

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

OCTOBER 26, 1950.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society met in the Historical Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 26, 1950 with General W. S. Key, President, presiding.

The Secretary called the roll which showed the following members present: General William S. Key, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Judge Redmond S. Cole, Judge Baxter Taylor, Mr. George L. Bowman, Mrs. J. Garfield Buell, Dr. E. E. Dale, Mr. Thomas J. Harrison, Judge Robert A. Hefner, Judge N. B. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Korn, Dr. I. N. McCash, Mr. W. J. Peterson, Mr. H. Milt Phillips, Col. George H. Shirk and Judge Edgar S. Vaught.

The President said he had received a letter from Mr. Thomas A. Cook, saying that it would be impossible for him to come because of the death of a long time friend. Mr. R. M. Mountcastle sent a message of regret saying that essential business kept him from attendance. Mr. H. L. Muldrow of Norman, sent profound regrets that his health would not permit him to be present. It was the universal desire of the Board for the Secretary to express to Mr. Muldrow the deep regret that ill health kept him from attendance and that he would be soon restored to strength for his support and council were always helpful to the deliberations and actions of the Board. Mr. N. G. Henthorne of Tulsa sent a message that he regretted that crucial business affairs would not permit him to come. Judge Thomas A. Edwards of Cordell said that his plans for reaching Oklahoma City by automobile had failed and therefore he could not attend.

Mr. 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. Judge Redmond S. Cole seconded the motion which passed.

The Secretary presented the following list of applicants for membership:

LIFE: Gordon Bleuler, Dallas, Texas; Urban de Hasque, Enid; Stanley C. Draper, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Letha Lynn Hamre, Arnett; Mrs. Edwin R. McNeill, Pawnee; Mrs. J. R. Weldon, Enid.

ANNUAL: Mrs. G. Chase Beidler, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; Mrs. W. A. Chapman, Olustee; Alberta Wilson Constant, Independence, Missouri; Mrs. Marion Madsen Derr, Guthrie; Mrs. Isabel France, Mountainsburg, Arkansas; Norma Elmo Ferguson, Ft. Smith, Arkansas; Elizabeth Findlay, Oklahoma City; Rowena Galloway, Fayetteville, Arkansas; Mrs. O. R. Hall, Oklahoma City; Louis Hancock, Shattuck; Charles Jackson Harris, Enid; Pearl Harwood, Oklahoma City; J. W. Hinkel, Stillwater; L. Dale Hoover, Chickasha; Dorothy Ruth Hurt, Muskogee; Millie Ingle, Tulsa; O. M. Irelan, Sapulpa; Mrs. C. G. Keiger, Oklahoma City; Lyman Knapp, Blackwell; Mrs. Hale Landes, Medicine Park; H. W. Lapham, Glendale, California; Lewis Leverett, Rush Springs; Carl Mathews, Los Angeles, Calif.; Jack W. Page, Oklahoma City; Fern Leone Parsley, Oklahoma City; Pearl E. Pemberton, Oklahoma City; A. Peps, Tulsa; Lula K. Pratt, Muskogee; Fred Robertson, Oklahoma City; Bud Roe, Hollywood, California; Jeanne Carter Smith, Hot Springs, Arkansas; William H. Smith, Seward, Nebraska; Len Sowards, Hollywood, California; Mrs. Scott Squyres, Norman; Lloyd Story, Valliant; Ruby Grace Terry, Amarillo, Texas; Mabelle A. White, Tulsa; Mrs. C. E. Williams, Woodward; Mrs. Harriette B. Woodward, McLoud; Mrs. Martha Young, Denver, Colorado.

The Secretary reported that the following gifts had been received:

Osage wedding blanket, presented by Mrs. R. A. Baylor, Oklahoma City; six land grants dated from 1799 to 1849, stone cut in shape of a bible, double key, leather wallet, metal trunk, corn husker and a surveyor's instrument presented by Ben Van Bibber; a geography published in 1827, day book and wallet used by John E. Simpson in 1873; "A Century of Service 1847-1947", a history of the Eufaula Methodist Church, newspaper clippings regarding Indian treaties, presented by Mrs. John Simpson, Eufaula; copy of a letter written by Ho po eth Yar ho lar in 1849, copy of a letter written by Chitto Harjo, sketch of life of Chitto Harjo, photostat of letter written by Albert Pike, original letter written by Albert Pike, dated October 6, 1861, offering a pardon to Yahola and other Creek warriors on condition that they lay down their arms against the Confederate Government, presented by Dr. W. W. Groom, Secretary Scottish Rite Bodies, McAlester, Oklahoma.

The following pictures have been received:

Gen. Alva Niles and Rifle Team, Patrick and Gen. Niles, Chief Fred Lookout, John Abbott, E. R. Burlingame, Pawnee Bill, Pawnee Bill and nurse, J. W. McNeal, Gen. Niles and Walter Ferguson, J. W. McNeal, photograph and poem, two group pictures, Pawnee Bill's Home, three photographs of Gen. Niles, three group pictures of Oklahoma Rifle Team, Camp Perry 1910, Consistory Class taken at Guthrie in 1904, Bankers Association, presented by Mrs. Alva J. Niles, Tulsa; photograph of Dr. Albert H. Van Fleet, presented by Miss Louise Mears; General Custer, presented by Letha Barde; Mary McClure, David McClure, seven colored postal cards, Mrs. Geary and 89'er Rough Reunion, Veta McClure, Veta McClure in Venice, three post cards of Camp Roosevelt, presented by William McClure, Edmond; group picture and old cottage at Mize Hotel, presented by Louis Mize, McAlester; Home of Joe McGinty, first automobile in McAlester, Masonic Temple, McAlester, Old Elk's Club, McAlester, Busby Hotel, McAlester, Cotton Compress, McAlester, five group pictures, Jail Brake at McAlester, M. K. & T. Depot at Caddo, Oklahoma, presented by Mrs. Lee Roberts, McAlester; two photographs of Virginia Cox Sutton, presented by Mrs. C. G. Girvin, Oklahoma City, David Campbell Robinson Van Bibber, Davis Van Bibber, presented by Ben Van Bibber, Edmond; Chitto Harjo, presented by Dr. W. W. Groom, McAlester.

Through Mr. Gene Aldrich, the daughters of Mr. Peter Hanraty, a member of the Constitutional Convention of Oklahoma, and first Mine Inspector of Oklahoma, presented to the Archives Department of this Society a large and valuable collection of his papers relating to the Constitutional Convention and the early mines of Oklahoma.

Mr. George L. Bowman moved that the gifts be accepted and that a vote of thanks be extended to the donors. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Anna B. Korn and passed unanimously.

The President, General Key, stated that the Society's distinguished guests, the heirs of General A. W. Whipple, whose fine historical documents have already been received by the Society, would arrive at eleven o'clock when the collection would be formally presented, after which the honored guests, Mrs. Francis R. Stoddard, Mrs. Arthur M. Collens, Prof. William Whipple, Col. Sherburne Whipple and Mr. Dudley W. Stoddard would be honored at a luncheon to be held at the Oklahoma Club at one o'clock.

General Key called attention to the Robert M. Jones farm in Choctaw County, the title to which had been acquired through tax sale by the efforts of Judge Williams; that the matter was discussed at a former meeting resulting in Col. George H. Shirk being designated to clear up the title; that a gentleman from that part of the country is here today to offer a purchase price for that land. He then appointed a committee of three, Judge Edgar S. Vaught, Chairman, Colonel Shirk and Judge Baxter Taylor to meet this

gentleman, relative to his desire to purchase this land and bring back a recommendation to this Board at this time. Judge Hefner made the motion that the above named committee be appointed. Mrs. J. Garfield Buell seconded the same which was passed.

The President reported the vacancy in the position of Librarian of this Society, Mrs. Ruth Craig, who served in that position for the greater part of 1960 having resigned. He stated that Mrs. Mary Jean Hansen, a graduate of William & Mary College in Virginia was appointed by the Executive Board to fill that vacancy. Mrs. Anna B. Korn made a motion that Mrs. Mary Jean Hansen be employed as Librarian of this Society. Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour seconded the motion which passed.

The Secretary stated that Mr. E. H. Kelley, Chief Bank Examiner of this State, has long been interested in and engaged in securing records of historical value for this Society. It was the view of the Secretary that due to the great devotion of Mr. Kelley to this Society and his most valuable work in securing splendid records on his journeys throughout the State and placing them in our Archives, he believed that Mr. Kelley should be given a most honored place among those who serve this institution. Mr. George L. Bowman made a motion that Mr. E. H. Kelley be extended the special exalted tribute for his service and that he be given a letter by the Secretary which would reveal a passport to any and all who have valuable historical material, Dr. Harbour seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

A Call to the Board of Directors

The President at this point called attention to the outstanding ladies and gentlemen on the Board of Directors and stressed the far reaching power of each to directly and pointedly serve the Society by securing historical collections. He stated that we have in our archives such collections that make them among the largest in number and most extensive and valuable to be found in the largest and most noted historical archives of America. Still there was tremendous need for more important historical documents which could be obtained by reaching out near us. Each director could obtain valuable historical papers, letters, books, documents, etc., by writing or visiting old Indian families, the 89'ers, the descendants of old missionaries, and to many of the early pioneers still living, in the very vicinity often of the directors. He begged that each member of the Board, each member of the staff, all get busy in this essential work.

Dr. I. N. McCash presented two pictures to the Society, the gift of Frank L. Hamilton, 206 N. Adams, Enid, Oklahoma; one being a photo copy of a page from the *Oklahoma Review*, placed in the cornerstone of the Garfield County Court House, June 18, 1906, and taken out after the Court House was burned, January 29, 1931; and second, a picture of a specimen of serpent, life of great length first seen by Mr. Hamilton in 1888 and afterwards found in 1921.

General Key presented on behalf of Mr. Charles E. Creager of Muskogee, a framed picture of the Masonic Class of McAlester Consistory in 1908, showing the late beloved Will Rogers as a member of this class, and many other Oklahomans of future eminence, one being Hon. H. L. Muldrow who has served as Director of this Society for many years. Mr. Creager is an eminent lawyer and historian of Muskogee.

Mrs. Jessie R. Moore presented a Dictionary of Intertribal Indian language, commonly called Chinook, by Laura B. Downey Bartlett, published in 1924, the gift of Jane Erickson, member of the Oregon Historical Society; also four snapshots, showing Indian writings in Picture Gorge of John Day Danyon in eastern Oregon, said to be eight thousand years old. Mrs. Moore also presented the book entitled, "Senryu", Japanese satirical verses, translated and explained by R. H. Blyth, the gift of Mrs. Moore's nephew, Lt. Bruce S. Hamm, who is now located in Japan.

Dr. Evans at this point presented the gift of Mr. Charles H. Lamb, 412 North Rosedale, Tulsa, Oklahoma, consisting of valuable records, scrap books, letters, etc., of the "PAY YOUR WAY WITH KINDNESS CLUB" which has been an outstanding child character building organization, founded and directed by Mr. Lamb more than thirty years ago.

The President stated he had a letter coming from Mr. Hewitt Campbell, son of Judge Harry S. Campbell, deceased, our beloved director for many years, offering his father's books. Judge Redmond S. Cole made a motion that they would be accepted with sincere thanks. The motion was seconded by George L. Bowman and passed.

Dr. Harbour made a motion that all of the gifts above presented be accepted and that the donors be written letters of appreciation of the Board by the Secretary. Mrs. Korn seconded the motion which passed.

Colonel Shirk reported as to the action taken by the Committee in the matter of the sale of the Robert M. Jones farm, stating that Ruth E. Story of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, offered to pay the Society \$4500.00 for the three hundred acre farm, less forty acres on which are located the cemetery and home site in the exact center, and that the buyer would build a road to the forty acres the Society will retain and in addition will transport the salt kettle now on the farm to the Society building; that the Society will give a quit claim deed to this property, making no warranties whatever.

Dr. I. N. McCash made the motion that the bid of \$4500.00 for the three hundred acre Robert M. Jones farm in Choctaw Nation, less the forty acres on which are now located the cemetery and home place of Robert M. Jones, be accepted, and that the officers of the Society be authorized to execute the proper quit claim deed to this land. Mrs. Anna B. Korn seconded the motion which passed.

Dr. Harbour made a motion that a vote of thanks be extended to Colonel Shirk and all members of the committees attending to the development of the sale of the Robert M. Jones farm. Judge Redmond S. Cole seconded the motion which passed.

Colonel George H. Shirk offered the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Historical Society is the owner and in possession of Three Hundred (300) acres of land in Choctaw County, Oklahoma, known as the Rose Hill Farm; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Historical Society is without means to conserve, maintain and keep up the entire three hundred acre tract and in its present condition it is subject to timber loss and other form of depredation through such inability to properly care for the same; and

WHEREAS, the said tract is of historical interest because of the location thereon of the private cemetery of the family of the late Robert M. Jones, together with the site of the mansion, Rose Hill; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that a tract forty (40) acres in size surrounding said historical locations would be ample to properly care for and conserve the said historical interests and make the same available to all of the people of Oklahoma; and that the said acreage in excess thereof is not needed for said purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society that the offer of Ruth E. Story of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, to pay the sum of Forty-Five Hundred Dollars (\$4500.00) cash for the said Two Hundred Sixty (260) acre tract remaining be accepted and that the Board hereby determines that it is for the best interest of the Society and for the care and maintenance of the said historical site that such excess land be sold.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the right-of-way easement permitting access to the forty acre tract so retained be excepted and reserved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the offer of the said Ruth E. Story to transport to the Oklahoma Historical Society building the large iron kettle presently located on the said tract be accepted and that such service and act be considered partial consideration for said sale and condition thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers of the Oklahoma Historical Society be and hereby are instructed and directed to make, execute and deliver such deeds of conveyance, without warranty, express or implied, as may be necessary and appropriate.

Judge Edgar S. Vaught made a motion that the above resolutions be approved. This was seconded by Judge Baxter Taylor and was passed.

In accordance with these resolutions the President, together with the Secretary of the Society, executed a Quit Claim Deed whereby the Oklahoma Historical Society, an Agency of the State of Oklahoma, conveyed to Ruth E. Story for such considerations as may be found in the Resolution above, the following described property, situated in Choctaw County, State of Oklahoma:

Lots three (3) and Four (4) and the South Half ($S\frac{1}{2}$) of the Northwest Quarter ($NW\frac{1}{4}$) and Northwest Quarter ($NW\frac{1}{4}$) of the Southwest Quarter ($SW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Five (5); and the East Half ($E\frac{1}{2}$) of the Northeast Quarter ($NE\frac{1}{4}$) and the East Half ($E\frac{1}{2}$) of the Northwest Quarter ($NW\frac{1}{4}$) of the Northeast Quarter ($NE\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Six (6) all in Township Seven (7) South Range Eighteen (18) East, Choctaw County, Oklahoma.

EXCEPT

One Forty (40) acre tract therein described. Commencing at a point Six Hundred Sixty Feet (660) West and Six Hundred Sixty Feet (660) North of the grave of Robert M. Jones; thence East Thirteen Hundred Twenty Feet (1320); thence South Thirteen Hundred Twenty Feet (1320); thence West Thirteen Hundred Twenty Feet (1320); thence North Thirteen Hundred Twenty Feet (1320) to the point of beginning, title to which is hereby expressly retained and reserved by First Party, together with necessary easement and access thereto.

The Secretary reported that due to the increased membership sales the special fund of the Society revealed a sum of \$5225.81 and that it is increasing every month. The President suggested that part of the money be invested in Government Bonds. Mr. Thomas J. Harrison made a motion that \$5000.00 of the private funds be invested in suitable Government bonds. Mr. Milt Phillips seconded the motion which passed.

Mrs. J. Garfield Buell suggested that a list of the present Life Members of the Oklahoma Historical Society be listed as they come in the O.H.S. Newsletter and that additional Life Members be listed as they come in. The President authorized the Secretary to carry out this suggestion.

In line with this suggestion the Secretary stated that on November 1, 1950, with the pledged support of the Board of Directors and a large number of Life Members, he was launching a campaign for the increase of Life Memberships in the Society. He would call the movement "A CAMPAIGN OF EACH LIFE MEMBER GET A LIFE MEMBER". In a few days each Director will receive a letter suggesting his or her part in this campaign.

The President introduced at this point a statement from Dr. Grant Foreman:

"I have in Washington, D. C. in the Archives there, certain historical documents that have cost me in work and money several thousand dollars. I believe they are worth a great deal for the Archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society. I can have them photostated if the Society will give me the privilege of securing a man whom I shall choose with the greatest

care, at not too great a cost. Mr. R. M. Mountcastle is near me here and I would like to have the Board appoint him to cooperate with me in this matter."

Judge George L. Bowman made the motion that Dr. Foreman be assured that his advice in this matter is more than appreciated and that such aims and purposes as he sets forth shall be carried out by him with the assistance of Mr. R. M. Mountcastle of Muskogee, a member of the Board of Directors, acting for the Board. The motion was seconded by Judge Redmond S. Cole, and was unanimously passed.

Judge Edgar S. Vaught read a letter written by John D. Mayo of Tulsa, offering to the Oklahoma Historical Society the bust of General Patrick J. Hurley, made by the distinguished sculpture artist, Bryant Baker.

He said that Mr. Mayo believed that this remarkable piece of sculpture presenting one of the leading great men of the State should be placed in the Oklahoma Historical building. Therefore, he, Judge Vaught, made the motion that a request be made by the Society that General Patrick J. Hurley, through his friend, John D. Mayo, present to this Oklahoma Historical Society this valuable gift. Dr. I. N. McCash seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. George L. Bowman made a motion that the Secretary be authorized to pay for the luncheon, chair rental and such other expense as may have been incurred relating to the reception of the Whipple Papers; this expense to be paid out of the Special Fund. Judge Hefner seconded the motion which passed.

The Secretary said that purchases had been made by the Society for some art work done by Carl Sweezy and he asked that payment for this in the sum of \$50.00, more or less, be met out of the Petty Cash or Special Fund. The purchase from Mr. Sweezy consisted in some frontier Indian scenes done in color. Judge Hefner seconded the motion which passed, that this expense be met and paid as had been suggested.

At this point the President said the hour had been reached when the program relating to the reception of the Whipple Papers should begin. Mrs. J. Garfield Buell made the motion that the fourth quarterly session of the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. George L. Bowman and passed unanimously.

CHARLES EVANS, *Secretary.*