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## Early History of the Arkansas Academy of Science

L. B. Ham

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## EARLY HISTORY<sup>1</sup>

### The Arkansas Academy of Science L. B. Ham

The Arkansas Academy of Science was organized at a meeting held at the Hotel Marion, January 11, 1917, in accordance with a call issued by Mr. Troy W. Lewis, an aggressive attorney<sup>2</sup> in Little Rock. The following people were present: Charles Brookover, histologist and embryologist; Arthur R. Stover, analytical chemist; D. A. Rhinehart, anatomist; A. C. Shipp, pathologist and bacteriologist; Dewell Gann, Jr., surgical technician; Charles Oates, pharmacologist; and Morgan Smith, pediatrician—each being a member of the staff of the University of Arkansas School of Medicine; Herbert A. Heagney, psychologist and W. H. Aretz, philosopher, -- President and Dean of the Little Rock College, respectively; Troy W. Lewis, philologist and sociologist; and William F. Manglesdorf, analytical chemist in private practice at Little Rock.

Dr. Charles Brookover was called to the chair as temporary chairman. The first officers elected were as follows: President, Charles Brookover, Ph D.; Vice President, Morgan Smith, M.D.; Secretary, Dewell Gann, Jr., M.D.; Treasurer, Herbert A. Heagney, A.M., President Little Rock College; Permanent Secretary (5 years), Troy W. Lewis, A.M., D.C.L. The above were elected also as trustees as well as the following: William F. Manglesdorf, M.D.; Arthur R. Stover, A.M., M.D.; A.C. Shipp, A.M., M.D.; D. A. Rhinehart, M.A., M.D.; Charles E. Oates, M.A., M.D.; and W. H. Aretz, S.T.D. The terms of these trustees were to expire, for the most part, two per year beginning in 1918.

The Arkansas general assembly (41st) was then in session. Mr. Lewis read a tentative bill for an Act to Create and Incorporate the Arkansas Academy of Sciences and, on motion, the tentative Act was adopted as the constitution of the body then assembled. The above proposed bill was rejected by the general assembly on its constitutionality, holding that Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ of Art \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution of 1874 would render such an act void if passed unless the Academy were willing that the state should exercise dominant control. Mr. Lewis took the point of view that the Academy should be free from any political connections and had rejected the state's right to exercise control. He, therefore, withdrew the bill and incorporated the Academy by an act of the Pulaski Circuit Court. The Academy was incorporated under the name "Arkansas Academy of Sciences". The Academy accepted Mr. Lewis' report at an adjourned meeting, January 22, 1917.

The Academy membership was made up as follows: patrons, members, corresponding members, honorary fellows and fellows. All the above mentioned members were voted in at the organization meeting as fellows, officers and trustees of the Arkansas Academy of Sciences. The Academy had, also a committee each, on the following: rules, auditing, finance, membership, research, and publications and lectures.

The Senate Chambers at the Old State House and the Administration building of the Little Rock College were to be used for the meeting purposes. These quarters were offered the Academy free. Dr. Heagney offered the use of the Little Rock College Laboratories for research purposes, also; and Dr. Manglesdorf offered the use of

<sup>1</sup> Taken directly from the records where obtainable.

<sup>2</sup> Later, City Judge in Little Rock.

his private laboratories for research purposes. Dr. Morgan Smith offered the Academy the use of the University of Arkansas Medical School laboratories and buildings for research and assembly purposes.

Other meetings during the year 1917 were as follows: February 1, (special), March 1 (regular) but adjourned, lacking quorum, May \_\_\_\_\_ (special), August 30 (special), September 5 (special), October 12 (regular meeting).

The following members were elected to membership August 30: Augustine Stoker, O.S.B., New Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco; T. J. Richardson, D.D.S.; John P. Almand, architect, Little Rock; Augustine M. Zell, M.D., Little Rock; Walter George Harkey, Lawyer, Little Rock; Woolford B. Baker, teacher of physical and biological sciences; A.D. McNair, agriculturist, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Little Rock; H. H. Kirby, M.D., Little Rock.

Because of absences and other duties brought about by the war, the last regular session of the early academy was held October 12, 1917. The sessions consisted of a business session of Trustees (Hotel Marion), dinner and then adjournment to the Old State House to attend the Annual Program. The Program was as follows: "The Presidential Address" by Morgan Smith, "The Action of Some Important Drugs on the Vagus Center" by Charles E. Oates, "Recent Advancement in Internal Secretions" by E. M. Pemberton, "Report on Seventh Facial Nerve in the Albino mouse", by D. A. Rhinehart, "The Contamination of Water Supply" by W. F. Manglesdorf. The following officers were elected for 1918: Pres., Morgan Smith; Vice Pres., Arthur R. Stover; Sec., W. R. Aretz; Treasurer, W. F. Manglesdorf. The following fellow was elected: E.M. Pemberton, B. Sc., M.D., Professor of pathology, University of Arkansas Medical College. The following members were elected: Rev. Henry C. Fromen, B. Sc., A.M., professor of science, Little Rock College; Frank M. Blaisdell, graduate of West Point, Consulting engineer and architect.

The Academy adopted the idea of having one annual meeting. However, the October 12, 1917 session is the only annual meeting of record since the organization functioned scarcely at all after the year 1917. The other earlier meetings were organization sessions to discuss ways to broaden the work and to increase membership. The record shows that other applications for membership were filed but apparently no formal action on the applications were taken, since the organization ceased to function. Among these applications, the following are found: Horace Russel Allen, LL D., major, (Honorary Fellowship proposed), teacher and maker of surgical instruments; Robert S. Medearis, M.D.; John F. Hammett, D.D.S.; Mrs. Bernice Babcock, editorial writer (novels, drama, poetry). Records show no further correspondence beyond the first month of the year 1918, except for an occasional acknowledgment of literature received.

The early academy was planned on the same order as similar organizations in many other states. Compared to the present organization, the original constitution, with its many classes of members and method of voting, was more formal and conservative and less democratic. The business of the academy, including the election of officers, was transacted by the trustees. The fellows of the Academy had the power to change the by-laws, to elect the trustees, and to change the number of trustees, except that the number should not be reduced to less than five. In the early form of the constitution the principal office was to be located in Little Rock. After the reorganization in 1932, the principal office was to be in Fayetteville. Both ideas as to principal office

have now been abolished. The objects of the original organization were the encouragement and fostering of scientific investigation within our state.

In the early thirties, Dr. D. M. Moore learned of the existence of a charter for an academy but that no meetings were being held. In 1931, he contacted Mr. Troy Lewis, trustee and secretary, to inquire into the possibility of a revival of the academy. It soon appeared that the original members were too scattered to begin where the last session left off. Therefore, a reorganization proved inevitable.

For purposes of reorganization, Dr. Moore invited as many of the University faculty as could be reached to meet October 26, 1932, for discussion of the possibility of reviving the academy. Ways of cooperating with existing officers for election of new officers and of new trustees were discussed. This faculty group voted unanimously in favor of reviving the academy and worked with Dr. Moore in initiating the reorganization. Dr. Moore was made President of this initiating group and L. B. Ham was made the secretary. The two officers, with three others<sup>3</sup> appointed by the president met October 28 to set up a complete slate of officers and local trustees to be voted upon by the faculty group at the university. The faculty group met November 2, 1932 and elected the remaining officers.<sup>4</sup> With this authority and support from the local group, Dr. Moore went to Little Rock to complete the reorganization at a meeting in Mr. Lewis' office. Dr. Moore was the only other person in attendance at the meeting of the trustees.<sup>5</sup> This report appeared as the 16th "annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Academy of Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas, November 9, 1932". The report states also that "all members of the old trustees present either by person or by proxy, except Stover, Shipp, Oates and Heagney, Aretz and Brookover are dead or missing and unaccounted for". Dr. Moore was elected President by the trustees and the slate elected previously in Fayetteville was confirmed. The new trustees elected in Mr. Lewis' office were as follows: W. M. Manglesdorf, M. Smith, T. W. Lewis, C. F. Allen, Flora A. Haas, L. B. Ham, D. M. Moore, L. C. Price, H. H. Schwardt, L. M. Turner.

The dues of three dollars per year, with an initiation fee of five dollars, were reduced to one dollar<sup>6</sup> and no initiation fee at a meeting of the board of trustees on January 6, 1933.

The first annual meeting of the revived academy was held at Hotel Lafayette, Little Rock, April 14-15, 1933. Two new trustees were elected as follows: L. M. Turner to succeed himself and G. C. Branner to succeed W. F. Manglesdorf. In order to make the system of fellows and trustees work, it became the sentiment of the meeting that as fast as fellows were taken into the academy from the various colleges that the election of the trustees should be made so as to have each institution of higher learning represented by at least one trustee. Much of the last business meeting of the 1933 academy sessions was devoted to discussions as to possible changes

<sup>3</sup> H. Hale, H. H. Schwardt, L. M. Turner.

<sup>4</sup> Vice President, D. Swartz; Treasurer, H. H. Schwardt; Trustee, L. M. Turner; Trustee, L. C. Price.

<sup>5</sup> Proxies were held by Mr. Lewis for D. Gann, W. F. Manglesdorf, D. A. Rhinehart, M. Smith.

<sup>6</sup> The dues have been increased to \$1.50 per year beginning in 1942 to take care of the increased costs due to publication of the Academy proceedings.

in the by-laws and classification of members. Many of the new members were coming to the conclusion that operating the business of the academy through trustees was not in keeping with present trends of a scientific organization which is open to every qualified scientific worker or scientifically interested person. The work in connection with possible revision was headed by Dr. Flora Haas and was reported at the following year's sessions at Conway.

At the Conway sessions, the members finally agreed that the constitution should be revised under a new corporate title and adopted Dr. Haas' report. The present constitution thus dates back to the Conway sessions. The title was changed to "The Arkansas Academy of Science, Arts and Letters," in the hope of interesting workers in other fields.

At the Arkadelphia session in the spring of 1941 Article I of the constitution was changed so that the title now reads, "The Arkansas Academy of Science". Amendments to the by-laws were made at the Arkadelphia meetings in 1935 and in 1941. There have been no major changes in operation of the Academy since the Conway meeting in 1934.

Two of the early fellows (and trustees) of the Academy gave much time and very helpful assistance in the reorganization. The one, Mr. Lewis, referred to many times previously, gave important assistance in the mechanics of reorganization. The other, Dr. Morgan Smith<sup>7</sup> of the University of Arkansas College of Medicine gave freely of his time to acquaint the new organization with the Academy's past history and with the hopes of the former members. Dr. Smith's wide educational vision, his enthusiasm, and his broad understanding of scientific needs of the state were a great asset to the Academy. Dr. Smith did not live long after the reorganization. The Academy is fortunate to become one of the inheritors of his visions.

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<sup>7</sup> Dean of University of Arkansas Medical School, first state health officer, representative of Pulaski county in three legislatures. Died September 13, 1935.