



(rev. 05-11)
Founded 1988
by Roswell Levi Atwood, PhD
Reorganized 2004
by C. Owen Johnson, Esq.
and Alexander Bannerman
(formerly James Kevin Raywalt)

The Order of Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, Inc.

The immigrants to the Massachusetts Bay Colony were carefully selected. Not only in a religious sense, but also in a practical one, did they constitute an “elect.” Each settler was under obligation to support his family and to contribute to those in need because of adversity. Almost to a man these New England immigrants were “English” (as distinguished from merely “British”), and they were Puritans.

Private initiative and capital have always been involved in British colonies, and the colonists were expected to provide for their own defense. Massachusetts Bay Colony was no exception. Not only the Natives, but also the French, were potential threats to Puritan civilization. By 1636, ten “Train Bands” (volunteer military companies) had been formed in Boston and nearby towns. In 1637 the “Military Company of the Massachusetts” was organized to provide training for the officers of those forces. The following year, 1638, a charter of incorporation was issued under the authority of Governor John Winthrop, Deputy Governor Thomas Dudley and the Council, and was confirmed by the General Court. Many of the original members of the Company had been members in England of the Honorable Artillery Company of London (chartered by King Henry VIII in 1537 as the “Fraternity of St. George”). Around the time of the American Revolution, the “Military Company of the Massachusetts” had a change of name to the “Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.” It is the oldest military organization on the American continent.

Its British predecessor, since its founding, has had an Annual Feast, and, at least from the time of Oliver Cromwell, has had an Annual Sermon preached on that occasion. The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, still an active military unit, follows that example.

The Order of Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, Inc., has been formed to preserve the history and genealogy of our Colonial Ancestors who were members of the Company, or who preached the annual sermon, were members of the Council, or Deputies to the General Court in 1638.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ORDER

- To honor the memory of the members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts during the years 1637-1774, who fought for the protection of the American Colonies, and of those public officials of 1638 who granted the charter for the “Military Company of the Massachusetts.”
- To commemorate the granting of the Charter on 17 March 1638.
- To make known, in all feasible ways, the inspiring history of this military company and our ancestors’ participation therein.
- To encourage a fraternal feeling among the members of the Order as we share a common heritage.

THE FOUNDING OF THE ORDER

The Order was founded at Melrose, Massachusetts, in 1988 by Roswell Levi Atwood, PhD, and was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware.

THE ORDER'S EMBLEM

The emblem of the Order is a Coat of Arms described heraldically as: Quarterly, 1st and 4th or a field cannon sable, 2nd and 3rd vert a sword erect argent hilted or; on a knight's helm wreathed of the colours, a phoenix or issuing from flames gules. It was designed by Roswell Levi Atwood, James Raywalt and Charles Green Banks III.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Men and women, at least 18 years of age:

- Who can prove direct descent from a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, who served between the years 1637-1774, or
- Who can prove direct descent from a minister who preached the Election Sermon during the years 1638-1774, or
- Who can prove direct descent from Governor John Winthrop, or
- Who can prove direct descent from Deputy Governor Thomas Dudley, or
- Who can prove direct descent from a member of the Council or a delegate to the General Court in 1638 when the Company Charter was granted, or
- In the event an individual cannot prove direct descent, he or she may yet gain membership by proving direct descent from a sibling of anyone stated in any of the options outlined above.

FEES AND DUES

The Order offers only lifetime membership which is currently set at \$125.00, including the application fee and membership certificate. The Order's insignia are available for purchase by all members, once their applications have been approved. Supplementary applications are \$45, which includes a supplementary certificate.

For an application, please write the Genealogist General:

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