



THE WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tacoma,  
Washington

Director  
Bruce Le Roy, Tacoma

Oct. 27, 1965

Dear Click -

Re your question concerning  
local societies & the state society,  
the enclosed Law & "Suggested  
Constitution" were passed by our  
Board many years ago.

To the best of my knowledge,  
this responsibility has never been  
carried through from our end.  
In other words, no collections of  
defunct societies taken over.

Hope this answers your  
question.

Best,  
Bruce



In the Senate.

By Senators Happy, Cowen  
and Ryder.SENATE BILL NO. 68

STATE OF WASHINGTON, THIRTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION. Read first time January 23, 1957,  
ordered printed and referred to Committee on Cities, Towns and Counties.

## A N A C T

Relating to Historical materials and amending sections 1, 2 and 3, chapter 160, Laws  
of 1949 and RCW 24.48.010 through 27.48.030.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington.

SECTION 1. Section 1, chapter 160, Laws of 1949 and RCW 27.48.010 are  
each amended to read as follows:

The storage, preservation and exhibit of historical materials, including,  
but not restricted to, books, maps, writings, newspapers, ancient articles, and  
tools of handicraft, antiques, artifacts, and relics is (hereby) declared to be  
a public project carried on for public purpose and the (governing body) legis-  
lative body of any county, city or town, may provide quarters therefor within  
the territorial limits thereof and may provide funds necessary for the proper  
operation of any such institution already in operation, or otherwise provide for  
the preservation of historical material covered by this act.

SEC. 2. Section 2, chapter 160, Laws of 1949 and RCW 27.48.020 are each  
amended to read as follows:

The maximum amount which any county may expend for (this purpose) these  
purposes in any one year shall be as follows:

(1) For a county with a population of not over twenty-five thousand, the  
(limit) maximum shall be (two) three thousand dollars:

(2) For a county with a population of not over fifty thousand the (limit)  
maximum shall be (thirty-five hundred) five thousand dollars:

(3) For a county with a population of over fifty thousand, the (limit)  
maximum shall be (five) ten thousand dollars.

SEC. 3. Section 3, chapter 100, Laws of 1949 and RCW 27.48.030 are each  
amended to read as follows.

A county, city or town which has provided quarters for the storage, preser-  
vation, or exhibit of historical materials may award custody thereof, as trust-  
ee, to the Washington State Historical Society, or the Eastern Washington State  
Historical Society, or the State Capitol Historical Association, or any (society  
affiliated with or approved by either of them) organization sponsoring the exhi-  
bit thereof if such organization be affiliated with or approved by the Washing-  
ton State Historical Society or the Eastern Washington State Historical Society.



OUTLINE FOR ORGANIZATION  
OF A  
LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

\* \* \*

1. Applicable Statutes:

Laws of 1895, p. 400, as amended by Laws '33, p. 391;  
Laws of '29, p. 323.  
Laws of 1933, p. 425, particularly Sec. 13, p. 435.

R.R.S.  
3874

2. Agreement for the Incorporation of \_\_\_\_\_ County Historical Society.

AGREEMENT FOR THE INCORPORATION  
of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ County Historical Society.

1. BE IT KNOWN that whereas the "\_\_\_\_\_ County Historical Society" is an unincorporated association, formed at \_\_\_\_\_, Washington, on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_; and whereas the said association through its Board of Directors, by a vote duly taken and recorded, authorized and directed this agreement for incorporation under the laws of the State of Washington, in pursuance of Chapter 158, Session Laws of 1895; therefore we, \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

all of \_\_\_\_\_ County, do hereby associate ourselves together with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of

"\_\_\_\_\_ County Historical Society".

2. The purpose of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Historical Society is the collection, formulation and preservation in substantial and permanent form of the traditional, record and object history of the State of Washington, in particular as it relates to \_\_\_\_\_ County.

3. The location of the said \_\_\_\_\_ County Historical Society shall be at \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ County, Washington.

4. The pecuniary resources of said corporation for its maintenance are, and shall be, such as are derived from membership fees, annual dues, such means and property as may be obtained from gifts and bequests, and such sums of money as may from time to time be appropriated from public funds in aid of its purposes.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Washington, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_.

Signers

Mailing address

(Three original copies to be prepared and signed.)



R.R.S.  
3875

3. Call for First Meeting of Subscribers:

Notice of  
Delivery of  
Affidavit of Service of

4. First Meeting:

Election of Temporary Secretary  
Adoption of By-Laws  
Election of Officers

5. Certificate of Agreement of Incorporation:

CERTIFICATE  
OF  
AGREEMENT OF INCORPORATION

We, the undersigned, do hereby CERTIFY upon oath that an Agreement for the incorporation of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Historical Society was duly executed and concluded on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_, a true copy of which, with the names of the subscribers thereto, is hereto attached as part of this certification.

That the first meeting of the subscribers to said agreement was, pursuant to due notice, held at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock P.M., at which said meeting a temporary Secretary was elected by ballot; (whereupon it then adjourned to \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_, at the same place and hour); at which (adjourned) meeting, a code of by-laws was duly adopted, followed by the election by ballot of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and \_\_\_\_\_ Curators or Trustees, all of whom are subscribers to the said Agreement hereto attached.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have subscribed our names at \_\_\_\_\_,  
County, Washington, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curator

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_.

(SEAL)

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington,  
residing at \_\_\_\_\_ County, Washington.

(Three original copies to be prepared and signed.)



R.R.S. 6.  
3877

CERTIFICATE  
of  
SECRETARY OF STATE.

|                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Fee for Recording at Olympia          | \$5.00 |
| Fee for Issuance                      | 2.45   |
| Fee Certified Copy for County Auditor | _____  |

R.R.S. 7.  
3878 as  
Am.by  
L.'29,p.323

"BY-LAWS  
of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARTICLE I.

Membership - Classes

ARTICLE II.

Fees and DUES

ARTICLE III.

Officers, their Election and Duties.

ARTICLE IV.

Annual and Special Meetings

ARTICLE V.

Order of Business

ARTICLE VI.

Committees, Standing and Special

ARTICLE VII.

Association with Washington State Historical Society

It is the purpose of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Historical Society to cooperate with the Washington State Historical Society in all ways mutually beneficial. If, at any future time, any condition should arise whereby the Executive Board of the Society should determine that it would be impossible or impracticable, for a time, to continue the operation of the Society, said Executive Board may so declare, and cause an inventory of the materials of said Society to be made, and said materials and inventory be forwarded to the Washington State Historical Society to be by it cared for until the Society can again resume its operations.



## ARTICLE VIII.

### Amendments

(One Original Copy to be prepared and signed.)"

#### 8. Permanent Record Book Contents

- (a) Agreement for the incorporation of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ County Historical Society.  
(Signed Copy)
- (b) Notice of First Meeting. (Signed Copy)
- (c) Affidavit of Service of Notice acknowledged  
before Notary under seal.
- (d) Minutes of First Meeting including By-Laws adopted  
and officers elected and other proceedings. (Signed)
- (e) Certificate of Agreement of Incorporation.  
(Signed copy acknowledged under notarial seal)
- (f) Motion directing certain officers to complete the in-  
corporation by filing the necessary documents with the  
Secretary of State and the County Auditor.
- (g) Minutes to be signed "Attest: A True Copy \_\_\_\_\_,  
Temporary Secretary."

#### 9. Special Points

- (a) Trustees must be Members
- (b) Officers must be Trustees
- (c) Trustees must qualify by taking an oath of office.
- (d) President and Secretary must annually file with Secretary of  
State and County Auditor a certificate of current officers  
and trustees, their terms of office and addresses.
- (e) Officers must qualify by taking an oath of office.

L. '39, p.435  
Sec. 13

#### 10. Assemble and staple the Agreement for the Incorporation and the Certificate of Agreement for Incorporation.

There will be three sets of these thus assembled. Take all  
three sets to the Secretary of State, one for filing in his office.  
He will certify the other two copies, one of which should then be  
filed with the Auditor and the other should be placed in the  
Society's Permanent Record Book.



## SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION FOR A COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### I. Name

The name of this organization shall be \_\_\_\_\_ Historical Society.

### II. Objects

The objects of the society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of \_\_\_\_\_ County and State of Washington. More particularly the objects shall be:

1. To discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the county or the state, their exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and in war, and their progress in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufactures, trade, and transportation, - printed material such as histories, genealogies, biographies, descriptions, gazetteers, directories, newspapers, pamphlets, catalogues, circulars, handbills, programs, and posters; manuscript material such as letters, diaries, journals, memoranda, reminiscences, roster, service records, account books, charts, surveys, and field books; and museum material such as pictures, photographs, paintings, portraits, scenes, aboriginal relics, and material objects illustrative of life, conditions, events, and activities in the past or the present.

2. To provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it; to cooperate with officials in insuring the preservation and accessibility of the records and archives of the county and of its cities, towns, villages, and institutions; and to bring about the preservation of historic buildings, monuments, and markers.

3. To disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by publishing historical material in the newspapers and otherwise; by holding meetings with addresses, lectures, papers, and discussion; and by marking historic buildings, sites, and trails.

### III. Membership.

1. The society shall be composed of active and honorary members. Active members shall include life and annual members.

2. Any person interested in the history of \_\_\_\_\_ County may be enrolled as an active member upon receipt by the secretary of the first payment of dues.

3. The dues of annual members shall be \$\_\_\_\_\_ a year, payable in advance on the date of the annual meeting. The dues of life members shall be a single payment of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.

4. Members failing to pay their dues for one year after they become payable shall be dropped from the rolls one month after the mailing of a notice of such default.

5. Nonresidents of \_\_\_\_\_ County may, in recognition of achievements or for services rendered to the society, be elected honorary members by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues; they may attend all meetings of the society, but they shall not have the right to vote unless they are also active members.



#### IV. Government

1. The officers of the society shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and one corresponding secretary for each city in the county.
2. The officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting each year and shall hold office until their successors have been elected and shall have duly qualified. In case of a vacancy arising in any office it may be filled for the unexpired term at any meeting of the society.
3. There shall be a board of directors composed of the president, the vice-president, the secretary, the treasurer, and other members elected at the same time and in the same manner as the officers. This board shall manage the affairs of the society, subject to such regulations and restrictions as may be prescribed by the society.

#### V. Duties of Officers

1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the society and of the board of directors. In case the president is absent at any meeting, the vice-president shall assume his duties.
2. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the society and of the board of directors, keep a roll of the members, collect the dues and transmit them to the treasurer, conduct the correspondence of the society, give notice of all meetings, notify committees of their appointment, and make a report at the annual meeting upon the work of the society. He shall transmit a copy of this report, as adopted by the society, to the secretary of the Washington Historical Society not later than the first day of December in each year.
3. The treasurer shall have the custody of the dues of members and of all subscriptions and donations in money. He shall keep an account of the same and shall make a report thereof at the annual meeting and whenever required by the society or the board of directors. He shall pay out the moneys of the society only on the presentation of bills approved by the board of directors as attested by the secretary.
4. It shall be the duty of the corresponding secretaries to promote the interest of the society in their townships and to report to the secretary from time to time such matters as may be of interest to the society.

#### VI. Meetings

1. The regular meetings of the society shall be held on the first Monday of each month, except the months of June, July, August and September. The annual meeting shall be held on the first Monday in October. The board of directors may change the date of any meeting provided one week's notice be given to all members.
2. Special meetings may be called by direction of the president at any time, and shall be called upon written request of ten members of the society or a majority of the board of directors.
3. Twelve active members of the society shall constitute a quorum.
4. The board of directors shall hold meetings as needed, upon call of the president or the secretary or any three members of the board, but at least one each quarter. Four members thereof shall constitute a quorum.



## VII. Disposition of Collections.

1. The society or the board of directors shall make provision for the custody of all materials of historic value received by the society. Such material may, if desired, be given into the custody of a public library or any other agency or institution in \_\_\_\_\_ County. In case its preservation in the county is not specially desired, it shall be tendered to the Washington State Historical Society.

2. In consideration of the assistance proffered by the Washington State Historical Society in the prosecution of the work of this society, and because of the society's interest in the work of the state society, it is hereby provided that, in case the society fails in three consecutive years to have a quorum at its annual meeting, which shall be interpreted as the cessation of an effective working organization, then all articles and things belonging to it shall become the property of the state society as trustee, until such time as functions of the society are resumed.

## VIII. Amendment

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed in writing filed with the secretary by any three members. The secretary shall notify all members in writing of the proposed amendments and they may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting, provided two weeks shall have elapsed after the sending of the notice.