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PEABODY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE name which our Town bears, instinctively recalls the man whose beneficence, wisdom and charity enriched humanity, both in the old world and the new. When the old town of Danvers had been divided, and we had cut ourselves off from those with whom we had been in communion since the earliest settlement, it seemed to the citizens a wise and fitting thing that the town should bear the name of him who, born within her boundaries, trained in her customs, imbued with her traditions, had gone out into the world and won honor, dignity and respect among men.

The new town soon became known for the growing excellence of its free library, at a time when public libraries in towns were rare. It also retained its supremacy in the manufacture of certain products. To most of the outside world these two items were the only things known about the town of Peabody. The past, with all that it implied, the people, and how they bore themselves in times of trial, were in many respects as a sealed book to them. There seemed a danger, too, that this want of knowledge, begotten of indifference or forgetfulness, might extend to the inside.

Privation and hardship were the common lot of all New England settlements, courage the common heritage; yet each community has its own precious record of deeds well done, of principle maintained at the hazard of life and fortune. In such as these every right-minded person takes a common pride. To keep them alive, to preserve them from oblivion, to retain every incident connected with these events and those who participated therein, should become his duty.

It was with this intention that the PEABODY HISTORICAL SOCIETY was formed. The lines on which it is founded are broad enough for everyone to stand on. It welcomes all. It accepts with thankfulness every fact or incident which may shed light on a bygone period, or in relation to those who were actors in the scenes of those old times. Old books, manuscripts, deeds, records, odd items from newspapers, household utensils, needlework, pictures, articles of personal adornment, relics from old houses, everything which has a bearing on the history of the people who here made their homes, finds a fitting receptacle and a ready acknowledgment. Neither are things of today neglected. Events of yesterday in time become past history, and it is by taking note of such that history is preserved.

The success of the Society has been gratifying from the outset. It has seemed as if people were waiting for the call. A preliminary meeting was held on the evening of April 21st, 1896. The organization was quickly completed, a board of officers was chosen and the Society became duly incorporated, Aug. 15, 1896, with a membership of 96.

THE MEETINGS.

From necessity, the early meetings of the Society were given over to the selection of officers, the adoption of by-laws and other work of like nature. But it is worthy of mention that at one of these early meetings, MAY 12, 1896, steps were taken to repair the monument and grade the lot where rest the remains of General Gideon Foster.

JUNE 16th, 1896. The first meeting at which any historical exercises were held was on June 16th, the anniversary of the separation of Danvers from Salem. Mr. Andrew Nichols spoke for the Danvers side of the question and Mr. Thomas Carroll for the Salem side.

AUGUST 5th, 1896. The first attempted field meeting ended in a grand downpour of rain, with thunder and lightning. The members were to meet on the site of the old Epes homestead and listen to the history of the Epes family. They were obliged, however, to adjourn to the South Church vestry, where Hon. Robert S. Rantoul gave an address upon the "Work of Historical Societies." Mr. Nathan A. Bushby followed with a talk upon the "Epes family" and Miss Mary Nichols read from a poem of her grandfather, Dr. Andrew Nichols, a selection pertaining to the Epes family.

NOVEMBER 11th, 1896. The Potteries of Peabody were described by Mr. Daniel H. Felton and Mr. Nathan A. Bushby.

FEBRUARY 3d, 1897. Mr. Ezra D. Hines gave his lecture on "The March of Arnold to Quebec."

APRIL 19th, 1897. This meeting was held in commemoration of the Battle of Lexington. The hall was tastefully decorated with flags and bunting. Mr. Thomas Carroll read a paper on the "Battle of Lexington," as relating to this town. Following came Mr. Nathan A. Bushby, who gave a talk on the same subject, including many unrecorded incidents. Appropriate music rendered by a choir under the direction of Mr. Richards B. Mackintosh, added much to the enjoyment of the evening.

ROOM.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held in September, it was deemed both necessary and expedient to secure a room in which to place the many gifts already received by the Society. At the quarterly meeting held November 11th, 1896, the committee appointed to arrange this matter reported that a room had been engaged in the Warren Bank building; that this room had been furnished, partly through the kindness of friends; that the gifts, then numbering 61, had been marked and put in place, and that the room was ready to be opened to members and visitors on and after Nov. 16, 1896, every Monday afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock. The ladies of the Executive Committee took the room in charge, and at the end of the year, May 5th, 1897, the gifts and loans entrusted to the care of the Society, numbered 202.

These include many articles, pictures, old volumes, documents and reference books, which are instructive as well as interesting, and it is desired that the members should make constant use of this room, not keep it solely as a museum of antiquities.

BY-LAWS OF THE PEABODY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I.

The name of this Society shall be the Peabody Historical Society.

ARTICLE II.

The object of the Society is the collection, preservation and study of historical matters relating to the town and its inhabitants.

ARTICLE III.

All persons who sign the Articles of Agreement, or shall be elected by a three-fourths vote of all present and voting at any meeting of the Society, and who shall sign the By-Laws, shall be members of this Society as long as their dues are paid.

All persons who shall apply in writing and are regularly elected, shall be corresponding members of this Society.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers of the Society shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and nine Directors who together with the other officers shall constitute an Executive Committee.

The duties of the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary shall be those usually pertaining to such offices.

The Recording Secretary and the Treasurer shall each make a report to the Society at the Annual meeting hereinafter provided for.

The Executive Committee shall have general charge of the business of the Society, and it shall be their duty to select, prepare and direct the literary exercises of the Society.

ARTICLE V.

The Officers of the Society shall be chosen annually by ballot, and shall hold office for one year and until others are chosen and qualified in their stead.

ARTICLE VI.

The Treasurer shall give a bond, with two sureties, in the sum of five hundred dollars, for the faithful performance of his duties.

ARTICLE VII.

The Annual Meeting for the election of officers shall be held on the first Wednesday in May of each year, and Quarterly Meetings shall be held on the first Wednesdays of August, November and February and at the time of the Annual meeting in May.

Special Meetings may be called at any time by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

An assessment of One Dollar shall be paid by each member on admission, and the Annual Dues shall be One Dollar.

The Annual Dues shall be payable at the time of the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IX.

No money shall be expended except upon voucher which shall be approved by two members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X.

No person is to speak more than fifteen minutes upon any one subject, unless by general consent, or when assigned to a subject by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI.

Eleven members shall constitute a Quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE XII.

These By-Laws may be amended by a three-fourths vote of all members present at any Annual Meeting, provided notice of the intended change shall have been given at the preceding Quarterly Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Membership Fees and Dues,	\$189.00	
Contributions,	7.00	
		\$196.00

EXPENSES.

Record Books and Printing,	\$10.35	
Rent of Room and Town Hall,	44.00	
Fitting Room,	15.21	
Certificate of Incorporation,	5.00	
Labor on General Foster's Grave,	5.00	
Expenses at Field Meeting,	6.15	
Damage to Chairs at Field Meeting,	8.64	
Gas Bill,14	
		94.49

Balance, May 1st, 1897, in hands of Treasurer, \$101.51

OFFICERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 5TH, 1897.

President,		WARREN D. KING
First Vice-President,		ARTHUR F. POOLE
Second Vice-President,		NATHAN A. BUSHBY
Treasurer,		SYLVANUS L. NEWHALL
Recording Secretary,		FRED W. BUSHBY
Corresponding Secretary,		ELIZABETH C. OSBORN

DIRECTORS.

ANNIE T. GIFFORD,	SARAH E. STIMPSON,	FRANK E. FARNHAM,
SARAH E. MOORE,	THOMAS CARROLL,	LYMAN OSBORN
NANCY J. MOULTON,	DANIEL H. FELTON,	SAMUEL C. LORD.

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