

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE MATTAPAN LITERARY
ASSOCIATION; WITH A LIST OF
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS, AND A
CATALOGUE OF THE LIBRARY**

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Constitution And By-Laws of the Mattapan Literary Association; With A List Of Officers And Members, and a Catalogue of the Library by Various

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

Mattapan Literary Association;

WITH A LIST OF

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS,

AND A

CATALOGUE OF THE LIBRARY.

Association Founded April 18, 1848.

LIBRARY ESTABLISHED 1862.

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY DAVID CLAPP.

1857.

✓ Educ 7362.560.5

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
GIFT OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

JUL 14 1926

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

THIS Association shall be called the **MATTAPAN LITERARY ASSOCIATION.**

ARTICLE II.

DESIGN.

The object of this Association shall be the improvement of its members, by exercises in Declamation, Composition, and Debate; and by the maintenance of a Library consisting of works calculated to disseminate useful and entertaining knowledge.

ARTICLE III.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Any young man of good moral character, who has attained the age of sixteen years, upon being recommended by a member of this Association, may become a member thereof, by subscribing to this Constitution, and paying the required assessments.

ARTICLE IV.

OFFICERS.

SECT. 1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, five Directors, and two Assistant Librarians; who shall be elected for the term of one year, commencing on the first day of June.

SECT. 2. The President, when present, shall preside at all meetings of the Association, and of the Executive Committee.

SECT. 3. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, perform all the duties of that officer. In the absence of both presiding officers, the Association may elect a President *pro tem*.

SECT. 4. The Secretary shall prepare and sign all notices, advertisements, and correspondence, which may proceed from the Executive Committee; and shall record all proceedings of the meetings of the Association, in a book provided for the purpose, which book shall be subject to the inspection of the members.

SECT. 5. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys; pay all bills sanctioned by the Executive Committee, and signed by their Chairman; and hold himself in readiness to report, at each meeting of said Committee, on the pecuniary state of the Association.

SECT. 6. The Librarian shall be entitled to such compensation for his services as the Association may determine; and shall be responsible for the

performance of the following duties:—Opening the Library-Room at the times designated; maintaining strict decorum therein; preserving in order all books and documents in his custody belonging to the Library, and keeping records of the names and residences of persons to whom they may be entrusted; collecting the amounts of fines and damages; and reporting monthly, to the Directors, all instances of the retention of books beyond the specified time:—he shall also, during the week previous to the last regular meeting of the Association in May, report to the Government the condition of the various subjects of his charge.

SECT. 7. The Assistant Librarians shall aid in the discharge of the duties of the Librarian.

SECT. 8. The Directors, upon notification from the Librarian, shall obtain, from the residences of delinquents, all books retained beyond the allotted time, with the amounts of fines due thereon:—they shall also, in conjunction with that officer, institute a thorough examination of the Library, preparatory to the annual report.

ARTICLE V.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SECT. 1. The Government of this Association shall be vested in an Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and Directors.

SECT. 2. The Executive Committee shall have the general control of the concerns of the Association; with power to fill all vacancies which may occur in the board of officers.

SECT. 3. This Committee shall report quarterly to the Association respecting its condition.

ARTICLE VI.

TRUSTEES.

SECT. 1. The legal title of all property which may be held by the Association, shall be vested in five Trustees.

SECT. 2. The Trustees—none of whom shall be under twenty-one years of age—shall be elected at every third annual meeting, and may continue in office until the induction of their successors.

SECT. 3. Vacancies in the Board of Trustees shall be filled by the Association.

SECT. 4. Whenever the funds in the custody of the Treasurer shall exceed by the sum of one hundred dollars, such immediate disbursements as may be decided upon by the Executive Committee,—such excess shall be subject to the control of the Trustees; and shall be by them invested or placed at interest, as they may deem most conducive to the good of the Association.

SECT. 5. The fund in the hands of the Trustees, shall be expended, in whole or in part, only by concurrent vote of the Trustees and the Executive Com-

mittee, or by vote of two-thirds of the members present at a regular business meeting of the Association,—the subject having been proposed at a previous meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

MEETINGS.

SECT. 1. At any meeting of the Association, fifteen members, or, of the Executive Committee, a majority, shall constitute a quorum.

SECT. 2. The Executive Committee shall appoint an annual meeting of the Association, for the choice of officers, to be holden in the month of May.

SECT. 3. The Association, unless otherwise determined by vote, shall meet on the first Saturday evening of every month, for the transaction of business; and on every Monday evening, for the Regular Exercise of Declamation, Composition, or Debate.

SECT. 4. The Secretary, by order of the Executive Committee, or upon written request of ten members, shall call special meetings of the Association, giving due notice of the time and business of each meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

The distinction of Honorary Member of this Association may be conferred, by vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular business meeting;—provided, that the name shall have been proposed at a previous meeting.