

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD OF CURATORS

April 4, 1964

The Board Meeting of the Washington State Historical Society was held at the Museum in Tacoma on April 4, 1964, Mr. Reno Odlin Presiding.

Present:

|              |                |               |                       |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Judge Hill   | Mr. Allen      | Mr. Jukes     | Mrs. Scott            |
| Mrs. Emmons  | Mr. Green      | Mr. Long      | Mr. McClelland        |
| Mr. Burnham  | Mr. Hitchman   | Dr. Thompson  | Dr. Jones             |
| Mr. Relander | Mr. Dawley     | Mr. Murray    | Mr. Gordon            |
| Mr. Shaub    | Mr. Kreienbaum | Mrs. Anderson | Mrs. Wanamaker        |
|              |                |               | Mr. Le Roy (Director) |

Minutes of the December 7, 1963 meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Mr. Gordon and approved as read. A copy of this is attached and made a part of these Minutes.

Library Committee: Mrs. Scott reported that much progress has been made in the Library since the last meeting. At the back of the Library you will note that our Manuscript Collection has been shelved. Miss Seders, our Librarian, has accomplished a tremendous job by removing the bulk of our manuscripts from the old filing cabinets--where they were hard to work with--into the same standard manuscript boxes which are used by the Library of Congress and the National Archives.

Now they are boxed, the long task of making "finding Lists" and inventory lists is under way. These will be supplemental to the card catalogue, telling in more detail what is in each separate collection. It will take lots of time, especially since we continue to add to our collections. But it is being done.

Several rich collections of Civil War material have been found and accessioned. Among them are the Colonel John Laing papers, mentioned at our last meeting; the Charles Sweet papers, which also have much on Indian treaties after the Civil War; the Glode Lewis papers which contain, among other things, 15 diaries kept by two brothers before, during and right after the Civil War in which both fought and one died; an original annotated map of the Battle of Gettysburg by one of the men in the battle. Another new collection has been acquired-- Civil War letters from two more brothers who took part in seven battles.

Mrs. Cherie Bowen, our library volunteer, has finished the first draft of a checklist of our Civil War books and manuscripts. It is possible that we might publish this as our contribution to the Civil War Centennial Observance in Washington State.

Several valuable items of new equipment have been purchased. They are: a book-copying attachment for our photocopying machine, an opaque projector, by which we project maps, manuscripts and pictures for study or copy or special programs; a polaroid camera for photographing rare items we have now or will get in the future. This gives us an additional check on "what it is and what it looks like" as well as knowing where it is.

Last month, Miss Seders assisted 195 researchers in our Library, as well as answering telephone requests and mail requests. We hope to get another person to assist before much longer. Librarians "Come High", and are as scarce as they ever were. Meanwhile, we are doing very well with our present Librarian whom we hope to keep for a long time to come.

Publications Committee: John McClelland's project, the editing of Phoebe Judson's A PIONEER'S SEARCH FOR AN IDEAL HOME, has been reviewed by several members of the Publications Committee. We hope to get this book to the printer before fall.

THE HISTORY OF FORT STEILACOOM, a pamphlet written by James Priest, is almost completed. It has not been read by the Committee as yet. Mr. Priest has many rare pictures which will help to make this a real historical contribution.

The Publications Committee is considering an arrangement with the University of Washington Press. The Press would share production costs and profits on an even basis with the Society. They would supply sales distribution (two men on the road selling), promotion and national advertising. We would be responsible for editing the books. We would want to be, inasmuch as the Society's reputation is at stake.

Professor Verne Carstensen, of the University of Washington, who will speak at the Annual Banquet of the Pacific Northwest History Conference in Bellingham next week, will join the faculty of the University of Washington in September. He will take over as editor of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly. He intends to call upon Society resources for Quarterly material, a plan which was under way with Dr. Gates.

(Following the report of Mr. Hitchman, the Board authorized the Publications Committee to negotiate arrangements with the University of Washington Press to submit all such agreements to the Executive Committee for final approval.)

Museum Committee: Mr. Shaub reported that the Museum has acquired some fine new collections since our last meeting. Among those on exhibit now is a beautiful model of the "Flyer", the famous ship which made the Seattle-Tacoma run for many years and logged a record of two million miles. At present the "Flyer" is on display in McCormick Hall. Later it will be moved to the Maritime Wing on the 2nd floor.

The Pirate "Treasure Chest", donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Todd, is on display on the 2nd floor in the Maritime Wing. Also on the 2nd floor, a number of Civil War posters, broadsides and swords, plus models of Fort Nisqually and Fort Vancouver, have been added to the "Historic Guns and Uniforms" display.

On the 1st floor, where pioneer tools are exhibited, we have installed a "roller" donated by Crown Zellerbach. This was once attached to a stump or tree and used to guide the bight of the line in ox-team logging. Kenn Johnson has painted a picture as background for the exhibit. Incidentally, all of the exhibits mentioned so far, have been well publicized by the Tacoma News Tribune and other newspapers around the state. Crown Zellerbach publicized their gift to us all over the country.

On the 5th floor, in the stairwell near the Art Gallery, we have hung six permanent additions to our art collection -- paintings of Tacoma by Kenn Johnson and O. T. Grunden, and historic ships by Hewitt Jackson. In our Gallery we are trying to plan ahead for shows which will emphasize "crafts of the Pacific Northwest". By this we mean an exhibit of decorative metal work, "string painting", other handicrafts which hobbyists will display. We do not intend to stick to straight art shows but to work in this new direction which is of interest to people looking for ways to use their leisure time.

In McCormick Hall we are continuing to change permanent exhibits around. The Isaac Stevens exhibit is being expanded. The missionary display has been dressed up.

Planning Committee: Mr. Shaub reported that plans for the new wing are being drawn up by the architects, Lea, Pearson and Richards.

We plan to expand our services to local historical societies. As the first step we have been gathering up to date rosters of the membership of these societies. At present we are sending them NEWS NOTES, notices of meetings, etc. We hope to have workshops to supplement what we do for them now as in next week's Pacific Northwest History Conference. There are about 3,000 members, not counting the Seattle Historical Society which has that many more, who look to us for leadership. This spring Mr. Le Roy will visit several eastern Washington local societies where he will talk to the members about cooperative programs with the state society.

We are working to increase the membership of the Society. This month we have had the largest number of renewals in our recent history. The luncheon which follows this meeting is a good example. It has been sold out for days.

A continuing problem is the question of whether our Society is to be treated by the State as a trustee or an agency. The Budget Department has said we are an agency. Mr. Murray is trying to get a ruling from the Attorney-General which will permit us to pay Board Members' travel expenses. This problem is one which will be reviewed regularly by the Planning Committee.

Another continuing problem is the need for new sponsors for exhibits, special programs and publications. Any Board Member who knows any person who wants to help the Society financially should give that name to the Director who will act on it immediately.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be in May.

Building and Grounds Committee: Mr. Long reported that the Tacoma Park Board had assisted once more with new bushes and plants for the continued beautification of

the museum grounds. Mr. Howard Harmon, Point Defiance Park Superintendent, has promised to provide a crew which will spray museum grounds soon. They have helped in this way before.

Mr. Long called the attention of the Board to the general good condition of the museum interior and exterior, pointing out that this was due to good maintenance rather than the age of the facility. Continued improvements have been made in storage rooms, especially the rooms where the gun collection duplicates are stored.

The burning problem before us now is to find a sponsor or group of sponsors who will supply or pay for an asphalt cover for the new parking lot at the rear of the museum. Mr. Long pointed out that all the work to date for the new lot has been donated but that sponsors and donations don't just appear! They have to be sought for. Anyone with suggestions on this subject will be appreciated by the Building and Grounds Committee. Also, the need for a new sign for the building is evident and a sponsor required for that.

Director's Report: Mr. Le Roy reported that efforts to acquire the membership rosters of the local and county historical societies had met with great success. With one exception (Skagit County) all the local groups were anxious to avail themselves of the assistance and encouragement of the mother society (WSHS). His spring schedule called for visits to a number of eastern Washington societies where he would meet with the various groups to discuss the new certification of affiliation with the state historical society. It is his hope to be able to visit all 34 groups on at least an annual schedule.

The Narcissa Whitman Journal, identified recently as an original from the notes Mrs. Whitman made on the westward crossing, has received considerable notice in the press. As a result, the owner of the journal who deposited it in our collection many years ago, was now considering its withdrawal. Mr. Le Roy reported that he, Dr. Thompson and Mr. Jukes were discussing the matter with Mrs. Ginera Whitman Lutz, the owner, in an effort to persuade her to re-deposit the journal with the Society. In addition, Mr. Le Roy had learned that Mrs. Lutz had considerably more Whitman material and might consider this material as an eventual deposit in our library. A further report on this matter will be made at the next meeting of the Board of Curators.

Mr. Le Roy mentioned the greatly increased volume of school tours to the Museum. He drew the attention of the Board to a special book of illustrated letters sent to Mrs. Elizabeth Taplin, educational tour leader, by one of the visiting schools. A continuing problem is the need for volunteers to take special (not school) groups through the exhibits. The effort to train the Junior League members some time back had no lasting effect. Only two young ladies from the group remained and they are carrying our exhibits to the schools directly.

The director reported that the state Civil War Centennial Council had been carrying on with a minimum of publicity (and no funds). A number of articles, speeches, radio-TV shows, pamphlets had been produced by individual members of the Council. Statewide, special exhibits and programs have been arranged with the encouragement and loans of items from our collections here. Example: the Matthew Brady show has been given 7 times in different parts of the state.

The duplicate collections of rare guns have been arranged in new racks in storage. This project has been under way for months and is now about finished. Any Board member interested in seeing this magnificent display was invited to the second floor store room where Reverend Prouty who was most responsible for the achievement would explain what had been done. (Note: most every one made the trip!)

A need for individual sponsors is pressing. The Laing Civil War Collection (\$250); the farmland natural history (\$300); new microfilm (\$350), etc. Promises have been made to house the pirate chest and fans collections. Most of the microfilm purchased in the past two years has been possible through gifts by Mrs. Jane Gose and Robert Hitchman. Now Mr. David Fogg has just helped us in an additional purchase of microfilm. This is one certain, comparatively inexpensive way to build up our primary source materials for scholars researching in our Library. It takes up far less room than books. We will still accept books, however!

New Business: Mr. Shaub, chairman of the Planning Committee, asked the Board to authorize expenditure of local funds for the cost of the plans for the new wing being drawn up by Lea, Pearson and Richards, Architects. The motion was made and approved unanimously that not more than \$500 (five hundred dollars) be paid for these drawings and estimates of cost.

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that Life Members of the Society receive a notice regarding the payment of \$2.00 required for receipt of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly.

Mr. Murray briefed the Board on his talks with the office of the Attorney General. We are seeking a ruling on the question of the Society as Trustee for the state. He reviewed the history of the Society, its organization and incorporation, pointing out that the Society existed before its official designation as a trustee, and that it brought already existing assets to be held in trust for the people of the state. This matter has a bearing, for example, on whether or not state funds can be used for reimbursement of board members' travel expenses to official board meetings. The alternative would be the use of the Society's hard-pressed local funds for this purpose. (These expenses have been met from local funds for the December meeting, after the question was raised by the state budget agency). Mr. Murray will report on his findings from the Attorney General at the next meeting.

The Board directed that thanks be expressed to Mr. John Bechtoldt for his work, all donated, in providing fill for the new parking lot, as well as the bulldozing he has performed at no charge to the Society.

The Board directed that thanks be expressed to the Tacoma Park Board for its help in supplying plantings for the museum grounds, as well as flowers for the Annual Meeting.

President Odlin informed the Board that he had word that the press of another meeting prevented the attendance of new Board Member Charles Odegaard, and that Joseph Drumheller, another new member, was in the East on business,

therefore unable to attend. Members of the Board expressed the hope that both new members will be able to attend the August meeting.

The greetings of the Board were sent to Chapin Foster, director emeritus, who was recovering from an operation and unable to attend.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

BLR/gf  
7/16/64



WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD OF CURATORS

August 8, 1964

The Board Meeting of the Washington State Historical Society was held at the Museum in Tacoma on August 8, 1964, Mr. Reno Odlin presiding.

Present:

Mrs. Weyerhaeuser, Mr. McClelland, Mrs. Emmons, Mr. Green, Mr. Long, Mr. Dawley, Mr. Foster, Mr. Murray, Mr. Relander, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Hitchman, Father Davis, Mrs. Wanamaker, Dr. Whitner, Dr. Jones, Mr. Gordon, Dr. Cory, Mr. Kreienbaum, Mr. Shaub, Judge Hill, Nard Jones, Mr. Le Roy.

Minutes of the April 4, 1964 meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Mr. Gordon and approved as read. A copy was distributed and becomes a part of these Minutes.

Library Committee: Dr. Whitner reported for Mrs. Scott, chairman of the Committee, that the Library had received several important collections since the April meeting. The papers of Charles Ross, Puyallup Valley pioneer, include letters, reminiscences, the beginning of a book on the Valley. The John Heath Collection -- he was one of the founders of Phi Beta Kappa in America, -- contains deeds and land grants from the 17th century, family history, letters, two rare miniatures by Rembrandt Peale who painted George Washington, traveling desk and travel kit typical of an 18th-century gentleman's accessories. There is a beautiful sword presented to Richard Heath for capture of a British warship in the War of 1812.

The scrapbook of James Wickersham was identified in the continuing inventory of the Library. It contains, and all important, such items as early plats of Tacoma, maps, rare pamphlets, notes by the Judge concerning settlement of Indian land disputes. In the book was a very rare map annotated by Isaac Stevens showing treaty divisions of Indian lands. This is our 3rd Stevens map drawn for showing determinations of Indian settlement. (The scrapbook was passed around for examination by the Board.)

Real progress is being made with complete inventories of our manuscript collections. We are continuing to add to our Civil War holdings and Civil War checklist which we hope to publish as a contribution to the Civil War Centennial in this State.

A complete file of THE AGITATOR, newspaper published at the Home Colony, is available for sale. A sponsor is needed for its purchase. We also have an opportunity to acquire several thousand letters concerning applications for land from the Northern Pacific in the 1870's onward.

An Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Anna Ibbotson, will start with us soon. She is a Columbia Library school graduate and has years of experience.

Publications Committee: Mr. Hitchman reported that he and Mr. Le Roy had had a conference with Donald Ellegood, director of the University of Washington Press. Under discussion was the working out of an agreement whereby the University of Washington Press would publish and distribute our books. Under this agreement:

1. Printing costs would be borne by our Society.
2. Distribution, advertising, storage and accounting costs borne by U of W Press.
3. Each book published by the Society under this agreement to be published on a letter of contract.
4. Question of payment of royalties to be up to the Society.
5. Our agreement is in most respects identical with that the Press holds with the Thomas Burke Museum.
6. Our Society retains responsibility for editing the books we publish. The Press will have one vote on acceptance or rejection of any manuscript we submit.

The first book to be published under our new agreement will be John McClelland's editing of Judson's A PIONEER'S SEARCH FOR AN IDEAL HOME. This book is in the hands of the Press now. Another project well under way is Murray Morgan's HISTORY OF TACOMA. The Morgan book is expected to be subsidized by Tacoma people. The Society does not expect to bear any of the cost of this book. It will, however, bear our imprint. The pamphlet, HISTORY OF FORT STEILACOOM, by James Priest, will have to be rewritten by a second party. It is good material but must be polished considerably. Mrs. Hartley, former editor of the Missouri Historical Quarterly and now a resident of Tacoma, will do this job for us.

Building and Grounds Committee : Mr. Long reported that the business office has been renovated. All work was done by our staff. New counters were built, the office repainted, new desks for the bookkeeper and receptionist, new filing cabinets transferred from the Library. The cabinets were released by use of manuscript boxes shelved instead of the vertical filing system used in the past. Terrazo flooring matching that on the main floor has been laid over the old concrete floors. New lights have been installed several places in the Museum. A new power mower has replaced the old broken one.

On the grounds trees and shrubs donated by Point Defiance Park have been planted. We need a sponsor to provide the asphalt cover for our parking lot. We are working on this problem.

Museum Committee: Several new shows were on display. Oil paintings of Renate Pearson are exhibited in Washington Hall. Ship models and ship pictures of the War of 1812, by Fred Rice, are on display in McCormick Hall. In our Gallery are displayed the "String Paintings" of Mrs. John Koda, of Salt Lake. Supplementing our military exhibit -- HISTORIC GUNS AND UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES -- is a new display of gunmakers' tools. Leading to the 5th floor are two new cases displaying part of the fine collection of stamps given to the Society by Dr. Arthur Cory. These displays will be rotated from time to time to show the Cory Collection to advantage.

In storage were found two boxes of rare Indian artifacts: Haida totems and carvings, and a box of 16th century southwestern Indian religious art. These items were shown to the Board. Another special show this summer has been Indian totems and masks made by school children from Sumner. The Heath Collection, already reported, is on display on the main floor.



Planning Committee: Mr. Shaub reported that the Committee had met recently. The question of the new wing for the Museum was discussed from every point of view. Committee members examined the architects drawings submitted by Lea, Pearson and Richards. The consensus of the Committee favored an addition to the present building on the present site and that a request for matching funds be placed in our next Budget Request to the Legislature. The Legislature would be asked to appropriate \$339,000, half the cost (as estimated by the architects) of the new wing. The motion was made and unanimously adopted. The architects' plans were also approved.

At this meeting Mr. Hitchman also briefed the Committee on the proposed agreement with the University of Washington Press. He covered that in his Report today. The Planning Committee was also informed by Mrs. Scott that an Assistant Librarian would join our staff in another month. Mr. Murray read a letter received from Miss Ruth Entz, stating that she is bequeathing property at Ostrich Bay, near Bremerton, to the Society. Mr. Le Roy reported briefly on visits to several county historical societies and plans to visit all of them, as they can be scheduled.

Director's Report: Mr. Le Roy reported that the Journal of Narcissa Whitman had been deposited once more in our collections by Mrs. Ginera Whitman Lutz. He expressed gratitude to Dr. Thompson, Mr. Jukes and Mr. Shaub for their help in this matter. A collection of paintings by W.H. Gilstrap has been given to the Society. Gilstrap was one of the first Secretaries of the Society and painted scenes of this area in the 1890's.

A major project this summer was setting up a very large exhibit at Seattle Center where we were asked to feature the State's Diamond Jubilee. We had much help from Edward Shell, art consultant to the Society. The exhibit is up through Labor Day. Thousands of visitors to the Center have seen the exhibit. As part of our aim to cooperate with other institutions we have loaned an exhibit of "Tapa Cloth" to the Tacoma Art Museum, now on display. Continued excellent publicity has been given to our total program: "spot plugs" on Radio station KVI, Seattle ; a special Fourth of July program on station KMO, Tacoma; special assistance and publicity on a television series, "Wanderlust", on Channel 11; many newspaper articles.

A fine collection of more than 2,000 letters received by the Northern Pacific Railway from the 1870's to the early 1900's, all from prospective homesteaders, is in prospect. We have also just received, from a local attorney, German and Russian maps used by the German High Command in World War II. These will be added to our military collection.

Mr. Le Roy told the Board about the proposal from the Capitol Historical Society concerning a merging of administrations. Judge Hill also briefed the Board on the background of the matter. It was suggested that the matter be investigated further and reported to the Board. For one thing, both the Capitol Historical Society and the Eastern Washington Historical Society in Spokane have expressed intention of swinging their emphasis to a more general art museum program. Our Society will continue to serve the State as the Washington State Historical Society. As Mr. Green commented " 'Tis best to bear the ills we have than fly to those we know not of."

The major effort facing us in the months ahead is the drive for funds for the new wing. The Society has about \$100,000 in trust for this purpose from the Perkins and Clark bequests. We will have to raise another \$239,000 in order to match a state appropriation for half the cost of the wing. With everyone's help it can and will be done.

New Business: The Board's attention was called to the recent fine honor to Chapin Foster. Most recently his long efforts in behalf of a chapel for McNeill Island Federal Penitentiary were crowned with success. A portrait of Mr. Foster, painted by one of the prisoners, was presented to him and Mrs. Foster in a public ceremony. Our Director Emeritus is also editing and arranging distribution for a history of Methodism in the Pacific Northwest. These activities, plus public speaking, traveling, and correspondence in behalf of worthy causes, attest to the civic zeal Mr. Foster continues to display. All present joined in congratulations. (See NEWS NOTES, VOL.4, NO. 4).

Concerning Pickett House, a letter from Mrs. Hal Roach, Daughters of the Pioneers, Bellingham, was read. Discussion followed. The problem is what it has always been -- insufficient funds in our budget to maintain the site properly. Pickett House was considered in the light of its true historical worth, and by those standards laid down by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The site is not in the same category as most of those nationally which are being supported. As suggested many times before, if the house could be deeded back to the Daughters of the Pioneers (who gave it to the Society many years ago), the Board would be willing to consider such action. The alternative may have to be razing the house, beautification of the site, and an historical marker erected. A further report will be made on the situation at the next meeting of the Board.

President Odlin stated that he would ask Mrs. Scott and Mr. Le Roy to meet with Miss Maryann Reynolds, President of the Capitol Historical Society, to discuss what the Olympia group has in mind about a possible merger of administrations.

Mr. Murray asked that the Board resolve that the State Legislature be asked for an appropriation of \$400,000 to be matched by the Society for purpose of the construction of the new wing to the museum. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President Odlin briefed the Board on the matter of the director's salary. It was recommended and approved unanimously that the director's salary be increased by \$1200 annually. A letter would be directed to the Governor and the Director of the Central Budget Agency informing them of the Board's action.

The Board passed a unanimous Resolution expressing gratitude to Dr. Arthur Cory for many contributions to the Society, and appointing Dr. Cory as Honorary Curator of Philately to the Washington State Historical Society. A copy of the Resolution is attached and made a part of these Minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

BL/fs  
11/12/64

## R E S O L U T I O N

The Board of Curators of the Washington State Historical Society, meeting in Tacoma on August 8, 1964 does unanimously resolve that Dr. Arthur S. Cory be appointed Honorary Curator of Philately.

Dr. Cory, through the years of his service as a member of the Board of Curators, has contributed from his great collection of stamps to the permanent collections of the Society. He has been faithfully cooperative in helping to plan proper displays of philatelic history. By this Resolution we desire to commend him and to express the gratitude of all members of the Washington State Historical Society.

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING - BOARD OF CURATORS

December 12, 1964

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The Board Meeting of the Washington State Historical Society was held at the Museum in Tacoma on December 12, 1964, Mr. Reno Odlin presiding.

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Present: Mr. Edward W. Allen | Mr. Chapin D. Foster       | Mr. E. K. Murray        |
| Mrs. L. O. Anderson          | Mr. Robert Gordon          | Mr. Reno Odlin          |
| Rev. W. L. Davis             | Mr. Robert Hitchman        | Mr. Click Relander      |
| Mr. L. E. Dawley             | Mr. George S. Long Jr.     | Mrs. Byron D. Scott     |
| Dr. Herman J. Deutsch        | Mr. Bruce Le Roy           | Mr. Roe Shaub           |
| Mrs. Della Gould Emmons      | Mr. John M. McClelland Jr. | Mrs. J. P. Weyerhaeuser |
|                              |                            | Dr. Robert L. Whitner   |

Minutes of August 8, 1964, meeting were approved as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Mr. Gordon and approved as read. A copy of the report is attached and becomes a part of these minutes.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE - Mrs. Scott reported that since the August meeting the Library has acquired a signed copy of the address given by President Johnson proclaiming the Columbia River Treaty, at Blaine, in September (our third original Presidential address in the past five years) the original diary and several papers of Robert Todd, of the Mary Todd Lincoln family, 2,034 letters written by homestead applicants to the Northern Pacific Railway from 1870 to 1900; the diary of A. P. Flory who crossed the Oregon Trail in 1864; the diary of George Savage, pioneer sawmill man on the Skagit River, in the 1870's, and the paintings of that period in the Skagit Valley by his son John, the poems of his daughter, Catherine, recalling pioneer days there; a fine collection of pictures of early Alaska from gold rush days to 1910.

Our new assistant librarian, Mrs. Anna Ibbotson, has been working to arrange our vast collection of historic photographs. They are now boxed by subject matter and are much more accessible for research and reproduction. Miss Seders, our head librarian, is continuing with the manuscript inventory, and has completed 19 major collections, a project which continues. These inventories will assist in preparing a list which will be published by the Library of Congress in its next edition of the National Guide to Manuscript Collections in the United States. Mr. Le Roy tells me that the Society hopes to publish selected check lists of both our manuscripts and picture collections. These will be circulated to other institutions around the country and to requesting scholars. In this way, our collections will be publicized and scholars attracted to work on them.

Our new budget contains requests to purchase microfilm cabinets, and needed equipment for the Library, to handle the flood of new material.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - Mr. Hitchman reported that the University of Washington Press has suggested that our publication of "Pioneer's Search For An Ideal Home" edited by John McClelland, be printed by another press. The Publications Committee plans to explore a list of suggested printers recommended to the Society by the University of Washington Press.

The pamphlet on Fort Steilacoom has been rejected by the Publications Committee as not suitable for our list. Our Library staff is preparing a check list of selected manuscripts and selected photographs from the collection of our Library. We hope to publish these in an inexpensive form within the year. Mr. Le Roy is preparing a catalog of a special exhibit which will open in April. The theme is original art portraying early Washington Communities. The catalog will be similar in format to the one issued in 1963. Dr. Vernon Carstensen, the editor of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly, will take over with the next issue. We expect to cooperate with him by supplying documentary material for the Quarterly. An index to the Quarterly has been published by the Shoe String Press. We expect to order copies for re-sale.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE - Mr. Shaub reported that we have been given a rare collection by Mr. Harry Todd which consists of historic fans, many of them hand-painted in the 18th century, showing portraits and battles of great historic importance. One is reputed to have been painted by Watteau, the great French artist. In addition, the Todd Collection contains many rare snuff bottles gathered from Europe and the Orient; the Pirate Treasure Chest you heard about before, and a beautiful pair of Oriental silk panels. The Todd Collection was appraised for tax purposes to be worth nearly \$14,000. Mr. Todd has also given us a donation to build proper exhibits to house these collections.

Dr. Arthur Cory has donated another large batch of uncanceled American commemorative stamps to be added to the Cory Collection. We would like to express once more our appreciation to Dr. Cory for his fine help.

We have had interesting shows in our Art Gallery, on the floor above. We recommend that you see the collection of paintings by Justin Ware which went on exhibit today. Mr. Ware is a painter, sculptor and textile designer. Part of the Ware Exhibit is on display on the main floor of the Museum, but the paintings are in the Art Gallery.

Planned art shows include a very special exhibit to open at the time of the Annual Meeting in April. It will contain paintings, sketches and drawings of the early towns of Washington Territory and State. We need information about any such paintings or drawings which we can borrow for this show. We hope to publish a catalog of this show, similar in format to the NORTHWEST HISTORY IN ART catalog from last year.

Our carpenter is in the hospital (Mr. Gipple) and this will slow down new exhibits for awhile -- at least their building. But we will make out.

REPORT ON PICKETT HOUSE - Mr. Murray reported that we received a letter from Mrs. Hal Roach, Bellingham President of the Daughters of the Pioneers. It was in answer to one Mr. Le Roy wrote her after the August Board Meeting at which time the Board discussed what to do with Pickett House -- either give it to a responsible civic organization, such as the Daughters of the Pioneers who have maintained it (as caretakers) all these years, or else raze the building and put up a historic marker.

Mrs. Roach said the Daughters of the Pioneers would be happy to accept title to Pickett House. This organization deeded it to our Society about thirty years ago and want it preserved.

A letter was written to the Attorney General asking his opinion as to whether or not we have the authority to deed the property over. Probably we will have to ask the Legislature to approve such an action. The Board should consider this matter now and pass a Resolution stating such an action is the desire of the Board of Curators of the Washington State Historical Society. Then we can move ahead with legislative action, if the Board so moves.

### R e s o l u t i o n

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted that the Board of Curators of the Washington State Historical Society will accept the offer of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Whatcom County that title to Pickett House in Bellingham be transferred to the Daughters of the Pioneers of Whatcom County.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mr. Le Roy reported that three very fine gifts had been received by the Society. The Edith Odlin Memorial Fund, now a bit over five thousand dollars will be used to establish a special publications fund.

Mr. Donald McFadon made a gift of stock to the Society. The stock is currently valued at around \$4,500.00. The McFadon gift, at their request, is also being added to the publications fund of the Society.

Mr. Harry Todd made a gift of \$1,543.00 which is to be used to build attractive cases for the Todd Collection.

A number of changes in staff personnel have been made since the August Meeting. Our new bookkeeper, Mrs. Mercy Sturrock, came to us from a very fine background as office manager of Lou Johnson, Inc. Our assistant librarian, Mrs. Anna Ibbotson, comes to us with an excellent background as a professional librarian from the Tacoma Public Library.

Mr. John Gipple, long time staff member who doubled as carpenter and taxidermist, is retiring as the result of serious illness. It is not planned at this time to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Gipple's retirement but to establish another position of Museum Assistant. This staff member will be responsible for assisting the Society in various aspects in all programs.

Mr. Le Roy reported that a number of Pierce County Legislators would be unable to attend the luncheon following this meeting because of a conflict with other meetings. Some of the Delegates from Pierce County were expected to be our guests at this luncheon however.

It was reported that the Society has an opportunity to purchase seven paintings by Mr. John Savage of Seattle. The purchase price is \$210.00. It is hoped that a sponsor can be found. The paintings portray early pioneering, particularly lumbering, on the Skagit River in the 1870's.



The Society has received excellent publicity in newspapers, television and radio. Particular interest was generated by the acquisition of the more than two thousand letters concerning early land grants from the Northern Pacific Railroad. The papers of Robert Todd, of the family of Mary Todd Lincoln, received front page stories.

Both of these collections came to us from Mr. William McGreer. This individual would like to receive "Territorial Covers", in exchange, as was reported at the August Meeting. It was moved, seconded and unanimously adopted that the Executive Committee be authorized to work out an agreement with Mr. McGreer.

BUDGET REPORT - Mr. Shaub, the Chairman, reported that the Budget Committee has met several times, approved our Budget Request to the new Legislature, and decided how best to make our case for a New Wing.

The single sheet was distributed about the Budget at this meeting and is a simplified statement of the difference in our new request and what we were granted in an appropriation for the current 1963-65 biennium.

Following this meeting the Board is to lunch with members of the Pierce County Legislative delegation. They will be given copies of the same report. Also on display for their information are plans of the New Wing. The copy of NEWS NOTES distributed contains a paragraph about what the New Wing is needed for and will contain. Board Members were urged to read this before talking to the Legislators about the matter of our request for a New Wing.

#### R e s o l u t i o n

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted that the Society's Budget request to the new Legislature be approved.

NEW BUSINESS - President Odlin reported that a vacancy existed on the Board and that it had been suggested that Dr. Vernon Carstensen be appointed to fill that vacancy. Inasmuch as Dr. Carstensen will be editing the Pacific Northwest Quarterly for the Society, his membership on the Board would assure a close working relationship.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that President Odlin notify Dr. Vernon Carstensen of his appointment to the Board of Curators if such appointment is agreeable to Dr. Carstensen.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously adopted that the thanks of the Board of Curators be expressed to Mr. Harry Todd for the gift of historic fans and snuff bottle collection, and for the funds to build proper exhibit cases for displaying the Todd Collection.

Mr. Dawley briefed the Board on his discussion with Warren Bishop, Central Budget Agency Director, concerning our request for a new wing to the Museum. Mr. Dawley said that we would be requesting letters from Board Members to their Legislators of their home district asking support for our request to the new Legislature. He also pointed out that we would enlist strong newspaper support in Tacoma, Olympia, Seattle, Longview and Yakima.

Mr. Gordon, the Treasurer, called for a resolution authorizing that the gift stock from Mr. Donald McFadon be sold and the funds be placed in a savings account. The McFadon gift was made to the Publishing Fund of the Society.

#### R e s o l u t i o n

It was moved, seconded and unanimously adopted authorizing the sale of the McFadon stock and directing that the funds resulting therefrom be placed in the Publishing Fund savings account of the Washington State Historical Society.

It was requested that greetings of the Board be sent to Dr. Leon Jones who is recuperating in a Seattle hospital.

Mr. Shaub called the attention of the Board to the election of Reno Odlin to serve as 1965 President of the American Banking Association. The Board tendered congratulations to Mr. Odlin.

Mr. McClelland reported on his attendance to the annual meeting of the Oregon Historical Society. He suggested that the Board consider reactivating the Awards Program which was established a number of years ago. The Awards Program of the Oregon Historical Society adds considerably to the interest of that groups annual meeting.

Mrs. Emmons reported that Mrs. Matthews, retired Librarian, has not been receiving the Pacific Northwest Quarterly with her life membership. Mr. Bonney promised she would always receive this without cost to her. Mr. Le Roy said he would check on this and take care of Mrs. Matthew's request.

The Board asked that its sympathy and thanks be expressed to Mr. and Mrs. John Gipple. Mr. Gipple is retiring because of serious illness after long service with the Washington State Historical Society.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

BL.m  
3/18/65

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD OF CURATORS

April 17, 1965

The Board Meeting of the Washington State Historical Society was held at the Museum in Tacoma on April 17, 1965. Mr. Reno Odlin presiding.

Present:

|              |                |               |                            |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. Murray   | Mr. Burnham    | Mr. Allen     | Father Davis               |
| Mr. Relander | Mr. Hitchman   | Dr. Cory      | Mrs. Wanamaker             |
| Mrs. Emmons  | Dr. Carstensen | Mr. Green     | Mr. Shaub                  |
| Dr. Thompson | Mr. Dawley     | Dr. Jones     | Mr. Foster (Dir. Emeritus) |
| Dr. Deustch  | Mr. Gordon     | Mrs. Anderson | Mr. Le Roy ( Director)     |
| Mr. Jukes    |                |               |                            |

Minutes of the December 12, 1964 meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Mr. Gordon and approved as read. A copy of this is attached and made a part of these minutes. The payment of \$300.00 which the Society owed Mr. John Gipple for taxidermy for the "Foxes on a Farm" exhibit was unanimously approved.

Library Committee: Mr. Relander reported for Mrs. Scott, Chairman of the Library Committee, that several important collections have been received since the last Board meeting. The Henry Glide papers--he was the first licensed marine pilot in British Columbia, having come from England on the Hudson's Bay Company steamer "The Otter", in 1853. He was employed by the company for nearly forty years. The Glide Collection contains lists of recruits from England to Fort Vancouver and Fort Victoria; Fur Trade tariffs; letters to and about James Douglas, the HBC factor at Fort Victoria who later became governor of Vancouver Island. One letter from Governor Blanshard to Douglas gives him the devil for paying traveling expenses for Dr. and Mrs. Tolmie from Fort Nisqually to Fort Victoria. Another letter, written to an early Bellingham newspaper, defends Douglas for his activities on San Juan Island in the period just preceding the opening of the Pig War. Pictures, Victoria newspapers and Vancouver Island laws, Hudson's Bay Company indentures, are all there. The treasure in the collection portrays Fort Vancouver and Vancouver Village in 1846. The map was painted by Richard Covington. The map is displayed for the first time at this meeting.

From Mr. Ray Kautz, nephew of General August Kautz, (he built Fort Steilacoom and climbed Mt. Rainer) we received the papers of the Kautz Investment Company, plus a fine scrapbook of family history. Mr. Kautz also gave us his father's Civil War rifle and Civil War regimental history.

Mr. Le Roy was promised a signed copy of the speech President Lyndon B. Johnson made at the White House on Lincoln's Birthday. This will be added to our growing

Presidential Collection and is the second signed Johnson address we will have received in the past two months. The other speech, you will remember, was the one given at Blaine at the time of the proclaiming of the Columbia River Treaty.

As a result of a fellowship received from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Grace Frederick acquired many fine booklets and brochures and pictures from that organization for our Library.

In the continuing inventory by the Library staff of our clipping, scrapbook and picture collections, interesting leads to new collections have turned up. Mr. Le Roy will have more to say about that in his report. The inventories, as you know, were planned not only to put our collections in order, but also to provide two guides to the collections. We are still working on a guide to selected manuscript collections and a guide to important pictures collections. These will be published inexpensively for distribution to other institutions and to students around the country.

Museum Committee: Mr. Shaub reported that the newest exhibit in the Museum opens today. This is the "Todd Collection of Historic Fans". Mr. Shaub requested that Grace Frederick report on this collection and the snuff bottles which were donated at the same time. Mrs. Frederick described the collection and pointed out that Mr. Todd donated funds for the construction of cases for the exhibits, which were designed and built by Kenn Johnson.

Publications Committee: Mr. Hitchman reported that we have a tentative agreement with the University of Washington Press to publish some of our books. The Press declined the first item submitted, "A Pioneer's Search" because they prefer to start the series with an original, rather than a reprint.

He also reported that several other nice things had happened to the Society. The Publications Fund has been increased by two gifts: The Edith Odlin Memorial Fund, of more than five thousand dollars, and the Donald McFadon gift of stock whose sale brought approximately forty-five hundred dollars.

Dr. Vernon Carstensen is now editing the Pacific Northwest Quarterly. We have affirmed our intention to make available to him the documentary resources of our Library. We will also be glad to steer good manuscripts to the Quarterly when we learn about them. One such article came recently to Mr. Le Roy from Dr. Clifford Drury, of Pasadena. Dr. Carstensen has accepted the article for publication.

A project in the not too distant future is the publication by the Smithsonian Institution of the Sohon sketches. Mr. John Ewers, of the Smithsonian, would like to edit this collection which would serve to supplement the booklet published by that organization concerning the Sohon sketches in their collections. This project would come, of course, as a Smithsonian imprint. However, our collection and Library would receive world-wide publicity as a result, with attendant prestige.

William Sampson has edited "John McLoughlin's Business Correspondence: 1847-1848". This thesis contains 101 letters, a short biography, footnotes, bibliography and index. The thesis was researched in depth. The book may well be published on a joint basis with the University of Washington Press.

Special Report on Pickett House: Mr. Murray reported that the Board passed a resolution in December placing the Society on record as willing to accept the offer of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Whatcom County to receive title to Pickett House from the Society. Mr. Murray reported that he conferred with the Attorney General's office and received approval for drafting a law to be passed by the current Legislature which would transfer title to Pickett House for \$1.00. The law was drafted, passed by both Houses and signed by the Governor. A Resolution was passed unanimously authorizing the transfer and is a part of these Minutes.

Special Report on the Legislature: Mr. Dawley reported that extensive work has been carried out to acquaint the Legislature with the Society's need for a new wing. The Budget Committee (Mr. Shaub, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Dawley, Mr. Le Roy) met with committees from the Senate and the House to present our case. Members of the Board came through handsomely with letters to legislators from their home districts.

Mr. Dawley stated that our budget request for \$132,000 had been approved by both Houses; and concerning the new wing at this point, it looks as though we will have to re-submit our request for matching funds of \$339,000 to the 1967 Legislature.

Mrs. Anderson pointed out that in her letters to all members of the Senate Appropriations Committee she stressed our function as being "an important part of the school picture for the entire state" and that "our Museum presently houses irreplaceable treasures at great hazard".

Mr. Murray spoke about "Legislative priorities" and said the Society must work to "shore up its own status".

The necessity for beginning a state-wide drive for funds and pledges was stressed by Mr. Odlin.

Director's Report: Mr. Le Roy reported that he had been called to Olympia to testify in regard to Senate Bill 60. This Bill would have directed the Governor to arrange for placing a statue of Louisa Boren Denny in Statuary Hall in the National Capitol. He recommended that a study commission be appointed by the Governor to review the nominations of the candidates for Statuary Hall being made all over the state. This commission, after careful deliberation, would recommend the most qualified historic candidate to the Governor before the beginning of the 1967-69 Legislature. The Governor would then make his recommendation to this Legislature which would authorize a public subscription for the costs of commissioning a suitable statue to be placed in the National Capitol beside that of Dr. Marcus Whitman. Senate Bill 60 died in committee.

Two fine honors came to members of the staff. Grace Frederick was chosen as one of 14 individuals from the U.S. to be awarded a study fellowship by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Mrs. Frederick received two weeks of intensive training at such historic places as Woodlawn Plantation, Wintethur Museum in Delaware, Annapolis, Landis Valley Farm in Pennsylvania, etc. Instructing personnel were members of the staffs of the Smithsonian, the National Trust, the Library of Congress, Mount Vernon and the other historic museums and sites. The Society will receive incalculable benefits from this fellowship and

training. One of the results may be that the National Trust will co-sponsor a national meeting with our Society in Tacoma in three years.

We have had two changes in staff personnel--Mrs. Sturrock replaced by Mrs. Hanson and Mr. Merritt by Mr. Kaiser. Mrs. Sturrock left for a much better paying position (office manager of Cory's Furniture) and Mrs. Hanson came to us from Lou Johnson. Mr. Merritt, our janitor, resigned because of his wife's illness. Mr. Kaiser seems to be doing well. Kenn Johnson returned to the staff after 5 month's absence. We are glad to have him back.

With the kind help of Mrs. Scott, the Society purchased the seven paintings by Mr. John Savage. Most of these paintings sent on display today.

The Governor and Mrs. Evans have deeply appreciated the assistance of Mr. Le Roy and Mrs. Frederick in placing historical artifacts on display in the Governor's Mansion.

The winner of the Charles M. Gates Memorial Award will be announced at the Annual Meeting to follow.

The current budget has been cut by the Governor's Executive Order by 10% to June 30, 1965. The funds earmarked for purchase of badly needed equipment are now unavailable. The cut represents a slash of \$3,500.

Mr. Le Roy reported that the machine guns owned by the Society have been inspected and altered to conform to Federal regulations. A number are on display at Camp Murray.

New Business: Father Davis questioned the rules concerning the Gates Award. He said that limiting eligibles to the rank of assistant professor or less was unrealistic and a limiting factor. Mr. Le Roy commented that the rules adopted were those prescribed by the anonymous sponsor of the Gates Award and that the Award was intended to stimulate scholarly articles from amateurs and academic people who have not reached the highest level of the profession.

Upon motion unanimously carried the Executive Committee was authorized to select a date, other than April, for the Annual Meeting. The first Saturday in May was strongly recommended. Mrs. Anderson mentioned that the new date might conflict with the Apple Blossom Festival in Wenatchee. Reason for changing from April is that it conflicts with the Pacific Northwest History Conference and many professional meetings for the Board and Society members during that month.

Dr. Deutsch recommended that the Society consider possibly we might acquire and send a trailer to various Washington communities. The trailer would be equipped for the purpose of photographing historic pictures and documents.

Mr. Hitchman suggested that such a project might be eligible for a grant from some Foundation. The historical society of Nebraska has launched a similar project and should be contacted concerning the success or failure of its pilot study.



Mr. Foster invited the Board to attend the dedication of historic pictures at Steilacoom at 2:00 P.M., May 1st, in the Community Hall. Mr. Foster has helped the Steilacoom group in developing a unique project whereby large historic pictures of that town have been placed on permanent display. He also noted the dedication of the new chapel at McNeil Island on April 26th, another project, in which he has been the leading organizer.

Dr. Cory expressed the thanks of the Lewis County Historical Society for the help received from Mr. Le Roy at its Organization Meeting.

Dr. Deutsch called attention to the work of Mr. B. C. Payette, of Montana, who has sponsored several historical publications and might be approached on behalf of our Society's publications program. (Note: Mr. Payette and Mr. Le Roy are now discussing publication of certain documents in our archives concerning the contributions of French settlers in the Pacific Northwest.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

BL/gf  
7/20/65

## RESOLUTION

"BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Curators of the Washington State Historical Society that: RENO ODLIN, President, or ROE SHAUB, Vice President, of the Society, in behalf of the Society and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 31, Laws of 1965, when effective, be and they are hereby authorized and directed to convey to the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington, Whatcom Chapter No. 5, a Washington non-profit corporation, by quit claim deed and for a consideration of \$1.00, the following described real property situate in the County of Whatcom, State of Washington, to wit:

Lot 1, in Block 10, of the Town of Whatcom, now a part of the City of Bellingham, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Auditor of said County, which real property constitutes The Pickett House in said City.

Such conveyance shall be subject to all the terms and conditions of said Chapter 31, Laws of 1965."

Adopted APRIL 17, 1965.

SIGNED

RENO ODLIN, Chairman of Meeting  
and President of Board of Curators

ATTEST:

BRUCE LE ROY, Director and  
Secretary