

1933

Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society

Florida Historical Society
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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

The thirty-first annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society was held in the Willow Branch Public Library at Jacksonville, Florida, on Tuesday, November 21, 1933, at 11 A. M.

The meeting was called to order by vice-president Alston Cockrell. The following members were present :

Carl Bohnenberger, W. T. Cash, Alston Cockrell, T. Frederick Davis, Mrs. T. Frederick Davis, Miss Margaret Fairlie, Miss Louise Gamsby, J. F. Marron, A. J. Mitchell, Mrs. R. V. Ott, Albert H. Roberts, Bates M. Stovall.

Proxies were examined and admitted as follows:

F. M. Blount, H. L. Grady, F. W. Hoskins, Wm. H. Knowles, S. Pasco, J. S. Reese, Dr. F. G. Renshaw, J. H. Sherrill, James C. Watson, W. H. Watson, Geo. P. Wentworth, Francis M. Williams, J. C. Yonge, J. E. D. Yonge, P. K. Yonge.

Vice-president Alston Cockrell presented and read the annual report of President P. K. Yonge. (post.)

Treasurer T. Frederick Davis read his annual report. (post.)

T. Frederick Davis urged that everybody obtain at least one new member for the Society. He stated that even under present conditions there are many people who would be glad to join the Society. In response to this plea the meeting adopted a motion introduced by Mr. Marron, that each member make his best effort to secure at least one additional member during the coming year.

T. Frederick Davis moved that the members extend a vote of thanks to Representative S. Pierre Robineau, of Dade County, Florida, for introducing a bill in the 1933 Florida Legislature to secure an appropriation for the Society. The motion was adopted and the secretary was instructed to send a copy of the motion to Representative Robineau.

Librarian Carl Bohnenberger read his report (post) and moved that a committee be appointed to consider the matter of lending the Society's books to the members of the organization, the committee to have power to act subject to the approval of the board of directors of the Society. If the loan of the books be recommended, a statement as to the availability of the books shall be published regularly in the Quarterly. The motion was carried, and the chair appointed T. F. Davis, A. J. Mitchell, and Carl Bohnenberger on the committee.

In furtherance of a suggestion by Albert H. Roberts and W. T. Cash that some method be used to further closer contact between the Florida Historical Society and local historical organizations, it was moved by J. F. Marron that a committee on relations with local societies be created. This motion was carried and J. F. Marron, W. T. Cash, and A. J. Mitchell were appointed on this committee.

For the nomination of officers and directors, the chair appointed as a nominating committee Mrs. T. Frederick Davis, Miss Margaret Fairlie, and Mrs. Roy V. Ott. The committee retired and presently returned and reported the following nominations :

For president, P. K. Yonge.

1st vice-president, Alston Cockrell.

2d vice-president, Peter O. Knight.

Treasurer, T. Frederick Davis.

Recording secretary, Francis M. Williams.

Corresponding secretary and librarian, Carl Bohnenberger.

For directors: J. F. Marron, C. Seton Fleming, A. J. Hanna, Mrs. R. V. Ott, Mrs. Garrett Porter, James A. Robertson, Albert H. Roberts, and Julien C. Yonge.

Directors ex-officio are: The president, the 1st vice-president, the treasurer, and the recording secretary, making twelve in all.

A motion was adopted by the Society that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the officers named by the nominating committee. In furtherance of this motion, the secretary cast the ballot.

The Society voted unanimously in favor of a motion directing that a message be sent to President P. K. Yonge expressing the keenest regards and regretting the inability of President Yonge to be present at the meeting.

Pursuant to a motion duly made and carried, the meeting was declared adjourned.

BATES M. STOVALL,
Acting secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

To the members of the Florida Historical Society:

I submit here the thirty-first annual report of the Society :

The records of the Society for the past year, reflecting the times, must of course show some decrease in our activities as well as a loss in membership; but neither is as great as would be expected. Sixty-two members have been dropped from the roll for delinquency in dues beyond the time allowed by our by-laws, but twenty-four new members have been

enrolled ; and we now have exactly three hundred active members.

Though the *Quarterly* has been reduced in size, every issue has been published and paid for with no other source of revenue than the dues of members. The interest shown in the Society by those of the three hundred who have paid their dues-many with difficulty-is encouraging to the officers and editors. The Contributing Members for the past year (with dues of ten dollars) are : N. P. Bryan, Washington E. Connor, Alfred J. Hanna, Peter O. Knight, Edward M. L'Engle, C. B. Reynolds, E. H. Reynolds, Mrs. W. N. Reynolds, Mrs. Henry L. Richmond, Mrs. Raymond Robbins.

The historical library of the Society occupies an ample and suitable room in the Willow Branch Library of the Jacksonville Public Library. During the past year this valuable collection of Florida historical material has been catalogued and thus made readily available to any one interested through a detailed card index-thereby increasing its value many fold. The Society records its appreciation of this extensive work and its thanks to Mr. Joseph F. Marron, Librarian of the Jacksonville Public Library and a director of our Society, to Mr. Carl Bohnenberger our librarian, and to Miss Monie N. Jones under whose supervision this work was done.

During the year the Society has received a notable gift from Mrs. Marie Cruzat de Verges, of New Orleans, this being several hundred miscellaneous letters and other documents relating to Panton, Leslie and Company and its successor John Forbes and Company. These had been preserved by her mother, Mrs. Heloise Cruzat, a descendant of John Innerarity the last surviving partner of John Forbes and Company. Mrs. Cruzat, a former resident of Pensacola, felt a keen interest in its history, and at her

death two years ago had for long been- a member of our Society; so it was her wish that these papers should come to us. It was her purpose to edit some of them for publication in our *Quarterly* - a work for which she was especially fitted through her extensive labors in and contributions to the history of Louisiana. Selections from them will appear in many issues of the *Quarterly* beginning in an early number.

The Society should be and is grateful to our treasurer, Mr. T. Frederick Davis, whose continuous interest in and indefatigable efforts for the well-being of the body have made our work possible.

P. K. YONGE,

President, Florida Historical Society.

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 16, 1932 to November 20, 1933

Our books show exactly three hundred active members including contributing members, representing a total possible annual income from dues of \$680. To date we have collected \$544, or within \$136 of the maximum, which means that 80% of the membership have paid their dues. Membership in the Society is predicated from the month of entry, and of the 20% not yet paid many, I am satisfied, will pay before the limit is reached when they will have to be dropped from the roll as provided by our by-laws.

We have paid all bills including the cost of five issues of the *Quarterly*. The postage item advanced considerably during the year owing to the increase of the postal rate to three cents. An itemized statement of receipts and disbursements is attached, from which it will be seen that we start the new year with all bills paid and a cash balance of \$9.74.

Financial Statement

Receipts :

Nov. 16, 1932, Cash on hand	\$ 45.03
Nov. 20, 1933, Total income from dues	544.00
Nov. 20, 1933, From sale of publications..	25.30
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	\$614.33

Disbursements :

Total <i>Quarterly</i> expenses	\$562.13
Postage, due notices, etc.	17.45
Stationery, printing and supplies of every kind	18.75
Members checks returned by bank	6.00
Government tax on checks26
	<hr/>
	\$604.59

Summary

Total receipts	\$614.33
Total disbursements	604.59
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Cash balance on hand	\$ 9.74

(Signed) **T. FREDERICK DAVIS,**
Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

I regret that this first report to the Society should be as slim as it is, but due to pressure of business during the past year it has been impossible for me to devote as much time as I would have liked to the affairs of the Society. However, I am glad to report the following concerning the Library:

(1) The library has been catalogued and classified. The work, not yet quite complete, will be finished by the end of the year. The library will be catalogued according to the Dewey System, which system was decided upon due to its ready and access-

ible method. In other words, new accessions to the Society's collection can be easily added to the collection no matter where it is or by whom administered. The classification has been made elastic and general so that it is intelligible to anyone using it.

(2) 384 volumes have been catalogued, 219 pamphlets have been catalogued, 1647 cards have been typed and filed, 120 volumes have been repaired and cleaned.

(3) The Society possesses a total of 476 volumes and a total of 187 pamphlets. We also have the beginning of a working collection of other State societies' publications and periodicals.

(4) We hope to have all maps, manuscripts, photographs and portraits completely catalogued before the end of the year.

(5) I wish it very thoroughly understood that the full credit for this work should go to Miss Monnie N. Jones, chief cataloguer of the Public Library who has given the collection her expert attention. Mrs. Buckman working under Miss Jones' supervision has done the actual work of the cataloguing. She deserves great credit for her able work.

I hope by the time of the next general meeting, to have the room still more attractively arranged and more of our rare material on display.

I should like to recommend the following for the attention of the officers of the Society, either for acceptance or rejection, as they see fit:

(1) That the collection be made available by loan to members of the Society living within Florida. The borrower to pay all cost of mailing both ways and observe rules similar to those observed by the Library of Congress and other agencies that loan books, namely: the person borrowing the book must be in good standing as to dues, and be engaged in

genuine research which calls for the use of volumes not available in his vicinity. I believe such a service would enhance the value of membership in the Society ; that it would further the fact that this is a state-wide society; and I am certain that there would be no risk whatsoever. Of course, manuscript material or exceedingly rare volumes would not be loaned.

(2) That if the Society agrees to the loan of material as recommended that a statement as to the availability of the books be printed regularly in the Quarterly.

(3) That from time to time the *Quarterly* publish a list of the numbers that are exhausted in the Society's library. As, for instance, we have no copies left of the July 1928 issue, containing Mr. Davis' article on MacGregor.

CARL BOHNENBERGER,
Librarian.