

1953

## The Florida Historical Society

Florida Historical Society  
membership@myfloridahistory.org



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## THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting, held with Florida Southern College as hosts on March 27-28, was one of the most successful we have ever had. Members came from many parts of the State, and all were pleased with the hospitality extended them, and gratified with the reports of our officers which showed the continued increase of activity and the noteworthy growth in membership in our Society.

Vice-president Charles T. Thrift, Jr., had long been at work on the historical program and other entertainment, and the resolutions of appreciation and thanks given him and the College were truly sincere.

A number of historical papers were written for the several program meetings extending over the two days-each adding a bit to Florida's recorded history. Some of these will be included in future issues of our *Quarterly*.

Our Board met on the evening of March 26 with twelve directors in attendance from Miami and Pensacola and all others sections - another indication of the present vitality of the Society. The subjects discussed and the conclusions reached were reported to the Annual Meeting and appear in the Minutes.

### THE PROGRAM

#### March 27, Morning Session

*Presiding* - Past President Mark F. Boyd

*Invocation* - The Reverend John J. Rooks

*Welcome* - President Ludd M. Spivey

*Response* - President John C. Blocker

*Tampa: Seminole Port of Embarkation* - James W. Covington,  
University of Tampa

*Alimacani (Fort George Island)* - Dena Snodgrass, Jacksonville

*History of Florida Highways* - Alfred A. McKethan, former  
chairman Florida Road Department, Brooksville

Luncheon, The Commons

*Presiding* - Past President Richard P. Daniel, Jacksonville  
*Reports from local historical societies throughout Florida*

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Afternoon Session

*Presiding* - Justin P. Havee, Historical Association of Southern  
 Florida, Miami

*The South Florida Military Institute (Bartow): A Parent of  
 the University of Florida* - Samuel Proctor, the University  
 of Florida

*Early Phosphate Industry in the Peace River Area* - Vaughan  
 Camp, Jr., The University of Miami

*The Early Coinage and Currency of Florida*- Harley L. Free-  
 man, Ormond Beach. Mr. Freeman exhibited specimens  
 from his private collection of Florida coinage and currency.

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Banquet, The Commons

Toastmaster, President John C. Blocker

*History and the Novelist* - Frank G. Slaughter, M.D., Jack-  
 sonville

Presentation of silver tray to our Mrs. Johnson

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Saturday, March 28

*Presiding* - Rembert W. Patrick, The University of Florida  
*Floridians Who Attended the University of Georgia in the  
 Nineteenth Century* - S. Walter Martin, the University of  
 Georgia

*From the Diary of a U. S. Naval Surgeon in Florida Waters.  
 A Civil War View* - Charlton W. Tebeau, The University  
 of Miami

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Sessions were held in the Alumni House on the Florida South-  
 em College campus, and were well attended. In addition to  
 our Lakeland membership, many of our members came from  
 various parts of the state, among whom were:

*Arcadia:*  
Dr. G. H. McSwain  
*Bartow:*  
General A. H. Blanding  
Miss Martha Boman  
*Brooksville:*  
Alfred A. McKethan  
*Daytona Beach:*  
Mrs. John Hebel  
*DeLand:*  
Mrs. Philip DeBerard, Sr.  
John E. Johns  
*Gainesville:*  
George R. Bentley  
David L. Dowd  
Lyle N. McAlister  
Rembert W. Patrick  
Samuel Proctor  
Arthur W. Thompson  
Edward C. Williamson  
Donald E. Worcester  
*Jacksonville:*  
Richard P. Daniel  
Mrs. Patrick Henry Odom  
Miss Dena Snodgrass  
*Lake Wales:*  
Captain W. D. Puleston  
*Mandarin:*  
Mrs. James A. Austin

*Miami:*  
Mrs. Ruby Leach Carson  
Justin F. Havee  
Charlton W. Tebeau  
*Mount Dora:*  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Bridgman  
*Okeechobee:*  
Mrs. J. T. Hancock  
*Ormond Beach:*  
Harley L. Freeman  
*Pensacola:*  
Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Wentworth, Jr.  
*St. Augustine:*  
Mrs. M. A. Johnson  
Mrs. Marion R. Moulds  
*St. Petersburg:*  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Blocker  
*Tallahassee:*  
R. L. Goulding  
Charles H. Hildreth  
*Tampa:*  
J. Ryan Beiser  
Mrs. John Branch  
James W. Covington  
Theodore Lesley  
Alan P. Stuckey  
*Winter Haven:*  
Mrs. George E. Copeland

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*In Grateful Appreciation*  
*to*  
MRS. ALBERTA JOHNSON  
*For Faithful, Efficient Services as*  
*Librarian, Secretary, Treasurer*  
THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1943 - 1952

The above is inscribed on a hand-made silver card tray presented to our Mrs. Johnson at the Annual Meeting as a token of appreciation and affection.

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#### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Florida Southern College, Lakeland, March 28, 1953

President John C. Blocker declared a quorum present and called the Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Historical Society to order at 11:10 A.M.

The President's report was the first order of business [*post*].

The second order of business was the approval by the meeting of resolutions submitted to it by the Board of Directors. In behalf of the first resolution, Richard P. Daniel moved that President Blocker appoint a committee to develop a plan for a state historical commission. John E. Johns seconded and the resolution passed unanimously. President Blocker appointed to the committee Mr. Daniel, Miss Dena Snodgrass, Rembert W. Patrick, Charles T. Thrift, Jr., Charlton W. Tebeau, and Edward C. Williamson. Mr. Patrick was made chairman and Mr. Williamson secretary.

In behalf of the second resolution, Miss Snodgrass moved that the Florida Historical Society endorse "Pascua Florida Day" to be established on a day that the legislature shall determine. The motion was seconded by T. T. Wentworth, Jr. In explanation of the motion Miss Snodgrass stated that the plan to commemorate Pascua Florida Day was originated by Mrs. Mary A. Harrell, of Jacksonville, and the directors of the Society recommended appropriate action. The resolution passed unanimously.

Mark F. Boyd introduced the third resolution calling upon the Secretary of State of Florida to prepare a memorial petitioning the legislature to pass an act authorizing an appropriation for the preservation of the Confederate battle flags. Miss Snodgrass seconded and the resolution passed unanimously.

The Treasurer, Mr. Williamson, presented his annual report, the proposed budget, and membership report [*post*]. All were approved and adopted.

President Blocker thanked President Ludd M. Spivey, Vice-president Charles T. Thrift, Jr, and the faculty of Florida Southern College for their careful planning and cordial cooperation in making the meeting a success.

Mr. Thrift stated that all who appeared on the program came at their own expense and moved that the meeting give them

a vote of thanks. Mr. Johns seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tebeau moved that since collecting activity within the state was in danger of becoming competitive, that the Florida Historical Society go on record as favoring cooperative rather than competitive collecting. Mr. Justin P. Havee seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tebeau suggested that the various historical societies make copies of source material available.

Mr. Patrick moved that an appropriate resolution expressing the Society's appreciation for the magnificent work in furthering Florida history of John B. Stetson, Jr., be sent to Mrs. John B. Stetson, Jr. Mr. Johns seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

President Blocker appointed Mr. Patrick, Mr. Johns and Mr. Williamson as a committee to frame the resolution.

Mr. Daniel moved that an appropriate resolution be sent the family of Mrs. Napoleon B. Broward, widow of the former governor. Mr. Proctor seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

President Blocker appointed Mr. Daniel and Mr. Proctor as a committee to frame the resolution.

Mr. Patrick stated that the Florida Historical Society would be one of the hosts to the Southern Historical Association meeting at Jacksonville, Nov. 12-14 and that appropriate mention of this event would appear in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

In the absence of Mrs. Ruby Leach Carson, Chairman, Mr. Boyd presented the following nominations from the Nominations Committee:

President - John C. Blocker

1st Vice president - Charles T. Thrift, Jr.

2nd Vice president - J. Velma Keen

Treasurer, corresponding secretary and librarian - Edward C. Williamson

Recording secretary - Miss Dena Snodgrass

DIRECTORS

First district - Elon C. Robison, St. Petersburg  
Second district - Linwood Jeffreys, Jacksonville  
Fourth district - Charlton W. Tebeau, Miami  
Sixth district - August Burghard, Fort Lauderdale  
Eighth district - John W. Griffin, Gainesville

At Large

Charles S. Davis, Tallahassee  
Mrs. James T. Hancock, Okeechobee

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Richard P. Daniel, Chairman  
Albert H. Roberts                      Walter P. Fuller  
Charlton W. Tebeau                      T. T. Wentworth, Jr.

President Blocker asked for nominations from the floor. When no additional nominations were made, Mr. Wentworth moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for the officers, directors, and nominations committee members as reported. Mr. Thrift seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Blocker at 12-10 P.M.

*Approved*

JOHN C. BLOCKER,  
*President*

EDWARD C. WILLIAMSON,  
*Corresponding Secretary*

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

*To the Officers and Members of the Florida Historical Society:*

On taking office a year ago, after having heard the report on membership which indicated that our Society was losing ground in point of members, I resolved to initiate an aggressive membership campaign throughout the State as one of the objectives of my administration.

The basis of the campaign was a personal appeal from the office of the President to each member, urging that particular member to bring in one new member. The response was most gratifying and I want to thank each and every member who brought in one or more new members. Particular recognition is given to Mr. T. T. Wentworth, Jr., of Pensacola who has

sent in a large number of new memberships, and Past President Charlton W. Tebeau who conducted a very extensive and productive campaign among the members of the Historical Association of Southern Florida. Mr. J. Edwin Larson, State Treasurer and Mr. Albert H. Roberts, of his department, have been active in Tallahassee and have been successful in obtaining state officials of high rank as members. Mr. Larson obtained four school subscriptions to the *Quarterly* in Clay and Baker counties, namely, Macclenny-Glen, Sanderson, Taylor (RFD 1, Sanderson), and Green Cove Springs Junior-Senior High. In his letter of transmittal, he stated, "These schools are in the district which I represented in the State Senate at the time I was appointed United States Collector of Internal Revenue for Florida". Our thanks to Mr. Larson.

Further particular recognition is to be given to our able, efficient and aggressive Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Librarian, Edward C. Williamson, who has been very active in obtaining many individual memberships, as well as school subscriptions to the *Quarterly* by both white and colored schools of Florida.

I know that you join with me in extending to these members the highest commendation for this special service.

Thus has the Society made large and substantial gains in membership for the year just ending. This progress, however, should not lull us to inactivity during the coming year. Each member should be conscious of the need for augmenting our strength by obtaining additional members, particularly the citizens of Florida who, by their achievements and capabilities, will lend dignity and will be a contributing factor to the intellectual growth of our Florida Historical Society. If we do not continue to grow in membership, ultimately we will cease being an active, cultural body of our State.

Our specific numerical gains, in all fields of endeavor, will be given in the report of Mr. Williamson.

Another objective of the present administration, was to ex-



plore the possibility of the writing by some of our membership of a school history of Florida, and its introduction into the public schools. On this important subject, a large amount of correspondence has been carried on by your President with various school officials, and the subject has been discussed confidentially and freely during the meetings of the Board of Directors throughout the year.

Another objective of the present administration, was to stimulate an interest among the local historical societies. We have had reports of local activities published in each issue of our *Quarterly* and this will be continued. Your President has attempted to have established, or re-activated, local societies in Manatee, Lake and Pasco counties and it remains to be seen if we see the bloom from the seeds planted in those areas. The local societies of Hillsborough, Dade, Duval, Escambia, St. Johns, Leon and Volusia counties have been functioning and in a most interesting manner throughout the year.

Soon after taking office, your President was advised that Mrs. M. A. Johnson, who had been the Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian of the Society for lo these many years, wished to retire. A special effort was made, on a number of occasions, urging her to remain but it was finally learned that she was determined to retire and your Board of Directors replaced her with Mr. Edward C. Williamson, who has assumed the duties of the office in the most courageous and efficient manner; and, personally, I consider that he has rendered a great service to our organization, and, without encroachment upon the prerogative of the Nominations Committee, I certainly hope that his services will be retained.

Mrs. Johnson has assured the Board that she will complete an up-to-date index of the *Quarterly*, which has been needed for many years, as we have never had a consolidated index.

During the year, Dr. Rembert W. Patrick asked to be relieved of his duties as Recording Secretary, due to the pressure of collegiate work. The Board of Directors accepted his

resignation and appointed Walter Pliny Fuller, of St. Petersburg, to succeed him.

It would indeed be amiss, in closing my report, not to praise "old faithful" Julien C. Yonge, the editor, and his associate editors, of our *Quarterly* for their promptness in getting out the *Quarterly* and the fine job of editing its contents.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my fellow officers of the Society and the Board of Directors for giving their time and assisting me and the Society in the accomplishment of the favorable things hereinabove reported.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) JOHN C. BLOCKER, *President*

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REPORT OF THE TREASURER

April 1, 1952 - March 24, 1953

Balance: April 1, 1952		\$ 727.75
Receipts:		
Membership dues, including 108 library sub-		
scriptions to the <i>Quarterly</i>	\$2998.30	
Life memberships	300.00	
St. Augustine Historical Society	100.00	
Sale of <i>Quarterlys</i> (back numbers)	104.55	
Books sold	44.06	
Dif. on annual meeting registration fee	16.90	
Barnett National Bank	18.60	
Interest: (First Federal Building and Loan)	14.94	
Total receipts		\$3597.35
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Total to be accounted for		\$4325.10
Disbursements:		
Printing of <i>Quarterlys</i> , 4 issues	\$1846.01	
Other printing and supplies	315.19	
Copyrights	16.00	
Annual meeting expenses	105.12	
Books, subscriptions, dues	20.75	
Taxes	1.36	
General expenses: postage, express, box rent	129.51	
Yale University Press	77.50	
Barnett National Bank (To close account)	18.60	
Total disbursements		\$2530.04
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Balance March 25, 1953		\$1795.06

Location of balance:

Florida Bank at Gainesville		\$ 891.37
First Federal Building & Loan at Gainesville		
Deposit	\$800.00	
Interest	18.69	
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	\$818.69	818.69
Cash on hand		85.00
		<hr/>
		\$1795.06

Endowment fund:

First Federal Building & Loan at Gainesville	\$ 818.69
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PROPOSED BUDGET

March 24, 1953 -April 1, 1954

Cash balance, checking account, March 24, 1953	\$ 976.37
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Estimated income:

Membership dues		
Annual	\$2264.00	
Fellow	300.00	
Library subscriptions to <i>Quarterly</i>	432.00	
Sale of <i>Quarterlys</i> (back numbers)	50.00	
Interest from endowment fund	24.00	
Total estimated income		\$3070.00
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Total available funds	\$4046.37
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Estimated expenses:

Publications	\$2500.00
Other printing and supplies	250.00
Copyrights	16.00
Annual meeting expenses	50.00
Taxes on real estate	1.36
Books, bookbinding, subscriptions, and dues	100.00
General expense: postage, express, box rent	100.00
Total estimated expense	\$3017.36
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Estimated balance, April 1, 1954	\$1029.01
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MEMBERSHIP IN THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1952: 611 members and library subscriptions to *Quarterly*  
-89 losses

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522 remaining

Losses April 1, 1952 - March 24, 1953:

14 resignations

7 deaths

68 dropped for non-payment

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89 total

Gains April 1, 1952 - March 24, 1953:

185 new members and library subscriptions to *Quarterly*  
4 renewals

189 total

522 members and subscriptions remaining 1952

711 members and subscriptions, March 24, 1953

566 annual members

30 fellow members

7 life members

108 library subscriptions to *Quarterly*

711 total memberships and subscriptions

#### THE SOCIETY'S NEW OFFICIALS

*Miss Dena Snodgrass*, our recording secretary, is a past director of the Florida Historical Society and is treasurer of the Jacksonville Historical Society. Miss Snodgrass is presently engaged in a historical study of Fort George Island.

*Elon C. Robison*, First District Director, is president of the St. Petersburg Historical Society and a fellow member of the Florida Historical Society.

*Linwood Jeffrey's*, Second District Director, is an authority on the industrial history of Fernandina and a long-time member of the Florida Historical Society.

*Charlton W. Tebeau*, Fourth District Director, is a past president of the Florida Historical Society, editor of *Tequesta*, and Head of the Department of History, University of Miami.

*August Burghard*, Sixth District Director, is an active member of the Historical Association of Southern Florida.

*John W. Griffin*, Eighth District Director, is archaeologist for the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials.

*Charles S. Davis*, Director at Large, is Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Florida State University.

*Mrs. James T. Hancock*, Director at Large, is an active member of the Florida Historical Society and is keenly interested in the history of the Lake Okeechobee region.