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The Florida Historical Society: The annual meeting

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org



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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

The thirty-seventh annual meeting of The Florida Historical Society was held in the ball room of the Clarendon Hotel at Daytona Beach, Florida, at three-thirty o'clock P.M. on Tuesday, January 24th, 1939.

The meeting was called to order by President Joshua Coffin Chase.

There were over seventy-five 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.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Members of The Florida Historical Society,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. During the year that has past since our St. Petersburg annual meeting some of our plans have been carried out and some are in process. One of the most encouraging happenings is an evident wider-spread interest in the work of the Society, as indicated by an increase in membership from all sections of the State. The force to bring this about has been steady persistent work on the part of the Membership Committee. The number still falls short of our goal, set for one thousand. We can visualize this accomplished under the plan for closer affiliation of the Florida Historical Society with local historical societies, functioning and to be formed.

2. Contributions have been made by these members of the Society in the field of historical study: Mr. W. T. Cash, "Story of Florida"; Professor A. J. Hanna, "Flight Into Oblivion"; Mrs. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, "The Yearling"; Dr. Rhea Marsh Smith, "The Day of the Liberals in Spain"; Professor Van Woodward, of the University of Florida, "Life of Tom Watson of Georgia", and a history of Florida, now in press by Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey, Head of the History Department of the Florida State College for Women.

3. The year has brought increases to the Library of the Society, with the addition of many books, manuscripts (miscellaneous), pictures and other items of Floridiana.

4. The only regional meeting of the Society was held in Tallahassee May 21, 1938, at St. John's Episcopal Church jointly with the Tallahassee Historical Society, in honor of the Centennial of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. Director at Large C. Horace Curry was chairman of arrangements. Vice President Kathryn T. Abbey presided, and papers were contributed by the following members: Hugh M. Taylor "Economic Conditions in Florida 1840-1860", Watt Marchman "The Florida Historical Society, Its History, Plans, Purposes", Herbert Lamson "History of the Episcopal Church in Florida", Sue A. Mahorner "A Church Inventory Under the Supervision of the Historical Records Survey".

5. Regional meetings of the Society for 1939 are planned in Jacksonville, Fernandina, Bradenton, Sarasota, Lakeland, Mountain Lake, Palm Beach, Miami and Pensacola.

6. A Committee has been appointed to study the

modern aids to historical research. The principal aid is microfilm and microfilm projector.

A Committee was appointed consisting of C. Horace Curry, S. L. Holland, and our Corresponding Secretary, to introduce a bill at the coming session of the Florida Legislature, seeking a small appropriation to publish and distribute volumes of official and semi-official records of historical value.

7. This meeting celebrates the 37th anniversary of the Society under its present name, succeeding the Historical Society of Florida, formed in 1856. What was the vision of these founders? Did they foresee the multitude of changes that would take place and revolutionize living and economic conditions that then prevailed? Fortunately it is not given to human kind to see far into the future. They realized, as we do, the necessity for a building of our own to house and properly care for our books, manuscripts, paintings, maps, etc., already acquired. and promised if suitable quarters were provided. This subject has been discussed but no action taken. We have lived in hope of some good angel appearing and making a substantial donation. The flock of good angels has been either crippled or killed off by Washington politicians. My suggestion is to authorize the directors to establish a "Patron Membership", with a fee of \$100, the funds created to be safeguarded from shrinkage and permitted to accumulate for a building fund.

In conclusion let me say that today the Florida Historical Society is held together by the same interests that brought its forefathers together eighty-three years ago. We are better equipped than they were, and with equal courage we can go forward to solve the problems ahead and render valuable service to the historical interests of the Florida we all love.

JOSHUA C. CHASE, *President*