

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY June 5, 1953

The regular annual or Birthday meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society usually meets upon May 26 of each year. The Executive Committee was authorized by the Directors to accept the invitation of the City of Guymon to hold the annual meeting of the Society in Guymon. The Executive Committee selected June 5, 1953 as the date of this meeting, inasmuch as an historical tour of western and north-western Oklahoma comprising three days, June 4, 5 and 6, 1953, would be centered around the meeting of the Board held under the rules and regulations of the Society.

On June 5, 1953, after a banquet had been served by the Chamber of Commerce in the Dale Hotel, Guymon, Oklahoma, General William S. Key, President, called the Board of Directors to order and upon roll call the following members answered present: General William S. Key, Judge Redmond S. Cole, Mr. R. G. Miller, Judge W. J. Peterson, Judge Edgar S. Vaught, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Mr. Thomas J. Harrison, and Dr. Charles Evans, Secretary.

The following members presented letters explaining their absence: Mr. R. M. Mountcastle, Mrs. J. Garfield Buell, Mrs. Anna B. Korn, Dr. I. N. McCash, J. W. Raley, Mr. Milt Phillips, Mr. Baxter Taylor, Judge R. A. Hefner, Col. George Shirk, Dr. Berlin B. Chapman, Mr. H. B. Bass were in Europe, and Dr. E. E. Dale is in Australia.

Mr. Thomas J. Harrison made a motion that absentee members who had notified the Secretary be excused as having good and sufficient reasons for their absence. Judge Edgar S. Vaught seconded the motion which passed.

The President presented the resignation of Mr. Thomas G. Cook of Buffalo, who had stated that his health and demands of business prevented him from serving. A motion was made by Judge Edgar S. Vaught that Mr. Cook's resignation be accepted and that the regrets of the Board of Directors be extended to Mr. Cook for his inability to give further service to this Society. The motion was seconded by Judge Redmond S. Cole and passed.

After discussion for the replacement of a director for this vacancy, the conclusion was reached that further time be given for consideration to so important a matter.

The Secretary presented the resignation of Mrs. Dorothy Holcomb, Director of the Union Memorial Room. He stated that Mrs. Holcomb had received a far higher salary and though she had enjoyed her work, still it was incumbent that she take the position with the Oklahoma City Public Libraries. The Secretary stated that under the direction of the President of the Society he had secured the services, temporarily, of Miss Bertha Barnett, a teacher in the public schools of Oklahoma City. Miss Barnett presented credentials revealing that she holds the Degrees of A.B. and M.A. from the University of Oklahoma. It was the sense of the Board that action would be taken in filling this position permanently at the next Board meeting.

The Secretary presented a letter from Mr. R. M. Mountcastle regretting he was unable to attend this session of the Board, but he was sending a letter from the Chamber of Commerce at Fort Gibson, signed by Mr. Q. B. Boydston, President, in which the Chamber of Commerce acknowledges

receipt from Mr. R. M. Mountcastle of the keys to the old Barracks Building. He states that the Chamber of Commerce has taken possession of the building and will maintain it as a community center. The large room on the first floor will be maintained as a museum and will be kept open for inspection by visitors. The Chamber of Commerce, the Ladies Civic Club and the Old Fort Club have acquired sufficient furniture to completely furnish the museum room. He begs the Board of Directors and Society for anything that is available that would be suitable for placing in the museum room. These organizations plan to redecorate the rest of the building and select some suitable person to reside in the living quarters and keep the building open at all times for public inspection. The Board received this letter with much enthusiasm and a letter will be written by the Secretary to Mr. Boydston in appreciation for all this planning for proper reception of the public at this historic spot.

The President called attention to the splendid work carried out by Mr. H. B. Bass, Colonel Shirk and Dr. T. L. Ballenger in clearing and cleaning the old Worcester Cemetery in Cherokee County, Oklahoma. Through the efforts of Judge N. B. Johnson and H. B. Bass, the Board of County Commissioners of Cherokee County, secured a conveyance to the Society of this cemetery. The Board of County Commissioners who executed this deed were Mr. Jack Ballew, Chairman, Cookson, Okla., Buck Thorne, Tahlequah, and Mr. Berry Littlefield, Tahlequah. The Secretary pointed out that Mr. Ballenger had expended thus far in doing this work some \$326.07, leaving a balance of \$73.93, in the Bass donation for this project. The Secretary reported that Dr. Ballenger believed that a few dollars per month for hiring workmen to cut grass, clear weeds, etc., were essential. The Board voted to appropriate out of the private funds not to exceed \$5.00 per month for this project. The Secretary was requested to express the earnest appreciation of the Society to Dr. T. L. Ballenger for his untiring efforts in this work.

It was brought out by Mrs. Rella Looney that the sum of \$682.00 was collected from the 62 passengers on the two busses used in this Historical Tour, leaving a deficit of \$18.00, the total cost of said busses being \$700.00. The Secretary pointed out that the expenses of the Secretary, Miss Muriel H. Wright and Mrs. Rella Looney, allowed by the Board on this Tour, together with the sum of \$8.00 each allowed to Mrs. Elsie D. Hand, Mrs. Edith T. Mitchell, Mrs. Louise Cook and Mrs. C. E. Cook, members of the staff on this trip, would reach the sum of \$123.00. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas J. Harrison that this amount be allowed from the private funds, which was seconded by Mr. W. J. Peterson, and passed.

The President stated that Col. George Shirk had received an offer of \$347.00 for the timber which had been cut from the R. M. Jones property near Hugo, Oklahoma. Mr. W. J. Peterson made a motion that this sum of \$347.00 be accepted for this timber and Judge Edgar S. Vaught seconded the motion which passed.

The Secretary reported that the Board of Public Affairs had been for several weeks repairing the plaster throughout the Historical Building and had expended the sum of about \$1000.00 for this work. In every room this repair made each room better but at the same time made it unpleasant to look upon. Mr. C. R. Smith, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, was urged to state to the Board when the painting of each room and all the rooms would begin. His answer, in brief, is as follows: "As of this date, it is even doubtful that we will have money for painting after the 1st of July because certain appropriations have been killed by the current Session of Legislature." Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour made a motion that it was the sense of the Board that this painting be done as soon as possible as hundreds of visitors within and without the State are coming into the

building day by day. Judge Redmond S. Cole seconded the motion, which passed.

The President pointed out that the Bill setting up a Commission for The Golden Jubilee celebration of the 50th birthday of Oklahoma—1957, had passed the Legislature and was signed by the Governor. Mrs. Anna B. Korn was largely instrumental in fashioning this Bill and pressing it through the Legislature. The Board expressed much gratification in learning that one of its Directors had been instrumental in this fine work.

Mrs. Jessie R. Moore's report as Treasurer was read and it revealed that the finances were in most excellent condition. Collections for May, one month, were \$694.25. A committee was appointed consisting of the President and the Secretary to act, if the purchase of another Bond is found to be a proper procedure.

It was the sense of the Board that the regular quarterly meeting be held in July.

Mr. Thomas J. Harrison made a motion that the Secretary write to all Chambers of Commerce, individuals, etc., who had so efficiently and enthusiastically assisted in making this Historical Tour so pleasant and profitable, extending the appreciation of the Society. This was seconded by Mr. R. G. Miller and passed.

At this point Mr. Miller stated that the Oklahoma Press Association takes pride in that it organized the Oklahoma Historical Society. This year, this Tour was taken when the Oklahoma Press Association was holding its meeting. He said, "Next year if a Tour is made, I should like to have General Key, Judge Vaught and others impress on the Oklahoma Press Association to go on the Tour as far as convenient. There should be more newspapers than the Daily Oklahoman represented on these tours. Let us plan," said he, "two months ahead with the Press Association. Also let us plan to have as many teachers from the schools of the whole state make this Tour, if possible, The Department of Education, City Superintendents, etc., should be requested to help in this matter." These suggestions of Mr. Miller were cordially received by all members of the Board.

The Secretary presented a remarkable number of applicants for membership secured in the last quarter:

LIFE: Myron E. Andrews, Washington, D. C.; Elizabeth Borden, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Archibald Edwards, Oklahoma City; Carl G. Etling, Boise City; Morton Harrison, Tulsa; Edgar Parish Hunter, Ada; Alvin Ross Jackson, Oklahoma City; Sperry Joanna Jones, Oklahoma City; Floyd E. Maytubby, Oklahoma City; G. C. Spillers, Tulsa; Mrs. G. C. Spillers, Tulsa; J. W. Pearson, Los Angeles, Calif.; C. I. Pontius, Tulsa; Edwin Leo Presley, Oklahoma City; Harry H. Rogers, San Antonio, Texas; Freeda M. Skinner, Oklahoma City; Mary Jo Turner, Washington; John E. Wagner, Chandler.

ANNUAL: G. C. Adams, Ardmore; Sibyl Gee Alexander, Edmond; E. Murial Angelo, Oklahoma City; Francis L. Bacon, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Wendell B. Barnes, Tulsa; M. F. Barno, Atlanta, Ga.; Minnie Bidwell, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Stewart G. Branyan, Tulsa; Mrs. Eva Burke, Corsicana, Texas; Glenwood Buzbee, Lindsay; Mrs. T. C. Canton, Griggs; Ernest B. Cook, Oklahoma City; O. R. Christoph, Oklahoma City; Richard W. Chuculate, Sallisaw; R. D. Cody, Centrahoma; Elizabeth C. Cooper, Oklahoma City; Mrs. A. B. Dana, Ephriam, Wis.; Jim Davis, Muskogee; Earl C. Everett, McMann; Anna Finkelstein, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Mike Grey, Hooker; W. James Gough, Mission, Kans.; Ernestine Gravley, Shawnee; John Richard Green, Tulsa; Joseph Martin Green, Tulsa; J. W. Greenman,

Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. C. W. Henson, Healdton; L. C. Heydrick, Wichita Falls, Texas; Mrs. R. W. Hill, Healdton; Philip J. Huls, Enfaula; Bert T. Jayne, Oklahoma City; Paul I. Johnston, Tulsa; Kaplan, Muskogee; Leonard Keller, in Service; Norma Kilgore, Muskogee; Wm. H. Leckie, Norman; Eva S. Lee, Tulsa; Gerald C. Leighton, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Ellen Jane Lindsay, Ft. Worth, Texas; Carlos E. Logan, Muskogee; Carrol Loving, Oklahoma City; Orlando McClendon, Oklahoma City; Abner G. McCown, Edmond; C. W. McGilberry, Oglala, So. Dak.; Maureen McKernan, White Plains, N. Y.; Mrs. James W. McMahan, Okemah; Duncan McRee, Tulsa; Mrs. Evelyn Maheras, Bartlesville; Mary Lee Meek, Falls Church, Va.; Mrs. B. B. Mitchell, Healdton; A. G. Moore, Muskogee; Mrs. L. L. Morrison, Tulsa; Shy Munger, Stillwater; C. S. Murray, Selling; C. T. Mustain, Cleora; Frank Northup, Oklahoma City; Henry L. Peck, Ft. Towson; William A. Pevehouse, Kansas City, Mo.; O. A. Powell, Oklahoma City; Clara Carol Price, Oklahoma City; Mrs. E. F. Pumphrey, Tulsa; Mike Rainbolt, Cordell; John Wesley Raley, Shawnee; James L. Rankin, Granite; S. H. Starkey, Oklahoma City; Martha Wetherell Stewart, Tulsa; Mrs. Leonard Swoverland, Tulsa; Jas. A. Thomas, Shawnee; James P. Thomas, Shawnee; Mrs. James P. Thomas, Shawnee; Charles O. Thompson, Jr., Oklahoma City; Fred V. Verity, Oklahoma City; Charles Temple Walker, Oklahoma City; Virginia Warhurst, Grandfield; Edgar Donnelly Welch, Oklahoma City; W. O. Wethington, Nash; Mrs. Charles J. White, Shattuck; Mrs. Muriel Williams, Tulsa; Mrs. Roxa Wright, Leona, N. J.

Judge Redmond S. Cole made a motion that they each be elected and admitted as members of the Society in the class as indicated in the list. Mr. Thomas J. Harrison seconded the motion which passed.

The Secretary reported that the following gifts had been received: Two pair Indian Ball Clubs, donor, Judge John Powell; large old cork screw used in 1880, donor, A. S. Beckner; satin handmade Oklahoma Flag, beaded and trimmed with feathers, donor, Mrs. Reba A. Orr; Steel blade found under the roots of a very old tree, donor Wm. F. Epple, Sr.; stone ax and grinding stone, donor, B. F. Higgins; page from a day book used by John W. Willcutt during the War Between the States, donor, Mrs. Euvie T. Grise; original note dated April 21, 1818, original specifications for the plumbing of the A. L. Colcord residence, original patent for land in Missouri, donor, John Narber; 1914 dime to fill in coin collection, donor, Norma N. Robinson, filing cabinet used by A. S. McKennon, Member of Dawes Commission, donor, W. T. Hardy; papers of the late George W. Choate, President of the last Choctaw Senate, donor, Sybil York Turner, great-grand-daughter of George W. Choate; campaign button with picture of Wm. Jennings Bryan, donor, Mrs. Lee Roberts; hat worn in Run of 1893, hat bought in 1873 worn on the Chisholm Trail, coat worn by a Union Soldier in the War Between the States, wool coverlet, hand made by Cherokee girl when the Cherokees first moved to Arkansas, quilt, made by Geronimo, chaps worn by Will Rogers when he was in the 101 Wild West Show, donor, Edd Stinnett; Beaded bag, Consistory souvenir, razor strap, donor, Sybil York Turner; large framed oil painting of the Elk House, first hotel built in North McAlester in 1870, painted and presented by Mrs. Frank Sittel, Sr.; picture album of Indian Chiefs, donor, Charles Butterworth, 19 military pictures, donor, Mrs. Alva J. Niles; 9 pictures of Sulphur Springs, Ind. Ter., donor Mrs. W. R. Edwards; 33 pictures of Indian Schools, donor, Mrs. W. E. Van Cleve; 3 pictures of the George W. Choate home, donor, Sybil York Turner; 2 pictures of Bob Biffle, donor, Bartlett Boder, president of the St. Joseph Historical Society; Standard Atlas and Plat Book of Woods County, Okla., 1906, Standard Atlas and Plat Book of Woodward Co., 1906, gift of C. E. Washburn, Waynoka, through E. H. Kelley, Okla. City; Papers, clippings and other valuable early Oklahoma history, gift of Fred L. Wenner, Guthrie; Early history and valuable

papers of early Osage County history, gift of Dr. B. B. Chapman, Stillwater; Historical pictorial collection and history of Oklahoma City Post Office, gift of Mrs. Maisie Richardson Lollar, Riverside, Calif., through E. H. Kelley, Okla. City; Framed copy of Daily Oklahoman, Sunday, Feb. 28, 1926, containing story and pictures relating to the Old Creek Council House built in 1876; gift of Mrs. C. E. B. Cutler, Okmulgee; Double glass framed copy of Ulster Co. Gazette, containing story of death of General George Washington; gift of Mrs. Marion Jones, Okla. City; gift of James Brooks Wright, "Biographical Sketch of Rev. Allen Wright and Family"; gift of Mrs. Raleigh Kobel, Sallisaw, through Miss Muriel H. Wright, Okla. City; Sequoyah article by Mr. W. J. Weaver and an article by his son, J. Frank Weaver; a book of poems by Miss Genoa Morris, "An now to Avalon," gift through Miss Muriel H. Wright, Okla. City; Pictorial Review of the First Governor-Student Day in the history of the A.&M. College, Mar. 7, 1952, gift of Dr. B. B. Chapman; Copies of the Original Constitution of the State of Oklahoma; 3 copies of Officers and members of Oklahoma State Offices and Boards, Commissions, Courts and the Legislature, gifts of Ralph Hudson, State Librarian; Inaugural Edition of the Washington Post, Washington, D. C., gifts of Mrs. Antonette Sabastian and Miss Mary J. McGeorge, Washington, D. C., Dr. Grant Foreman, Muskogee, and Mrs. Maurine H. Abernathy, Trustee, Okla. State Society in Washington, D. C.; 2 copies Stillwater Daily News-Press, Special A.&M. College Edition, 1953; 3 copies Special Fifty Year Edition Daily Oklahoman and Times, Okla. City; photostat copy of original letter from Wm. Armstrong, Choctaw Agent, to Mr. H. G. Rind, Fort Towson, Nov. 14, 1836, concerning Indian enrollment, etc., gift of Lee F. Harkins, Tulsa; "The Prehistoric Men of Kentucky" by Col. Bennett H. Young, Filson Club publication "Belgium" Foreign magazine, giving true picture of Belgium at war, 7 volumes 1940-47 Inc., gift of Rev. Urban de Hasque, Okla. City; Copy of Presbyterian Life Magazine, May 30, 1953, containing story "He Could not Desert" Elijah Lovejoy, young Presbyterian minister, died for freedom of the press, by Mabel H. Shelbley and James W. Hoffman, gift of Mrs. Zoe Tighlman, Oklahoma City; Speeches on the Passage of the Bill for "Removal of the Indians" delivered in the Congress of the United States, April and May 1830, book published in 1830, New York, gift of James P. Taylor, Haverhill, Mass; Collections Vol. 27, 1952 containing Smith Papers Vol. 3 1814, gift of Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Conn.; Deacon George Clark (e) of Milford, Connecticut, and Some of His Descendants, by George Clarke Bryant, gift of George Clarke Bryant and Florence Adele Farrel Bryant, Milford, Conn.; C. J. Phillips Collection, Sapulpa, Oklahoma, gift of Jerry Rand, Hudson View Gardens, New York City; Turnpike Souvenir Edition of the Opening of the Turner Turnpike, gift of Stroud American, Stroud, Okla.; Commencement edition, Indian Leader, Haskell 1953, gift of Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas; Minutes of the Forty-seventh Convention (annual) containing historical data of Oklahoma Baptists Organizations, gift of Baptist General Convention, Okla. City; 1898 Census of Pawnee, Okla., complete, 1895 Census of White population Osage Nation, now Osage County, 1895 Census of Pawnee county, without Town of Cleveland, otherwise perhaps almost complete, gift of Mr. C. A. Barnes, County Assessor, Pawnee County, and Lewis Raba, County Attorney, Pawnee County, Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Judge Edgar S. Vaught made a motion that the above gifts be accepted and that letters be sent to each donor expressing the appreciation of the Society. This was seconded by Mr. R. G. Miller, and passed.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GRANT FOREMAN

It being the first meeting of the Board of Directors since the death of Dr. Grant Foreman of Muskogee, the Board, out of profound love of and tribute to this great historian, developer and guardian of the Oklahoma

Historical Society, almost from its very foundation, expressed deep sorrow and distress upon his passing from the earth.

Dr. Foreman, more than fifty years ago, in his early manhood, proceeded to dedicate his whole life and work to the history of Oklahoma, and more especially, to all that related to Indian life in these regions. Books, manuscripts, newspaper and magazine articles flowed from his pen until all Oklahoma and America considered him the chief authority of all things pertaining to Southwestern Indian life. He obtained from the United States Congress in 1934 the great honor and practical value of making the Oklahoma Historical Society a depository of all governmental documents relating to Indian life of this State. He was serving as Director Emeritus and Director of Historical Research of the Oklahoma Historical Society at the time of his death on April 21, 1953. The Board offers this too brief eulogy to his memory.

Mr. W. J. Peterson made a motion since all business was finished that the Board of Directors do now adjourn. This motion was seconded by Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour and passed.

W. S. KEY, President.

CHARLES EVANS, Secretary.