

William White

# RULES AND ARTICLES

Of the *Massachusetts* SOCIETY:

Founded in Boston, New-England, September 6, 1762; and incorporated as a Body-Politic by Charter from the Honorable Legislature of said State, on the 15th of March, 1780, by the Name of THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

## INTRODUCTION.

**T**O delight in Acts of Benevolence—to distribute with a liberal Hand to the Poor and Needy—to lessen the Cares of the Afflicted, we esteem as a Character becoming Christians. Impressed with this noble and exalted Principle, that “we are not born for ourselves,” but, as social Beings, designed by the wise Parent of the Universe, for the generous Purpose of promoting the Happiness of Civil Society, and the Welfare of each other, WE have heretofore formed ourselves into a Society, which is now incorporated by Charter, and distinguished by the Name of, THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE SOCIETY, for the Design and Purpose of relieving those among us, whom Providence may reduce to a State of Poverty and Want.

With humble Confidence in the Smiles of Heaven on this Undertaking, we leave the Success of our Cause in the Hands of that Being “who giveth to all Men liberally,” and delights in the Welfare of his Creatures; hoping that our Conduct in Life will be such as to recommend us to his Blessing, and the favorable Approbation of Mankind.

United in these Sentiments, we recommend to each other a solemn Observance of the following Rules, which we have adopted as

ART. V. That this Society shall consist of One Hundred Mem- Number of  
bers, and no more, agreeable to their Charter. Members.

ART. VI. That each Person belonging to this Society, during his Quarterly Contingent Meeting, shall pay Quarterly, into the Hands of the Secretary, the Sum of One Shilling and Six Pence.

ART. VII. When any Person is proposed as a Member, such Admission of  
Person shall not be admitted if there appear to be five negative Votes Members.  
among the Members present; but, if admitted, the Member who proposes such Person, shall pay into the Hands of the Secretary, the Sum of Five Shillings; and said Member, on joining the Society, shall sign the Articles, as a due Acknowledgement of his Readiness to abide by and support the Laws and Regulations of this Society.

ART. VIII. Should any Member willfully neglect Attendance for Penalty for  
the Term of one Year (unless on public Service, or at sea) after be- Neglect.  
ing duly notified, or omit paying his Quarterly Dues, without good Reason given, his Name shall be erased, and he no longer be considered as a Member of this Society.

ART. IX. That no Member of this Society shall be entitled to Relief of  
any Relief shall be due from a Member thereof for the Space of one Month  
Year; and if reduced by Old Age, or Sickness, shall re-

are not less for ourselves," but, as social Beings, delighted by the wise Parent of the Universe, for the generous Purpose of promoting the Happiness of Civil Society, and the Welfare of each other, We have heretofore formed ourselves into a Society, which is now incorporated by Charter, and distinguished by the Name of, **THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE SOCIETY,** for the Design and Purpose of relieving those among us, whom Providence may reduce to a State of Poverty and Want.

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United in these Sentiments, we recommend to each other a solemn Observance of the following Rules, which we have adopted as our governing Principles of Conduct.

## A R T I C L E S.

**ART. I.** THAT this Society shall meet Quarterly, on the first Mondays of *September, December, March, and June,* in the Town of *Boston,* at such Time and Place as the Secretary, by Direction of the Managers who may be chosen, shall appoint.

Times of Meeting.

**ART. II.** That on the first Monday of *September,* there shall be annually chosen a President, whose peculiar business shall be to keep Order, and attend to such Matters as may from Time to Time properly be laid before the Society; and a Treasurer, Secretary, and such other Officers as they may judge necessary for conducting the Business of this Society; all which Officers shall be chosen by Ballot.

Officers chosen.

**ART. III.** The Treasurer shall receive of the Secretary all Monies paid into his Hands, either by Members for Quarterage, Admission, Fines, or Donations, for the Use of the Society; And the said Treasurer shall procure two sufficient Bondsmen for the faithful Discharge of his Trust. When the Money in his Hands shall amount to *Twenty Pounds,* he shall put the same out on Interest to some substantial Person, of good Repute, but not without two Bondsmen of sufficient Property, taking the Bond in the Name and for the Use of the Society.

Treasurer's Duty.

**ART. IV.** The Secretary's Business shall be to keep fair Records of all the Proceedings, Votes, By-Laws and Orders of this Society; also of what Monies may be collected, whether by Fines, Quarterage, Admission, or Donation, and pay the same into the Hands of the Treasurer within two Days; and for Neglect of his Duty, he shall pay, for the Use of the Society, the Sum of *Three Pounds.*

Secretary's Duty.

**ART. V.** When any Person is proposed as a Member, such Person shall not be admitted if there appear to be five negative Votes among the Members present; but, if admitted, the Member who proposed such Person, shall pay into the Hands of the Secretary, the Sum of *Five Shillings,* and the said Member, enjoining the Society, to be bound to the said Person, as a due Act of civility and Respect, to take care to support the Laws and Regulations of this Society.

Admission of Members.

**ART. VI.** Should any Member wholly neglect Attendance for the Term of one Year (unless on public Service, or at sea) after being duly admitted, or absent beyond his Quarterage Duty, without good Reason given, his Name shall be erased, and he no longer be considered as a Member of this Society.

Penalty for Neglect.

**ART. VII.** That no Member of this Society shall be entitled to any Relief or Indulgence, unless a Member thereof for the Space of one Year; and if excused by Illness, or Absence, and Agt. or sickness, shall receive from Time to Time such Relief as the Society may think proper, he having paid his Duty to the Society.

Relief of Members.

**ART. VIII.** That the Widow and Orphans of any Member of this Society, who may be left under such Circumstances, shall, on Application to the Society, or to their Representatives, be entitled to such Relief as the Society, or said Managers, in Behalf of this Society, may judge convenient.

Widow and Orphans to be relieved.

**ART. IX.** If any Member of this Society shall be guilty of Profaneness, Intemperance, or behave irreverently, whereby the Proceedings of this Society may be interrupted, he shall, for such Offence, pay into the Hands of the Secretary, the Sum of *Six Shillings;* and if he continues obstinate in the above Crime, shall be expelled, and his Name erased.

Fine for Irreverent Behaviour.

**ART. X.** If any Member of this Society shall be guilty of the pernicious Practice of Gaming, a Vice that is attended with many ruinous Consequences, which may reduce him to such Difficulties and Distresses as may need the Assistance of this Society, he shall be expelled as an infidel Member, being contrary to the Institution of this Society, who cannot consider such Member as *parable Person*, on the *Essentials of Charity.*

Coming prohibited.

**ART. XI.** That any Person belonging to this Commonwealth may be admitted as a Member of this Society, on making proper Application, and being regularly initiated, agreeable to the Seventh Article.

Conditions of Admission.

*May this Society in Friendship reign,  
Whilst Charity a Virtue shall remain.*

# Members Names.

- 1 Ephraim Copeland,
- 2 Benjamin West,
- 3 John Tinkton,
- 4 John Perkins, lead
- 5 Habbah Savage,
- 6 John Adams, Deacons
- 7 John Lowell, Deacon
- 8 Elias Thomas, Deacon
- 9 Joshua P. O.
- 10 Samuel Webb, lead
- 11 Benjamin Sumner,
- 12 Stephen Cleaveland,
- 13 Mrs. Lydia Edwards, Deacon
- 14 Mrs. Joanna Briggs, Deacon
- 15 Jonathan Swadlow, lead
- 16 John Coughlin, Deacon
- 17 Benjamin Edger,
- 18 William Bell,
- 19 John Swadlow, Deacon
- 20 John Stimpson,
- 21 Benjamin Longley, Deacon
- 22 Geddens House, Deacon
- 23 Samuel Bennett,
- 24 John Symonds, Deacon
- 25 William Stoddard, Deacon
- 26 Samuel Norton,
- 27 John Peltz,
- 28 John Piermont, Deacon
- 29 William Brock, Deacon
- 30 James Sumner,
- 31 Stephen Sumner,
- 32 Robert Rogers,
- 33 Thomas Knott,
- 34 Josiah Vane, Deacon
- 35 Richard Campbell, Deacon
- 36 Washington Gray, Deacon
- 37 Thomas M. Bell, Deacon
- 38 John Karchand,
- 39 William Conditall,
- 40 Benjamin White,
- 41 William Conditall, Deacon
- 42 John C. Judson, Deacon
- 43 Benjamin Chodder, Deacon
- 44 William Hubbard, Deacon
- 45 John Rose, Deacon
- 46 David Adams, Deacon
- 47 Thomas Russell, Deacon
- 48 Hester Foster, Deacon
- 49 Samuel Everett, Deacon
- 50 Nathaniel Moore,
- 51 John H. Foster, Deacon
- 52 Amos Oliver,
- 53 John H. Foster, Deacon
- 54 Josiah Perkins, Deacon
- 55 James Carter,
- 56 John and Mary ...
- 57 Thomas Hubbard,
- 58 John ...
- 59 ...
- 60 ...
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- 62 ...
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- 64 ...

- 81 John ...
- 82 John ...
- 83 Joseph ...
- 84 ...
- 85 Benj<sup>n</sup> ...
- 86 ...
- 87 ...
- 88 ...
- 89 ...
- 90 Nath<sup>l</sup> Hall
- 91 J<sup>n</sup>. ...
- 92 ...
- 93 ...
- 94 ...

Lead 19  
Deacons 26  
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- 26 Samuel Norton,
- 27 John Feltz,
- 28 John Hiramson, [unclear]
- 29 William Brock, [unclear]
- 30 James Swanson,
- 31 Stephen Haines,
- 32 Robert Rogers,
- 33 Thomas Knox,
- 34 Josiah Vane, [unclear]
- 35 Richard Canby, [unclear]
- 36 [unclear] Gray, [unclear]
- 37 Thomas N. [unclear]
- 38 John [unclear]
- 39 William C. [unclear]
- 40 Benjamin [unclear]
- 41 [unclear] [unclear]
- 42 John Cochidge, [unclear]
- 43 Benjamin Cochidge, [unclear]
- 44 [unclear] [unclear]
- 45 John [unclear]
- 46 David Adams, [unclear]
- 47 Thomas [unclear]
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- 51 John [unclear]
- 52 Andrew [unclear]
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