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membership@myfloridahistory.org



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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 17th, 1936

The 34th Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society was held in the auditorium of the P. K. Yonge Laboratory School at Gainesville, Florida, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, on Tuesday, November 17th, 1936.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Joshua Coffin Chase. There were thirty-nine members present. By unanimous consent the roll call was dispensed with. The President declared a quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded.

The address of welcome was made by Dr. Townes R. Leigh, Vice-President of the University of Florida and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In the course of his scholarly and interesting address, Dr. Leigh pointed out the necessity for historians to be scholars and to search carefully for truth, stressing also the fact that historians must be able to interpret. He called attention to Florida's interesting history, and to the deficiency in record keeping, and the difficulties occasioned those delving into Florida history by this failure to keep records within the State; saying that the keeping of records should be encouraged, as by studying the events of the past we can provide for a better future.

President Chase, in responding to Dr. Leigh's welcome, said that he considered it most appropriate that this meeting should be held in the auditorium of the P. K. Yonge Laboratory School, named in honor of one who had served long and well the cause of education of youth in Florida.

The reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting was dispensed with, it being assumed that such minutes were read at the close of the last annual meeting in conformity with the by-laws.

President Chase then read his annual report, which was received and ordered filed.

The Treasurer, Mr. Albert H. Roberts, then read his report, which was likewise received and ordered filed.

Mr. Herbert Lamson, as Chairman of the Committee on Revision of the Charter and By-laws, made a report for the Committee. Mr. Lamson called attention to the fact that Mrs. Frank E. Jennings had done a great deal of work as Chairman of the Committee before her resignation from the Committee, and that Mr. Carl Bohnenberger, who succeeded Mrs. Jennings as Chairman, had likewise rendered valuable service before his untimely death; and that great credit is due to Mrs. Jennings and Mr. Bohnenberger for their splendid efforts. Mr. Lamson stated that the Committee had prepared certain amendments to the Charter, and had recommended to the Board of Directors the approval of the Charter so amended, and then read the Charter in full, with the proposed amendments incorporated therein.

At the conclusion of the reading of the proposed amended Charter, Senator S. L. Holland, of Bartow, stated that at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society held at Gainesville, Florida, just prior to the convening of this annual meeting, the Board, by resolution duly adopted, approved the proposed amendments to the Charter, as submitted to the Board by the Committee on Revision, and referred the Charter containing the said proposed amendments, to this the an-

nual meeting of the Society, with the recommendation by the Board of Directors that the proposed amendments be adopted. Senator Holland stated further that in view of this recommendation by the Board of Directors, and in view of the fact that the Charter as amended had been read in full by Mr. Lamson, he moved the adoption of the following resolution :-

Be It Resolved, by the Florida Historical Society in annual meeting assembled, at Gainesville, Florida, on this 17th day of November, 1936, that the recommendation of the Board of Directors, proposing certain amendments to the Charter of the Florida Historical Society be, and the same is hereby, approved and adopted.

Be It Resolved, Further, that the necessary legal action be taken to accomplish the amendment of the Charter as recommended by the Board of Directors.

Be It Resolved, Further, that the Charter of the Florida Historical Society be, and the same is hereby amended, so that the said Charter, as amended, shall read as follows:-

CHARTER OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I.

Name.

The name of this corporation shall be The Florida Historical Society. The place where it is to be located is Jacksonville, in Duval County, Florida.

ARTICLE II

Objects.

The general nature of the objects of the corporation is the collection, arrangement and preservation

of all material pertaining to the history of, or in any manner illustrative of Florida, including books, pamphlets, documents, archives, manuscripts, newspapers, diaries, notes, letters, speeches, maps, plats, surveys, portraits, photographs or other likenesses of men and women prominent in Florida' history, pictorial illustrations of Florida scenery, relics and products:

To prepare, edit and publish articles, sketches, biographies, pamphlets, books and documents, descriptive or illustrative of Florida:

To promote public interest in Florida history; to preserve and perpetuate historic spots and places; to further in every way the memory of Florida's historic past.

ARTICLE III.

Membership.

All persons of good character may become members of this corporation, upon payment of dues as provided by the by-laws. Honorary members may be chosen at all annual meetings, but only upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, upon unanimous vote of the Board. The Board of Directors may provide by appropriate by-law for additional types of membership, such as contributing members, life members and other special types of members, as the Board sees fit, who shall pay such dues as the Board may determine.

ARTICLE IV.

Term of Existence.

The term for which this corporation shall exist is to be ninety nine years.

ARTICLE V.

Original Incorporators

The names and residences of the subscribers are as follows :-

George R. Fairbanks, Fernandina, Fla; Francis P. Fleming, Jacksonville, Fla.; James P. Taliaferro, Jacksonville, Fla.; V. W. Shields, Jacksonville, Fla.; Charles M. Cooper, Jacksonville, Fla.; George W. Wilson, Jacksonville, Fla.; William A. Blount, Pensacola, Fla.; George P. Raney, Tallahassee, Fla.

ARTICLE VI.

Officers and Annual Meeting.

Section 1. The affairs of the corporation are to be managed by the following officers and directors, effective with the general election at the annual meeting of the Society to be held on the fourth Tuesday in January, 1937, namely:-

A President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary and Librarian, a Treasurer, and a Board of Directors, consisting of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary and Librarian, the Treasurer, three Directors chosen from the State at Large, and one from each Congressional District of the State of Florida, as now, or hereafter, constituted. The officers named herein shall be elected, annually. Of the remaining directors, one shall be chosen from the State at large, and one from each of the odd numbered Congressional Districts, at the annual election in 1937, for a period of one year, and two directors shall be chosen from the State at large, and one from each even numbered Congressional District for a period of two years; and thereafter all directors, other than ex officio members

shall be chosen for a period of two years. No director (other than an ex officio member of the Board) shall be eligible to reelection until one year shall have elapsed after the expiration of the term for which he, or she, was elected. Vacancies in any office may be filled by appointment by the President until the next meeting of the Board of Directors, or of the Society, whichever shall first be held. In the event a meeting of the Board of Directors is first held, they shall make appointments to fill such vacancy, or vacancies until the next meeting of the Society. The officers and directors elected at the annual meeting held on the third Tuesday in November, 1936, shall hold office only until the meeting held on the fourth Tuesday in January, 1937, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2. The by-laws may provide for an Executive Committee of not less than five (5) members of the Board of Directors, as constituted by Section 1 of this Article, which Executive Committee shall exercise the authority of the Board of Directors when the Board is not in session.

Section 3. Such officers and directors are to be elected at the annual meeting of the corporation, which shall be held on the fourth Tuesday in January of each year, the place of such annual meeting to be designated at least thirty days in advance by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII.

Charter Officers.

The names of the officers who are to manage all of the affairs of the corporation until the first election are as follows: George R. Fairbanks, President; Francis P. Fleming, First Vice-President; William A. Blount, Second Vice-President; George

W. Wilson, Secretary; V. W. Shields, Treasurer; James P. Taliaferro, George P. Raney, Charles M. Cooper and Minor S. Jones, together with the ex-officio members, Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII.

By-Laws.

Section 1. The by-laws of the corporation are to be made, altered, or rescinded only upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, to a regular or special meeting of the membership, by a majority vote of such meeting.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall, at its discretion, create such committees as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Society, defining in the by-laws their duration and duties, and shall determine what publication, or publications, if any, shall be issued by the Society, and shall provide funds for the expenses of issuing and handling same.

ARTICLE IX.

Limit of Indebtedness.

The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the corporation may at any time subject itself is fifty thousand dollars, which shall never be greater than two-thirds of the value of the property of the corporation.

ARTICLE X.

Value of Real Estate.

The amount in value of the real estate which the corporation may hold, subject always to the approval of the Circuit Judge, is one hundred thousand dollars.

ARTICLE XI.

Amendments.

This corporation may amend its Charter by resolution, as provided in the by-laws, and as provided by law.

* * *

Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey, of Tallahassee, seconded Senator Holland's motion. The motion being put by President Chase, was unanimously carried, and the resolution unanimously adopted.

Mr. Watt Marchman, of Winter Park, made his report as Chairman of the Membership Committee, in the course of which he stated that the Society has now between five and six hundred members.

Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey, when called upon for a report as Chairman of the Committee on Collection, Use and Preservation of Manuscripts, said that the Committee was unable to make a report at this time; but that she would like to make a statement, on behalf of the Committee. She said that Mr. Carl Bohnenberger's untimely death had retarded the work of the Committee, making it impossible to give an extended report at this time. She promised to make a full report at the meeting of the Society to be held in January, 1937.

Mrs. Murray L. Stanley, of Daytona Beach, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, reporting for the Committee, moved severally the adoption of certain resolutions proposed by the Committee. Her motion in each instance was seconded and unanimously carried, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, Dr. John J. Tigert, president of the University of Florida, Dr. James M. Leake, Dr.

Townes R. Leigh and Mr. Frank Wright, members of the staff of the University, and the University of Florida as a whole, have contributed wholeheartedly to the success of this annual assembly of the Florida Historical Society by their generous invitation to congregate here in such pleasant surroundings, by the welcome they have given us, and for the ably directed publicity in making the meeting known to our members and friends over the state at large:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Florida Historical Society, extend to Dr. John J. Tigert, Dr. James M. Leake, Dr. Townes R. Leigh and Mr. Frank Wright as representatives of the University of Florida, our deepest feeling of appreciation of their efforts in behalf of the Florida Historical Society.

WHEREAS, Carl Bohnenberger, prominent in the activities of the Florida Historical Society for a great number of years, and one of the beloved citizens of the City of Jacksonville and the State of Florida, was suddenly removed from our ranks by a disastrous automobile accident near Hendersonville, North Carolina, on the evening of the 28th of October, 1936;

WHEREAS, After joining the Staff of the Jacksonville Public Library in 1914, Carl Bohnenberger acquired a wide and extensive knowledge of history and culture which resulted in his being considered one of the foremost authorities in the history of Florida and in the work of the libraries of the state;

WHEREAS, Carl Bohnenberger was prominent as president of the Florida Library Association and as a Director and Librarian and Corresponding Secretary of the Florida Historical Society, and took a prominent and active part in the work of each of these state organizations; and

WHEREAS, Carl Bohnenberger, as one of the directors of the Florida Historical Society has rendered the utmost services to the Society by activities on various important committees, notably on the Committee on the Revision of the Charter and By-Laws, and the Committee on the Collection, Use and Preservation of Manuscripts; and

WHEREAS, he has wholeheartedly contributed his time and services to the State of Florida and to the special field of Florida history;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Florida Historical Society, hereby make record of our deep feeling of regret at the sudden departure of our friend and fellow member, and make known universally our sincerest appreciation of his unforgettable services in the activities and development of the Society.

WHEREAS, the, Committee on the Revision of the Charter and By-Laws of the Florida Historical Society under the chairmanship of Mr. Herbert Lamson, for its excellent and praiseworthy work in the framing of the revised constitution and by-laws; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on the Collection, Use and Preservation of the Manuscripts under the chairmanship of Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey, for the progressive program which it has engineered, and for its work in preserving for Florida the records which are rightly Florida's; and

WHEREAS, the Membership Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Watt Marchman, for its success in securing many new members for the Society; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Arrangements under the able leadership of Mrs. Roy V. Ott, which has

been very successful in making arrangements for this the annual meeting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the thanks of the Florida Historical Society be hereby extended to these committees and to the members thereof, for their valuable services in the interest of the Society.

(The following resolution was introduced by the Committee at the request of Julien C. Yonge.)

Be It Resolved: That the Florida Historical Society expresses and records here its appreciation of the notable services of Alfred J. Hanna throughout the past year. Much of our growth during this period has come through his unfailing interest and hard work. He has planned, encouraged and attended most of the regional meetings which have so successfully broadened the Society's field and increased its membership. Our officers and committees have all continually looked to him for help which has been freely given. We are grateful to our secretary without portfolio.

WHEREAS, Julien C. Yonge, Director of the Florida Historical Society, editor of the Society's *Quarterly*, because of his splendid and dependable work as editor of the *Quarterly*, his wise and generous advice, and for his many years of faithful and inspirational services in the development of the Society;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the members of the Society hereby make record of their appreciation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent him.

WHEREAS, Joshua Coffin Chase, because of his progressive leadership in the growth of the Florida Historical Society during the period of his services as president; and

WHEREAS, because of his courage and energy as president of the Society, has given generously of his time and services in the inauguration of the Society's new program during the past year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Florida Historical Society extend to him, Joshua Coffin Chase, president of the Florida Historical Society, our profound appreciation for his services, and request that a copy of this resolution be incorporated in the minutes.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the members of the Florida Historical Society hereby express their grief at the loss by death during the recent past of the following members:

Judge William Hunter, Tampa, died May, 1935;

Dr. Frank G. Renshaw, Pensacola, died September, 11, 1935;

Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, Jacksonville, died June 17, 1936;

Charles Pugsley, Monticello, died June, 1936;

Mrs. J. W. Greenslade, Washington, died 1936;

John Gribbel, Philadelphia, died August 25, 1936;

Carl Bohnenberger, Jacksonville, died October 28, 1936.

President Chase read a telegram from Bishop Thomas, expressing his regret at not being able to be present.

Mr. D. B. McKay, of Tampa, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, made the following report on behalf of the Committee:-

Nominations Committee Report.

The Nominations Committee of the Florida Historical Society, duly appointed by President Joshua C. Chase to recommend nominees for all offices and all directors of the Society, to be chosen at the annual meeting on November 17, 1936, report as follows :-

We have consulted with those members of the Society whose advice seems to us most desirable and from their opinions and our own we recommend the following members for election to the several offices and the board of directors, to serve until the next annual meeting of the Society, and we place their names in nomination hereby, requesting the presiding officer to ask for other nominations from the floor :-

For president, Joshua C. Chase
for 1st vice president, Kathryn T. Abbey
for 2nd vice president, Spessard L. Holland
for secretary, Herbert Lamson
for treasurer, Albert H. Roberts

For directors:

James M. Leake
Mrs. T. M. McDuffee
Mrs. Roy V. Ott
George P. Raney
John P. Stokes
A. M. Taylor
Nathaniel S. Thomas
Julien C. Yonge

We are unable to recommend any one to adequately take the place of Carl Bohnenberger. This

fact is a tribute to his services. It is suggested that the office be not filled until the next annual meeting.

The above report is submitted unanimously:-

D. B. McKay, Chairman
Carita Doggett Corse
C. L. Crow
Rhea M. Smith
T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
Julien C. Yonge

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the report of the Nominations Committee was approved and adopted, and the Secretary was directed to cast the ballot of the meeting for the officers and directors nominated in the report. The Secretary thereupon cast the ballot accordingly, and the President announced that the following had been duly elected officers and directors of the Florida Historical Society to serve until the next annual meeting, or until their successors shall be elected and qualified, namely :-

president, Joshua C. Chase
1st vice president, Kathryn T. Abbey
2nd vice president, Spessard L. Holland
secretary, Herbert Lamson
treasurer, Albert H. Roberts

directors:

James M. Leake
Mrs. T. M. McDuffee
Mrs. Roy V. Ott
George P. Raney
John P. Stokes
A. M. Taylor
Nathaniel S. Thomas
Julien C. Yonge.

Announcements concerning the luncheon and interesting exhibits were made by Mrs. Roy V. Ott

and Dr. James M. Leake. Mr. Lamson announced that a supply of the Society's Quarterly was available for distribution to interested persons.

The Secretary then read the minutes of this meeting, and on motion by Senator Holland, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes as read were approved.

Dr. Leigh extended an invitation to the members of the Society to attend a meeting of alumni and alumnae of other institutions of learning now resident in Florida, on "All Universities Day" at the University of Florida on Saturday, December 5, 1936. Mr. T. T. Wentworth, Jr., President of the Pensacola Historical Society, invited the Florida Historical Society to meet at Pensacola at an early date in the future, and extended to the Society greetings from Mr. Julien C. Yonge.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried the meeting thereupon adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

JOSHUA C. CHASE,

President.

HERBERT LAMSON,
Recording Secretary.