

## Articles and By-Laws of the Aztec Club

The Preamble of the original Constitution of the Aztec Club states:

Extract from the Regulations of the United States Army:

“It is very desirable that officers of the same army should form themselves into messes, and live together. Such associations promote the harmony and comfort of their members, and when judiciously managed, constitute the most respectable and economical manner in which officers can live within their pay. They afford the opportunity of hospitable entertainment to friends, and other persons, to whom the civilities and courtesies of life should be extended.

Deportment at a Club will be marked with all that propriety which characterizes the society of gentlemen. The rules of good breeding will be punctiliously observed, and the infringement of them at the Club will be regarded as an offense calling for the interposition of the authority of the officers, or any members of the Club, to check the same in their irregularity.”

We, the undersigned, believing that the clubs recommended in the foregoing extracts are conducive to the interests of the Army, as a body, and to the comfort of the undersigned members, do agree to constitute ourselves as an association, to be styled and known as “The Aztec Club”, and do adopt the following as the fundamental rules of its constitution. . .

The original Constitution allowed for a President, two Vice Presidents, a three-member Committee of Arrangement, a Treasurer and Secretary, all of whom were members of the Club. The Committee of Arrangement was responsible to inspect and audit all accounts of the Club; to regulate and govern its interior police and arrangements of the building; to recommend alterations and improvements deemed necessary; and, in cooperation with the Club’s officers, to adopt and enforce a system of

rules "calculated to promote the grand objects of our association — 'harmony, economy and comfort'". The Club, located in the former palace of Senór Boca Negra, included a parlor, reading room, dining room, refreshment room and card rooms.

A committee, composed of the officers and Committee of Arrangement and twelve men appointed by the President, was created to consider and decide upon the qualifications of officers proposed as new members. To be proposed for membership, a note was addressed to the Secretary signed by two members of the Club. The note was then circulated to the admissions committee, each of whom signified his approval or disapproval within forty-eight hours. Three dissenting votes rejected an applicant and it took eighteen affirmative votes to approve him. The Secretary then addressed a note to the two officers proposing, with a duplicate to the candidate, informing them of the committee's decision. Those admitted were charged an initiation fee of \$20.

The Aztec Club held regular meetings in its parlor, on the evening of the first Friday of each month. Monthly dues of \$1 were charged for all members residing in the Federal District to defray the expenses of furniture and contingencies, due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Any member quartered in Mexico City who failed to be present at a meeting, absent sickness or duty, was required to forfeit \$2. A failure to pay this fine before the next regular meeting was considered as the virtual withdrawal of the member from the Club.

The Constitution was first printed by the office of the American Star in compliance with a resolution adopted March 3, 1848. A copy once belonging to George B. McClellan bearing his own annotations, now reposing in the Rare Book Collection of the Library of Congress, is reproduced in Appendix A. The original officers listed therein:

President	Bvt. Brig. Gen. P. F. Smith
Vice Presidents	Capt. J. B. Grayson Bvt. Lt. Col. C. F. Smith
Committee of Arrangement	Capt. L. S. Craig Lieut. Z. B. Tower Lieut. Alfred Gibbs
Treasurer	Lieut. P. V. Hagner
Secretary	C. P. Stone

The Aztec Club of 1847 was incorporated in the District of Columbia on December 29, 1892. Following passage of legislation in 1901 and 1902 permitting perpetual incorporation, in 1904 the Aztec Club filed the following Certificate of Re-Incorporation.

**CERTIFICATE OF REINCORPORATION  
of the  
"Aztec Club of 1847"**

Whereas, heretofore, in the year 1847, certain officers of the Army of the United States, then occupying the City of Mexico, formed and founded an organization known as the "Aztec Club," which name was subsequently changed to "Aztec Club of 1847", and

Whereas, said Club has ever since maintained it's organization as a social club for the purpose of mutual improvement and social enjoyment; and,

Whereas, it has constantly added to its members by the admission to membership of officers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, who were actively engaged in the War with Mexico, and the nearest blood relatives of such officers; and,

Whereas, certain members of said Club and their associates did duly incorporate said society or club on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D., Eighteen hundred and ninety-two (1892) by a certificate of Incorporation duly executed, acknowledged, filed and recorded January 3, 1893, in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in the District of Columbia, as will appear by the original record of said certificate, in "Acts of Incorporation" Book number six (6) commencing at page 143,

And, Whereas, said body corporate was formed pursuant to the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia, by which laws and the said certificate the term of corporate existence of the said society or club was limited to twenty (20) years.

Now, therefore, in order that said society shall be continued in perpetuity, and to perpetuate it's corporate existence under existing laws; pursuant to and in conformity with the provision of Sub-chapter III of Chapter XVIII of the Act of Congress entitled:- "An act to establish a code of law for the District of Columbia," approved March 3, 1901, as amended by the acts of Congress approved January 31 and June 30, 1902: the said "Aztec Club of 1847", has decided by proceedings had in conformity with it's constitution and by-laws, to avail itself of the provisions of the said Acts of Congress, and to that end has authorized the execution and recording of this certificate of reincorporation in the District of Columbia.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, members of said "Aztec Club of 1847", all being persons above the age of twenty-one years and citizens of the United States, a majority of whom are citizens of the said District of Columbia, do hereby associate ourselves together as a body corporate for the purpose of mutual improvement and social enjoyment and do hereby continue our existing corporate powers and reincorporate said "Aztec Club of 1847" and certify:

First.

The name or title by which the said society shall continue to be known in law is "Aztec Club of 1847".

Second

The term for which the said society is organized shall be perpetual.

Third.

The particular business and objects of said society are the establishment in perpetuity of a club for mutual improvement and social intercourse, and also to cherish the memories and keep alive the traditions that cluster about the names of those officers who took part in the Mexican War of 1846, '47, and '48..

Fourth.

The number of managers of the said society for the first year of it's existence as hereby reincorporated shall be seven.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this Eighth day of December, A.D., One thousand, nine hundred and four (1904).

Certificate of Incorporation of } 2:45 pm  
"The Aztec Club of 1847" } Recorded January 3, 1893  
District of Columbia }  
City of Washington } ss.

Whereas, heretofore, namely in the year 1847, Certain Officers of the Army of the United States then occupying the City of Mexico formed themselves into an organization known as the "Aztec Club", which name was subsequently changed to the "Aztec Club of 1847", and whereas said Club has ever since maintained its organization as a social club for the purpose of mutual improvement and social enjoyment, and whereas, it has constantly added to its numbers by the admission to membership of Officers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps who were actively engaged in the War with Mexico, or the nearest blood relatives of such officers, and whereas, we, the undersigned, Peter V. Hagner, Stewart Van Vliet, DeLancey Floyd-Jones, John D. Wilkins, Horatio G. Gibson, Thornton A. Jenkins, James H. Watmough, Theodoris B. M. Mason, Richard G. Davenport, Randall Hagner, C. Augur, and our associates being persons of full age, all of whom are citizens of the United States, and a majority of whom are citizens of the District of Columbia, pursuant to and in conformity with sections 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551 and 552 of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia, do hereby show our desire to incorporate said Society or Club; Now, therefore, we do certify:

First. That the name by which our Society shall be Known in Law, shall be the "Aztec Club of 1847".

Second. That the terms for which our Society is organized is twenty years.

Third. That the particular business and objects of said Society are the establishment of a Club for mutual improvement and social intercourse and to cherish the memories and keep alive the traditions that cluster about the names of those Officers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps who took part in the Mexican War of 1846, '47 and '48.

Fourth. That the management of said Society for the first year of its incorporation, to wit beginning with the date of these presents, shall be vested in Fitz John Porter, Stewart Van Vliet, Innis Newton Palmer, De Lancey Floyd-Jones, Mark Bunkle Hatch, Lawrence Pike Graham, John Darrage Wilkins, Thornton A. Jenkins, Daniel Marsh Frost, Andrew Jackson Lindsey, James B. Fry and John M. Harney.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto, and to the duplicate hereof, set our hands and affixed our seals, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1892.

Witness, Rutledge Willson

P.V.Hagner (Seal)  
Bt. Brig. Gen. U.S.A.

Theo. B. M. Mason, (Seal)  
Lieutenant, United States Navy

Stewart Van Vliet (Seal)  
Bvt. Maj. Gen. U.S. Army

Mark B. Hatch (Seal)  
Richard Weightman (Seal)

De Lancey Floyd-Jones (Seal)  
Colonel U.S.Army (Retired)

Richard G. Davenport, (Seal)  
Lieutenant U. S. Navy

John D. Wilkins, (Seal)  
Colonel U. S. A. Ret.

H. G. Gibson, (Seal)  
Col. U. S. A. Ret.

Thornton A. Jenkins, (Seal)  
Rear Admiral United States Navy

Randall Hagner (Seal)  
C.C Augur (Seal)

Jas. H. Watmough (Seal)  
Late Pay Master Gen. U.S.N.

District of Columbia } ss.

I, Rutledge Willson, a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia aforesaid, do hereby certify, that P. V. Hagner, Stewart Van Vliet, De Lancey Floyd-Jones, John D. Wilkins, Thornton A. Jenkins, James H. Watmough, Theo. B. M. Mason, Mark B. Hatch, Richard Weightman, Richard G. Davenport, H. G. Gibson, Randall Hagner and Christopher C. Augur, Parties to a certain Certificate of Incorporation bearing date on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, A. D. 1892, and hereunto personally appeared before me, in the District aforesaid, the said P. V. Hagner, Stewart Van Vliet, De Lancey Floyd-Jones, John D. Wilkins, Thornton A. Jenkins, James H. Watmough, Theo. B. M. Mason, Mark B. Hatch, Richard Weightman, Richard G. Davenport, H. G. Gibson, Randall Hagner and Christopher C. Augur being personally well known to me to be the persons described in the foregoing Certificate, and severally acknowledged the same to be their act and deed.

Given under my hand and Notarial Seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January A. D. 1893.

Notarial  
Seal

Rutledge Willson,  
Notary Public

**CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION**

Certificate of Incorporation of } Recorded January 3, 1893  
"The Aztec Club of 1847" } 2:45 pm  
District of Columbia }  
City of Washington } ss.

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Third. That the particular business and objects of said Society are the establishment of a Club for mutual improvement and social intercourse and to cherish the memories and keep alive the traditions that cluster about the names of those Officers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps who took part in the Mexican War of 1846, '47 and '48.

Fourth. That the management of said Society for the first year of its incorporation, to wit beginning with the date of these presents, shall be vested in Fitz John Porter, Stewart Van Vliet, Innis Newton Palmer, De Lancey Floyd-Jones, Mark Bunkle Hatch, Lawrence Pike Graham, John Darrage Wilkins, Thornton A. Jenkins, Daniel Marsh Frost, Andrew Jackson Lindsey, James B. Fry and John M. Haney.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto, and to the duplicate hereof, set our hands and affixed our seals, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1892.

Witness, Rutledge Willson.

P.V.Hagner Bt. Brig. Gen. U.S.A.	(Seal)	Theo. B. M. Mason, Lieutenant, United states Navy	(Seal)
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Stewart Van Vliet Bvt. Maj. Gen. U.S. Army	(Seal)	Mark B. Hatch	(Seal)
		Richard Weightman	(Seal)

De Lancey Floyd-Jones Colonel U.S. Army (Retired)	(Seal)	Richard G. Davenport, Lieutenant U. S. Navy	(Seal)
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John D. Wilkins, Colonel U. S. A. Ret.	(Seal)	H. G. Gibson, Col. U. S. A. Ret.	(Seal)
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Thornton A. Jenkins, Rear Admiral United States Navy	(Seal)	Randall Hagner	(Seal)
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Christopher C. Augur Late Pay Master Gen. U.S.N.	(Seal)	Jas. H. Watmough	(Seal)
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District of Columbia} ss.

I, Rutledge Willson, a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia aforesaid, do hereby certify, that P. V. Hagner, Stewart Van Vliet, De Lancey Floyd-Jones, John D. Wilkins, Thornton A. Jenkins, James H. Watmough, Theo. B. M. Mason, Mark B. Hatch, Richard Weightman, Richard G. Davenport, H. G. Gibson, Randall Hagner and Christopher C. Augur, Parties to a certain Certificate of Incorporation bearing date on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, A. D. 1892, and hereunto personally appeared before me, in the District aforesaid, the said P. V. Hagner, Stewart Van Vliet, De Lancey Floyd-Jones, John D. Wilkins, Thornton A. Jenkins, James H. Watmough, Theo. B. M. Mason, Mark B. Hatch, Richard Weightman, Richard G. Davenport, H. G. Gibson, Randall Hagner and Christopher C. Augur being personally well known to me to be the persons described in the foregoing Certificate, and severally acknowledged the same to be their act and deed.

Given under my hand and Notarial Seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January A. D. 1893.

Notarial  
Seal

Rutledge Willson,  
Notary Public

**CONSTITUTION**  
**of the**  
**AZTEC CLUB OF 1847**  
**Military Society of the Mexican War**  
**As Revised To October, 2000**

ARTICLE I - Object

This Association, formed and founded in the City of Mexico, in the year 1847, by officers of the United States Army, shall be constituted in perpetuity as "The Aztec Club of 1847" with a view to cherishing the memories and keeping alive the traditions that cluster about the names of those officers who took part in the Mexican War of 1846, '47 and '48, and also to aiding other patriotic societies in efforts to inculcate and stimulate patriotism and to bring to all the people a knowledge of the benefits guaranteed to them by the Constitution of these United States.

ARTICLE II - Membership

1. Any male person above the age of eighteen years shall be eligible to membership in this club who is descended lineally or collaterally from an officer of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, Regular or Volunteer, in some part of Mexico, or in Mexican waters, during the war with that country in 1846, 1847 and 1848.

2. Every application for membership shall be made in writing subscribed by the applicant and approved by two members over their signatures. Applications shall contain, or be accompanied by, proof of eligibility, and such applications and proof shall be submitted to the Executive Committee, who shall have full power to determine the qualifications of the applicant.

3. Any male person below the age of eighteen years shall be eligible to junior membership in this club who is descended lineally or collaterally from an officer of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, Regular or Volunteer, in some part of Mexico, or in Mexican waters, during the war with that country in 1846, 1847 and 1848. Junior membership shall be called "sub-altern" membership, in recognition of this unique rank of officer that existed during the Mexican War denoting the most junior of officers. At maturity (age 18) the sub-altern member becomes a full member of the Club.

ARTICLE III - Fees and Funds

1. The initiation fee for membership shall be established from time to time at the Annual Meeting and such fee shall be submitted with the application for membership.

2. All monies collected by the Treasurer as initiation fees, and all monies donated or bequeathed to the Club, the application of which is not specifically set forth, or appropriated by the Executive Committee, shall be applied to a Trust Fund, which Trust Fund shall be invested in securities approved by the Executive Committee. Only accumulated income and current revenue from such investments shall be used to meet the necessary running expenses of the Club.

#### ARTICLE IV - Insignia of Membership

1. The insignia of the Club shall be of the form and pattern adopted in 1869, and which is now in use and shall be pendant from a ribbon by a gold ring and flat link.

2. The ribbon shall be watered silk, ribbed, one and five sixteenths inches in width and one and one-half inches in displayed length, of Mexican green, or that shade of green used in the Mexican flag, one-half inch wide bordered with a piping of white three thirty-seconds inches wide, and edged with dark blue five-sixteenths inches wide.

3. The insignia shall be struck from the dies belonging to the Club, and members shall be entitled to purchase and wear it.

4. The insignia shall be worn conspicuously on the left breast on all occasions when the Club assembles as an organization for any stated purpose or celebration, and it may be worn on any occasion of ceremony. The officers, while in office and after retirement therefrom, may wear it suspended around the neck.

The sitting President is authorized to wear a star on the left lower breast of the approved gold insignia of the Club imposed upon a silver star. This is only to be worn on formal wear while in office. Likewise, Past Presidents are authorized to wear a Past President's star identical to the President's but of a smaller size. This is only to be worn on formal wear.

5. The dies for the insignia and the plate for the diploma shall be in the custody of the firm or firms selected by the Executive Committee, and shall be used only for supplying said articles to members entitled to them under the provisions of this Constitution, such right being duly certified by the Secretary.

6. Members may wear the tri-colored, gold enameled button of recognition authorized by the Club; the ribbon of the Club on a narrow bar; or a button of ribbon similar in size and form to that of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the colors of the ribbon to be green, white and blue.

#### ARTICLE V - Officers

1. The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Vice Treasurer, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and a Registrar.

2. The Secretary and the Treasurer may appoint their assistants from Members of the Club. The other officers shall be elected by ballot at each annual meeting of the Club.

3. In case of death, disability, or the resignation of the President, the Treasurer or the Secretary, the Vice President, Vice Treasurer or Assistant Secretary shall immediately succeed to the respective chief office until such office is filled by an election.

4. In the event of the death, disability or resignation of both an officer of the Club and his vice or assistant, the Executive Committee may appoint a Member of the Club to perform the duties of the office until the next Annual Meeting.

#### ARTICLE VI - Duties of the Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds of the Club and shall keep, invest and disburse them under the direction of the Club, or of the Executive Committee, and shall report yearly the Club's financial condition.

#### ARTICLE VII - Duties of the Secretary

1. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Executive Committee and of the Club; conduct its correspondence; notify members at least one month in advance of its regular meetings; keep and affix its Seal; preserve its archives; perform such other duties, appropriate to the office of Secretary, as the Executive Committee may direct.

#### ARTICLE VIII - Executive Committee

1. There shall be an Executive Committee to act for the Club in the intervals between its meetings. This Committee shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Registrar and three other Members who shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the President, as well as all living Past Presidents who shall each have a vote on the Executive Committee ex officio as a past President.

2. Three of the Executive Committee, designated by the President, shall constitute a sub-committee to act on all applications for membership, and shall be known as the Committee on Admissions.

3. The President, for his term, may also appoint a Chaplain, and a Captain of the Colour Guard. All Members under the age of thirty shall be members of the Colour Guard.

#### ARTICLE IX - Quorum

1. Business may be transacted by a majority vote of those present at any duly called meeting of the Club.

#### ARTICLE X - Suspension of Members

1. The President of the Club shall take notice of any irregularities that may disturb the harmony of its social and business meetings. Should his admonitions be unheeded, he may suspend the offending member from the privileges of the Club until his action shall be reversed by a majority vote of the members present at an Annual Meeting.

#### ARTICLE XI - Amendments

1. Any proposition to amend or alter this Constitution shall be acted upon by a two-thirds vote at the Annual meeting of the Club provided the written notice of any proposed amendment shall be given members at least thirty days in advance. Mail ballots of members unable to attend shall be valid.

### BY-LAWS

#### I - Order of Business

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Prayer.
3. Roll Call.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting read and disposed of.
5. Report of Secretary.
6. Report of Treasurer.
7. Report of Committees.
8. Unfinished business.
9. Candidates for election to membership considered.
10. Election of officers.
11. New business considered.
12. Time and place of next meeting decided.
13. Adjournment.

II - Archives

Each member is requested to send to the Secretary his photograph, bearing his autograph, and also a short biographical sketch of himself. These will be preserved among the archives of the Club in the hands of the Secretary.

III - Fees

1. The initiation fee for members shall be one-hundred seventy five dollars.

2. Each member shall be entitled to purchase a parchment diploma, printed from the plate belonging to the Club, at such price as the Executive Committee may find it necessary to fix in order to cover the cost thereof.

3. There shall be no annual dues.

IV - Amendment of By-Laws

Any amendment or alteration of the By-Laws may be acted upon by a majority vote of members present at the annual Meeting of the Club, provided that written notice of such proposed changes shall be given Members at least thirty days in advance.