

1964

### Directors' Meeting, December 5, 1964

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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING,  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

December 5, 1964

The board of directors of the Florida Historical Society met in the library of the University of South Florida, December 5, 1964, at 10:00 a.m. with James Knott, president, presiding. Present were Adams G. Adams (representing the Florida Library and Historical Commission), E. M. Covington, William Goza, Margaret Chapman, Mrs. Ralph Davis, Ben C. Willis, Herbert J. Doherty, Morris White, Walter R. Hellier, Mrs. John R. DuBois, Jay I. Kislak, James R. Knott, Merlin G. Cox, David Forshay, Lucius S. Ruder, Charles Arnade (chairman of the Committee for Investigation of Historical Claims), Walter P. Fuller, Samuel Proctor, and Thelma Peters.

Judge Knott announced that David Forshay would serve as chairman of the committee judging the essay contest conducted annually by the Society in the secondary schools of the state.

Miss Chapman moved that the president appoint a public relations committee. Dr. Arnade seconded the motion and it carried. The two persons suggested as chairman of the committee were Allen Morris and Dena Snodgrass. Adam G. Adams reported that Dr. Dorothy Dodd, state librarian, would retire in the summer of 1965 after many years of long and valued service to the state. The legislature will need to appropriate sufficient funds to fill Dr. Dodd's position and other positions in the archival field. A building to house state archives is vitally needed also. Mr. Adams spoke of the value of cooperation between the Florida Library and Historical Commission and the Florida Historical Society.

Mr. Covington read and moved the adoption of a resolution commending Dr. Samuel Proctor for his publication of "Florida A Hundred Years Ago." Mr. Goza seconded the motion and the resolution was adopted by acclamation.

Judge Knott and Mrs. DuBois reported on their investigation

of the status and authenticity of a proposed marine museum for Jupiter that is being planned by Charles Harnett of Orlando, if he can secure sufficient financial backing. It was decided that an endorsement of the museum should be postponed for the time being and made a continuing order of business at the next meeting. Mr. Fuller described some of the artifacts have been recovered from treasure ships sunk off the Florida coasts. He pointed out that the state needed experts to evaluate the finds and to make certain that Florida acquired these valuable relics.

The Florida Anthropological Society, according to Dr. Arnade, is also interested in making sure the state properly preserves its share of treasure. Judge Willis moved that the president appoint a committee, composed of members of the Florida Historical Society who are also members of the Florida Anthropological Society, to look into proper methods of supervising the recovery of treasure and of determining the state's share. Mr. White seconded the motion and it carried. Judge Knott named Mr. Fuller chairman and Mr. Goza and Mr. Hellier as members of this committee.

Mr. Adams, a member of the nominating committee, asked for and received suggestions for nominations for the offices that will be filled at the annual meeting in April. Miss Chapman said directors are to be elected from congressional districts one, three, five, six, seven, and nine.

Dr. Doherty moved that the constitution committee draw up an amendment to the constitution extending the term of director to three years, the three-year term to be applicable only to those elected in 1965 or in subsequent years. Dr. Cox seconded the motion and it passed. Judge Knott asked Mr. Goza, chairman of the constitution committee, to prepare such an amendment for the annual meeting.

Judge Knott announced that the newsletter had been well received and would continue to be prepared and distributed. Subsequent issues, however, will be distributed under bulk mail rates to hold down the costs.

Judge Knott read a letter which he had received from Mrs. John T. Bills (Jeanne Bellamy). Mrs. Bills' letter criticised the *Quarterly* because it contained articles and book reviews written by non-Floridians and persons who "had addresses outside Flor-

ida," that it reviewed "non-Florida books" and "books only marginally about Florida," and that, in some instances, it published articles and books which "focused on racism." Mr. Goza made a strong defense of the *Quarterly's* present policies and objectives and moved that the board refer the letter to the editor and his board without comment. Dr. Cox seconded the motion. Mr. Covington offered as an amendment to the motion the addition of the following words: and that the board of directors express its utmost confidence in the editor." The motion as amended was passed unanimously.

Dr. Proctor thanked the board for its vote of confidence. He pointed out that many Florida specialists do not live or teach in Florida and that often authors who have an out-of-state address are really natives of Florida. The *Quarterly's* policy is to review books dealing with Florida, the South, and the nation, if the latter describe problems affecting Florida and Floridians. He stated that the editorial policy of the *Quarterly* compares favorably with the best historical journals in the South and throughout the nation and increased circulation is an indication that it is being well received. He expressed thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Davis for reproducing pictures for the *Quarterly*. In celebration of the St. Augustine Quadricentennial, the *Quarterly* is planning a special double-issue and a number of leading authorities are contributing articles. The publications committee is still examining the matter of reprinting back issues of the *Quarterly* and it is likely that a printing contract will be shortly negotiated.

Judge Knott said there had been a suggestion made that the *Quarterly* include a section on genealogy. Dr. Proctor said he would be glad to include genealogy articles if they met the standards of the *Quarterly* and if they made a contribution to Florida history. Genealogical studies as such, Dr. Proctor felt, should be left to other media, specifically to the many excellent genealogy monthlies and quarterlies which are published.

Mr. Hellier asked the possibility of receiving some financial help from the Julien Yonge Fund for the publication of a book that he has written on the history of the Indian River area. Dr. Doherty also described the Bemrose Diary, an important piece of source material on the Seminole War, which has been edited by Dr. John Mahon of the University of Florida. Dr. Mahon would

like to receive some help from the Yonge Fund to support publication. Judge Knott said that no policy has been established for using the Julien Yonge Fund. Miss Chapman reported that there is presently \$5,677.27 in the Yonge Fund, that the accumulated interest is \$309.52. Judge Willis moved that the president appoint a committee to lay down ground rules for the use of the interest from the Fund. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and it carried. It was suggested that the publications committee - Dr. Proctor (chairman), Dr. Doherty, Dr. Patrick, and Miss Chapman - draw up rules.

Dr. Arnade reported for the Committee for Investigation of Historical Claims, of which he is chairman. The committee recommends the establishment of a Code of Ethics for attractions, the strict observance of which will entitle the attraction, upon application and approval by the Society, to display a "Seal of Approval" It is suggested that the "Code of Ethics" be available only to attractions making historical claims, and should embrace standards along the following lines:

- (a) No false or misleading claims should be made for an attraction which cannot be reasonably sustained.
- (b) Admission charges either should cover the entire cost of visiting the attraction, or the fact that other costs may be involved should be made clear in solicitation and advertising.
- (c) All gifts and artifacts sold in connection with the attraction should not be represented as authentic, unless such is the case.
- (d) The attraction shall be operated in such a way as to comply with ethical and generally accepted moral standards of business conduct.

Mr. Forshay moved that the board adopt the report and that the committee continue its work as suggested. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dr. Arnade announced that he was leaving for Spain on a Fulbright grant to search for Florida material in that country's archives and that he would be glad to be of service to Society members in searching out Spanish records.

Miss Chapman introduced the assistant executive-secretary Mrs. Anita Geiger. Miss Chapman explained that contrary to ru-

mor, neither she nor Mrs. Geiger, nor any other member of her staff receives any compensation from the Society. The business of the Society is conducted in addition to their regular duties under the terms of the arrangement offered the Society by President John S. Allen of the University of Florida. Mr. Covington offered a resolution thanking Miss Chapman, Mrs. Geiger, and the University of South Florida for their valuable assistance to the Society. The resolution passed by acclamation.

Mr. Goza reported that the Fort King Road marker had been properly re-located, and that a number of artifacts-military buttons, gun shells, and teeth-had been dug from the Dade battlefield site and had been placed in the Florida State Museum.

Judge Knott asked Miss Chapman and Mrs. DuBois to continue working on the project of getting the *Quarterly* into all Florida school libraries.

Upon the suggestion of Dr. Proctor, Judge Knott asked Miss Chapman to write a letter of condolence to the family of Judge David L. Dunham. Judge Knott thanked everyone for coming and announced that the board would meet again at the annual meeting which is scheduled for St. Augustine, April 22-24, 1965.

Respectively submitted,

Thelma Peters

Recording Secretary