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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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JOINT MEETING OF THE FLORIDA COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION OF
CULTURAL RESOURCES WITH THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Presiding: John J. Tigert, president, University of Florida, and
Chairman of the Committee

MUSEUM SESSION

Presiding: Walter B. Hill, librarian, University of Florida
Speaker: Stanley B. Arthur, Louisiana State Museum
Discussion

ANNUAL DINNER

Presiding : Herbert Lamson, vice president, Florida Historical
Society
Invocation: Reverend Joseph Devaney, The Cathedral, St.
Augustine
Cross Creek, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Baskin
Conservation of Historic Sites in Florida, Ronald F. Lee, The
National Park Service, Washington, D. C.

MARCH 7

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND BOTANICAL SESSION

Presiding : Arthur G. Peterson, Agricultural History Society,
Washington, D. C.
A History of Florida Agriculture, Ida Keeling Cresap, librarian,
Florida Agricultural Experiment Station
Botanical Exploration in the Southeast, H. Harold Hume, dean,
College of Agriculture, University of Florida

MINUTES

President John G. McKay called the meeting to order at 8:30 p. m. Attendance was not large, but a quorum was present. The president called for the reports of officers as the first order of business.

President McKay read his report, summarizing the progress of the Society during the past year, calling particular attention to the successful efforts made to secure desirable temporary quarters for the library after it had become necessary to vacate the space in the Alcazar Hotel building. Mr. McKay also took notice of the war emergency and its effect upon the activities of the Society.

Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey (Mrs. A. J. Hanna), of Winter Park, moved that the report of the president

be approved and filed with the secretary. The motion carried and it was so ordered.

The corresponding secretary and librarian, Mr. Watt Marchman, St. Augustine, prefaced his report with the remark that interest of the members was manifest through their increasing correspondence. In regard to the library, Mr. Marchman reported that adapting the new quarters for library and exhibit uses (which involved a small amount of renovation) had necessitated a temporary closure of the library to the public, but it was now, however, open to all. Use of the library is steadily growing. From the standpoint of preservation of materials in the collection, the present second story location on Cathedral Place is better than the Alcazar rooms, which were on the ground floor and more subject to dampness and insects. And the new location, facing the town plaza, is more central.

Dr. Mark F. Boyd, director from Tallahassee, took this occasion to stress the gravity of the library situation that had been brought about by the need to find new quarters, and by way of showing the Society's appreciation of the conscientious efforts of the location committee, offered a resolution of appreciation.

This was unanimously given by a rising vote to accept Mr. Marchman's report.

In the absence of Dr. Dorothy Dodd, Tallahassee, the treasurer, Mr. Marchman submitted her report. Mr. Marchman moved that the report be accepted and filed with the secretary. The motion carried and it was so ordered.

Dr. Boyd asked whether an audit of the books by a committee from the board of directors was required before an annual meeting. The president replied that audits were not required by the constitution, but had been made in the past when

requested. The librarian added that the finance committee has the responsibility for audits. The president recommended for the record that the matter of auditing be referred to the incoming officers.

There being no committee reports to be given, the president called for discussion of unfinished business.

The corresponding secretary made reference to the letter from the editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, Mr. Julien C. Yonge, Pensacola, calling attention to the increased costs of printing, which directly affects the publication of the *Quarterly*. A discussion of a previous suggestion for obtaining additional funds followed.

Mr. Marchman moved that, subject to Mr. Yonge's approval, separate slips of paper, having a printed appeal for financial aid, be inserted in the next issue of the *Quarterly*. Mr. John Hobart Cross, Pensacola, presented a substitute motion: that Mr. Yonge be authorized to handle the appeal in whatever fashion seemed suitable, after discussion of the matter with the finance committee. Mr. Marchman accepted the substitute motion, and it was carried.

Dr. Boyd asked for a discussion of the Society's agreement with the State Library Board, by which the Society was to receive \$1,800 per year for two years. Dr. Abbey explained the background of the agreement, mentioning the various persons who cooperated in helping to procure the agreement. A contract between the State Library Board and the Society was necessary in order to show the specific purposes for which the money was to be used, and the contract was agreed upon. Accumulated payments from July to December, inclusive, were paid to the Society in January, 1942. Mr. Marchman summarized the terms of the agreement, stressing the fact that it was very flexible and designed to

insure cooperation between the State Library and the Florida Historical Society. Dr. Boyd pointed out the potentiality of the agreement and suggested that its operations be observed very closely to discover ways of improvements from time to time toward the end of its becoming of statutory significance. Dr. Abbey agreed emphatically that the informal agreement should be stabilized by legislative recognition of the Society by name. Dr. Boyd urged that the functions of the two organizations be defined and that emphasis be placed upon their non-competitive character : the State archival agency preserves primarily public archives while the Society preserves private records and disseminates historical information. For the record, the president recommended that the new board of directors consider ways to obtain legislative recognition of the Society as an official organization of the State of Florida in historical matters.

Dr. Boyd moved that the new president appoint a committee of three to negotiate with the State Library Board and others and to report back to the board of directors on ways to make the agreement with the State Board permanent and official. The motion carried.

Mr. Marchman pointed out the need for a resolution to authorize the finance committee to augment publication funds for the *Quarterly*, in view of the increased costs of printing.

Dr. Boyd moved that the finance committee arrange a 50 per cent increase in *Quarterly* funds and that the editor of the *Quarterly*, in his discretion, be authorized to change the format of the *Quarterly*, to conserve paper and insure continued publication of the *Quarterly*.

Dr. C. W. Tebeau, University of Miami, moved an amendment to the motion: that the word "maxi-

mun" be inserted before "50 per cent". He pointed out that an increase of full 50 per cent might not be necessary at present. The amendment was accepted and the motion carried as amended.

The president called for new business.

Mr. Marchman moved that the president be empowered to appoint Professor A. J. Hanna of Rollins College as chairman of a committee to be selected by himself for the purpose of cooperation with the St. Augustine Historical Preservation and Restoration Association, thus formally indicating the interest of the Society in the St. Augustine program. The motion was carried.

Mr. Marchman then presented the "War Savings Bonds for a Permanent Building" plan. He stressed the need for a permanent headquarters building for the Society. Under the proposed plan, members could purchase or contribute toward the purchase of war savings bonds for the building fund of the Society.

Mr. Cross moved that the matter be referred to the finance committee with the tacit approval of the meeting. Dr. Boyd moved that the motion be amended by the addition of "and that the finance committee be empowered to open a specific account for the building fund only." The amendment was accepted and the amended motion passed.

The recording secretary read the following resolution submitted by Mr. Yonge:

WHEREAS, the Division of Research and Publications of the Department of State of the United States is now publishing a series of volumes of selected documents from governmental archives relating to each of the former territories in turn, as described in the Florida. Historical *Quarterly*, the issue of October last; and

WHEREAS, the forthcoming volumes relating to Florida territory are of especial importance to us-in fact, because our own territorial records are so meager and those in Washington are so extensive, this publication is necessary for any full knowledge of Florida's territorial history; and

WHEREAS, the historical part of the celebration of the centennial of Florida's admission into the Union is dependent on that knowledge; and because, further, the appearance of the Florida volumes would be the most important historical feature of that celebration ;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Florida Historical Society, assembled in its annual meeting, that the Society bring these facts to the knowledge of the Secretary of State of the United States, with the plea that there be no delay in the selection, the editing, and the publication of the volumes relating to Florida in *The Territorial Papers of the United States*.

Mr. Cross moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion carried.

Professor Hanna moved that the president appoint a committee on resolutions thanking the local committees on arrangements and expressing appreciation to Dr. Dorothy Dodd for her long and faithful services as treasurer. The motion carried. The president named Mr. Albert C. Manucy as chairman, with power to select the other members of the committee.

The resolutions were adopted as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the members of the Florida Historical Society, that the thanks and appreciation of the Society be, and the same are hereby, extended to the Local Committee on Arrangements, for their unstinted efforts to make the 40th annual meeting of the Society a great success.

BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Florida Historical Society, that the thanks and appreciation of the Society be, and the same are hereby, extended to the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science, for their cooperation and participation in making the 40th annual meeting of the Society an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the members of the Florida Historical Society, that the thanks and appreciation of the Society be, and the same are hereby, extended to Dr. Dorothy Dodd, for her excellent and faithful service in the office of Treasurer of this Society ;

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the members of the Florida Historical Society regret that other duties of Dr. Dorothy Dodd do make it necessary for her to resign as Treasurer of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,
A. C. MANUCY, *Chairman*.
WATT MARCHMAN
X. L. PELLICER

Mr. Marchman opened discussion relating to possible suspension of program meetings during the war emergency.

Mr. Marchman moved that the Society recommend to the board of directors that annual program meetings be suspended during the war. Discussion followed. Mr. Marchman withdrew his motion in favor of the following motion :

Dr. Abbey moved that the directors be informed of the sense of the meeting, which is, that if conditions warrant, the directors are urged to modify the annual meetings as necessary for the duration of the war. The motion carried.

In the absence of C. H. Curry, Quincy, chairman of the nominations committee, Professor Hanna read the report of the committee:

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR 1942
ELECTION

Herbert Lamson, Jacksonville, president
John B. Stetson, Jr., DeLand, first vice-president
Gaines R. Wilson, Miami, second vice-president
Albert C. Manucy, St. Augustine, recording secretary and treasurer
Watt Marchman, St. Augustine, corresponding secretary and librarian
Mrs. Millar Wilson, Jacksonville, director-at-large
Mrs. Roger W. Babson, director, 1st Congressional district
Miss Daisy Parker, Tallahassee, director, 3rd Congressional district
Randall Chase, Sanford, director, 5th Congressional district

Nominations committee for 1943 election :

Randall Chase, Sanford, chairman
Mrs. Millar Wilson, Jacksonville
Miss Dena Snodgrass, Orlando
Dr. Edmund LeRoy Dow, Palm Beach
Miss Mary Lamar Davis, Tallahassee

Submitted by :

C. H. Curry, Quincy, chairman
Mrs. William O. Bowers, Cooperstown, N. Y.
Thomas P. Caldwell, Miami
A. J. Hanna, Winter Park
Albert C. Manucy, St. Augustine

The president called for further nominations.

Professor Hanna moved the acceptance of the report and that the secretary cast the ballot. The

motion carried, the ballot was cast, and the president declared the officers duly elected.

Professor Hanna moved a resolution of appreciation to the outgoing president for his recognized efforts on behalf of the Society. The motion carried.

There being no further business, the president declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT C. MANUCY

Recording Secretary

Approved :

JOHN G. MCKAY

President.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1941

Members, Friends and Guests of the Florida Historical Society:

Since we assembled in annual session a year ago this month at the Miami-Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, there have been momentous events which, in many instances have redirected the course of our lives. The foremost event of the year is the war.

When we gathered on the lower East Coast in March 1941, the Society's library and office had just been opened in spacious quarters, rent free, in the Alcazar Hotel building in St. Augustine. This accomplishment had been made possible by the City of St. Augustine and the members of the Society in St. Augustine. The City's published plan was to purchase the Alcazar building for historical and cultural purposes, and a three-year lease was held by the City toward that end. However, with the uncertainties arising from a world at war, the City was forced to abandon its plan for the purchase of the building, and the property was soon returned to its original owners, the Florida East Coast Hotel

Company, who desired the building vacated before accepting possession.

For the purpose of considering the urgent problem arising from the decision of the City of St. Augustine to return the Hotel building to the Florida East Coast Hotel Company, a meeting of the board of directors was called and held in St. Augustine the latter part of September. After a lengthy examination of the problem, the board decided to place the relocation of the library in St. Augustine in the hands of a committee consisting of Judge David R. Dunham, Mr. X. L. Pellicer and Mr. Watt Marchman, all members from St. Augustine.

The relocation committee, after a careful inspection of all available buildings in St. Augustine, was at last successful in securing a renewable lease on quarters constituting the second floor of the building adjacent to the Cathedral, facing the Plaza de la Constitucion, the ground floor of which is now used by the St. Augustine Gas Company. In addition to adequate rooms (for the immediate present, at least), there is also an excellent vault in the building-the use of the vault being especially desired by the Society. There were, however, a few minor improvements which were necessary to be made in order to bring out the most effective and attractive appearance of the quarters. This work has been accomplished with very small expense to the Society.

There is a small rental on the new location, and the rent for the first year has been more than provided for by generous donations made by the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science (\$300.00), and by members of the Society. Therefore, we can report that the library and offices of the Society seem now to be in a good and sound location for the duration of the war.

I am also happy to report that a considerable number of gifts, consisting of donations of money,

books, pamphlets, manuscripts, pictures of Florida, too numerous to mention individually in detail here, have been received during the past year. All gifts will be published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. In fact, the library and the Society continue to grow rapidly, both in possessions and in service to the general public.

A few weeks ago, a contract-agreement, covering the period from July 1, 1941 through July 1, 1943, was drawn up and signed between the Florida State Library Board and the Florida Historical Society, providing for close cooperation along certain lines in a spirit of mutual helpfulness. The terms of the agreement include our making available to the State Library an index of the contents of our library, and our informational and advisory services as desired. As one benefit to the Society of this collaboration, we receive funds which enable the Society to carry out effectively and efficiently the requirements of the agreement, and which at the same time enable us to promote the historical interests of the State of Florida.

At the last annual meeting, the members voted to have our equipment and other possessions (other than the irreplaceable books, manuscripts, museum objects, etc.) insured; and I am glad to say that an insurance policy was taken out many months ago, which is now in effect, and which will continue in effect for three years. The premium on the policy was about \$120.00.

In regard to membership the Society has grown steadily, with many new members added during the year. However, as a result of the war, several members have dropped out, and death has also removed several more. A short while ago, your president made an appeal to about two hundred people in the Miami area who are members of the

South Florida Historical Association, but not members of this Society, and to date there have been about a dozen or so who have sent in their applications. We are hopeful that many others will do likewise.

The publication of the Florida Historical Quarterly, which is one of the most important functions of the Society, will be seriously affected by the war -and very soon. The cost of printing and cost of paper have already risen over 15 per cent and are steadily rising. Therefore, in order to assure the continued publication of the *Quarterly* during the emergency, each member should continue his support of the *Quarterly* insofar as possible by remaining a member in good standing, and by contributing a dollar or so in addition to annual dues should this be possible. And every member is invited to secure, if possible, at least one new member.

In bringing this report to a close, I should like to recommend to the membership that the following be stressed :

a. That each officer and director and member of the Society assume a personal responsibility for securing new members, in order to make possible the continued publication of the *Quarterly* during the war and in the critical period of adjustment thereafter ;

b. That donations of all sorts-monetary contributions, gifts of real estate, gifts of items of Floridiana and Americana, including books of all kinds, manuscripts, picture, maps, etc., be particularly encouraged during the war. We now have a suitable, convenient and safe place, with vault, to house and protect all gifts or permanent loans of books, magazines, manuscripts, maps, pictures, etc.

c. That the Society start now with plans toward the realization of a permanent building for the Society after the war.