

1952

The Florida Historical Society

Florida Historical Society
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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL MEETING

We gathered in Jacksonville for our Annual Meeting on April 25 and 26 at the invitation of the Jacksonville Historical Society. The reputation of our hosts for hospitality was even added to, and our numerous members who came from a distance were much pleased with the arrangements and de historical programs.

The general chairmen were Mr. Frank H. Elmore Jr., president of the local society, and Miss Dena Snodgrass, its treasurer; and chairmen and members of the other committees who assisted were officials and members of that society. Our president, Mr. Richard P. Daniel, presided at the opening session and at the annual dinner. Presiding at the other sessions were Mr. John C. Blocker, later elected our president, Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, our immediate past president, and Mr. Elmore.

THE PROGRAM

April 25, Morning Session

Invocation - Dr. L. Valentine Lee

Addresses of Welcome - Hon. Haydon Burns, Mayor of Jacksonville; Frank H. Ehnore, President, Jacksonville Historical Society

Recent Developments in Historic Preservation - Frederick L. Rath, Jr. Director, National Council for Historic Sites, Washington, D. C.

Historical Letters, A Hobby - Dr. C. Herbert Laub, University of Tampa

Anti-Florida Propaganda During the Boom - Dr. Frank B. Sessa, Director of Libraries, City of Miami

Noon Session

Local societies of Florida, by their representatives

Afternoon Session

St. Augustine During the Confederacy - Omega East, National Park Service, St. Augustine

The Fatio Family, A Book Review - Walter C. Hartridge, Savannah

Preserving 'Tarheel' History - Dr. Christopher Crittenden, Director, Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina

Florida's Preservation of Historical Source Materials - Dr. Dorothy Dodd, Florida State Librarian, Tallahassee

The Annual Dinner

Florida in the Election of 1876 -Watt P. Marchman, Director, The Hayes Memorial Library, Freemont, Ohio

Saturday Morning Session

Manifestations of Confederate Nationalism by Governor Milton - Dr. John E. Johns, John B. Stetson University

Did the Madison Administration Issue Secret Orders to General George Matthews to Incite the Patriot War in East Florida? - Dr. Paul Kruse, Librarian, Rollins College

Letters of Pedro Menendez de Aviles - Joseph Redlinger, Jacksonville

Many of the papers, or synopses of them, written especially for the Annual Meeting, covering various periods, events, and aspects of Florida's past, will be published in early issues of the *Quarterly*.

Miss Audrey Broward of the Jacksonville Public Library arranged an exhibit of Floridiana which added much to the historical interest of the meeting. Sessions were at the George Washington Hotel, and all were well attended. In addition to

our large Jacksonville membership, many of our members came from various parts of the State, among whom were:

Miami

Mrs. Ruby Leach Carson
Charlton W. Tebeau
Justin P. Havee
Frank B. Sessa
Adam G. Adams

St. Petersburg

John C. Blocker
Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Fuller

Tallahassee

Dr. and Mrs. Mark F. Boyd
Miss Mary Lewis
Mrs. John Henderson
Dr. Dorothy Dodd

Daytona Beach

Mrs. John E. Hebel
Mrs. C. E. Strickland

St. Augustine

David R. Dunham
Mrs. Andrew J. Moulds
Albert C. Manucy

Lakeland

Charles T. Thrift, Jr.

DeLand

John E. Johns

Cuthbert, Georgia

Mrs. Emilio Suarez

Fremont, Ohio

Watt P. Marchman

Okeechobee

Mrs. J. T. Hancock

Fort Pierce

W. I. Fee

Tampa

C. H. Laub
James W. Covington

Winter Haven

Mrs. C. H. Walsh

Gainesville

R. W. Patrick
Mrs. P. F. Skofield
J. E. Dovell
Freeman H. Hart
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Hildreth
Mr. and Mrs. Ripley P. Bullen
Sam Proctor
George R. Bentley
Mrs. M. A. Johnson

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

George Washington Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida, April 26, 1952

President Richard P. Daniel declared a quorum present and called the Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Historical Society to order at 11:55 A.M.

At the request of the President, the Recording Secretary summarized the proceedings of the Board of Directors meeting of April 24. There were five continuing orders of business, the Secretary reported, that should be of general interest to the members at large. In the first place the Directors were anxious to secure an author, subject, and content index of the *Quarterly*. Several attempts had been made during the year to find a way

to accomplish this purpose, but none had been successful. It was difficult to secure the personnel for the important task, but the Directors would continue their efforts and hoped that the indexing would be initiated before the next annual meeting. The second concern of the Board was the serious decrease in membership of the Society. The Directors urged each member to secure at least one new member during the coming year. There are three classes of memberships available to individuals: the \$4 regular, the \$10 contributing-fellow, and the \$100 life memberships. Individuals who become life members are assured that their payments would be placed in the trust fund of the Society and only the income would be used for the current expenses of the organization. In addition to the \$4 and \$10 memberships, annual \$25 or more, institutional memberships are available to libraries and business firms.

In the opinion of the Board, the membership of the Society might be enlarged and the study of Florida history be promoted by closer ties between organized local historical societies and the state organization. With this end in view the incoming officers and directors are urged to investigate ways and means of achieving better relationships and the incoming president is authorized to appoint a committee to study the problem and submit a report to the Board of Directors.

At the request of the Board, Mr. Blocker, Miss Snodgrass, and Mr. Barfield had collected the by-laws of the Society and were working on a general revision of the charter and by-laws. This work would be continued, and on completion, would be submitted to the Directors for approval. If approved, the charter and by-laws would be printed in the *Quarterly* and would be presented to the 1953 annual meeting for its consideration and action.

The fifth problem that had confronted the Directors was the sale of lots owned by the Society in De Leon Springs and Ponce

de Leon Heights. Mr. Dunham was ascertaining the value of the lots and seeking a buyer. If this real estate was sold, the money secured would be placed in the trust fund of the Society.

As authorized by the charter and by-laws, the Board elected the editor of the *Quarterly* for the three-year term beginning in June 1952. Julien C. Yonge was unanimously reelected editor; and, as suggested by Mr. Yonge, Rembert W. Patrick was elected associate editor.

The Recording Secretary reported that the Directors had discussed the feasibility of offering fellowships to encourage research in Florida history. On December 7, 1945, the Directors of the Society had adopted a report favoring the granting of \$2300 fellowships whenever there was sufficient money to provide a three-year grant. Although there were no funds available, the Directors urged the annual meeting to reaffirm its interest in the fellowships.

Mr. Boyd thought the project should be kept before the Society with the expectation that sooner or later means would be forthcoming. Fellowships of from twelve to eighteen hundred dollars per year for three years, the usual time required to earn a doctorate, would be sufficient to attract able students. It was obvious that the Society could not finance even one fellowship from its current income or hope to create a fund from a non-existent annual surplus. There were, however, two other possibilities. If a generous patron of the Society would establish an endowment of from \$40,000 to \$60,000, the income from such an endowment would provide for one continuing fellowship. A second, more hopeful alternative was to seek one or more patrons who would contribute or pledge from \$3600 to \$5400 to provide one \$1200 or \$1800 fellowship for a period of three years. It would be easier to obtain the small gift than the large endowment. Once the Society initiated the fellowships, it could more readily dem-

onstrate its fitness to discharge such a responsibility, and should the first fellow develop into a promising scholar and produce an excellent dissertation, the soundness of the program would be apparent, and support for additional individual fellowships, or contributions toward an endowment, could be more easily obtained. In view of the important potentialities of the fellowship idea, Mr. Boyd stated that it should not be forgotten but should be resubmitted to the Society at frequent intervals. He, therefore, moved that the Society re-affirm its support of a fellowship program to encourage research in Florida history and renew its determination to inaugurate such a program whenever funds became available. Mr. Dunham seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

The Recording Secretary presented the following annual report of the Treasurer, Mrs. Johnson:

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - APRIL 1, 1951-APRIL 1, 1952

Balance: April 1, 1951		\$ 345.00
Receipts:		
Membership dues	\$2,014.70	
St. Augustine Historical Society	25.00	
Life Memberships	300.00	
Sale of Quarterlys	61.55	
Books sold	44.50	
Wenner-Gren Foundation, for illustrations in Quarterly	53.52	
Interest (First Federal Building & Loan)	3.75	
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Total receipts		\$2,503.02
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Total to be accounted for		\$2,848.02
Disbursements:		
Printing of Quarterlys, 5 issues	\$1,917.55	
Other printing & supplies	39.52	
Florida Clipping Service	6.10	
Copyrights	16.00	
Annual Meeting expense	34.87	
Taxes	1.27	
Books, subscriptions, & dues	30.73	

General expenses: postage, express, box rent, bank charges	74.73	
Total disbursements		\$2,120.27
Balance, April 1, 1952		\$ 727.75
Location of balance		
Barnett National Bank (Jacksonville)	\$ 18.60	
Florida Bank at Gainesville	405.40	
Total checking accounts	\$ 424.00	
First Federal Building & Loan (Gainesville)	303.75	
Total	\$ 727.75	
Endowment Fund		
Paper balance, April 1, 1952	\$ 786.78	
Actual fund (First Federal)	303.75	
Deficit		\$ 483.03

Mr. Boyd moved the acceptance and approval of the Treasurer's report. Mr. Havee seconded the motion and it received unanimous approval.

The following proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1952, was presented:

PROPOSED BUDGET - APRIL 1, 1952-APRIL 1, 1953		
Cash balance, checking accounts, April 1, 1952		\$ 424.00
Estimated income		
Membership dues	\$2,100.00	
Sale of Quarterlys	50.00	
Registration fees	50.00	
Interest from Endowment Fund	9.00	
Total estimated income		\$2,209.00
Total available funds		\$2,633.00
Estimated Expenses:		
Printing of Quarterlys	\$2,000.00	
Equipment	75.00	
Copyrights	16.00	
Annual Meeting expense	50.00	
Supplies	50.00	
Memberships	8.00	
General expense (postage, P.O. box rent, express, etc.)	100.00	

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Repayment to Endowment Fund	100.00	
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Total estimated expenses		\$2,399.00
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Estimated balance, April 1, 1953		\$234.00

Mr. Elmore moved the adoption of the proposed budget. Mr. Blocker seconded the motion, and the budget was unanimously accepted.

The report on membership was disheartening. As of April 1, 1951, there were 683 members in the Society. During the following twelve months, 22 had resigned, 62 had been dropped for failure to pay their dues, and 19 had passed away. To compensate for this loss of 103 members, only 31 new members have been admitted to the Society. The net loss for the year was approximately 10 per cent.

Mr. Boyd regretted that 19 members had passed away in one year. He thought that a list of these deceased members should be printed in the *Quarterly*. Mrs. Johnson stated that it had been and still was the policy of Mr. Yonge to publish obituary notices in the *Quarterly*.

President Daniel urged the members present to work industriously in securing new members for the Society and requested each one to act as an individual committee for the purpose of contacting prospective members. He asked all the members present at the annual meeting who would try to secure at least one new member during the year to rise and pledge themselves to the task. The response to his plea was unanimous. Mr. Havee requested that a list of the names and addresses of delinquent members be given to the directors. If the directors would write or telephone the delinquent members in their district, he believed the results would be gratifying. He had found through experience that a number of individuals simply overlooked the paying of their dues, but when it was brought to their attention, they readily renewed their memberships.

President Daniel stated that the Board of Directors would select the place of the 1953 annual meeting. He requested that invitations be extended as quickly as possible. Mr. Boyd declared that he would urge the Tallahassee Historical Society to extend an invitation to the Society to meet in Tallahassee. Mr. Thrift invited the Society to meet at Lakeland. Mr. Patrick reported that an invitation had been extended by the Miami Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Walter Fuller, chairman of the Nominations Committee, reported the following nominations:

President, John C. Blocker

1st Vice President, Charles T. Thrift, Jr.

2nd Vice President, J. Velma Keen

Honorary Vice President, John B. Stetson, Jr.

Recording Secretary, Rembert W. Patrick

Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Librarian, Mrs. M. A. Johnson

Directors:

1st Congressional District, Walter P. Fuller

3rd Congressional District, T. T. Wentworth, Jr.

5th Congressional District, John E. Johns

7th Congressional District, Karl A. Bickel

Nominations Committee:

Mrs. Ruby L. Carson, Chairman

Richard P. Daniel

David R. Dunham

Mark F. Boyd

Theodore L. Lesley

President Daniel asked for nominations from the floor. When no additional nominations were made, Mrs. W. S. Manning moved that the nominations be closed and that the Recording Secretary cast the ballot for the officers, directors, and nomina-

tions committee members as reported. Mr. Havee seconded the motion. The motion was passed, and the Secretary cast the ballot as directed.

President Daniel thanked the officers, directors, and members of the Florida Historical Society for their support during his term of office. They had made his year a most pleasant one, and he was delighted to turn over the presidency to a man who has enthusiasm, courage, ability, and perseverance.

Mr. Daniel retired and President Blocker assumed the chair. He thanked Mr. Daniel for his remarks, expressed the pleasure he had experienced while working with Mr. Daniel, and brought greetings to the Society from St. Petersburg and the Blocker family. He was distressed and alarmed by the loss of membership during the past year. He promised that he would work to increase the membership of the Society, to create additional local historical societies, and bring them in close accord with the state society. He believed the Florida Historical Society should identify itself with some good cause. In his opinion such a cause would be encouraging the study of Florida history in the primary and intermediate grades and in the high schools. He knew that among the members of the Florida Historical Society there were individuals who had the talent to write the necessary textbooks and to get these textbooks accepted by the public schools. President Blocker asked for support from the members of the Society and promised that he would work industriously to promote the welfare of the organization.

Mr. Tebeau moved that the Recording Secretary be instructed to write a letter of appreciation to Mr. Richard P. Daniel for his services as President of the Society. Mr. Havee seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. Mr. Boyd moved that the Secretary be instructed to draft letters of appreciation to Mr. Elmore, Miss Snodgrass, the Jacksonville Historical Society, and

the management of the George Washington Hotel for their work in making the 1952 meeting a success. Mr. Bentley seconded the motion, and it was so ordered. Mr. Havee introduced Mr. Adam G. Adams, President of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, and President Blocker welcomed him in the name of the Florida Historical Society.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Blocker at 12:40 P.M.

RICHARD P. DANIEL
President

REMBERT W. PATRICK
Recording Secretary

THE SOCIETY'S NEW OFFICIALS

John C. Blocker, our president, is an attorney of St. Petersburg of which he is a native. Both of his grandfathers were officers in the Confederate Army. He was educated at Georgia Military Academy, Washington and Lee University, the University of Florida, and Cumberland University where he received his law degree. He is a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of Florida and of the United States, and was County Attorney of Pinellas County for more than two decades. He served in France as an officer in World War I and took part in the St. Mihiel and Argonne offensives.

For many years President Blocker has been interested in the history of Florida and especially of Pinellas County, of which he was appointed County Historian; he is also a Director of the St. Petersburg Historical Society, and has collected extensive material for a history of the area. He has served on our Board of Directors and as Vice President.

Charles T. Thrift Jr., vice president, is a native of Virginia, a graduate of Duke University and the University of Chicago, where he received his Ph.D. degree and was a fellow in church history. He has been Professor of Religion in Florida Southern College since 1940 and vice-president since 1946. Among his writings is "The Trail of the Florida Circuit Rider." He has long

been interested in Florida's history and has served on our Board of Directors.

J. Velma Keen, vice president, is a native of Georgia but has lived in Florida most of his life. He has the degrees of A.B. and LL.B. from the University of Florida. While practicing law at Sarasota he was chairman of the County Board of Public Instruction, State Attorney, and a Representative in the Legislature. Moving to Tallahassee he has been Assistant Attorney General, a member of the State Advisory Council on Education, and chairman, Continuing Educational Council; and has served on other local and statewide boards. He was formerly a director of our Society.

Walter P. Fuller, our director from the 1st district, a native of Bradenton, is a graduate of the University of North Carolina where he specialized in history and literature. He has lived in St. Petersburg most of his life, engaged in real estate, newspaper, and public utility activities. He has been a member of the Florida House of Representatives and its Chief Clerk, and has held several local offices. His interest in history has continued from his college days and he has been a member of our Society for many years, having served a previous term as a director.

T. T. Wentworth Jr., director from the 3rd district, is a native of Mobile, Alabama, but has lived nearly all of his life in Pensacola, where he has been a merchant, and County Commissioner and Tax Collector of Escambia County. He is now a realtor but devotes part of his time to Pensacola and Florida history, making numerous addresses and radio talks on the subject and has an extensive collection of historical material. He has served a former term on our Board of Directors.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BLOCKER

To each member: In greeting you individually, may I not express the hope that you will join with me and the Directors

in working for four objectives: (1) We must increase the membership of our Society; (2) Our State's history should be taught in more of our schools; (3) A fellowship program should assist worthy students; (4) We must encourage local societies throughout Florida.

Faithfully,

JOHN C. BLOCKER, *President*

THE SOCIETY ON TELEVISION

On April 30 the Florida Historical Society had its first television appearance when Miss Dena Snodgrass, one of our directors, was interviewed on WMBR of Jacksonville. The organization of the Society nearly one hundred years ago was mentioned with its purposes and accomplishments, also our extensive historical library and headquarters at the University of Florida, our Florida Historical Quarterly now in its thirty-first volume, and a brief account of our late Annual Meeting.

REMBERT W. PATRICK, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Our Board of Directors at their meeting on April 24 reelected the present Editor of the *Quarterly*, now in the twenty-eighth year of his editorship, for the ensuing term of three years; and elected Rembert W. Patrick as Associate Editor.

Dr. Patrick, Secretary and a Director of our Society, is Professor of History and Head of the Department, University of Florida. He is Chairman of the rapidly expanding University of Florida Press, and is a member of numerous other committees of the University. He is associated with the Editor in building the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University, is a member of the State Library Board of Florida, and one of the editors of the *Journal of Southern History*.

It is expected that ere long his present manifold duties at the University will allow him to take a steadily increasing part

in the editorship of our *Quarterly*, where his scholarship, his experience, and his knowledge of Florida's history will assure our *Quarterly* the high rank among historical periodicals which Florida's long and important history warrants.

Dr. Patrick, a native of South Carolina, was educated at Guilford College, Harvard University, and the University of North Carolina where he received his Ph.D. degree. He is the author of *Jefferson Davis and His Cabinet*, for which he received an award of \$500 from the United Daughters of the Confederacy. He also received the Bohnenberger Award (1946), and a Merit Award from the Florida Junior Chamber of Commerce. He has published also *Florida Under Five Flags*, and was Editor of *The Opinions of the Confederate Attorneys General*. A volume to appear early next year from the University of Georgia Press relates to the attempts of the United States to seize East Florida during the period of the War of 1812, and the so-called Patriot War.

Edward C. Williamson, assistant editor of the *Quarterly*, has completed his tour of duty with the Army and returned to the University of Florida. Major Williamson reached the United States in April after serving for over a year as a military historian with the United States Eighth Army in Korea where he received a promotion to major.

NEW MEMBERS

Nominated by:

C. L. Knight, Tampa (Student, Univ. Fla.)	Mrs. Johnson
Max L. Klein, Green Cove Springs	Mrs. Johnson
Ed Schneider, Student, (Univ. of Fla.)	Mrs. Johnson
I. Leo Fishbein, Miami Beach	Mrs. Johnson
Millard B. Archibald, Jacksonville	Mrs. A. J. Mounds
David Lewis, Student, (Univ. of Fla.)	Mrs. Johnson
Harold C. Anderson, St. Petersburg	Dorothy Dodd
Mrs. Mabel Norris Reese, Mount Dora	
William H. Peters, Interlachen	Julien C. Yonge
Margaret Ann Blocker, Florida State University	John C. Blocker

Olavi M. Hendrickson, Miami	
George J. Baya, Miami	Gaines R. Wilson
Lois V. DeLavan, Tallahassee	Mrs. Margaret Key
Corinne C. Williams, Jacksonville	Dena Snodgrass
Charles H. Hildreth, Student (Univ. Fla.)	Mrs. Johnson
Sam C. Gay, Fort Pierce	H. Maddox
William B. Rahn, Miami	Charlton W. Tebeau
Thomas A. Yon, Tallahassee	Mary Lamar Davis
J. H. Sherrill, Pensacola	T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
Frank J. Altieri, Pensacola	T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
San Carlos Hotel, Pensacola	T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
Marvin H. Sears, Bradenton	
John E. Johns, John B. Stetson Univ.	H. S. Winters
John W. Cole, Pensacola	T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
Mrs. H. E. Franklin, Pensacola	T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
Pensacola High School, Pensacola	T. T. Wentworth, Jr.
J. H. McCormack, Pensacola	Hunter Brown
E. Dixie Beggs, Pensacola	Julien C. Yonge
C. E. Wright, Jacksonville	Dena Snodgrass
Rev. Father Gervis Coxen, Pennsylvania	Rev. J. F. McKeown
Robert F. Jones, Student (Univ. Fla.)	Mrs. Johnson
H. Wayne Millard, Ocala	Mrs. Johnson
University of Oregon Library	
Dorsey Memorial Library, Miami	
G. H. McSwain (Contributing member), Arcadia	Marvin H. Sears
Morris E. White, Tampa	Guyte P. McCord
Mrs. Max de la Rua, Sr., Pensacola	T. T. Wentworth, Jr.

DECEASED DURING THE PAST YEAR

W. S. Branch	Orlando
Armstead Brown	Tallahassee
John T. Campbell	Bradenton
W. T. Cash	Tallahassee
Mrs. Richard P. Daniel	Jacksonville
Mrs. Stephen W. Douglass	Key West
Mrs. Edwin S. Fownes	Winter Park
Karl H. Grismer	Sarasota
E. G. Howes	Palm Beach and Boston
Arthur A. Jones	Ormond Beach and New York
Mrs. Frederick W. Kirtland	Jacksonville
Mrs. J. Page Laughlin	Leesburg, Va.
Mrs. H. Willis McFadden	Jacksonville
E. R. Malone	Pensacola
William Proctor	Bar Harbor, Maine
George Selden Spencer	Miami
A. L. Wilson	Quincy
P. H. Gaskins	Jacksonville