

1968

Director's Meeting, December 7, 1968

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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING

FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 7, 1968

The officers and directors of the Florida Historical Society met in the Student Union Building on the campus of Stetson University, DeLand, Florida, at 10:00 a.m., December 7, 1968. Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., presided. Other members attending included William M. Goza, James C. Craig, Samuel Proctor, James D. Bruton, Jr., Milton D. Jones, James A. Servies, N. E. Bill Miller, Baynard Kendrick, John E. Johns, August Burghard, and Luis R. Arana. The minutes of the directors' meeting, held at Daytona Beach, May 3, 1968, were published in the October 1968 number of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and were approved as printed.

Miss Margaret L. Chapman, executive secretary, reported on her visit to a recent meeting of Florida school officials in which concern was expressed for the limited emphasis on teaching of Florida history. She reported that a bill will be introduced at the regular session of the legislature in 1969 to provide funds for the books and other materials necessary to teach Florida history. After discussion, Dr. Proctor moved that the Florida Historical Society should extend every encouragement to local and state officials in developing course offerings on Florida history in the schools of Florida. The motion passed. Miss Chapman gave a short financial report and announced the current balance in the Society's regular and special accounts.

Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Quarterly*, announced the receipt from the printers of the memorial article on Dr. Rembert W. Patrick. Some delay in mailing resulted from the attempt to include as many of Dr. Patrick's friends and associates as possible. The distribution of the article will proceed, however, in the near future. Dr. Proctor described briefly several of the proposed changes in the format of the *Quarterly*, and assured the directors that these changes, if adopted, would have little effect on the costs of publication. The final product, he said, would be a more attractive and appropriate appearance of the *Quarterly*. Dr. Proctor again stressed the problem of the

rising costs of publication, and its effect on the operations, size, and quality of the *Quarterly*. Although new bids will be obtained from several printing firms in the state, Dr. Proctor warned that the quality of the *Quarterly* would deteriorate unless additional financial support was received.

Mr. Goza, chairman of the finance committee, announced that a study is being made of membership dues, and that a survey of the fees of other historical societies in the United States has been conducted. He also announced a forthcoming report of his committee in which a total new dues schedule for the Florida Historical Society would be recommended. Mr. Goza moved that the directors recommend to the membership at the May meeting that the annual dues be increased to \$7.50 per year. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Dr. Johns summarized a few of the difficulties experienced by the real property committee, and solicited suggestions from the directors regarding the project now underway to locate, identify, and inventory all property owned by the Florida Historical Society. Mr. Milton Jones commented briefly on the work of the committee on rules revision, emphasizing that its immediate objective was to study the revision of the by-laws. Certain proposed changes in the by-laws will be discussed at a later meeting. Mr. Craig reaffirmed the determination of the membership committee to continue actively to seek members.

In Mr. Dodson's absence, Dr. Doherty commented briefly on the status of arrangements for the annual meeting of the Society in Pensacola, May 9-10, 1969. Professors William Warren Rogers and Jerrell H. Shofner of Florida State University and Ernest Dibble of the University of West Florida are program chairmen. Mr. James Servies is appointing his local arrangements committee.

Mr. Goza presented a brief report on the visit to historic sites in Spain which he and several other members of the Society took last summer. Mr. Goza also reported on recent excavations conducted by National Park Service officials at Osceola's burial place at Ft. Moultrie, South Carolina. Since the directors at its May 1968 meeting had passed a resolution concerning Osceola's remains, Mr. Goza assured the Society that the National Park Service activities were conducted in such a way as to prevent commercial exploitation of the remains, which are still

at Ft. Moultrie. Mr. Goza recommended that one member of the board of directors be present at the reinternment ceremonies to represent the Society.

Dr. Doherty then distributed to the directors certain correspondence, photographs, and other documents relating to the Fort Gates property, situated near Ocala on the St. Johns River, which the owners wished to donate to the Society. Mr. Kendrick mentioned that he was quite familiar with the tract, and felt the property should be acquired by Florida, perhaps as a state park. Mr. Miller and others questioned the feasibility of its acquisition by the Society unless this was the only method by which the property could be transferred to another state agency. The directors were unanimous in their belief that the costs of maintenance, repairs, and development were beyond the resources of the Society. Dr. Proctor moved that the Society extend thanks to the owners of the Fort Gates property and express its regrets that the Society is not in a position to accept title to the property; furthermore, that the Society encourage the acquisition of the property by the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials, or by some other appropriate Florida agency. The motion passed.

The names of five regional vice-presidents were nominated seconded, and approved. The newly-elected regional vice-presidents are: northwest, N. E. Bill Miller (Tallahassee); northeast, Luis R. Arana (St. Augustine); central, Baynard Kendrick (Leesburg); southeastern, Charlton W. Tebeau (Miami); and, southwestern, Mrs. T. O. Bruce (Key West).

Dr. Proctor commented briefly on the success of the University of Florida Press publications, "Floridiana Facsimile & Reprint Series." This venture has seen the republication in a handsome format of a number of rare Florida books and imprints, and has made the titles available to an appreciative nationwide audience. Dr. Proctor moved that the Society commend the University of Florida Press for its successful efforts to broaden the appreciation of Florida history, and urge the press to continue the publication of this important series. The motion carried. Dr. Proctor also moved that the Society commend Dr. John K. Mahon, University of Florida, for his recently published volume *History of the Second Seminole War*, Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami, for his contributions to Florida history

as an educator and author, the St. Augustine Historical Society for its development of local history programs, and the Florida State Museum for its excellent depiction of Florida history in the interpretative state park museums. All of these received 1968 Awards of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. Dr. Proctor's motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Miller expressed concern about the deteriorating condition of the St. Marks Light which is under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Coast Guard, and he expressed the opinion that representations should be made to that organization about its maintenance. Dr. Doherty appointed Mr. Miller chairman of a committee to investigate the matter and named as committee members, Mr. David Phillips, department of architecture, and Drs. W. W. Rogers and Jerrell Shofner, department of history, all of Florida State University.

Dr. Doherty expressed the thanks of the directors to Dr. Johns and the staff of Stetson University for the opportunity to meet on the campus. Dr. Johns on behalf of the University invited the officers, directors, and their wives to a luncheon served in the Stetson Room. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John E. Johns and James A. Servies
Acting Recording Secretaries