

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY JULY 28, 1949

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society convened in the Historical Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, July 28th, 1949, with Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, President, presiding.

The Secretary called the roll which showed the following members present: Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, General W. S. Key, Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Mr. R. M. Mountcastle, Judge Redmond S. Cole, Judge Robert A. Hefner, Mrs. Anna B. Korn, Mr. George L. Bowman, Dr. I. N. McCash, Mr. H. L. Muldrow, Judge Baxter Taylor and Mr. W. J. Peterson.

The Secretary reported that the following members had sent in excuses for their absence: Judge Harry S. Campbell, Judge Thomas A. Edwards, Mrs. J. Garfield Buell, Mr. Thomas G. Cook, Mr. Edward C. Lawson, and Mr. Jim Biggerstaff.

Mr. George L. Bowman made the motion that all absentee members having good and sufficient reasons for their absence should be excused. The motion was seconded by Mr. H. L. Muldrow and it passed unanimously.

Mrs. John Catlett, together with a committee of ladies, was introduced by the President. The President stated that Mrs. Catlett was a leader in many of the patriotic organizations in Oklahoma.

Mrs. Catlett said that she was appearing before the Board of Directors in behalf of the Confederate and Union Memorial Rooms. She stated that she desired information on why the Senate Appropriation Bill No. 19 had been amended in such a way as to change the status of the heads of the two departments, and she desired also to know who had written the bill. She said that she had it on good authority that it was the desire of the Board to close the rooms and she wished to do everything possible to help in an effort to keep the rooms open to the public to honor our war dead. Dr. Harbour assured Mrs. Catlett that it was not, and had never been the intention of any member of the Board of Directors or anyone associated with the Society, to close the Confederate Memorial Room or the Union Memorial Room. She further assured her that as long as there was an Oklahoma Historical Society, these two departments would remain. The Secretary pointed out that on August 8, 1948, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Society met and decided on a flat ten percent increase in salaries and maintenance. This was presented to the Budget Officer, Mr. Roger Phelps, and the Department of the Budget, always helpful to the Society, wrote the bill in its entirety and made its own classifications of the positions held by the staff members. The Department of the Budget made it clear that what some called a "rider" or the repeal clause in Bill No. 19, was the very heart and essential part of the measure, because if that repeal had not been made the salaries of all employees could not have been raised. Mrs. Catlett was assured by all members of the Board that were present, that the two departments in question would be open to the public for all time, and to dispense with these departments was the intention of no one. The President further stated that the Confederate Memorial Room and the Union Memorial Room would receive the absolute loyalty from the Society, and by the same token, the heads of the departments must give their loyalty to the Society.

Mr. James Noble was introduced by Mr. W. J. Peterson, a director of the Board, who explained that Mr. Noble was President of the Creek Memorial Association of Okmulgee. Mr. Noble invited each member of the Board to visit the Creek National Council House Museum at Okmulgee. He explained that the Museum had on exhibit many interesting and worthy articles typifying the Creek Indians and their Nation. He said that the money for the support of their museum was derived from the sale of pamphlets relating to the history and legends of the Creek Indians of Oklahoma. He also stated that there were some exhibits that the museum, which he represented, would like to present to the Oklahoma Historical Society. The President, Dr. Harbour, expressed the thanks of the Board for his kind gesture and said that the Society would be glad to accept any articles that the Creek Museum would care to offer.

Mr. Ben H. Colbert of Tulsa, Oklahoma, appeared before the Board and reported that he had been requested by Mrs. W. R. Ingram of Ardmore, Oklahoma, to secure from the Board of Directors permission for her to have returned to her a military commission to Muchlamingo, a Chickasaw Indian, which was signed by George Washington. Mr. Colbert explained that this commission had been a loan to this Society. It was the consensus of the members of the Board that this document should remain here since the Oklahoma Historical Society, through a law passed in 1934 by Congress, had made this Society the official depository for Indian records of Oklahoma.

General W. S. Key made a motion that Mr. Colbert be furnished with a copy of the act and that Mrs. Jessie R. Moore explain the contents so that Mr. Colbert might convey its meaning to Mrs. Ingram. The motion was seconded by Dr. I. N. McCash and passed unanimously.

Miss Frances Haskell was introduced by the President and Miss Haskell stated that her mother had presented to the Society her inaugural gown in 1939. The President assured Miss Haskell that a special case was being purchased for the purpose of properly displaying the gown and that the dress was now on display in the museum of the Society.

General W. S. Key made a motion that a complete inventory be made of all possessions of the Oklahoma Historical Society, to be presented to the Board of Directors at their meeting in January 1950, and henceforth that an inventory be made annually. Judge Robert A. Hefner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The President reported that an invitation had been received from the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce for the Society to hold its Annual Meeting of 1950 in Shawnee.

Judge Robert A. Hefner moved that the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce be advised that the Annual Meeting next year would be held in Oklahoma City. General W. S. Key seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported on the matter of the Robert M. Jones farm property owned by the Society. He advised the Board that a letter had been received from Mr. John Craig of Idabel, one of the State's leading lumbermen, in reply to a letter of inquiry from the Secretary as to the worth of the property. The Secretary reported that Mr. Craig had advised that the timber was of much value and that bids could easily be secured for sale of the land.

Mr. Mountcastle moved that Mr. Craig be earnestly petitioned to assist and submit the bids to the Board for probable sale of the property. Mrs. Anna B. Korn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary presented the following applicants for membership: **LIFE:** John A. Campbell, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Charles W. Cleverdon, Oklahoma City; Harold Clifford, Oklahoma City; John G. Ellinghausen, Tulsa; Harry W. Gibson, Jr., Muskogee; Thomas Gilcrease, Tulsa; Eugene Lorton, Tulsa; Frank J. Meyer, Oklahoma City; Wendell Z. Miller, Tulsa; Mrs. Betty Buell Mulford, Tulsa; Vincent S. Mulford, Jr., Tulsa; Mel A. Nash, Edmond; Letta Davis, Edmond; Rosine Jenkins, Perry.

ANNUAL: Paul W. Alexander, Muskogee; Earle H. Amos, Tulsa; Roger J. Bainbridge, Oklahoma City; Mrs. C. C. Biard, Ardmore; Ralph A. Barney, Washington D. C.; A. S. Barrows, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Mrs. Clifford Biggs, Seiling; C. E. Bohannon, Muskogee; Mrs. Linden Bonner, Inola; R. C. Borum, Muskogee; King Bostock, Tulsa; C. E. Bowby, Shawnee; John C. Brady, Muskogee; Cecil F. Bross, El Reno; Ralph S. Brown, Guthrie; E. R. Bryant, Muskogee; Mrs. Leon Butler, Sweetwater, Texas; Margaret Castelaz, Tulsa; George Clark, Muskogee; S. A. Cobb, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Wm. S. Coker, Oklahoma City; Cecil T. Colclasure, Cherokee; Grant M. Colgin, Stillwater; Mrs. J. S. Crowder, Prague; Walter M. Davis, Springfield, Mo.; J. H. Dalton, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Lydia B. Deatherage, Tulsa; A. Rodger Denison, Tulsa; Lester G. Duck, Mooreland; Cecil R. Durham, Miami; Mrs. F. S. Etter, Bartlesville; Mrs. A. L. Fisher, Enid; Daniel Folsom, Locust Grove; Walter H. Foth, Cordell; Emma Galbraith, Springfield, Mo.; Claude Garrett, Ft. Gibson; J. F. Goodner, Tulsa; W. A. Goodner, Tulsa; Mrs. Chas. S. Hall, Boken Arrow; Mrs. Dave Hardin, Shawnee; Blanche Harding, Custer City; J. W. Hazlitt, Pauls Valley; George C. Henderson, San Angelo, Texas; Walter E. Hopper, Tulsa; Mrs. Viola Hurst, Tulsa, Mrs. J. F. Hosterman, Tulsa; Thomas A. Houston, Durant; Jerry James, Norman; Miss D. B. Johnson, Ft. Smith, Arkansas; Edith Johnson, Oklahoma City; Barbara Johnston, Stillwater; Lockwood Jones, Cordell; I. E. Kenworthy, Stillwater; William H. King, Hugo; T. J. Laws, Blanchard; Ida Mae Leavitt, Tulsa; Andrew W. Little, Cushing; David M. Logan, Okmulgee; E. G. McComas, Elk City; Mrs. John McEtchen, Sallisaw; James R. McKinney, Oklahoma City; George E. McKinnis, Jr., Shawnee; E. B. Maytubby, Muskogee; Mrs. George Metcalf, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Charles E. Nell, Oklahoma City; Mrs. John H. Poe, Tulsa; Carl Puckett, Oklahoma City; Jack T. Rairdon, Bethany; Mrs. Melvin G. Rigg, Stillwater; Mrs. Minnie Risinger, Muskogee; T. M. Tobinson, Altus; F. Kenneth Sadler, Muskogee; Mrs. Leila Y. Sewell, Oklahoma City; Carl S. Ske, Springfield, Mo.; E. H. Stephens, Osceola, Ark.; Roger L. Stephens, Oklahoma City; John S. Shaughnessy, Tulsa; Mrs. Leila C. Stone, Okemah; Mrs. Pearl Stone, Oklahoma City; Jesse Stovall, Cordell; Mrs. D. V. Swing, Bartlesville; John D. Thomas, Oklahoma City; Carl P. Thompson, Stillwater; Mrs. C. H. Tyler, San Angelo, Texas; Mrs. Christine Tyner, Skiatook; L. C. Walter, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Carmen Watkins, Heavener; Guy L. Widner, Tulsa; W. B. Wilson, Tulsa; Mort Woods, Ardmore; F. N. Woodward, Tulsa; Mrs. J. C. Woodward, Sallisaw; Sam Womack, Shawnee; Mrs. Bida R. York, Muskogee; Floyd V. Yount, Anadarko.

Mr. George L. Bowman made the motion that each be elected and received as members of the Society in the class indicated in the list. Mrs. Anna B. Korn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported the following gifts had been received. A letter written by Robert L. Owen to his grandfather when he was ten years old; newspaper clippings concerning Senator Owen and his mother, presented by Dorothea Owen; a small box of hard tack carried through World War I, a blue Navy dress uniform and hat, a white Navy uniform and hat, a khaki Army uniform, overseas cap and leggings, worn by Ned L. Krone from 1910 to 1919, presented by Mrs. J. H. Spencer, Chandler, Oklahoma.

The Secretary reported that the following pictures had been received: Two autographed photographs of Queen Marie of Roumania, Thomas A. Edison autographed, Herbert Hoover autographed, eight photographs of Robert L. Owen, Henry B. Stegall, Vice-President Curtis, Robert L. Owen as a small child, Queen Marie of Roumania and her royal family, presented by Dorotohea Owen; B-17 Flying Fortress, presented by Agnes F. Ray; thirteen scenes of early day Oklahoma, presented by Mrs. Lillie F. Rosenbaum, St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. H. L. Muldrow moved that the gifts and pictures for the Museum be accepted and that a vote of thanks be sent to the donors. Dr. I. N. McCash seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported that the following gifts had been received by the Library: Scrap book of newspaper clippings on the early Statehood question in Oklahoma, from Mr. Claude Hensley; *Oil! Titan of the Southwest*, by C. C. Rister, from Oklahoma Press; *In-go-nom-pa-shi*, a book on Indian sign talk, from Carolyn Foreman; *Promised Land*, by Thorbecke, from the author; Arkansas Gazette-History 1819-1919; Collection including albums, scrapbooks, clippings and letters from dignitaries and royalty all over the world, from Richard Willoughby McDonald (Oklahoma City's Ambassador of Good Will 1939-1943).

Mr. George L. Bowman moved that the gifts to the library be accepted with thanks to the donors. Mr. H. L. Muldrow seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The President reported the need of an electrical addressograph machine for use in the office of the Society. She stated that there was a difference in price of \$135.45 between the electrical model and the hand operated one. Mr. R. M. Mountcastle moved that the electrical machine be purchased out of the private funds of the Society. Mrs. Anna B. Korn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported on the condition existing in the balcony of the auditorium, as related to the large amount of records being stored in this balcony, thus creating a fire hazard and making it impossible for proper preservation of these records. The Secretary advised that it was the opinion of the staff members and himself, that proper boxes should be purchased in which to store these records.

Mr. H. L. Muldrow made a motion that as much money as is needed, for purchase of the boxes, be made available, out of the private funds if necessary, in order that this balcony may be cleaned up and the records preserved. Mr. W. J. Peterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. R. M. Mountcastle read a letter and report written to the Board of Directors by Dr. Grant Foreman of Muskogee, Director of Historical Research of the Society, in which he congratulated the Society on the progress already achieved and urged increased effort and support on the part of the Society for securing valuable historical material throughout the State.

The Secretary pointed out in this discussion of acquiring historical documents, that it would be necessary for the Board to acquaint the legislature with the need of an appropriation to secure this historical material.

Judge Robert A. Hefner moved that a vote of thanks be extended to Dr. Foreman for the splendid and fine service he has rendered this institution. Mr. W. J. Peterson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General W. S. Key displayed for the Board of Directors a proof of the historical markers to be placed at historic sites over the State. He explained that the markers, made of aluminum, would be most attractive, erected on a post four feet high and stamped on both sides—parallel with the highway. He stated that fifty sites had now been selected and were as follows: Camp Leavenworth (1834); Wichita Village (1834); 1st Seneca Agency (1832); Baptist Mission—Westville, (1839); Fairfield Mission—Stilwell, (1829); Wheelock Mission (1832); Choctaw Agency (1831); Tahlonteeskee (1829); Dwight Mission (1829); Entering Indian Territory (East Highway #64); Fort Gibson (1824); Fort Towson (1824 and Doaksville 1834); Fort Washita (1842); Fort Arbuckle (1851); Tishomingo (1856); Miller Court House—1st Post Office, (1824); Eagletown and Stockbridge Mission (1819 and 1836); Tuskahoma Counsel House—Nanh Wayoh (1833 and 1883); Perryville; Battle of Claremore Mound (1818); Nathaniel Pryor's Grave (1831); Nathan Boone's Camp (1843); La Harpe's Peace Council (1719); Fort Holmes (1834); Sac and Fox Agency (1870); Battle of the Wichita Village—Rush Springs, (1858); Old Boggy Depot (1837); Union Mission (1820); Fort Wayne (1839); Fort Coffee (1834); Pushmataha on the Verdigris (1807); Sam Houston's Home (1829); North Fork Town (1848); Koweta Mission (1843); Entering Quapaw County (N. E. Highway #66); Durant (Gov. Williams' Home); Bloomfield Seminary (1852); Armstrong Academy (Chahta Tamaha)—Confederate Capitol (1864); Sasakwa (1848); Kaw Reservation—Charles Curtis, Vice-President of U. S. (1872); 1st Wichita Agency (1859); Washington Irving's Camp—Arcadia (1832); Antelope Hills (1849 California Trail, Maj. Long's Expedition—1820); Fort Nichols (1865); Fort Supply (1868); Darlington (1870); Battle of the Washita (1863); Entering Oklahoma—West, Old Greer Co., etc., (1820 and 1860); Fort Davis (1862); Atoka (1854); Okmulgee (1867).

Judge Baxter Taylor moved that a vote of thanks and commendation be given to General Key, the Secretary and Miss Muriel H. Wright on their great work on historical markers, and that the Society lend every assistance to the State Highway Commission in the furtherance of this important project. Mr. R. M. Mountcastle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The President reported on the need of redecoration of the Historical Building. She stated that the funds for this work has been appropriated for several years, but as yet, the work had not been carried out. The President appointed a committee composed of Judge Robert A. Hefner and Judge Baxter Taylor to see that this matter receives attention at once.

The President stated that she has received a letter from Dr. Grant Foreman offering to present to the Society a mural executed by one of the well known Indian artists of Oklahoma.

Mr. W. J. Peterson made the motion that the Secretary advise Dr. Foreman that the Society would accept the mural for hanging in this building, and also that the Society would pay all packing and shipping charges. Dr. I. N. McCash seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Mountcastle promised to send the picture to Society.

In the discussion of portraits to be accepted by the Society, a motion was made by General W. S. Key that the Secretary be directed that no portrait or picture be permitted to be brought into this building without the request of the Board of Directors. Dr. I. N. McCash seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Jessie R. Moore stated that Dr. Foreman had written an article on "What the State of Oklahoma Owes to the Civilized Indians." Mrs. Moore

moved that the Secretary have some monographs of this article printed for the purpose of selling to the visitors of the Oklahoma Historical Society. She stated that the cost of having these printed might be paid out of the funds of the Society—recently appropriated by the legislature. Mr. George L. Bowman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Judge Redmond S. Cole presented to the Society a genealogy of *William Cross of Botecourt County Virginia and His Descendants, 1733-1932*, by John Newton Cross and Mary Cross Cole, the wife of Judge Cole.

Judge Baxter Taylor moved that this book be accepted with thanks and appreciation to Judge Cole. Mr. George L. Bowman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At this point, Mr. George L. Bowman arose to say that for twenty and more years he had been a member of the Board of Directors and had watched the growth of the Society with profound interest. He said he was pleased with its continued progress through the years and he believed that it was a source of honest and splendid pride to the whole State, but in reading the last report of the Secretary, wherein it was revealed that the State through its last legislature had appropriated some \$96,000.00—far exceeding any other appropriation of like kind for the support of the Society, he held that a new era had come into the advancement of the Oklahoma Historical Society. He had heard this same expression from other members of the Board around this table, at this time, as new plans and a larger range of action had been outlined, and all were agreed that the Society was now among the three or four leading historical societies of America. Therefore, he made the motion that the President, the Secretary, the Staff Members, and all those connected with the splendid group of men and women serving the Society be rendered a vote of thanks by the Board of Directors for their valuable and distinct service. Special tribute should be paid Dr. Evans, he said, since single-handed he handled all appropriations coming before the recent legislature. Mrs. Anna B. Korn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. W. J. Peterson moved that the meeting adjourn subject to call by the President. Dr. I. N. McCash seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

EMMA ESTILL-HARBOUR, *President*

CHARLES EVANS, *Secretary*