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The Florida Historical Society

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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The war has had its effect on the activities and plans of the Society, and of course it should. The annual meeting was of the usual pattern but much curtailed, and, under the conditions, was very successful. Watt Marchman, our librarian and corresponding secretary, our wheel and motor, is in the Army; but the Society is fortunate in that our secretary-treasurer, Albert Manucy, historical technician of the National Park Service, is in St. Augustine, and fortunate too that Mrs. Alberta Johnson who is experienced in such, has taken up Mr. Marchman's work while he is away. So the library is still continuously at the service of our members and of every one interested in Florida's history.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society was held in the Seminole hotel in Jacksonville on March 9. Notwithstanding the times and transportation difficulties it was a very successful meeting with interesting historical papers and rare exhibits, and our usual luncheon and dinner with many members and guests. This issue of the *Quarterly* has been held so as to include the program, the Minutes, and the president's and the treasurer's reports. Sketches of the new officers and directors will appear in the next number.

THE PROGRAM

10:30 A.M. Meeting of the Board of Directors.

11:30 A.M. Presiding: Gaines R. Wilson, 2nd vice president.

Greetings: Mayor John T. Alsop, of Jacksonville.

- “Folk Songs of Florida and their Cultural Backgrounds” by Alton C. Morris, professor of English, University of Florida, and editor of *Southern Folklore Quarterly*.
- 1:00 P.M. Luncheon. Toastmaster, Richard P. Daniel.
“Steamboat Navigation on the St. Johns River” by John M. Sweeney;
- 3:30 P.M. Presiding: Calvin Horace Curry, past president.
Reports of local historical societies.
- 3:30 P.M. Business meeting. Presiding: Herbert Lamson, president.
Reports of officers.
Reports of committees:
Archeology, Mrs. Charles D. Towers, member.
Cooperation with St. Augustine Restoration Program, A. J. Hanna, chairman.
Finance, A. J. Hanna.
Library, Mrs. William C. Bowers, chairman.
Preservation and Restoration of Florida Antiquities, Mrs. Millar Wilson, member.
Robertson, Bibliographical, Dr. Kathryn Abbey Hanna.
New business and election of officers.
- 7:00 P.M. Annual dinner. Toastmaster, Philip S. May.
Moving pictures of the State Parks on historical sites in Florida, by Mrs. Lynwood Jeffreys.

“Jacksonville’s Wartime. History” by
T. Frederick Davis;
Introductions, including former president
Joshua C. Chase of Winter
Park.

COMMITTEES

Program: F. Eberhart. Haynes, chairman. Mrs.
Charles D. Towers, A. J. Hanna.

Local arrangements : Richard P. Daniel, chair-
man. Dr. Carita Doggett Corse, Philip S. May.

Exhibits: Mrs. Henry L. Richmond, Dr. Carita
Doggett Corse.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HELD AT THE SEMINOLE
HOTEL, JACKSONVILLE, MARCH 9, 1943

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Herbert
Lamson, president, who requested Mr. C. H. Curry
of Quincy to preside at the presentation of reports
from local historical societies.

Mr. Thomas P. Caldwell of Miami, treasurer of
the Historical Association of Southern Florida,
summarized the work of the Association since its
establishment and mentioned the successful recep-
tion given *Tequesta*, the publication of the organi-
zation. Mr. Caldwell also reported that the officers
of the Association were successfully working to
increase membership in the Florida Historical
Society.

Mr. X. L. Pellicer of St. Augustine, vice-president
of the St. Augustine Historical Society, reported
the pleasure with which his organization welcomed
the establishment of the Florida Historical Society
library in St. Augustine, and pledged full coopera-
tion. Mr. Pellicer’s report indicated the significant

work of the St. Augustine society in connection with naval and military visitation.

Mr. Curry announced with regret the absence and illness of Dr. Edmund L. Dow, president of the Palm Beach Historical Society.

Mr. W. T. Cash of Tallahassee, state librarian and past president of the Tallahassee Historical Society, gave an entertaining resume of the work of that group, stating that several tangible results had been obtained.

Dr. Carita D. Corse of Jacksonville reported for Mr. Herbert M. Corse, president of the Jacksonville Historical Society. She described briefly the types of programs which had been presented and said that several papers had subsequently been developed for publication in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Dr. Corse also mentioned certain researches in progress by members of the Jacksonville society, and the erection of historical markers by this organization. She concluded by mentioning that the Jacksonville Historical Society had offered to cooperate with other organizations for the development of museums in Jacksonville.

Before relinquishing the chair, Mr. Curry offered a tribute to the retiring president, Mr. Lamson. The loss of Mr. Watt Marchman, corresponding secretary and librarian, to the armed service, said Mr. Curry, had made Mr. Lamson's administration unusually difficult. Mr. Pellicer also rose to express appreciation of Mr. Marchman's work and to voice the hope that he would return to his position in the Society after the war. Professor A. J. Hanna, of Rollins College, told the members that Corporal Marchman had been selected for the Army's officer candidate school. This news was received with manifest pleasure.

President Lamson accepted the chair from Mr.

Curry. Roll call was dispensed with, since a quorum was present.

Mr. Lamson then read the report of the president.

Mrs. Alberta Johnson of St. Augustine, acting corresponding secretary and librarian, reported on membership, which is now 800, including 24 contributing members, 49 libraries and 68 exchanges. A total of 33 new memberships were received during the past year. Mrs. Johnson also talked briefly about the type of work in which she is engaged for the Society and the present value of the library to students. Of special interest to the members was the information that the Society had acquired on permanent loan the duplicate files of the Florida Federal Writers' Project. For the further information of members, Dr. Corse, former director of the project, indicated the types of materials to be found in the extensive collection. The President expressed the appreciation of the Society to Mrs. Johnson for her work, and described the present library establishment of our organization in St. Augustine.

Mr. Albert Manucy of St. Augustine, treasurer, next read his report. The President remarked on the encouraging status of both membership and finances, in spite of the impact of wartime conditions. It was indicated, however, that continuous effort must be expended in order to maintain the Society during the coming year.

Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey (Mrs. A. J. Hanna) of Rollins College moved the acceptance of the officers' reports, and their filing with the secretary. The motion carried and it was so ordered.

Mrs. Charles D. Towers of Jacksonville, chairman, reported for the archeology committee, which is laying plans for post-war activities.

Professor Hanna, chairman, gave the report of the committee for cooperation with the St. Augustine Historical Program. This committee, he stated, has very much in mind the importance of the restoration project, to post-war culture and hemispheric solidarity. Professor Hanna called upon Mr. Pellicer, who said that the historical and archeological collection of the Historical Program had been deposited with the St. Augustine Historical Society. The work of cataloguing the collection was interrupted by the war, but he expressed the hope that a brief report might soon be completed in order to show the type of material in the collection. Mrs. Towers exhibited the scrapbook of the historic Fatio house of St. Augustine, now owned by the Colonial Dames. She also described the preservation work on the house done by that organization, and mentioned the growth of the library at the house. In conclusion she touched upon the work of the Colonial Dames in collecting photographs of historic houses.

Mrs. William C. Bowers of Winter Park, chairman, reported that the library committee is attempting to foster interest in the library and to encourage the donation of books and other gifts. There were numerous valuable accessions during the year.

Dr. Abbey, chairman of the Robertson bibliography committee, stated that groundwork was being laid for the essential work of transcribing Dr. Robertson's manuscript notes on which the compilation is to be based. She also called attention to the recent publication of the Robertson memorial volume, *Hispanic American Essays*.

Mrs. Millar Wilson of Jacksonville reported for the committee for the preservation and restoration of Florida antiquities. She spoke particularly about the work on the Munsillia house on Fort

George island, entertaining the members with the story of how the present name of the house was acquired. She said that the former names of "ghost house" and "tabby house" were both unsatisfactory, and when Munsillia's ownership was established through investigation of an early record, it was decided to use this more euphonious and specific name. Mrs. Wilson pointed out the marker which was on display among the exhibits prior to its erection at the house. In concluding, Mrs. Wilson expressed the hope that further investigatory work on the site might be done after the war.

Mr. Gaines R. Wilson of Miami suggested that greetings from the Society be sent to Mr. Marchman at Camp McCain, Mississippi. The members also decided that greetings should be sent to Mr. Julien C. Yonge of Pensacola, editor of the *Quarterly*.

The President appointed a committee of Messrs. Wilson, Hanna and Caldwell to compose and send the telegrams.

Mr. Philip S. May of Jacksonville reported the recommendations of the board of directors.

Mr. May moved that the following recommendations of the directors be presented to the incoming board of directors: (1) that certain unimproved land owned by the Society in Volusia county be sold advantageously and the proceeds used for the purchase of war bonds; (2) that the quiet solicitation of war bond gifts to the Society be continued. It was seconded, and discussion followed.

President Lamson explained the plan by which the Society hopes to acquire war bond gifts to be used for post-war acquisition of a permanent headquarters building, or home. Mr. Pellicer added that Series F bonds of \$100 denomination could be

purchased and placed in the name of the corporation. He offered a contribution of one quarter the purchase price of such a bond.

Mr. May's motion was carried.

Mr. May next reported that the directors recommended continuation of the Society library in its present quarters. This recommendation was made in view of the fact that the City of Marianna had offered the Society space for quarters on a permanent lease basis at a nominal rental.

Mr. May moved that the acting corresponding secretary write the City of Marianna expressing appreciation of the offer and explaining the feeling of the Society that the location in historic St. Augustine, birthplace of the Society, should be retained. It was carried.

There was another brief discussion about the location of the Volusia county land owned by the Society. As a result of this discussion,

Mrs. Alton B. Whitman of Orlando moved that the incoming board discover the location of the property in relation to the historic sites in the region, investigate its status, and consider carefully its values before deciding upon the desirability of disposing of it. It was carried.

The recording secretary read a letter from the U. S. Maritime Commission requesting the Society to submit 25 names of leading personages (deceased) in the history of the state, together with authenticating biographical information, which names might be used for liberty ships.

Mr. Wilson moved that the request be referred to the new board with power to act. It was carried.

Mr. Richard F. Daniel of Jacksonville moved that the Society recognize the historical sig-

nificance of St. Johns Bluff in Duval county by instructing the President to write the senior and junior senators from Florida to the effect that it is the sentiment of the Society that the Federal government should take action to establish the St. Johns Bluff area as a unit in the national park system. It was seconded.

Mrs. Towers endorsed the motion, as did others. Dr. Corse said that in the past the Jacksonville Historical Society had adopted resolutions of a similar nature.

The motion carried.

Mr. Lamson read a letter from Mr. Yonge, indicating that issuance of the April number of the *Quarterly* would be withheld until reports of the annual meeting could be included.

Mr. Daniel proposed for the consideration of the membership the suggestion that important talks presented at the various programs of the Society be transcribed literally by a stenographer. He cited the source material value of extemporaneous reminiscences, materials which are likely to be lost unless steps are taken to transpose them into a permanent record. Dr. Corse agreed. Mr. Cash asked for a statement of the Society policy on preservation of the various papers which were read. Mr. Lamson said that some papers were subsequently published in the *Quarterly*, though not as a part of the proceedings of the program meetings. Professor Hanna remarked that the editor's policy is to publish as many of the higher quality papers as possible, and suggested that the practical way to preserve all historical materials presented was to request the contributor to present a copy of the paper to the library. He explained further that some contributors were reluctant to furnish copies, inasmuch as their work may be either incomplete or scheduled for publication elsewhere. Mr. Pellicer

took this occasion to mention the work of Mrs. E. W. Lawson in interviewing old inhabitants for the St. Augustine Historical Society. Dr. Corse touched upon the similar work done by the Federal Writers' Project.

Mrs. Pillar Wilson read the following report of the nominations committee:

GAINES R. WILSON, Miami, *president*.

MAJOR JOHN B. STETSON, JR., U.S.M.C., DeLand, *first vice-president*.

PHILIP S. MAY, Jacksonville, *second vice-president*

ALBERT C. MANUCY, St. Augustine, *recording secretary and treasurer*.

WATT P. MARCHMAN, U.S.A., (on leave), *corresponding secretary and librarian*.

MRS. ALBERTA JOHNSON, acting *corresponding secretary and librarian*.

KARL A. BICKEL, Sarasota, *director-at-large*

CHARLES T. THRIFT, JR., Southern College, *director-at-large*.

RICHARD P. DANIEL, Jacksonville, *director, 2nd congressional district*.

WILEY R. REYNOLDS, Palm Beach, *director, 4th congressional district*.

Nominations committee for 1944 election:

A. J. HANNA, Rollins College, *chairman*,

C. H. CURRY, Quincy.

HERBERT LAMSON, Jacksonville.

MRS. F. B. CROWNINSHIELD, Boca Grande

MISS DENA SNODGRASS, Orlando.

The President called for further nominations. Professor Hanna moved the acceptance of the report, the close of nominations, and that the secretary cast the ballot for the nominees. The motion carried and it was so done.

Professor Hanna moved a rising vote of thanks to the retiring officers. It was carried and so done.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

ALBERT C. MANUCY

Recording Secretary

Approved:

HERBERT LAMSON
President