

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 1, 1951

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order in the Historical Building, Oklahoma City, at ten o'clock A.M. by General W. S. Key, President, presiding.

The Secretary called the roll which showed the following members present: Gen. W. S. Key, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Judge Baxter Taylor, Judge Redmond S. Cole, Dr. I. N. McCash, George L. Bowman, Thomas J. Harrison, R. M. Mountcastle, Judge Robert A. Hefner, Justice N. B. Johnson, H. Milt Phillips, Col. George H. Shirk, Mrs. Anna B. Korn and Judge Edgar S. Vaught.

The President reported that Mrs. J. Garfield Buell, Thomas A. Edwards, Thomas G. Cook, Dr. E. E. Dale and Mrs. Jessie R. Moore had sent to the President and Secretary letters of excuse for their non-attendance at the meeting.

Judge Baxter Taylor made the motion that the absentee members who had notified the President and Secretary be excused as having good and sufficient reasons for their absence. Judge R. A. Hefner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Gen. Key reported that on the preceding day he had personally visited all departments of the Society and was deeply gratified at the progress and condition of all the various divisions and departments of the Society. He said he wished to urge each Director of the Board to make frequent visits to the Society in order to observe the work and advancement of the various departments and to confer with the department heads.

The President reported that Col. George H. Shirk had recently returned from Washington, D. C. where he had gone at the request of the Board of Directors to the National Archives to determine the feasibility of establishing a microfilm library in the Society. President Key recognized Col. Shirk and asked that he tell of his observations while visiting the National Archives, and also give his recommendations as to what procedure should be followed in building a microfilm library for the Society.

Col. Shirk stated that the project was discussed in detail with Dr. Philip Bauer, Acting Director of the National Archives, and Dr. Bauer made the entire facilities of the Archives completely available for his investigation. Col. Shirk emphasized the fact that any document or paper in the Archives may be microfilmed for approximately 3¢ per exposure and that vast quantities of material exist that could be profitably microfilmed and placed in the archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society. In summing up his findings, he stated that he wished to recommend to the Board of Directors that a microfilm library be established as an adjunct of the Oklahoma Historical Society, to be on a continually expanding basis and to be under the supervision of a standing committee to be appointed by the President; that a minimum of \$500.00 of currently appropriated funds, according to Bill No. 247, be expended for microcopies and microfilms from the National Archives; that the Board of Directors establish on a continuing basis the expenditure of certain of the private funds of the Society for the continued expansion of the microfilm library, and that as the project develops, the Committee give consideration to the microfilming of the worth while material in collections and libraries other than that of the National Archives.

Dr. I. N. McCash made the motion that on the recommendation set forth by Col. Shirk relating to the establishment of the microfilm library for the Society, a committee of five be appointed with Col. Shirk as its Chairman to determine the selection of material, to make arrangements for the micro-filming of the material, and to supervise the project.

Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour made an amendment to be incorporated in the motion by Dr. McCash that the committee be permitted to act without final action of the Board of Directors. An additional amendment was made by Judge Edgar S. Vaught that the committee be composed of Col. Shirk as its Chairman, the President, the Secretary, and two others to be appointed by the President.

Judge Robert A. Hefner seconded the motion of Dr. McCash with its attached amendments. The motion was passed unanimously. President Key appointed Dr. E. E. Dale and Judge Edgar S. Vaught to serve on said Committee with Col. Shirk as Chairman and the President and Secretary.

The Secretary reported on the recent valuable material that had been secured for the Museum and Indian Archives of the Society. He stated that the Indian Archives had recently received a valuable collection consisting of 32 letters written by Susan Comstock Requa, the wife of W. C. Requa of Hopefield Mission, dating from 1824 through 1836. Along with this collection, the department had also received a number of Indian Claims Commission petitions, answers, briefs, etc., in the cases of the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Creek Nation, Kaw Tribe of Indians, Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Tribes of Indians, and Otoe and Missouri Tribe of Indians vs. the United States of America, 30 documents in all. Also received for the Indian Archives had been a roll of microfilm secured by Mr. Gene Aldrich, a graduate student of the University of Oklahoma, of an "Unsigned Memorandum dated November 12, 1906, concerning coal and asphalt leases in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, "containing approximately 250 pages. Dr. Evans stated that among recent gifts to the Museum were those portraits of Thomas Fitzpatrick, Charles F. Colcord, C. N. Haskell and Thompson McKinney, all of which were very valuable portraits and in need of restoration.

Mr. George L. Bowman moved that \$200.00 of the private funds of the Society be expended for the purpose of restoration of these portraits. Mrs. Anna B. Korn seconded the motion which passed unanimously. President Key authorized the Secretary to carry out said motion.

The Secretary reported the need of the Society for \$100.00 to be authorized for the Petty Cash fund. Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour made a motion that this amount be made available. Mrs. Anna B. Korn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The President asked that Mr. Thomas J. Harrison present a final report on the financial status of the expenses of the Oklahoma Historical Day celebrated at Salina, Oklahoma on October 10, 1951.

Mr. Thomas J. Harrison stated that the total expenses of the occasion amounted to \$863.00. Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour moved that approval be given to this claim of \$863.00 and said amount be paid by the Society, according to House Bill No. 60. Judge R. A. Hefner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Due to the absence of the Treasurer, Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, the President read the financial report of the Treasurer. Mr. George L. Bowman made a motion that the report of the Treasurer be accepted, and thanks be extended to Mrs. Moore for the report of the present finances of the Society. Mrs. Anna B. Korn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Thomas J. Harrison reported that the former barracks building of Fort Gibson, now the property of the Society, should be insured. He further stated that Mr. R. M. Mountcastle had done a great deal toward the protection and care of this building and was familiar with its condition and need of insurance coverage. Mr. R. M. Mountcastle reported that the Old Fort Club had recently advised him that they would consider occupying the building, and if they did so, they would make repairs on the building and care for it.

Judge Baxter Taylor moved that Mr. Mountcastle be authorized to insure the building at Fort Gibson and endeavor to secure a tenant, and make a report at the next meeting of the Board on a possible tenant for the building's occupancy. Dr. I. N. McCash seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported that the following gifts and pictures and books had been received: Wichita Metate made from a tree knot, donor, Rev. Hobert D. Ragland; Coffee Mill, donor, John C. Conrad; Chinese Mandarin coat and Persian Mullah's robe, two music books, donor, Dorothea Owen; Swastika, an emblem from a German plane, donor, Col. Peter J. Grimmer; two shuck horse collars, donor, H. B. Driver; Indian ball clubs, donor, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hayes; Bridle made by Snake Woman, donor, Mrs. Henry Meagher; Catholic manual, owned by Thomas Fitzpatrick, donor, Mrs. Henry Meagher. Large crayon portrait of Thomas Fitzpatrick, large crayon portrait of Virginia Fitzpatrick, four photographs of Virginia Fitzpatrick, photograph of Margaret Poisal Fitzpatrick, photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meagher, photograph of John Meagher, photograph of an ox train, donor, Mrs. Henry Meagher; photograph of Anna L. Dawes and the Dawes Commission, donor, Mrs. Henderson Jacoway; photograph of Travis Franklin Hensley, donor, Claude Hensley; large photograph of The Supreme Court Judges of Oklahoma Territory, donor, Mrs. F. A. Rittenhouse; oil portrait of Charles F. Colcord, donor, Mrs. Mildred Ruple; photograph of Mrs. Nettie Dodson, donor, Mrs. Nettie Dodson; large framed photograph of Dr. V. V. Grant; donor, Mrs. V. V. Grant; oil portrait of Gov. Roy J. Turner, donor, Gov. Turner; oil portrait of Senator Ed Moore, donor, Mrs. Ed Moore; photographs of the Indian capitols, cypress tree and Wheelock Church, donor, Jess Griffin, Planning and Resources Board. Invitation to reception at The White House, January 23, 1917, invitation to the inauguration of the President, March 5, 1917, and program of the inauguration ceremonies, March 5, 1917 (Woodrow Wilson) presented by Barritt Galloway. *Documentary history of education in Florida, 1822-1860*, presented by the author, Nita Katherine Pyburn; *The Story of TVA* by John Gunther and Andrew Johnson National Monument leaflet, presented by Judge Baxter Taylor; *Historic Galveston Homes* by The Galveston Historical Society, presented by David M. Warren; Charles H. Tompkins presented the following books: *A Rider of the Cherokee Keele Strip*, by Evan G. Barnard; *No Life for a Lady*, by Agnes Morley Cleveland; *Springs from the Parched Grounds*, by Bruce Roberts; *My Autobiography*, by H. H. Halsell; *A Texas Cowboy*, by Charles A. Siringo; *Who Could Ask for Anything More*, by Kay Swift. Mrs. Iva Gibson presented the following: *Oklahoma City Star*, First Methodist Church edition, May 26, 1950; *The Westminster Magazine*, Autumn 1949; Winter, 1950-51; *The Friend*, April 1948, January 1949; *Fidelis Sparks*, November 1949; November 13, 1949; November 20, 1949, November 27, 1949, April 9, 1950; *The Red Earth*, Release No. 1; *Stanza*, Spring, 1949; *Daily Meditation*, July 1951; *Clear Horizons*, Summer, 1950; *The Upper Room*, May-June, 1951; *The New Life*, Poems by Iva Gibson; *American Poetry Magazine*, July-August, 1949; September-October, 1950; May-June, 1951.

Judge Baxter Taylor moved that the gifts and pictures be received. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Anna B. Korn and passed unanimously.

Dr. I. N. McCash presented a blood-letting instrument which was used by early-day physicians, the gift of Frank L. Hamilton.

Col. George H. Shirk presented a group of pictures of early day Oklahoma, presented by the E. B. Johnson family of Norman.

Judge Robert A. Hefner made a motion that the gifts as presented by Dr. McCash and Col. Shirk be accepted and thanks be sent to the donors. Mr. George L. Bowman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary reported the following list of applicants for membership: LIFE: Roger J. Bainbridge, Oklahoma City; Virgil Browne, Oklahoma City; Cecil C. Crider, Tulsa; O. W. Davison, Norman; Mrs. J. H. Lasley, Stigler; Wm. D. McBee, Oklahoma City; Don McBride, Alexandria, Va.; Wm. B. Moore, Muskogee; Will Rogers, Jr., Beverly Hills, California; C. R. Ross, Okmulgee; Joe A. Smith, Wood River, Illinois.

ANNUAL: Grover C. Adams, Ardmore; T. E. Allen, Pawhuska; T. Roy Barnes, Tulsa; Robert P. Blair, Clayton; Andrew Boatman, Okmulgee; R. G. Boatright, Cushing; Mrs. Golda Braueun, Sasakwa; Wm. E. Brogdon, Tishomingo; Hicks G. Brunson, Tulsa; Mrs. J. C. Cobb, Arlington, Texas; Mrs. J. B. Cox, Tahlequah; Richard Fitzgerald, Wyandotte; B. C. Goodwin, Jr., Norman; Edith Greiner, Inglewood, Calif.; John Hunt, Oklahoma City; Wm. C. King, Richmond, Va.; Patrick W. Laurie, Camp Gordon, Ga.; Charles McClain, Tulsa; Mrs. Roy Maines, Tulsa; Mrs. L. S. Moore, Spiro; Mr. O. L. Morgan, Newhall, Calif.; F. W. Pearce, Uncas; Mrs. T. O. Piersall, Catesby; Marvin Polin, Catesby; Worth S. Ray, Austin, Texas; J. B. A. Robertson, Jr., Stillwater; Joe N. Shidler, Tulsa; Mrs. Lewis V. Smith, Los Angeles, Calif.; Thomas G. Taylor, Wewoka; J. W. Thurman, Tulsa; A. W. Tolleson, Eufaula.

Mrs. Anna B. Korn made a motion that all the applicants be received and accepted as members of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Mr. George L. Bowman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Secretary stated that a request had been received from Mr. C. R. Ross of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, for bound volumes of *The Chronicles*. The Secretary reported that there were at the present time, a limited number of the complete volumes in the library of the Society. The President directed the Secretary to supply Mr. Ross with the desired volumes and also to ascertain the cost of printing additional volumes of *The Chronicles* and present such a quotation to the Board at its next meeting with a view to accommodating other members wishing to purchase said volumes.

The President reported the need for the election of four directors as a result of the vacancies now existing on the Board. After nominations were made by the Directors, and the suggestion made that the vote be taken by written ballot until four nominees received the majority of votes cast, the following were elected to the position of Director: Dr. B. B. Chapman, Stillwater, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. H. L. Muldrow, deceased; Mr. H. B. Bass, Enid, to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Blanche Lucas, deceased; Dr. T. T. Montgomery, Durant, to fill the unexpired term of Edward C. Lawson; Mr. R. G. Miller, Oklahoma City, to fill the unexpired term of Jim Biggerstaff, deceased.

The President authorized the Secretary to write letters to those elected apprising them of their election on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Mr. George L. Bowman stated that the President and Secretary of the Society had recently received high honors in the Masonic World. He further stated that General W. S. Key had been elected Grand Inspector General of the State of Oklahoma, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Mason

in the State, and that Dr. Charles Evans had been elected to the honor of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. Mr. Bowman Moved that a vote of commendation be given to the President and Secretary by the Board of Directors as evidence of the appreciation of the Historical Society. Judge Edgar S. Vaught seconded the motion that said commendation and resolution be made a part of the record. Motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Judge Robert A. Hefner stated that he wished to present the name of John Easley of Ardmore and make a recommendation that the Board of Directors request that Mr. Easley's portrait be hung in the Portrait Gallery of this Society. Judge Hefner stated that Mr. Easley was a leading citizen of Ardmore and for many years had been the editor of the *Daily Ardmoreite* of that city, and had contributed a great deal to the building of the State of Oklahoma.

Judge Edgar S. Vaught made a motion that Mr. Easley's portrait be requested. Col. George H. Shirk seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At this point, Mr. Thomas J. Harrison suggested that Justice N. B. Johnson be called upon to tell the members of the Board of the National Congress of American Indians of which he is an active participant.

The President recognized Justice Johnson, who in turn made the following remarks: "There are in the United States today some 400,000 Indians living in various stages of the economic scale. Some are rich, some poor, some are using the primitive way of making a livelihood and the condition among many is very deplorable. For 115 years, the Indian Bureau had been the controlling factor over all tribal Indians and had dealt with every phase of the life of the Indian. Their policy had been completely unsatisfactory. The laws governing the American Indians had been inadequate, but the Indians had seemed content to let Congress formulate the program and progress of the tribal Indian. To elevate the conditions among the primitive Indians, a plan was advanced to formulate the organization of the National Congress of American Indians.

"After a great deal of correspondence and communication, the first convention of The National Congress of American Indians was called at Denver, Colorado in November 1942, to be held for a period of four days. I was at first reluctant to go because I thought it might be another of the Indian Bureau movements, but I decided to go and I spent the four days in Denver along with others, as for instance, Ben Dwight and J. B. Milam.

"At this Convention, a general discussion was held and some very shocking things and conditions were disclosed. Among other things, we learned that there were five states in the Nation that denied the Indian the right to vote. An American Indian was called upon to fight for America, the country he loved, yet, upon returning home, he was denied the right to vote in the five states. We learned too, that the tribal Indian had no court in which he might try tribal cases and claims. At that time, it took a matter of years to get a Tribal Indian claim adjudicated before the United States. It was also brought to the attention of the Convention that the United States Social Security benefits were being unfairly administered.

"It is gratifying to state that in the eight years that have passed since our first convention, we have seen an Indian Claims Commission appointed that has fulfilled the obligation of immediately adjudicating all tribal Indian claims. Indians may now vote in every state of the Union. The Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico held it unconstitutional that the Indian could not vote in that state; The Arizona Supreme Court also held such a law unconstitutional and very quickly, the other three states fell in line in making it legal that all Indians should have the privilege and right to

cast their vote. As a result of the formation of the National Congress of American Indians, a long, hard fight was waged on the United States Social Security matter, and it is now administered fairly in all states of the Union. It was at this time, that the American people gave proof that they were ready and willing to help the American Indian in any and every way possible, and were vitally interested in the problem of the Indians.

"At the Convention's first meeting, a constitution for the proposed organization was formulated and adopted. In this, and the councils of the organization, the accent was upon the establishment of such a court of adjudication of tribal claims as has been formed and is an actuality today.

"We of the National Congress of American Indians are very proud of our organization and the results that have come about because of its formation. Other organizations have contributed a great deal to our organization and we are indebted to many for the help they have given and the contribution they have made to the furtherance of the National Congress of American Indians. Our organization now publishes a monthly magazine and our membership consists of tribal memberships, group memberships and individual members. We hold a convention annually and are going steadily forward in advancing the American Indian.

"I would like to conclude by saying that in addition to our organization, there has been formed The Governors Inter-State Indian Council. This is a sixteen state council and was formed in Oklahoma City two years ago."

Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour made a motion that Justice N. B. Johnson, the esteemed Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma and a member of the Cherokee Tribe, be given a vote of thanks for his address and for acquainting the Board of Directors with the National Congress of American Indians. Mr. George L. Bowman seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Mr. R. M. Mountcastle made a motion that Justice Johnson be requested to prepare an article on the subject he had just discussed on the National Congress of American Indians for publication in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* in a subsequent issue. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At this time, Judge Baxter Taylor made the motion that the President declare the meeting adjourned. Mr. R. M. Mountcastle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

WILLIAM S. KEY, *President*

CHARLES EVANS, *Secretary*