

**THE CONSTITUTION AND  
REGISTER OF MEMBERSHIP OF  
THE  
GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE WAR  
OF 1812 TO DECEMBER 1, 1895**

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The Constitution and Register of Membership of the General Society of the War of 1812 to  
December 1, 1895 by Henry Hobart Bellas

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**HENRY HOBART BELLAS**

**THE CONSTITUTION AND  
REGISTER OF MEMBERSHIP OF  
THE  
GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE WAR  
OF 1812 TO DECEMBER 1, 1895**





**Insignia of the  
Society of the War of 1812.**

The  
CONSTITUTION  
and  
REGISTER OF MEMBERSHIP  
of the  
GENERAL  
SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812

to

December 1, 1895.

Exchange 1901

Organized September 14, 1814. Re-organized January 9, 1854.  
Instituted in Joint-Convention  
at Philadelphia, Pa., April 14, 1894.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.,

1895.  
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JUN 10 1901

# Constitution.

## Preamble.

WHEREAS, In the Providence of God, victory having crowned the forces of the United States of America, in upholding the principles of the Nation against Great Britain in the conflict known as the War of 1812; we, the survivors and descendants of those who participated in that contest, have joined together to perpetuate its memories and victories, to collect and secure for preservation, rolls, records, books and other documents relating to that period; to encourage research and publication of historical data, including memorials of patriots of that era in our National history; to care for and, when necessary, assist in burying actual veterans of that struggle; to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and foster true patriotism and love of country.

## ARTICLE I.

### NAME.

This Society shall be known as the "General Society of the War of 1812."

## ARTICLE II.

### ORGANIZATION.

The General Society shall be composed of State Societies, which shall meet annually, on the day appointed therefor in their respective by-laws, and oftener if they shall deem it necessary.

The State Societies shall choose annually such officers for their own government and in such manner as shall be set forth in their respective by-laws, and shall transmit annually to the General Society a list of the officers so chosen for the year and such other information as may be of interest to the Society at large. Each State Society shall conform in the number and character of its officials to those of the General Society, and shall regulate all matters respecting its own affairs, and shall judge of the qualifications of members therein. *Provided always*, That the action of such State Society be, in all cases, in conformity with the provisions of this Constitution.



## ARTICLE III.

## OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The officers of the General Society shall consist of a President General, a Vice-President General for each State Society represented, a Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, a Treasurer General and Assistant Treasurer General, a Registrar General, a Surgeon General, a Judge Advocate General and a Chaplain General. They shall be chosen by ballot at the regular meeting of the Society, by and from members in good standing, and shall serve until the next regular meeting or until their successors are duly chosen.

There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of the officers of the General Society and a delegate from each State Society, to be chosen by ballot at the regular meeting of the General Society, upon selection by the respective State delegation hereinafter provided for. It shall be the duty of said Committee, nine (9) members of which shall constitute a quorum, to supervise the affairs of the General Society, as well as the admission of State Societies, and transact such other business as may come before it. The said Committee shall meet in the City of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, once in every six (6) months, during the time intervening between the meetings, and subject to the approval of, the General Society.

## ARTICLE IV.

## MEETINGS.

The regular meeting of the General Society shall be held every second year, on or about the nineteenth day of June, being the anniversary of the declaration of war by the United States against Great Britain, and special meetings may be held upon the order of the President General, or upon the request of two (2) State Societies.

Such meetings shall consist of the officers of the General Society, the delegate from each State of the Executive Committee, and a representation not exceeding five (5) additional delegates from each State Society; which representation from each State shall be entitled to five (5) votes. The expenses of all such meetings shall be borne by the State Societies.

At each meeting of the General Society, the time and place of which shall have been determined upon at the preceding meeting of the Society, the circular letters and other communications sent by the State Societies, shall be considered, and where questions in dispute may be referred to it, the General Society shall have power to act thereon.

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## ARTICLE V.

## FORMATION OF STATE SOCIETIES.

The General Society shall be located in the City of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania.

The Executive Committee thereof shall have the right at any of its meetings to warrant, constitute and recognize one State Society in any State or Territory of the United States, whenever ten (10) or more persons, who are already members or are eligible to membership in this Society, and residing in said State or Territory, shall apply for authority to organize such Society, or where such Society may already be formed and is approved by this Society.

The style and title of each State Society shall be as follows: "The Society of the War of 1812, in the State of....."

The members of each such State Society shall be borne upon the membership roll of the General Society.

## ARTICLE VI.

## MEMBERSHIP.

Any male person above the age of twenty-one (21) years, who participated in, or who is a lineal descendant of one who served during the War of 1812, in the army, navy, revenue-marine or privateer service of the United States, offering proof thereof satisfactory to the State Society to which he may make application for membership, and who is of good moral character and reputation, may become a member of this Society when approved of by said State Society, under such regulations as it may make for passing upon applications for membership.

In case of the failure of lineal descendants of an actual participant in the War on behalf of the United States, one collateral descendant, who is deemed worthy, may be admitted to represent the said participant.

Every application for membership shall be made in writing, upon such form as may be set forth by this Society for that purpose, which application shall be made in duplicate, and one copy thereof filed in the archives of the General Society.

## ARTICLE VII.

## TRANSMISSION OF LISTS OF MEMBERS AND DUES FROM STATE SOCIETIES.

The Secretary of each State Society shall transmit to the Secretary of the General Society a list of the members thereof, together with a list of

those from whom said members derive claim to membership, and thereafter, upon the admission of additional members, the Secretary thereof shall transmit to the General Society such similar information respecting said members.

Each State Society shall pay into the treasury of this Society an entrance fee of ten dollars, and remit annually thereafter the sum of twenty-five cents for each and every member in good standing on the rolls of such State Society, so reported on January first of each year.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### INSIGNIA.

The insignia of the Society shall consist of a badge of gold, pendant from a ribbon. Said badge shall be in the form of a Maltese cross (emblematic of faith in the justice of our cause), between four (4) golden eagles (symbolizing the four sections—north, south, east and west of our common country), and resting upon an anchor of gold (representative of the American navy, by which so many glorious victories of the War of 1812 were achieved). The arms of the cross to be enameled in scarlet, with a white border, and to bear the insignia, in gold, of the four (4) arms of service (infantry, cavalry, artillery and naval), and in the centre thereof, a medallion of dark-blue enamel, with the figures 1812 thereon in gold, surrounded by a band of black enamel, bearing eighteen (18) stars in gold, representing the number of States of the Union during the period of conflict. The anchor and cross to be suspended from the ribbon by a ring of gold.

The ribbon shall be of watered silk, dark-blue in the centre, with white and black stripes on the sides successively, and edged with scarlet; the entire ribbon to be one and one-half inches in width and the same dimensions in displayed length.

The insignia shall be worn on the left breast by the members of the Society at all general meetings, on all occasions of ceremony, or when they shall assemble for any stated purpose or celebration. On all other occasions, other than those specified above, members may wear a rosette of the prescribed ribbon and pattern, in the upper buttonhole of the left lapel of the coat, which rosettes, like the insignia, shall be procured and issued by the Secretary of the Society, and by whom a record of all such issues to members will be kept. The insignia shall never be worn as an article of jewelry or ornament, and should be returned to the Society on the resignation or expulsion of a member; but otherwise, it shall be deemed an heirloom.