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The Florida Historical Society

Florida Historical Society
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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Due to the recent cut in all expenditures of the State, the appropriation which the State has given the Society since 1941 through the State Library Board has been suspended temporarily, hence this issue of the QUARTERLY is smaller than usual, as was the last issue. It is expected that ere the next number goes to press we shall receive this grant again and be enabled to resume our former size.

This issue marks the twenty-fifth year of the present editorship of the QUARTERLY, as the first number was that for January 1925. It recalls to mind the continuous encouragement and support the members have given the Society and the QUARTERLY during this period, even through the years of the depression when the dues must have been a real sacrifice to many. It is pleasing to the editor to remember that the criticism which he often asked for was always given as helpful suggestions. He is grateful for that and for all.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF 1950

At the invitation of the University of Florida the Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society will be held at the University in Gainesville on April 13, 14, and 15. The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday evening the 13th; there will be historical programs throughout Friday, with the annual dinner on Friday evening. A program meeting on Saturday will be followed by the annual business meeting and election of officers at noon. Professor Rembert W. Patrick is General Chairman, and Edward C. Williamson is Program Chairman.

The programs have largely been planned and will be interesting as well as historical. Gainesville is centrally located and can be reached from much of the State in a few hours, so a large attendance is hoped for, especially of members at the business meeting. The P. K. Yonge Library of Florida His-

tory, a division of the University Library, is an attraction to the history-minded. The growing interest in Florida history at the University makes it a stimulating place to meet, and we have not met there since 1936. Your friends will be welcome at all except the brief business meeting, during which they may visit the Florida State Museum which is the outstanding museum of the Southeast. Will you not be with us.

CHARLTON W. TEBEAU, *President*

The following correspondence is included in the QUARTERLY for the information of the members of the Society and for their consideration. No other proposals have yet been received, but at least one is expected.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE

November 2, 1949

Dr. C. W. Tebeau, President
The Florida Historical Society
Box 344, Miami University Branch
Coral Gables, Florida

Dear Dr. Tebeau:

Almost a century has passed since the Florida Historical Society was established as a custodian and interpreter of the history of the State of Florida. Though the historical societies in most of the other states have had generous governmental support, the Florida Historical Society, with little state aid, has published a quarterly journal and maintained a library of *Floridiana*. This outstanding record is a tribute to the selfless interest and initiative of past and present members of the Society.

The University of Florida is cognizant of the contribution which the Society has made and realizes the financial burden involved in publishing a quarterly, housing a library, and employing a librarian. For many

years the University has desired to assist in the work of the Florida Historical Society. In fact, this wish for a part in the endeavors of the Society led to a premature offer after World War I when the facilities of the University were not adequate for proper service. Now, however, the University has adequate facilities to offer the Society, faculty members and students who have demonstrated their interest in the history of Florida, and a University Press for publication of contributions to knowledge.

On October 15, 1949, the Board of Control authorized the University of Florida to extend the Florida Historical Society an invitation and the following offer: (1) Permanent and rent-free space in the new, air-conditioned University Library building for the library and collections of the Society; (2) An annual grant of \$2000.00 for the purposes of paying one-half of the yearly printing costs of the *QUARTERLY* and for such other expenses as are necessary for the functioning of the Society; (3) The editorial services of a qualified member of the University staff for editing the *QUARTERLY*.

The University of Florida makes this offer in the belief that acceptance of it by the Florida Historical Society will be advantageous to the people of Florida. The University does not now, and will not in the future, place limitations on the freedom and activity of the Society. On the contrary the Society will have sole charge of its library and be responsible for the employment and supervisions of a librarian, while the University supplies housing for the library. The University does ask that an annual report, directed to the Committee on University Libraries of the University of Florida, be made on the expenditure of the \$2000.00 annual grant. The University will consider for possible acceptance any limitation or stipulation which the Society may wish to include in a mutual agreement.

The facilities of the Society's library would be useful to our students and faculty and would stimulate the study and writing of Florida history. The University

of Florida is working toward the establishment of a great center for the study of Florida history, and the location of the Society on the University campus would be of great aid in the realization of this project.

As President of the University of Florida, it affords me great pleasure to extend this invitation and offer to the Florida Historical Society.

Sincerely yours,
[signed] J. HILLIS MILLER,
President

FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

November 7, 1949

President J. Hillis Miller
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

Dear President Miller:

In behalf of the Florida Historical Society, I wish to thank you for your letter of November 2, offering aid in the solution of our financial problems. You have very correctly stated our difficulty. Our principal activities and services are the maintenance of library service and the publication of the *QUARTERLY*. Our income from memberships will finance only one of the major activities.

We shall present the University of Florida's proposal to the Board of Directors and to the membership as early as reasonably possible, probably at the next annual meeting of the Society at the University of Florida in the Spring of 1950. There will be other proposals, but it is a great comfort to know that we shall not be compelled to curtail the program of services we aspire to provide.

The terms you propose seem to me very reasonable, as well as indicating an awareness of the desirability that the Society retain a large measure of responsibility for the work of the organization. Past experience indi-

cates that where historical commissions or academic institutions assume complete responsibility the membership is likely to become less interested and less active. The terms you suggested seem to offer a happy compromise that will be mutually beneficial to the Society and the University, both of which represent the public interest in this matter.

Thank you again for this very practical proposal. Please do not be impatient if we seem slow to act in this matter. It is of critical importance to us, and we shall act only after thorough and careful consideration and the approval of the membership.

Sincerely yours,
[signed] C. W. TEBEAU, *President*
Florida Historical Society

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE

November 10, 1949

My dear Dr. Tebeau:

I greatly appreciate your very prompt reply to my recent letter tendering the Florida Historical Society a home on our campus. We understand, of course, that it will be necessary for this proposal to clear through the customary channels. We shall await the action of your Board of Directors and membership with a great deal of interest.

With kind regards, I am

[signed] Very sincerely yours,
J. HILLIS MILLER
President

DR. C. W. TEBEAU, *President*
Florida Historical Society