

By-Laws
Blaisdell Family National Association

Prelude

This Association was first organized in 1935 at a meeting of descendants of Ralph Bleasdale, who landed at Pemaquid Point, Maine, on August 14, 1635. This meeting was held at York, Maine, August 14, 1935.

(1) All persons named 'Blaisdell,' by any of the name's various spellings, and all other names who can trace their descent from the original Ralf Bleasdale or other Blaisdell ancestors be and are members of the Association. An active, voting member is based on a current annual contribution to one of three funds: Basic Membership, Sustaining Membership and Endowment Fund. Non-family members may also become a voting member of the Association on the same basis.

(2) The Association, organized August 15, 1935, preserves the family's genealogical and cultural heritage. We have family data, photos and stories on computer, and we publish *Blaisdell Papers* twice a year as a benefit of membership. While most of the family descend from Ralf Bleasdale, who landed at Pemaquid Point, Maine, August 14, 1635, there are other Blaisdell family members whose patriarch came to North America from England in the 19th Century.

(3) The Mission of the Association:

- a. To research and preserve our family's genealogical and cultural history by compiling complete and accurate family records on computers and digital media, and by publishing their related stories in *Blaisdell Papers* and on our web site.
- b. To strengthen the ties of fellowship and kinship between living members of the family and
- c. To maintain family unity through frequent association of family members in a social way through the national organization, local or regional units/branches and the Internet.

By-Laws

By precedents established since its original organization, the following procedures have been established and are with certain additions now

approved as By-Laws of the Association by the Executive Committee at its meeting June 16, 2010, and shall prevail unless and until changed or amended by members of the Association or by the Executive Committee in meeting or by mail vote under procedures indicated under Article 3.

Article 1
Name

The official name of the Association shall be “Blaisdell Family National Association.”

Article 2
Membership

- (1.) The Association is voluntary, non-profit and unincorporated.
- (2.) Active membership is based on an annual contribution to one of three funds:
 - (a.) Basic Membership – entitling a person to receive the *Blaisdell Papers*
 - (b.) Sustaining Membership – for special projects
 - (c.) Endowment Fund – using only the investment earnings to further the purposes of the Association, including offering benevolent assistance to any genealogical society or person who can not otherwise afford to receive *Blaisdell Papers* and/or a genealogy printout.
- (3.) Donations for the support of the Association will be placed into one of these three funds as specified by the donor.
- (4.) The Executive Committee has sole authority to determine the use and disposition of donated items and how the value derived there-from shall be used to further the purposes of the Association.

Article 3
Amendments & Elections

- (1) The articles and subsequent amendments of these By-Laws may be amended, and such officers as shall be found from time to time necessary shall be elected at each National Quinquennial meeting by

those attending, or, if necessary, by mail ballot forwarded to the active members of the Association.

(2) All officers shall serve for a period of five years without remuneration, but may receive payment for expenses incurred in fulfillment of duties from such funds as may be available and approved by the President. All officers are Blaisdell related and shall serve without bond.

(3) Failure to hold the Quinquennial meeting or any election of officers shall not disorganize the family association.

Article 4 **Executive Committee**

(1) The following elected or appointed officers shall constitute the Executive Committee: President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, Genealogist, Editor of *Blaisdell Papers*, Vital Statistics Editor, Secretary-Treasurer or both, if responsibilities are divided between the two offices.

(2) In the event of the death of the President of the BFNA or if he/she should become incapacitated or should resign as President, the Vice President would automatically become President to fill out the unexpired term. The Executive Committee may replace any of its own members for infirmity or failure to exercise the duties of his/her office.

(3) Each officer may appoint assistants as helpful to the fulfillment of his/her duties, but such assistants shall not be members of the Executive Committee.

(4) The Executive Committee shall have full authority to act on all matters pertaining to the Association ad interim between or in the absence of meetings of the Association. Actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported in the next issue of the *Blaisdell Papers*.

(5) The Executive Committee shall have the authority to appoint vacancies among the officers during periods between quinquennial or called meetings of the members.

(6) Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President or Vice President.

(7) A quorum for the Executive Committee shall be one-third of its members.

(8) In the absence of actual meetings, business may be conducted by mail, Email or telephone conference call, in which case actions proposed shall be approved or denied by a majority of the Executive Committee voting.

(9) The Executive Committee shall prepare and supervise, through its President, budgets for the work of genealogy, the *Blaisdell Papers* and other operating costs, and shall seek to provide funds in ways to be determined to cover these budgets.

(10) No financial obligations in the name of BFNA shall be made without written consent of the President of the BFNA. He/she should consult with the BFNA Executive Committee on unusual or large expenditures.

(11) A Conflict of Interest Policy has been adopted by the Executive Committee of the Blaisdell Family National Association to avoid the possibility that its Officers may receive an inappropriate benefit.

(12) Upon the dissolution of this Association, assets shall be distributed to one of the following 501c3 Genealogical Societies in this order of priority: Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah; New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts; National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, District of Columbia; Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana. If neither of these societies or libraries qualifies within the meaning of section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code at the time of dissolution, the assets will be given to the State of residence of the most recently elected President of the Association for a public purpose.

(13) The Executive Committee shall, in anticipation of each Quinquennial meeting of members, determine the BFNA Unit/Branch that will be host for the meeting, and the Host Unit/Branch in conjunction with the Executive Committee shall determine the time and place of the meeting, the order of business and the program for the meeting.

(14) A Nominating Committee, appointed by the President, shall submit a list of nominees for all officers for the following five-year term of office. The term of office begins at the conclusion of a Quinquennial.

(15) As approved at the Quinquennial Reunion of the Blaisdell Family National Association in Houston, Texas, August 14, 15 and 16, 1970:

“Any active, voting member of the Association may present in writing to the Nominating Committee, not later than six months before the Quinquennial election, the name of any member for nomination for office. No person shall be eligible for election as an officer of the Association unless his/her name shall thus have been submitted to or nominated by said Nominating Committee. There shall be no nominations from the floor.”

Article 5 **Blaisdell papers**

- (1) The *Blaisdell Papers* of the Association shall be published from time to time under the authority of the Association or Executive Committee, its Editor, elected or appointed, and policies shall be determined by the Executive Committee. All news or business items for publication shall be forwarded to the Editor.
- (2) Any genealogical library, historical society in the United States or family member is free to pay for a BFNA annual membership or be sponsored and given a gift membership by a member. Receiving *Blaisdell Papers* is a benefit of membership. If neither occurs because of financial hardship, *Blaisdell Papers* will be sent by the Association at no cost – paid from the interest earned from the Association’s Endowment Fund – for as long as they are interested.
- (3) The ownership of genealogical information and published historical accounts in the *Blaisdell Papers* must remain with the Blaisdell Family National Association.

Article 6 **Genealogical Records**

- (1) All genealogical records shall be gathered and organized under the supervision of an elected or appointed Genealogist. The Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU), Salt Lake City, Utah, shall be the ultimate and

approved place of deposit for all genealogical records. Permission was granted February 9, 2008, to this society to reproduce digitally and to post past, present and future issues of the *Blaisdell Papers* on their website as long as the GSU does not sell, rent or lease our materials.

(2) All information pertaining to these Blaisdell records shall be forwarded to the BFNA Genealogist. The elected or appointed Genealogist shall serve as the Association's representative to coordinate the gathering, recording, processing, preservation and submission of family records to the Genealogical Society of Utah. A copy of the *Blaisdell Papers* with current vital statistics, wedding, anniversary and obituaries will be sent to the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT, as well.

(3) Circulation of the Association's complete genealogical data will be restricted to the Genealogical Society of Utah. Portions of our genealogy can be shared with genealogical libraries and historical societies at the discretion of the Genealogist.

(4) Family members are informed of the availability of our genealogical data and recorded historical accounts primarily through other family members, the Association's website: www.blaisdell.org and *Blaisdell Papers*.

(5) Requests for family information will be limited to direct descendants of the person requested. Distribution of information are in non-reproducible print or .pdf formats. Other formats may be approved at the discretion of the Genealogist. Requesters are asked to provide to the BFNA current and missing information. The amount of information shared may be restricted because of large volume. All requests will go back to England, if available, and will only include direct line ancestors after four generations of the requester. Sharing of family information does not include license to reproduce for profit. Copies within the family are permissible. Genealogical information will be shared at cost, plus postage and handling.

(6) The ownership of genealogical data must remain with the Blaisdell Family National Association. Information on any public data source will not include living persons without their written permission.

Article 7

Principle Office

The principle office of the Association shall be at the address of each succeeding President.

Article 8 **Official Seal**

The official Seal of the Association shall be the following taken from the Bronze Plaque mounted on one of the large rocks near the lighthouse at Pemaquid Point, Maine, and dedicated on August 8, 1965, commemorating the landing of Ralf Bleasdale and his family on August 14, 1635.

As amended and approved by the Executive Committee
July 17, 2007 and June 16, 2010

Signed: Joel E. Blasdel, President