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The Florida Historical Society

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org



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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL MEETING

St. Augustine, April 27

10:00 a.m. Business session in the Florida Historical Society library

12:30 p.m. Luncheon in the old Spanish Treasury building

Address by C. Ray Vinten, "Conservation and Preservation of Historic Sites"*
Mr. Vinten is coordinating superintendent, Southeastern National Monuments, National Park Service.

J. Tyler Van Campen, of the St. Augustine Historical Society : A comprehensive view of post-war plans of that organization.

2:30 p.m. Exhibit at the St. Augustine Historical Society library

3:15 p.m. Visit to Castillo de San Marcos

4 to 8 p.m. Boat ride up North river with dinner served aboard the boat.

* * *

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

President Gaines R. Wilson called the meeting to order at 11:15 a. m. Since attending members were registered, roll call was dispensed with. There being a quorum present, the meeting continued.

Mr. Wilson expressed the appreciation of the Society to Mr. X. L. Pellicer of St. Augustine and his committee on arrangements, and to Mr. Lamar Harmon, City Manager of St. Augustine, for his courtesy in providing chairs for the membership at the meeting. Mr. Wilson also conveyed to the So-

* Mr. Vinten's address will appear in an early number of the *Quarterly*.

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ciety the regrets of certain officers and members who were unable to be present: Dr. John J. Tigert, President of the University of Florida, Mr. J. T. Watson, Mrs. Millar Wilson, Mrs. Roger Babson, and Miss Daisy Parker.

Mr. Wilson made his report as President of the Society.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Your officers and Board have been in office during the second year since our country's declaration of war. From an earlier policy of trying to conserve the Society's interest and attendant fear of loss of membership, we have been able to change to a more active policy of furthering the work of the Society, not only with an increase in membership, but also in formulating definite post-war plans. The coming year should see the acquiring here in St. Augustine of a permanent library, archives and museum building, and the renewal of a publications program in the field of moderately priced volumes and papers. Our opportunities and obligations are great, and we must anticipate a steady increase in the usefulness and growth of the Society.

I had not known until I looked over Mrs. Johnson's monthly reports of the large number of visitors and research students from many states who come to the library for information; while there is quite a correspondence, chiefly in letters of inquiry for historical data. This is one of our fields of greater usefulness.

I should like to express again my personal appreciation, as well as the Society's, of Mrs. Johnson's excellent work here at the library. I also wish to thank the officers and directors and members in assisting so definitely in securing new members for the Society, which has been largely responsible for

our increase in membership over last year. And for myself and the Society, I wish to thank particularly Mr. X. L. Pellicer as chairman of the Committee on Arrangements and Program, Mr. Albert C. Manucy and Mrs. Alberta Johnson for their efforts in making possible this meeting in St. Augustine.

GAINES R. WILSON, *President.*

April 27, 1944

Mr. Albert Manucy read the report of the Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER
(As of March 1, 1944)

<i>General Fund</i>			
Balance March 1, 1943	\$ 354.18		
Receipts :			
Dues	\$1,352.74		
Quarterlies sold	83.83		
Accommodations	82.80		
Gifts	6.00		
Typewriter sold	36.17		
Cash on hand Mar. 1, 1943 (postage)	12.68	1,574.22	1,928.40
Expenditures :			
Salary	\$ 960.00		
Accommodations	82.80		
Other expenses (inc. insurance) ..	392.25		
	\$ 1,435.05		
Balance, March 1, 1944	493.35		\$1,928.40
<i>State of Florida Fund:</i>			
Balance March 1, 1943	\$ 363.61		
Receipts	1,800.00	\$2,163.61	
Expenditures :			
Florida Historical Quarterly, 5 numbers	\$1,103.95		
Rent	300.00		
	\$1,403.95		
Balance, March 1, 1944	759.66	\$2,163.61	
<i>Other funds:</i>			
Robertson Memorial Fund			
Balance, March 1, 1943	\$ 4.00		
Balance, March 1, 1944		\$ 4.00	
<i>Life Membership Fund:</i>			

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Balance, March 1, 1943	\$ 200.00		
Receipts	100.00	300.00	
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Balance, March 1, 1944			\$ 300.00
Archeology Fund :			
Balance, March 1, 1943	\$ 89.50		
Receipts	47.00	\$ 136.50	
Expenditures	110.72		
Balance, March 1, 1944	25.78		136.50
Building Fund :			
Balance, March 1, 1943	25.00		
Receipts :			
3 war bonds (value when converted)	75.00		
<i>Consolidated statement:</i>			
Balance, March 1, 1943		\$1,036.29	
Total receipts		3,508.54	
Cash on hand (postage account March 1, 1943)		12.68	\$4557.51
<hr/>			
Total expenditures	\$2,949.72		
Balance, March 1, 1944	1,607.79	\$4,557.51	
<hr/>			
Balances :			
General Fund	\$ 493.35		
State of Florida Fund	759.66		
Archeology Fund	25.78		
Robertson Mem. Fund	4.60		
Life Membership Fund	300.00		
Building Fund	25.00		
<hr/>			
	\$1,607.79		
Memo.			
3 war bonds val. \$75.00			
(To be entered as cash when converted)			

Mrs. Alberta Johnson, Acting Corresponding Secretary and Librarian, read her reports on membership and accessions.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

For the year March 1943-March 1944

To the officers and members of the Florida Historical Society: This year has been a busy one. An increasing number of requests for historical data have been received, many of these entailing extensive research, and much time in compiling and typing notes. These inquiries cover a wide range of subjects relating to Florida history and come from

historians, writers, college and high school students in various sections of the country;

More than 500 letters have been written during the year.

Many valuable donations to the library have come in during the year, too many to enumerate here. Three valuable scrapbooks have been donated—one from the State D.A.R.; a portfolio of published letters of F. R. Stebbins, Adrian, Mich., who had spent eight winters between 1878 and 1888 cruising along the St. Johns river and as far south as Lake Worth. Another treasured scrapbook was started by Mrs. G. A. Pratt, in 1841, at Tallahassee. This was presented by Mr. W. A. Pratt, Lake Worth, who has also, among other items, contributed several old Palatka newspapers.

An autographed copy of the recently published "The Trail of the Florida Circuit Rider," by Dr. Charles T. Thrift, and "The St. Johns" and "The Letters of Don Juan McQueen" were also valued gifts.

The sale of back numbers of *Florida Historical Quarterly* has been the largest in some years; these include four files, as complete as we can supply, to out-of-state libraries.

The attention of the officers and members of the Society is called to the need of additional library equipment—a filing cabinet and a metal drawer file for our valuable map collection. Possibly, the Society can acquire these after the war, when, no doubt, the government will release many of such items not now available. It is something for us to keep in mind.

* * *

The President next called upon Professor A. J. Hanna of Rollins College for a report on the activities of the archeology committee. Mr. Hanna cited

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the reprint of Frederick W. Sleight's article on Florida archeology, from *American Antiquities*, stating that the reprints were now available for distribution at the discretion of the board of directors. Professor Hanna further reported that work on the Florida archeology bibliography has been completed and is ready for post-war publication.

Dr. Kathryn Abbey Hanna of Winter Park made the report of the Library Committee, in the absence of Mrs. William C. Bowers, of Winter Park, Chairman, who was unable to be present.

Mr. Wilson reported upon efforts to increase membership in the Society, saying that considerable success developed from efforts of the directors to obtain new members in their respective districts.

Mr. X. L. Pellicer, of St. Augustine, asked to comment upon the work of the committee for cooperation with the St. Augustine Historical Program, said that no new developments had occurred. He said, however, that he would take the occasion to review the program of the Society for the day: At 12:30 p. m. the Society luncheon was to take place at the Spanish Treasury, with Judge David R. Dunham, President of the St. Augustine Historical Society, as toastmaster. Speakers were to be Mr. C. Ray Vinten, Coordinating Superintendent of the Southeastern National Monuments of the National Park Service, whose subject was "Conservation of the Historical Resources of Florida", and Mr. J. Tyler Van Campen, Librarian of the St. Augustine Historical Society, who was to read a paper on "Post-war Plans of the St. Augustine Historical Society." Following the luncheon there would be a trip to the Library of the St. Augustine Historical Society to view an exhibit of oil portraits of members of old St. Augustine families. These portraits were done by Philip A. Sawyer from old pictures and photo-

graphs of the now long deceased subjects. The project was conceived and directed by Mrs. E. W. Lawson, Acting Librarian of the St. Augustine Society. Following the visit to the Library, the group was to adjourn to Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, for an illustrated talk on the building of the Castillo, made by historical technician Albert Manucy. At 4 p. m. a boat ride up North River was scheduled, with supper aboard.

Mr. Hanna reported for Mrs. F. B. Crowninshield, of Boca Grande, chairman of the committee on preservation of landmarks.

Under the heading of unfinished business, President Wilson called for a discussion leading to plans for establishment of a permanent home for the Society. He stated that the consensus was that St. Augustine should be the home city, but that lease of the present building used for headquarters and library was soon to expire, and steps should be taken to provide permanent housing. Past discussion had developed the idea of purchasing a site and erecting a new building thereon, but the more recent idea appeared to be that some historic building in St. Augustine might be acquired and adapted for the purpose. Restoration of a historic building would be of considerable significance, fitting closely into the plans of the St. Augustine Historical Program for preservation and restoration of important landmarks. Further, said Mr. Wilson, remodelling might be much less expensive than new building, provided a suitable old structure could be found.

Miss Emily L. Wilson of St. Augustine suggested the Graham House in St. Augustine as an eminently suitable historic house, large enough to meet the needs of the Society, and in excellent condition.

Dr. Carita Doggett Corse of Jacksonville moved that the President appoint a committee to in-

investigate the possibilities of securing a historic house for the St. Augustine home of the Society. Mrs. Evelyn S. Vaill of St. Augustine seconded. The motion carried.

The President called upon Mr. Karl A. Bickel of Sarasota, who pointed out the urgent need for providing adequate protection for historical library possessions in perpetuity. This need calls for a solid, permanent structure. Possessing such a structure would also no doubt increase interest of the membership in the Society. Professor Hanna endorsed Mr. Bickel's remarks, and stressed such a headquarters as an aid in the extension of the work of the Society. Professor Hanna also mentioned the "War Bonds for Building" plan as a way in which members and friends can contribute now toward the realization of the permanent home.

After discussing the difficulties encountered by the President and officers in making arrangements for the current Annual Meeting of the Society due to wartime travel restrictions, Professor Hanna moved that during the war or until conditions change, Annual Meetings be held in St. Augustine. Dr. Corse seconded. The motion carried.

Professor Hanna made the report of the nominations committee:

Philip S. May, Jacksonville, president.

Major John B. Stetson, Jr., U.S.M.C., first vice-president.

Karl A. Bickel, Sarasota, 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, St. Augustine, acting corresponding secretary and librarian.

Kenneth I. McKay, Tampa, director, 1st congressional district.

John R. Davis, Jr., Tallahassee, director, 3rd congressional district.

Mrs. Ruby Leach Carson, Miami, director, 4th congressional district.

Miss Dena Snodgrass, Orlando, director, 5th congressional district.

X. L. Pellicer, St. Augustine, director-at-large.

Nominations Committee for 1945 election:

Dena Snodgrass, Orlando, chairman.

Gaines R. Wilson, Miami.

Daisy Parker, Tallahassee.

William H. Jackson, Tampa.

Herbert Lamson, Jacksonville.

Mrs. Henry Kohl, Palm Beach.

Professor Hanna moved the acceptance of the report, the close of nominations, and that the secretary cast the ballot for the nominees. It was seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried, and it was so done.

Mr. Gordon Reeves of Jacksonville suggested that the Society make an effort to collect color photographs of Florida historic sites and landmarks. After some discussion,

Mr. Pellicer moved that the matter be referred to the board of directors for action. Professor Hanna seconded. It was carried.

Mrs. Lawson spoke on the need for collecting any sort of historical pictorial material relating to Florida. She went on to say that pictorial material relating to St. Augustine was plentiful and securely preserved, but material for the remainder of the state was difficult to find. Professor Hanna suggested that possibly money for the purpose of making record photographs might be secured through cooperation with local chambers of commerce, such

record pictures to be taken under the supervision of the Society.

Mr. Pellicer moved approval of the minutes of the 41st Annual Meeting as published in the *Quarterly*. It was seconded and carried.

Miss Emily L. Wilson of St. Augustine made reference to the index of the St. Johns county court records, compiled by the Historical Records Survey, stating that the importance of the records to Florida history, and their widespread use by Florida historians indicated that the Society could perform a useful service by preparing additional mimeograph copies of the index. At present only three copies of the index are available. The President directed that a memorandum of this matter be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Dr. Kathryn Abbey Hanna reminded the Society that 1945 is Florida's centennial as a state. She reported that some years ago the State Legislature had appropriated funds for the purpose of commemorating this centennial, and it is likely that some sort of centennial celebration may be held. She discussed the work of various agencies which may contribute to such an occasion, and suggested that the Florida Historical Society should take an active part in developing plans for any observances of the centennial. She further suggested that at least part of the Society's action should consist of close cooperation with the State Library Board, and that the 43rd Annual Meeting might take place on the day of Florida's admission to statehood, March 3. Mr. Pellicer recommended the appointment of a strong committee to plan for the commemoration.

Mr. Hanna moved that Mr. Karl Bickel be appointed chairman of a committee to work out plans leading toward commemoration of the

centennial of the State of Florida. It was seconded, and carried.

Dr. Corse moved adjournment. It was seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT C. MANUCY,
Recording Secretary

Approved:

GAINES R. WILSON
President

* * *

A MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS

A called meeting of the directors of the Society was held in the library on June 4, with six directors present. President Philip S. May and Mr. Richard P. Daniel came from Jacksonville, Mrs. Ruby Leach Carson from her home in Osceola county, Miss Snodgrass from Orlando, and Mr. Pellicer and Mr. Manucy live in St. Augustine. Mrs. Johnson attended in Mr. Marchman's place.

A number of matters were discussed and plans made, including the celebration of Florida's centennial next year. The other matters will be taken up with the members as the plans mature.

Approval was given of the appointment by the president of Mr. T. Ralph Robinson of Terra Ceia as director from the new sixth district.

The Panton, Leslie papers, the gift of Mrs. Heloise Cruzat, which have recently reached the library, were examined, and a letter of appreciation and thanks was sent to Miss Elizabeth Howard West for her skilful work in assorting and arranging these hundreds of documents. A brief description of them will be included in an early issue of the *Quarterly*.

* * *

Alexander James Wall, director of the New York Historical Society, died on April 15. For a num-

ber of years he was a member of our Society and took a helpful interest in our activities. Four years ago he came from New York to read a paper on Buckingham Smith at one of our meetings.

* * *

**NEW MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF THE QUARTERLY**

John H. Morice, Palm Beach
H. G. Holland, Leesburg
Maryse E. Dale, Plant City
G. F. Scott, Lakeland
E. J. Pendergrass, Tallahassee
D. A. Harrell, Eau Gallie
S. Allen Clark, Lakeland
Charles M. Moon, Miami
Mrs. Waldo E. Cummer, Jacksonville
T. J. Geiger, Wellborn
Lawrence M. Foster, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Mrs. Maxfield Parrish, Windsor, Vt.
Mrs. A. S. Houghton, Coconut Grove (contributing)
John H. Davis, Jr., Tallahassee
Mrs. John Fifield, St. Augustine
Mrs. Herbert M. Fillebrown, Daytona Beach
Mrs. Edith M. James, Jacksonville
Henry Brewer, Ishpeming, Mich.
James R. Boyd, Jr., Jacksonville
Florence Fritz, Fort Myers
Lt. A. W. Diddle, Key West

BACK NUMBERS OF THE QUARTERLY

Our library is in need of back numbers of the Quarterly; in some cases for our own use, and in others for certain public libraries wishing to complete their files. The Society would be glad to pay the full price for any of those listed below, and in some cases a premium.

Forty-eight public and institutional libraries in Florida are members of the Society, hence receive the *Quarterly* and are preserving files.

Twenty-seven other public and institutional libraries throughout the country subscribe to the *Quarterly* and preserve files.

In addition fifty-three libraries and historical publications (some of them aboard) exchange with our *Quarterly*.

Some libraries in each class wish to complete their files, so it is for them as well as for ourselves we are asking the cooperation of our members in sending in any back issues which they are willing to sell or donate.

It is impossible to determine the future needs for any issue before it goes to press, but for a number of years we have printed approximately one hundred copies of each issue beyond known needs. Yet some of these issues are exhausted, hence the present effort to secure certain ones.

For our own library we want copies of any issue from

1924 through July 1929
also 1932 July
1935 July
1937 Jan.
1941 Oct.

For other libraries we want all of the above, and also:

1930 Jan.
1931 Jan., April
1933 July, Oct.
1936 July
1940 July
1942 April

In selling or donating any of these you would be helping the cause of our State's history.