

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
WATERTOWN,
MASSACHUSETTS REVISED
1908**

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Historical society, Watertown, Massachusetts revised 1908 by Various

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VARIOUS

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BOSTON:
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1908.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WATERTOWN.

In 1888, after several conferences had been held of those interested in the formation of an historical society for all of the original township of Watertown, it was on July 31st decided to form such a society. Accordingly on Nov. 20th, 1888, a meeting was held at the home of Dr. Alfred Hosmer for the formal organization of the society under a plan which had been prepared. There, gathered about the same table upon which the original call for the founding of the Public Library had previously been drafted, seven gentlemen met, and subscribed to the code of by-laws of the new society in the following order, viz.:

DR. ALFRED HOSMER.
Wm. H. INGRAHAM.
REV. EDWARD A. RAND.
SOLON F. WHITNEY.
CHARLES BRIGHAM.
DR. BENNETT F. DAVENPORT.
DR. JULIAN A. MEAD.

To these, at the next meeting were joined Rev. Wm. H. Savage, Herbert Coolidge and Joshua Coolidge, thus forming the ten original members of the historical society. At the first meeting the following officers were chosen:

DR. ALFRED HOSMER, *President*.
REV. EDWARD A. RAND, *Vice-President*.
SOLON F. WHITNEY, *Secretary and Treasurer*.
DR. BENNETT F. DAVENPORT, } *Councillors*.
DR. JULIAN A. MEAD, }

These five together forming the Standing Committee, the managing board of the Society.

The declared purpose of the Society was as follows: "To investigate and to excite a general interest in the study of all historical events, subjects and questions, whether of a nature civil, military, educational, ecclesiastical, or otherwise, that connect themselves with any portion of the large territory that was originally included under the municipal title of Watertown; to obtain biographical sketches of all individuals ever resident therein who have enacted a prominent part in its local affairs, or whose family names have become distinguished in state or national history; and in general not only to obtain the above historical knowledge, but to preserve and make it known."

By May 7th, 1891, the membership of the Society had increased to sixty-nine persons, including women as well as men. It then seemed advisable for the Society to become incorporated under the general provisions of the statutes. This was accordingly done, and the following is a copy of the Seal adopted by the Society, and of the certificate of incorporation:



CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION.

No. 4,606.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

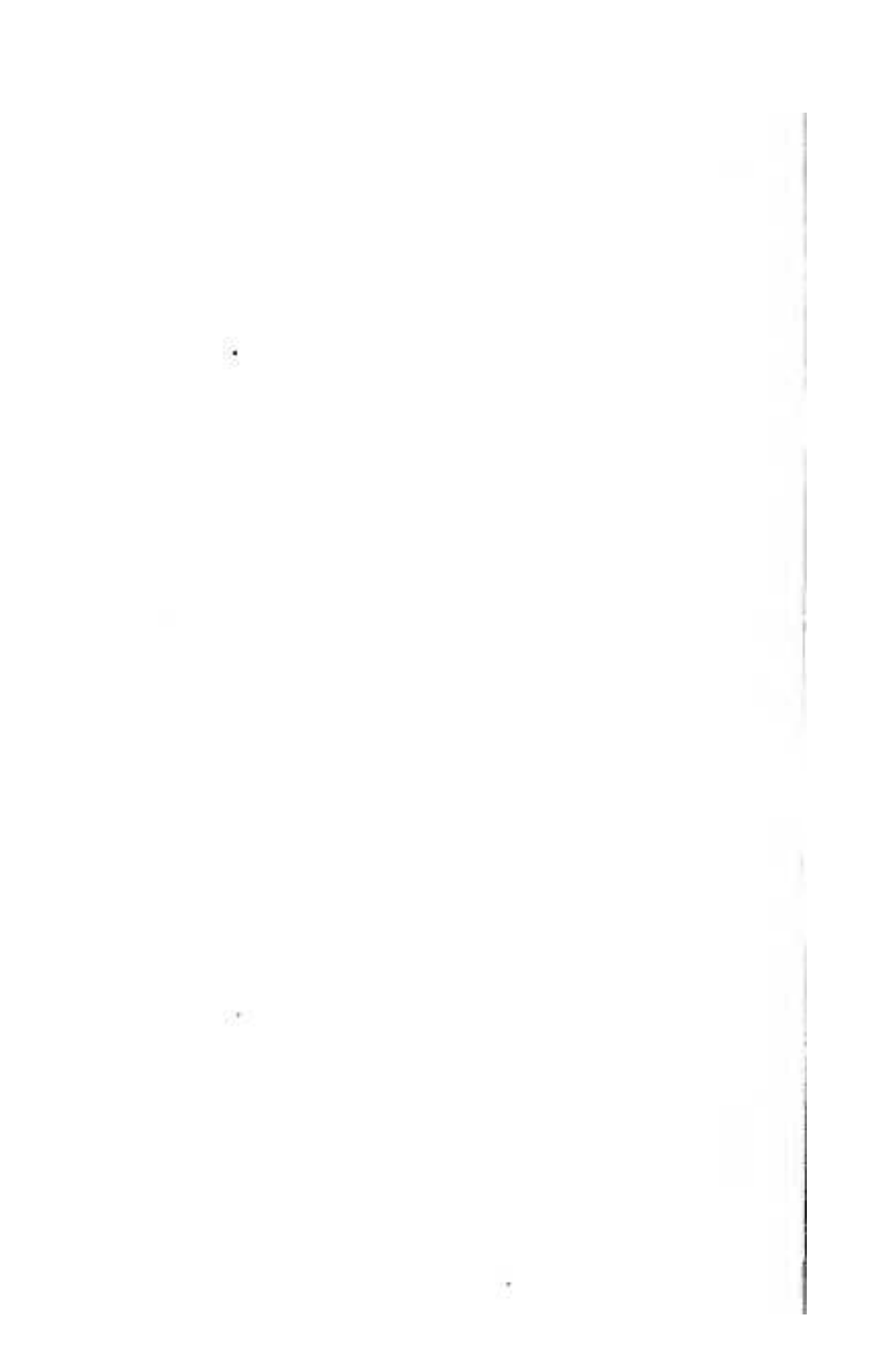
Be it known, That whereas Edward A. Rand, Charles F. Mason, Ellen M. Crafts, Solon F. Whitney, Julian A. Mead, Charles S. Ensign, Ruth A. Bradford, Bennett F. Davenport, William H. Ingraham, Jesse Fewkes, Charles F. Fitz, Albert M. Davenport, Fred E. Crawford, Charles A. Stearns, A. C. Stockin, Francis Kendall, O. W. Dimick, and Sumner Coolidge have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of the Historical Society of Watertown, for the purpose of collecting, preserving and publishing historical matter relating to the towns and families occupying the original township of Watertown, and in connection therewith, to found and maintain a society building with a museum, art gallery and library, and have complied with the provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Council with powers of Directors of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded in this office:

Now, therefore, I, William M. Olin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that said E. A. Rand, C. F. Mason, E. M. Crafts, S. F. Whitney, J. A. Mead, C. S. Ensign, R. A. Bradford, B. F. Davenport, W. H. Ingraham, J. Fewkes, C. F. Fitz, A. M. Davenport, F. E. Crawford, C. A. Stearns, A. C. Stockin, F. Kendall, O. W. Dimick, and S. Coolidge, their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of the Historical Society of Watertown, with the powers, rights and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties and restrictions which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed this twenty-fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.

{ STATE }
{ SEAL }

WM. M. OLIN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.



BY-LAWS
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WATERTOWN.

CHAPTER I.

MEMBERS AND DUES.

ARTICLE 1. The members of the Society shall be of three classes, Active, Associate and Honorary, and all shall be open to both men and women. All Active members shall be eligible to any office, and they only shall be entitled to vote or to take part in the business of the society.

ART. 2. Blanks shall be kept by the Recording Secretary for signature by any desiring to be proposed as an associate member. These blanks shall also be signed by two members who shall join in recommending the candidate. The blanks shall have a space for a brief statement of the place of residence and qualifications of the person proposed for membership. But no nomination shall be made except by a report of the Council at a stated meeting of the society. Transfers of members from one class to another class, however, may be made at any stated meeting upon the recommendation of the Council.

ART. 3. All members shall be elected by ballot at a stated meeting by a majority of the votes cast. A separate ballot on any name shall be taken upon the request of three or more members.

ART. 4. Each Active and Associate member shall pay two dollars at the time of admission, and one dollar each first of May afterward into the treasury, for the general purposes of the society; but any member admitted in March or April shall be exempted from the next following May assessment. Any member shall be exempted from the annual payment if, at any time after admission, he or she shall pay into the treasury twenty dollars in addition to previous payments; and all commutations shall be and remain permanently funded, the interest only to be used for current expenses.

ART. 5. If any person elected a member shall neglect, for four months after notification of election, to accept membership by subscribing to the by-laws and to pay the admission fee, the election shall be void; and any member who shall neglect to pay the annual assessment for six months after it shall have become due and attention shall have been called to this article of the by-laws, shall cease to be a member; but it shall be competent for the Council to suspend the provisions of this article for a reasonable time.

ART. 6. Any member may withdraw from the society by giving the Secretary written notice and paying all dues.

ART. 7. Upon the unanimous recommendation of the Council present at any meeting thereof, any member may be expelled for cause at any stated meeting of the society, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

CHAPTER II.

ART. 1. There shall be a stated meeting of the society on the second Tuesday of May, September,