

1929

## Annual Report of Arthur T. Williams, President

Florida Historical Society  
membership@myfloridahistory.org



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Returning to the hotel the party broke up, with flattering comments on the whole enjoyable program.

FRANCIS M. WILLIAMS

Secretary

**ANNUAL REPORT OF ARTHUR T. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT**

For the information of the members of the Florida Historical Society in annual meeting assembled, I herein briefly state the status of the organization for the year 1929 :-

At the last annual meeting held in St. Augustine, the roster of the society contained a total of 545 names. Today we have enrolled 563, an increase of 18. Numerically, this annual enrollment is below that of previous years, but owing to present conditions in our State, we feel that the increase is extremely gratifying. Consider the following comparisons : Last year's total of Contributing Members was 11. This year's total is 20, an increase of 9. We note an increase of one-the late William B. Drew-in our Life Memberships, bringing the total to 7. The total membership of libraries and universities for 1928 was 35. Today it is 46. Our exchanges have increased by 9. Twenty-nine active members have discontinued memberships during the year just closed, but to cover these losses we have enrolled an active new membership of 36. A most unusual year in these times of stress and one of which the organization can feel justly proud.

Through the headquarters of the Society 498 letters of inquiry pertaining to historical matters have been answered. This, you will perceive, averages more than one per day. Information and research, some of it exhaustive and requiring much time, is furnished gratis. Inquiries have come to us from every state in the Union and many from foreign lands. It is our rule to acknowledge all letters promptly and

cordially, thereby winning friends for the Society and gaining new members through, this medium of contact.

During the business session of the last annual meeting your president was authorized to appoint a committee on building. The personnel of this committee is as follows : Mrs. Roy V. Ott, Ocala ; Mrs. Sumter DeLeon Lowry, Tampa ; Judge Fred Cubberly, Gainesville ; Hon. W. A. MacWilliams, St. Augustine ; J. W. White, Jacksonville ; Hon. Guyte P. McCord, Tallahassee. Mr. B. F. Hampton, of Gainesville, deceased, was a valued member of this committee. His place should be filled.

Our greatest need is a building. It is necessary that we soon secure a home for our increasing library, relics, maps, and documents. It has been indicated to your president many times that were our accommodations more suitable, our possessions would be greatly increased. The splendid committee which was appointed has had to face a year most unpropitious for financial undertakings of such nature, but it is hoped that in the near future some definite plan of action will be adopted. As a society, we must cooperate to this end.

It is now my sad duty to name those members who departed from us during the year just closed. The list contains the names of valued friends, many of whom have contributed to the history of our state by living in it. It is my wish that their names appear in the next issue of our QUARTERLY on a page dedicated to their memories. They are: D. C. Barrow, William B. Drew, Sydney L. Carter, H. Clay Crawford, Mary Wheeler Eaton, R. W. Davis, Mrs. Richard M. Genius, John E. Hartridge, B. F. Hampton, W. J. Krome, C. G. Kemper, W. Irwin McIntyre, T. F. Thomas, George L. Taber, F. H. Wilson, and Thomas Cobb Whitner.