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## Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society

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## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Held at Ocala, February 11, 1930

### MINUTES

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of The Florida Historical Society (now seventy-three years since its founding) was called to order at the Hotel Marion, in Ocala, Florida, at 10 A.M. on February 11th, 1930, by President Arthur T. Williams.

He introduced Mr. Horace L. Smith, chairman of the Ocala program committee.

Mr. Smith welcomed the Society on behalf of its local members, and said that during his years of service as secretary of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce it had been his duty to welcome numberless groups, but none had brought him more pleasure and pride, and the city more honor than this. His greeting was cordial and appreciated.

President Williams responded, and expressed his personal pleasure at being in Ocala. "Here, fifty years ago," he said, "began my struggle for a living. Here, many distinguished men that I recall with reverence lived, and here I witnessed the beginning of some of Florida's leading industries, citrus, phosphate, etc."

He acknowledged appreciatively the cordial welcome.

The order of business was suspended and the president introduced Hon. Frederick Cubberly, who spoke on the subject, Some Historical Spots in Marion County.

"Marion County," said Mr. Cubberly, "has at various times been the scene of historical events, and the home of prominent men. The principle source of this

history was of course the presence of Indians, and the clash of interests between them and the whites, resulting in dramatic conflicts and the struggle of prominent men to end them. Andrew Jackson's dominating personality had considerably influenced Ocala's destiny. From Pensacola he promulgated his ideas, among which were the absurdity of treaties with Indians, and the necessity of a restricted habitat for them. Their chiefs fattened upon treaties while their poor starved.

Treaties continued however in the effort to secure their peaceful consent to a restricted habitat. James Gadsden, at Fort Moultrie, agreed with the chiefs upon the boundaries of such a restricted territory: from just north of Ocala to the Everglades. Governor Duval eventually secured their emigration to this territory upon granting their expenses and other allowances.

Going back to 1825, Mr. Cubberly pictured the erection of a council house at Camp King, afterwards Fort King, by Col. Gad Humphreys, the appointed Indian Agent. There, farming was started, but difficulties were interminable. Food and supplies were hard to get, and runaway negroes held by the Indians caused much friction.

General Thompson was the next Indian Agent, but accomplished little. Gadsden was again appointed, and at Payne's Landing on the Ocklawaha River, persuaded the Indians to relinquish all Florida possessions and agree to move West. A delegation of chiefs was sent West to inspect the new promised land, but nothing came of it. The rank and file of Indians opposed the move, and rebellion and hostilities began. Here Osceola appears, a forceful leader of his people.

From St. Augustine, where Gen. Clinch was in command, and from Key West and other posts, detachments were marched toward Fort King to quell hos-

tilities. The Dade Massacre followed ; Gen. Thompson and Lieut. Smith were ambushed and killed. To Middleburg, in Clay County, Gen. Winfield Scott brought troops and supplies ; Gen. Gaines inspecting troops at Mobile, heard of the Dade Massacre and traveled by boat to Tampa, marching thence to Fort King. There followed the siege of Camp Izzard, close to Fort King; Generals Clinch and Zachary Taylor came up with supplies and forces and won decisive victories.

Mr. Cubberly's rapid, comprehensive sketch was a splendid preliminary to the afternoon's itinerary, when all of us visited the site of Fort King and found ourselves gazing with strange eyes, peopling the scene with these striking personages, and watching them perform their colorful drama.

The chairman thanked Mr. Cubberly and the audience expressed grateful approval.

Mrs. W. F. Blackman of Orlando was next on the program but illness having prevented her attendance, she had asked Professor Hanna of Rollins College to fill her place.

Mr. Hanna first introduced Miss Thelma Baker, of Orlando High School, winner of the Irving Bacheller historical essay contest. Miss Baker repeated her essay to the meeting. It was novel and pleasing. History is like the plot of a story in its orderly development. Take an individual city, Orlando for example. First a settlement, then a hamlet, a town with lights and streets, the county-seat, an industrial city ; and the inevitable future greatness and glory.

Miss Baker was rewarded by having the coveted medal bestowed upon her by Rose Mills Powers.

Mr. Hanna then read a delightful paper on Florida's Mysterious Personality. It presented eloquently the rich cosmopolitan heritage of Florida, assessed its importance and value, and urged the preservation and

collection of every article and record bearing upon its development. The chairman thanked Mr. Hanna for his valuable contribution and asked permission to publish it.

The chair introduced Professor Howard Dykman, of the University of Florida, who addressed the meeting on Economic Aspects of Florida History.

His introductory generalizations were illuminating. "History consists of the inward experiences and possessions of man. The aim of history is art and science ; the tangible means are politics and economics. Political history has always held the center of the stage; economic history is a recent development. One cannot read history in the light of Adam Smith without recognizing that the economic motive has shaped history. Karl Marx even more emphatically avers that all history comes of the wealth-getting of mankind.

In the American Revolution economic motive was important. Sectional loyalties formed on economic bases. The Carolinian would have been better off under England ; the frontiersman would not. In, Florida, the effect on the exports of loyalists formed the basic motive. The tourist movement is now shaping her history; it will be most interesting to watch."

Professor Dykman's enthusiasm over his subject was pleasant, as it always is pleasant to see a young man enthusiastic and uncompromising over the pursuit of truth. His emphasis of the economic motive could not of course appeal with much warmth to a circle of hero-worshippers, such as we were, and the numerous opinions expressed indicated that our old ideals and prejudices remained intact and preeminent. Professor Dykman will be sought at future meetings not so much for his convictions as for his charming personality when away from his hobby, and especially for the opportunity of converting him.

Like the notes of victorious cathedral chimes after battle came the ringing lines of the poem "Singing Tower", recited by the fair author, Rose Mills Powers, of Winter Park.

The poem seemed a premeditated and miraculous refutation of the preceding thesis, and the poet was clearly exalted by her dramatic opportunity as she sang :

"O false and foolish who told  
That I called to them, Gold, Gold, Gold ;  
For Beauty, Beauty, my voice is ringing  
And Beauty, Beauty, the echoes winging  
In harmony manifold  
From the Tower of Singing, a sweet melodious flight  
As the carillon of bells  
The revealing keynote of Earth's mystery tells."

The rout of the enemy was complete and satisfying, as attested by the prolonged applause the poet received.

At 12:30 P.M. the business session was resumed. The secretary reported the following members present :

Rev. J. G. Glass, Ormond Beach  
Mrs. Frank E. Jennings, Jacksonville  
Mrs. A. T. Williams, Jacksonville  
Miss Lucy S. Williams, Jacksonville  
Mrs. E. L. Wartmann, Citra  
W. T. Gary, Ocala  
A. F. Knotts, Yankeetown  
R. D. Meader, Brunswick, Georgia  
Mrs. Mary S. Gamsby, Ocala  
Mrs. Fred Cubberly, Gainesville  
Jesse Lee Carter, Manatee  
Arthur T. Williams, Jacksonville  
Mrs. Hiram Powers, Winter Park  
A. J. Hanna, Winter Park  
Harold Colee, St. Augustine  
Fred Cubberly, Gainesville

Miss Clara Burton, Orlando  
 Francis M. Williams, Jacksonville  
 Mrs. James G. Glass, Ormond Beach  
 Mrs. T. Frederick Davis, Jacksonville  
 Miss Louise C. Meigs, Jacksonville  
 Dr. L. H. Jenks, Winter Park  
 T. Frederick Davis, Jacksonville  
 Mrs. B. H. Barnett, Jacksonville  
 Mrs. Iva T. Sprinkle, Ocala  
 W. M. Toomer, Jacksonville  
 Mary S. Anderson, Ocala  
 R. L. Anderson, Ocala

Members represented by proxies were:

J. F. Marron	W. I. Fee
Carl Bohnenberger	L. J. Larzelere
C. D. Rinehart	L. L. Parks
W. C. Johnson	Laura Spencer Porter
Jas. A. Robertson	Frank S. Gray
Alfred Miller	Fred Cubberly
Bayard B. Shields	J. E. D. Yonge
Linwood Jeffreys	Giles J. Patterson
Garrett Porter	John B. Stetson, Jr.
Emma R. Porter .	P. W. Harvey
Chas. H. Mohr	Everett Mizell
Mrs. Louis C. McKee	A. H. Roberts
Elizabeth R. Harman	P. D. Gold
P. K. Yonge	Kate Williams
Mrs. Wm. J. Krome	E. P. Owen, Jr.
Mrs. A. A. Taylor	John G. Ruge
J. C. Yonge	B. F. Trenary
A. J. Mitchell	Burton Barrs
Wm. H. Knowles	M. A. Fleming
M. L. Mershon	Mal H. Haughton
C. Seton Fleming	Mrs. H. A. L'Engle
George W. Milam	Maxwell A. Kilvert
F. M. Hudson	W. H. Warnock
Mrs. John H. Carter	West Palm Beach Library
Philip C. Tucker	C. E. Chillingworth
H. L. Grady	Claude H. Rahn
W. L. Weaver	Walter H. Mucklow
J. G. McKay	Mrs. Annie Averette

The report of the president was presented. (post)

The report of the treasurer was presented. (post)

The Rev. Mr. Glass exhibited a rare map of Florida, dated 1829, which was inspected and widely commented upon.

Upon motion unanimously carried the president was directed to send a telegram of congratulation to Thomas A. Edison upon this, his birthday.

Upon motion, carried, the directors were authorized to effect a change in the charter, increasing the number of directors from seven to eleven.

For the election of officers and directors for the ensuing year. the chair appointed as a nominating committee Messrs T. F. Davis, A. J. Hanna and R. L. Anderson ; and after a few minutes retirement this committee reported its nominees. Upon motion, the nominations were ordered closed and the secretary was instructed to cast a ballot for the nominees, which he thereupon did, and they were declared elected as follows :

president .....	Arthur T. Williams
1st vice president .....	P. K. Yonge
2d vice president .....	Frederick Cubberly
treasurer .....	T. Frederick Davis
secretary .....	Francis M. Williams
assistant-secretary .....	Emma Rochelle Porter
	Frank Drew
directors .....	A. J. Hanna
	<b>Julien C. Yonge</b>
	Mrs. Roy V. Ott

and for directors contingent upon effected change in charter, A. H. Roberts, George P. Raney, John P. Stokes, and C. Seton Fleming.

A resolution of appreciation and thanks to Mr. Julien C. Yonge, editor of the **QUARTERLY**, and to Mrs. Emma Rochelle Porter, assistant editor, was presented



and carried after many voices had been raised in tribute to the excellence and value of their work.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned to the luncheon room.

Over a hundred persons sat down to lunch. There were professors of history from universities, librarians and members of historical societies from all parts of the country, senators, congressmen, visitors and homefolks, and a sprinkling of boys and girls who were thus honored for special achievement in historical study. Senator W. T. Gary, of Ocala, acted as toastmaster and introduced Judge W. S. Bullock, the speaker of the occasion. Judge Bullock's talk was entirely reminiscent ; simple, tender, and interesting from beginning to end.

"Seventy years ago," he said, "a winged navigator of the skies looked down upon a forest of oaks and magnolias, and espied among them a little brown hotel. There he deposited a basket of infantile cargo-your humble servant. It's but a few minutes walk from here. The birthday of Ocala was February 26th, 1846, when David Bruton, her first surveyor, completed a survey and map defining boundaries, etc., and submitted for official acceptance what is known to all land men, abstractors and attorneys, as the Bruton map. If anyone is here who was present at that birthday, please raise your hand."

Only one hand was raised : a little old lady sitting at the judge's side.

"This," said the judge, "is my very dear old friend, Mrs. Frink, daughter of David Bruton."

At odd times during his talk, the judge would bend down and ask Mrs. Frink for confirmation of memories, etc.

"Our mail came by hacks from Gainesville, the nearest railroad station. Old Bill Dutch, chief of police and unquestioned municipal authority drove that hack,

and on approaching Ocala he would blow a bugle. He was a big, strong, hearty man, and we heard that bugle five miles away; didn't we, Mrs. Frink?" Mrs. Frink nodded with glee.

"Then there was Ebenezer J. Harris, mine host of the old Ocala House, with his great round jolly face, and his generous heart. And the Benjamin brothers, Jews they were, and fine and valuable citizens. And Aunt Dinah ; oh, Aunt Dinah, who couldn't believe that ice could be manufactured, and when I sent her round to Benjamins to see it, touched it and drew back her hand as if burnt, and said in an awed voice, 'You Jews have beat Christ; he only turned water into wine, but you have turned it into ice.'

"And I used to run around barefoot; didn't I, Mrs. Frink? We got our freight from Silver Springs, where it had been brought in boats, and we hauled it from the Springs to Ocala, with teams of six oxen."

And so the judge ran on with his reminiscences, some of them historically interesting and others merely sweet until we were told that the autos were waiting to take us to Fort King and the Springs.

At Fort King there is a small fenced area with a marker on it stating that here lie the bodies of those who lost their lives in battle. It is out in the woods close to town and not difficult to reach. Plans are on foot to mark it more permanently.

Silver Springs is noted for its beauty and has been the theme of numerous descriptive narratives. On this day the weather was fine and warm, and the members of the Society, relaxed and merry and in several boat loads passing and repassing each other, made the visit especially delightful. Overhead was the Good-year dirigible, which had escorted our party from the hotel to the Springs, with the heads of the airmen looking down and their arms waving ; no doubt wishing they could dive overboard and join us.