

# **Bylaws of the Fontaine-Maury Society**

## **Article I – Purposes**

Whereas, it is evident that a viable and purposeful organization of descendants of the Fontaine and the Maury families and those interested in Fontaine, Maury, or Huguenot history would serve to promote the memory of the Fontaine-Maury families, to the transmission of their spirit and character, and to research and preserve materials related to their lives, the Fontaine Society was duly organized in Virginia in 1975 and renamed the Fontaine-Maury Society in 1989.

Furthermore, this society was incorporated in South Carolina as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization in 2015 per the requirements of Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code which notes that such organizations operate exclusively for charitable educational and literary purposes.

This organization shall be known as the Fontaine-Maury Society.

Should the society disband, the assets will be transferred to a non-profit historical association.

## **Article II – Membership**

Any person who is a descendant of Jaques (James) Fontaine (1658-1728) and his wife, Ann Elizabeth Boursiquot, and individuals or organizations who hold a genuine interest in the aims and objectives of the society may become members.

There will be membership dues per family or organization at one address per year. The amount may be amended by a vote of the membership at an annual meeting.

## **Article III – Objectives**

To perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of the lives and deeds of the Fontaine and Maury families.

To transmit to the membership something of the spirit, accomplishments and character of these families as recorded in authentic accounts.

To assist in the collection and preservation of literary, historical and genealogical records, documentation and relics relating to the early families.

To assist in the identification and maintenance of Fontaine and Maury gravesites, especially the original commitment to Beaverdam Cemetery (Route 658, entrance 16498 Tyler Station Road, Beaverdam, VA 23015-1201) on the grounds originally purchased by Fontaine family member William Fontaine (1754-1810).

To make available newsletters, books, and other material obtainable to society members and others who may be interested.

To disperse society income in accordance with Article I. No part of the society income will inure to the benefit of members, officers or other private persons, except that the society shall pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and make payments and distributions only in furtherance of the purposes in Article I. Society board members may be reimbursed for expenses relative to conducting business of the society. No part of the activities of the society shall be to promote propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles the society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future internal revenue law) or to an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Sec. 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. revenue law).

#### **Article IV – Officers and Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the following officers: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The board will also include editor of the society newsletter, librarian, webmaster, three directors, and any committees that may be appointed when needed.

##### **Meetings**

The board will meet at least once a year to conduct the business of the society. When meeting in person is impossible, meetings may be held using electronic devices.

A general meeting of the membership may be held annually or at intervals determined by the membership at a general meeting.

##### **Electing or Appointing Board Members**

The role of the three directors shall include facilitating the election of officers. Each director shall be elected at a general meeting of the society for a term of three years. They may be re-elected for a full term.

The directors will be responsible for identifying and nominating society members to hold other offices on the Board of Directors and will present a slate of nominees to be elected at a meeting of the general membership. A quorum will be those present and voting at a general meeting of the society.

The president shall be elected for a term of two years. He or she may be re-elected for additional terms.

The vice-president shall be elected for a term of two years. He or she may be re-elected for additional terms or elected president at the expiration of the president's term.

The secretary, treasurer, editor of the society newsletter, librarian, and webmaster positions are appointed by the board and serve without term limits.

### **Duties of Board Members**

The directors shall have oversight of the functions of the society and shall make recommendations to the other members of the Board of Directors.

The president shall prepare for meetings of the board and the general meetings of the society and shall preside at those meetings.

The vice president shall assume duties of the president in his or her absence.

The secretary shall record minutes at board and general meetings of the society and maintain minutes for permanent records. A copy of the recorded minutes shall also be provided to the president who also shall maintain a permanent record of all society minutes.

The treasurer will receive all monies collected by the society and will disperse and/or oversee the dispersal of all funds to pay the obligations. He or she will keep the necessary records and maintain a current membership list of dues-paying members. The treasurer shall also provide information to people interested in joining the society.

The editor of the newsletter will be responsible for the publication of a newsletter to keep the membership informed about meetings, family history, and other items of interest to the membership.

The librarian will maintain the library of the society and will make arrangements for copies of the literature and documents to be available for purchase.

The webmaster shall oversee the website.

Any board member may be removed by the consensus of two-thirds of the board of directors when deemed to not be filling the required duties.

#### **Article V – Vacancy of an Office**

The Board of Directors may fill a vacancy by appointing an interim officer or member to serve until the next general meeting of the society. A majority vote of the members present at the meeting shall be sufficient for the appointment.

#### **Article VI – Committees**

Committees may be appointed by the Board of Directors to assist in the work of the society. The chairman and committee members will be chosen from members of the society.

#### **Article VII – Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended by majority vote at a general meeting of the society provided the membership is notified in writing 90 days in advance of the meeting.

Adopted June 13, 1989

Amended June 13, 1998

Amended October 13, 2007

Amended October 11, 2008

Ammended October 16,2021