THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF
THE PILGRIM HENRY SAMSON KINDRED

(Revised and Adopted August 21, 2026)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 – NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION (NPO)

Section 1.1 Organization Name

The name of this nonprofit organization shall be "**THE PILGRIM HENRY SAMSON KINDRED",** referred to in this document as the "Kindred."

Section 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the Kindred shall be the preservation of the spirit and tradition of those early pilgrims from beyond the sea, whose sturdy strength and fearless integrity lie at the basis of our nation's greatness; the special honoring of that man and wife among them from whom we directly trace descent; the publication of a Samson Genealogy and such other histories and books as shall make suitable records for public archives; the establishment of some fitting memorials of Pilgrim Henry and Anne (Plummer) Samson and Abraham Sampson (in Duxbury, Plymouth Colony by 1638) and his wives; and the fostering among the Kindred descendants of these revered ancestors of a spirit of helpfulness and comradeship and an honorable pride in the source of their common ancestors.

Section 1.3 Dissolution.

No part of the income of the Kindred shall be paid, distributed, or otherwise inure to the benefit or use of its directors and officers or other private persons, except that the Kindred shall be authorized to pay compensation in a reasonable amount to its directors and officers for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its general corporate purposes including contributions and donations for charitable purposes. Upon dissolution of the Kindred, the assets of the Kindred shall not be distributed to its directors, officers or other private persons. Upon such dissolution, the Board of Directors of the Kindred shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all corporate liabilities and for the disposition of any property committed to charitable purposes as required by statute or court order, transfer and convey the remaining assets to such charitable organization or organizations exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (or equivalent successor provision) as the Board of Directors shall determine to be similar to the corporation's character, purpose, and method of operation.

Section 1.4 Revisions

The Constitution and By-laws may be revised by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at a Board meeting. Board Members shall be sent a copy of the proposed Constitution and By-laws revisions (2) two weeks prior to a Board of Directors meeting to approve the revised Constitution and By-laws. Board Members may respond to the Kindred Governor with their comments or they may make comments at the scheduled Board of Directors meeting. The Constitution and By-laws shall be in effect following approval at the Board of Directors meeting.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.1. Classes of Membership

There shall be three (3) classes of membership with the following requirements.

2.1.1. Life Member.
Any person eighteen (18) years of age or over who has filed a documented lineage from Henry and Anne (Plummer) Samson approved by the GSMD, or from Abraham Sampson and his wives, which has been approved by the Genealogist, may become a Life Member. Life members may vote and serve on the Board of Directors in an officer capacity and may be appointed to Committees.

2.1.2. Active Member.
Any person eighteen (18) years of age or over who has filed a documented lineage from Henry and Anne (Plummer) Samson approved by the GSMD, or Abraham Sampson and his wives, which has been approved by the Genealogist, may become an Active Member. Active members may vote and serve on the Board of Directors in an officer capacity and may be appointed to Committees.

2.1.3. Associate Member.
Any person eighteen (18) years of age or over who has not filed a documented lineage from either Henry and Anne Samson or Abraham Samson and his wives. Associate members may vote and serve on the Board of Directors in a non-officer capacity and on various Committees.

Section 2.2. Membership Applications

Applications of all types will be submitted upon the Kindred Form furnished by the Kindred. Lineage papers with documentation will be submitted to the Kindred's Genealogist. Membership applications must be accompanied with the application fee, and a copy of the complete approved GSMD application (all pages).

2.2.1. For descendants of Henry Samson, a photocopy of a lineage paper approved by, and bearing the signature of the Historian General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and dated after 1982 (when full documentation became required by the GSMD) will be accepted in lieu of the Kindred's application form. In all other instances, the Vol. 20 Parts 1 and 2 and any subsequent Parts of the GSMD's *Pilgrim Families Through 5 Generations*, will be used to document the first five generations of descent from Henry Samson.

2.2.2. For descendants of Abraham Sampson, a photocopy of a lineage paper documenting descent from a relevant Mayflower passenger, approved by and bearing the signature of the Historian General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and dated after 1982, will be accepted to support the Kindred's application form's first five generations.

Section 2.3. Termination of Membership

A member may resign from the Kindred. It shall be necessary that notice be given to the Membership Secretary in writing of a desire to withdraw at the end of any current fiscal year to which all obligations are paid. The Membership Secretary will notify members failing to pay dues for three (3) continuous years and that they must pay the dues within 90 days from the date of notice, or their names will be removed from the list of active membership.

Section 2.4. Reinstatement of Membership.
Any member failing to pay dues for three (3) continuous years may be reinstated by payment of a reinstatement fee which will be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2.5. Membership Fees
All membership application fees and annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors which will be determined by the Board of Directors. All membership fees and dues shall be posted on the Kindred's website's Membership page.

Section 2.6. Dues
All Annual Members, including Associate Members, are subject to annual membership dues, which are payable in advance at the beginning of the fiscal year.. Membership will be terminated if the dues are not paid for three (3) continuous years. Members who have paid dues continuous for 10 yrs or are 90 years of age and over are not required to pay dues.

Section 2.7. Certificates Of Membership
All new members will be furnished with an appropriate certificate of membership signed by the Governor and Membership Chair.

Section 2.8. Changing an Annual Membership status to a Life Membership
Annual members may change their membership status to a Life membership by paying a Life Membership fee to be determined by the Membership Chair, based on the amount of annual dues previously paid by the member.

Section 2.9. Kindred Founders
All those who joined the Kindred between the date of the initial ratification of the Constitution and Bylaws and June 30, 2006, shall be considered "Founders."

ARTICLE 3 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3.1. Executive Officers
There shall be four (4) elective Executive Officers of the Kindred organization: a Governor, a Deputy Governor, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers shall be Active members.

Section 3.2. Appointees
The Board of Directors shall appoint a Counselor, an Internal Auditor, a Genealogist, a Membership Chair, an Archivist, a Historian, a Chaplain/Elder, an Education Chair, a Database Manager, a DNA Manager, a Newsletter Editor, a Webmaster and a TNG Administrator. Each such appointee shall be experienced in the work of his or her respective office.

Section 3.3. Board of Directors
The Executive Officers together with the Appointed Directors shall constitute the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for the administration of the Kindred. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to carry out the wishes of the Kindred as voted by the Board Members at Board Meetings, to arrange for other meetings when in its judgment it deems best, to endeavor in every way, the carrying out of the aims and purposes of the Kindred as expressed in the Constitution, and provide general management of the affairs of the Kindred. The Board of Directors may appoint committees as it may determine from time to time, giving such committees such powers as it may deem proper. The Board of Directors shall have sole power to authorize the expenditure of funds and to fill vacancies as provided by these Bylaws.

Section 3.4. Committees
There shall be three (3) standing committees: Executive, Membership, and Finance. Each shall be chaired by one of the Assistants or another member of the Kindred. The Governor shall chair the Executive Committee and is an ex-officio member of all committees. All committees are to make reports to the Board of Directors.

Section 3.5. Nominations
The nominations for the Board of Directors shall be made by a Nominating Committee. The Committee shall consist of three active members appointed by the Governor. The Committee shall present its slate to the Governor at a Board of Directors meeting by the 30th of June for the election of officers. The new officers will be announced at the Triennial Meeting.

Section 3.6. Terms of Office
The term of the Board of Directors shall be for three years, or until successors have been duly elected. Officers are not limited to any number of terms. Officers unable to perform the duties of their respective offices may be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 3.7. Liability
During his or her term of office and thereafter, no officer, assistant, committee chairman, committee member, or appointee of the Kindred, or his or her estate, personal representatives, or heirs, shall be liable to the Kindred or anyone claiming under, through or in the right of the Kindred by reason of any action taken or omitted by him or her in good faith in his or her capacity as such. The foregoing shall not exclude other defenses or rights such officer, assistant, committee chairperson, committee member or appointee may be entitled to as a matter of law or equity. If during his or her term of office or thereafter, any officer, assistant, committee chairperson, appointee, estate, personal representative or, heirs, shall reasonably incur expenses or liabilities in resisting any claim or litigation by whomever asserted, arising out of or in connection with any action taken or omitted in good faith as such, the Kindred shall indemnify him, her or them against such expenses or liabilities. The Kindred shall to the extent legally permissible and only to the extent that the status of the Kindred as an organization exempt under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code is not affected thereby, indemnify each of its officers or other agents (including persons who serve at its request as members, directors, officers or other agents of another organization in which it has an interest) against all liabilities and expenses, including amounts paid in satisfaction of judgment, in compromise or as fines and penalties, and counsel fees, reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the defense or disposition of any action, suit or other proceeding, whether civil or criminal, in which he or she may be involved or with which he or she may be threatened, while in office or thereafter, by reason of his or her being or having been such an officer or agent, except with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interest of the Kindred; provided, however, that as to any matter disposed of by a compromise payment by such officer or agent, pursuant to a consent decree or otherwise, no indemnification either for said payment or for any other expenses shall be provided unless such compromise shall be approved as in the best interests of the Kindred, after notices that it involves such indemnification: (a) by a disinterested majority of the members of the Board of Directors then in office; or (b) by a majority of the disinterested members of the Board of Directors then in office, provided that there has been obtained an opinion in writing, of independent counsel to the effect that such officer or agent appears to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interest of the Kindred; or (c) by a majority of the disinterested members of the Board Assistants entitled to vote. Expenses including counsel fees reasonably incurred by any such officer or agent in connection with the defense of disposition upon receipt of an undertaking by such individual to repay the amounts so paid to the Kindred if he or she shall be adjudicated to be not entitled to indemnification under (state) General laws, Chapter —, Section –. The right of indemnification thereby provided shall not be exclusive of or affect any other rights to which any officer or agent may be entitled. Nothing contained herein shall affect any rights to indemnification to which corporate personnel may be entitled by contract or otherwise under law. As used in this Section, the terms “officer” and “agent” include their respective heirs, executors and administrators, and an “interested” member is one against whom in such capacity the proceedings in question or another proceeding on the same or similar grounds is then pending.

ARTICLE 4 – MEETINGS

Section 4.1. Triennial Meeting

The Triennial Meeting of the Kindred shall be held in Plymouth, Massachusetts in conjunction with the GSMD Triennial Congress, unless voted otherwise by the Kindred or the Board of Directors. The Triennial Meeting shall include a program consisting of a luncheon with a speaker and other activities including a possible tour of a historical site. The election of new officers shall be announced at the Triennial Meeting.

Section 4.2. Business Meetings

Business meetings may be called by the Board of Directors at any time provided notice of such meeting together with the business to be transacted thereat be given to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall hold its meeting via Zoom or equivalent software at such date and time as it may decide. The meetings shall be held at the call of the Governor on his or her initiative or on the request made of him or her in writing by five members of the Board of Directors, the notices to be sent out by the Secretary setting forth the time and place of meeting and the purpose of same. Kindred members may request to attend a meeting by contacting the Governor for the next meeting's scheduled date.

Section 4.3. Meeting Quorum

Five (5) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum and a majority vote of those present shall be required for the passage of any motion or resolution. A majority vote of those present is required for the passage of any motion or vote as determined by the Board of Directors. A majority vote of the Board of Directors on any matter of interest to the Kindred may be submitted to the Kindred membership by mail or email and with the request that they cast their vote on the referendum ballot, which shall accompany the subject matter expressing their wishes for or against, as determined by the Board of Directors

ARTICLE 5 – FISCAL YEAR

Section 5.1. Business Year

The fiscal year of the Kindred shall commence on the first day of July and end on the thirtieth day of June of each year. The membership year shall match the fiscal year.

ARTICLE 6 – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 6.1. Governor

It shall be the duty of the Governor to preside at all meetings of the Kindred to act as chairperson of the Board of Directors, to oversee the general business and welfare of the Kindred, to appoint all committees when not otherwise voted or provided for, to endeavor to promote the aims and purposes of the Kindred as expressed in Article I, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution, to carry out the expressed will of the Kindred, and to report on the business of his or her office to the meetings of the Board of Directors. The Governor shall host the Triennial Meeting of the Kindred at Plymouth, MA.

Section 6.2. Deputy Governor

It shall be the duty of the Deputy Governor to preside at meetings in the absence of the Governor and to assume all other duties of the office of the Governor in the case of his or her death or disability before the expiration of his or her term of office.

Section 6.3. Secretary
It shall be the duty of the Secretary to write the minutes of the meetings of the Kindred and the Board of Directors in connection with the business of the Kindred. The minutes shall be distributed to the Board members within two weeks of the meeting. The Secretary shall retain a copy of the approved minutes for three years.

Section 6.4. Treasurer
The Treasurer shall hold the funds of the Kindred and shall deposit the same in the name of the Kindred in a bank or banks or invested in such securities as may be designated by the Board of Directors or its designee. The Treasurer shall pay all bills, which have been authorized by the Kindred by a majority of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall reimburse a Board Member for any authorized Kindred expenses incurred. All payments of $200 or greater shall be approved by the Governor or the Deputy Governor. The Treasurer shall file all required State and Federal forms.

ARTICLE 7 – APPOINTEES

Section 7.1. Internal Auditor
The Internal Auditor shall audit the books and accounts of the Kindred at the close of each month and make a report of his findings to the Board of Directors at each Board Meeting.

Section 7.2. Chaplain/Elder
The Chaplain/Elder shall provide opening and closing prayers at the Board Meetings and report of any members found to have died and say a memorial prayer at Board Meetings. The Chaplain/Elder shall send a letter of condolence to the family of the deceased, and invite the family to become members of the Samson Kindred, and include a copy of the deceased's lineage.

Section 7.3. Genealogist
The Genealogist shall receive the PHSK membership applications, determine its accuracy, and approve the individual for membership. If the lineage is not accurate the Genealogist may assist the individual in discovering their Kindred lineage. If the lineage cannot be proven, he or she shall return same to the applicant, setting forth the reasons. Upon the application's approval, the Genealogist shall create a membership file including the lineage documentation, and forward it to the Membership Secretary. The Genealogist shall collect the application fee and forward it to the Treasurer. The Genealogist shall maintain a list of the contents of the Kindred's Genealogy Library. The Genealogist may order such books as necessary with approval of the Board. The Genealogist shall receive reimbursement for expenses. The Kindred shall not pay for research or other expenses necessary to perfect the lineage of any applicant.

Section 7.4. Membership Secretary
The Membership Secretary shall keep a current and accurate paper record of all past and present members of the Kindred and their status, this record shall be made available to all Board Members upon request. The Membership Secretary shall receive, review, and record all new membership applications approved by the Genealogist. The Membership Secretary shall keep all member's data in a spreadsheet. When the Membership Secretary receives an approved membership application from the Genealogist, they shall create and sign a membership certificate, include their line of descent, a welcome letter, and mail 2 copies of these documents to the Governor for his/her signature. The Governor shall sign them, send a copy to the Membership Chair, and send the original documents to the new member. It shall be the duty of the Membership Secretary to request payment of and receive the members' annual renewal dues. All dues upon receipt shall be recorded and shall be transferred in a timely matter to the Treasurer for deposit in the Kindred's bank account.

Section 7.5. Historian
The Historian shall collect and maintain those records, reports, and files needed to publish, from time to time, a history of the issues, decisions, and activities of the Kindred. The Historian will serve as the Kindred's primary liaison between the executive committee and the membership, on the one hand, and the fields of academic history, public history, archaeology, and historical preservation to ensure that the Samson Kindred's interpretation and preservation of Henry and Anne (Plummer) Samson, Abraham Sampson and his wives, their descendants, and the Samson Kindred is informed by current professional standards. The Historian will serve on all committees that involve the Kindred in the interpretation and presentation of history (e.g. the Communications and Education Committees). The Historian shall collect and maintain those records, reports, and files needed to publish, from time to time, a history of the issues, decisions, and activities of the Kindred.

Section 7.6. Webmaster
The Webmaster is a professional responsible for developing, maintaining, and managing websites to meet the Kindred's needs. They ensure the functionality, security, accessibility, and efficiency of a website architecture and infrastructure while optimizing the format, solving technical issues, and updating website content so that the information aligns with the current objectives of the organization. The Webmaster as a Technical Advisor provides guidance on technology-related matters, assessing existing systems, designing solutions, and ensuring alignment with the business objectives. The Webmaster offers oversight on various projects, troubleshoots issues, stays updated on industry trends, and advocates for innovative technologies.

Section 7.7. Database Administrator
The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding (TNG) is a web-based database application for managing a family tree that is hosted on the PHSK website. The TNG Administrator maintains and uploads documented lineages to the Samson/Sampson TNG genealogy database.

Section 7.8. Newsletter Editor
The Editor shall be responsible for the design and content of the Kindred's newsletter and work closely with the Board Members who are charged with providing timely notice to the Editor of Kindred happenings. The Newsletter is the Kindred's primary method of communication with its members and shall serve the educational mission of the Kindred by presenting articles concerning the history and genealogy of both the descendants and ancestors of Pilgrim Henry Samson and his wife Anne Plummer, and of Abraham Sampson of Duxbury and his wives. The submission of original articles by members of the Kindred will be encouraged. The Newsletter shall include the business of the Board to create an archived history of the Kindred.

Section 7.9. Counselor
The Counselor shall advise the Governor and the Board of Directors on legal matters, particularly those having to do with the proper interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws, in order that the business of the Kindred may be transacted lawfully and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 7.10. Archivist
The Archivist shall keep all records, documents, and artifacts of the Kindred's founding, awards, and items to be displayed at a Triennial Meeting.

Section 7.11. Education
The appointed Education Committee shall collect information and historical data relevant to Henry Samson and Abraham Sampson and their descendants. Educational information shall be shared via PHSK Newsletters, PHSK Website or by any other method approved by the Board of Directors.

End Of The Constitution And By-Laws

Original Constitution and By-laws were ratified September 20, 2005.
Revision, adopted April 4, 2025
Revision, adopted August 21, 2026