

OREGON SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

At a meeting of a number of persons wishing to emigrate to Oregon, held at Elizabethtown [Kentucky] on the fifth day of April 1845, the Rev. Wm. Helm being called to the chair & the Rev. Lewis Thompson being elected secretary The following constitution was adopted The committee that had been previously appointed reported as follows:

Whereas—in order the better to prepare the way for & accomplish our journey to Oregon with greater harmony it was deemed advisable to adopt certain rules & regulations resolved therefore—

Art. 1st This Association shall be known by the name & style of the Savannah Oregon Emigrating Society.

Art. 2nd Any male over the age of sixteen may become a member of the Company by subscribing the Constitution & paying into the Treasury the initiation fee of one dollar.

Art. 3rd No Minors shall be received into this Company without the consent of their legal Guardian.

Art. 4th **No person shall be admitted whose obvious intention is to avoid the payment of his honest debts.**

Art. 5th **A majority of the members may expel any one for good cause.**

Art. 6th The Officers of this Company shall consist of a President, Commandant Captain, Lieutenant, Secretary, Treasurer, an Executive Council of 12, the commandant being Chairman of the Council exOfficio & such other inferior Military Officers as the Executive Council shall determine.

Art. 7th The President shall be elected on the adoption of this Constitution & shall continue in Office until the Commandant Captain shall have been chosen, when his functions as presiding Officer shall cease.

Art. 8th The Secretary shall be elected on the adoption of this Constitution & shall continue in office until the completion of the objects of this Company. He shall keep a record of the transactions of the Company & perform such other duties as usually appertain to his office.

Art. 9th The treasurer shall be elected on the adoption of this Constitution, shall collect, safely keep & at the direction of the Executive Council shall disburse all the monies in the Treasury.

Art. 10th The Commandant Captain, Lieutenant, & such other Military Officers as the Council shall determine, shall be elected when the Company shall have assembled at the place of Rendezvous preparatory to a final start, and they shall hold their offices until the completion of their journey & shall perform such duties as usually appertain to Military Offices of their respective grades.

Art. 11th The Executive Council shall be elected when the company shall be assembled at the place of Rendezvous. They shall have the general superintendance of the affairs of the company & shall perform all duties assigned them.

Art. 12th After the company shall have been assembled at the place of Rendezvous, They shall appoint six persons to inspect the outfit of the Company, who being sworn shall faithfully perform their duties & report to the Executive council who shall determine upon their report.

Art. 13th The Funds of the Company shall be faithfully appropriated for contingent expenses in furthering the objects of the Association.

Art. 14th **The necessary outfit shall consist of 150 lbs of Flour or 100 lbs of flour & 75 lbs of meal and 50 lbs of bacon for every person in the Company excepting infants.**

Art. 15th **The Wagons shall be capable of bearing one fourth more than their load, and the Teams able to draw one fourth more than their load.**

Art. 16th **The number of Loose Cattle shall never exceed 33 to one driver.**

Art. 17th **No ardent spirits shall be taken or drank on the route except for medicinal purposes, & if smuggled in shall when discovered be destroyed under the control of the Commandant.**

Art. 18th **Each male over the age of sixteen shall furnish himself with a good & sufficient gun and 1½ of powder & 6 lbs of lead to be inspected & reported on as in other cases.**

Art. 19th All members of this Association shall assemble at Wolf River between the 15th & 25th of April.

Art. 20th This Constitution may be altered or amended at any time, by a vote of two thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Company or at any special meeting called by the Commandant.