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## The Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society

Florida Historical Society  
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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

The 36th annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society was held in the ball room of the Suwannee Hotel, at St. Petersburg, Florida, at three-thirty o'clock P. M. on Tuesday, January 25th, 1938.

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

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

At Mr. Chase's suggestion the assembly rose and stood for a minute in silent tribute to the memory of the late Bishop Nathaniel S. Thomas.

Mr. Watt Marchman presented his report, orally, as Corresponding Secretary and Librarian.

The Treasurer's report was submitted by Dr. Dorothy Dodd, treasurer of the Society, who reported the Society's membership to be 640 members at the present time. Her report was received and ordered filed.

Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey made her report as Chairman of the Committee on Collection, Preservation and Use of Manuscripts, which was received and ordered filed. Dr. Abbey also read a report of the Florida State Historical Records Survey, on this subject, as part of her committee report, which was received and filed.

The work of Dr. Abbey's committee was warmly commended and it was recommended that the committee be continued.

Professor A. J. Hanna, as Chairman of the Program Committee, called attention to the printed programs that have been placed at the disposal of

the members and said that he hoped the work of the Committee would speak for itself.

Mrs. T. M. McDuffee stated that because of her recent appointment as Chairman of the Membership Committee, she has requested Mr. Watt Marchman, who had served as Chairman of that Committee before her appointment, to make the report for the Membership Committee. Mr. Marchman thereupon made an oral report, saying that the goal of the committee is 1,000 members, which he hopes will be attained.

Mr. Chase spoke of the relative membership of various historical societies, calling attention to the fact that those of New England lead in the East.

Mr. Gaines R. Wilson, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, reported that the committee moved, severally, the adoption of certain resolutions prepared by the committee. His motion in each instance was seconded and unanimously carried, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted

WHEREAS the Florida Historical Society is now meeting in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the First Constitutional Convention in Florida, and

WHEREAS this promises to be one of the best planned and most enjoyable of its many successful annual meetings

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Florida Historical Society, convened in its annual session at St. Petersburg, on January 25th, 1938, that especial thanks be extended to President Robert B. Reed, St. Petersburg Junior College, to President John H. Sherman, University of Tampa, to Hon. D. B. McKay for their thoughtful hospitality on the occasion of this meeting ; and also to the Committees on Local Arrangements at St. Petersburg and Tampa, as well as

to the John Mercer Brooke Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the Territory of Florida, for the efficiency and convenience of their arrangements.

\* \* \*

WHEREAS all those taking part in the program of this meeting have given much of their time and thought, many of them having come long distances to be present, toward giving us entertainment and instruction.

BE IT RESOLVED that a vote of thanks be given to all those whose names appear on the Program as speakers at this meeting.

\* \* \*

WHEREAS the success of this meeting and the progress of the Florida Historical Society during the past year have been due largely to the energy and efficiency of President Chase and the officers of the Society,

BE IT RESOLVED that a vote of thanks be given to President Chase and the officers of the Society.

\* \* \*

WHEREAS, in the passing of the Right Reverend Nathaniel S. Thomas, the Florida Historical Society has suffered an irreparable loss ;

WHEREAS Bishop Thomas was one who had been most active in advancing the interests of this Society in the Southeastern section of Florida;

AND WHEREAS his many friends and admirers in this Society feel his death as a sad personal loss;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Florida Historical Society be requested to express condolence in the name of the Society to the widow of the late Bishop Nathaniel S . Thomas.

WHEREAS, the following members of the Society: C. Seton Fleming ; Alfred H. Wagg ; Rt. Rev. N. S. Thomas; Miss Mary G. Smethurst ; Judge Jefferson B. Browne ; Benjamin F. Tillinghast ; Col. George F. Baltzell; F. P. May; Dr. Elizabeth B. Holmes ; William G. Brorein ; Perse L. Gaskins, and W. T. Stockton, have departed their lives during the past year;

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED that we, the members of the Florida Historical Society, in meeting duly assembled, do greatly regret and deplore the passing of these members and mourn their death, and we hereby extend our deepest sympathy to the members of their families.

\* \* \*

Mr. Lamson called to the attention of the meeting the action of the Board of Directors at a meeting of that body held Saturday, December 11th, 1937, suggesting the amendment to paragraph 4 of By-Law VI, shown on page 264 of the Florida Historical Quarterly for April 1937 as follows:- After the word "members" in the fourth line insert :

“Where dues are not in arrears for more than six months so that said paragraph 4 of said By-Law VI as so amended shall read as follows:-

“ 4 . PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE. - A periodical shall be published by the Society four times a year to be entitled The Florida Historical Quarterly. It shall be sent regularly to all members, where dues are not in arrears for more than six months, without cost to them. At the first meeting of the directors after the adoption of this by-law an editor shall be elected by a majority vote for a term of three years, and thereafter whenever a vacancy occurs in that office. Three-fourths of the members of the entire Board of Directors shall have the

power of declaring the office of editor vacant at any time.

“The editor may appoint an assistant-editor and such other staff as he or she considers desirable at any time. The editor shall have full control of the periodical and its policy and management. The subscription shall be determined by the directors. The editor shall prepare an annual budget of expenditures for the periodical and submit this budget to the directors for approval. Upon such approval the editor shall conform to the budget unless changes are authorized by the directors. If the editor be not a member of the Publications Committee, he shall cooperate with them in an advisory capacity.”

On motion of Mr. Lamson, duly seconded and carried, the amendment so proposed was unanimously adopted.

Mrs. T. C. Maguire, First Vice Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Florida, presented a review of the work of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Florida in placing markers throughout the State. This report was received, with thanks, and ordered filed.

Mrs. Maguire then read a paper prepared by Mrs. Henry Kohl, of Palm Beach, Florida, relating to the Society of the Four Arts. Mrs. Maguire stated that Mrs. Kohl was unable to be present at the meeting because of her absence from the state. This paper was received, with thanks and ordered filed.

Mr. Watt Marchman spoke of the Battle of Lake Okeechobee which occurred one hundred years ago last Christmas and said that Mr. William R. Gentry, Jr., of St. Louis, Missouri, whose grandfather was killed in that battle, would like a marker to be placed on this site, and that Mr. Gentry and family would contribute liberally to the cost of such marker. Mr. Marchman suggested appointing a committee

to mark the site of this battle. After some discussion, Dr. Abbey moved that this matter be commended to Mrs. T. C. Maguire with the request that she take it up with the Daughters of the American Revolution of Florida for consideration. This motion was duly seconded and carried.

Mr. Marchman suggested the deposit in each of the five (5) congressional districts of duplicate library material from the Society's Library pertaining to historical matters relating to each of such districts. Mr. Wilson suggested that libraries be designated as local depositories for such duplicate library material to be handled under proper rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Society. After discussion, Dr. Abbey moved that the President appoint a special committee, under the Chairmanship of the Librarian, to consider this matter under the supervision of the Board of Directors. This motion was duly seconded and carried. Mr. Chase appointed Mr. Marchman chairman of such Special Committee with authority to select the other members of his committee.

Mrs. W. S. Manning stated that Lieutenant Colonel Littlefield Childs fought and died in Florida, and that Lake Childs was named after him. She said the name of this lake later changed to Lake Placid and that Mrs. Walter White of South Carolina, a descendant of Lt. Colonel Childs had requested her to protest its change. This matter was discussed by Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Maguire, Mrs. McDuffee and others. It was the sense of the meeting that such change be deplored but no specific action was taken.

Mr. Hopkins moved that a junior speaker be provided for and included in the program at each of the Society's annual meetings. This motion was duly seconded by Dr. Abbey and unanimously carried.

Mrs. Roy V. Ott, of Ocala, chairman of the Nominations Committee, made the following report on behalf of the committee:-

To the Members of the Florida Historical Society:

Your committee on nominations, in compliance with the requirements of the by-laws, reports the following nominations for the elective officers and members of the Board of Directors:

President, Joshua C. Chase, Winter Park

1st Vice-President, Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey,  
Tallahassee

2nd Vice-President, Hon. Spessard L. Holland,  
Bartow

Recording Secretary, Herbert Lamson, Jacksonville

Corresponding Secretary and Librarian, Watt  
Marchman, Winter Park

Treasurer, Dr. Dorothy Dodd, Jacksonville

Directors at Large

For two years, Mrs. Charles W. Ten E i c k ,  
Hollywood

For one year, Horace L. Curry, Quincy, for the  
unexpired term of Bishop Nathaniel S.  
Thomas.

From the Congressional Districts, for two years:

1st District, Mrs. B. F. Crowinshield, Boca  
Grande

3rd District, Miss Occie Clubbs, Pensacola.

5th District, Dean Robert C. Cotner, DeLand.

The Nominations Committee recommends that  
Julien C. Yonge, of Pensacola, Editor of the Quar-  
terly, be an ex-officio member of the Board.

Through the recent changes in the By-Laws, providing for the election of four of the Board members on alternate years, several were ineligible for re-election, since one year must elapse on the expiration of a term before this member may again



serve. The Committee wishes to record its grateful appreciation of the interest and loyalty of these retiring members, Hon. D. B. McKay of Tampa, member-at-large; Mrs. T. M. McDuffee of Manatee, and T. A. Mellon of St. Augustine.

Directors whose terms expire in 1939 and who remain on the Board are George Couper Gibbs, Jacksonville; Dr. James Miller Leake, Gainesville; and John G. McKay, Miami.

Recommended for the Nominations Committee for the election in January 1939, are Julien C. Yonge, chairman, Pensacola; Albert H. Roberts, Tallahassee; Rodman Lehman, Winter Park; Dr. C. L. Crow, Gainesville; and John G. McKay, Miami.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Roy V. Ott, Chairman

On motion of Mrs. Ott, duly seconded and carried, it was thereupon RESOLVED, that the report of the Nominations Committee be adopted, and that the Secretary cast the ballot for each and all of the nominees therein mentioned. This motion was duly seconded and unanimously carried; and the Secretary thereupon cast the ballot for the several nominees, who were declared duly elected.

Mrs. Ott moved the following amendment to the Charter of the Society:

BE IT RESOLVED, by The Florida Historical Society in annual meeting assembled at St. Petersburg, Florida, this 25th day of January, 1938, that Section 1 of Article VI of the Charter be, and the same is hereby, amended, as follows: By inserting after the word "Treasurer" and before the word "three", appearing in the first sentence of said section 1, the words "the Editor of the *Florida Quarterly*;" so that the Editor of the **Florida Historical Quarterly** shall be ex-officio a member of the Board of Directors; and that Section 5 of Article IV of the By-laws be amended accordingly.

Mrs. Ott's motion was duly seconded and unanimously carried.

Invitations were received from the Chamber of Commerce of Daytona Beach, Florida, and from the

St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science inviting the Florida Historical Society to hold its next annual meeting in Daytona Beach and St. Augustine, respectively.

These invitations were received, with thanks, and ordered filed.

On motion of Mr. Marchman, seconded by Mrs. Ott, the minutes of this meeting were, thereupon, approved.

Thereupon upon motion, duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted  
(Signed): Herbert Lamson  
Secretary

Approved:

Joshua C. Chase  
President

#### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

*To the members of the Florida Historical Society, and guests :*

This meeting of the Society is the 36th since its reorganization, and its 2nd under its new charter.

Your President has been a slacker during the past year. He was absent from the State from the first week in April to November 1. During this period the affairs of the Society were ably looked after and cared for by officers and directors. Their reports will cover happenings, accomplishments, and plans for the future. The Society is under special obligation to :

Vice President Kathryn T. Abbey, whose efforts secured for the Society Letter Book of Correspondence and Executive Orders of Governor John Milton, for the years 1861-63. This was presented by the Governor's grandson, the Hon. W. H. Milton, of Marianna.