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THE GETTYSBURG NATIONAL HOMESTEAD
ACT OF INCORPORATION

Section 1.--Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That Matthew Simpson, Charles P. Mollvaine, Robert J. Breckinridge, Alfred Lee, George G. Meade, O. O. Heward, N. P. Banks, Wm. Strong, Wm. Worthington, Richard Newton, Alexander Henry, Jehn Francis Bourns, F. A. Mulhenberg, Jr., R. G. McCreary, D. McConaughy, E. McPherson, Alexander Reed, R. Heber Newton, James Cuthberston Burns, J. Marshall Paul, Geo. Bailey, Abraham Martin, John W. Mears, Peter B. Simons, Alfred M. Slocum, Jehn I. Agnew, Wm. H. Hayward, Thomas Wattson, Samuel Bancroft, and all other persons who shall become contributors agreeable to the provisions of this act, be, and the same are hereby incorporated into an association by the name and title of "The National Homestead at Gettysburg," with all the rights, powers, privilege and incidents of a corporation under the laws of this Commonwealth, for the purpose hereafter mentioned.

Section 2.--That the members of the said association shall consist only of the persons hereinafter named, and such persons who shall annually contribute and pay the same of five dollars and such persons who shall pay fifty dollars or more at one time, as contribution for life, to the purpose of said institution.

Section 3.--That the said association may establish one or more institutions for the shelter, support, and education of dependent children of such soldiers and seamen as may have died in the service of the United States, or died from wounds received, or disease contracted, in said service, and the motherless children of invalid soldiers, under such rules and regulations as the said association may from time to time establish, not being repugnant to the laws of the United States, or of this state: Provided, That when orphans of soldiers and sailors, as aforesaid, cease to be presented in adequate numbers for admission to the said institution, the privilege thereof may be extended to other orphan children born within the United States.

Section 4.--That the affairs of the said association shall be conducted by a board of directors, to consist of twenty-eight members of the association, a majority of whom shall reside in the city of Philadelphia and its vicinity, to be elected annually, by ballot on the Third

Thursday of May, in the said city, by the persons mentioned in the second section of this act as members of the said association: Provided, That the failure to elect on the day named, shall not dissolve the said corporation, but the election maybe held on any subsequent day, and the directors in office shall continue therein until their successors are ~~chosen~~ and Chosen. Provided, That the directors shall have power to fill vacancies in their own body that may be occasioned by death, resignation, or removal, or neglect, or refusal to act of any member until the next ensuing election. Ten days previous notice shall be given of every election of directors, by advertisement in two daily papers of the city of Philadelphia.

Section 5.--That the persons named in this act as corperators, or any nine of them, shall meet in the city of Philadelphia on the third Thursday of May next ensuing, and elect a board of directors to serve for one year, and until their successors are chosen; and upon the notice that such election has been held, to be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Governor shall issue letters patent to the corporation in the usual form, which shall confer upon the said association, by the name aforesaid all the rights, powers, privileges and franchises granted by this act.

Section 6.--That the board of directors at their first stated meeting held after their election annually, shall elect the officers of the association, to consist of a president, two or more vice presidents, a general secretary, a recording secretary and a treasurer, and shall adopt measure to secure the organization and assistance of an associate board, of not less than twenty citizens, residing near the institution herein before specified, for the better oversight and management of the same, in accordance with such rules, by-laws, and regulations, as the said original board of directors may from time to time adopt: Provided, That not less than one-half the number of persons in the said associate board shall be gentle-women, and the majority of the whole board shall be residents in the borough or township in which said institution may be situated; and Provided, That the board of directors may appoint such officers, not herein before provided for, as the true purpose of the association may require.

Section 7.--That the said directors shall, in their discretion, take under their care and guardianship such children as, by the third section of this act, are contemplated to be received into the aforesaid institution, and who shall be voluntarily surrendered by their parents or guardian to the care and control of the directors; they shall cause the children to be educated and instructed in a proper manner, and may, when

in their judgment it shall appear proper, either return the said children to their parents or former guardians, or bind them, with their consent, as apprentices during their minority, to such person, and at such place, and to learn such trades and employments as, in the judgment of said directors, will be most conducive to the benefit and advantage of said children: Provided, That the change and power of the said directors over the said children shall not, in the case of females, extend beyond the age of eighteen years: and Provided, That the surrender of the children to said institution as hereinbefore provided shall be in writing, under the hand of the proper parent or guardian, and all indentures of apprenticeship, or other instruments of writing, given by said institution, shall be in the respective name thereof, and sealed by their common seal and attested by the president and secretary.

Section 8.--That the said institution, by its board of directors, may purchase and hold any such estate, real, personal or mixed, and the same, or any part thereof, from time to time may sell, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of as may be required for the purposes hereby authorized; and may have a common seal, which the said directors may alter and renew at their pleasure: Provided, That the yearly income of all estate and property of said corporation, exclusive of such part thereof as may be required to defray the current and necessary excheuser expenses of the aforesaid institution, shall not exceed ten thousand dollars.

Section 9.--That no misnomer of said institution, in any case of bequest made or designed therefor, shall affect the validity of said bequest.

The bill passed finally.

The Adams Sentinel and General Advertiser
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