

J. HAMPDEN ROBB

Sixteenth Annual Report,
1911, of the American
Scenic and Historic
Preservation Society

TO THE LEGISLATURE OF
THE STATE OF NEW YORK

TRANSMITTED TO THE
LEGISLATURE JUNE 12,
1911

FOUNDED BY ANDREW H. GREEN AND
INCORPORATED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF
THE STATE OF NEW YORK IN 1895

ALBANY
J. B. LYON COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS
1911

Historic Preservation Society, with all the powers and subject to the provisions of the eleventh section of chapter thirty-five of the general corporation law as amended by chapter six hundred and eighty-seven of the laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-two, except as otherwise provided by this act, and shall be capable of purchasing, taking, receiving, and holding by gift, grant, devise, bequest, or otherwise, in trust or perpetuity, real and personal estate for the uses and purposes of said corporation, the value of which shall not exceed one million dollars. (Chapter 166, 1895, amended by chap. 302, 1898, and chap. 385, 1901.)

§ 2. The objects of said corporation shall be to acquire by purchase, gift, grant, devise, or bequest, historic objects or memorable or picturesque places in the State or elsewhere in the United States, hold real and personal property in fee or upon such lawful trusts as may be agreed upon between the donors thereof and said corporation, and to improve the same; admission to which shall be free to the public under such rules for the proper protection thereof as said corporation may prescribe, and which said property shall be exempt from taxation within the State of New York. (Chapter 166, 1895, amended by chap. 385, 1901.)

§ 3. The affairs and business of said corporation shall be conducted by a board of not less than five or more than thirty-five trustees, a quorum of whom for the transaction of business shall be fixed by the by-laws. The persons now constituting the board of trustees of said corporation shall continue to hold office until others are elected in their stead as provided by the said by-laws. Vacancies in the board of trustees may be filled in the manner prescribed by the said by-laws. (Chapter 166, 1895, amended by chap. 302, 1898, and chap. 385, 1901.)

§ 4. None of the trustees or members of said corporation shall receive any compensation for services, or be pecuniarily interested directly or indirectly, in any contract relating to the affairs of said corporation, nor shall said corporation make any dividend or division of its property among its members, managers or officers. (Chapter 166, 1895.)

§ 5. The board of trustees shall annually, at a time to be fixed by the by-laws, elect or appoint from their number the following officers: A president, four vice-presidents and a treasurer, who shall hold office for one year and until their respective successors are elected or appointed, and shall perform such duties as are provided by the by-laws. The board of trustees may also appoint a secretary and define his duties, and shall have the power to

manage, transact, and conduct all business of the corporation, to prescribe the terms of admission of its members, and to appoint and fix the compensation of and remove its employees at pleasure. The said corporation shall have no capital stock, and shall have no power to sell, mortgage or otherwise incumber any of its property. (Chapter 166, 1895, amended by chap. 385, 1901.)

§ 6. Said corporation shall annually make to the Legislature a statement of its affairs, and from time to time report to the Legislature, by bill or otherwise, such recommendations as are pertinent to the objects for which it was created, and may act jointly or otherwise with any persons appointed by any other State for similar purposes as those intended to be accomplished by this act, whenever the object to be secured or purpose sought to be accomplished, is within the jurisdiction of this and any other State, or can only be attained by such joint action. (Chapter 166, 1895.)

§ 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

DEATH OF J. HAMPDEN ROBB.

It is our painful duty to report the death of the Hon. J. Hampden Robb, a charter member and trustee of the Society. Mr. Robb passed away at his residence No. 23 Park avenue, New York city, on January 21, 1911. He was born in Philadelphia, Penn., October 27, 1846, being the son of James Robb, a New Orleans banker, and Louisa Werninger Robb. He was educated in Europe, then in a military school in Ossining, N. Y., and a short time in Harvard College. His early military instincts were indicated by his membership in the National Guard of New York, in which he was at one time a Lieutenant-Colonel and Adjutant-General of the First Brigade. In 1868 he married Cornelia Van Rensselaer Thayer, of Boston. He leaves a son and two daughters, Nathaniel Thayer Robb, Miss Cornelia Van Rensselaer Robb and Mrs. Goodhue Livingston. From 1866 to 1886, Mr. Robb was engaged in the cotton and banking business in New York city.

For years Mr. Robb was active in the national and State councils of the Democratic party. He was a member of Assembly in 1882 and Senator in 1884 and 1885. In the Legislature he was one of the foremost advocates of the law creating the State Reservation at Niagara, took a leading part in securing the appropriation for the purchase of the property, and was one of the Commissioners

of the Reservation appointed by Governor Cleveland after the latter had signed the bill.

Late in the '80's, he was persistently mentioned for the mayoralty of New York. In 1884 and again in 1888 he was a member of the Democratic National Convention. In the former he was a zealous advocate of the nomination of Mr. Cleveland, but after the latter's election, declined the tender of the position of Assistant Secretary of State.

That same interest in the preservation of the beauties and the breathing places of the State which he manifested in his advocacy of the State Reservation at Niagara and in other ways he put into use as a Commissioner of Parks of New York city, to which place Mayor Hewitt appointed him in 1887. He became President of the Park Board in 1888, and was always stubbornly opposed to any invasion of the lands set aside to be the green places of New York. In commenting on this service, a newspaper said twenty years ago:

"Only by eternal vigilance can the parks be maintained and developed as they ought to be, for there is never a time when some one is not trying to 'work' something to his own personal advantage and to the detriment of the public. If he can't work it he makes a terrible hullabaloo and abuses the Commissioners. Mr. Robb has withstood all these jobs, big and little, and has endeavored to have the parks administered so that the people of New York can get the greatest possible enjoyment and benefit out of them."

Mr. Robb was one of the most helpful condjutors of the late Andrew H. Green in 1895 in founding the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, of which he was one of the incorporators and for the past five years a trustee. In his death the State, the city and the Society have sustained a great loss.

THE AIMS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Society aims to protect beautiful features of the natural landscape from disfigurement, either by physical alterations or by the erection of unsightly signs and structures; to conserve forests, streams and waterfalls; and to preserve from destruction remarkable geological formations and organic growths possessing an artistic or scientific value.

It endeavors to prevent the mutilation, destruction or dispersion of American antiquities; to save from obliteration places, objects and names identified with local, state and national history; to encourage original research and promote the publication of original documents and contributions relating to American history and scenery; to erect suitable historical memorials where none exist; and to secure the bestowal of significant and appropriate names on new thoroughfares, bridges, parks, reservoirs and other great municipal works.

It promotes the beautification of cities and villages by the landscape adornment of their open spaces and thoroughfares, the protection of their parks and trees from deterioration or destruction, and the creation of public parks by private gift or the appropriation of public funds, for the health, comfort and pleasure of the people.

It cultivates by public meetings, free lectures, literature, prize competitions, correspondence and other educational means popular appreciation of the scenic beauties of America and public sentiment in favor of their preservation; and it promotes interest in and respect for the history of the country, its honored names and its visible memorials.

Practical Results The Prime Object.

While the Society takes a natural pride in identification with the accomplishments of its sixteen years' labors, yet its principal object is to produce practical results through the best media. From the nature of its work, many impulses which it gives to public and individual sentiment find their ultimate expression through other channels, and in such results the Society feels as much satisfaction as in those which stand directly in its own name.

The Society also recognizes the valuable work done by cognate organizations and is ready to co-operate with, advise and otherwise aid them in the furtherance of undertakings designed for the general welfare.

Precept and Example.

The Society not only strives to influence others to perform acts of public beneficence, but it also shows its spirit by the examples

ROBB Family

Donated by
Rod Bush

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

The Orange County California
Genealogical Society

DOES NOT CIRCULATE

Rod Bush