Room 28 National Hotel, Washington D.C.

Tuesday night May 23, 1871

A number of the members of the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, having met at the above-named place and time, a meeting was called upon the motion of Mr. Stanton, organized for the transaction of business, and Mr. Alcorn was called to the chair.

Upon motion of Mr. W. F. B. Ferrand, Mr. Stanton was chosen Secretary.

The chair then stated that the object of the meeting was the formation of an organization of the members of the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, with the design of elevating the tone, increasing the influence, elevating and maintaining the rights of the profession and regulating the professional intercourse and relations of the members of the bar, with each other and with the court.

After an interchange of views and expressions of opinions on the part of several members of the profession present, it was upon motion of Mr. Mettingly, Resolved: That the gentlemen present form a Bar Association.
Resolved

That the title of the association shall be "The Bar Association of the District of Columbia"

Upon motion of Mr. Payne it was

Resolved:

That a committee of five be appointed by the chairman to prepare and report a plan of organization. The committee was upon motion increased to seven and that upon the chair appointed Mr. Davidge, Mr. Garvie, Mr. Payne, Mr. Crookes, Mr. Totten, Mr. F. Miller, and Mr. Perry.

The committee after consultation, presented through Mr. Davidge, the following resolutions as a preliminary report

Resolved:

That the members of the bar now present in person and represented by proxy viz—present in person, Messrs. Walter D. Davidge,

Represented by proxy:

Resolved: That the initiation fee shall be twenty dollars.

Resolved:

That all other members of this association shall be elected, in pursuance of the constitution and by-laws hereafter to be adopted.

On motion of Mr. Payne, the resolutions reported were submitted, pervention to the vote of the meeting, and were severally adopted.

Upon motion it was,

Resolved: That when the meeting adjourns, it adjourns to meet at the same place on Tuesday May 30th, at 8, O’clock, p.m.

The meeting then adjourned.
O’connor 28, National Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Tuesday May 30, 1871

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Merrick in the chair.

Mr. Merrick excused himself from further attendance on the meeting, and called Mr. Ennis to the chair.

The association then proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the election of Mr. Walter H. Davidge, President; Mr. Richard J. Merrick, 1st Vice President; Mr. Walter S. Cox, 2nd Vice President; Mr. B. Y. Lovejoy, Secretary; Mr. F. Mattingly, Treasurer; and the executive committee,

Messrs. Enoch Totten, Nathaniel Wilson, Mr. A. Webb, James L. Payne, and Joseph J. Coombs.

The association then adjourned.