

SOCIETY
OF THE
SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

INSTITUTED MAY 22, 1891.

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

WHEREAS, It has become evident, from the decline of proper celebration of such National Holidays as the Fourth of July, Washington's Birthday, and the like, that popular interest in the events and men of the War of the Revolution is less than in the earlier days of the Republic, and

WHEREAS, This lack of interest is to be attributed not so much to lapse of time as to the neglect on the part of descendants of Revolutionary heroes to perform their duty of keeping before the public mind the memory of the services of their ancestors, and of the times in which they lived, and of the principles for which they contended ;

THEREFORE, The **Society** of the "**SONS OF THE REVOLUTION**" has been instituted to perpetuate the memory of the men who, in military, naval, or civil service, by their acts or counsel, achieved American Independence ; to promote and assist in the proper celebration of the anniversaries of Washington's Birthday, the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill, the Fourth of July, the capitulations of Saratoga and York-town the formal evacuation of New York by the British Army on the 3d of December, 1783, as a relinquishment of territorial **sovereignty**, and other prominent **events relating to or connected with the War of the Revolution; to collect and secure for preservation the manuscript rolls, records and other documents, and memorials relating to that war; to inspire among the members and their descendants the patriotic spirit of their forefathers; to inculcate in the community in general sentiments of nationality and respect for the principles for which the patriots of the Revolution contended; to assist in the commemorative celebration of other great historical events of National importance and to promote social intercourse and the feeling of fellowship among its members.**

ARTICLE I.

Name of Society

The Society shall be known by the name, style and title Of "THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA."

ARTICLE II.

Membership.

Any male person, above the age of twenty-one years, shall be eligible to membership in the "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION" who is descended from an ancestor, as the propositus, who, either as a military, naval or marine officer, soldier, sailor, or marine, or official in the service of any one of the thirteen original Colonies Or States, or of the National Government representing or composed of those Colonies or States, assisted in establishing American Independence during the War of the Revolution, between the 19th of April, 1775, when hostilities commenced, and the 19th of April, 1783, when they were ordered to cease.

Provided, That when the claim of eligibility is based on the service of an ancestor in the "minute-men" or "militia," it must be satisfactorily shown that such ancestor was actually called into the service of. the State or United States, and performed garrison or field duty ; and

Provided, further, That when the claim of eligibility is based on the service of an ancestor as a "sailor or "marine," it must in like manner be shown- that such service was other than shore duty and regularly performed in the Continental Navy, or the navy of one of the original thirteen States, or on an armed vessel other than a merchant ship, which sailed under letters of marque and reprisal, and that such ancestor of the applicant was duly enrolled in the ship's company, either as an officer, seaman, or otherwise than as a passenger; and

Provided, further, That when the claim of eligibility is based on the service of an ancestor as an "official," such service must have been performed in the civil service of the United States, or of one of the thirteen original States, and must have been sufficiently important in character to have rendered the official specially liable to arrest and imprisonment, the same as a combatant, if captured by the enemy, as well as liable to conviction of treason against the Government of Great Britain.

Service in the ordinary duty of a civil office, the performance of which did not *particularly* and effectively aid the American Cause shall not constitute eligibility.

In the construction of this article, the volunteer aids-de-camp of General Officers in Continental Service, who were duly announced as such, and who actually served in the field during a campaign, shall be comprehended as having performed qualified service.

The civil officials and military forces of the State of Vermont during the War of the Revolution shall also be comprehended in the same manner as if they had belonged to one of the thirteen original States.

No service of an ancestor shall be deemed as qualifying service for membership in the "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION" where such ancestor, after assisting in the cause of American Independence, shall have subsequently either adhered to the enemy, or failed to maintain an honorable record throughout the War of the Revolution.

No person shall be admitted unless he be eligible under one of the provisions of this Article, nor unless he be of good moral character and be judged worthy of becoming a member.

ARTICLE III.

Officers

The officers of the Society of the "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION" shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Historian, a Registrar, a Solicitor, a Surgeon and a Chaplain, who shall be chosen by ballot at every annual meeting from among the members thereof.

ARTICLE IV.
Board of Managers.

The Board of Managers of the Society shall be seventeen, namely: The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Historian, the Registrar, the Solicitor, the Surgeon and the Chaplain *ex-officio* and the nine others who shall be chosen by ballot at every annual meeting from among the members of the Society

ARTICLE V .

Admission of Members.

Every application for membership shall be made in writing, subscribed by the applicant, and approved by two members, over their signatures. Applications shall contain, or be accompanied by, proof of eligibility, and such applications and proofs shall be submitted to the Board of Managers, who shall have full powers to determine the qualifications of the applicant.

Payment of the initiation fee and subscription to the declaration required by the Constitution of this Society shall be a pre-requisite of membership.

ARTICLE VI .

Declaration.

Every member shall declare upon honor that he will endeavor to promote the purposes of this Institution and observe the "Constitution" and "By-Laws" of this Society, and, if he be a citizen of the United States, shall declare that he will support the Constitution of the United States. Such declaration shall be in writing, and subscribed by the member making it.

ARTICLE VII.

Institution Considered.

At every meeting the purposes of the Institution will be fully considered, and the best measures to promote them adopted. No question, however, involving the party politics of the day within the United States shall ever be discussed or considered in any meeting of the "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION."

ARTICLE VIII.

Commemorations.

It shall be a standing regulation that the members shall when practicable, hold a commemorative celebration and dine together at least once every year.

ARTICLE IX.

Seal.

The seal of the Society of the "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION" shall be one and seven-eighths of an inch in diameter, and shall consist of the figure of a "minute-man" in Continental uniform, standing on a ladder leading to a belfry, and holding in his left hand a musket and an olive branch, and grasping in his right hand a bell-rope; above, the cracked "Liberty Bell;" issuing therefrom a ribbon, bearing the motto of the "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION:" "*Exegi Monumentum I Ere Perennius.*" Across, the top of the ladder, on a ribbon, the figures " 1776," and at the left of the minute-man, and also on a ribbon, the figures "1883," the year of the Centennial commemoration of the permanent evacuation by the British army of American territory; the whole encircled by a band three-eighths of an inch wide; thereon at the top thirteen stars of five points each, and at the bottom the legend, "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION," the following being a facsimile thereof:

The Secretary shall be the custodian of the seal, which shall be identical in every particular with this description.

ARTICLE X.
Insignia.

The insignia of the " SONS OF THE REVOLUTION" shall consist of a badge pendant from the ribbon by a ring of gold.

The badge shall be elliptical in form, with scalloped edges, one and one-quarter inches in length, and one and one-eighth inches in width; the whole surmounted by a gold eagle, with wings displayed, inverted. On the obverse side, a medallion of gold in the centre, elliptical in form, bearing on its face the figure of a soldier in Continental uniform, with musket slung; beneath, the figures, " 1775;" the medallion surrounded by thirteen raised gold stars of five points each upon a border of dark blue enamel.

On the reverse side, in the centre, a medallion corresponding in form to that on the obverse, and also in gold, bearing on its face Houdon's portrait of Washington in bas-relief, encircled by the legend, "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION;" beneath, the figures "1883," and upon the reverse of the eagle, the number of the particular badge engraved; the medallion surrounded by a plain gold border conforming in dimensions to the obverse, upon which members may have their names engraved in script.

The ribbon shall be dark blue, ribbed and watered, edged with buff, one and one-half inches wide, and one and one-half inches in displayed length.

The insignia shall be worn by the members conspicuously, and only on the left breast, on all occasions when they shall assemble as such for any stated purpose or celebration. The insignia shall never be worn as an article of jewelry.

The Treasurer of the Society shall procure and issue the insignia to the members, and shall keep a record of all issued by him.

Such insignia shall be returned to the Treasurer of the Society by any member who may formally withdraw or resign or be expelled, but otherwise it shall be deemed an heirloom.

No member shall receive more than one insignia, unless to replace one, the loss or destruction of which shall first be satisfactorily established.

The following being a facsimile of such insignia:

On occasions other than the meetings for any stated purpose or -celebration, members may wear a rosette of the pre-scribed ribbon and pattern in the upper buttonhole of the left lapel of the coat.

The Treasurer shall procure and issue the rosettes to members.

The following being a facsimile of the same, which shall not exceed fifteen millimetres in diameter:



ARTICLE XI.

Alterations and Amendments.

No alteration nor amendment of the Constitution of this Society shall be made unless notice thereof shall be duly given in writing, signed by the member proposing the same, at a meeting of the Society, nor unless the same shall be adopted at a subsequent meeting, held at least thirty days after such notice, by a vote of three-fourths of the members present.

BY-LAWS.

SECTION I.

Initiation Fee, Dues and Contributions.

The initiation fee shall be five dollars; the annual dues, two dollars, which shall be payable on or before the first day of January in every year. The payment at one time of fifty dollars shall thenceforth exempt the member so paying from the payment of annual dues.

SECTION II.

President.

The President, or, in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, or, in their absence, a chairman pro tempore, shall pre-side at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Managers, and shall exercise the usual functions of a presiding officer, under general parliamentary rules, subject to an appeal to the Society, in proper cases, under those rules. The President shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees other than the Committee on Nominations. He shall have power to convene the Board of Managers and appoint the place of such meeting when called by him.

He shall also perform such other representative duties on behalf of the Society, either personally or by correspondence, as it or the Board of Managers may find desirable or necessary, or as customarily appertain to his office, and he shall en-force a strict observance of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.

In case of his decease, resignation, neglect to serve, or inability from any cause to act as President, the duties of the office shall devolve on the First Vice-President until the vacancy caused by such decease, resignation, or neglect to serve, shall be filled, or until the inability shall cease.

SECTION III.

Secretary.

The Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence of the Society and keep a record thereof. He shall notify all qualified and accepted candidates of their admission, and perform such other duties as the Society, or Board of Managers, or his office, may require of him. He shall have charge of the seal, certificates of incorporation, by-laws, historical and other documents and records of the Society other than those required to be deposited with the Registrar, and shall affix the seal to all properly authenticated certificates of membership, and transmit the same without delay to the member for whom it shall be issued, or to his proper representative. He shall also notify the Registrar of all admissions to membership, and transmit to him the applications and proofs of eligibility of all persons so admitted. He, together with the presiding officer, shall, when necessary, certify all acts of the Society, and, in proper cases, authenticate them under seal. He shall have charge of all printing and publications directed by the Society or by the Board of Managers. He shall give due notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Managers, and shall attend the same. He shall keep fair and accurate records of all the proceedings and orders of the Society, and of the Board of Managers, and shall give notice to the several officers of all votes, orders, resolutions, and

proceedings of the Society, or of the Board of Managers, affecting them or appertaining to their respective duties; and, at the annual meeting, and oftener if required, shall report to the Society the names of those candidates who have been admitted to membership, and also the names of those members whose resignations or voluntary withdrawals have been consented to and accepted, and also the names of those members who have been expelled or dropped for non-payment of dues, or for failure to substantiate claim of descent. In his absence from any meeting, a Secretary pro tempore may be designated therefor, unless the Assistant Secretary shall be present to act in such capacity.

SECTION IV.

Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall collect and keep the funds and securities of the Society; and as often as those funds shall amount to one hundred dollars they shall be deposited in some bank in the city of Savannah, which shall be designated by the Board of Managers, to the credit of the Society of the "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION," and such funds shall be drawn thence on the check of the Treasurer for the purposes of the Society only. Out of these funds he shall pay such sums only as may be ordered by the Society, or by the Board of Managers, and shall perform such other duties as the Society, or Board of Managers, or his office, may require of him. He shall keep a true account of his receipts and payments, and, at each annual meeting, render the same to the Society, with a full statement of the financial condition of the Society, when a committee shall be appointed to audit his accounts.

For the faithful performance of his duty, he shall give such security as the Society, or Board of Managers in lieu of its action thereon, may from time to time require.

SECTION V.

Registrar.

The Registrar shall receive from the Secretary, file and keep of record, all the proofs upon which memberships have been granted, declarations of members, on admission, of adherence to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, together with a list of all diplomas countersigned by him, and all documents, rolls, or other evidences of service in the War of the Revolution of which the Society may become possessed; and he, under the direction of the Board of Managers, shall make or cause to be made for life in his office, copies of such original or certified documents as the owners thereof may not be willing to leave permanently in the keeping of the Society.

SECTION VI

Chaplain.

The Chaplain shall be a regularly ordained minister, and it shall be his duty to open and close all meetings with customary chaplaincy services, and perform such other duties as ordinarily appertain to such office.

SECTION VII

Historian.

The Historian, shall keep a detailed record, to be deposited with the Secretary, of all the historical and commemorative celebrations of the Society; and shall edit and prepare for publication such historical addresses, essays, papers and other documents of an historical character, other than a Register of Members, as the Society may publish; and at every annual meeting, if there shall be a necrological list for the then closing, he shall submit the same, with carefully prepared biographies of the deceased members.

SECTION VIII

Assistant Secretary

The Board of Managers shall have the power to appoint an Assistant Secretary, who shall assist the Secretary in the performance of such duties of that office as the latter may, from time to time, devolve upon him, and may, in such cases, give required notices, and certify, and authenticate, when necessary, any acts, documents or records of the Society.

In case of the absence of the Secretary from any meeting of the Society, or of the Board of Managers, or of his decease, resignation, neglect to serve, or inability from any cause to act in that capacity, the duties of the office shall devolve on the Assistant Secretary until the Secretary shall return, or until the vacancy caused by such decease, resignation, or neglect to serve, shall be filled, or until the inability shall cease.

SECTION IX.

Board of Managers.

The Board of Managers shall judge of the qualifications of every candidate who shall make proper application for admission to the Society, and shall have power to admit him to membership therein, if found eligible under the Constitution of this Society. Three negative votes shall be a rejection of the applicant.

They may, through the Secretary, call special meetings of the Society at such times as they may see fit, and they may arrange for commemorative celebrations by the Society. They shall recommend plans to the Society for promoting its purposes, and, when practicable, may digest an pre-prepare business for its meetings, and shall supervise all publications issued in its name, and decide whether copies of re-cords or other documents or papers may be furnished on re-quest of any party, in cases not pertaining directly to the business of the Society and the proper conduct of its affairs.

They shall generally superintend the interests, and shall have the control and management of the affairs and funds of the Society. They shall also perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Constitution or By-Laws, or required by any standing rule or resolution of the Society; *provided, how-ever*, that they shall at no time be required to take any action nor contract any debt for which they shall be jointly or severally liable. They shall be competent to consent to and to accept the resignation or voluntary withdrawal from membership of any enrolled member of the Society.

They may require the attendance of any member of the Society, or any official or committee thereof, for consultation and advice.

The Board or Managers shall meet as often as they may desire, or that the call of the President, or upon the written re. quest of any three members of the same, addressed to the Secretary.

A majority of the Board of Managers present personally or by proxy shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

At every annual meeting they shall submit to the Society a general report of their proceedings during the year then closing, and at such other time as may be required by the Society.

SECTION X.

Expulsion and Suspension.

The Board of Managers shall have power to expel any enrolled member of this Society who, by conduct inconsistent with that of a gentleman and a man of honor, or by opposition to the interests of the community in general, or of this Society in particular, may render himself unworthy to continue a member, or who shall persistently transgress, or, with-out good excuse, wilfully neglect, or fail in the performance of, any obligation enjoined by the Constitution or By-Laws or any standing rule of this Society; provided, that such member shall have received at least tea days' notice of the complaint preferred against him, and of the time and place for hearing the same, and shall have been thereby afforded an opportunity to be heard in person. Whenever the cause of expulsion shall not have involved turpitude nor moral unworthiness, any member thus expelled may, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Board of Managers, but not otherwise, be restored to membership by the Society at any meeting.

The Board of Managers shall also have power to drop from the roll the name of any enrolled member of the Society who shall be at least one year in arrears in the payment of dues, and who, on notice to pay the same, shall fail and neglect to do so within ten days thereafter, and upon being thus dropped, his membership shall cease and determine; but he may be restored to membership at any time by the Board of Managers, on his application therefor, and upon his payment of all such arrears and of the annual dues from the date when he was dropped to the date of his restoration. The Board of managers may also suspend any officer from the performance of his duties, for cause; which proceeding must be reported to the Society and acted upon by it within thirty days, either *by* rescision of the suspension or removal of the suspended officer from office, *or* otherwise the suspension shall cease.

SECTION XI.

Vacancies and Terms of Office.

Whenever an officer of this Society shall die, resign or neglect to serve, or be suspended, or be unable to properly perform the duties of his office, by reason of absence, sickness or other cause, and whenever an office shall be vacant, which the Society shall not have filled by an election, the Board of Managers shall have power to appoint a member to such office *pro tempore*, who shall act in such capacity until the Society shall elect a member to the vacant office, or until the inability due to "suspension, absence, sickness or other causes" shall cease; *provided*, however, that the office of President or Secretary shall not thus be filled by the Board of Managers, when there shall be a Vice-President or Assistant Secretary to enter upon the duties of those offices respectively.

In like manner, the Board of Managers may supply vacancies among its members, under the same conditions and limitations, and in *case* any member thereof, other than an officer, shall be absent from three consecutive meetings of the same, his place therein may be declared vacant by the Board of Managers and filled by an appointment which shall continue in full effect until the Society shall elect a successor.

Subject to these provisions, all officers of the Society, and the members of the Board of Managers, shall, from the time of their election or appointment, continue in their respective offices until the next annual meeting, and until their respective successors shall be duly chosen.

SECTION XII.

Resignation.

No resignation or voluntary withdrawal from membership of any member enrolled in this Society shall become effective as a release from the obligations thereof, unless consented to and accepted by the Board of Managers.

SECTION XIII

Disqualification.

No person who may be enrolled as a member in this Society shall be permitted to continue in membership where the proofs of claim of qualification by descent shall be found to be defective and insufficient to substantiate such claim, or not properly authenticated. The Society, or the Board of Managers, may, at any time after thirty days' notice to such person to properly substantiate or authenticate his claim, require the Secretary to erase his name from the list of members, and such person shall thereupon cease to be a member; *provided*, he shall have failed or neglected to comply satisfactorily with such notice.

Where the Board of Managers shall direct the erasure of a person's name for a cause comprehended under this section, such person shall have a right to appeal to the next annual meeting of the Society; but he shall not be restored to membership unless by a vote of three-fourths of the members present on that occasion, or at a subsequent meeting to which the consideration of the appeal may have been specifically postponed.

SECTION XIV

Annual and Special Meetings.

The Society shall hold an annual meeting in the City of Savannah on the 5th day of February in every year, at which a general election of officers and managers, by ballot, shall take place, except when such date shall fall on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, in which case the meeting shall be held on the following Monday.

Elections shall be by ballot, and a majority of the ballots given for any officer or for a manager shall constitute a choice therefor; but if on the first ballot no member shall receive such a majority, then a further balloting, in such case, shall forthwith take place, in which a plurality of votes given shall determine the choice therefor.

Special meetings shall be held by direction of the Board of Managers, or upon the written request of thirty members of the Society, at such time and place as said Board may

direct. At such special meeting no business shall be transacted except such as shall be specified in the notice therefor.

One week's notice of time and place of annual or special meetings shall be given by publication in a daily newspaper in the city of Savannah, and by mailing through the postoffice in said city a written or printed notice to every member of the Society.

At all meetings of the Society ten members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business

The meetings of the Society for business shall be generally conducted according to parliamentary law, and the following Order of Business shall, as far as the same may be applicable, be followed :

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Meeting called to order by Presiding Officer.
2. Prayer by the Chaplain.
3. Reading of minutes of prior meetings not previously acted upon.
4. Election of officers and managers, when necessary.
5. Communications from or report of Board of Managers.
6. Reports of officers.
7. Reports of special committees.
8. Unfinished business.
9. Written communications requiring action of the Society. to. Specially noticed business.
10. Notices of motion for subsequent meeting.
12. Miscellaneous business.
13. Reading of the Preamble to this Constitution.
14. Closing prayer by the Chaplain.

SECTION XV.

Service of Notices.

It shall be the duty of every member to inform the Secretary, by written communication, of his place of residence and of any change thereof, and of his post office address.

Service of any notice under this Constitution or By-Laws upon any member of the Society, addressed to him at his last recorded place of residence or post office address, and forwarded by mail, shall be deemed sufficient service of such notice.

SECTION XVI

Recommendation of Candidates.

No member shall approve an application for membership in this Society unless he shall know the candidate to be worthy, and shall have satisfied himself by due examination of proofs that such candidate is eligible, and will, if admitted, be a desirable member.

SECTION XVII.

Decease of Members.

Upon the decease of any member residing within the State of Georgia, it shall become the duty of the other members, when practicable, to attend the funeral.

Any member, upon being informed of the decease of a member, shall make it his business to see that the Secretary is promptly notified of the fact, which fact shall also, in due time, be communicated to the Society.

SECTION XVIII.

Certificate of Membership.

Every member shall be entitled to receive a certificate of membership, which shall be authenticated by the President and Secretary, and countersigned by the Registrar of the Society, and to which the seal of the "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION" shall be affixed. The certificate shall be in form following:

Sons of the Revolution.

Be it Known, That

_____ Has been duly admitted a member of this Institution in right of the services of _____ in the cause of American Independence during the War of the Revolution.

Dated at the City of Savannah this _____ Day of _____, in the year of our Lord _____ thousand _____ hundred and _____, and of the independence of the United States of America the _____

President of the Society

Secretary of the Society

Registrar

SECTION XIX. Marshal.

The President of the Society may, from time to time, in his discretion, designate a member to act, under his direction, as Marshal for the Society, in its commemorative celebrations, parades and other meetings, and to perform such duties as usually appertain to such position.

SECTION XX. Alterations or Amendments.

No alteration nor amendment of the By-laws of this Society shall be made unless notice thereof shall be duly given in writing, signed by the member proposing the same, at a meeting of the Society, nor unless the same shall be adopted at a subsequent meeting, held at least thirty days after such notice, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

SECTION XXI.

Whenever there shall be resident in any City of this State twelve, or more, members in good standing of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia, such members may organize themselves into a local Chapter of this Society in such city, with such local officers as they may select, and with such regulations, not repugnant to the Constitution of this Society and the General Society, as they may adopt; but no one can be a member of such local chapter until after he shall have been regularly admitted, and while he shall remain, a member of this Society.

Such Chapters shall make to the State Society an annual report of their officers, members, and doings, on or before the first day of February in each year.

All members of this Society shall continue to pay their annual dues and other dues to the State Society notwithstanding their connection with any local chapter, and shall remain subject in all other respects to the Constitution and By-Laws of the State Society.