





Order of
First Families
of
Virginia

1607-1620



STATUTES

1923-1924

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"A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors, will achieve nothing worthy to be remembered by remote descendants."

Macaulay

Gift
order
ap. 8. 24

STATUTES

*"For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age,
And apply thyself to that which their fathers
have searched out:*

*Shall not they teach thee and tell thee,
And utter words out of their heart?"*

—Job 8, 8-10.

Statute I

Name

"First families," according to the usual interpretation, include those of the founders of a community who constitute a wholesome element of society; and those of later periods who have participated to a noticeable degree in its general development. As the first of these two groups of Virginia families and their founder-ancestors form its chief interest, this organization shall be known as the **ORDER OF FIRST FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA, 1607-1620.**

Statute II

Objects

1 To foster true patriotism and love of Country; and a better understanding of the principles of American freedom thru promoting historical, biographical and genealogical research relative to the **thirteen years** (1607-1620) of dreary isolation, dire hardship and heroic endurance of the men, **women and children** who, during that period, laid the foundations of this great Republic by establishing religious liberty, the home, and "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" as American institutions. The **ORDER** recognizes the entire regime of the Virginia Company (1606-1624) as the foundation period, but emphasizes the thirteen years (1607-1620) as the bed-rock of that foundation.

2. To preserve and publish documents pertaining to those founders, including Bible, gravestone and other private records of their descendants; to compile lists of those descendants who have aided materially in the progress and welfare of the Country, and those who are representative citizens of today.

3. Just as the name of the pioneer colony, "Virginia," originally embraced the whole of the territory which, in 1776, was declared to be the "United States of America," we, the descendants of the founders of Virginia represent them, their principles and ideals thru out the length and breadth of the Land; and it shall be our earnest endeavor to maintain harmony between all sections of this Union built on those early foundations

4. Our forefathers of 1607-20 were the first to bring together under their protection for their mutual benefit, peoples of various nationalities; and the first to confer American citizenship upon them. It shall be the special object of this organization to inculcate American principles and ideals of citizenship among the peoples of the world in our midst and now coming to us; and to promote understanding and harmony between the newly created citizens and those of inherited citizenship.

Statute III

Eligibility

Any one of the age of eighteen or over who is **personally acceptable** and is lineally descended from a man or woman who assisted in the colonization of Virginia during the regime of the Virginia Company by "adventuring their Purse or their person," is eligible to membership.

Statute IV

Membership

1. Membership is by invitation only. A candidate must be invited by one Member and indorsed by a second, except as hereinafter provided for. Under certain circumstances, the President and Council may waive the foregoing requirement in States that are not organized.

2. Active membership consists of three classes: Life Members (which include Honor and Hereditary Members) of the age of eighteen or over who are entitled to full privileges; Junior Members, and Legatees. These shall be designated as Members, Juniors and Legatees.

3. Upon furnishing satisfactory proofs of eligibility and the payment of twenty dollars, fifty cents (\$20.50, which must accompany the lineage blanks), an approved candidate shall be enrolled as a Member of the ORDER OF FIRST FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA, 1607-1620. Official notice of membership shall be sent and the official insignia of the ORDER shall be conferred upon the new Member without further charge unless the Member wishes to add ancestral bars as provided for in Statute XII. There are no annual dues.

4. Should a candidate fail of admission thru insufficiency of ancestral proofs, the monies advanced shall be refunded less the cost of examination. If for any other reason a candidate is found to be ineligible the full amount advanced shall be repaid.

5. Members are privileged to extend invitations only to residents of their respective States, but they may recommend residents of other States. An invitation is void at the expiration of six months from the date the lineage blanks are issued, if the candidate has

not qualified within that time; but the invitation may be renewed at the discretion of the President and Council.

6. Honor Members: Those Members who have thirteen or more ancestral bars, shall be designated Honor Members, and shall be ex-officio members of the General Assembly, the number not to exceed thirteen at any Assembly. They shall qualify as Representatives in the order of their official numbers. If more than thirteen Honor Members are present at any Assembly, the remainder may qualify as alternates to the first thirteen.

7. Honorary Members: Any man or woman who has been instrumental, directly or indirectly, in furthering the objects of this ORDER to an unusual degree, may be elected to Honorary Membership by the President and Council. At no one time shall the number of Honorary Members exceed the number of thirteen, one of whom shall be the President or President Emeritus of the University of William and Mary. Honorary Members may enjoy only those privileges common to Honorary Membership.

Statute V

General Assembly

1. A General Assembly shall be held biennially "whereto are to be present" the President and Council; the Burgess, a Deputy Burgess and two Commissioners from each State Society "freely to be elected" by the Members thereof; the Burgess and Deputy Burgess from each unorganized State (or their appointees, if there are other Members in the State); Honorary Presidents of the ORDER; and Honor Members. The biennial Assembly shall consider the reports of officers and committees; elect the President and Council for a term of two years; and shall transact such other business as may

properly come before it. "This Assembly shall have power to make and ordaine whatsoever laws and orders should by them be thought good and profitable."

2. Special Assemblies may be called by the President; or by seven members of the Council together with a majority of the Burgesses.

3. Thirteen shall constitute a quorum.

4. The headquarters of the Order shall be the home of the President.

5. Burgesses, Deputy Burgesses and Commissioners who are unable to attend a General Assembly may appoint their own alternates.

Statute VI

Management

1. There shall be a President, and a Council of twelve elected by the General Assembly, for the general management of the affairs of the ORDER.

2. There shall be a meeting of the President and Council preceding and one following each General Assembly; and upon the call of the President, or of seven members of the Council, as occasion may require. Three shall constitute a quorum.

3. At the meeting following the General Assembly at which they have been elected, the President and Council shall elect from among their own number, three Vice Presidents, Recorder, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Historian, and Chaplain, who shall serve until the close of the next biennial General Assembly, or until their successors are elected or appointed.

4. The duties of the several officers shall be those that usually pertain to their respective offices; and such others as the Assembly or Council may assign.

5. Vacancies in the Council shall be filled by the President.

6. Only those who have served as President of the ORDER may be elected Honorary President.

7. Nominations shall be from the floor and election shall be by ballot at all elections.

Statute VII

Committees

The President shall appoint such committees as may be deemed advisable; or that are ordered by the General Assembly or by the Council.

Statute VIII

Funds

The funds shall be deposited to the credit of the ORDER OF FIRST FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA, 1607-20, in a bank of high standing; and shall be drawn by the Treasurer only upon the order of the President, the Council or the General Assembly; or by the President (or Acting President) in the absence or disability of the Treasurer. No bills shall be paid that are not approved by the President. The accounts shall be audited by a committee appointed for that purpose, before they are submitted to the General Assembly; and at any time desired by the President and Council.

Statute IX

Legatees

1. That membership in this ORDER may serve as a link between the past and the future, each Member is privileged to name a Legatee who is lineally eligible to membership, to inherit the Member's insignia. Upon furnishing satisfactory proofs of lineage and the payment of ten dollars (\$10.00,

which must accompany the nominee's lineage blanks) the nominee shall be enrolled as a Legatee.

2. Upon the decease of the deviser of the insignia, the devisee shall be enrolled as a Hereditary Member, provided all requirements have been complied with; and the official notice shall be issued to said Member which shall entitle him or her to all the privileges of a full Member (if or when the Hereditary Member is of the age of eighteen) without further charge and without the usual indorsements required of new Members. Under no circumstances may Hereditary Members under the age of eighteen enjoy any but a Legatee's privileges, except the legal ownership of the insignia.

3. Legatees of suitable age may attend meetings and may render any special service requested by the General Assembly; or by the President and Council or State Court (such as serving as Pages); but may not vote or hold office.

4. A Legatee of the age of eighteen or over may qualify as a full Member within the lifetime of the deviser of the insignia upon the written request of the Legatee, signed also by the deviser; and the payment of the additional fee of ten dollars, fifty cents (\$10.50); whereupon the official insignia shall be conferred upon said Legatee and the official notice of membership shall be issued as to new Members, without the usual indorsements required of new Members.

5. A Legatee under the age of eighteen may qualify as a Junior by the payment of the additional fee of ten dollars, fifty cents (\$10.50), but shall be subject to all the rules pertaining to Juniors.

6. Should a Legatee qualify as either a full Member or a Junior, the nominating Member may name another Legatee.

7. Upon qualifying as a full Member, the former Legatee may in turn nominate a Legatee, subject to all the provisions of this Statute.

8. If a Member dies without having nominated a Legatee who has qualified under Section 1 of this Statute, the legal heir to that Member's insignia may qualify as Hereditary Member (if lineally eligible) upon the recommendation of the State Court of the deceased Member's State or of the Council of the ORDER, by filing lineage blanks with satisfactory proofs, accompanied by the fee of ten dollars (\$10.00)—provided application for said Hereditary Membership is made within one year of the decease of the deviser of the insignia.

Statute X

Junior Members

"Of such is the kingdom of heaven;" and upon such depend the nations of the earth.

Junior membership is provided for in tender memory of the children who shared the hardships of the foundation period. The first life lost in defense of the first English colony in America was that of "a boy killed"—this Country's first "unknown dead"—in the Indian attack on Jamestown, June 5, 1607. Such peace as was enjoyed during those first years, hung for a time on the lives of two children, Thomas Savage, hostage to the Indian's, and the little Indian princess, Pocahontas. There were more than a hundred children in Virginia during 1607-20, some brought by parents and relatives and some "borne heere," besides those "of twelve years and upwards" sent by the Common Council of London, 1619-20, "to be bound as apprentices for certain years and afterwards with very beneficial conditions for the children . . . wch by the goodness of God ther safely arrived save such as dyed in the waie." Thirty children are known to have been killed by the Indians in the massacre of 1622.

1. Any one under the age of eighteen who is personally acceptable and is lineally descended from a man or woman who assisted in the colonization of Virginia under the regime of the Virginia Company, may be

come a Junior Member of the ORDER. Juniors are subject to the same invitation requirements that pertain to new Members except that the invitation and indorsement upon which a Life Member has been accepted, shall be construed as including the minor children of said Member.

2 Upon filing satisfactory proofs of eligibility and the payment of twenty dollars, fifty cents (\$20.50), said minor shall be enrolled as a Junior Member. The insignia shall be placed in the custody of the relative, legal guardian or friend (whichever is the one interested in providing for the minor's Life Membership) who shall give a receipt therefor and shall hold the same until the Junior shall attain the age of eighteen; at which time the official notice of membership shall be sent, which shall entitle the Junior to all the privileges of a full Member.

3. Juniors of suitable age may attend meetings and may render any special service requested by the President and Council, the General Assembly or State Court; but may not hold office nor vote.

Statute XI

State Societies

1. As soon as expedient, a Burgess shall be appointed by the President for each unorganized State. The Burgess so appointed may appoint a Deputy Burgess and other State officers from among the Members in the State, to serve until the first regular annual meeting of the State Society, when the Burgess and Commissioners shall be elected.

2. Seven or more Members in a State may organize a State Society which may adopt State Rules as suited to their needs, conformable to the Statutes and Standing Rules of the ORDER. They shall hold an

annual meeting and make an annual report to the headquarters of the ORDER. Other regular meetings may be held at the discretion of the State; and special meetings may be called by the Burgess and as may be provided for in the State Rules.

3. The Burgess and Commissioners shall constitute a State Court for the general management of the affairs of the State. At the close of the annual meeting at which they have been elected, they shall convene and elect from among their own number, one or more Deputy Burgesses and such other State officers as may be deemed advisable.

4. States may provide for annual State dues.

Statute XII

Colors, Insignia, Bars and Symbolism

1. The colors of the ORDER are gold and green, typifying the sterling quality of the colonists and the agricultural character of the colony.

2. The official decoration or insignia consist of a gold medallion bearing on the obverse in bas-relief, a picture of the ruined tower at Jamestown as it appeared before the reconstruction of the church by the National Society of Colonial Dames—symbol of the vicissitudes under which the foundations of this Nation were laid—reminding us that the Christian faith has been preached and practiced in this Country since its establishment in Virginia, May 14, 1607, of which mute testimony is borne by the fragments of foundations and of walls, and the tile floors of three chancels, one over the other, of the various church structures, each larger than the preceding and each in turn destroyed by fire.

The old tower stands a beacon at the shrine of democracy in America and American chivalry, calling upon every lover of liberty to bow in reverence before the tomb of the high-minded soldier, citizen and statesman, Governor Sir George Yeardley, in front of the chancel where, in August, 1619, he convened the first representative Legislative Assembly ever held any where in the New World. "The most convenient place we could finde to sitt in was the Quire of the Church, Where Sir George Yeardley the Governour being sett down in his place. . . . But for as muche as mens affaires doe little prosper where Gods service is neglected; all the Burgesses took their places in the Quire, till a prayer was said by Mr. Bucke, the Minister, that it would please God to guide us and sanctifie all our proceedings to his owne glory, and the good of this Plantation Prayer being ended all the Burgesses were intreated to retyre themselves into the body of the Church; wch being done, before they were fully admitted they were called to order by name, & so every man (none staggering at it) took the oathe of Supremacy, & then entered the Assembly." That Assembly proved themselves and their electors shining examples of English chivalry by their tribute to American womanhood in according to the wives and mothers of Virginia equal recognition with the men for their part in founding the colony; "because in a newe plantation, it is not knowen whether man or woman be the most necessary. *

Framing the picture is a wreath of tobacco leaves (the currency of colonial Virginia), issuing from a crozier and a torch, crossed-emblems of the church and of enlightenment; and tied at the top with a ribbon of three

* Descendants of both Sir George Yeardley and the Rev. Richard Bucke are members of this ORDER.

loops and two streamers, bearing respectively, the initials of the ORDER and the dates it emphasizes. On the reverse are engraved the name and national number of the Member.

The medallion is suspended from a ribbon of the official colors, attached to a bar pin which bears in relief: "1607-VIRGINIA-1620," the period when the whole was officially known as "Virginia" and during which the Anglo-Saxon foothold became established.

2. Ancestral bars: Members are privileged to add (at their own expense) an ancestral bar to the official ribbon of the insignia for each proven eligible ancestor. The bars are of the exact size and shape as the bar pin; and are engraved with name of ancestor and date of immigration, if known. All ancestral bars are optional and all are added at the expense of the Member, at a cost of two dollars, ten cents (\$2.10) each.

Statute XIII Amendments

These Statutes may be amended by a two thirds vote of any General Assembly, provided the proposed amendments are submitted in writing to the President and Secretary of the Council and to each Burgess at least one year before the General Assembly at which they are to be acted upon.

Pledge

"I have read the foregoing Statutes; and I promise to abide by them and to further the Objects of the ORDER to the best of my ability.

.....
Signature of Member

Ritual

Suggested by and following, in part, the procedure in opening the General Assembly of 1619:

- (a) Call to order.
- (b) Salute to the flag.
- (c) Prayer: Chaplain: "For as muche as mens affaires doe little prosper where God's service is neglected, we will unite in prayer" (in unison) the Lord's prayer followed by, "And may it please our Heavenly Father to guide us and sanctifie all our proceedings to his own glory and the good of this ORDER and of all mankind, Amen."
- (d) Roll call: (At General Assembly, the report of credential committee).
- (e) Reading of the Objects of the ORDER.
- (f) Pledge, in unison: "I promise to abide by the Statutes and Rules of this ORDER and to further its Objects to the best of my ability."

HAMMERSMITH-KORTMEYER CO. MILWAUKEE

THE FIRST FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA
1607-1800

ELIGIBILITY LIST

This list is based in the main upon undisputed instances, recognition is accorded be-
 on the basis of legal evidence and the absence of conflict-
 There are many more who came during
 who first came and undoubtedly had descendants that have not been
 mentioned here but will be added to this roster. The few who came be-
 fore 1607 and the first dissolution of the London Company in 1624,
 in these cases, the dates are corrections of those
 in the "Register" of 1884-5. Recognition is pending of

Executive Committee of the Virginia Histor-
 "R. A. Beck, Corresponding Secretary of
 for several years been collecting material
 descendants of Pocahontas and had incidentally
 majority of the prominent families. His
 singular fact that nearly every family of
 of residence, is lineally or collaterally
 N.E. Historical & Genealogical Register, 435

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| Saley, 1611 | 1618 | Pigot, Va. Co. |
| Barkham, Va. Co. | Walyn, 1609 | Powell, 1608 |
| Thomas, Va. Co. | Fairfax, Va. Co. | Price, 1611 |
| 1624 | Farrar, 1618 | Proctor, 1609 |
| Rayham, 1616 | Fleet | Parfey, 1621 |
| 1611 - Va. Co. | Flood, 1611 | Rolfe, 1609 |
| | Frist | St. Leger, Va. |



