


1966

Director's Meeting, December 3, 1966

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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1966) "Director's Meeting, December 3, 1966," *Florida Historical Quarterly*: Vol. 45 : No. 3 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol45/iss3/10>

MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

December 3, 1966

Officers and directors of the Florida Historical Society met in the Library of the University of South Florida at 9:30 a.m., December 3, 1966, with Mr. William M. Goza presiding. Members present were: Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., James C. Craig, Mrs. Ralph F. Davis, Margaret L. Chapman, Samuel Proctor, James D. Bruton, Jr., Frank H. Ehnore, Walter S. Hardin, John E. Johns, Milton D. Jones, Frank J. Laumer, William W. Rogers, Charlton W. Tebeau, Julian I. Weinkle, and James R. Knott. Dr. John Allen, president of the University of South Florida, welcomed the board members and expressed his pleasure at having the Society headquarters on his campus. The minutes of the previous annual meeting of May 5-7, 1966, were approved as written.

Mr. Goza displayed a gift to the Society by E. M. Covington, a gavel used by the Confederate Roundtable of Dade City. The gavel is of wood from a tree which grew at "Beauvoir," the home of Jefferson Davis in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Miss Chapman announced that the Florida Historical Society membership is now 1,390, an increase of 162 new members. She showed the area occupied by the Society's Collection in the University of South Florida Library. The more valuable books and manuscripts are deposited in Miss Chapman's private office.

Miss Chapman read a letter she received requesting information on what was believed to be either a French or Dutch fort, located at Bailey's Bluff, north of Tarpon Springs on the Gulf of Mexico. She also noted material received from the American Association of State and Local History on the Preservation Act recently passed by Congress. The Governor will designate a specific agency for the purpose of directing the act.

In answer to a question by Mr. Craig, Miss Chapman explained that official papers of public figures are deposited in the basement of the Capitol in Tallahassee. Most of these are neither cataloged nor indexed and, as a result, are not readily available for research. Many private papers and manuscripts have been

deposited in university libraries throughout the state. The LeRoy Collins papers are at the University of South Florida under seal. The Sarasota County Historical Commission has recently received as a gift several large scrapbooks on Governor Collins, and Mrs. Davis offered the books to the University of South Florida.

Mr. Goza announced that the Interim Committee on Governmental Reorganization will recommend to the legislature a program establishing a state archives and history department separate from the Florida State Library.

Dr. Proctor reported the *Florida Historical Quarterly* is being printed regularly, and he is delighted with the response to it in the form of many publishable articles that are being regularly submitted. Dr. Proctor recommended that news which deals with local commissions and societies be included in the Society's *Newsletter* rather than the *Quarterly*. Dr. Proctor also requested the board members to encourage research and writing in their particular areas of the state as the *Quarterly* would like to publish the material of non-professional historians as well as the professional historian. There are a number of past issues of the *Quarterly* available. For information and prices write Miss Chapman.

The Society, according to Mr. Goza, will continue the program initiated during Judge Knott's administration to screen all historic markers erected by the State Board of Parks and Historical Memorials. All local societies may participate in this program by sharing one-half the total cost. Markers have been approved and recently erected at Apalachicola and Ormond Beach, and one will soon be put up in Manatee County, sponsored by the Manatee Historical Society.

The Antiquities Commission, Mr. Goza announced, will probably propose additional legislation to support the salvage program as very important new finds are being made daily. Mr. Goza also noted that Judge Knott had established a distinguished precedent by returning his \$300 travel allowance to the Society. Mr. Goza plans to deposit his travel allowance to the new Father Jerome Acquisition Memorial Fund (see resolution).

The President then called for approval of directors' terms. At the request of the Nominating Committee and with the consensus of the membership at the annual meeting, the President was instructed to designate officers and their length of term in office.

Dr. Tebeau offered the motion to approve the directors' terms of office as set by the president; it was seconded by Judge Knott and passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Rogers informed the Board that Florida State University will underwrite the publishing and mailing of the Society's *Newsletter*. Approximately two issues a year will be published. Dr. Tebeau recommended all reports of local historical societies and commissions be collected and published in an issue of the *Newsletter* for the annual meeting in May. The January issue of the *Quarterly* will notify the membership that no verbal reports of local societies and commissions will be made at the annual meeting; these reports will be printed in the *Newsletter* to be mailed to each member and distributed at the annual meeting. All reports must be received by Dr. William W. Rogers, Florida State University in Tallahassee, not later than April 1, 1967.

Mr. Craig reported a continuing program of directing news releases of *Quarterly* articles to all newspaper editors in the state. Miss Chapman noted that many papers were printing these releases as revealed by the University's clipping service and the increasing requests for the *Quarterly*.

Mr. Goza appointed the following committees:

Membership: James C. Craig, chairman. Mr. Craig will coordinate all regional vice presidents (membership chairmen in their local areas) into an active membership program.

Speakers Bureau: Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., chairman, Frank J. Laumer, and Judge Ben C. Willis.

Finance: Leonard A. Usina, chairman, Jay I. Kislak, Paul Maddock, and Walter S. Hardin.

Charter and By Laws: Milton D. Jones, chairman.

Junior Historian Essay Contest: Ernest Jernigan, of Central Florida Junior College, chairman. Mr. Jernigan will appoint his committee from members of his faculty.

Mrs. Betty Bruce of Key West was appointed local arrangements chairman for the 1967 Annual Convention.

Mr. Goza announced Dr. Tebeau will be program chairman of the annual meeting and he has already begun planning the program. Dr. Tebeau stated a change of format will be necessary since the convention is in Key West. The program will begin on Friday afternoon and the Board of Directors will meet Friday

night. A morning program Saturday, followed by a luncheon meeting with a guest speaker, will leave Saturday afternoon available for a tour of the historical sites in Key West. Mr. Goza and Dr. Tebeau were authorized to select a hotel for the meeting.

Mr. Goza reported on a meeting in October held at Dade City to discuss legislation to provide funds for re-editing and republishing *Soldiers of Florida*. Those attending that session strongly support the project. The re-edited book would contain brief histories of the various Florida military units participating in the Spanish-American, Mexican, Seminole Wars and the Civil War, and the names and service records of all Florida men who were involved in these nineteenth century conflicts. After general discussion, Dr. Tebeau moved that the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society endorse the project. His motion passed.

Mr. Goza reported on the proposed Father Jerome Acquisition Memorial Fund to be used to purchase books, documents, and manuscripts for the Florida Historical Society Library. Miss Chapman moved the Board adopt the resolution and it passed by unanimous vote. A general discussion was held on sponsoring a trip to Spain and places of historical interest in Spain connected with Florida history. Miss Chapman moved that the Board check into the possibility of having the Society sponsor such a trip and it also passed by unanimous vote. Miss Chapman announced that Miss Ann Davis, assistant executive secretary, had resigned. Mr. Goza expressed the Board's regrets and a letter of thanks will be sent to Miss Davis.

Mr. Hardin introduced A. K. Whitaker, president of the Manatee County Historical Society, and Colonel Francis C. Blankenship of Bradenton. Colonel Blankenship offered to the Society a gift of photographs, books, and other articles relating to Camp Gordon Johnson, a World War II Florida encampment. Mr. Craig moved that the Board accept with appreciation and thanks Colonel Blankenship's offer. Items that cannot be used by the Society will be passed on to the Florida State Museum and other appropriate agencies. Mr. Hardin suggested that the Society write a letter to the executors of Karl Bickel, former president of the Society, requesting all books and historical material that will not be donated to local societies, be given to the Florida Historical Society Library.

Mrs. Davis presented each board member a brochure from the Education Enrichment Center, proposed by the Board of Public Instruction in Sarasota and eight adjacent counties. This center will collect and disseminate information in all fields of science, including historical research, to all schools and civic organizations. The directors of the Education Enrichment Center invite the board members to read the brochure and express their views on the proposed project to John D. Woolever, 2418 Hatton Street, Sarasota.

Mr. Goza announced Judge Warren Jones has donated a number of copies of the *Quarterly* to the Society.

Mr. Goza thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said we will meet next in Key West in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Ralph F. Davis
Recording Secretary

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Father Jerome, a member of the Order of St. Benedict, was known and loved by the members of the Florida Historical Society, of which he was an honorary life member, as a poet, philosopher, author, horticulturist and Florida historian, and

Whereas, in recognition of his many contributions to the field of Florida history and to the Florida Historical Society, he had been made an Honorary Life Member of this organization, and

Whereas, the death of Father Jerome on September 15, 1966, has removed from our ranks a beloved and respected friend and scholar, and it is the desire of this Society to perpetuate his memory,

Now therefore, be it resolved as follows:

1. There is hereby established a fund to be known as "The Father Jerome Memorial Acquisitions Fund" to which contributions may be made by members of the Florida Historical Society and other friends and admirers of the late Father Jerome

2. Contributions received for this Fund shall be deposited or invested in the name of the Society in interest bearing savings accounts or in securities as approved by the Board of Directors or its Finance Committee

3. The interest or dividends only from this Fund may be periodically expended for the purchase of books, documents and manuscripts to be added to the collection of the Florida Historical Society, each such addition to be appropriately marked in memory of Father Jerome

4. A copy of this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society and a copy shall be sent to The Right Reverend Marion S. Bowman, O. S. B., Abbot at Saint Leo Monastery, St. Leo, Florida, at which abbey Father Jerome was residing at the time of his death.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Directors this 3rd day of December, 1966.