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Constitution and By-laws of South Branch Grange No. 142 of Prospect, Maine

South Branch Grange

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CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

—OF—

SOUTH BRANCH GRANGE,

NO. 142,

—OF—

PROSPECT, MAINE.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

BANGOR:

D. M. HALL, (DIRIGO RURAL OFFICE

1887.

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CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

TITLE.

SEC. 1. This Grange shall be known as SOUTH BRANCH GRANGE, No. 142, of the Patrons of Husbandry of Prospect Maine.

ARTICLE II.

OFFICERS.

SEC. 1. The officers of this Grange shall consist of and rank as follows:—Master, Overseer, Lecturer, Steward, Assistant Steward, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, Gate Keeper, Ceres, Pomona, Flora and Lady Assistant steward, whose duty it shall be to see that the laws of the Order are carried out.

SEC. 2. The officers of this Grange shall be elected annually at or before the last regular meeting in December.

SEC. 3. The officers of this Grange shall be installed at the first regular meeting in January, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

SEC. 4. All elections shall be by ballot, and a majority vote shall elect.

SEC. 5. Vacancies by death or resignation shall be filled at the next regular meeting; officers so chosen to serve until the next annual election.

SEC. 6. If any officer of this Grange shall, without reasonable excuse, absent himself for three consecutive meetings, the Master or other presiding officer, may declare the office vacant, and the Grange shall at its next regular meeting thereafter elect some member to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE III.

MEETINGS.

SEC. 1. The regular meetings of this Grange shall be held on Saturday evening at 7½ o'clock P. M.

SEC. 2. Special meetings may be ordered by the Grange, as may be deemed necessary for the good of the Order. All business meetings are confined to the Fourth Degree.

ARTICLE IV.**COMMITTEES.**

SEC. 1. All Committees shall consist of three members, and shall be appointed by the Master unless otherwise ordered by the Grange.

SEC. 2. The Grange shall, at its first regular meeting in each year, or as soon thereafter as practicable, elect the following committees: on Finance, on Relief, and three Trustees.

SEC. 3. The Committee on Finance to consist of three members, whose duty it shall be to inspect and audit all bills and accounts.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Relief, which shall consist of the Master and three brothers and three sisters, to visit sick brothers and sisters and report such cases to the Grange, and render them such assistance as may seem necessary, under the direction and at the expense of the Grange.

SEC. 5. The Trustees shall be three in number, who shall have charge of the property of the Grange.

SEC. 6. An Investigating Committee of three brothers or sisters shall be appointed when applications for membership are presented.

ARTICLE V.**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.**

SEC. 1. Any person engaged in agricultural pursuits, of the age of 14 years, duly proposed, elected, and complying with the rules and regulations of the Order, is entitled to membership and the benefit of the degrees taken. Every application must be accompanied by the fee of membership. If rejected, the money will be refunded. When the application is made, it shall be announced in open Grange and referred to the Committee of In-

vestigation which shall take the application in charge and report at the next meeting of the Grange.

ARTICLE VI.

FEEES.

SEC. 1. The fees for conferring the four degrees in this Grange shall be three dollars for males and one dollar for females.

ARTICLE VII.

DUES.

SEC. 1. The regular quarterly dues to this Grange shall be 30 cents for each member, and shall be paid in advance.

ARTICLE VIII.

RESTRICTIONS.

SEC. 1. Religious or political questions will not be tolerated as subjects of discussion in the work of the Order, and no religious or political tests for membership shall be applied.

SEC. 2. Members of this Grange shall not enter into litigation with each other without first presenting the case to the consideration of the Grange and in case of difficulty of any character, each shall choose an arbitrator, who shall be a member in good standing in the Grange. If such arbitrators cannot agree in adjusting the difficulty, such arbitrators may choose a third, who shall be a member in good standing, to act with them, and a decision of a majority of them shall be final. Any member not abiding by said decision shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable to be tried before the Grange and expelled.

ARTICLE IX.

CHARGES.

SEC. 1. If at any time it shall appear that any member, by his or her general course of conduct, shall be working against the interest of the Order,

charges in writing may be preferred against the offending party, and they may be expelled or subjected to such penalty as a majority of the Grange may determine.

ARTICLE X.

WITHDRAWALS, &C.

SEC. 1. Any member desirous of withdrawing from this Grange, must first pay all indebtedness thereto.

SEC. 2. Any member desiring a traveling card must pay the regular dues for the time such card is to continue in force; also twenty-five cents for each card.

ARTICLE XI.

SUSPENSIONS, &C.

SEC. 1. No member of this Grange shall be suspended or expelled from membership, except for non payment of dues or non attendance, unless charges be preferred in writing, duly specifying his or her offence; said charges to be presented by a brother or sister in good standing, and the accused allowed full opportunity to make his or her defence.

SEC. 2. Any member failing to pay the quarterly dues, for six months, or neglecting to attend the regular meetings for six months, without a reasonable excuse, may be suspended or expelled by a vote of the Grange.

ARTICLE XII.

AMENDMENTS.

This constitution may be amended or revised at any regular meeting of the Grange by a vote of two-thirds of the members present provided that a notice thereof shall have been filed with the Secretary one month previous to the vote being taken and read at the opening of each meeting.



BY - LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

Nine members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE II.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SEC. 1. *Master.*—It shall be the duty of the Master to preside at all meetings of the Grange, to see that all officers and members of Committees perform their respective duties, as enjoined by the several charges and these By-Laws; to inspect and announce the result of all ballotings, and other votes of the Grange; to see that all the laws and usages of the Order are understood and obeyed; to sign all orders drawn on the Treasurer, with the consent and approbation of the Grange, and perform such other duties as may be required by the Ritual or the Grange.

SEC. 2. *Overseer.*—It shall be the duty of the Overseer to assist the Master in preserving order, and decorum in the Grange, to preside in the absence of the Master, and perform all other duties devolving upon that office.

SEC. 3. *Lecturer.*—It shall be the duty of the

information to read or cause to be read, when no regular business is before the meeting; and see particularly that all addresses, lectures, and other information provided for the good of the Order, and to members of the Grange, is presented to them.

SEC. 4. *Steward*.—It shall be the duty of the Steward to have charge of the inner gate, to see that the field is properly arranged for labor, the working tools in their places, to conduct the ballot and to provide for the introduction and accommodation of candidates.

SEC. 5. *Assistant Steward*.—It shall be the duty of the Assistant Steward to have charge of the male candidates during initiation, and to see that the regalia are properly distributed and cared for; also to give all due assistance to the Steward.

SEC. 6. *Treasurer*.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys from the hands of the Secretary, giving receipts for the same; to keep accurate account of said moneys, and pay them out by the order of the Master, with the consent of the Grange; to make a quarterly report; to render his books and a statement of his account with the Grange, to the Trustees, when called upon so to do, and to deliver to his successor all moneys, books, vouchers, etc., having reference to the finance of the Grange.

SEC. 7. *Secretary*.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record accurately all the proceedings of the Grange; to make out all necessary returns to the State and National Granges; to keep accounts of members with the Grange; to receive and pay over to the Treasurer all moneys, taking his receipt for the same, to draw and countersign all orders voted by the Grange, and to perform such other duties as may devolve upon that office.

He shall keep a cash book, in which he shall keep an account of all money received, and enter each item at the time he receives it.

It shall also be the duty of the Secretary to notify all neighboring Granges of the rejection of any applicant to the Grange.

SEC. 8. *Gate-keeper.*—It shall be the duty of the Gate-keeper to see that the gates are properly guarded, and to perform such other duties as may be required.

SEC. 9. *Ceres, Pomona and Flora.*—It shall be the duty of Ceres, Pomona, and Flora, to give their respective charges at initiations and conferring degrees as required by the Ritual, and to constitute a committee of arrangements over the ladies' department of the Grange; to superintend their department at festivals, fairs and picnics, with power to appoint sub-committees, and other assistants as occasion may require.

SEC. 10. *Lady Assistant Steward*—It shall be the duty of the Lady Assistant Steward, to have charge of lady candidates during initiations and conferring degrees and perform her duty as required by the Ritual, also to assist the Assistant Steward in distributing and caring for the regalia.

SEC. 11. *Trustees*—The Trustees shall report annually to the Grange, at the last regular meeting in December.

ARTICLE III.

AMENDMENTS.

SEC. 1. Proposit ions for amending or repealing these By-Laws, or any part of them, shall be presented in writing at a regular meeting, and shall lay over until the next regular meeting. It shall require a vote of two thirds of the members present to amend or repeal said By-Laws or any part thereof.

