

**MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1953, AT TEN
O'CLOCK A.M., HISTORICAL BUILDING,
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was held Thursday, July 23, 1953, at ten o'clock A.M., General W. S. Key, President, presiding.

The Secretary called the roll which shows the following members present: General W. S. Key, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Judge Redmond S. Cole, Judge Baxter Taylor, Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Mr. Henry B. Bass, Mr. George H. Bowman, Mrs. Anna B. Korn, Judge Thomas A. Edwards, Mr. Thomas J. Harrison, Judge Robert A. Hefner, Judge N. B. Johnson, Mr. H. Milt Phillips, Dr. T. T. Montgomery, Mr. George H. Shirk, Mr. W. J. Peterson, and Dr. John W. Raley.

The President reported that Mrs. Ethel Buell, Dr. Berlin B. Chapman, Dr. Edward E. Dale, Mr. R. G. Miller, Dr. I. N. McCash, Mr. R. M. Mountcastle and Judge Edgar S. Vaught had sent letters of excuse for their non-attendance.

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 Baxter Taylor seconded the motion which passed.

Comment was made by General Key on the three projects that have been completed recently—the Worchester Cemetery project, Fort Gibson project and the loss of timber from the R. M. Jones land. Those on the committees successfully carrying out the projects were thanked and praised for their fine work. A report on the Legislative committee's attempts at increasing the salaries disclosed that they had failed, and also failed to get an appropriation for the Newspaper Room. General Key suggested a closer contact with the legislature next year.

Mrs. Frank Korn commented on the Bill affecting the legal status of the building. Mrs. Moore gave a brief history of the Historical Building. After a discussion of the assignments of certain rooms in the building to the War Veterans, it was agreed that all had been done to protect the rights of the Oklahoma Historical Society as far as possible.

President Key read a letter from the Board of Public Affairs which stated that they hoped to be able to paint the walls of the Historical Building within a few weeks. The Secretary was authorized to express the Board's desire that this improvement of the walls and rooms and corridors be carried out as quickly as possible and that sincere thanks be offered Mr. C. R. Smith of the Building and Grounds Department and the Board of Public Affairs for their assistance in this matter.

At the suggestion of Dr. Evans, the secretary, the subject of a parking lot to the south of the Historical Building was discussed and it was decided that the matter should be taken up with the Board of Public Affairs, through the Secretary.

It was moved that the Society pay the deficit of \$350.50 accruing from the publication of the Chronicles of Oklahoma for the year. The motion was made by Judge Redmond S. Cole that the deficit be allowed and paid out of the special funds of the Society. Mr. George L. Bowman

seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was voted by the Board that hereafter expenditures be confined to the appropriated funds.

Concerning the election of a Director to replace Mr. Thomas Cook, who resigned, Judge Cole suggested that Mr. S. E. Lee of Buffalo would be an admirable and efficient citizen to serve as Director, and that he had been recommended by Mr. Cook. Mr. H. Milt Phillips nominated Mr. Lee for the Directorship. Judge Edwards seconded the nomination and Mr. S. E. Lee, Editor of the Harper County Journal was elected unanimously.

General Key asked that all those interested in educational fields encourage their students to do research in the fine library and archives possessed by the Society. He further mentioned the outstanding and educational tour the Society took in June of this year, and the success of that tour.

Judge Edwards presented to the Society a book, "Turmoil in New Mexico" by William A. Keleher, and he was given a vote of thanks for his splendid gift.

Mrs. Korn presented a large scrapbook and collection of clippings she had made to be placed in the Newspaper Room, and the vote was unanimous that she be thanked for her contribution.

The Treasurer's report revealed that the funds of the Society were now totaling a good sum. Mr. Phillips made a motion that Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, the Treasurer, be thanked for her good report, and it was seconded by Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour and passed.

Mrs. Moore then brought up the subject of the old pioneer grave yard at Pauls Valley, and asked that \$500.00 be appropriated to apply on fencing of the old cemetery where Smith Paul is buried, he being an early pioneer and settler of that region. The Board decided that it would set a bad precedent for the Society to finance improvement so unrelated to the direct business of the Society, and as the cemetery plot belonged to Pauls Valley, this should await further development. This was agreed to by all members of the Board.

The Board discussed the restoration of the murals in the corridors of the Historical Building and if a reasonable charge was made for proper repair, then asked that the cost of restoration be estimated and presented to the Board at its next meeting.

Mr. Harrison suggested that the Board hold its annual meeting in the Old Fort Gibson Barracks while on Tour next year. He pointed out that the restoration that had been given by the Board, some \$900.00 in cost, had put the Barracks building in a better condition than it ever had been so far as he knew. He said that Mr. Boydston President of the Chamber of Commerce of Ft. Gibson, had been appointed by the committees and acting through Mr. R. M. Mountcastle, had taken charge and was furnishing the building in splendid style with the aid of the women's clubs of Ft. Gibson. The idea was received with favor by the members of the Board and a motion was made by Mr. Milt Phillips and seconded by Dr. E. E. Harbour, that this invitation be accepted, and the next annual meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society will be held at Ft. Gibson.

At this point, Mr. Milt Phillips placed before the Board that the Secretary began his work in the Indian Territory and the State of Oklahoma at Ardmore in 1905. The Board of Education at Ardmore, now erecting a \$300,000.00 school building has named that building the Charles Evans School. He thought it was very proper and right that this Board should send a letter to the Ardmore Board of Education expressing appreciation of the honor given Dr. Evans on the day of its dedication. Mr. Phillips made

this as a motion and it was seconded by Mr. George L. Bowman and was passed unanimously.

Judge N. B. Johnson reminded the Board that an outstanding member of the Society and a prominent Indian leader, Hon. Ben Dwight, had died. He moved that action be taken to recognize Mr. Dwight's death by the Chronicles of Oklahoma carrying an article about him. General Key suggested a biographical sketch in the necrology section. Judge Johnson was asked to write this sketch to which he agreed.

President Key introduced the new director, Dr. John W. Raley, President of Baptist University at Shawnee. Dr. Raley acknowledged the introduction with warmest thanks, saying that he considered it a great privilege and high honor to become a member of the Board of Directors of this Society and would give his very best service.

President Key called upon Judge Redmond S. Cole, First Vice President of the Society, who had made a splendid speech at Woodward, during the Tour, in which he set forth the purposes and values of the Society, and asked that he say a few words along that way to the Board. Judge Cole arose and after stating that he had loved the work of Historical Societies so much that he at this date was a member of five State Societies, said he thought the Oklahoma Historical Society had an edge on the other four in many particulars. One was that it had outgrown those which were many years older, which proved its real merit. He then stated that no Society had a greater future than this one, now in its 60th year.

President Key then recognized the return of Mr. H. B. Bass and Mr. George Shirk from Europe and asked that they tell something of their impressions while on the European Continent. Mr. Shirk had returned from England and France and Mr. Bass from Germany, France and Italy. Both made very interesting remarks and both agreed that anyone who made a tour of Europe could never escape the impressions that made them better and more serviceable members of an Historical Society like this one. Both pledged themselves to a greater effort to secure a larger membership and a more earnest effort to help the Society to secure historical spots sacred to the history of Oklahoma.

President Key, in conclusion of this open forum, asked all to make a greater effort to obtain more of the early history of this State for the archives of the Society.

The Secretary reported the following list of applicants for membership; since June 6, 1952:

LIFE: Mary Hewett Bailey, Chickasha; Mrs. Earl Foster, Oklahoma City; Walter John Hysa, Oklahoma City; Jewell Moore, Oklahoma City and Mrs. J. D. Cole, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

ANNUAL: Dwight Allen, Kiowa; Grace Baptiste, Oklahoma City; Ralph M. Brown, Tulsa; Mrs. W. S. Corbin, Chickasha; Berniece Norman Crockett, Durant; Violet Davison, Stillwater; Mrs. Faye Ferguson, Oklahoma City; Harry L. S. Halley, Oklahoma City; J. H. Hampton, Oklahoma City; Henry Hunter, Woodward; Mrs. W. C. Liddell, Healdton; Paula McSpadden Love, Claremore; Mrs. E. G. McComas, Elk City; Mrs. W. C. McGrann, Jr., Muskogee; Anna Maples, Davidson; Mary Lee Meek, Falls Church Va.; Zella Moorman, Perkins; Lawrence Patterson, Shattuck; Helen Jean Pitz, Santa Fe, N. Mexico; Clebourne Green Pound, Spaulding; Anna Redel, Guthrie; Willis C. Reed, Vinita; Mrs. E. H. Richards, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Nola Rigdon, Crescent; Mrs. Daisy K. Sheppard, Eufaula; F. C. Starke, Woodward; John N. Steichen, Perry; Olive Webster, Guthrie; B. F. White, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Mina May Wilson, Stratford.

Judge Thomas A. Edwards moved that each be elected and admitted as members of the Society in the class as indicated in the list. Judge Robert A. Hefner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Thomas J. Harrison as Chairman of the Committee to work with the Intertribal Council in the matter of securing memorials to the Five Civilized Tribes, reported that he met with said Intertribal Council, presented the greetings of the Society and its wish to cooperate with it in any way possible.

Mr. Harrison made a motion that Mrs. Carolyn Thomas Foreman, prominent writer and historian, wife of Dr. Grant Foreman, who for many years was a Director and contributor to all phases of Oklahoma Historical Society's growth, and Mrs. J. B. Milam of Claremore, wife of the Hon. J. B. Milam, deceased, who for many years was a Director of the Society, be invited to attend the next meeting of the Board and it was unanimously agreed that the Secretary should extend a formal invitation to these ladies to meet with the Board at that time.

President Key then stated that the Director of the Union Memorial Room should be chosen at this time because there had been a vacancy for several months. Two able and competent candidates for the place were put before the Board for election. The vote being taken, it was shown that Miss Kathryn Ringland had been elected as Director of the Union Memorial Room, her service to begin Tuesday, September 1, 1953.

The Secretary reported that the following gifts had been received since June 6, 1953:

Photographs of the old log Chickasaw Capitol and the Chickasaw Capitol at Tishomingo, donor, Robert H. Schrepfer; photograph of William John Boone, descendant of Daniel Boone, donor, his son, George W. Boone; a large framed copy of the Declaration of Independence, donor, Anna Witteman; a large group photograph of the State Dental Association in 1912, donor, Veva Amy Lowes; large placard with photographs of Anna Belle Wright, Anna Marie Peterson Shortall and the Creek Orphans Home and a newspaper article about Anna Belle Wright, donor, Riley Thompson; photograph of Dr. Charles Evans, donor, Claude Bradshaw; large American Flag with 45 stars, which flew over the Huckins Hotel Oklahoma City, when it was used as the capitol building, donor, Mrs. Josephine Fulford, Baltimore, Md.; 7 silver loving cups won by W. H. Heer, for trap-shooting, donor, Sam H. and Pearl Smith.

Mrs. Anna B. Korn moved that the gifts be accepted with thanks and appreciation of the Board of Directors. Mr. H. Milt Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At this point it was brought before the Board of Directors a resolution setting forth the profound sorrow and severe loss sustained by the death of Dr Grant Foreman of Muskogee, April 22, 1953, by writing into the minutes of the Society, a

RESOLUTION

The Board of Directors, Staff Members and entire Membership of the Oklahoma Historical Society received a message through the telephone, telegraph and State Press on the 22nd day of April 1953, that Dr. Grant Foreman, distinguished historian of Oklahoma and America, one of the Founders and Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society for many years, had passed from earth. It is said that "When a great man dies, the people mourn, but when a good man dies, the people weep." Oklahoma had learned through almost half a century to follow the leadership of Dr. Grant Foreman in the state's historical field as no other writer or author.

Perhaps above and beyond all that, the citizenship of the State had admired the dignity, loftiness and high purpose as well as the sweet simplicity of his life so much that he became a great and genuine influence of good. So on his passing, both men and women wept.

No brief paragraph can offer a list of the fundamental contributions this man has made to Oklahoma and American History. In the Autumn number of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, it might be called in truth the "Grant Foreman Number" of the Society's Journal because of the number of articles contributed therein, the list of his authorship (in part) will be found.

The Board of Directors and the Staff Members, and all who knew his service to the people, here express their deep distress in the passing of this remarkable man, as one of the Founders and Guardians of the Oklahoma Historical Society. To his good wife and members of his family, we offer sympathy with sincere hope that Time will soften and temper their sorrows, with the thought that "None knew him but to love him; none named him but to praise."

A motion was made by Mr. George L. Bowman that the meeting adjourn. Mr. W. J. Peterson seconded the motion which passed.

CHARLES EVANS, Secretary

WM. S. Key, President