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THE MINUTES

by DENA SNODGRASS

*Minutes of the Directors Meeting
St. Augustine, Florida - April 12, 1956*

THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIETY met in annual session at the Ponce de Leon Hotel, St. Augustine, April 12, 1956 at 8:00 P. M. with President Charles T. Thrift, Jr., presiding. Members present were Judge David Dunham, John C. Blocker, Julien C. Yonge, Rembert W. Patrick, J. Ryan Beiser, Albert C. Manucy, Frank B. Sessa, Harley Freeman, Dena Snodgrass and Elizabeth Baldwin. Communications from each absent member were noted.

The minutes of the October 1, 1955 meeting were approved on motion of Mr. Freeman, seconded by Judge Dunham.

Mrs. Baldwin presented the treasurer's report which was approved and filed as read. The worsening condition of the treasury was noted. The membership report showed a gain in numbers but a strong need for more of the higher paying classifications of membership. Between April 1, 1955 and April 1, 1956 there was an increase of 43 members of the Society.

Mr. Blocker, who originated the Christmas gift subscription plan, moved, seconded by Mr. Manucy and carried, that no further expenditure be made for this plan and that it be dropped after current supplies of printed materials are exhausted.

Mr. Beiser moved, seconded by Mr. Freeman and carried, that Mrs. Baldwin provide each director with a list of currently paid members living within his district, that he be asked to submit names of at least ten prospective members; further, that names of recent delinquents be supplied him for checking.

The budget for 1956-57 was presented and discussed. On motion of Mr. Blocker, seconded by Judge Dunham and carried, the budget was adopted as amended to show expected receipts from dues of \$3,500.

After full discussion of the condition of the treasury, of the rising cost of the *Quarterly* and of the wisdom of an increase in annual dues, it was moved by Mr. Blocker, seconded by Mr.

Freeman and carried, that the Board of Directors propose to the annual membership meeting an increase in the annual dues from \$4 to \$5. (Those favoring were Messrs. Blocker, Freeman, Sessa, Manucy and Miss Snodgrass. Several abstained from voting.) Mr. Patrick brought out that the *Quarterly* now costs the Society about \$.95 a copy. Mr. Yonge thought an increase in dues would lose members and suggested a greater drive to secure memberships of the \$10 or above classifications.

The Board voted unanimously to propose to the annual membership meeting the creation of new membership categories, particularly in the amount of \$50 and of \$100, (the latter being an annual institutional membership and therefore varying from the \$100 life membership), and such other categories as the Board should in its discretion find expedient.

Mr. Sessa presented an offer in behalf of Past President Tebeau, the University of Miami Press and the Copeland Studies in Florida History to finance the printing of the index of the Florida Historical *Quarterly* on a non-profit basis, these two bodies to be reimbursed in the amount of the cost only, the Society retaining any balance. The Board unanimously requested Mr. Sessa to convey its thanks and acceptance of this generous offer and agreed that a credit line should be given the Press and the Studies. It was specified that supervision of the publication be in the hands of the Society's Editorial Board.

Mr. Yonge stated the indexing was progressing and expected completion of the work within the next six months.

New features of the *Quarterly* were discussed, with expressions of approval, and it was urged that all attempt to secure more articles from non-professional writers. The Editor stated that he had bids for printing the *Quarterly* from the Rose Printing Company, Tallahassee, the Convention Press, Jacksonville (these being in about the same amounts) and a somewhat higher bid from a press in Baltimore.

The dwindling supply of back numbers of the *Quarterly* was discussed. A listing of a collection of almost 100 copies of various numbers for sale by an estate was presented by Miss Snodgrass. Mr. Blocker moved, seconded by Mr. Manucy and carried, that the Society offer to buy this quantity for \$50. It was suggested that attention be called in the "Newsletter" to the supply of back issues.

Mr. Blocker, agreeing to continue as Chairman of the Legislative Committee, reported that the work was progressing. He asked Miss Snodgrass to contact Mrs. Nell Bostwick of Jacksonville, who operates a legislative bureau in Tallahassee, concerning help in the mechanics of handling any proposed legislation for the Society at the 1957 Session of the Legislature.

President Thrift commented on suggestions received from various directors on the plans for greater financial stability. Miss Snodgrass, Chairman of the Committee on Financial Stability, stated that execution of the plans would get under way at an early date.

Miss Snodgrass discussed briefly the possibility of the publication of a French manuscript given the Society by the late Honorable John B. Stetson, Jr., in cooperation with a Jacksonville group to commemorate the quadricentennial of the landing of Jean Ribault in 1662. On motion by Mr. Blocker, seconded by Mr. Manucy and carried, Mr. Patrick and Miss Snodgrass were authorized to negotiate with the Jacksonville group and secure a concrete proposal for presentation to the Society.

The President appointed a resolutions committee of Miss Snodgrass, Chairman, Mr. Frank B. Sessa and Mr. Rembert W. Patrick, to report to the annual meeting.

Mr. Sessa presented an invitation to the Society to hold its annual meeting in Miami in 1957. The Board's thanks were expressed and the matter referred to the in-coming Board of Directors in view of prior correspondence with the Director from Pensacola, Miss Clubbs.

A rising vote of thanks to President Thrift concluded the meeting.

*Minutes of the Annual Meeting
St. Augustine - April 14, 1956*

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER at 12 o'clock following the morning program session as a matter of convenience to several members of the Board who found it necessary to leave prior to the announced time of the business meeting. The President asked that two matters be presented for discussion only at this time. This being agreed upon, the President directed the Secretary to read two recommendations from the Board: (1) The

Board of Directors proposes to the membership an increase in the annual dues of the Society from \$4 to \$5. (2) The Board of Directors proposes to the membership the creation of new classifications of membership: a \$50 membership and a \$100 membership (the latter being an annual institutional membership) and such other memberships as the Directors should deem it wise to create.

Several members spoke to the question of the increase in annual dues. It was brought out that the membership should be fully informed as to the need to increase the dues because of the rising cost of publication.

Mr. Blocker, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, read the slate of nominees: President, Dena Snodgrass; 1st Vice President, J. Velma Keen; 2nd Vice President, Albert C. Manucy; Recording Secretary, Ruby J. Hancock; Directors, Lucius Ruder, Mary Herbert, Ianthe Bond Hebel, Gilbert Richardson, Mary MacRae; Nominating Committee, 1957, David R. Dunham, Richard P. Daniel, Frank Sessa, Weymouth Jordan and Herbert J. Doherty, Jr.

The Society expressed its appreciation to Dr. Thrift for his service as President of the Society and the meeting was declared adjourned.

Annual Meeting
2 o'clock Session

President Thrift called the annual meeting to order at 2:00 P. M. and declared a quorum present. He read the report of the Nominating Committee in the absence of Chairman Blocker. Judge Dunham moved, seconded by Mr. Tebeau and unanimously carried that the President cast a unanimous ballot for the slate, there being no nominations from the floor.

Mr. Thrift handed the gavel to Miss Snodgrass, the newly elected president, who read the two proposals concerning dues from the Board of Directors. Mr. Manucy moved, seconded by Mr. Tebeau and carried, that the recommendation on the increase of annual dues from \$4 to \$5 be approved. Mr. Patrick moved, seconded by Mr. Bridgman and carried, that the new categories of memberships suggested by the Board be approved.

Mr. Patrick announced the winners of the high school essay contest and Dr. Emily Atkins of Jacksonville presented Arthur Foster, winner of first prize, who had worked under the supervision of Dr. Atkins. Other winners, Miss Sylvia Jean Hardaway of Gainesville and Miss Jean Smith of Jacksonville were unable to be present.

The question of the price to be charged by the Society for back issues of the *Quarterly* was raised in view of the increase in the dues. It was agreed that all numbers through Volume XX be sold for \$2.00, those from Volume XX through January, 1956 be \$1.00 and all numbers from that date be sold for \$1.25.

Mr. Thrift suggested that an attempt be made to secure sales tax exemption for the Society. Discussion of such exemption as secured by the Historical Association of Southern Florida and by the St. Augustine Historical Society followed. The matter was left in the hands of the President for discussion with Vice President Keen and with the Comptroller's office in Tallahassee.

The President read the following resolutions which were concurred in unanimously:

Resolution No. 1 - This year marks the founding of the Florida Historical Society here in St. Augustine in 1856. On this, the occasion of our centennial, we resolve to renew our interest in the history of Florida, to dedicate ourselves anew to continuing the work of the founders and to strive to gain the recognition that our state is due as the most historical of all.

Resolution No. 2 - The Society recognizes with pride the 31 years of faithful service of Julien C. Yonge as editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, now editor emeritus. During this time, Mr. Yonge has edited 124 numbers of the *Quarterly*, some 9,000 pages, at least one-third of which have been composed of his own writings or of articles he has selected and edited. The excellence of his work, the length of his service, have more than earned the deepest gratitude of the Society's officers and members, the admiration and respect of all interested in the cause of history. To him we express our sincere appreciation and our affection, resolving to strive to emulate his work in the years to come.

Resolution No. 3 - As the Centennial Meeting of the Florida Historical Society draws to a close, the officers and members express by this resolution their gratitude to the St. Augustine Historical Society and to all who have contributed to the presentation

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of this outstanding program and meeting. To each of them the Florida Historical Society is sincerely grateful. The warm welcome and gracious hospitality on this occasion shall be long remembered.

The members gave Past President Thrift a rising vote of thanks for his splendid leadership of the Society during two terms as its president.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.