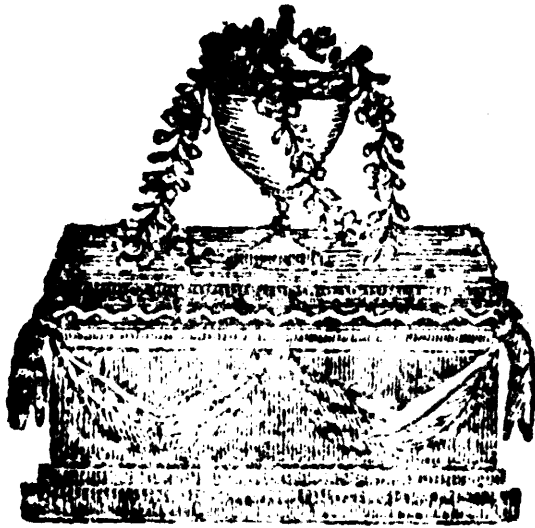


THE
RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
WASHINGTON FIRE CLUB,
INSTITUTED AT ROXBURY,
JANUARY 21st. 1800.



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RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
WASHINGTON FIRE CLUB.

PREAMBLE.

WE the Subscribers, influenced by a sense of social duty, and the natural motive, self-preservation, do for the more effectual assistance of each other, when in distress by Fire, form ourselves into a Society, under the name of the **WASHINGTON FIRE CLUB**, and we pledge our Honor, for a strict observance of the following rules and regulations, viz :

ARTICLE I.

THIS Society shall not consist of more than fifteen members, and before the first Monday in June next, each member shall provide himself with two leather Buckets, two Bags, made of Raven's Duck, each Bag to be made of three yards of cloth, and to have proper strings, also one bed Key, which shall be marked, as shall be after directed, the Buckets to be painted strictly in uniform, and for not complying with this article each offending member

will be held to pay a fine of *Ten Dollars*.

ARTICLE II.

AND when the alarm of *Fire* is given, we will immediately repair to the buildings occupied by a member, which shall be most in danger, with our Buckets, Bags, and bed Key, and will use our best endeavours to extinguish the Fire and secure the property; and if any member shall be absent at such a time, without sufficient excuse, he shall be considered as not worthy belonging to this Society.

ARTICLE III.

No person shall be admitted a member of this Society, but by the unanimous vote of all present, at the next meeting after he has been proposed, and when admitted he shall sign the Articles; no person shall be present at a meeting of the Society, but its members.

ARTICLE IV.

This Society shall have four stated meetings yearly, viz. On the first Monday of *March, June, September, and December*, at 7 o'clock, P. M. at the House of a Member, to be determined by lot; but the Chairman at any meeting, by the consent of a majority of the members present, may appoint special Meetings; and it shall also be the duty of the Clerk,

on receiving a written request for that purpose, signed by five Members, to call a Meeting at such time and place, as shall be requested,

ARTICLE V.

On the first *Monday* in *March* annually a Chairman shall be chosen, who shall serve during the year, or until another is chosen in his stead, and also a Clerk, whose duty it shall be to keep a fair Record, of all transactions of the Society: Likewise twice in every year, the Chairman and Clerk, shall visit the dwelling-house of each Member, for the purpose of examining the situation of his Buckets, Bags, and Key, and on finding them misplaced, or having the appearance of being used for other purposes, the owner shall pay the sum of *Two Dollars*; the Clerk shall likewise receive, and make known the request of a Citizen, that may wish to be a Member, also to inform him if admitted; likewise, at one half hour after the time appointed for any meeting the Clerk shall call the members, and if any one is absent he shall pay a fine of *Twenty Five Cents*.

ARTICLE VI.

It shall be the duty of the Clerk, within thirty days after each member has sign-

ed these rules, to supply him with a neat printed copy of the rules and regulations of the *Washington Fire Club*, with the name of every member annexed, and for that, and other purposes Cash will be wanted, it is therefore agreed, that each Member pay the Clerk *Fifty Cents*, on signing the articles, for which, as well as for fines, and all other money matters, he shall be held to render an account to the Chairman, on the first Monday in March annually. If at any meeting the Clerk shall be absent at the time appointed for calling the Members, he shall pay a fine of *One Dollar*, and if he should continue absent the evening, he shall pay *Two Dollars*, in addition thereto, unless he appoints a member Clerk *pro tem.* and deliver him what Books and Papers, may be wanted, and his reasons for so doing appear sufficient to the Society.

ARTICLE VII.

ALL losses of Buckets, Bags, and Keys, when in actual service at a fire, shall be sustained by the Society, provided the owner shall have made diligent search for the same, advertising the loss in some public paper three weeks, successively.— Also any member wishing to withdraw from the Society, shall have leave so to

do after presenting his Buckets, with the device erased therefrom, to the inspection of the Clerk, and paying all arrearages that may be due from him to the Society

ARTICLE VIII.

It shall be the duty of every member carefully to keep and to produce at every meeting, the rules, &c. mentioned in the sixth article, or pay the sum of Twenty-five Cents ; but when lost or worn out, to be supplied by the Clerk, they paying therefor.

ARTICLE IX.

If any member will not submit to the payment of his fine, or absent himself four meetings successively, without sufficient excuse, he shall be considered as withdrawing from the Society ; and provided the Clerk shall receive a complaint in writing, signed by a member, against any member for disorderly and immoral conduct, it shall be his duty at the next meeting to communicate the same to the Chairman, both of which shall be held upon their honor not to reveal the name of the complainer to any person whatever ; it shall then be the duty of the Chairman to read the charge, after which he shall call in the accused member to make his defence ; then after a fair hearing, the

Chairman shall call on the members to determine by vote whether the member is guilty or not, of the charges alledged against him. Then each member shall deliver a written vote, either yes or no, and if a majority of the votes of the members present be yes, the Chairman shall declare the vote, and say to the offending member, *You are no longer one of our number,* and I now direct the Clerk to erase your name from the Books of the *Washington Fire Club*, and in this, and all other cases, the Chairman and Clerk to vote.

ARTICLE X.

ALL transactions of this Society, not specially regulated by the preceding rules and regulations, shall be determined on by the vote of a majority of the members present; which vote shall be fairly recorded, and be considered binding; and whenever a breach of the preceding Laws shall come to the knowledge of the Clerk, if he does not inform the Chairman thereof at the next meeting, he shall subject himself to the fine of *One Dollar*, for every omission.

CONCLUSION.

CONSIDERING ourselves a band of brethren, every member will use his utmost endeavors that brotherly love may continue.