbour showing the graves of the unknown dead from the Battleship Oklahoma. She also presented as a gift from Mrs. Frank Canton, a photograph of General F. M. Canton at the time he was Adjutant General of Oklahoma, and certain Commissions issued to General Canton; some back numbers of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*; and some copies of the *Stars and Stripes*. George L. Bowman made the motion that the gifts from Mrs. Canton be accepted and that a vote of thanks be sent to her. Judge Baxter Taylor seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Anna Korn called attention to the importance of selecting important dates to be observed in Oklahoma. The Chairman, Judge Williams, stated a committee would be appointed at the next meeting to attend to that matter.

Mrs. John R. Williams stated that a young man of this city desired to present to this Society a Norden Bombsight, stating she would have it moved to the historical building if it were acceptable. Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour made the motion that the Norden Bombsight be so accepted. George L. Bowman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Lela Fletcher Kidwell of Guthrie, Oklahoma, extending an invitation to the Oklahoma Historical Society to hold its next annual meeting at Guthrie. Mrs. Anna Korn made the motion that Mrs. Kidwell's invitation be accepted and that the annual meeting of the Society be held in Guthrie at a time and under such conditions to be designated later. Mrs. Blanche Lucas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Judge Thomas H. Doyle reported that various school libraries had requested bound volumes of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*. Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour made the motion that the Secretary be instructed to advise inquirers that the Society has no bound volumes of the *Chronicles* for sale, but that it will cooperate in locating missing copies to fill out sets. R. M. Mountcastle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

LIFE: Ethel Brewer McMillan, Oklahoma City; Dr. O. C. Newman, Shattuck; Mrs. Cora Case Porter, Ada.

ANNUAL: Ray Asplin, Oklahoma City; Emma K. Bangham, Lebanon, Ohio; Mrs. Imogene W. Barber, Oklahoma City; Loyd Bartlett, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Loula M. Campbell, Oklahoma City; Mrs. P. H. Dalby, Ramona; Alice Edson, Ames; Mrs. C. E. Goode, Oklahoma City; Charles E. Grounds, Seminole; Richard Haynes, Ada; J. W. Hockman, Muskogee; Mrs. George Hubbard, Oklahoma City; William Kiesel, Sr., Pryor; A. W. Lefeber, Muskogee; Mrs. Amy Martin, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Adin Maxon, Mooreland; Alexander W. Neville, Paris, Texas; George Dewey Peck, Stroud; John Pfalzgraf, Poteau; Mrs. R. M. Pope, Muskogee; Mrs. C. G. Reel, Walters; Irene Reese, Tulsa; Daniel Robinson, Muskogee; E. E. Sims, Oklahoma City; Evangeline Stahl, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Beulah Tidwell, Portland, Oregon; Emmitt J. Tilly, Calvin; Dr. Divonis Worton, Pawhuska; Mrs. L. E. Wylie, Oklahoma City.

Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour made the motion that the list of applicants be accepted in the class as indicated. George L. Bowman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Judge Thomas H. Doyle made the motion that Dr. C. Q. Smith, President of the Oklahoma City University, be tendered an Honorary Membership in the Oklahoma Historical Society, effective so long as he shall serve as President of said Institution. H. L. Muldrow offered an amendment that the Presidents of all accredited Oklahoma (*A class*) Colleges, to be selected by the Secretary and President, who are not already members, be tendered Honorary membership in this Society, effective so long as they shall serve as Presidents of said Colleges. Judge Doyle accepted the amendment which was seconded by Thomas J. Harrison and passed unanimously.

Thomas J. Harrison read his report as a member of the Fort Gibson Barracks Committee and stated that Mr. & Mrs. John Gray are the new custodians of the Barracks building; that the building is in need of a new roof and other repairs; that it will cost at least \$600.00 to make the most necessary repairs. George L. Bowman made the motion that the Society out of its private funds appropriate \$300.00 to be applied as to the roof and repairs for the Barracks Building provided the City of Muskogee, or the citizens thereof, and others, will assist in making the other necessary repairs. Mrs. Anna Korn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

George L. Bowman made the motion that the reports of the Secretary and the members of the staff of this society be bound each year. Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

George L. Bowman made the motion that the meeting adjourn subject to call. Thomas J. Harrison seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ROBERT L. WILLIAMS, *President*
Presiding.

CHARLES EVANS, *Secretary*.