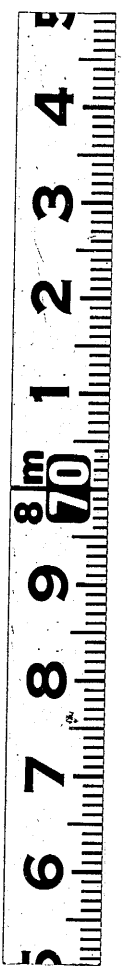


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WILTSHIRE.

RULES and ARTICLES

TO BE OBSERVED AND KEPT BY

THE MEMBERS

OF

A FRIENDLY SOCIETY OR CLUB,

CALLED THE

Woollen-Cloth WEAVERS' Society,

INSTITUTED FOR THE

PURPOSES HEREINAFTER MENTIONED,

AND BEGUN

The 24th, day of September, 1802.

TROWBRIDGE:

Printed by Edward Sweet,

1802.

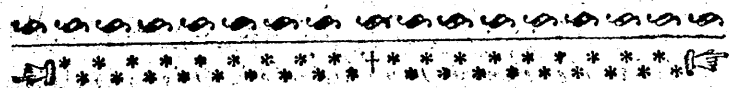
WHEREAS, by a certain Act of Parliament, made and passed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it is enacted, that
 "It shall not be lawful for any person to set up, occupy, use,
 "or exercise, any craft, mystery, or occupation, now used
 "or occupied within the Realm of England and Wales, ex-
 "cept he shall have been an Apprentice as in the said Act
 "is mentioned, or else having served as an Apprentice, will
 "become a Journeyman, or hired by the year, on pain of
 "Forty Shillings a month, half to the King, and half to
 "him that shall sue in the Sessions, or other Court of Re-
 "cord; or if it is a Town Corporate, then to be disposed of,
 "as other fines, by the Charter."

And whereas the trade of a Woollen Cloth Weaver being particularly mentioned in the said Act to be a Trade then existing, and therefore ought only to be exercised and followed by those persons who have regularly served an Apprenticeship to the said trade; but whereas divers persons have lately set up, and now use, exercise, and follow the trade, not having been an Apprentice to the same, or having been bred up thereto, to the great injury of the regular and legal Weavers; and which evil, if not suppressed, may be attended with ruin to those Weavers and their families: and whereas the expence of prosecuting those persons who so illegally exercise and follow the same trade, being too heavy for one individual to support, therefore, in order to raise a fund for the protection of the trade, and to prevent the same from being illegally followed, and for the relief and support of certain Members of this Society, who may become indigent and poor, the Members of this Society do unanimously agree, that the following Rules and Articles shall be observed and kept:—

"I Agree to become President of, and Solicitor unto
 "the Wiltshire Society of Woollen Cloth Weavers,
 "to be instituted similar to the Gloucester Plan, and to
 "attend their Meetings at Trowbridge or Bradford, as
 "often as necessary and convenient,

J. FRAMPTON."

Nov. 10th, 1802.



RULES, &c.

ARTICLE I.

FIRST, this Society shall consist of a *President, Stewards, and Members*, to be chosen and elected in manner hereinafter mentioned.—Second, any person throughout the Kingdom of Great-Britain, who shall have been regularly Apprenticed to the Trade of a *Woollen-Cloth Weaver*, shall be eligible as a Member of this Society, and no other person.—A Meeting of the Members in each parish shall be holden on the first Monday in every month throughout the year, between the hours of *Six* and *Eight* o'clock in the evening, at some one public-house in the said parish; and the first of such Meetings shall take place on the first Monday in the month of October, 1802; and every person on first becoming a Member, shall pay *One Shilling*, and at each and every other Meeting, *Sixpence*; and no Member who shall attend the Monthly Meetings, shall be allowed to spend more than *Threepence*, and which shall be so spent in malt liquor only.

II. THAT at the first Monthly Meeting to be holden in each parish, there shall be chosen by a majority of the Members present, two proper and sufficient Members, who shall act as Stewards for the year ensuing, and receive the monthly payments.

III. THAT there shall be four Quarterly Meetings of the Stewards of the several Parish Meetings in the year; and for the greater convenience of the respective parishes, the Stewards for the parishes or hamlets of *Broughton, Holt, Winsley, Turley, Westwood, Ancliff, Stoke, Chippenham, Laycock* and the parishes adjoining shall meet at the *King's Head*, in *Bradford*; and for the parishes of *Devizes, Melksham, Hilperton, Staverton, North-Bradley, Westbury, Dilton's Marsh, Warminster, Road, and Trowbridge*, shall meet at the *Scribbling-Horse*, in the Town of *Trowbridge*, aforesaid; and such Quarterly Meetings shall be holden in the evening, between the hours of *Six* and *Eight* on the following days, viz. *Michaelmas-Day, St. Thomas's-Day, Lady-Day, and Midsummer-Day*; and at which Quarterly Meetings the Stewards shall bring in their accounts, as well as all monies they have received, the latter of which shall be deposited in the respective Boxes, and be kept at each house as aftermentioned.

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IV. THAT *J. Frampton*, of *Frome*. Attorney at Law, shall be, and he is hereby appointed President and Solicitor of this Society, and no other person shall be appointed to either of those offices, unless by a majority of Members of the Society at large.

V. THAT the Stewards of each parish shall form a Committee, who shall regulate all the proceedings, and transact all the business of the Society.

VI. THAT every Member shall pay his contribution at the Monthly Meeting, to the Stewards of his respective parish, who shall see the book cleared off, and shall also receive all fines and forfeitures; and if any Member shall refuse or neglect to pay his contribution money, fines, or forfeitures, (notice being given him or them for that purpose by the Stewards of his parish or hamlet, within the space of six days next after such notice) he or they shall be peremptorily excluded.

VII. THAT if any Member, being appointed Steward, shall refuse to take upon him the said office, or shall neglect to attend any Meeting, when so appointed, or misbehave himself in the said office, he shall forfeit the sum of 5s. (unless he can

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show any reasonable cause for such his non-attendance, to be approved of by the majority of the Members of each respective parish,) and if he refuses to pay such forfeit, he shall be excluded from the Society.

VIII. THAT the respective Stewards at the first Quarterly Meeting, shall procure two sufficient Boxes, with two locks and three keys to each, one of the said boxes to be kept at the said *King's Head*, in *Bradford*, and the other of the said boxes at the *Scribbling-horse*, in *Trowbridge*, and two of the Stewards of each district, to be appointed by a majority of the Stewards of each respective district for the time being, shall keep each of them one of the keys of the Club-Box, and the Landlord of the house where the Club is kept the third; and the Stewards shall take care that no more of the cash be laid out than is allowed by these articles, on any pretence whatever; and if they do permit or suffer any such thing, they shall pay the amount again to the Stock, or be excluded from the Society.

IX. THE Stewards in each parish shall keep or cause to be kept, a just account of all cash received and disbursed, which account may be examined by any Member at any Meeting; and for default therein, such Steward shall forfeit 2s. 6d.

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X. THAT when the fund shall amount to 200l. and there not being any suit with respect to the Society then pending, any number of Stewards, not exceeding four, shall be chosen by a majority of Stewards of this Society, in whose names, together with the name of the said *J. Frampton*, as President, in trust for the Society, such sum shall be put to interest upon good security, to be approved by the said four Stewards and President, or the majority of them; and the interest thereof shall be duly paid to the funds of the said Society as often as the same become due; and the Stewards so to be appointed, and the said *J. Frampton*, shall, if required by a majority of the other Stewards, give a sufficient security for the faithful discharge of the said office or trust so reposed in them.

XI. THE landlords of the respective houses or inns where the Quarterly Meetings shall be held, shall in like manner give security, to the satisfaction of the Stewards, for the cash and other articles deposited in the respective boxes belonging to this Society, as often as required; and shall let the Stewards keeping the keys have recourse to the same, in the presence of the landlord, at all seasonable times and upon all needful occasions; and he shall also clear the club-room of all other com-

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pany, except the Stewards or others concerned in this Society, every meeting-night by six o'clock, or forfeit 2s. 6d. for each neglect.

XII. THAT whenever any Member shall discover any person using or exercising the trade of a Woollen-Cloth Weaver illegally, he shall make it known to the Stewards of his parish, and who shall report the same at the next Quarterly Meeting, or by letter to the Solicitor, who shall previously to the commencement of any suit, attend when required, on receiving a reasonable notice, whether at a Quarterly Meeting or otherwise, to consult and advise on the most proper proceedings to be adopted by this Society in consequence thereof; and the Solicitor shall receive his instructions from the Stewards or Members so attending for the purpose aforesaid, and that the bill or bills of costs for the instituting, carrying on, defending any suit or suits respecting the said Society, shall be brought forward at some Quarterly Meeting, and, if approved of, paid out of the funds of the Society by the said Stewards; and that all reasonable expences of the Stewards shall also be paid out of the said fund, in like manner, upon the same being allowed by the President.

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XIII. THAT every Member shall have a Printed copy of these Articles, on paying 6*d.* for the same on delivery.

XIV. THAT no Member shall introduce a stranger without the approbation of the Stewards of each parish ; and any person being introduced with such leave, shall pay 6*d.* to the fund of this Society.

XV. AND for the maintenance and protection of peace and decent behaviour in the respective Club-Rooms during Club-Hours, if any Member of this Society shall be disguised in liquor, or guilty of swearing, cursing, or using profane, provoking, or obscene discourse, or laying wagers, or shall propose in any respect riotous or disorderly behaviour, or will not be silent, and sit down in his place, on being ordered so to do by the Stewards, he shall pay a fine of 2*s.* 6*d.* for every such offence ; and if he be guilty of any such offence four times or more, or will not pay his fines, he or they shall be totally excluded.

XVI. THAT whenever any Member of this Society shall become incapable of labour, through old age or any other infirmity, or should be wanting relief in any other respect, or if any Member should

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die, leaving a distressed family, the Steward or Stewards of his respective parish shall make his or their report of such circumstance at the next Quarterly Meeting, and the case shall there be considered, and such relief shall be granted as the major part of the Stewards at such Meeting shall deem necessary, so as not to reduce the fund under 200*l.* neither shall such relief be granted in any case until the funds do exceed the sum of 200*l.*

LASTLY,

IF any doubt or dispute shall arise concerning any matter or thing relating to this Society, not expressly declared in these Articles, and which cannot be decided by them, it shall be referred for a Committee of the Stewards, not being fewer than seven ; and also of the said President, whose determination shall be final ; and if either of the Stewards shall refuse to be one of the Committee, when nominated or appointed, he shall forfeit 1*s.* to the fund.

(FINIS.)

 SWEET, Printer.

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