

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HELD IN THE CITY
OF DURANT OKLAHOMA, ON
NOVEMBER 12, 1953.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was held Thursday, November 12, 1953, at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Hotel Bryan, Durant Oklahoma (meeting moved up from October 22, 1953).

The Secretary called the roll which showed the following members present: General W. S. Key, Judge Baxter Taylor, Judge N. B. Johnson, Dr. T. T. Montgomery, Judge Edgar S. Vaught, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Mr. H. Milt Phillips, Dr. B. B. Chapman, Col. George B. Shirk and Secretary, Dr. Charles Evans. Also sitting in on the meeting but in no official capacity, was Mr. John Easley, owner and publisher of the *Daily Ardmoreite*, of Ardmore Oklahoma, who was heartily invited to lend his presence, since he had been honored as a former Director of the Board and a great friend of the Society.

Dr. T. T. Montgomery brought to the attention of President Key that lunch time was set at 1:00 o'clock P.M. at the K. C. Waffle House where "some victuals" would be provided, and allowing about one hour to eat, and it would take about 30 minutes to arrive at the Durant Cemetery where dedication ceremonies of the monument erected to the memory of Judge R. L. Williams would be conducted, he urged that the meeting go forward as quickly as possible. Dr. Montgomery also stated the citizenship of Durant deemed it a signal honor that the Board of Directors had held two official meetings in Durant in two successive years.

The Secretary presented a report on the new membership for the quarter, growing out of the Campaign for Increase of Membership, begun on or about October 10, 1953. He presented a list of twenty-three LIFE MEMBERS: Dr. J. M. Allgood, Altus; Mr. Harold Eugene Bailey, Oklahoma City; Mr. J. Phil Burns, Oklahoma City; Dr. Claude S. Chambers, Seminole; Mrs. J. D. Cole, Muskogee; Mr. J. C. Cravens, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Myrtle Creason, Oklahoma City; Mr. Arthur A. Criswell, Wewoka; Dr. Charles B. Duffy, Ponca City; Dr. D. L. Garrett, Tulsa; Dr. John F. Gray, Jr., Tulsa; Mr. Richard B. Hall, Washington D. C.; Mr. Walter M. Harrison, Oklahoma City; Mr. O. T. Jennings, Haldton; Mrs. John E. Kirkpatrick, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Josephine Hume Maxwell, Tulsa; Most Rev. Eugene J. McGuinness, Oklahoma City; Dr. Raymond L. Murdock, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Lorene Cruce Norris, Los Angeles, California; Dr. Charles M. O'Leary, Oklahoma City; Mrs. W. C. Seago, Oklahoma City; Mrs. D. A. Sweet, Shawnee; Dr. E. O. Johnson, Tulsa.

ANNUAL MEMBERS: Mr. Ira O. Alexander, Mr. G. S. Baxter, both of Shawnee; Miss Marjorie Allen, Mrs. J. E. Myers, Miss Martha McGowen, and J. L. Tramel, Norman; Mr. Harry M. Andrews, El Reno; Mrs. Robert L. Atkins, Mr. Clarence E. Bates, Mr. Homer Bebout, Mr. Harold J. Binder, Mr. Charles E. Bowman, Mr. W. B. Cleary, Mr. Roger L. Cole, Mrs. Charlotte L. Cox, Mr. J. C. Colter Dodman, Sister Jeanne Frances, Dr. Robert B. Howard, Mr. Harold D. Herndon, Mr. Robert T. Howard, Mr. Jack H. Langston, Mrs. Wendell Long, Dr. R. C. Mills, Dr. James Floyd Moorman, Mr. Loyd T. D. Morgan, Dr. Robert J. Morgan, Mr. Malcolm Morrison,

Mrs. C. C. Precure, Dr. Joe M. Parker, Mr. Fred Schilling, Dr. Edward E. Shircliff, Mrs. Floyd C. Smith, Mr. Ray L. Walde, and Mr. Dick Williamson, all of Oklahoma City; Mr. John Homer Baransy, Moreland; Mr. R. A. Barney, Washington D. C.; Mr. Daniel Bartlett, St. Louis, Mo.; Mr. Ernest E. Wood, Independence, Mo.; Mr. Ralph Woodruff, Osceola, Ark.; Mr. Sam W. Blackburn, Mr. J. Dewey Clemens, Mr. A. E. Plume, Ardmore; Mr. Mel H. Bolster, Falls Church, Va.; Mr. A. J. Brawshaw, Weatherford; Miss Florence Wicker, Greenville, So. Carolina; Mr. W. T. Weir, Philadelphia, Miss.; Dr. J. E. Walsworth, Monroe, La.; Mr. Riley Thompson, Indian Village, Minn.; Mr. George Owl, Cherokee, N. Carolina; Miss Sylvia Lee, Berkeley, Calif.; Mr. W. J. Lemke, Fayetteville, Ark.; Mr. Noel Loomis, Minneapolis, Minn.; Mr. Amos J. Mabry, San Francisco, Calif.; Mr. Robert T. C. Head, San Francisco; Mrs. Melvin Fowler, Lynwood, Calif.; Mr. Edwin W. Frazer, Marion, Ky.; Mrs. Bess Brown, Dr. W. F. Dunaway, Dr. I. M. Lightner, Mr. Homer W. Long, and Mrs. Emma C. Stivers, Guymon; Mr. S. W. Brown, Mathis, Texas; Capt. V. H. Brown, Mr. Frank S. Giles, Dr. Hugh C. Graham, Dr. Carl H. Guild Jr., Mrs. Rosalie P. Hickman, Mr. George E. Norvell, Mrs. Norman W. Smith, Mr. T. H. Steffens, Mrs. Anna Teel Smith, Mrs. S. P. True, and Dr. Fred E. Woodson, all of Tulsa; Mrs. Ben F. Browning, Chandler; Mrs. Mayme B. Clark, Sapulpa; Mrs. Luther B. Clegg, Bethany; Mrs. Jessie J. Clift, Mr. Phil McMullen, Mrs. Alpha Burger Skirving, and Mrs. Ada B. Warner, Blackwell; Mr. Hiram Coodey, Chicago; Mrs. M. L. Coppock, Cherokee; Mr. Homer Croy, Mr. Lon Deutch, Mrs. Stanley W. Irons, Mrs. Glenn Rutgers, all of New York City; Mr. J. H. Crump, and Mr. Charles Slack, Fairview; Mr. Jack Darling, Lawton; Mrs. Lon Wilhite, Welling; Mrs. J. I. Denison, Hobart; Mr. Allen Lowery, Blackwell; Mr. Clyde Duckwall, Jr., Commerce; Mr. Raymond H. Fields, Guymon; Mrs. Phillipa J. Fife, Guthrie; Mr. Ralph Stone, Hollywood, Calif.; Mr. H. C. Ford, Granite; Mrs. W. O. Wailand, Alva; Mr. Milford E. Quimby, Vian; Mrs. R. C. Nelson, Jay; Mr. Tom McGiboney, Paoli; Dr. O. H. Miller, Ada; Judge Lockwood Jones, Cordell; Dr. W. A. Franklin, Newkirk; Mrs. E. E. Gore, Altus; Mr. R. O. Green, Mr. F. E. McKee, Mrs. Lattie D. Ogden and Mr. Leo G. Whitlow, Enfauila; Mr. Herbert M. Gregory, Mr. Claude C. Harris, and Dr. Charles E. White, Muskogee; Mr. E. F. Guidinger, Mr. W. A. Kruse, Bartlesville; Dr. E. A. Johnson, Hugo; Mr. Kenneth Porter Laird, Arlington, Va.; Dr. S. B. Leslie, Sr., Okmulgee; Dr. E. C. Lindley, Duncan; Mr. John R. Willingham, and Rev. John Mueller, Durant; Mr. William A. Moyer, Pawhuska; Dr. Tracey H. McCarley, Sr., McAlester; Mrs. Dolores W. Rowe, Tahlequah; Rev. L. H. Patterson, Rush Springs; Dr. James W. Parker, Elk City; Dr. Lalle G. Neal, Ponca City; Mrs. Esther E. New, Muldrow; Mr. David Owen, Jr., Enid; Mrs. Elizabeth Parramore, Poteau; Mrs. Emma Samuel, Mrs. Grace Samuels, Pryor; Dr. Milton J. Sugarman, Elk City; Mrs. J. J. Swan, Chickasha; making the Campaign one of the most profitable ever carried out by the Society in that length of time, with some \$816.00 brought into the Treasury and many eminent men and women from all over the country have become supporters of the Society. Mr. John Easley, sitting in with the Board, stated he believed \$25.00 for a Life Membership was "too cheap" and that it should be increased to \$100.00. President Key commented that perhaps the fee should remain as it was, because school teachers, who were the principal buyers of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* were not too well supplied with "the coin of the realm." Judge Vaught, with a nod toward Mr. Easley, suggested there would be no objection to the \$25.00 Life Members increasing their "contribution" to \$100.00 if they so desired. Judge Baxter Taylor made a motion that we accept the applications of the new members and admit them to full membership; motion seconded by Judge N. B. Johnson and carried unanimously. The Secretary was authorized to send our Membership Certificates to the new life members, whereupon the Secretary advised he had already arranged for this to be done.

The Secretary then reported the following gifts, portraits and pictures had been received since July 23, 1953, presented by many people of the State and throughout the country: German Naval uniform sash, German-American dictionary, German Navy uniform epaulet, French key, German belt buckle, top ornament from German officer's helmet, German enlisted men's helmet decoration, French and German paper money, French, German and English coins, bread voucher used in France during World War I. Donor: Casper G. Cronkite. Hand-painted Oklahoma Flag, donor: O. R. Miller. Kickapoo head-piece, Kickapoo Trinket Basket, donor: George Kishketon. Columbian Exposition Commemorative coin and an 1833 half-dollar, donor: Marjorie Brainard. China Canteen, Knight Templar Sword, scabbard and sash, sword and scabbard used by Union Soldier in War between the States, donor: Mrs. Darwin Alonzo Sweet. Froe, dog-wood glut, hickory shingle maul, rail maul, mortar and pestle and squirrel club, donor: Coleman James Ward. Half mark coin, donor: Valentin Helmel. Guitar carried in the Run of 1893, donor: Evelyn Barrett. Old newspaper, donor: Judge W. J. Hulsey. Two confederate bills, donor: Jimmy Wright. 1914 dime, donor: Norma McCrary. Booklet on Salina and a booklet honoring W. A. Graham on his 100th birthday, donor: Thomas J. Harrison. Seven pictures of floats at the Chouteau celebration of 1953, two pictures of Mr. W. A. Graham on his 100th birthday, three pictures of the Union Mission Memorial Park Cemetery, donor: Thomas J. Harrison. Photograph of Frank F. Wood, donor: Evelyn Barrett. Large framed picture of Kickapoo Chiefs, photograph of Kickapoos, donor: George Kishketon. Oil photograph of Nancy Brazelton and Gordon Dowell, outstanding 4-H Club girl and boy for 1953, donor: Mr. Holler of Stillwater. Framed photograph of Capt. C. P. Sweet of the 4th Ohio Volunteers, donor: Mrs. D. A. Sweet. Photograph of John M. Taylor, U. S. Indian Police, donor: Mr. Ralph Hudson.

Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour moved that we accept the gifts, pictures and send a note of thanks to the donors and list them for publication in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, together with the names of the new members. Motion seconded by Judge N. B. Johnson and carried unanimously.

The Secretary then presented to President Key, a written request from Mrs. Rella Looney for 100 expansion-type envelopes or folders for filing of historical documents and papers in the Indian Archives department, costing approximately \$60.00. Judge N. B. Johnson moved that this expenditure be allowed; motion seconded by Judge Vaught and carried unanimously.

The Secretary then presented two bids for repair of the Murals, plaster and background: one from Will Kolar in the amount of \$400.00 and one from Elizabeth Jane Williams, Cherokee Artist, at a price of \$375.00. Mrs. Jessie Moore remarked that Dr. Jacobs, President-Emeritus of the University of Oklahoma and for many years head of the Art Department of the University, should be consulted as he was professor of Art at the time the Indian students came over and went to school there and later had painted the Murals in the Capitol at Washington. President Key suggested this matter be left to the Executive Committee to handle and consult with Dr. Jacobson if they deemed it necessary and helpful. Judge Vaught then moved this matter be referred to the Executive Committee and motion was seconded by Dr. Harbour. The original motion was amended by Judge Vaught to include the Chickasaws, which was seconded by Dr. Harbour and carried unanimously.

Judge Taylor stated that Mr. Stone of Oklahoma City wanted to have a picture of Lew Wentz hung in the Oklahoma Historical Society and suggested this request be investigated. President Key replied that he had seen the painting and that it is a fine portrait and would ultimately be

presented to the Society, inasmuch as the Board of Directors had requested several years ago that a portrait of Lew Wentz be placed in the Hall of Eminent Men and Women. He said further, that he had given personal attention to this matter and would continue to do so.

Judge Vaught then called attention to pictures and article in the *Oklahoma City Times* of November 11th, which showed the grave of a former governor of this State (and his wife), Hon. J. C. "Jack" Walton, unmarked, and that this situation was a reflection upon the State of Oklahoma; and further stated, that if some friends or relatives of the Waltons were not able or were not willing to place markers at these graves, that he was in favor of the Oklahoma Historical Society doing so. President Key suggested appointment of a Committee to contact the members of the Walton family and see if they were able to do anything about this, and if not, to make contact with friends to see if they would not be willing to place these markers, and if not, the Oklahoma Historical Society would. President Key invited Judge Taylor to act as a committee of one to do this but at Judge Taylor's request, President Key appointed Col. George Shirk on the committee with Judge Taylor as chairman, to look into the matter of markers for the graves of the Waltons. Mr. H. Milt Phillips then stated that the Trainmen of Oklahoma would probably want to contribute to the cost of the markers if the Oklahoma Historical Society took over the responsibility of furnishing them. President Key then enlarged this committee to include Judge Vaught and asked Mr. Phillips to make this suggestion in the form of a Motion. Mr. Phillips then made a motion as follows: In view of the newspaper report that the graves of Governor Walton and his wife are unmarked, that the President of the Oklahoma Historical Society be empowered to name a committee for the purpose of determining the facts and to proceed with such steps as may be feasible to provide the markers with and in cooperation with the Oklahoma Trainmen or other organizations or individuals interested. The motion was seconded by Judge Vaught and carried unanimously.

President Key then read the Treasurer's report and found the affairs of the Society in a sound and splendid condition. A tribute was paid to Mrs. Jessie Moore who has been Treasurer of the Society for more than thirty years.

Mrs. Jessie Moore, the Society's Treasurer made a report on the status of the Special Fund and at the close stated much of this splendid condition could be credited to Judge R. L. Williams, a former President and Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society and whose memory was being honored today.

Dr. Harbour inquired as to the status of the Gilcrease Foundation located in Tulsa, since it was in its purpose so closely related to the Oklahoma Historical Society, and she ventured to say that it would be wholly in line to associate this Gilcrease Art Center with the Oklahoma Historical Society. President Key stated he had attended a meeting with reference to this Art Center and plans were under way and being developed whereby this Art Center may be retained in the State of Oklahoma. Mr. H. Milt Phillips then presented the following Resolution:

Whereas the Gilcrease Museum of Tulsa is one of, if not the most, outstanding cultural institutions of Oklahoma, and Whereas, the University of Oklahoma and other departments of State government are attempting to provide the necessary funds for retaining this valuable cultural and historical institution in our State, Now, Therefore, Be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society in quarterly meeting assembled this 12th day of November, 1953, in Durant, Oklahoma, that we do hereby commend the University of Oklahoma for the effort

to retain within our State, the Gilcrease Museum and the Art treasures therein, and Be It Further Resolved, that we extend to Governor Johnston Murray, the sincere request that all possible means be utilized to retain for Oklahoma, the Gilcrease Museum. This Resolution was adopted on proper motion, seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Judge Vaught called attention to the condition of the Historical Markers erected by the Society and suggested an organization by each Board Member in the Counties where these markers are erected, to investigate their condition and assist in carrying out the work of repairs, etc. Judge Vaught moved that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter to a leader in each County, which motion was seconded by Judge Taylor and carried unanimously. The Secretary at this point announced, that from the very first year after they had been set up in 1951, that he had notified County Judges, County Superintendents of Schools and road surveyors of the Counties that it was their duty to see after these markers within their County.

The Secretary then presented an excerpt from a letter from Dr. I. N. McCash, an absent member of the Board of Directors, which read as follows: ". . . . Becoming a resident of this Home (Lenoir Memorial Home in Columbia Missouri), prevents my participation in the activities of beloved Oklahoma. Retiring in my 93rd year is to spend a youth of labor with an age of ease. Old men often hold positions too long, thereby marring pleasant recollections of their career. Considering this fact and failing health justifies my relinquishment of responsibilities."

President Key requested the Secretary to write Dr. McCash, extending greetings from the Board and best wishes for his continued happiness for many years to come. Judge N. B. Johnson moved that his resignation not be acted upon at this time and if Dr. McCash was not now an honorary member of the Board, to make him one and best wishes be conveyed to Dr. McCash. Motion seconded by Judge Taylor and carried unanimously. The Secretary advised the Board of Directors that some two years ago, Dr. McCash was voted an honorary membership for life.

It should be said here that the citizens of Durant, its Chamber of Commerce, Miss Priscilla Utterback and Dr. T. T. Montgomery, distinguished citizens of that City, had arranged every detail for the meeting of the Board of Directors, securing a room for the Board meeting in the Hotel Bryan; a wonderful feast at noon in the K.C. Waffle House, and seeing that the Dedication Ceremony was advertised properly throughout the Southeastern region of Oklahoma. On this Dedication Day, Miss Utterback, daughter of Judge R. L. Williams' closest friend, Hon. William E. Utterback, most graciously gave a Coffee in her lovely home for the Directors and all friends, within and without the City, of Judge Williams, between the hours of 10 to 12 noon. All those attending the reception by Miss Utterback in her home, expressed a common view that the day could not have been complete without her gracious welcome.

The Chamber of Commerce, as it had in the preceding meeting of the Board of Directors in 1952 when it met in Durant, extended a free and cordial lunch table, where there was a large grouping of Directors, Members of the Staff and friends.

Dr. T. T. Montgomery then arose and moved for adjournment at 12:50 o'clock, motion seconded by Col. Shirk and carried unanimously. Dr. Montgomery further stated to "not fear the Autumn chill, as the good wishes of the Durant citizens would keep them warm."

**DEDICATION OF MONUMENT TO JUDGE R. L. WILLIAMS, UNDER
THE AUSPICES OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,**

President Key called attention to the fact that the Oklahoma Historical Society would meet in the Durant Cemetery after lunch, promptly at 2:30 P.M. for the Dedication Ceremonies.

Before an audience of several hundred people, composed of distinguished citizens, members of the Supreme Court of the State, the Judiciary from much of the surrounding territory, and those high in schools, churches and the State, the following ceremony was carried out in the afternoon at 2:30 o'clock on Thursday, November 12, 1953, dedicated to the memory of a great citizen of Durant Oklahoma and America: Invocation, Rev. Mueller of First Presbyterian Church; song "America" by Assembly led by the A Cappella Choir of Southeastern State College; Preliminary Remarks by Hon. Harry W. Gibson, Jr. Trustee, Robert L. Williams Estate; Remarks, "Oklahoma Historical Society and Board of Directors, meeting in Tribute to a Friend and Benefactor," by Gen. W. S. Key, President of the Oklahoma Historical Society; Hymn, "America, The Beautiful" by Assembly and Chorus, led by A. Cappella Choir; Oration, "Robert L. Williams As I Knew Him," by Hon. Baxter Taylor; the Pledge of Allegiance, a musical arrangement by the A Cappella Choir; Closing Words were given by Dr. Charles Evans, Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

W. S. Key, President

Charles Evans, Secretary