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THE
CONSTITUTION

AND

BYE LAWS,

OF THE

UPPER LONG-CANE SOCIETY

OF

Abbeville District.



ABBEVILLE:

PRINTED BY JOHN TAGGART.

1832.

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THE HISTORY OF THE

STATE OF

NEW YORK

FROM 1784 TO 1800

BY

JOHN B. HENNING

1800

THE UPPER LONG-CANE SOCIETY OF

ABBEVILLE DISTRICT.

THIS Society was formed in 1793, by most of the members then belonging to the Upper Long-Cane Congregation of Presbyterians, in the neighborhood of Abbeville Court-house, associating themselves to provide a permanent fund for the support of the Gospel in their Congregation, and for works of benevolence amongst themselves: so as to place these great objects above the difficulties and vicissitudes which the fluctuation in society and the inconveniences of a new country then occasioned.

The Society was incorporated in 1799. It at first consisted of 35 members, and in a few years increased to about 60:—but the number was soon reduced by withdrawals, removals and deaths, so that for the last twenty years, it has been generally below 32, at which it now stands. In this course of time, the original contribution of \$65, has, from the payment by each member of one dollar a year, and from the accumulation by compound interest, gradually increased, so that (including a legacy of \$50 from Maj. John Bowie, and various other small donations amounting to about \$50 more) it amounted, on the 2d day of March 1832, to \$8,909 82, bearing interest from that day, over and above \$600 expended in aiding the support of a clergyman, and all other expenditures.

Most of the members of the Congregation, for many years past, have neglected to join the Society, and the latter, having always been a wholly distinct body from the Upper Long-Cane Congregation, is now connected with it only by the circumstance that most of the members of the Society, are also members of the Congregation, although composing a minority in it.

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The present members of the Society having fully experienced the great benefit of the plan heretofore pursued in its management, and finding themselves now become the stewards of a considerable fund, to be faithfully husbanded and expended upon the objects of their association, have new-moddled their rules to suit the present condition of the country and of the Society, and directed them to be published with the matters herein accompanying them.

2d MARCH, 1832.

CONSTITUTION.



Article 1.—The Society shall be known by its corporate name of “The Upper Long-Cane Society of Abbeville District.” It may consist of an indefinite number of members, and shall not cease to exist whilst five members remain.

Article 2.—The regular bounds of the Society, shall extend to the distance of ten miles from the Upper Long-Cane Church.

Article 3.—An anniversary meeting shall be held once a year; and if a majority of the officers shall find it necessary for the transaction of business, other meetings may be called, by notice thereof being published from the pulpit of the Upper Long-Cane Church, on some Sabbath, when Divine Service shall be performed there, within a month next preceding the time appointed; or by notice thereof being personally given to all the members residing within the regular bounds. But no meeting, besides an anniversary meeting, shall take into consideration any alteration of the Constitution; and less than a majority of all the members, living within the bounds, shall not form, at any meeting, a quorum for the transaction of any business.

Article 4.—The officers shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, to be elected at every anniversary meeting when a sufficient number of members shall be present, to serve until the next anniversary meeting, and until successors shall be chosen, and to exercise all the powers, and to perform all the duties, specially delegated to them, or either of them respectively, in addition to the general powers and duties contained in this Constitution and the bye laws.

Article 5.—In case of the vacancy of any office, by the death, resignation, refusal to serve, or removal from the bounds of any officer, the remaining officers shall appoint

a substitute: who shall serve the remainder of the term of office, unless an intermediate meeting shall be had, in which case an election shall be held to provide for the remainder of the term. If the vacancy shall be in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume that office, and the substitute become Vice President.

Article 6.—Temporary appointments by election, shall be made to fill the place of any officer who may be absent at any meeting; except the place of President which shall be taken by the Vice President, if he be present, and a Vice President be temporarily elected.

Article 7.—All elections shall be by ballot, and a majority of the votes of the members present shall be necessary to a choice.

Article 8.—The President, or in case of vacancy or absence, the Vice President become President, shall preside at the meetings of the Society and of the board of officers; preserve order; appoint committees; supervise the minutes and the accounts of the Treasurer; sign all orders on the Treasurer; and charge himself with a general superintendance over the interests of the Society at all times between its meetings.

Article 9.—The Treasurer shall receive and pay out all monies; preserve all the cash, bonds, notes, title papers, mortgages, securities and other property of the Society; keep an exact account of his receipts and expenditures; and submit to the Society at every anniversary meeting, a report of the money transactions which have taken place since the last anniversary meeting, and a schedule of the funds, evidences of debt and property in his hands, with such remarks concerning them as he may deem proper.

Article 10.—The Treasurer shall, as soon as elected, give bond with approved security to the Society, in the penalty of twice the value of all the monies, bonds and other property, then delivered into his hands, conditioned that he shall be accountable for the same, and deliver them, with all other moneys and effects belonging to the Society that may come to his hands during the time he shall continue in office (fire, and other inevitable acci-

dents excepted) to the next succeeding Treasurer or to the order of the Society, which bond shall be kept by the President, after being recorded, if the society shall so order: and if the Treasurer should be re-elected, the bond before given by him, having been properly drawn for the purpose, shall continue without renewal, unless otherwise ordered by the Society.

Article 11.—All orders upon the Treasurer shall be signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary, and no disbursement shall be made, by loan or otherwise without such order.

Article 12.—The Secretary shall record the minutes of the proceedings of every meeting; keep a regular list of the members, and an account with each one; keep all the books and papers, except those directed to be kept by the Treasurer and President; and as a check upon the Treasurer, keep an exact account of all contributions and other receipts by the Treasurer, of all sums which should grow due by interest; of all expenditures ordered by the Society; of all loans directed by the board of officers, and of whatever else may be necessary to prevent or detect any mismanagement. In doing which, he shall have a right to call upon the Treasurer for any information requisite, & the Treasurer shall be bound to afford it.

Article 13.—Every member residing within the bounds shall contribute, at each anniversary meeting, one dollar to the funds of the Society: Provided, that any member by paying fifteen dollars, shall be discharged from all liability for future contributions.

Article 14.—No person shall be admitted to become a member who may reside, at the time of his application, without the regular bounds.

Article 15.—Application for membership shall be made by letter to the Society, at an anniversary meeting, and the question upon the admission of any applicant shall be taken by ballot. If one third or more of the members present should be against his admission the applicant shall be rejected, and shall not again be presented for two years. If a second time rejected, he shall never again be balloted for. If the question should be decided in favor of the

applicant, by two thirds or more of the ballots, he shall, before he shall be entitled to the privileges of membership, sign the Constitution and Bye Laws, and pay for entrance to the Treasurer, one dollar for every five hundred dollars which shall then belong to the Society: Provided, that the son or son-in-law, of any person who may be, or shall have been a member, shall be required to pay only one dollar for entrance after the arrears of the father or father-in-law, if any, shall have been discharged; and that the widows of deceased members, may, during their widow-hood, entitle themselves to all the pecuniary privileges of members, by paying to the Society the sums which would have been due from their husbands, had they lived—except the sons, sons-in-law and widows of former members who shall have been expelled or excluded, or who shall have voluntarily withdrawn from the Society.

Article 16.—For grossly immoral conduct, or contumacious contempt of the Society, a member may be expelled by concurrence of two thirds of the ballots of all the members present at any meeting.

Article 17.—A failure by one residing within the bounds, to pay his contribution for five years, shall amount to a forfeiture of his interest in the Society: and thereupon his account shall be credited and he shall be excluded from further membership, nor be again admitted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present at any anniversary meeting (the vote being taken by ballot) and the payment of the regular contributions for the whole time from his first failure, and one dollar for new entrance.

Article 18.—A member now residing, or who shall remove to reside without the bounds, may preserve to himself, all the privileges of membership, (except those expressly confined to members within the bounds) by paying his regular contributions, or the fifteen dollars in lieu thereof. He shall, of course, be charged with the first contribution after his removal, and unless he express the contrary and maintain his privileges by paying subsequent contributions. he shall be considered to have sur-

rendered his interests in the Society and right of membership conditionally, and shall not be longer regarded as a member; but upon his return to reside within the bounds, he may upon application, by the concurrence of two thirds of the ballots at an anniversary meeting, be again admitted, upon his paying the arrearages prior to his removal, if any, and the first contribution afterwards charged as above, if yet due, and also the contribution next preceding his return, and the contribution for the meeting at which he makes his application.

Article 19.—A member may voluntarily withdraw by giving written notice of his intention to do so, paying his arrearages, after which he shall be considered as one excluded.

Article 20.—All contributions, entrance money, fines, gifts, legacies, and all monies or property accruing to the society in any other way whatsoever shall be carried to the general fund. The names of benefactors shall all be preserved, and proper letters of thanks drawn by the Secretary for any donation received.

Article 21.—When the funds shall amount to ten thousand dollars, at least that sum shall be always preserved as a capital, to remain untouched for the production of interest to answer the ends of the Society: and the whole or any part of the interest, according to the directions of the Society at an anniversary meeting, may be applied towards the salary of a minister; towards the maintenance and education of poor children; towards the relief of distressed members, or the distressed families of deceased members; or towards any other pious work or benevolent purpose to be effected within the bounds, which shall appear to two thirds of the members present, to demand their assistance.

Article 22.—The amount to be, at any time, contributed towards the salary of a minister, may be fixed for the ensuing year, by a majority of the members present at an anniversary meeting, not exceeding five hundred dollars in one year: but no contribution shall be made towards the salary of any minister, other than a regular Presbyterian minister officiating in the pulpit of the Upper Long-Cane

Church, or some other Church within the bounds, who shall be acceptable to two thirds of the members residing within the bounds.

Article 23.—The funds not appropriated, shall as constantly as possible, be kept at interest, and the interest called in annually, and, if not appropriated, put to interest, so that as nearly as practicable there shall be an accumulation by annual compounding of interest.

Article 24.—The four officers shall constitute a Board of officers, which shall be charged with the execution of all the orders of the Society not especially directed to one of the officers, or to some committee. This board shall transact all the business (not otherwise specially committed) in relation to the leading of the money, securing of loans, and taking steps necessary for the increase and security of the funds and property of the Society, and shall be governed by the bye laws and resolutions and orders of the Society, not repugnant to the Constitution.

Article 25.—No member of this Society shall be permitted to become the borrower or the security for a borrower of any money belonging to the Society: nor shall any member make himself interested in the loans by borrowing from any borrower, or procuring any other person to borrow for him, under the penalty of forfeiting to the Society fifty per cent on every sum so borrowed, or procured to be borrowed.

Article 26.—At every anniversary meeting a committee of three upon the state of the funds and books shall be appointed whose duty it shall be to examine carefully all the books and papers of the Society, inquire into the proceedings of the board, and of the several officers, and into the solvency of the obligors to the bonds, and the state of all the property belonging to the Society, and report to the Society at the next anniversary the order in which the books and papers were found, carefully noting any inaccuracy, negligence or unskilfulness, and the situation of all the funds and property with such suggestions as they may think proper for the increase and security of the funds, or for the better management of the

interests of the Society or the more effectual promotion of its views.

Article 27.—All questions in the Society, when there is special provision for the concurrence of a greater number, shall be determined by a majority; the question being taken by ballot if any two members shall require, and if the votes should be equal the question shall be lost.

Article 28.—The Society will hold every officer and member liable for any damage which may result from his neglect, or breach of any duty committed to him: and may, in addition to this responsibility, provide, by Bye Laws, fines not exceeding \$5 for any neglect or breach of duty, or any violation of the Constitution, Bye Laws or orders of the Society—any of which fines may be imposed at any meeting after the member liable to such fine shall have been called on for his excuse and have failed to render a sufficient one; or shall have been warned that he will be called on at a particular time and have failed to attend or send an excuse for his absence: and when imposed, the fine shall be charged against the delinquent and if it should not be paid in five years, the member shall be excluded from the Society.

Article 29.—No alteration of this Constitution shall be made unless the alteration shall have been passed and entered on the minutes at three several anniversary meetings, at one of which meetings two thirds of the whole number of members residing within the bounds, shall have concurred in it. An alteration of the Bye Laws may be made, if the alteration shall have been passed by a majority of the members present, and entered on the minutes, at two several anniversary meetings. Any occasional order, not inconsistent with the Constitution or Bye Laws, may be made or repealed by a majority of the quorum at any meeting.

BYE LAWS.



1—The anniversary meetings shall be held on the last Friday in January of every year, at the Upper Long-Cane Church.

2—A member refusing to serve in any office, or upon any committee to which he may have been elected or appointed, shall be fined in the discretion of the Society not exceeding two dollars: except any member, who shall have faithfully served in any of the offices for the full term of office, who shall not (against his consent) be required to serve in any office for the next term.

3—An officer for absence at any meeting of the Society or the Board, or for neglect of any duty assigned to him: or any member for neglecting to attend a meeting of any committee upon which he may have been appointed, or for neglecting any duty committed to him, may be fined in the discretion of the Society not exceeding two dollars, over and above his liability for all damages which accrue from his neglect.

4—No member, except in committee of the whole, shall be permitted to speak more than twice to the same question on the same day, unless with the consent of a majority to explain himself. Every member speaking shall address himself to the chair, confine himself to the subject under discussion, avoid all personalities and offensive expressions, and be silent when ordered by the chair.

5—The Secretary shall inform every chairman of a committee who may not have been present at the appointment of the committee, of his appointment, of the names of the committee and of the subject referred to them. The chairman of every committee shall appoint the time and place for the first meeting of the committee and summon the other members to attend.

Rules for the Board of Officers.

6—The cash on hand at the adjournment of an anniversary meeting not appropriated, shall, that evening if practicable, or as soon afterwards as possible, be lent to such applicants for loans, in such sums, and upon such security (not less than what is below specified) as to a majority of the Board, upon private consultation, shall seem proper: all sums coming in at any time afterwards, and before the next anniversary meeting (not directed by the Society to be reserved and not appropriated) shall in like manner be lent as soon as possible; the board in all cases giving to the Treasurer an order directing the loan, which shall be his voucher.

7—All loans shall be secured by joint and several penal bond, payable to the Upper Long-Cane Society of Abbeville District its successors or assigns, with condition to become due ten days after date, signed and sealed by at least two solvent personal securities besides the borrower; and other securities may be taken by mortgage or otherwise, if the Board shall think proper.

8—Payment of the interest due upon every bond at every day fixed for anniversary meeting, shall be required to be punctually made at the day in cash; and in case of default, suits shall be commenced the next day without distinction of persons, which shall not be discontinued without the payment of the compound interest and all costs, besides such portions of the principal as the Society may direct, or the Board may think expedient, to be exacted, and such additional security as the Society or Board may require.

9—Whenever any borrower, or any security of a borrower, may die or remove out of the State, the bond shall be renewed, and other solvent parties substituted, or in default thereof suits shall be commenced against all persons who can be sued on the bond, after the expiration of a notice for renewal from the Board, or after the next anniversary meeting.

10—Whenever the Board, at any time between the meetings, may deem any bond insecure, they shall re-

quire additional security, and if it should not be given to their satisfaction, proceed to make immediate collection.

11—Whenever the Society or the Board shall direct payment of the whole or any part of the principal to be made upon all or any of the bonds, suits shall be immediately commenced in default of payment after the expiration of the day appointed for payment.

12—In all matters where a discretion is allowed to the Board, it may be controlled by the special order of the Society.

**A List of all who have ever been Members,
WITH THE DATE OF THEIR ELECTION.**

PRESENT MEMBERS MARKED THUS *

May 1793.		James Russell,	dead
John Bowie,	dead	James Evans,	"
William Lesly,	"	Ezekiel Evans, Jun.	"
Samuel Watt,	"	Samuel Lyon,	"
Hugh Reid,	"	David Robinson,	"
John Miller,	"	William Callahan,	"
*Matthew Wilson,		John Strain,	"
*James Wardlaw,		James Bradley,	"
*Andrew Hamilton,		Robert Thornton,	withdrawn
John Quay,	removed	Benjamin Gunnion,	dead
John Hairston,	dead	Alexander Reid,	"
William Baskin,	"	*William Crawford,	
Joseph Gaston,	"	Julius Nichols,	dead
John Wilson,	"	Ezekiel Pickens,	"
Andrew Miller,	"	<i>Ja's Stevenson</i> , elected, never	
John M'Cord, sen'r,	"	entered; dead.	
Charles Wilson,	"	August, 1794.	
Samuel Armstrong,	"	Rev. Robert Wilson,	removed
William Cunningham,	removed	John Caldwell,	dead
*John M'Cord, Jun—now Sen.		Thomas Weems,	"
Joel Thacker,	dead	Matthew Donaldson,	"
Isaac Thacker,	"	<i>Jehu Foster</i> ; elected, never en-	
Samuel Strain,	removed	tered; dead.	
David Strain,	dead	November, 1794.	
William Strain,	"	Alexander Fife,	excluded
Samuel M'Murtray,	"	February, 1795.	
William M'Murtray,	excluded	Andrew Bowie,	dead
Ezekiel Evans, excluded; dead		*Hugh Morrah,	
Thomas Jeffries,	dead	May, 1795.	
James M'Cord,	withdrawn	James Harris,	dead
Felix Hughes,	excluded	August, 1795.	
Archibald Hamilton,	withdrawn	William Hadden,	dead
David Brown,	"	February, 1796.	
Nathaniel Baily,	excluded	Charles Caldwell,	withdrawn
<i>Ja's Thornton</i> , withdrawn; dead		May, 1796.	
William Shaw,	dead	Nathan Kirkwood,	dead
August 1793.		Rev. George Reid,	"
John Brack nridge,	dead	February, 1797.	
February, 1794.		<i>Ja's Gilmer</i> , sen. elected, never	
William Garret,	removed	entered; dead.	
Robert M'Crone,	excluded		

May, 1797.		November, 1813.
George Bowie,	removed	*Patrick Noble,
John Bowie, Jun.	dead	May, 1815.
Samuel Houston,	"	William Tennent,
William Paul,	"	March, 1816.
Nathan Thacker,	"	James Liddell,
February, 1804.		March, 1817. *Robert Wilson,
Francis Walker,	removed	1820. *William Lomax;
May, 1801.		1821. *D. L. Wardlaw;
Samuel Peckster	"	1822. *Eli S. Davis,
May 1805.		" *John Wier,
James Lelsly,	dead	1823. *John Bowie, Jun.
November, 1806.		" *Marshall Weatherall,
*Moses Taggart,		" *William Lesly,
May, 1807.		1824. *Robert Gilmer,
*William Bowie; removed, re-		1825. Simeon S Bonham, ren'd
turned, & re-elected 1830.		1826. *Ebenezer Miller,
May, 1810.		1827. *David Lesly,
*Rev. W. H. Barr, D. D.		1828. *Samuel W. Bowie,
Sam. Armstrong, Jun. dead		" *Langdon Bowie,
May, 1811.		" *Samuel Reid;
*Samuel L. Watt,		" *Robert C. Gordon,
*Robert H. Lesly,		1830. *Robert H. Wardlaw,
May, 1813.		" *Thomas C. Perrin,
*Alex. Bowie,		" *James S. Bowie,
		* 1831. *John Richardson.









