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The Florida Historical Society

Florida Historical Society
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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HELD AT THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY.

IN ST. AUGUSTINE ON DECEMBER 7, 1945

President Bickel called the meeting to order at 10:20 p.m. following the Hotel Bennett banquet of the Florida Academy of Sciences and the Society.

Mr. Bickel read a letter from past president Philip S. May of Jacksonville, praising the work of Dr. Mark Boyd of Tallahassee as general chairman of the Centennial Committee.

Mr. Albert Manucy of St. Augustine submitted a bill covering certain expenses incurred in promoting and recording Centennial observances, and moved that said bill be approved and the treasurer authorized to pay it. Dr. Webster Merritt of Jacksonville seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Bickel read a letter notifying the Society that U. S. Engineer Office files contain a copy of the 1818 "Memoir on East and West Florida", by Capt. Hugh Young. Dr. Boyd stated that the text of this memoir has already been printed in the *Quarterly*, and it was decided to recommend to the Engineer Office that the manuscript be sent to the National Archives for preservation without delay.

The President explained the need for action in securing a suitable home for the Society, pointing out the inadequacy of present quarters. He said that if the Society is to be revitalized and increase in membership, a dignified home and effective working quarters are essential.

Dr. John Davis said that a membership campaign might be regarded as preliminary to a campaign for securing building funds, and suggested several new classes of memberships that might increase Society revenue.

Mr. Lewis G. Scoggin of Tallahassee, director of the Florida Forest and Park Service, offered the Society a permanent home. at Fort Clinch State Park, Fernandina. He said further that he could promise one membership in each State park, and a working organization in each park to solicit new members.

Miss Emily L. Wilson of St. Augustine reviewed the advantages of the Llambias house in St. Augustine as potential Society quarters. This house has been offered to the Society virtually as a gift for a 10-year period or longer. Mr. X. L. Pellicer of St. Augustine explained the background of the offer of the Llambias house, and called for the report of the committee studying the matter of a permanent home.

Miss Dena Snodgrass of Jacksonville read "A Report of Three Members of the Consultation Committee", explaining that Mr. Gaines Wilson of Coconut Grove, chairman of the committee, had suggested that the Jacksonville members of the committee meet with the trustees of the Llambias house. The report submitted was a result of the latter meeting. Discussion of this report and other previously submitted reports followed.

Mr. Winder Surrency of Sarasota moved :

- 1) that the submitted reports be received for consideration and presented for action at the next annual meeting ;
- 2) that the President appoint seven members to study the matter of permanent quarters; and that this committee be instructed to take into account all offered locations and make a full report to the Society at the next annual meeting ;
- 3) that the past presidents be constituted a committee on membership; that this committee inaugurate a drive for membership ;

and that no limitations be set on the use of funds derived from new memberships.

Mr. Davis seconded.

As a preliminary to discussion of the motion, Dr. Boyd cited the need for appraisal of the Society's policy for future advancement. If the Society is to grow, said Dr. Boyd, tangible objectives need to be established :

1) Collection of historic objects; 2) study of the accumulated archives of the State; and 3) diffusion of historical knowledge.

Before attempting to raise money for the purpose of building a permanent home, continued Dr. Boyd, it would be wise to consider these fundamental objectives. What are the Society's needs, and what can be done to realize them with the slender resources at hand? In the matter of a location for the Society, Dr. Boyd urged that the committee consider the site best suited to service for the State.

As ways to achieve the objectives of the Society, Dr. Boyd mentioned the possibilities of investing Society funds and using income to provide fellowships; or grants enabling travel to other collections and the production of monographs on Florida history ; and the use of revenue from sustaining memberships for publication of monographs on a business-like, basis. He also suggested that the committee appraise the general historical situation in the State, and develop a correlated program with other similar organizations.

Mr. Surrency's motion was acted upon *ad seriatum*.

The first section of the motion was passed.

The second section of the motion was amended to read:

2) that the President appoint seven members to study the matter of permanent quarters;

and that this committee be instructed to take into account all offered locations ; and further this committee shall make recommendations for future objectives of the Society, with special regard to correlation of the needs of the State of Florida with the potential services which the Society can supply, and report to the Society at the next annual meeting. The amended motion was seconded and passed.

Section three of the motion was withdrawn.

Dr. Carita D. Corse of Jacksonville moved the appointment of a membership committee with special regard being given to appointing local historical society members on this committee. Miss Daisy Parker of Tallahassee seconded.

Dr. Boyd recommended that the committee should study the relationship of local societies to the Florida Historical Society, and suggested that local societies could become chapters of the State Society, perhaps with part of membership dues being remitted to local societies. Mr. Herbert Corse of Jacksonville called attention to a previous resolution introduced at the last annual meeting of the Society recommending that presidents of local historical societies be made honorary members of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society.

The motion passed.

Miss Snodgrass asked that the June 9, 1945 resolution of the State Library Board; offering its facilities and assistance for housing the Society's library under the auspices of the State Library of Florida, be read as a matter of record and brought to the attention of the housing committee. The secretary read the resolution.

Dr. Boyd moved that the former Permanent

Home Committee be thanked for its activity and discharged. It was seconded and passed.

Mr. Bickel suggested that the Society request the Governor to recommend to the legislature the establishment of a historic sites commission to have the function of marking and protecting historic and archeologic sites.

Dr. Davis moved that the President, the Director of the Florida Forest and Park Service, and one other member of the Society, confer with the Governor on the matter of protecting and marking historic sites in the State of Florida. Dr. Merritt seconded.

Mr. Scoggin stated that basic laws had already been passed authorizing such protection, marking, and interpretation; and the position of state archeologist is also provided. The archeologist could work in the Florida Park Service, which is empowered to administer historic sites. The Service could mark and maintain sites if the State furnished operating monies.

The motion passed.

In bringing the meeting to a close, President Bickel said that he recognized the differences of opinion on the question of a permanent home for the Society, and expressed his opinion that the Society could live and function where it could be most effective in carrying out the fundamental ideals of the Society.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT C. MANUCY
Recording Secretary

Approved :

KARL BICKEL
President

President Bickel has appointed David E. Smiley of Tampa as a director of the Society to serve the

remainder of the term of Kenneth I. McKay. Mr. Smiley has been a newspaper man throughout his life, having been editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* and the New York *Evening Post*. He came to Florida in 1933 and has been president and editor of the Tampa *Daily Times* since then. He is a trustee of the University of Tampa, and a leader in numerous Tampa civic activities.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

- Grape shot, dug up near Ft. George, Pensacola. Donated by John Hobart Cross, Pensacola.
- Governor's message. Robert Raymond Reid, January 11, 1841. Inscribed: "With the Gov's Respects." Donated by the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania.
- Spanish-American War scrap-book. Newspaper clippings, pictures, etc. Donated by Miss Abbie K. B. Avery, Jacksonville, through former president Herbert Lamson.
- Antiques*, issue of October 1945. Containing St. Augustine Antiques by Carita Doggett Corse, and Prince Murat House by Kenneth Dow.
- "The Landing of Ponce de Leon in Florida, 1513," by George A. Zabriskie, president, New York Historical Society. Donated by the author.
- A large collection of views and other pictures of Florida has been donated by Miss Nettie Caldwell of Waynesboro, Virginia. There are sixty-eight photographs taken about 1886: scenery, floral, phosphate works at Bone Valley and Dunnellon, St. Cloud cane fields, orange groves after the freeze, pine apple fields, a 4th of July celebration of 1887 at Ocala, etc. etc.
- Florida Highways*, Centennial number. Donated by Capt. E. E. Damkehrler, Fort Myers.

NEW MEMBERS

- Mrs. John Steele Porter, Jacksonville.
Walter S. Hardin, Bradenton.
Mrs. John A. Beals, Jacksonville.
Robert Angas, Jacksonville.
Lt. Com. Wm. Frank Evans, Sarasota.
Justin P. Havee, Miami.
Edward C. Williamson, Gainesville.
W. J. Winter, St. Augustine, (renewal).
Lucille A. Johnson, St. Augustine.
Dr. Annie Popper, Florida State College for Women,
Tallahassee.
- Lewis G. Scoggin, Tallahassee.
George W. McRory, Marianna.

Mrs. Wilbur Smith, Palm Beach.
J. William Decker, Fernandina.

Subscribers to the Quarterly
Jacksonville Junior College Library, Jacksonville.
Louisiana State University Library, Baton Rouge, La.

Contributors to this number

Stanley Faye attended the University of Chicago and the Faculte des Lettres de l'Universite de Toulouse. He is a corresponding member of the Academia Nacional de la Historia of Venezuela. He has contributed several articles to this *Quarterly* and to a number of other historical publications.

Mrs. Katherine E. Lawson is well known to all the history minded in Florida as librarian of the St. Augustine Historical Society. She has contributed several articles to this *Quarterly*.

Lillie B. McDuffee of Manatee, a former director of the Florida Historical Society, has written *Lures of Manatee*, a history of the Manatee region.

T. Frederick Davis, historian of Jacksonville, has contributed numerous articles to this *Quarterly* including our Ponce de Leon number which has long since been exhausted.

John M. Goggin, a Miamian, is Assistant in Research, Department of Anthropology, Peabody Museum, Yale University. He is engaged in archeological investigations in Florida, the results of which are now being prepared for the press.

Kenneth W. Porter is a member of the history department of Vassar College. He has contributed several articles to this *Quarterly* and numerous other historical publications.

To the reader:

If you are not a member of the Florida Historical Society you are cordially invited to come with us. There are no obligations except the annual dues of two dollars, and this includes the *Quarterly* which is sent to all members. Our headquarters and library are in St. Augustine, and our secretary and librarian is Mrs. Alberta Johnson.