

1974

Minutes of the Directors' Meeting

Florida Historical Society
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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING

Florida Historical Society

The semi-annual meeting of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society was convened at 9:45 a.m. in the Society's Library, University of South Florida, Tampa, December 7, 1974, by Milton D. Jones, president. Officers and directors attending included Thelma Peters, Alva Jones, Jay B. Dobkin, Jerrell H. Shofner, Samuel Proctor, George E. Buker, Lewis H. Cresse, Jr., Addie Emerson, William M. Goza, Marty Grafton, John W. Griffin, James R. Knott, John K. Mahon, Jessie Porter Newton, Randy Nimnicht, Sister Eileen Rice, and Norman Simons. Mrs. Margaret Burgess was also present. Mr. Jones welcomed Messrs. Buker, Cresse, and Nimnicht as new members of the board, and noted that Mr. Goza and Dr. Mahon had served previously as directors and were returning to duty.

The minutes of the May 1974 board meeting as published in the October 1974 issue of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* were approved as published. A summary of the minutes of the executive committee meeting held in October 1974 in St. Augustine was attached to the agenda for the meeting.

Dr. Peters reported on the first meeting and workshop of the Florida Confederation of Historical Societies held in Tampa, December 5-6, 1974. Thirty-eight organizations had been represented with seventy-five persons attending the luncheon. These included representatives from local and county historical societies and commissions, museums, and local, county, and state government agencies. The program was well organized and received, particularly the session by Mr. Dobkin and Paul Camp on document and map preservation. A second workshop is planned for May 8, 1975, in Gainesville at the time of the annual meeting of the Society. Mr. Jones thanked Dr. Peters and her committee— Mr. Nimnicht and Dr. Tebeau— for organizing the workshop.

Mr. Dobkin, in reporting the finances of the Society, noted there was no indebtedness and no decline in income. He reported the following balances:

[505]

Checking account	\$ 6,662.81
Savings account	17,963.34
University of South Florida account	4.91
Arthur W. Thompson Fund	2,917.50
Father Jerome Fund	3,591.51
Charlton W. Tebeau Fund	2,119.63
Julien C. Yonge Publication Fund	16,167.59
Stock Portfolio	436.00
Total	49,863.29

Mr. Dobkin called attention to the income received from sale of back issues of the *Quarterly*. The *Quarterly* inventory is not carried on the financial statement. The sale of the Volusia County real estate increased capital reserves by \$380. The question of purchasing certificates of deposit was discussed, but it was decided that it was easier and safer to leave the money in a savings account. Mr. Dobkin thanked his staff for their help in getting out the Confederation mailing.

Mr. Jones noted that Mrs. Olive Peterson had been named chairperson of the Confederation Executive Committee, and that dues for each organization member has been set at \$10.00 a year. Whether the Confederation will share expenses for the newsletter will be decided at a later date. Judge Knott moved that the financial report be approved, and his motion passed. The two small pieces of property owned by the Society in Volusia County have been sold. Dr. John E. Johns had obtained an appraisal which revealed that the lots were valued at \$500, and they were sold for this amount.

Mr. Dobkin reported that the cataloguing of the Society's Library, including maps and manuscripts, is proceeding, and that a complete shelf list is being prepared. Mr. Goza asked that receipts be obtained for the Society's artifacts which are out on loan. Mr. Dobkin asked that board members advise him of the location of any of these artifacts belonging to the Society. He also noted that the new special collections library facilities will have space to display artifacts. Dr. Peters will transfer her files on this matter to Mr. Dobkin. A list of all gifts to the Society as reported over the years in the *Quarterly* will be compiled. Mr. Dobkin announced that it will be possible to publish in the near future a manuscript list of all Florida Historical Society holdings.

Dr. Proctor noted that some of the records and correspondence of the Florida Historical Society are catalogued in the Julien C. Yonge Papers in the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University of Florida. Mr. Dobkin displayed a small publication done by one of his students which can be reproduced for about \$20.00 and distributed as a souvenir at the annual meeting or as a gift to new members. Dr. Proctor reported that the state Division of Archives, History and Records Management is compiling a catalog of Florida manuscript holdings. Mr. Goza said he would check on the status of the Florida collection at St. Leo's College. Mr. Dobkin reported the gift of a large number of back issues of the *Quarterly* from Mrs. Walter Fuller of St. Petersburg. Books continue to be received from the University Presses of Florida and E. A. Seemann Publishing, Inc.

Dr. Proctor reported on the continuing progress of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The format of the History News section will be changed with the inauguration of the *Florida History Newsletter*. Because of the increasing availability of well-written and well-documented materials on all aspects of Florida history, the size of the journal is larger. It also contains more illustrative material, mainly as a result of annual grants from the Wentworth Foundation, Inc., through Mr. Goza. Dr. Proctor announced that he will make the editorial board a revolving board, beginning in 1976, since many qualified persons are assisting by reading and evaluating articles. He recommended an increase in editor's expense from \$500 to \$780 to cover increased telephone and postage expenses. Judge Knott moved that this be approved, and his motion passed.

Dr. Proctor stated that the Panton-Leslie-Forbes project is moving along well under the editorial direction of Dr. William Coker of the University of West Florida. Volume one is scheduled to go to press in the fall of 1975. With support now from the National Historical Publications Commission, this project is recognized as making a major contribution to scholarship. The Society is a member of the Consortium supporting this program.

Mr. Griffin announced the Conference on American Loyalists during the American Revolution to be held in St. Augustine, February 6-8, 1975. The Florida Historical Society is a cosponsor of this national meeting.

Dr. Shofner reported that the work of compiling a cumulative index to volumes XXXVII through LIII of the *Quarterly* is proceeding. A contract has been signed with Dr. Karen Lee Singh of Tallahassee as compiler, and it is expected that a manuscript will be completed by June 1975. Dr. Singh will receive \$4,000 for her work, and expenses are estimated at \$500. A grant of \$3,513 for this project has been received from the Florida Bicentennial Commission. Dr. Shofner estimates that the printing will cost approximately \$9,000. The Julien C. Yonge Publication Fund will be used to underwrite the expense of this volume. It was recommended that 3,000 copies of the index be published.

Dr. Shofner announced that Dr. Tom Greenhaw of the Department of History, Florida Technological University, will be editor of the *Florida History Newsletter*. This publication will cost approximately \$400 an issue. It will be mailed to members of the Confederation and the Florida Historical Society. Dr. Shofner invited all local historical organizations to send information about their activities to Dr. Greenhaw. The first issue is scheduled for February or March 1975.

The plan for a catalogue of Florida manuscript holdings was outlined by Mr. Dobkin. All representatives to the Confederation workshop have received data on this program including a form to report manuscript holdings of their organization. It was noted that other agencies in Florida, including the Division of Archives, History and Records Management, are interested in working on such a catalogue. Mr. Nimnicht suggested a statewide effort so that activities would not be duplicated. Mr. Dobkin referred to the Inter-Institutional Committee on Libraries as a possible coordinating group. Mr. Goza noted that the forms sent to local historical groups would tend to flush out heretofore unknown holdings, and this would itself be a great service.

The Florida Historical Society handbook was discussed. Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., has agreed to write a short history of the Society for this publication. Mr. Jones will investigate private funding to underwrite the cost, about \$2,000, for this book. Mr. Jones suggested a format similar to the *Quarterly*. Sister Eileen Rice moved that this project be approved with the understanding that no Society funds be expended for its implementation. This was approved.

Messrs. Griffin and Goza were appointed as a committee to look into the Carriage House project in St. Augustine as proposed by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Million. Mr. Griffin feels that another house museum would not be practical in that community, but he agreed that his staff could act in an advisory capacity in restoration if these properties are owned by the Society. Mr. Griffin pointed out the historical value of the houses. Mr. Jones has conferred with Mr. Million, and he has asked for sufficient time to allow the Society to explore all aspects of this generous offer. Mr. Goza moved that the board go on record as receiving with interest the proposal of Mr. and Mrs. Million and authorize the committee appointed by Mr. Jones to explore the matter with no action being taken until the full board has been consulted. The motion was seconded and approved.

The matter of membership was discussed. Dr. Mahon, chairman of the membership committee, reported he is pushing membership with local societies. He passed out the new renewal-of-membership forms. He emphasized, again, the need for a promotional pamphlet. A discussion was held on the type of promotional material needed. Mr. Jones emphasized the need for a practical, workable membership program by the time of the next annual meeting. Mr. Griffin suggested spot television announcements. Another source of potential members for the Society are the member organizations of the Confederation. Dr. Proctor suggested inviting members of the legislature to become members. Mrs. Grafton volunteered to help design a promotion booklet, and Mr. Jones appointed her and Mr. Nimmicht to a committee to prepare such material. The Executive Committee was authorized to approve funds for this work.

Dr. Buker reported on the program for the annual meeting. Mr. Jones read the report from Dr. Merlin Cox who is in charge of local arrangements for the meeting in Gainesville, May 9-10, 1975.

Judge Knott noted that the State Board of Health at Jacksonville had some of the papers associated with Dr. Porter, the founder of the Board of Health. Mr. Jones appointed Judge Knott and Mrs. Newton as a committee to look into the matter to determine if these materials were being taken care of.

Mr. Jones noted that Judge Knott had received the D. B. McKay Award from the Tampa Historical Society for his untir-

ing work in having the name of Cape Canaveral restored. He offered a resolution of thanks to Judge Knott for this effort, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Jones thanked everyone for attending, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
ALVA L. JONES
Recording Secretary

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.
1975

April 16-19	Organization of American Historians	Boston
May 9-10	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY- 73rd ANNUAL MEETING	Gainesville
September 16-19	American Association for State and Local History	Mackinac Island
October 2-3	Sixth Annual Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference	Pensacola
October 23-26	Oral History Association	Asheville, North Carolina
November 8	American Society for Ethno-History	Gainesville
November 12-15	Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting	Washington, D.C.

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Tampa, Florida 33620

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