

Organization of the Kentucky Historical Society



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KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

At a meeting of a number of gentlemen held at the office of the Secretary of State on the public square in Frankfort on the 22d inst., John Brown Esq. being appointed President, C. S. Todd, Vice-President, and Gervas E. Russell, Secretary, the following resolutions, with regard to the formation of a State Historical Society, were adopted:

Resolved, 1st. That measures be taken to organize a Historical Society for the State of Kentucky, the object of which shall be to collect and preserve authentic information and facts connected with the early history of the State.

2d. That the Society shall be composed of a President, Vice President, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary to make it efficient and useful.

3d. One of the main objects of the association shall be to celebrate in such manner as shall be deemed expedient, the anniversary of the first settlement of Kentucky, on the spot where that settlement was made.

4th. The more effectually to accomplish this object, it will be the duty of the Society to select some person or persons to deliver an address suitable the occasion on the day set apart for the annual celebration.

5th. The Society shall be composed of native citizens of Kentucky, or such as may have intermarried with females born in the State, and those citizens who may have emigrated to it prior to 1st June 1792 when the constitution went into operation.

6th. Auxiliary Societies may be formed in every town or neighborhood where sufficient interest may be felt to unite in the promotion of an object so important to the preservation of the facts and events connected with the first settlement of the State.

7th. It is expected as many members as practicable who may have been born anterior to the organization of the State will attend each anniversary for the purpose of communicating the

incidents connected with the early settlement as they may have been received from their ancestors; and that such as may not be able to attend in person, shall transmit those incidents by letter .

8th. It is proposed to extend an invitation to participate in these celebrations to all the early settlers who came to Kentucky previous to the 1st June, 1792; to all the natives of the valley of the Mississippi, who may not be residents of Kentucky and to all other distinguished citizens who have adorned the literary annals of the nation, or who have manifested a just sympathy in the moral march of the great west.

9th. In this effort to add materials to the History of Kentucky, it is distinctly understood that a general participation is recommended. The character of membership will be confined to no political or religious party.

10th. A Constitution for the Society more in detail will be adopted defining its objects and the principles on which it will be conducted. Orlando Brown, Esq. was appointed Corresponding Secretary to whom all communications on the subject will be addressed

JOHN BROWN President.
G. E. RUSSELL, Secretary.



The Semi-Weekly Sun, Winchester, KY, Tuesday, 5 November 1878, p.3:

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The State Historical Society was organized in Frankfort last Thursday, the session opening at 11 a. m., and closing at 2:30 p. m.

About twenty persons were present among them Gov. J. B. McCreary, J. Stoddard Johnston, J. B. Huston Lewis E. Harvie, D. Howard Smith, H. A. M. Henderson, G. W. Ranck, Richard H. Collins, F. L. Cleveland, H. T. Stanton, J. W. Dodd, Green R. Keller, W. J. Davis, T. D. Marcum, Euclid L. Johnson, J. P. Pryor and John B. Proctor. The names of about twenty others, represented by letter were added to the society.

A temporary organization was effected by electing Gov McCreary Chairman and Green R. Keller Secretary.

A committee on organization, consisting of Richard H. Collins. G. W. Ranck and J. P. Pryor, was appointed and reported a constitution, which was read by its clauses, amended and adopted.

A permanent organization was reached by the election of the following gentlemen : James B. McCreary, President; John W. Stevenson, Richard H. Collins, James K. Patterson, James Speed, John B. Huston and F. Cleveland, Vice Presidents.

G. E. Ranck, Curator.

John R. Proctor Recording Secretary.

Euclid L. Johnson, Treasurer.

The following gentlemen were appointed to act as an Executive Committee: J. Stoddard Johnston, W. C. P. Breckinridge, J. M. Wright, H. A. M. Henderson and J. W. Dodd.

All the officers elected are to hold their positions until February 11, 1880.

The constitution provides for annual meetings on the 11th of February, Daniel Boone's birth-day, and a meeting will be held February 11, 1879.

Twelve Vice-Presidents are authorized by the constitution, but only six were chosen at this meeting. The remainder are to be elected at the next regular meeting.

The executive committee will prepare and publish an address, setting forth the objects of the society, and inviting membership and contributions. The headquarters of the society are located by the constitution at Frankfort.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 22 January 1879, p.2:

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Located at the State Capitol.

President. – Gov. Jas. B. McCreary.

Vice Presidents. – Hon. John W. Stevenson, R. H. Collins. Esq., Prof. J. K. Patterson, Hon. James Speed, Gen. J. B. Huston, Hon. F. L. Cleveland.

Curator. – George W. Ranck.

Recording Secretary. – John R. Proctor.

Treasury. – Euclid L. Johnson.

Executive Committee. – Col. J. Stoddard Johnston, Prof. J. William Dod, Dr. H. A. M. Henderson, Col. W. C. P. Breckinridge, Gen. J. M. Wright.

TO THE PUBLIC:

The Kentucky Historical Society was organized Thursday, Oct. 31, 1878, by the adoption of a Constitution, and the election of the above named officers. Its object is to collect and preserve whatever relates either directly or indirectly to Kentucky history. It is located at the capitol of the State, where its annual meetings will be held on the 11th of February, the birthday of Daniel Boone, and every county in the Commonwealth will be represented by a Corresponding member. Persons may become members of the Society with the consent of Executive Committee, on the payment of a fee of Five Dollars. The duties of the Curator embrace those of Corresponding Secretary and General Agent. Appropriate publications will be made by the Society just as soon as circumstances will permit; when the courtesies and donations of individuals, societies, and public bodies, will be gratefully remembered and reciprocated. The attention of Kentuckians interested in the welfare and advancement of their beloved Commonwealth, and in the preservation of everything pertaining to her proud and thrilling history, is called to the fact that just now in the infancy of the Society, liberal donations in Cash, are absolutely necessary to insure its permanency and usefulness. As the object of the organization is to benefit the State, and as it has no interests to subserve but the interests of the whole people, it is confidently believed that this appeal will not be made in vain. Help us with your money, and help us now. The following articles are also greatly desired, and donations of them to the Society are respectfully requested, and will be thankfully received, viz:

I. Relics of the pre-historic inhabitants of Kentucky, with drawings and descriptions of ancient mounds and fortifications within the State.

II. Facts of every description, and articles of all kinds pertaining to the Indians.

III. Manuscript remains, such as letters, journals, and narratives left by Kentucky pioneers, and all unpublished matter concerning the settlers and early history of the Commonwealth, together with arms, ornaments, domestic utensils, and other memorials once the property of pioneers, or illustrative of the settlement of the State

IV. Articles of historic interest, and written or printed facts connected with the part which Kentuckians, or immigrants to Kentucky, took in the Revolution, in struggles against the Indians, in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the late war between the States.

V. Manuscripts and books of every kind, and particularly such as relate to Western history, travel, and biography in general, and Kentucky in particular; historical sketches, of cities, towns, counties, churches, colleges, societies, and orders ; miscellaneous pamphlets, maps, files of newspapers, and minutes of convention and meetings of every character.

VI. Autographs of noted persons relics and memorials of distinguished Kentuckians, curious and interesting objects found in the State, coins, medals, portraits, paintings and statuary'

VII. From sister societies and all learned bodies, is requested that customary interchange of publications and materials so essential to the usefulness of institutions of this kind.

VIII. Authors, Editors and Publishers, are specially solicited to present, with their autographs, copies of their respective works and publications.

The names of donors, with the names of all articles donated by them will be faithfully kept, and a list of the same will from time to time be published.

Communications and donations should be addressed to

G. W. RANCK,
Curator Ky. H. Society, Lexington

