

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founders Day, May 26, 1949, Stillwater, Oklahoma

The annual meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society convened May 26, 1949, in Old Central, A. and M. Campus, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Following registration of members and visitors from 9:00-9:30, the Board of Directors held a short business meeting from 9:30-10:00 o'clock.

Due to the shortness of time, the President, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, authorized the Secretary to omit the regular procedure of reading the Minutes of the last annual meeting because it had been published in the Summer issue of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* in 1948.

The President also requested the Secretary to omit the regular roll call of the Board members, but to check the list and show in the Minutes all members present; those who were absent with good and sufficient reasons; and those who were absent and had failed to notify the Secretary.

The following Board members were present: Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Judge Harry Campbell, Dr. E. E. Dale, Mrs. Blanche Lucas, Judge Redmond S. Cole, General W. S. Key, Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Mrs. Frank Korn, Hon. George L. Bowman, Mrs. J. Garfield Buell, Hon. Thomas J. Harrison, Hon. Jin Biggerstaff and Dr. Charles Evans, the Secretary. Judge Baxter Taylor and Judge Thomas A. Edwards did not attend the business meeting, but were present at the open session.

Hon. R. M. Mountcastle of Muskogee sent a telegram regretting his inability to attend the meeting because of business in court.

A letter was received from Dr. I. N. McCash, stating that he was engaged in Church services and would be unable to attend the meeting at Stillwater.

Hon. Thomas G. Cook of Buffalo sent a letter telling of the death of one of his trusted employeess which would not permit him to attend.

Hon. Hal Muldrow of Norman was excused on account of illness.

The Founders Day Meeting developed such interest among members of the Staff of the Society that many were in attendance. Those who enjoyed the program were, Mrs. Jean Cook, Mrs. Helen Gorman, Mrs. Grace Ward, Miss Hazel Beaty, Mrs. Edith Mitchell, and Mrs. Louise Cook, who, in the absence of Dr. Evans' Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Thurston, reported the minutes of the business session of the Board.

Hon. George L. Bowman made the motion that absentee members who had notified the Secretary be excused as having good and sufficient reasons for their absence. The motion was seconded by Hon. Thomas J. Harrison and passed unanimously.

The Secretary presented the following list of applicants for membership:

LIFE: Frank Buttram, Oklahoma City; Fannie L. Glenn, Hugo; E. E. Kitchens, Enid; Everett S. Lain, Oklahoma City; Mrs. John Frank Martin,

Oklahoma City; Joseph T. Martin, Oklahoma City; Lloyd Noble, Ardmore; Reynold Patzer, Oklahoma City; E. N. Puckett, Enid; A. Schuler, Chickasha; Mrs. R. M. Vliet, Oklahoma City.

ANNUAL: Mrs. C. R. Anthony, Oklahoma City; Otis G. Bacon, Frederick; Mrs. Frances Baker, Ft. Worth, Texas; Roscoe C. Baker, Enid; W. A. Baldwin, Blanchard; Mrs. Lula J. Bell, Durham; Robert E. Bell, Norman; Mary Louise Boescher, Houston, Texas; J. M. Bradshaw, Cheyenne; Earl J. Brown, Wilburton; F. A. Buckingham, Enid; Mrs. Jodie T. Burnett, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Edwin W. Burch, Sr., Oklahoma City; Hiram A. Butler, Boise City; William E. Butts, Nash; John R. Callaway, Pauls Valley; Mrs. Willard Carver, Oklahoma City; Mary Elizabeth Choate, Stillwater; Adella Clifton, Oklahoma City; H. C. Coyne, Drumright; Ila Cranmer, Cherokee; Mrs. C. D. Dillman, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Willa Dusch, Stillwater; Mrs. Cranfill Fowler, Oklahoma City; Raymond Gardner, Ada; Paul L. Garvin, Norman; Mrs. M. A. Gilbert, Stillwater; Eli P. Goforth, Ada; Mrs. Cecil Grim, Red Rock; Jim Hall, Ada; Howard Hand, Drumright; C. W. Harper, Bethany; L. H. Harrison, Oklahoma City; Lois Hastings, Stillwater; Edward F. Heard, Cleveland; A. C. Hirshfield, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Colleen Hudleston, Heavener; Pearl Hughey, Cherokee; Lois Hulse, Beaver; J. H. Humphrey, Mooreland; William K. Ishmael, Oklahoma City; Kenneth Jackson, Atoka; Edward T. Jacobson, Norman; Mrs. Verna Jemison, Stillwater; N. B. Johnson, Oklahoma City; Wilton D. Johnson, Tahlequah; Bert F. Keltz, Oklahoma City; Konrad K. Koch, Norman; Lloyd Lacy, Lawton; John H. Lamb, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Crockett Lee, McAlester; Mrs. Helen L. Lindsey, Heavener; Mrs. Lulu F. Lipe, Muskogee; Thea. E. Lipscomb, Oklahoma City; Earl D. McBride, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Joseph C. McCuen, Oklahoma City; William McGinty, Ripley; Mrs. Joe McGrath, Muskogee; Joseph G. Mandella, Ada; L. J. Martin, Cushing; Dorothy L. Millwood, Walters; E. C. Mohler, Ponca City; Hiram D. Moor, Oklahoma City; Elmer R. Musick, Oklahoma City; Vern H. Musick, Oklahoma City; E. E. Norvell, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Clark C. Nye, Oklahoma City; Clark C. Nye, Oklahoma City; Irene Nye, Oklahoma City; V. H. Odom, Wagoner; Mrs. B. F. Owen, Oklahoma City; Dale Patton, Muskogee; J. I. Payte, Oklahoma City; Ruby Pedrick, Oklahoma City; J. R. Phelan, Oklahoma City; Roy J. Pierce, Chickasha; Mrs. S. C. Pittinger, Cushing; G. P. Porter, Dallas, Texas; Velma F. Potter, Boise City; Carroll M. Pounders, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Lola M. Pritschow, Oklahoma City; Carl E. Reubin, Tishomingo; Ella Roberts, Woodward; Mrs. D. J. Robinson, Warsaw, Va.; Mary A. Robinson, Pawnee; Mrs. Ola J. Rogers, Cleveland; Hazel Roller, Maysville; A. Rose, Elgin; Reuben E. Sawyer, Durant; Leonard Saxon, Wilburton; Karl Schmitt, Norman; C. W. Simonds, Watonga; R. L. Simpson, Eufula; Mrs. Edmith Smith, Norman; Mrs. Robbie Smith, Webbers Falls; Sterling P. Smith, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Ruby B. Stallings, Oklahoma City; L. J. Starry, Oklahoma City; Carl T. Steen, Pauls Valley; J. W. Stovall, Norman; John R. Taylor, Kingfisher; Charles W. Tedrowe, Woodward; John David Thomas, Oklahoma City; J. Roy Thompson, Washington D. C.; Walter J. Turnbull, Jr., Los Angeles, California; Poe Vandament, Yukon; Paul W. Uteley, Oklahoma City; Kenneth K. Warner, Boise City; Mrs. C. W. Whittenberg, Stillwater; Thos. J. Winters, Stringtown; C. W. Wofford, Heavener; K. F. Woodward, Okmulgee; Mrs. Estella M. Wooten, Boise City.

General Key made the motion that each be elected and received as members of the Society in the class as indicated in the list and their names be published in the *Chronicles*. Mrs. Korn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was given Mrs. Buell for her untiring effort in presenting life memberships to the Society. In the past few months she has brought in twenty-five life memberships.

At this point Dr. Evans, the Secretary, pointed out that the campaign for membership during the last six months or more had brought into the Society a 40% increase in membership and some \$3000.00. He declared it his purpose, with the endorsement of the Board of Directors, to put on a campaign of what he termed "Every Member Get A Member." Added to this he proposed to the Board of Directors that there would be given to each of them in that campaign for membership the pleasant effort to secure at least ten life members each. The Board of Directors with great good humor endorsed the idea and many of them cheerfully proposed that the life membership campaign with them should begin right now.

Mrs. Moore made the motion that a hundred dollars be taken out of the private funds to pay for a memorial scroll dedicated to the Indians of Indian Territory who made the sacrifice of service in the Army of the Confederate States of America during the War Between the States, and that this scroll be hung in the Confederate Memorial room. Hon. Thomas J. Harrison seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mrs. Buell reported she had been in communication with Dr. Foreman relative to Indian records in the Indian Agency at Muskogee. She stated there were many Indian books that should be transferred to the Indian Indian Archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society and that this work should be done immediately. After some discussion it was decided to turn this work over to Dr. Evans, the Secretary, and he with the assistance of the Archivist would work out a plan in getting the material to the Historical Society.

On this question the Secretary briefly presented the long and hard work performed by Mrs. Rella Looney, Archivist, for the Society, and acting under the advice and plan of Dr. Grant Foreman, how she had made two trips to Muskogee in the past three years, securing from that Agency, 628 bound volumes and approximately 20,000 pages of records, which, added to the records transferred from that Agency to the Society in 1934 after the passage of the Act of Congress by which the Society was given custody of certain records, makes a total of 163,396 pages of manuscripts and 1,328 bound volumes now in custody of the Oklahoma Historical Society from the Five Civilized Tribes Agency at Muskogee. The Secretary promised to take immediate action to secure the remaining 146 volumes not yet removed from that agency.

Hon. Thomas J. Harrison stated that since meeting of the Board in February 1949, we had lost one of our members, Hon. J. B. Milam of Claremore. He also stated in as much as Mr. Milam was of Cherokee ancestry and was appointed principal chief of the Cherokee Nation and his wife was of Cherokee ancestry that Mrs. Milam be appointed by the Board to fill out Mr. Milam's term. Hon. Thomas Harrison made a motion to this effect including the authorization from the President that the Secretary write Mrs. Milam a letter stating the action of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Moore and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Buell that Hon. Redmond S. Cole be elected second vice-president. She stated the Constitution and By-laws of the Oklahoma Historical Society plainly called for one and since the death of Judge Williams the first vice-president had become president and the second vice-president had automatically become vice president and it had left the second vice president's chair vacant and at this time she would like to submit Hon. Redmond S. Cole's name to fill the vacancy. The motion was seconded by Judge Campbell and it carried unanimously.

Mrs. Buell stated that inactive or disinterested members should be removed from the Board and their places filled with persons who were in-

terested or at least interested enough to notify the Secretary of their inability to come. After some discussion, the President quoted from the Constitution and By-laws (page 10) the following:

ARTICLE V-DIRECTORS

"Section 4B: The absence of a member of the Board of Directors from three consecutive regular quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors shall operate to terminate the membership of such director from said board, provided that the attendance of such member at special board meetings during such period shall operate to prevent termination of membership; and provided further, that a written statement from such member that he was reasonably prevented from attending such board meeting may prevent the termination of such membership on such board."

(As amended March 31, 1932)

At the suggestion of the President a motion was made and properly seconded and passed that the Secretary carefully check the Directors' list and where Article V, Section 4B (page 10), of the Constitution and By-laws, as amended March 31, 1932, applies such directors would be notified.

After some discussion as to how portraits should be accepted and where they should be hung in the portrait gallery of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Mrs. Korn, a member of the art committee, pointed out that the Board of Directors had passed a motion in a former meeting whereby all portraits placed in the Hall of Fame in the Oklahoma Historical building must be presented and accepted by the whole Board in session, and made the motion that before any portrait may be hung in said Hall the chairman of the art committee must call all committee members and a definite time set for all members to be present and a suitable place in the hall for said portrait be decided on by the members of the committee. General Key seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

General W. S. Key arose and stated that the recent Legislature had appropriated \$10,000 for historical markers to be set up throughout the State at sites properly selected by the Oklahoma Historical Society, \$5000 to be used in 1949-50 and \$5000 in 1950-51. This work was to be done in cooperation with the Oklahoma Highway Commission and the markers to be of aluminum with steel support and set in solid concrete, each bearing the State insignia, and all words and dates on each marker to be composed and authorized by the Oklahoma Historical Society as written in the law. He thought that each marker could be secured for an average cost of \$90.00. He stated that work should begin soon for the fiscal year begins July 1, 1949, and that all members of the Society should assist in every way possible. He advised each Director to think out historical places to mark, write a description of the place and give proof of why the spot should be marked.

At the conclusion of the business meeting the President, Dr. Harbour, proposed that the meeting of the Board on the last Thursday in July 1949 should be largely given over to a discussion of plans and policies for a greater Oklahoma Historical Society. This met with the approval of the entire Board and upon motion of Hon. George L. Bowman and seconded by Judge Baxter Taylor that the directors meet at the usual time and place in Oklahoma City, July 28, 1949, or at the call of the President, the meeting was adjourned.

Immediately after this Professor Berlin B. Chapman announced before the Board and the audience that they would pass into the main auditorium of Old Central where historical papers would be presented and discussion would follow.

President Harbour in a very happy and pointed fashion voiced the delight of the Oklahoma Historical Society in meeting on Founders Day in so historical a site as Stillwater, the home of the A. & M. College and within the sacred hall of Old Central where the earliest school history of Oklahoma had been put forth.

Rev. W. N. Arnold, pastor of the Evangelical United Brethren Church of Stillwater, offered invocation.

President Harbour introduced a clarinet trio of A. & M. College students, C. G. Arnold, Guthrie; Richard Vandewalker, Stillwater; and Richard Niswonger, Oklahoma City, who rendered several delightful numbers.

The President at this time pointed out that Dr. Berlin B. Chapman, Professor of History at the Oklahoma A. & M. College, and President of the Payne County Historical Society, had been for several years a distinguished contributor to the pages of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*; he had also been a most loyal member of the Society and had paid it every honor and service; he had been the one who had invited this Society to hold its meeting on Founders Day in Stillwater, so it was good to introduce him as one who would give the welcome address.

Dr. Chapman expressed in his remarks that there were three reasons why all members of the Society and visitors should be happy on this occasion. First, because President Bennett, the faculty and all forces of the A. & M. College, were pleased beyond measure to have this big event in their midst, and if they had left anything undone in proof of this, he wanted somebody to point it out and it would be brought forth. Second, that no point in the State could be more appropriate and have more power to give a good cheerful setting to this Founders Day group because fifty-six years ago when this Society was born at Kingfisher, Oklahoma, at that very time, Old Central was being erected. Third, that this Founders Day session would present to the Historical Society a conclusive proof of a new piece of history in Oklahoma and Payne County by revealing upon proper authority that the first battle in Oklahoma in the Civil War was fought within the confines of Payne County. It was fittingly called the Battle of Round Mountain.

At the conclusion of this cordial welcome, General William S. Key, Vice-President of the Oklahoma Historical Society, arose and made a happy response. He pointed out that while he would be very happy to see Oklahoma history enriched by one more great event as Professor Chapman had stated still he was more than pleased to present to this splendid group of people a field of study in heroic history and that was all of Oklahoma. He believed that no State in the American Nation could present a greater array of heroic men and women acting upon the great historical stage covering a period of more than one hundred years, than did Oklahoma. Houston, Irving, the Choteaus, President Taylor, General Sherman, were but a few of the eminent men who had won first recognition toward renown among the hills and valleys of the territory now known as the State of Oklahoma. He pointed out that the Legislature had appropriated \$5000 a year for two years whereby the Oklahoma Historical Society would supervise and compose proper tributes and in conjunction with the Oklahoma Highway Commission begin the great work of making historic spots throughout the State.

President Harbour, in a very fitting tribute, introduced Dr. Gaston Litton, Archivist of Oklahoma University, who presented a paper, "Good Homes and Newer Uses for Old Records." Dr. Litton became almost eloquent in a plea for the preservation, collection and use of historical letters, books, documents, maps and relics relating to racial development as found in the

State of Oklahoma. He stressed with earnest might a defense against the wastage of old papers, the burning of old books, periodicals, letters, etc., and all such actions too often found at most every corner of every locality. Precious things full of history, are being destroyed or lost to the State and its archives every day. Dr. Litton cried, "Let this be stopped." He paid tribute to the archives of the Oklahoma University, the A. & M. College, and said that while he recognized that the Oklahoma Historical Society stood high in its possession of historical material, yet he was not fully aware of its content.

At the end of his address, Dr. Charles Evans, Secretary of the Society, arose to point out that this group should know and dispense the knowledge that the Oklahoma Historical Society building, one of the finest of its kind in America, also held one of the great collections of Indian archives in the United States; that there more than 2,500,000 papers, documents, letters, books etc., of the Five Civilized Tribes and other Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, had been placed through cooperation of the United States Congress and the long and arduous service of such eminent historians as Dr. Grant Foreman and Dr. E. E. Dale and those of kindred spirit. He pointed out further that in Mrs. Rella Looney, who worked for many years under the direction and advice of Dr. Foreman, and who for more than fourteen years has been the Archivist of the Oklahoma Historical Society, historians of this region possess an archivist equal to the very best, eminent writers visiting these archives reporting that they were more speedily served and found what they wished with more accuracy than was usually found in the archives centers of the United States.

The President then introduced Mr. John H. Melton, member of the Payne County Historical Society, who took up the subject, "Claim of Payne County to First Civil War Battle-Ground in Indian Territory." He had sketched on a blackboard before the audience a map in color of Oklahoma territories and especially that part where Payne County was a center. Then with due precision and with most excellent reasoning he put forth proofs that the Battle of Round Mountain was fought within the confines of Payne County. His paper as well as that of Dr. Litton will be printed in the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* in due season and both of these gentlemen were authorized to present their papers for printing in *The Chronicles* by Hon. George L. Bowman of Kingfisher, Director.

At the end of this morning session the Founders Day program moved into Willard Hall where Dr. Harbour presided and with the assistance of Professor Chapman a splendid banquet was served and a happy program carried out. At 12:15 p. m., the President began by introducing the officers of the Society, the members of the staff, members of the historical society and distinguished guests. The President was in most delightful mood and kept the audience happy by her wit and humor. After a sumptuous luncheon spread by the A. & M. College through the service of its cafeteria, Professor T. N. Harris of the Music Department of the College sang two numbers, "Grand Ole State," and "Without Song." He met with such hearty applause that he was forced to respond with a splendid encore.

The President called upon the Secretary to introduce Professor Carl P. Thompson who gave the address of the occasion. Dr. Evans pointed out that some men who served such great institutions as the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, were often servants and nothing more. Others stayed on so long and served so well that they became institutions, such was to be found in Professor Carl P. Thompson, who for a quarter of a century had been called the Professor of Animal Husbandry but who had won such a place in the hearts and the joys of A. & M. College and of Oklahoma, that his better name was "Hog" Thompson. He said that Professor

Chapman, with some aid by him, was responsible for the program on Founders Day but that his aim was to make this meeting of the Society a happy, a hearty, and a homey one, and he claimed the honor of choosing the speaker of the occasion, "Hog" Thompson.

Professor Thompson took the floor and for thirty or more minutes he kept the audience in laughter. His wit, humor, wholesome "wise cracks" and jolly stories made every hearer forget everything but a wish to live.

After the luncheon and the address of the day all members of the Society and friends were invited to take a journey over the grounds of A. & M. College where a \$17,000,000 program of building and improvement was being carried out. This ended one of the most remarkable and fruitful annual meetings for the celebration of Founders Day of the Society within the history of this institution.

A vote of thanks was extended by the Board of Directors to Professor Chapman, Dr. Bennett, the President of the A. & M. College, the Payne County Historical Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and the A. & M. Cafeteria, for their splendid reception which rendered Founders Day meeting a genuine success.

EMMA ESTILL-HARBOUR,
President, presiding.

CHARLES EVANS,
Secretary.