

No. 176.

A N A C T

To incorporate the Mercantile beneficial association of Philadelphia.

Preamble.	The Mercantile beneficial association of Philadelphia having been organized for the purpose of alleviating the condition of such of its indigent members as may be suffering from sickness, or want of employment, or other causes, and for the promotion of the common welfare of the members thereof; and being desirous as a means for the better accomplishment of their benevolent objects, to be constituted a body politic and corporate:
Name.	SECTION 1. <i>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,</i> That the Mercantile beneficial association of Philadelphia, is hereby constituted a body politic and corporate in deed and in law, by the name, style and title of the "Mercantile beneficial association of Philadelphia," which corporation shall consist of all persons who are now members, or shall hereafter be admitted as such, agreeably to the by-laws of the said association; and by the said corporate name shall have perpetual succession, and shall be forever capable in law, to take, hold and sell real estate, in fee simple, or otherwise, and to mortgage and let the same; and take and hold real or personal estate, by gift, grant, devise or bequest, or other lawful means, and sell or dispose of the same; to have a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at pleasure; to sue and be sued, and generally to do all such matters and things that may be lawful and necessary for them to do for the furtherance of the objects recited in the preamble to this act.
Powers and privileges.	
Seal.	
Managers.	SECTION 2. The affairs of the association shall be conducted by a board of managers, consisting of twenty members, who shall be elected by ballot, at a general meeting of the members of the association, on the second Tuesday of November of each and every year, (of which, at least six days notice shall be given in three newspapers of the city of Philadelphia,) and shall continue in office for one year, and until their successors shall be duly elected and organized.
Election.	
Organization.	SECTION 3. The members elected as a board of managers shall meet on the first Monday after their election and organize their board by electing by ballot, a president, treasurer and secretary, but no person shall hold the office of president or treasurer, who is not a member of the board of managers.
By-laws.	SECTION 4. The board of managers shall have the control of all the accounts, moneys and property of the association, and may appropriate the funds thereof in such manner as may appear to them most conducive to the interests and objects of the association; they shall have full power to make such by-laws as may be deemed necessary to effect the objects of the association: <i>Provided,</i> Such by-laws are not repugnant to or inconsistent with the constitution and laws of this state, or of the United States: <i>And provided, further,</i> That the privileges hereby granted shall not be used for banking purposes, nor shall the annual income of said association at any time exceed twenty thousand dollars.
Prohibition.	

SECTION 5. Every member shall pay annually to the association a sum of money to be fixed by the board of managers, and no member shall be eligible to any office, or shall be entitled to vote at any election for officers until he shall have paid the sum so fixed for the year within which such election shall be held.

SECTION 6. The treasurer shall hold his office during the pleasure of the board of managers, and the books, papers, moneys and accounts in his possession shall be at all times subject to their inspection and control: he shall give security to the board of managers, to be approved by them for the faithful application of all moneys of the association that may come into his hands.

SECTION 7. At every annual meeting held in pursuance of the second section of this act, the board of managers shall make a full report of the condition and affairs of the association, and of all their proceedings during the terms for which they shall have held office.

SECTION 8. The board of managers at present in office shall be and remain so until their successors shall be duly elected and organized as herein before provided.

SECTION 9. The legislature reserves the right to modify, alter, or annul the privileges hereby granted, in such manner, however, as to do no injustice to the corporators.

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
WILLIAM BIGLER,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The eleventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

DAVID R. PORTER.

No. 177.

A N A C T

For the relief of John A. Smith, and others, soldiers and widows of soldiers of the Revolutionary and Indian wars.

SECTION 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 the state treasurer be and he is hereby authorized and directed to pay to John A. Smith, Samuel Henderson, James Patrick and Peter Gordon, of Westmoreland county; Patrick Kelly, John Ross, Abraham Lowman, Jane Campbell, Eleanor E. Wilkins and Agnes Culbertson, of Indiana county; Nicholas James, Mary Edgar, Dorothy Jacobs, Catharine Depuy and Polly Steel, of York county; Henry Amey and Elizabeth Dannenhowe, of Philadelphia county; Elizabeth Castedor and Ann Elizabeth Youngman, of Union county; John Boney, Robert Simpson and Mary Davis, of Armstrong county; David Gehr and Anna Collins, of Crawford county;—