

CONSTITUTION OF
MUSCOGEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
(Formerly, The Genealogical Society of Original Muscogee County)

ARTICLE I -- NAME

The name of this organization shall be MUSCOGEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, hereinafter referred to as the Society.

ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE

The principal purposes of the Society are to raise the standards of genealogical research through educational programs, workshops and publication of genealogical local history data, and to promote the collecting and the preserving of local records and materials. The Society is not organized and shall not be operated for pecuniary gain or profit. No part of the property of the Society and no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private individual. This Society shall never be authorized to engage in regular business of a kind ordinarily carried on for profit or in any other Society activity except in furtherance of the purposes stated above for which the Society is organized.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

Membership in the Society shall be open to anyone interested in genealogy and local history.

Section 2.

Membership in the Society shall consist of five categories:

- a. Individual: A one-person membership, with the right to vote, hold office and receive electronic access to current issues of the Society's journal, *Muscogiana*.
- b. Individual Plus: A one-person membership, with the right to vote, hold office, receive electronic access to current issues of the Society's journal, *Muscogiana*, and receive print copies of same.
- c. Family: A two-person membership, with the right to vote (two votes per family), hold office, and receive electronic access to current issues of the Society's journal, *Muscogiana*,
- d. Family Plus: A two-person membership, with the right to vote (two votes per family), hold office (one or both), receive electronic access to current issues of the Society's journal, *Muscogiana*, and receive one print copy of same.
- e. Library: A library or other institution may join the Society. Libraries cannot vote, hold office or receive electronic access to current issues of the Society's

journal, *Muscogiana*. Libraries will receive print copies of the Society's current issues.

Section 3.

Cessation of membership in the Society will be accepted under any one of the following conditions:

- a. A written resignation to the Secretary of the Society
- b. On being expelled
- c. Delinquency in the payment of annual dues
- d. On death of the member

Section 4.

Expulsion from the Society will be by special resolution of the members passed at a regular meeting. The notice of special resolution for expulsion shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the reason or reasons for the proposed expulsion. The person who is the subject of the proposed expulsion shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the regular meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1.

The Officers of the Society shall be:

- a. The President
- b. The Vice President
- c. The Secretary
- d. The Treasurer.

Section 2.

Officers shall be elected biennially. A Nominating Committee of five members shall be elected from the floor at the regular meeting preceding the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting this committee shall present the name of a candidate for each office, first having secured the consent of the person being nominated. Nominations may be made from the floor, provided the person nominated has given consent. When there is more than one candidate for any office, the election shall be by written ballot. The person receiving a majority of the votes of those present and voting shall be declared elected.

Section 3.

Term of office shall be two years

Section 4.

Any vacancy occurring in the office shall cause the President to nominate a successor who shall be confirmed at the next Board Meeting. If the candidate selected does not meet with the approval of a majority of the Board, the President shall nominate other candidates until one is approved.

Section 5.

An Officer may be removed from that office by a special resolution of the members passed at a regular meeting. The notice of special resolution for removal shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the reason or reasons for the proposed removal. The person who is the subject of the proposed removal shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the regular meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.

ARTICLE V – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1.

There shall be a Board of Directors of the Society, hereinafter referred to as the Board, comprised of the following members:

- a. The four Officers of the Society
- b. The past Presidents of the Society
- c. Between 2 and 4 Society members-at-large appointed by the President.

Section 2.

The Board will be the governing body of the Society. It will have the responsibility for the supervision, control and direction of the management, affairs and property of the Society.

Section 3.

The Board will meet prior to each regular meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board. The President shall also be in charge of scheduling meetings of the Society and securing speakers.

Section 2.

The Vice President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board in the absence of the President. The Vice President will work closely with the President in scheduling meetings and securing speakers.

Section 3.

The Secretary shall record the minutes of meetings and handle the correspondence of the Society. The Secretary will send out notices of meetings to the members and handle publicity for special events.

Section 4.

The Treasurer shall collect and manage the monies of the Society and will keep track of memberships. The Treasurer will also arrange for the printing and mailing out print copies of *Muscogiana*.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings

Section 1.

The Society shall hold four regular meetings a year. The first meeting of the calendar year shall be designated as the Annual Meeting. Place, date and time of meetings shall be determined by the Board.

ARTICLE VIII – ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

Section 1.

The Society plans to publish two issues per year of *Muscogiana*, a journal that features the history and genealogy of original Muscogee County. An editor, appointed by the Board, will solicit articles for publication, which will then be reviewed by an Editorial Board (selected by the Board). An assistant editor will assist the editor in readying the journal for publication. Once prepared, the copy will be submitted for printing and the appropriate number of issues will be ordered by the Treasurer. The Treasurer will also be responsible for mailing the print copies to the appropriate members. The editor and assistant editor will receive honoraria for their editorial efforts.

Section 2.

The Society will support the Columbus Public Library's Genealogy Room through programming collaborations. The Society will promote the use of the Genealogy Room's collections and services to its members and the general public.

Section 3.

The Society will support to the Columbus State University Archives through programming collaborations. The Society will promote the use of the Archives' collections and services to its members and the general public.

Section 4.

The Society will maintain a website. An appointed webmaster will maintain the site, making changes requested by the Society's President or his/her designee.

Section 5.

There may be various committees assigned by the Board from time-to-time in order to meet the aims of the Society.

ARTICLE IX – QUORUM

Section 1.

Ten percent (10%) of the local resident membership shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting of the Society. Family membership will count as two, even if only one family member is present.

Section 2.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the Executive Board membership shall constitute a quorum at any Board meeting.

ARTICLE X – DUES

Section 1.

The annual dues for the various memberships of the Society shall be determined for the ensuing year by the Board as necessary, and this information will be given to the membership at the next regular meeting of the Society.

Section 2.

Dues will be for the calendar year (January – December) and should be paid by members by the end of February.

Section 3.

Family membership shall entitle holders to two votes in the Society proceedings, full membership privileges for both persons, and one subscription to all Society publications.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been sent to the President of the Society at least one week before the Board meeting, and read in detail at the next regular meeting, then having been voted on at the second regular meeting.

ARTICLE XII – DISSOLUTION

Section 1.

A motion for the dissolution of the Society may be submitted by any member to the Board three months before the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 2.

In the event of termination or dissolution of the Society, any funds and/or holdings of the Society remaining after the satisfying of outstanding debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred in equal portions to the Columbus Public Library Genealogy Room and the Columbus State University Archives and Special Collections.

ARTICLE XIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER (Revised) shall be the Parliamentary authority of the Society.

Approved February 11, 2022 at a meeting of the Society.