

JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE OF TEXAS
BEING THE
Regular Session
OF THE
FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

BEGUN AND HELD AT

The City of Austin, January 8, 1929



WENDELL O'NEAL, Journal Clerk.
MRS. HUGH HARRIS, First Assistant Journal Clerk.
MISS GLADYS ASH, Second Assistant Journal Clerk.

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S. C. R. No. 25.

Senator Pollard sent up the following resolution:

Whereas, Dickson Colored Orphanage, incorporated, executed and delivered a deed on February 9, 1929, conveying to W. H. Francis, Trustee, a tract of land near the Town of Gilmer, Upshur County, Texas the same containing an aggregate of about seven hundred (700) acres all in a solid body, together with all improvements thereon, said improvements consisting of forty (40) buildings on the campus, thirteen (13) buildings, including barns, on the farm, upwards of 30 cattle, several teams of mules, with harness, miscellaneous farm

equipment and a good fence enclosing all of said land, part of which is hog wire fence, all of which land and improvements constitute the Dickson Colored Orphanage; and

Whereas, It is provided in said deed that the title to said property and improvements is to be transferred by said trustee to the State of Texas at any time after the donation aforesaid has been accepted by the State and the Legislature should express a desire to have such transfer made; and

Whereas, it has been determined that the property herein is suitable for a state orphanage for colored children and is well located with reference to the colored population of the State of Texas and for the purpose for which it is maintained, and it having been made to appear that the same is now vested in fee simple in W. H. Francis, Trustee, as aforesaid, and that he is now ready, willing and anxious to execute and deliver his deed conveying the property to the State for the purpose herein set forth; and,

Whereas, the State of Texas has not established and does not maintain an orphanage asylum for indigent colored children; and,

Whereas, the State of Texas, acting by and through the Legislature, desires to show its appreciation of its colored citizenship by making ample provision for the maintenance, education and training of its indigent colored children;

Therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate of Texas, the House of Representatives concurring,

That the donation on the part of the Dickson Colored Orphanage, incorporated, of the lands and premises and improvements herein, and described in the deed conveying the property to W. H. Francis, Trustee, in trust for the State of Texas for the establishment of an orphan asylum for colored children, be and the same is hereby accepted and said trustee is hereby directed to execute and deliver the proper deed conveying said land and premises unto the State of Texas for the purpose herein specified, free from all debts, liens or encumbrances of any character whatsoever. The instrument to be executed and delivered shall be drawn by the Attorney General, and, after its execution shall be delivered to the State Board of Con-

trol of this State to be by it filed and recorded in the county clerk's office of Upshur County, Texas;

Be it further resolved that thanks be extended to the donors of the property and that deep appreciation of the truly patriotic motives impelling such donation be and the same are hereby expressed on behalf of the Legislature as well as the State and the general public to the Dickson Colored Orphanage, incorporated, as well as to the good people of the City of Gilmer, Texas;

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to said donors and a copy hereof be furnished W. H. Francis, Trustee, for his information and guidance.

The resolution was read first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. C. R. No. 25.

The Chair laid before the Senate S. C. R. No. 25 relating to the acceptance by the State of Dickson Colored College.

The resolution was read and adopted.

LOUISE SNOW PHINNEY,
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives.

Hall of the House of Representatives,
Austin, Texas, March 8, 1929.
Hon. Barry Miller, President of the
Senate.

Sir: I am directed by the House
to inform the Senate that the fol-
lowing are appointed on the part of
the House in accordance with the
provisions of S. C. R. No. 25:

WESTBROOK,
GILES,
McGILL.

LOUISE SNOW PHINNEY,
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives.

JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE OF TEXAS
BEING THE
First Called Session
OF THE
FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

BEGUN AND HELD AT

The City of Austin, April 22, 1929



WENDELL O'NEAL, Journal Clerk.
MRS. HUGH HARRIS, First Assistant Journal Clerk.
MISS GLADYS ASH, Second Assistant Journal Clerk.

Buildings Found.

There are 29 buildings, sheds, et

1. Boy's Dormitory.
2. Large Girl's Dormitory.
3. Small Girl's Dormitory.
4. Baby Cottage.
5. Two story Manual Training shop
(No equipment.)
6. Dining Hall.
7. Domestic Science Building.
8. Smoke House.
9. Cotton Shed.
10. Milk House.
11. Lumber Shed.
12. Nail House.
13. Storage House.
14. Old Shop.
15. Potato Curing Kiln.
16. Tool House.
17. Seed House.
18. Coal, Oil House.
19. Laundry.
20. Two Bath Houses.
21. Cook's House.
22. Implement House (Good Sup-
ply.)
23. Bakery.
24. Book House.
25. Coal House.
26. Chapel.
27. Tabernacle.
28. Office.
29. Barn.

Found several carloads of brick and 1000 sacks of cement, which could be utilized in a building.

These buildings are placed promiscuously over the campus with no idea of symmetry. They are very poorly furnished and poorly kept, except for a fairly good supply of plow tools.

Campus.

The campus contains but few flowers, poorly cared for, and nothing to make the general view inviting.

Crowded Conditions.

We found the four buildings for the boys and girls very scarce of bedding and very crowded.

In one instance eleven beds were in one room. From three to four boys were compelled to sleep in each bed.

Food Supply.

While we were there at noon they served the children pinto beans and biscuits, having been out of meal for several days. This dinner was

Special Report.

Senator Beck sent up the following special report which, on motion of Senator Woodward, was ordered printed in the Journal:

Report of Investigating Committee of the Negro Orphan's Home, Gilmer, Texas.

Hon. Barry Miller, President of the Senate.

We, your Committee appointed to investigate the Negro Orphan's Home, Gilmer, Texas, beg leave to state that we visited this institution on March 29, 1929, and beg leave to make the following report.

carried around in the dining hall in large pots by two orphan girls.

On each tin plate was served beans and two biscuits; after which the doors were opened and each orphan was allowed to come in and eat his or her share of the allotment.

Baby Cottage.

We found very poor conditions in this building, with twenty-two babies from six years down to four months old infants, and all undernourished.

General Appearance of the Children.

They were poorly clad, some with barely enough on to appear decent, many were with bare feet, and none looked tidy.

Department.

The inmates seemed to be easily managed, kindly disposed and agreeable.

Number and Classification in the Office.

Boys:	Girls:
6th grade.....3	6th grade.....2
5th grade.....4	5th grade.....19
4th grade.....6	4th grade.....6
3rd grade.....11	3rd grade.....9
2nd grade.....4	2nd grade.....1
1st grade.....19	1st grade.....20
Babies.....12	Babies.....10
Total.....59	Total.....67
Sum Total.....126	

Religious Training.

The facilities and source for religious training are very poor. The assembly hall is a mere shack, and it seems that a farm hand does the preaching.

Contact with other People.

The children have but little opportunity to visit other churches or make contact with other children, and poor inducements are given that would invite the others to visit.

Athletics.

There are no organized games of any kind, which is a great neglect in child life. They amuse themselves as best they can with rag balls and hewn sticks for bats.

Supervisors and Teachers.

There are seven such persons em-

ployed, with two of them drawing state appropriated money. All the salaries range from \$40.00 to \$65.00 per month and board. Some of these teachers are fairly well prepared, while some are not, and were chosen neither from the standpoint of adaptability or efficiency.

Perhaps the low salaries offered accounts for the personnel of the teaching force.

Water and Lights.

They get their water supply from three wells by the use of ropes and buckets, which is not very sanitary for that number of children who are allowed to draw their own water and drink at will.

Lights are being supplied by means of coal oil lamps and lanterns many of which are without globes.

Live stock.

There are nineteen mules and four horses, most of them old, about twenty-five head of fairly good grade of Jersey cattle. But all are very poor for the lack of feed through the winter. There is one breeding sow and four pigs and very few chickens.

Crops.

But very little records are kept of crop productions of the past. One hundred and fifty bushels of corn were raised last year, very little roughage, a few bearing fruit trees, and no record of last years cotton crop.

The farm is being managed by an untrained farm hand, little hired help, and an average of about eight orphans each day, who work by shifts, working on the farm some days and going to school some days.

The Land.

There are about seven hundred acres of land ranging in grade from poor hillside, good bodied-up land to a good grade of bottom land, with about three hundred acres in cultivation which could be put under profitable production. Most of it needs terracing and building by rotation, the liberal planting of legumes and a well planned cropping system.

We recommend that a competent man be employed by the State at a salary of \$150.00 per month, with \$500.00 per annum ration allowance, to manage this orphans home;

that an appropriation of \$25,000.00 be made immediately available for the equipment and maintenance of this institution for the year 1929, and \$20,000.00 for the year 1930.

This institution, properly equipped and managed, can be made almost self-supporting, and will render great service to the unfortunate negro orphans of Texas.

BFCK.
POLLARD,
Committee.