

1949

Reports

Florida Historical Society
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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1949) "Reports," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 28 : No. 1 , Article 13.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol28/iss1/13>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

February 1, 1948 to April 1, 1949

Total paid members, February 1, 1948	715
New members, February 1, 1948 to April 1, 1949	124
Libraries	<u>4</u>
	843
Deaths	16
Resigned	32
Dropped for failure to pay dues	68
Moved, no forwarding address	<u>3</u>
Total loss of members	119
Total paid membership, April 1, 1949.....	724
Total increase in membership (with \$4.00 dues instead of \$2.00)	9

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

February 1, 1948 to April 1, 1949

Cash balance, February 1, 1948.....		\$2337.59
Receipts:		
Membership dues	\$2831.90	
State Library Board Fund.....	1950.00	
Sale of Quarterlys	125.00	
Sale of typewriter	35.00	
Accommodation books sold	31.00	
Refund	7.50	
Total receipts		<u>4980.50</u>
Total to be accounted for		\$7318.09
Expenditures:		
Printing five issues of <i>Quarterly</i>	\$2174.10	
Salary of Secretary	2100.00	
Accommodation books	76.00	
Typewriter	164.00	
Rent	475.00	
Taxes	1.41	
General expenses-postage, insurance, lights, telephone, office supplies, annual meeting, etc.	511.59	
Books	45.05	
Total expenditures		<u>\$5547.19</u>
Balance, April 1, 1949		<u>\$1770.90</u>
Statement of operating deficit, 1948-1949:		
Balance, February 1, 1948		<u>\$2337.59</u>
Balance, April 1, 1949		<u>1770.90</u>
Deficit for fourteen months		<u>\$ 566.60</u>
Statement of special funds, included in April 1, 1949, balance		
Robertson Memorial Fund	\$ 4.00	
Life membership fund	400.00	

Archaeology fund	57.78
Building fund	25.00
Total of special funds	\$ 486.78

BUDGET

April 1, 1949 to April 1, 1950

Estimated income:	
Balance, April 1, 1949	\$1770.90
Membership dues, 700 @ \$4; 20 @ \$10	3000.00
State Library Board Fund	1800.00
Sale of Quarterlys	75.00
<hr/>	
Total estimated income	\$6645.90
Estimated expenditures:	
Salary of Secretary	\$1800.00
Printing-four issues of Quarterly	2000.00
Rent	600.00
Annual meeting expense	100.00
Insurance	96.00
Telephone	100.00
Books	25.00
Postage and copyright	110.00
Freight and express	12.00
Post Office box rent	6.00
Electricity	17.50
Office supplies	50.00
Clipping service	36.00
Membership, Ass'n for Local History	5.00
Taxes	2.50
Contingencies	40.00
<hr/>	
Total estimated expenditures	\$5000.00
<hr/>	
Estimated balance, April 1, 1950	\$1645.90
Estimated deficit for 1949-1950:	
Balance, April 1, 1949	\$1770.90
Estimated balance, April 1, 1950	1645.90
<hr/>	
Deficit	\$ 125.00

Dr. Patrick moved the acceptance of these reports and commendation for the faithful and excellent services of Mrs. Alberta Johnson. Mr. Justin Havee seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous action.

In commenting on the membership report, Dr. Boyd emphasized the point that notwithstanding the membership drive the Society had done little more than hold its own. Mr. David True believed the report evidenced real achievement, for there was a net gain in membership in the year when dues had been doubled. Dr. Boyd called attention to the excellent achievements of Mrs. Ruby

Leach Carson and Mr. Samuel Proctor in securing members; and on the motion of Mr. John C. Blocker, the Society authorized the Corresponding Secretary to write appropriate letters of appreciation to Mrs. Carson and Mr. Proctor. The membership drive, Dr. C. W. Tebeau stated, should be continued, and moved that the incoming officers be authorized to continue the drive for new members. The motion received a second from Miss Snodgrass and was unanimously passed.

Although the Library Committee made no report, the Recording Secretary read the record of the Board of Directors meeting in which Mrs. Johnson mentioned the numerous and valuable contributions made to the library during the past year. The importance of the papers and books given by Mrs. J. A. Robertson, Mrs. H. H. Buckman, Mr. Frederick Dau, Mrs. James Hollister, and Mrs. Herbert Williams was so outstanding that upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, the Society authorized the Corresponding Secretary to write appropriate letters of appreciation to these individuals for their gifts.

The following proposed bill was reported by Mr. Blocker, Chairman of the Legislative Committee:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions of Florida to furnish to the Florida Historical Society, a non-profit organization of Florida, adequate floor space and facilities in connection therewith, rent free, in perpetuity, in some state-owned building located in the city of Tallahassee, Florida, for the housing of the library and collections of said Florida Historical Society, and for the purpose of using such space as an administration office and reading room, preferably in the new Supreme Court building.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective immediately upon its becoming law.

Dr. Boyd stated this proposed bill to be in accord with the plan accepted by the Society in 1947 at the annual meeting in Tampa. Dr. Tebeau moved, and Mr. Blocker seconded, that the Society adopt and endorse the proposed bill.

Mr. True objected to the selection of Tallahassee as headquarters because of the distance from South Florida and suggested Gainesville as a more central point. Dr.

Tebeau referred to the action of the Society in Tampa, and Dr. Boyd stated that space could be provided at this time in a state building in Tallahassee. After considerable discussion the motion was adopted.

On the motion of Dr. Tebeau, the Corresponding Secretary was instructed to circularize the members of the Society requesting and urging support for the proposed bill when it was introduced in the present legislature.

Mr. Blocker of the Legislative Committee introduced two proposed bills: one which would provide for the optional establishment of county historical commissions, and the other for keeping the state census returns. In the general discussion on these proposals, it was suggested that the state census was only one aspect of the problem of keeping the archives, and that all vital records should be kept in the State Library. In the opinion of Mr. Havee, the State Library should specialize on the keeping of the state archives and should make extensive use of microfilming. Dr. Boyd thought the Society should concentrate on the securing of quarters at this meeting of the State Legislature. Mr. Blocker agreed with Dr. Boyd and moved that the two proposed bills be carried over for discussion and action at some succeeding annual meeting. Mr. Havee seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Recording Secretary gave the favorable report of the Board of Directors on the following proposed amendments to the Charter and by laws of the Society:

That Article I, Section 3 of the by laws be altered to read, "Special members shall be of the following categories: Life, Honorary, Subscribing, Institutional, and Student."

That Section 8 be added to Article I of the by laws as follows: "A student membership shall be open to regularly enrolled students in high schools and colleges upon certification by a member of the faculty of the school or college wherein the applicant is enrolled. The dues for student members shall be \$2.00 per year."

That Article V of the Charter be amended by adding the following: "The president of the Society on his retirement from that office shall remain as a member of the Board of Directors for the following two years."

The proposed amendments to the By-laws and Charter were discussed separately and adopted.

The Corresponding Secretary read the following resolution as approved by the Board of Directors:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Florida Historical Society at its annual meeting of 1945 requested the University of Florida to establish and offer a course in Florida history; and

WHEREAS: the University offered this in September, 1945, and interest in this course has steadily increased until now it attracts an annual enrollment of more than three hundred students and has encouraged graduate work in Florida history resulting in an increased number of master's theses; and

WHEREAS: the University is earnestly gathering materials relating to Florida's past, and the full use of these cannot be realized without a research professorship in Florida history;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Florida Historical Society, in order to encourage the writing of our State's history, suggests and urges the University of Florida to establish such a professorship, similar to that in nearly all of the state universities of the other Southern states, to be known as the Julien C. Yonge Chair of Florida History.

On the motion of Mr. Havee, which was seconded by Mr. Blocker, the Society unanimously adopted the resolution as read.

The Corresponding Secretary read the following resolution as approved by the Board of Directors:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on March 4th, 1949, there appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* of that date an article written by Leigh White entitled "St. Augustine, Florida" and

WHEREAS, in this article Mr. White referred in a critical manner to a few places of uncertain historic value to which the public was invited upon the payment of an admission fee, and

WHEREAS, St. Augustine is the oldest city in the United States and is filled with places and stories of proved historic importance, and as such a city is of great value to the citizens of Florida, and especially to members of the Florida Historical Society, and

WHEREAS, while we deeply regret the impression spread abroad by the above article, we nevertheless feel that the criticism of improper representation of St. Augustine's history should be a warning to all lovers of the Oldest City and serve as an incentive to correct such misrepresentation whenever and wherever such conditions are found to exist.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Florida Historical Society at its annual meeting held in Miami on the 9th day of April, 1949, calls upon the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science, the St. Augustine Chamber of Commerce, and the City of St. Augustine to examine the adverse statements and implications presented in this article and if found to be true, to use sincere and earnest efforts to correct such misrepresentations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that copies of this Resolution be sent to the above referred to organizations, and to the St. Augustine *Evening Record*.

Miss Snodgrass moved the adoption of the resolution. After Mr. Havee seconded the motion, it was carried without dissent.

Dr. Boyd gave a summary of the meeting of the representatives of the Florida Historical Society and the local historical societies. Although no definite action was recommended, numerous proposals were made for a study of the problem. General opinion was in favor of the steps taken to bring cooperation and the desire for continued consideration was expressed. Dr. Tebeau moved that the incoming president of the Society appoint a committee to work with representatives of local historical societies of Florida to continue the work inaugurated by Dr. Boyd with the ultimate aim of drafting proposals to effectuate closer cooperation between the state and local historical societies. After receiving a second by Mr. Williamson, the motion was unanimously accepted.

In a general discussion of affairs of the Society, Dr. Boyd stated that the proposed monthly news releases had not been possible, but that Miss Snodgrass was preparing a series of two hundred historical questions and answers on Florida. This historical series would be a feature in the *Miami News* and would also be carried in the Perry newspapers of the State. Miss Snodgrass described the series of questions as simple ones which would attempt to stir historical interest. The motion of Dr. Tebeau and Mr. True of appreciation for and approval of Miss Snodgrass' plan and work was unanimously approved.

Dr. Boyd reported that the Lee Howard Company had made photostats of Florida historical documents, and that these were on display in the room. Although the intention had been to use these reproductions in the advertising campaigns of banks, the plan was being abandoned. The Lee Howard Company had made approximately one hundred copies of twenty-seven historical

documents, and the company would supply these to interested persons or institutions at a fraction of their costs.

After the conclusion of Dr. Boyd's remarks the following officers, directors, and committee members were elected:

President: Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau
1st Vice-President: Mr. Richard P. Daniel
2nd Vice-President: Dr. Webster Merritt
Recording Secretary: Dr. Rembert W. Patrick
Treasurer, Librarian, and Corresponding Secretary:
Mrs. Alberta Johnson

Directors:

District 2: Mr. Russell L. Frink of Jacksonville.
District 3: Dr. Dorothy Dodd of Tallahassee
District 4: Mr. Samuel C. Collier of Everglades.
District 6: Mrs. Henry Kohl of Palm Beach.
At-Large: Mr. G. G. Ware of Leesburg
At-Large: Mr. William I. Fee of Fort Pierce.

Nominations Committee for 1950:

Mrs. Ruby Leach Carson, chairman
Mr. W. T. Cash
Mrs. W. S. Manning
Mrs. T. M. McDuffee
Mr. Samuel Proctor

Expressions of appreciation for those responsible for the 1949 annual meeting in Miami were expressed. The Corresponding Secretary was authorized and instructed to write letters of thanks on behalf of the Society to Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, Chairman of the Program Committee, Mr. Arthur Griffith, President of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, Mr. Joseph M. Cheetham, President of Miami Pioneers Society, Dr. Bowman F. Ashe, President of the University of Miami, and the manager of the McAllister Hotel.

Dr. Boyd declared the 1949 annual meeting adjourned at 2:00 P. M.

REMBERT W. PATRICK
Recording Secretary

Approved:

CHARLTON W. TEBEAU
President

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 7, 1949, McALLISTER HOTEL, MIAMI

The meeting was called to order by President Mark F. Boyd at 8:20 P. M. with Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. McDuffee, Mr. Patrick, Miss Snodgrass, Mr. Tebeau, and Mr. Worcester present.

The minutes of the preceding meeting of the Board of Directors were approved as printed in the **QUARTERLY**.

Mrs. Johnson presented the membership report (attached No. 1) which was accepted for presentation at the annual business meeting of the Society. The report of the treasurer (attached No. 2) was then presented. Miss Snodgrass requested an explanation of the \$1.41 paid for taxes, and Mrs. Johnson stated this tax was for two lots owned by the Society. Since these lots were a drain on the funds of the Society, Mrs. Johnson was requested to find the value of them, the possibility of sale, and the right of the Society to sell the lots. On the motion of Mr. Patrick, seconded by Mr. Worcester, the treasurer's report was approved. Expression of gratitude for the services of Mrs. Johnson were made and it was agreed that some commendation should be noted for her work in presenting the treasurer's report to the Society. On a motion by Miss Snodgrass, which was seconded by Mr. Worcester, the travel fare and living expense of Mrs. Johnson for the annual meeting of 1949 were ordered to be paid by the Society. The budget for the coming year (attached No. 3) was read and explained by Mrs. Johnson. The motion of Mrs. Carson approving the budget was accepted.

There were no reports from the library, finance, membership, and archaeology committees. Mrs. Johnson enumerated the large number of gifts to the library and called special attention to those of Mrs. H. H. Buckman, Mr. Frederick Dau, Mr. James Hollister, Mrs. J. A. Robertson, and Mrs. Herbert Williams. Miss Snodgrass moved that the Board of Directors recommend to the annual meeting of the Society the writing of special letters of appreciation to the donors. This was unanimously accepted.

Although there was no report from Mr. Richard P. Daniel, chairman of the state-wide membership drive, brief statements were received from the various directors. Mrs. Carson met her quota of three members for each member in Collier County and Mr. Samuel Proctor sent in from Alachua County one-third (35) of the total number of new members which joined the Society during the past year. It was agreed that a recommendation for special recognition for Mrs. Carson and Mr. Proctor be made to the Society.

Dr. Boyd read the report of the Legislative Committee which included drafts of three proposed bills. The first proposed bill was the outgrowth of the decision of the Society in 1947 annual meeting at Tampa to request rent free space for its library and headquarters in some state building in Tallahassee. Dr. Boyd reported on his efforts to have the bill introduced in the Florida House of Representatives and Senate, and read a copy of the letter which he had forwarded to Governor Warren. On a motion by Mrs. Carson, which was seconded by Mr. Worcester, the Board approved the proposed bill and a resolution urging members of the Society to write to their representatives and senators in support of the same.

Two other drafts of proposed bills, (attached No. 4) one to establish county historical commissions and the other to preserve the state census returns, were discussed. It was agreed that the first should be reported to the Society unfavorably and the second reported with no comment.

Dr. Boyd presented a resolution which requested the University of Florida to establish a research professorship in Florida history to be known as the Julien C. Yonge Chair of Florida History. (The resolution and statements of purpose are attached as No. 5). Miss Snodgrass' motion for approval of the resolution for report to the Society was seconded by Mrs. Carson, and passed.

PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION

The state of Florida has a unique place in the history of the United States and of North America. No other state of the Federal Union has the historic past of Florida, with its early explorations and settlements, its revolutions and counter-revolutions. Florida was the scene of great imperial conflicts among the powers of Western Europe, was the locale of struggles for independence, and, after attaining self-government, remained the national potential link between American and Latin-American cultures.

Historic Florida has as great if not greater rights to recognition as have the other states. Studies of the social, economic, and political past of Florida can make our citizens more culturally unified, help our government to avoid a repetition of mistakes made in the past, and bring economic advantages to a state which attracts millions of tourists.

The Florida Historical Society holds that the study, research, and writing of Florida history should be given more encouragement. The Society is cognizant of the contributions which the University of Florida has made in the field of Florida history, such as the establishment of the P. K. Yonge Memorial Library of Florida History, the collection of historical records, and the directing of a large number of masters' theses. The Florida Historical Society has been encouraged by the cooperation of the University in acting so quickly on the Society's recommendation to institute courses in Florida history. The fact that these classes in Florida history now have a total annual enrollment of more than 300 students has justified the Society's belief in a widespread latent interest in the history of the state.

Notwithstanding its record of past achievement, the University of Florida should do even more to encourage the study of state history. Its leadership should be of such nature as to further develop undergraduate and graduate study, research, and writing, and prepare a base for Florida history in grammar and secondary schools. As one method of accomplishing these purposes, the other states of the South have established research professorships. The emphasis which Virginia, Maryland, and South Carolina have given to state history is well-known. Within the last decade the universities of North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana State, and Alabama Polytechnic Institute have created special chairs of state history. Since Florida has a longer history than any of the other Southern states and since the state of Florida does provide considerable funds for research in political science, the Florida Historical Society in annual meeting strongly recommends the establishment of a chair of Florida history at the University of Florida, the incumbent of which should be charged with

the direction of under-graduate studies and graduate research in Florida history, and should be allowed some time, perhaps half-time, for research and writing in Florida and Southern history.

Dr. Boyd introduced a resolution relating to the *Saturday Evening Post* article on St. Augustine (attached No. 6). After a general discussion, the motion was seconded and passed.

Although stating that Mr. Julien Yonge's term as editor of the QUARTERLY did not end until June, Dr. Boyd suggested the election of an editor at this meeting of the Board. Without exception everyone spoke of the contribution which Mr. Yonge has made to the Society during his long years of service. Dr. Boyd felt that Mr. Yonge should have help in his work, and reported that Mr. Yonge intended to appoint an assistant editor. Dr. Boyd's statement that "Julien C. Yonge is the heart of the Florida Historical Society" was the consensus of the directors. Mr. Yonge was unanimously re-elected editor of the QUARTERLY for a three year term beginning in June 1949. Attention was also directed to the services of Mrs. Johnson who had served the Society so faithfully and well as Librarian and Corresponding Secretary. How she had assumed the additional duty of treasurer, and how she had worked with practically no vacation in the last six years. Dr. Boyd expressed the opinion that the best method of appreciation would be by an increased salary, but because of the financial condition of the Society only heart-felt thanks could be given to Mrs. Johnson.

Mr. Worcester and Mr. Patrick introduced proposals for amending the Charter and By-laws of the Society; one to place each retiring president on the Board of Directors for two years, and the other to establish a student membership. The Recording Secretary was instructed to prepare and present these proposals to the annual meeting.

Dr. Boyd made several reports which included a description of the Lee Howard Company's, reproduction of historical documents, the abandonment of the proposed monthly news release, the question and ans-

wers on Florida history being composed by Miss Snodgrass, and the afternoon meeting on state and local historical societies. It was agreed that this information should be presented to the annual meeting with recommendations of approval for the work of Miss Snodgrass and the continuation of the study and drafting of proposals to effectuate closer cooperation between state and local societies.

In reply to a question by Miss Snodgrass, it was agreed that the Librarian should cooperate with local exhibitions of responsible parties by loaning material from the library. Discretion, however, should be used as to the type of material loaned, and the conditions under which display would be made should be considered by the Librarian. On the problem of the Society's backing for a commemorative coin, it was agreed that no action should be taken to sponsor such a project.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 P. M.

REMBERT W. PATRICK

Recording Secretary

Approved:

CHARLTON W. TEBEAU

President

OUR NEW OFFICERS

President Charlton W. Tebeau, head of the history department of the University of Miami where he has taught for the past ten years, received his Ph. D. degree from the University of Iowa. Evidencing his keen and long-held interest in Florida's history: he was a charter member of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, and for the past three years has been editor of *Tequesta*, the outstanding publication of that association. With his continuous assistance in building up the Florida history section of the University's library, that will ere long be one of the most important libraries of Florida history.

As chairman of the committees on arrangements and program, the success of our annual meeting in April last

was largely due to him. As our president, the Society will continue the growth and usefulness which has marked the three terms of Dr. Boyd.

Our new director from District 6 is *Mrs. Henry Kohl* of Palm Beach who has long been a member of the Society. Her historical interests include the Daughters of the American Revolution, in which she has held state and local offices. It was during her term as Regent of the Seminole Chapter of that organization that a marker was placed by that chapter at Juno on the site of the former Dade county court house. Juno, the southern terminus of the famed "celestial railroad" was the county-seat of Dade for a number of years in the last century. *Mrs. Kohl* plans to broaden the Society's activities in her district through local societies.

Mr. Russell L. Frink, elected a director of the Society from District 2, is a native of Jasper. A graduate of Washington and Lee University, he is now a lawyer of Jacksonville. He has held numerous offices in local and statewide associations, social, governmental, and philanthropic, and is now an official of several of these, including the chairmanship of Florida Railroad Association. An active member of the Jacksonville Historical Society, he has long been a member of our Society also.

Mr. William I. Fee, elected as one of our directors from the state-at-large, has been a business man of Fort Pierce since 1904. Now retiring from his various business enterprises and from some of his public activities, he is gathering material for a history of the Indian River region, in which he has been interested for nearly half a century. One of his important public works has been mosquito and sand fly control in which he was a pioneer and has served as president of the Florida Anti-mosquito Association for two terms. He has been made a life director of the Indian River Citrus League, and life member of several local organizations of which he has served as president. He has been a member of our Society for twenty-five years.

Mr. Samuel C. Collier was elected a director from

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District 4. A native of Memphis, he is a son of Barron G. Collier whose works in Florida are well-known to us all. He is a graduate of Yale, is a veteran of World War II, and is one of those who are continuing the work of his father in Florida.

Elected a director from the state-at-large is *Mr. G. G. Ware*, a native of Bradford county who has been a banker of Leesburg since 1909. Besides the presidency of the First National Bank he directs or is interested in several business enterprises. Mr. Ware is a past president of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce as well as of the Florida Bankers Association, and has been president of other regional and local organizations. He has an especial interest in the development of Florida's forest resources and is chairman of the Forestry Committee of the Florida Bankers Association. He has been a member of our Society for nearly twenty years, and is much interested in the history of central Florida.

AN ASSISTANT EDITOR OF THE QUARTERLY

Our by-laws provide that the editor of the **QUARTERLY** may appoint members of a staff. Under this provision Edward C. Williamson has been appointed Assistant Editor. Mr. Williamson is a graduate of the University of Florida where he majored in history and received an M.A. degree. His thesis was a biography of Wilkinson Call. He has completed his academic work for the Ph.D degree at the University of Pennsylvania and is now writing his dissertation which relates to Florida history from Reconstruction to the end of the century. An instructor of Florida history at the University of Florida, he is also a part-time collector of Florida historical manuscripts for the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University.

Mr. Williamson is a veteran of World War II in which he served as an artillery captain on the Western Front and took part in the battles of Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland. He holds the Croix de Guerre, Bronze Star with two oak-leaf clusters, and the Presidential Unit Citation.