

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TAHLEQUAH, MAY 7TH AND 8TH

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order in the Library Building of the Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, at 9:30 A.M., May 7th and 8th, by General W. S. Key, President, presiding.

The Secretary called the roll which showed the following members present: Gen. William S. Key, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Judge Redmond S. Cole, Judge Baxter Taylor, Dr. I. N. McCash, Mr. George L. Bowman, Mr. Thomas J. Harrison, Mr. Thomas G. Cook, Mr. R. M. Mountcastle, Judge N. B. Johnson and Col. George H. Shirk.

The Secretary reported that Dr. E. E. Dale of Norman had sent a telegram telling of a serious business which would not permit him to attend. Judge Edgar S. Vaught had reported that a heavy docket prevented him from coming. The Board of Directors heard with deep distress of the continued illness of Mr. H. L. Muldrow, a veteran Director of the Society. Mrs. Anna B. Korn, a distinguished director for many years was also reported ill. The Board expressed its profound sorrow and regret and sent to each of these, the highest tribute and the earnest hope that they may be restored to health in the days to come.

Judge Cole made a motion that absentee members who had notified the Secretary, be excused as having good and sufficient reasons for their absence. Dr. Harbour seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

President Key at this point expressed his great pleasure to welcome Mrs. Carolyn Thomas Foreman and he wished her to stand while the audience also welcomed her, which they did by standing and giving hearty cheers. Mrs. Foreman said that she was very happy to be present and regretted very much that "Grant", as she called her celebrated husband, Dr. Grant Foreman, could not attend. The Board expressed to her the profound regrets that its Director of Historical Research could not be present and sent him warm favor and the sincere hopes that his health would improve.

General Key laid before the Board, the general tenor of the program of the two days of the Society meeting in Tahlequah. He expressed satisfaction and great pleasure on the part of the Society in holding the Annual or birthday meeting in the City of Tahlequah, which is perhaps, the acknowledged center of Oklahoma's beginning of history. Of course all knew that May 26th is the regular birthday of the Society, but out of a warm invitation on the part of Tahlequah and Northeastern State College, the meeting had been moved to May 7th and 8th because on this day the Northeastern State College was honoring the one-hundredth anniversary of the opening of the Cherokee National Seminaries. On the morning of May 7th, 1851, the Cherokee Nation had opened the doors of the Female Seminary.

The President called attention to the program which consisted of several distinct parts: First, the Business session lasting until 11:00 A.M.; second, the Round Table Discussion beginning at 11:00 A.M. under the leadership of Dr. B. E. Chapman, Department of History, Oklahoma A. and M. College; then, the afternoon was to be given over to the pageant offered by Northeastern State College pupils and teachers on the beautiful college campus; at 7:00 P.M. Monday, there was to be extended to the Board of Directors and members of the Society, a banquet given by the

citizens of Tahlequah and Northeastern State College. On Tuesday, May 8th, Dr. T. L. Ballenger would meet with all who wished to go on a historical tour in the region near the city.

The President called upon the Secretary to place before the Board some of the actions of the present Legislature of Oklahoma in dealing with the budget of the Society for the next biennium. The Secretary stated that the budget as made out by the Executive Committee had been placed as early as October 1950 in the hands of the Budget Office and was duly printed in the book containing the budget of all departments of state. The Secretary stated that he had followed closely the movements of the Legislature and at the present time, very few of the departmental bills have been passed by both houses and signed by the Governor.

The Secretary presented to the Board the beautiful tribute that had been paid to the Oklahoma Historical Society by the House of Representatives which had been published in the News Letter of March 1951. Such a tribute had never before been paid by any part of the Legislature in the history of the Society. The motion was made by Hon. Baxter Taylor that a letter be sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives telling of the appreciation of the Board of Directors. The Secretary was authorized to draw the letter up and send it to the Speaker. The motion of Hon. Baxter Taylor was seconded by Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour and it was passed unanimously.

General Key made the observation that the Executive Committee acting for the Board of Directors had asked for little increase in appropriations for the Society at this time. It was believed that the Legislature bore the Society in such high esteem that they might have secured more money for a large marker program or for other purposes, but due to high taxation and other confusion coming with the present time, both state and national, the Committee was willing to rest its case upon a ten percent raise in salaries and an extension of a few more dollars for certain other light expenses.

A call was made at this time for a report on the Life Membership drive which the Secretary had inaugurated on or about November 1st, 1950 and extended to this date, May 7th, 1951—a period of six months.

The Secretary stated that the highlights of this drive were as follows:

- (1) Through the chief agent of contact with Life Members, the "News Letter," invitations were sent to all present Life Members to get another Life Member.
- (2) Invitations to join in the campaign were extended to certain eminent citizens.
- (3) The following rendered distinguished service: H. B. Bass of Enid; Col. George H. Shirk, a member of the Board of Directors; D. O. C. Newman, Shattuck; President Eugene S. Briggs of Phillips University of Enid. Through these, some thirty Life Members were secured in this drive of six months. There were a few scattered Life Members secured by the Secretary through the influence of the News Letter or personally.
- (4) The campaign proved that Life Members could be secured best by *personal invitation and contact*.
- (5) The number of Life Memberships secured in this drive was some seventy-five. They are continuing to come in.

The Secretary at this point said that he was sending to each member of the Board a rather broad report on this membership drive because it is so important.

Hon. Baxter Taylor, at the conclusion of this report by Dr. Evans, arose to say that he had been a member of the Board for more than a quarter of a century, and no such growth as this had ever been recalled

in the expansion of Life Memberships. He made a motion that the Secretary be highly commended for this service. The motion was seconded by Dr. Harbour and passed unanimously.

General Key pointed out that the report of the Chief Clerk revealed that there was sufficient money in the Special Fund due to the expansion of the Life Membership growth that a bond of \$5,000.00 could be bought and a sufficient surplus be left for proper business, depending on this fund, to be carried on. A motion was then made by Mr. George L. Bowman that the Secretary be authorized to purchase a \$5,000.00 bond for the Oklahoma Historical Society and this was seconded by Judge N. B. Johnson and passed unanimously.

Mr. Thomas J. Harrison presented to the Board the substance of the bill that had recently passed both the House and Senate, received the signature of the Governor and had now become law, relating to the celebration annually at Salina, Oklahoma, the birthday of Jean Pierre Chouteau. The Bill was read as follows:

"An act relating to Oklahoma Historical Day, creating a committee for its observance and providing for its membership, terms of members, powers and duties; making an appropriation, and regulating its expenditure. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Oklahoma:

Section 1. There is hereby established under the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Historical Society the Oklahoma Historical Day Committee. Said Committee shall consist of five (5) members. The Superintendent of Salina Public Schools shall be one member, and the other four members shall be appointed by the Oklahoma Historical Society for a term of four (4) years. The members of the Committee shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for their personal expenses.

Section 2. The said Committee shall have full power and the duty to arrange for, supervise and conduct, or to aid and assist others in conducting an annual celebration at Salina on Oklahoma Historical Day, commemorating the Birthday Anniversary of Major Jean Pierre Chouteau, who established the first white settlement in what is now the State of Oklahoma at the present site of Salina, in Mayes County.

Section 3. The Oklahoma Historical Society is hereby authorized and directed to give the Oklahoma Historical Day Committee all possible aid and assistance in the performance of its duties.

Section 4. There is hereby appropriated to the Oklahoma Historical Society out of any moneys in the General Revenue Fund in the State Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the following sums: One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the fiscal year ending 1952 and One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the fiscal year ending June 1953. Said money, or so much thereof as shall be required, shall be paid out by the Oklahoma Historical Day Committee, for the purposes for which said Committee was created, but the foregoing appropriations shall not prevent the expenditure of other and additional funds which may be available for such purposes.

Passed the House of Representatives the 28th day of February, 1951."

After the Bill was read, Mr. Thomas J. Harrison presented the names of the five citizens of Mayes County who had been recommended by Mayes County to joint with the Oklahoma Historical Society in carrying out certain details of the Bill. These citizens were as follows: Clifford R. Thornton, Superintendent of Schools, Salina; William E. Reynolds and Alfred Jansen, Salina; Merle Caldwell, Pryor and S. E. Chouteau, Muskogee. Motion was made by Judge N. B. Johnson and seconded by Hon. George Bowman that the Board of Directors appoint these five men. The motion carried unanimously.

General Key appointed a committee composed of Mr. Thomas J. Harrison, Pryor, Judge N. B. Johnson and Judge Baxter Taylor of Oklahoma

City to work with the above named committee, as representatives of the Society.

General Key called attention to the fact that the Bill did not state the date upon which the trading post was established, and though the Society had previously disagreed with the Chouteau heirs as to the date of the founding of the trading post, he saw no reason why we could not concur in this plan. It commemorates only the birthday of Jean Pierre Chouteau and does not designate the date of the establishment of the trading post. Gen. Key said, "I want the records to show clearly the position of the Historical Society is that it has approved and is now reapproving the report of the historical research on this matter as conducted by Dr. Grant Foreman and the late Judge Robert L. Williams.

The Secretary requested the Board to permit him to go forward in developing such historical brochures, postal cards and leaflets, to be purchased out of the Revolving Fund. A motion was made by Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour that this plan be carried out as Dr. Evans recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas G. Cook and was passed unanimously.

The Secretary stated that there was a need for \$100.00 to be added to the Petty Cash Fund. A motion was made by R. M. Mountcastle, seconded by Judge Redmond S. Cole and carried unanimously that this money be allotted.

The Secretary reported that the following list of gifts and pictures had been received:

Sioux purse, Sioux tobacco pouch, Sioux headdress, Sioux bag, Sioux dirk scabbard, Cheyenne purse, Cheyenne bridle rosettes, Sioux Scabbard, Sioux knife scabbard, stirrups, Three pairs of spurs, riding crop, buckle, vase, eight loving cups, two ropes, two polo sticks, Texas steer horns, two canes, pair of boots, Annie Oakley saddle, miniature stagecoach, steer and Mexican cart, bridle and breasts strap, prize ribbons and badges, Navajo saddle blanket, surcingle, Stetson hat, presented by Charles Tompkins; calling horn, engraved by captured Union soldier during the War Between the States, presented by Mrs. J. D. Beaucamp, Wynnewood; compact used before 1865, presented by Mrs. Dorothea Harlow Ivy, Oklahoma City; handmade table, box and violin of inlaid wood, made and presented by Mr. J. A. Buol, Olustee, now deceased; silk scarf, souvenir of Oklahoma, presented by Mrs. V. V. Grant, Oklahoma City; souvenir plate of the University of Oklahoma, presented by Mrs. Howard McClain, Oklahoma City. A picture of Minne Quisenberry Rose, presented by Beulah Blake, Riverton, Kansas; seven pictures of Mabel Tompkins—all framed, four framed pictures of Charles Tompkins, Cowboy and his Horse, a colored print, photograph of a newspaper article, large framed print of Rosenben, famous race horse, two sheets advertising Tompkins Wild West Shows, large framed print of race horse, Colin, membership certificate in Texas Trail Drivers, brideless horse ridden by the niece of Ozzie Johnson, Christmas in Lambersville, N. J., 1914, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in 1902, skin painting by Chief Charking Hawk, Sioux, copy of newspaper clipping, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in 1886, presented by Charles Tompkins, El Reno; picture of Mrs. R. C. Stanley; a drawing by Moritz Grossman of Leon Phillips; Students at Pawnee Indian School, Pawnee, Oklahoma, presented by Mrs. Agnes Trousdale, Pawnee; picture of H. G. Trosper and Sunnlyane Church, oldest church in Oklahoma City, presented by Mr. Frank Trosper.

Mr. George L. Bowman moved that the gifts and pictures be accepted and that a vote of thanks be extended to the donors. The motion was seconded by Col. George H. Shirk and was passed unanimously.

The Secretary presented the following list of applicants for membership: LIFE: Robert Alexander, Tulsa; R. S. Baker, Enid; Clarence E. Burlingame, Bartlesville; Paul B. Champlin, M. D., Enid; Albert Vesta

Chestnut, Arnett; Mary Cromwell, Enid; Judge F. Hiner Dale, Guymon; Tom C. Dillingham, Enid; Stephen E. Dunham, Tulsa; Ancel Earp, Oklahoma City; John F. Everitt, Enid; Leslie G. Everitt, Kansas City, Mo.; Price Freuqay, Enid; Mrs. Carl S. Ford, Enid; Milton B. Garber, Enid; Mrs. Nelly M. Gilmore, Paris, Texas; Mrs. John Will Gragg, Cherokee; Mrs. V. V. Grant, Oklahoma City; John Will Gragg, III, Cherokee; Jerry Jean Gragg, Cherokee; Gerry Grant East, Oklahoma City; Joe Hamilton, Oklahoma City; John J. Hamre, Arnett; Donald F. Karns, Watonga; Emmett A. Klem, Shattuck; Miss Eva Lewers, Eufaula; Dr. Gaston Litton, Norman; Dr. T. T. Montgomery, Durant; Mrs. Howard McClain, Oklahoma City; Georgia Lee McLain, Oklahoma City; Howard Milton McLain, Oklahoma City; Leo Meir, Follett, Texas; Dr. Maurice Merrill, Norman; Jerry B. Newby, Oklahoma City; Edgar Oppenheim, Oklahoma City; Herbert Miner Pierce, Wilburton; F. B. H. Spellman, Alva; George H. Stiers, Oklahoma City; C. R. Strong, Stillwater; F. E. Tucker, Dallas, Texas; Paul A. Walker, Washington, D. C.; Marion Norris Wheeler, Enid; L. E. Wheeler, St. Louis; H. B. Watts, Tulsa.

ANNUAL: Mrs. W. J. Armstrong, Oklahoma City; E. R. Caywood, Hot Springs, Ark.; John C. Feagins, Vinita; Nathalie Fowler, River Ford, Illinois; Charles B. Grant, Tulsa; Dr. W. H. Goldsbury, Pauls Valley; F. C. Hamilton, Topeka, Kansas; Dorothy A. Holcomb, Oklahoma City; Glen Ham, Pauls Valley; Ralph Hyde, Enid; Dean Mathis, Muskogee; James Logan McDonald, Muskogee; Mr. W. S. Mellor, Jr., Muskogee; Phillip Pierce, Oklahoma City; G. Pettigrew, Oklahoma City; Bertha Effie Preuitt, Lawton; Wayne Wuinlan, Oklahoma City; F. P. Rose, Rogers, Ark.; James H. Reeve, Dewey; Milo T. Reed, Wewoka; Florence Smith, Webbers Falls; Joe P. Spaulding, Bartlesville; Hugh A. Stanberry, Claremore; Miss Sara Thomason, Pauls Valley; Calvin L. Turnbow, Tahlequah; John O. Taylor, Medford; James A. Veazey, Tulsa; C. C. Victory, Tulsa; Lawrence Webster, Medford; Dr. Maxwell O. White, Tahlequah; Tom Wilkes, Oklahoma City; Anthony Willard, Leavenworth, Kansas; Mrs. Neatha Richard, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Wilma Richard, Oklahoma City.

The time had approached for the Round Table Discussion and the motion for adjournment of the business session was made by Dr. I. N. McCash, seconded by Mr. Thomas G. Cook and passed unanimously.

The Board, members of the Society and visitors moved into the Reception Room of the Library and Dr. B. B. Chapman, leader of the Round Table, immediately took up the business before them which consisted of three topics: (1) State protection of historical centers, (2) Junior Historical Societies in the State, (3) How can Oklahomans be made historically conscious. This discussion which was engaged in by many members of the Board, Society members and visitors was hearty and very helpful. The high points could perhaps be stated as follows:

Dr. J. Stanley Clark of the Planning and Resources Board made it clear that the Planning and Resources Board had done much to preserve and develop the historical sites that had been placed under its care, but while much has been done, a great deal more should be done. He developed splendidly the idea that if the Society wished to purchase certain historical sites in the State, it would be well to discuss it very little beforehand because the price goes up after the discussion is made. He brought out too, that all historical sites developed should receive closer attention on the part of the local citizens. Mr. Morton Harrison, Chairman of the Planning and Resources Board, joined in the discussion and made a splendid contribution to this idea and pledged the full cooperation of his agency. Colonel George H. Shirk said that none of the money now in the treasury of the Society could be very practically used in buying certain historical sites that could be inexpensively secured. Some \$50.00 had been asked for a certain historical site which he had discovered a few days before, and he said that if he had had the money he would have purchased it

himself and given it to the Society. This statement brought cheers. Dr. Anna Lewis took up the next topic and said that she had come from the Oklahoma College for Women to stress the necessity of Junior Historical Societies in the State. Dr. Evans joined with her in saying that several years ago, he had made a very strong campaign in the central cities of Oklahoma, and in their schools, to develop junior historical societies. High school students and some teachers were highly enthusiastic and hungry for such a program and some five or six were organized. They failed because the school leaders in the realm of education and history departments demanded that the curriculum as related to history courses was enough and that all time should be given to such courses. For that reason, the splendid beginning for the Junior Historical Societies died on the vine.

Dr. I. N. McCash was called upon by Dr. Chapman to discuss how Oklahomans can be made historically conscious. He presented his views with his usual fervor and accuracy which always mark the statements of the veteran educator and minister.

At the end of this discussion, President Key called upon Mrs. Carolyn Thomas Foreman to add something to the discussion and she said that while she did not wish to enter into the discussion, she wished to say that her husband, Dr. Grant Foreman, had paid this Board a tribute for the program of the Fifty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society, believing that it was the best and most meaty program that he had ever known the Society to put forth.

Dr. Angie Debo reported to the Round Table that she had made a visit to the home of Doctor and Mrs. Foreman and that Doctor Foreman had placed in her hands a statement setting forth his continued interest in the largest domain of the Society and that was the gathering of important historical material from over the State. Dr. Angie Debo read the paper that Dr. Foreman had asked her to read before the Society and the Round Table members heard it with great interest. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas J. Harrison that this paper be placed in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* in some future issue. This was seconded by Dr. McCash and passed unanimously.

The appointed time had come for the basket lunch on the campus for the Board Members, Society members, and visitors, so the meeting was adjourned until the banquet at 7:00 P.M.

Promptly at 7:00 P.M., the chosen citizens delegated to extend a warm welcome to the Society in the form of a banquet assembled, and the banquet was called to order by Dr. W. D. Johnson. A splendid musical number was given by Northeastern State College and Mayor Roy C. Hinds was introduced for the Address of Welcome. His address was full of wit and good humor. General William S. Key was called upon to respond in the name of the Society. As President of the Board of Directors, General Key made it clear that in honoring Tahlequah as a chosen place by the Society on its fifty-eighth birthday meeting, it had honored itself.

General Key was called upon by Dr. Johnson to introduce the eminent men and women of the gathering. This part of the program was highly enjoyable because in happy humor, Judge Baxter Taylor, a long-time member of the Board of Directors when introduced, said that in the request made to state his name, he would say that he had come here from Tennessee some forty-five years ago and took the name of Baxter Taylor which is still used today. Others took the cue, and this part of the program which is frequently dry and severe, became a period of merriment.

Dr. Johnson called upon Dr. B. B. Chapman to introduce the first speaker. Dr. Chapman introduced Miss Kathryn M. Murphy and told of the important and close connection between her work as Archivist in Washington, D. C. and that of the archives of Oklahoma.

Miss Murphy thoroughly impressed her audience with the tremendous range of the service of the United States Archives in Washington, D. C. She revealed that the National Archives in Washington had received such Oklahomans as Dr. Grant Foreman, Dr. Litton and Dr. Chapman, and how they had found practical assistance for their research there. Her remarks were practical in every detail and her ideas were so pointed and well developed that she held the audience in close attention. She stated her intention to visit the Oklahoma Historical Society on Wednesday and Thursday May 9th and 10th.

Dr. Gaston Litton delivered a splendid address on "Guide Book on Resources of Oklahoma History". Dr. Litton, as archivist of the University of Oklahoma, has been developing "the hidden link" between the vast archivist resources of the National Archives at Washington and the rich history in the archives of Oklahoma's institutions. He is issuing the book, "Guide Book on Resources of Oklahoma History" within the next few months.

After music from Northeastern State College, the program highly enjoyed by all was completed.

On Tuesday morning at 9:30, May 8th, a historical tour was conducted by Dr. T. L. Ballenger, starting from the east entrance of the Administration Building, and many cars of directors, members and citizens passed through the region surrounding Tahlequah visiting such important spots in the former Cherokee Nation, as the following:

Old Cherokee Capitol	Supreme Court Building
The Cherokee National Prison	Bacone College
The Baptist Mission	The Presbyterian Mission
The Old Methodist Church	Riley's Chapel
The Cherokee Female Seminary	The Murrell House (Hunters' Home)
The Male Seminary	The Worcester Mission (Park Hill)
	W. S. KEY, President.

CHARLES EVANS, Secretary

