

**ST. WULSTAN
SOCIETY: ITS ORIGIN
AND ORGANIZATION**

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St. Wulstan Society: Its Origin and Organization by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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CONTENTS.

ORIGIN	Page 3
ORGANIZATION	" 6
ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT	" 6
FIRST MEETING	" 8
BY-LAWS	" 9
CHOICE OF OFFICERS	" 13
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION	" 15
MR. SALISBURY'S GIFT	" 16
PAYMENT OF MRS. KNOWLES' LEGACY	" 17
OFFICERS	" 18
MEMBERS	" 19

ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY.

ORIGIN.

One evening in June, 1890, several gentlemen met by his invitation at the house of Mr. J. Evarts Greene, to consider the subject of forming a Club or Society for social intercourse and the discussion of such topics as might be proposed and approved. Those present were Senator George F. Hoar, Judge Hamilton B. Staples, the Rev. Daniel Merri- man, D.D., the Very Rev. John J. Power, D.D., and Mr. Samuel S. Green, besides the host, who read the names of others whom he had asked or wished to ask to join the proposed Club, namely, Mr. Stephen Salisbury, Judge Thomas L. Nelson, Mr. Frank P. Goulding, President G. Stanley Hall, Dr. Leonard Wheeler, Dr. George E. Francis, the Rev. Alexander H. Vinton, D.D., and Mr. Henry A. Marsh. To these was added by common consent, the name of Mr. E. Harlow Russell.

Without formal proceedings it was agreed to form such a Club as had been proposed; that the meetings should be held fortnightly on Friday evenings, and that the first meeting should be held in October, the time and place to be fixed by Mr. Greene, who

undertook to give to each member timely notice thereof.

In accordance with this agreement the Club met on Saturday evening, October 11th, at the house of Senator Hoar. The members present besides Mr. Hoar, were Mr. Salisbury, Judge Nelson, Judge Staples, Mr. Marsh, Dr. Francis, Dr. Wheeler, Mr. S. S. Green, Dr. Hall, Dr. Merriman, Mr. Goulding, Mr. J. Everts Greene. A committee was appointed to prepare a plan of organization, and Mr. J. Everts Greene was chosen Secretary.

The subject of conversation, suggested by Mr. Marsh, was in substance: What disposition should be made of the bequest of the late Mrs. Helen C. Knowles, for the advancement of art education in Worcester?

The bequest is expressed in these words:—

[An extract from Mrs. Knowles' will.]

“I direct my executors hereinafter named as soon after the probate of this instrument as the same can practicably and judiciously be done, and within two years from such probate to sell and dispose of the estate situated on Main Street, in Worcester, and now owned and occupied by me, and to devote the proceeds of such sale to the promotion of art education in said Worcester, in such way and manner, either by establishing some organization for that purpose or creating a professorship in some institution already existing in said Worcester, as they shall determine to be most feasible, after consultation with those practically interested in the subject and best adapted to the attainment of my object—the cultivation of a love and taste for art in the community. This to be a memorial of my late husband, Lucius J. Knowles, and to bear his name.”



The discussion of this topic may be justly regarded as the origin of ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY as a corporation. For, at the next meeting Mr. Marsh, speaking as a member of the Club and as one of the executors of Mrs. Knowles, said that in his judgment the administration of her bequest for art education might wisely be intrusted to a corporation composed of the members of this Club, and that it was the earnest wish of the executors to be relieved of further responsibility by placing the fund which they held for that purpose in the charge of a corporation so composed. Mr. Marsh read to the Club a letter from his co-executor, Mr. Edward A. Strong of Boston, heartily concurring in this opinion and wish.

Mr. Marsh's suggestion was carefully considered and all objections occurring to any member were presented and discussed, but it was in the end unanimously adopted; and Mr. Hoar, Mr. Goulding and Mr. J. Evarts Greene were appointed a committee to take the preliminary steps for organizing as a corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth.

In the meantime, Mr. A. George Bullock had been unanimously elected a member of the Club, and the name ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY had been adopted as that of the corporation to be organized.