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The Florida Historical Society: The annual meeting

Florida Historical Society
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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL MEETING

At the invitation of President Ellwood C. Nance, the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society was held at the University of Tampa on April 2 and 3. A number of members attended from a distance, even from Miami and Pensacola.

Nearly a score of research papers had been prepared and were read at four program sessions. These were:

"Inauguration of Governors of Florida." Written by Judge James B. Whitfield and read by T. T. Wentworth.

"The Yellow Pine: Its Saga." Luther King.

"Archaeology in the Florida Park Service." John W. Griffin.

"Governor William D. Bloxham's Closing Years." Ruby Leach Carson.

"John Mercer Brooke, Native Tampan." Harry P. Baya.

"Territorial Court of Leon County, 1825-1833." Daisy Parker.

"Great Enterprise and Little Moment at Pensacola, 1764-1767." Florence Glass Palmer.

"Historical Research in the Everglades Area." Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

"The Tampa Bay Hotel." C. Herbert Laub.

"Henry B. Plant and the Plant System." John C. Blocker.

"Tampa and her Eventful Years, 1824-1947." Mrs. Mitchell F. McKay.

"The First Phase of the East Florida Revolution, 1812-1813." Rembert W. Patrick.

"DeSoto Did Not Land at Shaw's Point." Walter Fuller.

"Early Arts and Crafts in Florida." Julia May Sampley.

"Napoleon B. Broward in Florida History." Sam Proctor.

"Wrecks of Spanish Plate Ships on Florida Shores." David O. True.

"An Author Reviews His Book, Sarasota Story."
Karl Grismer.

"Property Distribution in Florida Just Prior to the
Civil War." W. T. Cash.

The annual dinner was held at the Hillsboro hotel on the evening of April 2 with President Nance as toastmaster. There was an excellent exhibit of Floridiana at the University during the two days of the meeting. A meeting of the directors of the Society was held on the evening of April 1.

The annual business meeting of the Society, with the election of officers, followed the dinner. The Minutes and the report of the treasurer for the past year follow:

MINUTES - APRIL 2, 1947

After the annual dinner and before the business meeting, President Mark F. Boyd, as his presidential address, presented the report of the planning committee appointed in 1945.

On calling the meeting to order the roll call was dispensed with, in view of the registration of members present at the sessions, and a quorum being present, the meeting proceeded with Mrs. Alberta Johnson as secretary *pro tem*.

There being no corrections offered, the minutes of the last annual meeting of the Society were approved as published in the July 1946 **QUARTERLY**.

The report of the secretary-librarian was presented by Mrs. Johnson, and by motion, accepted. She also made a brief report on library activities, which included a paragraph from a letter received from the Oklahoma Historical Society's secretary: "In calling attention to a particular article, Mr. Evans writes: 'You will observe that I took close care to express the high value this institution places on such periodicals as come to us from other states' Historical Societies, or any institution of like kind. We rate your journal as of highest worth to us, because it brings a wealth of history into our possession. And at the same time, it affords us a measuring stick whereby we can raise the standard of our Oklahoma Chronicles.'"

Mrs. Johnson also presented the report of the treasurer, Mr. Manucy, and the report of the firm of commercial auditors was circulated. A motion was adopted accepting the report. The unsatisfactory trend in the Society's finances, which has been accentuated during the past year, caused extensive discussion, and the sentiment was quite general that an increase in the annual dues was imperative. Whereupon Mrs. Douglas presented the following amendments to articles I and II of the by-laws, which she had been instructed by the Board of Directors to prepare, as a resolution:

Whereas, the Board of Directors has recommended that the By-laws of the Florida Historical Society be amended, therefore be it resolved: That Article 1 of the By-laws be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows :

ARTICLE I.

1. There shall be two classes of membership, regular and special.
2. Regular membership shall be of the following-categories : Associate, Members, and Fellows. Members of affiliated local societies shall be designated as Associates, without any obligation to pay dues. Other classes of regular membership shall be on an annual basis, contingent on the payment of dues prescribed for the class. All applications for membership of members and fellows shall be endorsed by at least one member of the Society and shall be accompanied by the current year's dues.
3. Special members shall be of the following categories: Life, Honorary, Subscribing and Institutional.

Be it further resolved that Article II of the By-laws be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows :

ARTICLE II.

1. The dues of Members shall be \$4.00 a year, payable in advance.
2. The dues of Fellows shall be \$10.00 a year, payable in advance.
5. The *Quarterly* shall not be distributed to any member who is currently in arrears, or to any Associate or Honorary member who does not hold membership of another category. Any regular member who is one year in arrears in dues, after thirty days notice thereof, may be dropped from the roll of membership by the Board of Directors.
6. The above schedule of dues is effective at the beginning of the fiscal year March 1, 1947.
7. Institutional membership will be \$25.00, with the privilege of a regular member.

All paragraphs of Articles I and II of the By-laws in conflict, with this resolution are hereby repealed.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

A letter from Mr. Julien C. Yonge was read requesting the adoption of the following resolution:

"The Florida Historical Society in annual meeting expresses to Captain John W. Greenslade, Jr., U.S.N., our appreciation of, and our thanks for, the papers of the Panton, Leslie Company which were preserved by his mother, Marie Taylor Greenslade, a descendant of John Innerarity, the last surviving member of that firm. These will be a reminder of her deep interest in our State's history and of her long membership in the Society."

Mr. Yonge's resolution was unanimously adopted.

Next presented was the report of Mr. Lewis G. Scoggin, Director of the State Park Service, and chairman of the Society's archaeological committee, who explained the archaeological studies being prosecuted by Mr. Griffin for the Park Service, which was by motion accepted. On being queried as to how the Society could support the archaeology program, Mr. Scoggin suggested that the Florida Historical Society go on record as endorsing the proposed budget for the State Park Service for the next biennium. Whereupon the following motion was presented and adopted:

Whereas the purpose of the Florida Board of Forestry and Parks is to protect and conserve our state's natural forest resources and provide an adequate state park system for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of the state and its guests ; and

Whereas the state park system is financed wholly by state appropriations and park receipts,

Therefore be it resolved that :

The Florida Historical Society in regular convention assembled endorse the program proposed by the Florida Board of Forestry and Parks for the completion of capital improvements in and for proper operation of the existing state parks including the archaeology project, during the next biennium, and hereby urges the Legislature to appropriate the necessary funds to finance this program.

A further motion by Dr. Charles T. Thrift, Jr., seconded by Mr. Henry E. Grimes, directed that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor's office as well as to the State Legislature.

On motion of Dr. C. W. Tebeau, seconded by Mrs. Douglas, the incoming president was authorized to designate a member of the Society to serve on the advisory board of the Florida Board of Forestry and Parks for one year.

The president then introduced the report of the planning committee which he had previously read, and opened discussion of the report by sections, presenting the recommendation of the directors. As a result of this consideration the following motions were adopted:

A motion by Dr. C. W. Tebeau, and seconded by Mr. Wentworth, was adopted, expressing the opinion that the Society should not contemplate any immediate change in location.

A motion was adopted directing that the Society become a member of the Florida Library Association, and that the secretary be authorized to attend the meetings of the F.L.A. at the Society's expense.

A motion was adopted authorizing that any material in the Society's library which is not classified as unique and irreplaceable, be made available to historical students residing within the state, through inter-library loans, under rules to be approved by the directors on recommendation of the library committee, providing the borrowing library pays transportation charges both ways.

On motion of Dr. C. W. Tebeau, seconded by Mr. W. J. Winter, the incoming president was authorized to invite the local historical societies of the state to appoint a delegate to attend an early conference to devise a plan for federation of local societies with the Florida Historical Society, to organize others and to reactivate those now dormant.

A motion by Mrs. Douglas, seconded by Mr. T. L. Lesley, proposed that the Society initiate an intensive membership campaign, and to achieve this, that the counties be apportioned to the directors and that each director shall organize a county membership committee in each county assigned him, and that the secretary compile and furnish each director a list of the present membership by counties. The county committees will be expected to solicit new members in their respective counties. The motion was adopted.

A motion was adopted directing the secretary, in consultation with the treasurer, to prepare and submit for the consideration of the directors before the beginning of the following fiscal year, and annually thereafter, a budget outlining the conservatively estimated regular and special revenues of the society, and the anticipated regular and special expenditures, which shall not exceed

the estimated revenues for the same period, except that the directors may at their discretion increase any item by drawing on available reserve funds. After approval, by the directors, the officers of the society shall not incur expenses chargeable to any budget item in excess of the amount allocated, except with the approval of the directors, through authorized transfer of unexpended balances in other budget items.

A motion of Dr. C. W. Tebeau, seconded by Mrs. Douglas, was adopted accepting the report of the planning committee, and directing that portions not implemented at this meeting shall be filed for future consideration.

A motion was adopted directing the secretary to express the Society's thanks to Mr. Theodore Lesley and his program committee for the excellent program prepared, and to Dr. E. C. Nance for the hospitality of the University of Tampa.

In the absence of Mr. Richard P. Daniel, chairman of the nominating committee, Miss Dena Snodgrass presented the report of that committee as follows:

Officers:

president, Dr. Mark F. Boyd
 first vice-president, Colonel John B. Stetson, Jr.
 second vice-president, Dr. J. Webster Merritt
 secretary and treasurer, Mr. Albert C. Manucy
 corresponding secretary and librarian, Mrs. Alberta Johnson

Directors:

1st district, Dr. Ellwood C. Nance
 2nd district, Miss Dena Snodgrass
 3rd district, Mr. T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
 4th district, Mrs. Marjorie Stoneman Douglas
 5th district, Mr. W. J. Winter
 6th district, Mr. Marshall B. Wood
 at-large: Dr. Rembert W. Patrick
 Mr. Frank H. Elmore, Jr.
 Mr. W. T. Cash

Nominating chairman for 1948 election, Judge Bayard B. Shields

The president called for nominations from the floor, but none being tendered, a motion was adopted directing the secretary to cast the unanimous ballot of the Society for the above nominees.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.