MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 26, 1948

Guthrie, Oklahoma

The annual meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society convened May 26, 1948, in Constitution Hall, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Following registration of members and visitors, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, First Vice-President, due to the death of Judge Robert L. Williams, President of the Society, since the last quarterly meeting in January 1948, called the meeting to order.

The Chairman introduced Hon. L. G. Flesner, Secretary-Manager of the Chamber of Commerce of Guthrie, who, in the absence of Hon. Noel Datin, President, gave the address of welcome, which was responded to by Hon. Robert A. Hefner.

The Secretary called the roll which showed the following Board members present: Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Hon. George L. Bowman, Mrs. J. Garfield Buell, Judge Harry Campbell, Judge Robert A. Hefner, Mrs. Frank Korn, Mrs. Blanche Lucas, Dr. I. N. McCash, Hon. J. B. Milam, Hon. H. L. Muldrow, Judge Baxter Taylor, Mrs. John R. Williams and Dr. Charles Evans, the Secretary.

Hon. George L. Bowman made the motion that absentee members be excused as having good and sufficient reasons for their absence. The motion was seconded by Judge Robert A. Hefner and passed unanimously.

The Staff members present were: Mrs. O. J. Cook, Miss Muriel H. Wright, Miss Hazel Beaty, Mrs. C. E. Cook, Mrs. Edith Mitchell and Mrs. Rella Looney.

The Secretary presented the following list of applicants for membership:

LIFE: W. E. Green, Tulsa; Mrs. S. A. Hammack, Clinton; Ray McNaughton, Miami; Dr. Joseph Sigall, Tulsa.

ANNUAL: Harvey G. Albright, Madill; Mrs. Lena R. Banks, Lawton; W. G. Beasley, Holdenville; Judge Tom R. Blaine, Enid; Paul Boone, Stillwater; Seldon D. Butcher, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Ed Cofer, Shawnee; Don Cameron, Oklahoma City; Edward N. Campbell, Oklahoma City; Alice Carlson, Stillwater; Margaretta W. Compton, Wewoka; Daniel Coodey, Muskogee; John H. Crawford, Sr., Tulsa; Martha K. Crawford, Sapulpa; Arthur S. Davenport, Oklahoma City; Dr. Oscar W. Davison, Durant; Dr. John L. Day, Fort Supply; Mrs. Joe A. Driskill, Oklahoma City; Mrs. L. R. Emerson, Oklahoma City; George E. Fay, Joplin, Mo.; Mrs. L. Fountain, Paris, Texas; Rev. Herbert Eugene Gatti, Guthrie; Gus Hanson, Oklahoma City; Mrs. J. Eben Hart, Oklahoma City; Mrs. R. M. Hensy, Shawnee; Ida V. Hieronymus, Atlanta, Ill.; J. A. Kendall, Oklahoma City; John Klapp, Tecumseh; Mrs. O. W. Largent, Denver, Colo.; Prof. George E. Lewis, Stillwater; Josephine Lewis, Shawnee; E. D. Lusk, Tulsa; John A. McReynolds, Oklahoma City; Dr. Norbert R. Mahnken, Stillwater; Col. E. G. Matthews, Oklahoma City; N. Webster Moore, Jr., Bristow; Mrs. Nellie Moore, Edmond; Jerry B. Newby, Oklahoma City; Lloyd Noble, Ardmore; Carol O'Keefe, West Newton, Mass.; Pat Owen, Oklahoma City; Lena Peyton, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Ruth Rogers Pickens, Lilburn, Ga.; B. M.
Risinger, Sand Springs; Mrs. B. M. Risinger, Sand Springs; V. W. Russell, Oklahoma City; L. P. Sanford, Pampa, Texas; Dr. O. S. Somerville, Bartlesville; Harold W. Stroughn, Stillwater; H. L. Sweet, Okmulgee; Ralph Taylor, Bartlesville; Mrs. Loren G. Thomas, Des Moines, Iowa; Edwin A. Walker, Madill; Mrs. Ida C. Walker, Broken Arrow; Creekmore Wallace, Oklahoma City.

Hon. George L. Bowman made the motion that each be elected and received as members of the Society in the class as indicated in the list. Hon. Robert A. Hefner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Dr. I. N. McCash presented two checks for $25.00 each for Life Memberships in the Oklahoma Historical Society for Mrs. C. H. Kimes and Mrs. Daisy Thomas, both of Enid, Oklahoma, and $1.00 for an annual membership in the Society for Miss Martha Louise Lincoln of Enid, and made a motion that they be received as members of this Society. Mrs. J. Garfield Buell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Hon. George A. Bowman made the motion that the reading of the Minutes of the quarterly meeting of January 29, 1948, be omitted. Mrs. J. Garfield Buell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The President stated that due to error in omission of the name of Dr. I. N. McCash in the printing of the last Committee List she was placing Dr. McCash on the following committees: Committee on Library and Museum, Committee on Exercises Observing Historical Dates and Events and Committee for Placing Busts of Governors.

The President appointed General William S. Key, Hon. Hal Muldrow, Hon. Robert A. Hefner, Hon. George A. Bowman and Hon. R. M. Mountcastle on the Legislative and Appropriation Committee which must report to the State Budget Officer after July 1, 1948.

Hon. Baxter Taylor made his report as Chairman of the Art Committee, calling attention to the portraits hanging in the Art Gallery on the fourth floor of the historical building and suggesting that some regulations be made relative to the selection of portraits given to the Society.

Mrs. Frank Korn made the motion that the hall parallel to the portrait gallery be used in addition to the present art gallery and that the steel engravings now hanging on the walls thereof be placed in books, portraits to be hung on the walls in their stead. Hon. H. L. Muldrow seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Paul Cope, Director of the State Veterans Department was introduced. He stated that his group of employees is housed in the southeast corner of the basement of the historical society building along with the Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars; that they wish to install, at their expense, acoustical tile on the ceiling of that room, together with flourescent lighting; that the State Board of Public Affairs is in favor of said installation, and if agreeable with the Directors of the Historical Society they wish to make said improvements.

Hon. Baxter Taylor made the motion that Mr. Cope be granted the above request with the provision that such installations shall become a permanent addition to this building. Hon. George A. Bowman made the motion that Dr. Charles Evans, the Secretary, be made a member of that committee in the place of Judge Robert L. Williams, and that said committee confer with Mr. Cope, with power to act. Hon. Baxter Taylor withdrew his motion. Hon. Robert A. Hefner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported that Mrs. Anzelle B. McCuen who was elected to the position of Chief Clerk of the Historical Society at the annual meeting held in Pryor, Oklahoma, on May 26, 1947, has not taken that place; that she has been excused several times during the year.
Hon. H. L. Muldrow made the motion that the position of the elected member, Mrs. Anzelle B. McCuen, as Chief Clerk, who heretofore has not qualified, shall be set aside and vacated and the present clerk pro tempore be continued. Hon. Baxter Taylor seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported that there is need for a railing to protect the rare painting by Alfred W. Miller, presented by the late Gov. E. W. Marceland, now valued at $25,000, and that a suitable railing will cost $120.00.

Dr. I. N. McCash made the motion that a suitable railing be purchased for the sum of $120.00 for the protection of this valuable painting. Mrs. Blanche Lucas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported relative to the popularity of the Auditorium of the Historical Building by various organizations, especially music teachers; that the janitors of said building are necessarily called upon to clean, open and close the room and building for each group using it and that said janitors should be permitted to receive the sum of $5.00 for their services from those they serve.

Hon. Harry Campbell made the motion that said janitors be directed to ask not more than $5.00 for said extra work. Mrs. John R. Williams seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported that Mr. James E. Serven of Santa Ana, California, had offered to pay the Historical Society the sum of $500.00 for a Colt percussion revolver that is in the Museum. Judge Robert A. Hefner made the motion that the matter be referred to a committee for investigation, to be reported at the July quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors. Mrs. J. Garfield Buell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The President appointed Judge Robert A. Hefner, Mrs. J. Garfield Buell and Dr. Charles Evans, the Secretary, on said Committee.

The Secretary reported that a committee, including Mrs. C. E. Cook, Curator of the Museum, was appointed at the July 1947 meeting of the Board of Directors, to secure samples and prices of literature and postcards to sell to people coming to the Historical Society, and that Mrs. Cook has reported as follows:

Artvue Albums containing 10 different pictures and one on the cover can be purchased:

1000 for $165.00, and sell for $250.00
2000 for $390.00, and sell for $500.00
4000 for $500.00, and sell for $1000.00

Also a booklet to include 24 pages and cover, containing pictures of historic places in Oklahoma, together with a short history of each, can be purchased:

1000 for $227.80
2000 for $323.65
3000 for $416.65

the price of cuts to be determined and added.

Mrs. Frank Korn made the motion that the above figures be accepted and that a Committee be appointed to take care of the matter and that the Chief Clerk be designated to handle the money received from the sale of the albums and booklets. Hon. George A. Bowman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The President introduced Mr. C. A. Bassler, Vice-President of the Payne County Historical Society, who invited the Oklahoma Historical Society to hold its next annual meeting at Stillwater, Oklahoma, in 1949.

Mrs. Blanche Lucas made the motion that the Board accept Mr. Bassler's invitation to hold its annual meeting in Stillwater in 1949. Hon. Baxter
Taylor seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The President called attention to a request received from the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company to run a pipe line down the border of the R. M. Jones Cemetery in the southeastern part of Oklahoma.

Dr. I. N. McCash made the motion that this matter be referred to the Robert M. Jones Cemetery Committee of which Hon. H. L. Muldrow is chairman. Hon. Robert A. Hefner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Hon. George A. Bowman made the motion that nominations for the vacancy of Director on the Board of the Historical Society be made at this time, to be elected at the quarterly meeting to be held in July 1945. Mrs. John R. Williams seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. John R. Williams nominated Hon. Milt Phillips, Editor of the Seminole Producer, for the position of Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Mrs. J. Garfield Buell nominated Judge Redmond S. Cole, an attorney of Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the position of Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Dr. Angie Debo nominated Dr. Berlin B. Chapman of the History Department of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, for the position of Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Hon. George A. Bowman nominated State Senator James Rinehart of El Reno, Oklahoma, for the position of Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Mrs. Frank Korn made a motion that a committee be appointed to propose some amendments to the Constitution of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Judge Baxter Taylor seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Hon. H. L. Muldrow presented a “Souvenir of the Fall Reunion, Indian Consistory & Coordinate Bodies, A. A. S. R., Valley of McAlester-Orient of Oklahoma November 4, 5, 6 & 7, 1935,” in which is a picture of the Will Rogers Memorial Class of April 16, 1908, Will Rogers’ picture standing out quite prominently. Hon. Baxter Taylor made the motion that said booklet be accepted and that Mr. Muldrow be thanked for the same. Mrs. Frank Korn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Hon. H. L. Muldrow then presented for Hon. W. Mark Sexson, father of the Order of the Rainbow, all of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of the Supreme Assembly of the Order of the Rainbow from its incipiency down to the present, to be added to the Masonic material already in the library of the Historical Society.

Dr. I. N. McCash made the motion that a letter of acknowledgment and thanks be written by the Secretary to Mr. Sexson for the above gift and that he be elected an Honorary Life Member of this Society. Mrs. J. Garfield Buell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Hon. H. L. Muldrow then presented as the gift of Hon. Charles H. Bunting, a unique collection of Masonic Jewels which has an intrinsic as well as historical value. Hon. Robert A. Hefner made the motion that said Jewels be accepted and that a letter of acknowledgment and thanks be written by the Secretary to Hon. Charles H. Bunting for said gift. Hon. Baxter Taylor seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At this point the First Vice-President, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, presiding, stated that she had read carefully the Constitution and By-Laws of the Oklahoma Historical Society and that she held that she was elevated, through the death of President Robert L. Williams, to the presidency of
the Society until January 1950. She stated that she recognized her responsibilities and that her health and powers assured her of the ability to discharge the obligations with fidelity and, she hoped with honor to this Society. She further stated that she would rely upon each member of the Board and the Secretary to give her assistance for which she would be duly grateful; that she recognized the honorable service which Judge Robert L. Williams, past President, had rendered and she would be true to all the principles that had actuated him in his service to the Society.

Hon. George A. Bowman made the motion that the business meeting be adjourned and that a memorial for Judge Robert L. Williams be held immediately thereafter. Mrs. Blanche Lucas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, the President, said: "At this time we are going to have a memorial service for our wartime Governor. It was during his administration the capitol was built and it was with pride that he said the granite was all from Oklahoma. He was on the committee that succeeded in getting the Historical Society Building. He was on the committee that went to select a style for our building. He was a fine President and we shall miss him.

'Dear friends, in solemn memory
We are gathered here today
To give a kindly loving thought
To dear friends passed away.

Altho' a place is vacant
That never can be filled
And friends we loved have left us
A friendly voice is stilled.

Tho time may change from year to year
Our lives from day to day
The memory of the friends we knew
Will never pass away.'

At this time we will be glad for any tribute you wish to pay to Judge Williams."

For brevity only excerpts from the remarks of each speaker is given.

Mrs. J. Garfield Buell suggested a few minutes of silent prayer.
Silent prayer.

Mrs. Frank Korn in a splendid tribute said among other remarks: "He was a man of visions and a man of verities. A man to make visions, granted to him realities and how? By untiring and never failing persistence, that if a great object was to be gained, it was worthy of long sustained, undaunted endeavor using all that was in accord with him, converting to his view all that first opposed him, he then in harmony achieved success.

"Every point of difference that lay in the accomplishment of a desired end, he met squarely and settled judicially in open court so far as he was concerned in it. As Browning would say—he was a fighter for what he conceived to be right.' Robert Lee Williams marched resolutely up life's highway to earn successive distinctions as a practicing lawyer, a district judge, a member of the Constitutional Convention, third Governor of Oklahoma, Justice of the Supreme Court, a high party leader, a Circuit Judge and last, President of the Historical Society which always held a special place in his heart."

Judge Baxter Taylor set forth his love and tribute in substance as follows:
"I met Judge Robert L. Williams when as a young man I came out from Tennessee and pitched tent in the little town of Atoka. The Constitution of Oklahoma was to be made. His fellow citizens of the Durant region presented him to the Constitutional Convention as their spokesman and representative. I can see him now as he appeared at that time, stalwart, rugged, unvarnished as a piece of gold from a gold mine, but alert, persistent and profoundly able. He stood in that Constitution Hall like a mountain of granite in his ideals of honor and integrity. I recall that after they had written the Constitution questions were raised as to the leadership and direction of men who made this Constitution. Robert L. Williams, among his peers and among the people of the new State, ranked as one of the chief molders among those who gave us our fundamental charter of government. As he was then a leader so he continued through more than forty years a towering figure in the annals of the State. He was my friend and I gave him profound admiration and love."

Judge Redmond S. Cole said: "May I add just one word to the thought that my good friend, Judge Taylor, has just given us. The first time I ever met Governor Bob Williams to really know the man I went alone to talk to him about the proposition of making an appointment of a friend of mine to an official position. He listened and then said, 'Is he honest?'"

Judge Harry Campbell then said: "I want to speak a word in memory of Judge Williams. I first met Judge Williams in Durant in 1900 at the time of the Democratic General Election when he was elected President of the National Committee. I have known him intimately through the years. I knew him when he was elected to the State Constitutional Convention, when he was elected to the Supreme Court of Oklahoma and when he was Governor, but more intimately since he was appointed Federal Judge of the Eastern District of Oklahoma. Down through the years I practiced law in Judge Williams' court, and while he was domineering in a great number of ways and was impatient at delays he was a man of unusual honor and ability and I have never known him to be accused of any irregularity."

Mrs. Blanche Lucas: "My friendship with Judge Williams began during the Constitutional Convention and has continued through the years and I honor his memory."

Dr. I. N. McCash: "I came to Oklahoma in 1916. Judge Robert L. Williams was Governor. I became the President of a little church college that had no power to offer certificates in teaching. He came and delivered our commencement address. Our friendship began then. As the years went by every teachers' college and all institutions of higher learning in the State, save one, were against allowing Phillips University and other church colleges to be accredited with the power of offering certificates to teachers without standing an examination which they possessed. Governor Williams said that was not right, and then Dr. Charles Evans of Henry Kendall College went to the Legislature with a Bill to give equal credit where equal work was done. In the very last afternoon of the session we found the Bill pigeon-holed. Dr. Evans discovered this and went to the Committee on Education and demanded its being brought to the Floor for passage or rejection. The Senator, Hon. F. E. Tucker, who championed the Bill in the Senate was told that Governor Williams was for it. He said, 'Ask the Governor to come now to the Floor of the Senate,' and in a few minutes he appeared, and in a little while the Bill was passed; Governor Williams signed it and the church colleges of Oklahoma have a right to say, as I have often said, that this law was the Declaration of Independence of the church colleges of Oklahoma."

Dr. Fred S. Clinton: "Judge was my friend. I don't know how long I knew him. I knew him ever since he came to the State. He took an
important part in the making of the Constitution and he had an important part in interpreting the Constitution and other laws. When he was the Governor of the State he helped to establish the Standard Medical School. He was a great benefactor of the Medical Fraternity in Oklahoma."

Hon. George A. Bowman: "I want to say just a word with reference to Judge Williams that has not been pointed out. I knew him when I came to the Oklahoma Territory part of the State in 1899 but the thing that has impressed me about Judge Williams was the fact that we would not have had the historical building of the State if it had not been for him. When he came to be Governor the Historical Society was in a room in Oklahoma City and then in the Capitol and it was through his influence that the legislature appropriated money for the erection of the historical building. Judge Williams was Governor from 1915 to 1919 and in the Fall of 1914 when running for Governor of Oklahoma he got out these little buttons which were to be worn on the coat; and on the bottom of it it says 'Our Bob'. I want to give this to Dr. Evans for the historical society."

Dr. Charles Evans: "While I am on my feet may I say to you that I met Robert L. Williams 43 years ago. Never in my life have I met such a remarkable and singular character. The substance of what Dr. McCash said that he was always for the minority, was the very root of his being. Judge Williams was a really religious man. He loved all that pertained to the origin and growth of this State. His brother-in-law, Mr. Paul Walker of Washington, D. C., sent me a few lines from a plaque that was hanging in his room at the time of his death. May I be given the privilege of reading it?

BUILD ME ANEW—EACH HOUR, EACH DAY

Keep building me anew, each hour, each year, God.
Fashion my way and will toward better things. Mark plainly the ways of error before me, so that I may not go their routes.
Stimulate my mind to see and my heart to feel.

Take the various phases of my nature and spread them clearly before me—as though a pictured book, so that I may recognize my weakness as well as my gifts of strength.

Keep walking around with me, God. Keep talking to me, so that your Palship may grow in fondness and beauty to me.
Cleanse my mind and heart so that people may see what worth there is in me, as I see the loveliness of formation in the rocks and flowers that play like pals with the crystal streams that ripple among the mountain bases.

Build me anew—each hour, each day.

Tear down that which I have faultily constructed and lead me to new locations—there to start all over again.

I know that I am made of the elements that mingle in the soil of the earth, and that sometime I shall return to the play of their atoms but I am also convinced that you have breathed into this frame of mine an immortal soul, whose journey has just begun.

Keep me simple, God. Attract my mind to simple things—those which are easiest understood.

And mingle me with the great crowd, so that what little influence I may possess may spread deepest and farthest, helping, uplifting the largest number.

With the sun of your love, God, kill every germ of conceit and self-interest within me.
Develop these shoulders of mine so that I may be strong to give a
lift to those less strong and fortunate than I.

Build me anew—each hour, each day.'"

Hon. Robert A. Hefner: "My tribute to Judge Williams in a word is
the service he performed in preserving our State's history. No man has
rendered a greater service."

Hon. H. L. Muldrow: "I suspect I knew Bob Williams as long as any-
body here. Long ago, in the Indian Territory times, I met him. There
have been times when I liked him very much—there have been other times
when I despised him. Bob Williams was a man who did things. Whether
he was right or wrong he was loyal to his convictions."

Miss Muriel H. Wright: "As a member of the Staff I would like to
make a statement with reference to Judge Williams. It wasn't my privilege
to have known him so long as these good friends of his. In my work with
The Chronicles I could always depend on Judge Williams in its planning and
publication. I wish to say that in the Summer issue all of the articles
were approved by him. It will also include a sketch of his life by Dr.
Evans, making this number a memorial to Judge Williams."

Mr. Flesner of the Guthrie Chamber of Commerce then announced that
the room on the second floor of Constitutional Hall in which the Con-
stitution was drawn was open and all were invited to visit it.

At this time, a motion was made by Judge Harry Campbell that ad-
journement be made, after which all members would repair to the Ione
Hotel for a banquet given in honor of the Society by the Chamber of
Commerce of the City of Guthrie. The motion was seconded by Hon. J. B.
Milam and was carried.

The proceedings of the banquet and excursions about the City are
revealed in the following program:

"LUNCHEON, Ione Hotel
Sponsored by Guthrie Chamber of Commerce
Master of Ceremonies ............................................. Mayor C. E. Barnes,
Guthrie, Oklahoma

12:15 Music ......................................................... Anne Mary Bentley
Your Song For Paradise by S. B. Brown
Introduction of Officers, Members of Staff, and Members of
Historical Society.

Music ............................................................... Anne Mary Bentley
The Pipers Song by Paderewski
Address ............................................................. Hon. Baxter Taylor
Member of the Board of Directors"

At the conclusion of the program the President, Dr. Emma Estill-
Harbour extended thanks and deep appreciation to Mayor C. E. Barnes,
Hon. L. G. Flesner, Secretary-Manager, and the Committees of the Guthrie
Chamber of Commerce, that had given the Society such a splendid banquet
and means of excursion to the historic spots about the City. The Co-
operative Publishing Company was also thanked for the beautiful corsages
for the lady members of the Board of Directors and the members of the
Staff of the Society and boutonnieres for the gentlemen of the Board of
Directors.

It was the expression of all that it was one of the best annual meetings
the Society had ever had.

EMMA ESTILL-HARBOUR, President

CHARLES EVANS, Secretary