

is hereby confirmed, and a certificate thereof, under the hands and seals of the surviving jurors, shall be returned to the clerk of Baltimore county court, and shall be as valid and effectual as if the same had been returned in the manner required by the said original act.

C H A P.
XXXVIII

C H A P. XXXIX.

An ACT to incorporate the Baltimore equitable society for insuring houses from loss by fire. Lib. JG. No. 2. fol. 195.

Passed 26th of
Dec. 1794.

WHEREAS the Baltimore equitable society for insuring houses from loss by fire, are desirous of adopting the following deed of settlement, and articles of association; that is to say, To all to whom these presents shall come, we whose names are hereunto subscribed, and seals affixed, do severally send, greeting. Whereas we have taken into consideration the danger to which houses are exposed by fire, and the calamitous consequences resulting therefrom; now know ye, that we the subscribers hereunto, have unanimously agreed to remedy, so far as in our power lies, those evils, by each indemnifying the other against such losses, and participating therein; and by these presents we do covenant, promise and agree, for ourselves, severally and respectively, and for our several and respective executors, administrators and assigns, to form, erect and establish, an office, society or company, by the name or style of The Baltimore Equitable Society for insuring houses from loss by fire; and to be and continue contributors unto, and equal sharers in, the losses, as well as the gains and advantages, arising, accruing and happening, in, to and by the same, upon the terms, and according to the articles and agreements, and subject to the provisos and conditions, herein after declared and expressed. **ARTICLE 1.** That all and every person or persons who have subscribed to these presents, by him, her or themselves, or by his, her or their attorney or agent, and all and every person or persons who shall hereafter in like manner subscribe hereunto, or shall at any time or times hereafter insure in or with this society, they, and also their respective executors, administrators and assigns, being allowed to be and continue as persons insuring in the same as herein after is mentioned and provided, shall be taken and deemed as members thereof, to all intents and purposes, and be concluded by the covenants and agreements herein contained, and shall have and bear his, her and their proportionable part and share of all the profits and advantages, as well as of all the losses and charges, arising in, from and by the same, for and during the terms in his, her or their respective policies. **ART. 2.** That the direction and management of this society, and all the affairs thereof, from time to time, shall be intrusted with, and committed to, twelve of the members thereof, who shall be called The Directors of The Baltimore Equitable Society for insuring houses from loss by fire, and the said directors shall have full power and authority to act and proceed therein as herein after is more particularly provided and expressed; and it is hereby provided and declared, that no director or directors now chosen and appointed, or hereafter to be chosen and appointed by virtue and in pursuance of these presents, shall have, take, receive or be allowed, in any manner whatsoever, any stipend, salary, gratuity, benefit, profit or advantage whatsoever, for being a director, or for his services as such, other than in common with the members of the society, and in proportion to his or their respective insurances, as herein after mentioned. **ART. 3.** That the directors of this society shall always stand indemnified and saved harmless by this society for giving out and signing policies, and for all their other lawful acts, deeds and transactions, done, performed and executed, in pursuance of, and by virtue of, these presents; and the stock, securities and effects, of the society, shall in the first place be appropriated and applied, and the same is and are hereby declared to be appropriated, to exonerate, discharge, indemnify and save harmless, them, and every of them, from all costs, charges, damages, losses and expences, that shall or may happen, be incurred or arise, or which they or any of them, shall reasonably expend or sustain, in, for or concerning the trusts aforesaid, or any of them, or the execution or performance thereof, nor shall any of the said directors be answerable for the defaults, neglects or wrongs, of the others, but responsible only each for his own conduct. **ART. 4.** That the limits of insurance shall extend five miles round Baltimore, and as much further as shall from time to time be agreed on at the general meetings of the society; provided, that the proprietor or proprietors of all houses to be insured, that are two miles, or any greater distance, from the place where the office shall be kept, shall defray the charge of the surveyor's journey to survey the premises, and shall also defray the charge of the director's journey to estimate the loss or damage, when it shall happen, and the directors are hereby empowered to deduct the charges out of the money due on such loss. **ART. 5.** That the insurance to be made by this society shall be for seven years in each policy. **ART. 6.** That there shall be insured in one policy but one house and kitchen, except where a stable or coach-house, or both, stand contiguous on the same lot of ground with the dwelling-house, and in such cases each building shall be distinctly valued. **ART. 7.** That no one house shall be insured in this society for more than fifteen hundred pounds, or such other sum as by the general meetings of the society shall be settled and appointed; provided

Preamble.