

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
NEWSLETTER of THE BATES ASSOCIATION

SPRING, 1994

No. 1

During the time that the former Bates Association published The Bates Bulletin it was issued twice a year. As we restart the Association machinery we would like to honor the traditions of the older Association and its publication, and add a modern touch here and there. This first full year of operation we plan to publish The Bates Bulletin twice - Spring and Fall - and try to produce a quality newsletter equal to or better than the older version. As the years move forward and more help comes forth, we may publish more often. In the time period between issues, this newsletter will provide the membership with interim communication with the Association. Probably, but not exclusively, the content will be more business and news to keep members up-to-date with what is happening. Your suggestions would be appreciated.

As many of you who have been my readers and supporters during The Bates Chronicle years know, it was a one-man labor of love and a struggle. When I was elected President of The Bates Association, I worried about how I could manage the job and publish a newsletter of better quality. I discovered that I can't. Early this year I sent out a plea for help, and Mary Jean Evans and her daughter, Molly, came to the rescue. If I can collect, edit, write and type the material (still an overwhelming task), they will take it from there with producing and distributing the issues. This plan developed this March - so we are a bit behind before we start. I feel that you want and deserve The Bulletin this year. We will have it out to you as soon as possible. Please be patient with the very few of us who are making this Association a reality. We must crawl before we walk, before we run with the torch.

At this time, let me plead for your contributions to the next and future Bulletins. Don't be shy or unsure. Send what you have by Sept. 1st for the Fall issue. What you have done or have not done is important to us all. We are one family, now, and as a family we want to hear from each other - to praise, support, and help. This is YOUR Association and Bulletin. To help you see how you can contribute, here are some ideas for sections of the Bulletin: (1) family genealogies formatted in a column as was done in the old Bulletin; (2) a "Member-To-Member" section for exchanges (quirles, answers, in-search-of, cousin exchange, Surname exchange); (3) a column for each of the branches with news from the branch; (4) a section for our "sister" organization, The Bates of Old Virginia; (5) a column on the Bates name - and people and places that carry it; (6) stories, anecdotes, jokes, items that have appeared in the news about Bates persons; (7) the role of Bates members in our history (Revolutionary War list of participants); (8) what is happening in modern communications/computers that would help us in our searches; and on.

A second big item of news is about the up-coming Bates Association Meeting and Reunion at Scituate, Massachusetts, July 22-24, 1994. Please take time to look at the enclosed flier of information. If you are interested and think you will attend, please let me know on or before June 1st. We confess that this first venture may be modest (we are unsure of the turn-out). The locale of the Reunion is certainly not modest. Within a 30-60 minute drive of Scituate is more Bates history and American history than one can absorb in a week of activities. If the reunion does not provide enough, use your

imagination for private excursions and explore! For instance, the Boston Library and its system owe its existence to a Bates - Joshua, and in the entrance Bates are honored, and upstairs is the Bates Room. Dr. Charles Bates has been busy finding out about Bates College in nearby Maine. Plan to attend and if so, let us know by June 1st. We can see about luncheon and tour arrangements, and we will send to you more details as they are finalized by June. If you can't attend, you will hear all about the Reunion in the Fall Bulletin. Would anyone be able to video-tape the reunion for those who can't attend?

Some other bits of news. The Executive Committee has some recommendations, with your approval. First, we want to extend the terms of the current officers until 1995, and go with biennial elections and terms. This allows the individual to get used to the job and the Executive Committee to get used to each other. Many organization like ours (Bates of Virginia) have gone to two year terms. If anyone has strong objections, please let me know. This will be voted on by voice vote, and again at the Annual Meeting. We are also thinking about changing the annual meeting to biennial - again let us know your feelings before the July discussions.

At this writing, we have enrolled our 100th member, four months ahead of a goal I set. Since it is a family membership, the 100th is either Frank or Joyce Bates of Ohio. Congratulations to them, and to you for your efforts. Now onto the second hundred! The National Genealogical Society was kind enough to respond to my request for publicity by announcing to 900 computer on-line members worldwide about the Association. Many thanks.

We talk about ourselves crawling at this stage of the reorganization, and we are. We have to build a reasonable treasury to carry out our many plans, and we desperately need more help before this Association can reach the walking stage. As an example, in addition to the job of President, I carry the load for three major functions of the Association. This is not good for me, but, more importantly, it is not healthy for this Association (or any group) to have so few leaders. This is a major concern of mine for the future of the Association. On the positive side, look what has been accomplished in a year. This time last year, there was no Association. Now we are 100 strong and have the affiliation support of over 250 Virginia Bates. Where do we want the Association to be a year from now? Well, we hope that you, after investing a nice some of money in dues, are satisfied with the progress and are patient enough to renew your membership in December so that at this time, 1995, you are part of the foundation stone upon which to build and grow. If you are not satisfied, you need to tell us why, so that we can make improvements, if we can. It would be nice to hear what you like about what has happened, also.

As soon as this newsletter has been printed and sent, I'll probably think of other items that should have been included - like, what do you think about a contest to design a new coat-of-arms, or logo for The Bates Association? Something that shows our English heritage and our American foundation? Wait and watch for the renewed Bates Bulletin coming in your mail this Spring!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
NEWSLETTER of THE BATES ASSOCIATION

SUMMER, 1994

No. 2

The major news of the summer was the Reunion at Scituate. The Fall issue of the Bates Bulletin will carry a report on the people view of the Reunion with pictures and such. Here and now is the business report plus other exciting developments. The Reunion was a three day affair. Friday afternoon, July 22nd, was the registration followed by the social (a very positive, dynamic interaction of Bates members who - though strangers - reacted like long parted old family members). After 2 hours of informal exchanges and discovering all these cousins, we reluctantly closed this part and moved on to the Executive Committee sessions.

Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting: Convened at 5:00 PM. Present: C. Ben Bates, Dr. Charles C. Bates, William C. Bates, Mary Jean Evans, Duncan Bates Todd, and Martha C. Bates, subbing for the Secretary, Lelia Bates Broderick. Treasurer's and Comptroller's reports showed a balance as of June 30, 1994 of Savings = \$1317.70; Checking = \$806.28. Further analysis indicated that at 50% of the year only 28% of the budget had been spent, and that income of \$2317.70 was 125% of budget. July would be a heavy spender with the Reunion expense. All members were asked to submit bills so that an accurate accounting of true expenses could be recorded. The President reported that membership was almost 150, 50% above the goal for July, 1994. (As of this letter, membership is approaching 200!).

Reports: (1) Bill Bates reported on his publicity campaign. Mary Jean Evans, using computer networking, has been very active in publicity and recruiting. Duncan Bates Todd has been busy responding to inquiries sent to the Association address and spreading the word throughout eastern New England. Bill was asked to provide more stationery to meet the increased demand. (2) Mary Jean Evans reported on Computer activities, citing contacts made through the Bulletin Board, America Online. The potential of the computer for the Association is just beginning to be discovered. More along that line would be presented by Spence Klein at the workshop on Saturday afternoon. (Spence Klein will share all this with the total membership through our publications). (3) Publications: Mary Jean's daughter, Molly Evans is to be congratulated for the outstanding job of producing the Bates Bulletin, the Reunion Program, and the name tags for the weekend. Being able to produce a quality journal this early in the Association's new life, was due to the creative efforts of Molly. (4) President's Report: Ben stated that finances were in good shape, but requested an audit to reassure everyone. He requested that an Election Committee be selected and begin the search for a new president and other officers for the 1995 election. Membership is growing better than expected but we do need to provide more services for the coming year and have a high renewal rate for next year.

Actions: (1) Bill was asked to get more stationery printed. (2) Mary Jean agreed to put together a calendar of dates showing when other organizations need our publicity notices. (3) Dr. Charles agreed to submit a revised draft of the brochure, reflecting the changes in the constitution, to the EC members and to Molly for input and final production. (4) Charles agreed to chair the Nomination/Election Committee (the committee was completed at the General Meeting). (5) Bill agreed to audit the books. (6) Charles volunteered to solicit memberships from towns and institutions having a Bates connection (he will contribute an article to the "Bulletin" on Bates College). (7) inquiries were made about Tom Bates and the status of Vol I and Vol II of his publication, The Bates Bulletin and Ben reported that no responses have come from Tom Bates since January. Ben agreed to send one more business letter requesting information only.

New Business: (1) Discussed and approved, as amended, major revisions in the Association Constitution and By-Laws; (2) discussed and approved policies and procedures for accepting the formation of local chapters; (3) discussed Mary Jean's concerns over discrimination and exclusiveness in the Association - upon careful review of the Constitution and By-Laws, it was decided that the current changes more than provided for an all inclusive, non-discriminating organization; (4) Ben requested that we honor Life Memberships from the previous Association, citing the documented membership of Charles K. Bates - motion approved; (5) Ben requested some budget moves - approving donations to The Scituate Historical Society and Old Ship Church for services during this Reunion, and transferring money from the surplus to cover the cost over-run of \$178.98 for the Reunion - approved; (6) Mary Jean requested a larger budget than \$100 for next year's Reunion - approved an increase to \$500; (7) Mary Jean submitted a bid for next year's Reunion - after hearing her presentation for a planned meeting at Chelmsford, MA, including a well known speaker in the field of genealogy, that site was selected and Mary Jean appointed chairperson for the

1995 Reunion; a registration fee was approved also (more information and dates will appear in the "Bulletin"). (8) the Coat-of-Arms used by the earlier Bates Association was approved as a logo for the revived Association. With business completed, and before anyone could pass out from the extreme weather, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

Saturday brought more hot, humid weather as members gathered before the 10:00 AM meeting. About 40 were in attendance, many more than expected from the return forms, so the souvenir button-ribbons had to be rationed to members only. The dynamic atmosphere of Friday continued into Saturday's meeting. (More on this in the "Bulletin"). Now to the business and overall agenda. The President, C. Ben Bates, convened the meeting, introduced everyone present, reported on the state of the Association (to be included in the "Bulletin"), and heard reports from the officers. Much of the business and reports cited in the Executive Committee minutes were repeated for the General Meeting. Members were given a printed financial report and copies of the revised Constitution and By-Laws, with a summary of the changes. These were discussed and voted upon with favorable results. Under the old rules, the entire body had to approve the Honorary Life Membership for Costas Rombocos, the man who donated the KLB plaques last year. This was done and later a similar honor was bestowed on Kathleen Laidlaw for her extraordinary efforts to make the Reunion a success. The newly created Katharine Lee Bates Award For Outstanding Service to The Bates Association was presented to William C. Bates, III for his preparatory work enabling the Association to be revived. After the slide-talk by Ben, the attendees moved on to lunch overlooking the harbor, followed by a tour of the Lighthouse led by Mrs. Laidlaw. Sunday offered tours of Hingham and Weymouth. (Again, details of the non-business part of the Reunion will be featured in the Fall Bates Bulletin).

Constitution and By-Laws Revision Summary:

- II. Purpose - was reworded to conform to words required by the I.R.S. for non-profit organizations.
- III. Home Office and Resident Agent - defined to conform to State of Massachusetts' requirements.
- IV. Membership - included additional wording and rewording to conform with federal non-discrimination guidelines -- but continuing to emphasize Bates family history as the common interest and goal.
- V. Officers - added Past-President for continuity and Executive Vice President as a phase in to the presidency; deleted Historian and changed to an appointed position; and limited the number branch-line Vice Presidents to six (6).

By-Laws: (1) Reunions and Elections put on a two year basis; (2) Voting was made more democratic by allowing all members to vote on issues by mailed ballot as well as at a General Meeting; (3) Membership continued the focus on Bates of English origin, but opened membership to all Bates and friends of Bates interested in the same purpose and goals, regardless of man-made distinctions.

NOTE: Anyone interested in a complete copy of the new Constitution and By-Laws, please send a self-addressed envelop with your request.

In response to all of the questions and concerns about the book(s), The Bates Bulletin, Vol I and proposed Vol II published and sold by Tom Bates, the President sent a letter requesting information for the membership on August 1, 1994. There has been no response to this or any other correspondence since January 21st. Since the book is well worth the money and the effort, may I suggest that you make an individual approach. Write to: Mr. Tom Bates, Bates Books, 120 Hillcrest Road, Berkeley, CA 94705.

ATTACHMENTS:

- #1 WANT AD and response slip
- #2 INQUIRY FORM - to make placing your inquiry in the "Bulletin" easier.
- #3 PERMISSION FORM - to release your address and/or phone number to other members only. Strictly voluntary. To expedite the Member-To-Member (Cousins) Exchange.
- #4 Genealogical Computing Survey - from Spencer Klein. Please read his message on the reverse side of the form. He has an offer pending that will please everyone and make this Association the most technically advanced of any of its kind.