

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 12, 1953 to January 28, 1954

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was held on Thursday, January 28, 1954, at ten o'clock A.M. in the Historical Building, Oklahoma City, Okla., with Gen. W. S. Key, President, presiding.

The Secretary called the roll which shows the following members present: Gen. W. S. Key, Judge Redmond S. Cole, Mr. Henry B. Bass, Mr. R. M. Mountcastle, Dr. Berlin B. Chapman, Judge Robert A. Hefner, Judge Baxter Taylor, Col. George H. Shirk, Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Mr. George L. Bowman, Justice N. B. Johnson, Judge Edgar S. Vaught, Mr. H. Milt Phillips, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Mr. R. G. Miller, Mrs. Anna B. Korn, Mr. S. E. Lee, Dr. T. T. Montgomery. Dr. E. E. Dale and Mrs. Garfield Buell have not returned from foreign journeys. Illness and road conditions prevented attendance by Mr. W. J. Peterson, Dr. John W. Raley, Mr. Thomas A. Edwards and Mr. Thomas J. Harrison; Dr. I. N. McCash is residing in Columbia, Mo., and these seven Board Members were excused for good and sufficient reason.

A motion was made by Dr. Harbour that the five Directors whose term of office expire in January 1954, be re-elected; seconded by Judge Baxter Taylor and carried unanimously. These Directors are Mr. Henry B. Bass, Judge Redmond S. Cole, Dr. E. E. Dale, Dr. Berlin B. Chapman and Mr. R. M. Mountcastle.

President Key then presented a letter from Dr. I. N. McCash who tendered his resignation because of his advanced age and the fact that he now resides in a Home at Columbia, Missouri, for retired Christian ministers; he had submitted his resignation several months ago, but the Board deferred action, suggesting he remain as a Board Member, but he now asks to be relieved of all responsibilities. Judge Baxter Taylor moved that Dr. McCash's resignation be accepted with regret and that he be made an Honorary Director of the Society. Motion seconded by Judge Vaught and carried unanimously. This left a vacancy on the Board of Directors.

Judge Edgar S. Vaught then presented the name of Mr. John F. Easley, owner and publisher of *The Daily Ardmoreite* of Ardmore, Oklahoma, one of the most "interesting characters" of the State; who has a wonderful record as Editor, interested deeply in the Oklahoma Historical Society and keeps the values of this Society before the public as much as possible. Mr. Henry Bass then commented that the Board of Directors should secure members from over the State as much as possible and not too many from the Oklahoma City area; there were no members from Ardmore, Blackwell, Ponca City and other regions which should have recognition, and that whoever is placed on the Board to fill this vacancy, should be some one interested in promoting the welfare of this Society and who would regularly attend the meetings, etc. Dr. Montgomery then seconded the motion for appointment of Mr. Easley, whom he knew to be one of the State's finest men and genuinely interested in this Society. Mr. R. G. Miller stated he had known Mr. Easley for some 34 years and outside of two newspapers, whose names he would not mention, "The Daily Ardmoreite" devoted more space to Oklahoma history than any other paper in Oklahoma; he believed Mr. Easley would attend the meetings and do everything in his power for the

building of this Society. Mr. Milt Phillips moved that nominations be closed, the rule be suspended, and the Secretary authorized to cast the ballot for Mr. John F. Easley of Ardmore; seconded by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Easley was elected by acclamation.

President Key then announced the next order of business was the election of officers, whereupon Dr. Charles Evans, Secretary of the Society, arose and said, "I know at this time no reason why you would not honor me again as you have always honored me in my service of almost ten years, by re-electing me. No man has been treated with more courtesy and affection, and I reluctantly take the attitude and say to you, the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society, I here lay before you my resignation as Secretary of this Society, to take effect on or about August 1, 1954. The pressure of years together with the desire to spend more time with my family, to do individual writing and to travel, are the reasons I hold for this action. I reach this decision with reluctance. I offer each of you my profound best wishes and that God may keep you blessed and happy to the end of your days. If you will oblige me, I would be glad to go on to this point of completion of service which you may mark out. I will discharge my duties as I always have until that time and under those conditions, Mr. President, I submit my resignation to you for consideration."

President Key said he had discussed this matter with Dr. Evans and concurred in his action; he further stated that Dr. Evans was held very high in this Society; in the estimation of the people; that Dr. Evans recognized the fact that "Father Time" was moving on him the same as on the rest of us; that six or seven months will practically complete his 10 years of service to this Society and he was most favorable toward the desires expressed here by Dr. Evans.

Mr. Bowman then arose and said he had been a member of the Board of this Society for a long time and Dr. Evans and he had been as close friends as any of the Board and knows the splendid work Dr. Evans has performed for this Society and the great influence he has had in the building of the Society. Dr. Evans had talked to him about this matter and said he was going to rest awhile and I do not blame him for that; but I want to express in the Minutes, our great appreciation of his efforts as Secretary of this Society and I move we concur in the wish of Dr. Evans in the resolution and make a motion that his resignation be received on those terms.

In turn, Mr. R. M. Mountcastle, Mr. R. G. Miller, Judge Vaught, Mr. Milt Phillips, Dr. Harbour, Mrs. Jessie Moore, Mrs. Anna B. Korn, Dr. B. B. Chapman, Judge Redmond S. Cole, Dr. T. T. Montgomery, Judge Baxter Taylor, all spoke at length paying tribute to Dr. Evans for the splendid service and leadership he had displayed as Secretary-Manager of this Society, through the almost 10 years of service. General Key at the conclusion of Judge Taylor's remarks stated that time forbade any further eulogy at this time because of the essential business before the Board, and he suggested that those who wished to pay tribute to the Secretary, send them in by letter to the Society and at a future date all would be printed and placed in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. To this all of the Board agreed.

Col. George Shirk then addressed the Board and presented a motion that all present officers be re-elected and that Dr. Evans be re-elected with the other officers, and his request for retirement be considered at a future meeting. Dr. Harbour seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Dr. Evans at this point asked for a few minutes of time which was granted and he stated that "words cannot express my appreciation for all of the fine things spoken of me here; you have said my service has been good; all I can say now is that you will never know how I appreciate all that has been said by each and all of you, about my life and service. I have said and will say it again: in the long experience of mine with Boards of

Control, Directors, Trustees, etc., I have found no body of men and women equal in character and exalted station as those I found in this Board; it has been more than an honor to serve you and the State."

Gen. Key remarked, "I too, appreciate along with you, these testimonials to your work and life the members of the Board have offered; you and I have been very close in this program."

Mrs. Moore took the floor with reference to the resignation of Miss Martha Mulholland, chief clerk, saying, "she (Miss Mulholland) was elected in 1924 as chief clerk of this organization. The growth of the Society has complicated finances and I think the Board should realize the efficiency she has revealed in taking care of important papers and the money that is collected and spent. She has served this Society well and at this time, we should perhaps, make her an honorary member of this Society for life, as I feel it is going to be very difficult to find anyone to take her place."

Col. Shirk moved that Miss Mulholland be extended appreciation for her long term of service, and appointment of her successor be referred to the Executive Committee, and that a suitable resolution to this effect be made of record and a copy furnished Miss Martha Mulholland. Motion seconded by Mrs. Moore and carried unanimously.

Gen. Key reported on the matter of the "Lew Wentz Portrait." He had taken the matter up again with Mr. Long and others who do not agree on the portrait now; they want to present a bust and this new offer is being given consideration. Judge Vaught moved to accept the bust of Mr. Wentz; seconded by Mr. R. M. Mountcastle and carried.

Judge Vaught then reported on the matter of the Waltons' unmarked graves, saying, when he returned to his office, he called a number of people who were close friends of the Waltons, and they were very much surprised. What they thought first was to make contact with the daughters who lived away from here and find whether or not they would contribute. But Mr. O. A. Cargill and Mr. Gomer Smith, Jr., and three or four others said they would be glad to provide this marker. I think it will not be necessary for the Society to do anything further unless they do not meet this need. Mr. Stanley Draper of the Chamber of Commerce is also interested and is working on this proposition. In connection with this matter, Judge Vaught's attention was called to the fact that Mr. Thoburn who was Secretary of this Society, is now reposing in Rose Hill Cemetery in an unmarked grave. There are few men who did more for this Society than Mr. Thoburn. Also, it had been brought to Judge Vaught's attention, that there is no marker at the grave of Jesse Chisholm on the river west of Grandfield in Blaine County. Certainly we ought not to let these things pass in event the families of these men cannot provide markers.

Mrs. Korn stated that she thought Mr. Thoburn was one of the greatest historians our State has ever produced, and believes the State of Oklahoma would be very glad through proper presentation, to allow us the money for that grave; the Society could handle it and have dedicatory services and this should be done through the Legislature, and I think the Oklahoma Historical Society should take steps to bring this before the Legislature.

Judge Baxter Taylor advised that of all the men he has been associated with, he believes Mr. Thoburn contributed more to our historical library than any one and his memory should be kept alive; he had a fine personality, he was a good student and a loveable man and it was through him that he became a member of this Society; he was an able historian and writer and his name ought to be preserved.

Gen. Key appointed a committee composed of Judge Vaught, Mrs. Korn and Judge Taylor to look into this matter and develop interest and funds

under the leadership of the Society, rather than ask the Legislature to appropriate funds for this purpose.

Gen. Key then started discussion on the repair of the Murals on the fourth floor of the Society building. It was reported at the last meeting a cost of \$400.00 but now finds this amount was only for repair of the plaster; repairs to the Murals will cost another \$400.00. It was thought well to defer action on this matter until we have another thorough examination made of our physical needs in the building. Instead of repairing the plaster, it might be possible to use cellotex or something of a permanent surface; then new Murals could be painted on both walls of the hallway to include all Five Civilized Tribes. He thought we should leave that to the committee to make proper recommendations.

At this point Mrs. Jessie R. Moore, Treasurer, gave her report revealing that there was now unexpended balances that would take care of every expense of the Society for the year ending July 1, 1954. She reported at this time there was a Series G United States Savings Bond No. 19191 in the amount of \$1,000.00 maturing February 1, 1954, and the First National Bank & Trust Company of this City who handles these bonds for the Society, wishes to know what should be the action of the Board concerning it. President Key stated that the First National Bank had called his attention to this and he was arranging to re-invest the \$1,000.00 in a "K" bond with interest at 2.76% with the consent of the Board. A motion was made by Judge Taylor, seconded by Judge Cole that such investment should be made and Gen. Key was authorized to act accordingly, the motion being carried unanimously.

Judge Vaught developed a discussion as to the use of some Special Fund monies for buying essential furnishings needed throughout the various departments, such as shelves in the Newspaper Room, new typewriters, repair of the Murals, etc. He believed that this should be done. Col. Shirk, Dr. Harbour, Mrs. Moore and other members of the Board supported this view. President Key stated that he would ask the same committee that surveyed the needs of the Society last year, to make another survey of the needs and submit a report and recommendations based upon their survey. This committee is composed of Directors Shirk, Bass and Miller. At the request of Mr. Milt Phillips, Director S. E. Lee was added to the committee. Judge Hefner suggested that the committee also, in making a thorough survey of the needs, talk to the heads of the departments and make up a concise recommendation of the things that should be submitted to the legislature a year hence and using the Special Fund for those things which should be provided now. Gen. Key then suggested to each member of the Board to give their recommendation to the committee who would make a complete survey of all the items.

The Secretary then presented to Gen. Key, President of the Board, the framed Oklahoma Flag, presented to this Society by Mr. O. R. Miller of Rt. 1 Box 348-A, Lakeport, California. The motion of acceptance was made by Mr. R. G. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Korn and carried unanimously. The Board was warm in its praise of this gift and asked that the words describing this Flag be taken from the card or description given by Mr. Miller which was as follows:

"Rev. O. R. Miller (Oakley R. Miller) was a member of the Tenth Legislature (1925-26) and, along with others, signed a resolution proposing a new State Flag. He displayed before the members of the House the artist's conception of the Flag and spoke for its adoption. Two miniature copies were made and one was placed in the Governor's office. Adj. General Baird H. Markham gave the other copy to Mr. Miller and he recently presented it to the Oklahoma Historical Society. It was officially accepted by the Board at its first meeting in 1954."

At this time there was also presented a rare map of Arkansas Territory published in 1822 which included all the present Oklahoma region, titled "Map of Arkansas and other Territories of the United States, respectfully inscribed to the Hon. J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, by S. J. Long, Major T. Engineers," given to this Society by Very Rev. Urban de Hasque, S.T.D., LL.D. of Oklahoma City. An offer of a collection of vases to be given by Mrs. J. H. Lasley of Stigler, Oklahoma, and a photograph of Miss Alice Robertson to be given by Mr. Charles H. Moon of Muskogee, Oklahoma. At this point, Dr. Harbour moved that all gifts be accepted and the donors be thanked by letter; motion seconded by Mr. Bass and carried unanimously. This motion was amended to include acceptance of Life and Annual Membership applications submitted to the Board received since the last meeting. The Secretary reported the following list of applicants for membership received since November 12, 1953:

**LIFE:** Mr. Kenneth G. Bandelier and Rt. Rev. Victor J. Reed, Tulsa; Mr. Hugh A. Carroll and Mrs. E. L. Oliver, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Carroll G. McCorkle, St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. Earl G. Bowles, San Carlos, California; Mrs. M. Gordon Clarke, Okmulgee; Dr. Myron C. England, Woodward; Rev. Emil Ghysaert, Ponca City; Mr. Henry C. Hitch, Guymon, Okla.

**ANNUAL:** Mr. L. G. Acree, Mrs. Esther V. Borden, Mr. Charles Bill Callum, Mrs. Raymond Friedlander, Mr. Robert W. Gericke, Mrs. M. I. Jayne, Rev. Royal J. Gibson, Mr. Joseph Levenson, Rev. T. H. McDowell, Mr. Stewart E. Meyers, Mrs. Charles Julian Monnet, Mrs. Lela Perry, Mrs. Wannah Prigmore, Mrs. R. A. Rogers, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Mr. E. C. Spenny, Mr. George R. Taylor, all of Oklahoma City. Mr. Russell Adams, Guthrie; Mr. Bill J. Anthis, Claremore; Mr. Robert B. Sweet, Halleyville; Mr. Edward F. Walsh, Mr. Jim Heydrick, Bartlesville; Mrs. C. W. Arrendell, Mr. Clyde E. Muchmore, Ponca City; Mr. Hubert A. Wright, Mr. Robert Merle Hoisington, Duncan; Mrs. Mollie Melton Ayers, Miss Gladys Gayle, Edmond; Mrs. Madge Osborn Walker, Hugo; Prof. Donald J. Berthrong, Mrs. Altha L. Bass, Mr. S. G. Ambrister, Mrs. Beulah Dutt, Norman; Dr. R. M. Shepard, Mr. D. N. Phillips, Dr. Frank J. Nelson, Mr. Edwin B. Moffett, Jr., Mr. Joseph Harold McLaughlin, Mr. J. Earl Griffin, Mr. Wm. B. Duckworth, and Miss Mary Bailey, all of Tulsa. Mr. Oyton Bennett, Bethany; Mr. C. A. Billingsley, Heavener; Mr. Homer B. Cluck, Guymon; Mrs. Anna Semple, Mr. Charles F. Fuller, Durant; Dr. N. E. Cobb, Mooreland; Mr. Leslie L. Craig, Meeker; Mrs. E. W. Dalrymple, Okmulgee; Mrs. Sam T. Palmer, Okemah; Dr. D. B. Ensor, Alva; Mr. Ayliffe Garrett, Erick; Com. & Mrs. Wm. R. Giddens, Grove; Mr. J. M. Graves, Perkins; Mr. John Edwin Grigsby, Clarita; Mrs. Theodore B. Hall, Pawhuska; Dr. W. T. Hawn, Binger; Mrs. Hal J. Hixson, Hugo; Mrs. J. M. Rule, Hobart; Mr. Orville J. Prier, Sperry; Mrs. O. T. Pearson, Pawhuska; Mr. Henry L. Neal, Wanette; Mr. J. A. Nash, Jennings; Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Kelly, Shawnee; Mr. James T. Jackson, Pauls Valley; Mr. Ben Hudgins, Chickasha; Rev. Wm. Huffer, Muskogee; Mr. Ernest Kirby, McAlester; Mr. F. F. Acree, Perry, Ark.; Mr. F. C. Barnhill, Marshall, Mo.; Mr. Robert Lee Cotton, Wichita, Kansas; Mrs. Martha Heiston Curtis, Galveston, Texas; Mr. Wm. L. Evans, Dorchester, Mass.; Mr. Earl E. Ferguson, Valley Falls, Kansas; Mr. Walter H. Gray, Kansas City, Mo.; Mr. Joseph G. E. Hopkins, New York City; Rev. Francis T. Kramer, Merrill, Wis.; Mr. Charles F. Adams, Clayton, N. M.; Mr. W. P. Matheney, Dallas, Texas; Mr. O. R. Miller, Lakeport, Calif.; Mrs. Eleanor Moore, Denver, Colo.; Mr. W. G. Phillips, San Diego, Calif.; Mr. W. P. Pike, Charlotte, N. C.; Mr. Dolph Shaner, Joplin, Mo.; Miss Evelyn Elizabeth Shidler, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Clarence Stone, Detroit, Mich.; Mr. A. W. Wright, Kilgore, Texas, and Mr. Orville K. Wright, Cheverly, Md.

The Secretary reported that the following gifts had been received since November 12, 1953:

Pipe used by a McAlester druggist for 50 years, a framed letter and two iron wedges, donor: Mr. Coleman J. Ward. Wedding dress and manikin to

display same, donor: Mrs. Harry Newbill. Miniature monitor of the Blue Lodge of Masonry, presented to Hon. Ben Parke by Rob Morris, February 1863 and presented to this Society by Mrs. Otis Brown. Three filing case drawers of Dr. Grant Foreman's letters, etc., presented by Mrs. Grant Foreman. Pictures received: Frank Eaton, Eva Gillhouse and Rolla Goodnight, Frank Eaton, three pictures of Rolla Goodnight, Eva Gillhouse and Frank Kent, Iowa Indian, Frank Eaton and Rolla Goodnight, Frank Eaton, Rolla Goodnight and Frank Kent, Frank Eaton, Eva Gillhouse and Rolla Goodnight, Fort Gibson and six negatives, group picture of Convention of Peace Officers, and newspaper clipping, donor: Mrs. Eva Gillhouse. Picture of the old Joe Vann House at Spring Creek, Ga., donor: Mrs. W. M. Sapp, Sr. Glossy print showing portrait of Thompson McKinney showing condition before restoration, donor: Mr. Abbott of the Uptown Art Co. Pictures and certificates of Judge Douglas, donor: Mrs. Sadie Maude Douglas Thompson. Picture of the pioneer home of Robt. Ranson and family, donor: Mr. R. F. Ranson.

Mr. R. G. Miller, chairman of the committee on Historical tours, composed of Mr. Miller, Mr. Harrison and Col. Shirk, advised of a tentative tour arranged for May 6th, 7th and 8th through the northeastern part of the State.

Judge Hefner moved that Mr. R. G. Miller be commended for his interest in the Society by arranging these tours and for him to proceed with this one in his own good way; seconded by Dr. Harbour and carried unanimously.

The matter of Historical Markers was then brought to the attention of the Board. President Key stated two markers, the Whipple and Fort Holmes, have been removed from their original sites and are unaccounted for. Also the Society has to change locations of three markers by reason of changes in highways. Two markers are being prepared for the Southwestern State College in Custer County and for the Sayre Chamber of Commerce in Beckham County, at their request; they are being paid for by private subscription. Mrs. Moore stated the two markers in her vicinity were in good shape and she has planted small cedars to make them more attractive and suggests the County Commissioners in the counties where the historical markers are located be asked to do the same thing.

President Key then presented a request from the City Art Museum of St. Louis for this Society to send an "Oklahoma Exhibit" to the historical exhibit in St. Louis in October, 1954. Mrs. Korn suggested if we could send them something, when we get ready for our exhibition, they might return the service. Judge Vaught suggested that we should investigate further and find out exactly what they want and ascertain what means could be employed to indemnify us in case of loss, etc.

The matter of a gift of a clock left to this Society in the will of Mr. F. E. Turner of Muskogee, was brought up by Mr. Mountcastle who advised as soon as distribution had been made, he would assume the responsibility of accepting the clock for the Society and having it delivered. This clock was used in the first Federal Court in Oklahoma.

Dr. Chapman took the floor and said that Congressman John Jarman had introduced a Bill in Congress concerning the extension or development of a Veteran's Cemetery at El Reno, and moved that the Secretary be authorized to write a letter to Congressman Jarman, expressing our interest in the matter. Mr. Mountcastle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Upon motion of Judge Redmond Cole, seconded by Mr. H. B. Bass, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

W. J. KEY, President

CHARLES EVANS, Secretary