

# WORTHINGTON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## CONSTITUTION



*A Worldwide Society researching and publishing information on the lives and genealogies of  
Worthingtons throughout history*

*Revised 9 July 2022*

# CONSTITUTION OF THE WORTHINGTON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## 1. Name and emblem

- 1.1 The name of the Society shall be *Worthington Family History Society*.
- 1.2 The Society was founded by the Worthington 17th-Century Project on 18 October 2009 at Leesburg, Virginia, USA, and the Society forthwith adopted the Project.
- 1.3 The Society's emblem shall be *a goat passant regardant passing a dungfork with 3 prongs uppermost sable*, being the former emblem of the Project.

## 2. Objects

- 2.1 The Objects of the Society shall be: (1) to foster and undertake research into the genealogy of families bearing the surname Worthington throughout the World; (2) to foster, assist in and undertake research into biographical information relating to members of Worthington families and those closely related to them; and (3) to gather and maintain a library and archives of information relating to the aforesaid subjects, and to make such information available to members of the Society.
- 2.2 The Society shall encourage the writing of learned papers on the aforesaid subjects and may select such papers for distribution to all members or for publication.
- 2.3 The Society may arrange for books to be written on the aforesaid subjects and may publish them or cause them to be published.
- 2.4 The Society may arrange lectures, visits, meetings and other events for the benefit of members and their guests and shall disseminate to members from time to time news of the progress of the Society and other relevant information.
- 2.5 The Society shall promote the preservation, security and accessibility of relevant information for the benefit of members.

## 3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the Society shall be open to all who have an interest in the Society's objects, or wish to support the work of the Society, subject only to election by the Council of the Society.
- 3.2 Each member shall pay a subscription each year in advance, the Society's subscription year being 1 April to 31 March. The subscription will be determined each year by resolution at the Annual General Meeting and shall be set in £Sterling and the equivalent in US\$ and any other appropriate currency at exchange rates deemed by the Society to be prevailing at the time of that meeting.

## 4. Governance and Management

- 4.1 Each year, at the annual General Meeting, the members shall elect from the membership the president, the secretary, the treasurer and 3 other councillors, and these 6 members shall constitute the Council of the Society. The Council shall be responsible for governing the Society subject only to resolutions made in General Meeting. The members in General Meeting may elect a vice-president being one of the councillors.

- 4.2 The president shall be chairman of General Meetings and the Council. The secretary, supported by the other officers, shall be responsible for the ongoing work and activities of the Society subject to resolutions in General Meetings and resolutions of the Council.
- 4.3 Besides the 3 officers of the Society already mentioned, there shall be a membership secretary and an archivist appointed by the Council. Other officers with specified responsibilities may be appointed by the Council.
- 4.4 If any of the offices of president, secretary or treasurer, or either of the elected councillors, becomes vacant between general meetings, the Council may appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next general meeting, at the end of which such member shall stand down, but may stand for election by the members.

## **5. General Meetings**

- 5.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held within 6 calendar months of the end of each Society year. The format for an AGM may be either as a physical meeting in an agreed location, or virtually by means of a Zoom conference (or similar software). All members shall be entitled to attend.
- 5.2 Notice convening any General Meeting shall be sent to every member by electronic means if possible, and otherwise by post, at least 15 days before the date of the meeting.
- 5.3 So far as is reasonably practicable, resolutions planned to be put to the meeting, with due explanations, shall accompany the notice of meeting. Each member may then express a view and cast a vote in writing, to arrive at the secretary's address not less than 3 clear days before the date of the meeting. Such views shall be relayed to the meeting and such votes shall be taken into account in a vote at the meeting.
- 5.4 A resolution shall be passed by simple majority, except when the resolution concerns a change to this Constitution, in which case it shall be passed only by a two-thirds majority. In the case of a balanced vote, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second casting vote.
- 5.5 The Council, or any 5 members, may call an extraordinary General Meeting to consider and, if thought fit, pass one or more resolutions. To call such a meeting they shall send to the secretary a draft of the resolution or resolutions proposed, supported by appropriate reason or explanation.
- 5.6 The secretary shall then issue a notice of meeting in accordance with Clause 5.2.
- 5.7 An extraordinary General Meeting may be held by means of electronic communications and postal services.

## **6. Council meetings**

- 6.1 A Council meeting may be held by means of electronic communications or through the postal services, and for each meeting reasonable efforts shall be made to communicate with each of the 6 councillors.
- 6.2 A resolution of the Council shall be deemed effective if at least 4 of the 6 councillors vote in favour. If as a result of the vote there is a tie, 3 – 3, then the President shall have the casting vote.

## **7. Election of officers and councillors**

- 7.1 All officers and councillors shall retire each year at the end of the annual general meeting, but may stand for re-election.

## **8. Learned papers and publications**

- 8.1 The members in General Meeting or the Council may commission a pedigree, learned paper or book to be prepared pursuant to the objects of the Society; or a member or members may produce such a pedigree, learned paper or book and offer it to the Council.
- 8.2 If the Council accepts the pedigree, learned paper or book in principal, the president shall appoint 2 members as examiners to check the accuracy of the material and advise on its suitability. The Council may then order that it: (a) be placed in the Society's archives for the benefit of members; or (b) be distributed to all members; or (c) be published, all subject to certain amendments to be agreed with the author or authors.
- 8.3 All such material shall, before being distributed to members or published, conform with Society's editorial policies from time to time determined by the Council.

## **9. Standards**

- 9.1 Each member shall at all times abide by the Standards of the National Genealogical Society of USA as to: (a) stating and recording their sources of information; (b) testing their theories, assumptions and statements for truth and only stating something as fact when it is proven; (c) limiting unproved theories or assumptions with words such as 'may', 'possible' or 'probable'; (d) making their work available to other members and welcoming critical comment; and (e) acknowledging all use of other researchers' work.

## **10. Financial matters**

- 10.1 All income of the Society shall be applied solely towards the objects of the Society.
- 10.2 No income may be transferred by way of salary, profit or any other means to any councillor, officer or member, except that expenses they incur necessarily and wholly in pursuing the objects of the Society, and with the prior approval of the Council, may be reimbursed by the Society.
- 10.3 The Council may open a bank account for the Society in more than one country and may appoint a deputy treasurer to manage such an account. The Council shall decide, for each such account, the terms of the bank mandate and shall appoint signatories for such account from amongst the members.
- 10.4 Financial accounts of the Society shall be drawn up yearly by the treasurer, signed by the treasurer and president and put to members for discussion in General Meeting.
- 10.5 The members in General Meeting may appoint an auditor or independent examiner to check and certify the accounts. Such auditor or independent examiner may not be a council or other officer of the Society.
- 10.6 The years of the Society shall be the 12-month periods ending 31 March each year.