

*Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the State Treasurer be, and he is hereby authorised and required to pay to Joseph King, of the county of Crawford, to Christian Yeger, of Lebanon county, to Samuel Robb, of Butler county, to Samuel Porter, of Centre county, Conrad Hite, of Somerset county, Peter Swartz, of Northumberland county, John Vasey, of Armstrong county and William Miller, of Luzerne county, or to their orders respectively, the sum of forty dollars immediately after the passage of this act, and an annuity of forty dollars to each, to commence on the first day of January, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, to be paid half yearly during life.

JOHN GILMORE, *Speaker*  
*of the House of Representatives.*

WILLIAM MARKS, Junior,  
*Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—March the seventh, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

JOSEPH HIESTER.

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## CHAPTER XLIX.

### *AN ACT*

To incorporate the "Widows' Society of Bethlehem."

WHEREAS it is represented to the legislature, that a number of persons members of the Episcopal church of the United Brethren, resident at Bethlehem and elsewhere, have formed a society for the humane and charitable purpose of ministering to the wants and alleviating the distress of their widows, and pray to be incorporated :

Therefore,

SECT. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That Joseph Rice, the present president of the Widows' society of Bethlehem, David Bischoff, Christian Borheck, Owen Rice, junior, John Fr. Rauch, Samuel Stipe, John Henry Schultz, John Snyder and David P. Schneller, the present directors thereof, together with all such persons as heretofore have been, or hereafter shall be duly admitted Members incorporated.

Style of the corporation.

members of the said society, agreeably to the constitution and fundamental articles thereof, be, and they hereby are incorporated into a society, by the name, style and title of "The Widows' Society of Bethlehem," and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and all the rights, powers and privileges incident by law to a corporation.

Their powers and privileges.

SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said corporation, and their successors by the name, style and title aforesaid, shall forever hereafter be able and capable in law to purchase, have, receive, take, hold and enjoy in fee simple or for a less estate or estates, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, alienation, enfeoffment, release, confirmation or devise, of any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, capable and able to make the same, and further, that the said corporation and their successors may take and receive any sum or sums of money, goods and chattels that have been, or hereafter shall be given or bequeathed to them by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, able and capable to make a bequest or gift thereof: *Provided,* That no misnomer of the said corporation and their successors, shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise or bequest to the said corporation, if the intent of the donor shall sufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, testament or other writing, whereby any estate or interest was intended to pass to the said corporation, nor shall any nonuser of the rights, liberties, privileges and authorities, or any of them hereby granted to the said corporation, create or cause a forfeiture thereof: *Provided nevertheless,* That the clear yearly value or income of the messuages, houses, land and tenements, rents, annuities and other hereditaments, and real estate of the said corporation, and the interest of the money lent by the same, shall not exceed the sum of six thousand dollars.

Provided:

And provided.

Common seal, &c.

SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said corporation and their successors, shall have full power and authority to make, have and use one common seal, with such device and inscription as they shall think proper, and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the following be, and they are hereby declared to be the constitution and fundamental articles of the said society, that is to say:

## ARTICLES.

Who shall be admitted as members.

ARTICLE I. The society shall consist of those persons being members of the Episcopal church of the United Brethren, who shall in the first instance subscribe this constitution, and of such as may hereafter be admitted as members thereof, according to the rules hereinafter prescribed.

**ARTICLE II.** Candidates for membership, shall be nominated either at the meeting of the society or of the board of directors hereinafter appointed, the said board of directors shall make due inquiry, as to the bodily health and fitness of the candidate, and if so many members of the society or of the board of directors, as shall be prescribed by the by-laws, vote in favor of admission the candidate shall be admitted, upon complying with the other regulations which shall be prescribed for admission by the by-laws. None but married men who are members of the United Brethren, or who not being such themselves live in matrimony with a person being a member of the said church of the United Brethren, shall be admitted as members of this society: but only such as are members of the said United Brethren, shall have a vote upon any question respecting the concerns of this society, or be eligible as officers of the same.

Members,  
how admitted.

**ARTICLE III.** Each member shall at the time of his admission, and every year during the time of his membership, pay to the treasurer for the use of this society, such sum or sums as shall be directed by the by-laws, and provision may be made by the by-laws, for the exemption of members reduced in their circumstances from the annual payments, during their inability.

Payments by  
members.

**ARTICLE IV.** The monies paid by the members at the time of their admission or re-admission, as well as all grants, gifts, donations and bequests to this society, shall from time to time be invested in productive funds, or loaned on interest as shall be directed by the by-laws, and the interest arising on the said capital stock, as well as the yearly contributions of the members, shall be distributed to the widows, relicts of deceased members of the society, in such a manner as shall be prescribed by the by-laws, but the said capital stock shall at all times remain entire and inviolate, as long as this society shall exist.

Monies of  
the society  
how to be  
invested.

**ARTICLE V.** Seven directors, a treasurer, a secretary, and three auditors shall be elected by ballot at the stated meeting in every year. Whenever any of the said offices shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by a new election at the next stated meeting after the vacancy shall have happened, or in case of urgency at a special meeting of the society to be called for the purpose. The said seven directors, together with the treasurer and secretary aforesaid, shall constitute a board to superintend the general concerns of the society, and at their first meeting after each election, shall choose one of the said seven directors as president. Provision shall be made in the by-laws for conducting the affairs of the society, if at any time the same shall be so much reduced in number, as to make it impracticable to constitute a board of directors as herein before directed.

Election of  
officers, and  
vacancies  
how supplied

Affairs of the  
society how  
to be con-  
ducted.

**ARTICLE VI.** The duties of all the officers shall be such

Duties of officers. as are implied in their titles, and shall be prescribed by the by laws.

Stated and special meetings. **ARTICLE VII.** The society shall hold its stated meeting on the first Thursday in the month of July in every year; adjourned and special meetings may be held, as shall be provided for by the by-laws.

A member may be expelled for unworthy conduct, &c.

**ARTICLE VIII.** A member may be expelled for unfaithful, immoral or unworthy conduct, by the votes of two-thirds of the voting members present, but eighteen of the voting members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the purpose of such trial, which shall not be held unless a written notice of the facts charged, shall have been given to the party accused, at least thirty days before the time of such trial. It is however expressly decreed that the right, interest and claim of the widow of any expelled member, to the benefits accruing from this society, shall in no instance be impaired or defeated by such expulsion, provided all the dues prescribed by the by-laws be regularly paid during the life of any such expelled member, but not otherwise.

The claim of a widow not to be impaired, &c.

How members may subscribe and receive certificates of membership.

**ARTICLE IX.** This constitution shall be subscribed by every member at the time of his admission, and the time of his subscribing with the name of the place of his residence and his age, shall be noted opposite to his name, and each member shall receive a certificate of his membership, certified by the president and attested by the secretary with the seal of the society affixed, and a printed copy of this constitution and the by-laws.

Proceedings in case of a dissolution of the society becomes necessary.

**ARTICLE X.** It is unalterably and irrevocably decreed, that if any unforeseen accident or other cause, should ever occasion a dissolution of this society, which however shall not be understood to have taken place, until all the members thereof, and all and every the widows entitled to the benefits thereof, shall have become extinct, the funds of this society without diminution or defalcation, shall be divided into two equal parts, one moiety whereof shall be transferred to, and become the property of such committee or committees, of the several congregations of the United Brethern in the United States, as shall have been appointed by the voting members of such congregations respectively, to take care of their widows, in trust and for the use of such widows, and the other moiety thereof, shall in like manner be transferred to such committee or committees in the aforesaid congregations, which shall have been appointed in the same manner as aforesaid, to take care of the education of their children, and to administer the funds established for that purpose, in trust and for the use of their schools, each of those moieties to be divided amongst the aforesaid committees, in proportion to the number of families resident in the aforesaid congregations respectively, at the time of such transfer, on condition nevertheless, that the said funds so as aforesaid transferred

to the said committees to be kept entire, and unimpaired by them and every and each of them, and the interest thereof only be applied to the uses and purposes aforesaid; and to the faithful execution of this article, according to its true intent and meaning, we the subscribers, and each of us, hold ourselves collectively and individually firmly bound.

SECT. 5. *And be it farther enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said society shall have power to make by-laws, as well to carry into effect the provisions herein contained, as for the effectual and convenient conduct of the affairs of the society: *Provided,* That the same be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States or of this commonwealth: *And provided,* That no by-law shall be enacted, altered or repealed, but at a stated meeting, nor unless fifteen of the voting members shall be present at such stated meeting: *And provided,* That the by-laws already made and now in force in the said society, shall continue and be in force until altered or repealed in manner herein before declared: *And provided also,* That no by laws shall be made to alter the nature, or impair the binding force of the foregoing articles of the constitution hereby enacted.

SECT. 6. *And be it farther enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the estates and funds of every description, of the existing association or associated society called "The Widows' Society of Bethlehem," be, and they are hereby declared to be vested in the society incorporated by this act in full property, and subject to the disposal thereof agreeably to the provision herein before contained: *Provided always,* That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to impair or diminish the responsibility of any individual or individuals, for the payment of any debts contracted for this society and by its order, for which he would have been otherwise liable.

JOHN GILMORE, *Speaker*  
*of the House of Representatives.*

WILLIAM MARKS, Junior,  
*Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—March the seventh, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

JOSEPH HIESTER.