



# The **BATES** Chronicle

of the Maryland descendants of Edward of Weymouth

*Oh breathes there a man so low  
Who does not wish to know, Of what he's bred?*

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## **BATES ASSOCIATION THE OLD - THE NEW**

AS we are about to welcome the rebirth of THE BATES ASSOCIATION, July, 1993, let us take a look at the original organization. For those who are interested in becoming members you will see what the association is all about, at the present time. When William C. Bates of Lake Worth, FL set about the lengthy task of locating the original documents, filling out complex Massachusetts paperwork, and waiting, and waiting, he decided to file the organization papers with no changes in the old organization. It was thought that putting any changes in at this time would just involve more paperwork and delays. What he wanted to do was get the association working and later make up-dates. Before moving forward, let us take a look at the story up to now.

On a hot afternoon in July of 1907, a most significant event in the history of the Bates family occurred. In the Brunswick Hotel in Boston about 100 members of the Bates family came together for the family reunion that gave birth to the Bates Association. At that reunion there was chosen an executive committee consisting of: President - former Governor (Massachusetts) John L. Bates of Boston; and Vice Presidents - Frank A. Bates of South Braintree (representing the descendants of Edward of Weymouth); Albert C. Bates of Hartford, Connecticut (descendant of James Bates); and William Clinton Bates of Cambridge (descendant of Clement). They were charged with preparing a Constitution and By-Laws for The Bates Association. Thus began a family organization that encouraged and produced Bates genealogical data, published THE BATES BULLETIN, and enlightened members and others for generations.

The purpose of the organization was stated clearly in Article II (see below), one of only five that made up the constitution. The eight By-Laws briefly elaborated on the articles. This simplified set of regulations was all that was needed to keep the association running for about fifty years. The complete Constitution and By-Laws are reprinted below for your information and to help with your decision to join. As they stand, they allowed the executive committee to have the flexibility to use their good judgement in administering the association between annual meetings or reunions. As you read them, it may be obvious what needs to be up-dated - certainly the membership dues!

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE BATES ASSOCIATION

## Constitution

I. The name of this organization shall be "The Bates Association."

II. The object of the Association is the collection, compilation and publication of all available data concerning the Bates families.

III. Persons having a Bates ancestor, by descent or marriage, may become members of this Association, as provided in the By-Laws.

IV. The officers of this Association shall be a President, three or more Vice Presidents (one to be chosen from the descendants of each immigrant ancestor represented), a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Historian. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Association.

V. This constitution may be amended by a three fourths vote of the members present at any meeting.

## By-Laws

1. Meetings of the Association shall be held annually, at such time and place as the Association, or the Executive Committee, may direct.

2. The officers of the Association shall be elected annually, and their duties shall be such as are usually performed by such officers.

3. The Treasurer shall pay the bills of the Association only on order of the Executive Committee.

4. The Executive Committee shall arrange the program for the annual meeting, fill vacancies in any office until the next election and, in general, shall direct the affairs of the Association. The Executive Committee may publish such periodicals, pamphlets, or books as will advance the interest of the Association.

5. All members of the Association shall be elected to membership by the Executive Committee, except as hereinafter provided.

6. Membership shall be as follows:

(1) Active members, consisting of all qualified persons, who shall have been elected by the Executive Committee, and who have paid the annual dues.

(2) Honorary Members, consisting of persons who for some conspicuous service, or age shall be unanimously elected by the Association, at any annual meeting, upon nomination by the Executive Committee. Honorary members shall have all the privileges of the Association, and shall be exempt from all dues.

(3) Life members, consisting of all persons who, upon payment of ten dollars, shall be elected by the Executive Committee. Life members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Association and shall be exempt from all dues.

7. The membership fee shall be one dollar, payable annually at the time of the annual meeting. This shall entitle the member to all the privileges of the Association with one copy of all annual Bulletins.

8. These By-Laws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the members present at any annual meeting.

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As an outgrowth of the objectives of the Association, The Bates Bulletin came into being in September of 1907, proclaiming, "The publication of The Bates Bulletin is intended to advance the interests of the Bates Association." Those interests included "considerable research work." Much of the research work was expected to come free from the members and most of it did for many years. Some of the research was expected to be done by experts at the expense of the Association. (I think that research in England, especially trying to discover Edward of Weymouth's origins was one for the professionals.) All research was to be shared through the Bulletin and through the publication of books on Bates genealogy.

The Bates Bulletin was published from September, 1907 through 1932. For twenty-five years the Bulletin was issued twice-a-year (one extra issue came out in 1909). It more than satisfied the objectives of the Association, including many family genealogies, biographies, histories, news of the members, becoming an excellent source of information for later generations. It was a chronicle of Bates history, a sounding board, a unifying force for those scattered beyond New England, the official voice of The Bates Association. It provided insights into the life of middle class America as this country entered the twentieth century and prepared for the "big war."

The Bates Association of the early era was a great organ for bringing together New Englanders of Bates ancestry, but what about the many descendants who were scattered across the United States? Without air travel it was a long journey to the annual reunion. For many the Bulletin was what kept the large number of members in touch.

Now ...what will the rebirth of The Bates Association mean? We can use the old organization as a springboard to all possible new goals. Certainly the Association can be to the new membership what it was to the old. It can be more! Membership can be expanded to include descendants of any Bates, anywhere. Vice President positions can be expanded to represent the descendants of Edward of Boston, descendants of "newcomers". Regional chapters can be formed to provide more local flavor and contact. A research library and archives can be established and made available to all members. Those with computers can set up a Bates network to communicate and exchange data, instantly. No Bates genealogist need stumble around alone in his/her search for ancestors. Ideas are without limit, and with a strong membership and proper funding the ideas become reality.

## THE BATES ASSOCIATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A few of us organizers and others who are able to attend will meet at Falmouth, Massachusetts on Friday, July 23rd at 1:00 P. M. to launch the working association - select officers to lead us through 1994, recruit members, set up policies and procedures to operate until the next annual meeting, set up committees, etc. We plan to meet at the Historical Society, or the Katharine Lee Bates House, if it becomes available. The latter would be historically significant for the rebirth of the Association.

Memberships are being taken as of now. Enclosed is a membership application for those interested in becoming "charter" members of the new Association. Annual dues will be \$20.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for family (spouse or other significant adult at the same address). This includes the publication, voting rights for members of the Bates families, and any other privileges under the constitution. The early-bird, or "charter" memberships will extend through December, 1994. SO, take advantage of this bargain offer and help us with some working capital, which will be greatly needed. Make checks payable to "The Bates Association", and mail to:

The Bates Association  
P. O. Box 847  
Scituate, MA 02066

Please be patient as we get organized. Membership cards and the publication will be sent out as soon as the officers and committee members get procedures worked out. Meanwhile, I'll keep you up-to-date through The Bates Chronicle.

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## THE KLB STAMP

There are no significant developments as we go to press; however, we have had personal and direct contact with the First Lady. She has indicated that she is behind the endeavor and will do whatever she can. Keep up the letters and petitions.

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## KLB CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

You have the latest in the last issue. Capt. Robert S. Bates and I have been appointed honorary members of the Committee, "The Friends of Katharine Lee Bates" and will be there for the opening ceremony and other activities. I will send out, soon after this, a Summer issue of this newsletter, reporting on the centennial activities and the founding of the new Association. 1993 will be a MEMORABLE year for the Bates families. Please be part of it.

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Published by: C. Ben Bates, 202 Frazier Court, Joppa, MD  
21085-4434 (410) 679-0824