

The Elk Ridge Landing Lyceum

Did you know Elk Ridge Landing had a lyceum? A lyceum is basically a library for the well-to-do – to have a reading room, educational lectures, etc.

In 1835, the Elk Ridge Landing Lyceum was incorporated by an act of the Maryland State Assembly. In the document in the Maryland State Archives that has the laws all transcribed, the one affecting the Lyceum started about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down on page 150 of the Session Laws book for 1835, Chapter 143.

The document is on line, and the link to the first page is below. You can page down from there, but I have included all 3 pages in this document for your benefit.

<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000214/html/am214-149.html>

It is not known how long the Lyceum stayed in operation, but the property was sold to Melville Methodist Episcopal Church in 1850. William Mills sold it to them. He got the property from the Lyceum in an earlier dated deed, 10/328 (though recorded later, it was written earlier). Mills apparently held the mortgage for the church, and a later deed shows where Melville paid it off. The Lyceum got the property from Asher and Matilda Earp in 1836 (deed 23/525). Asher Earp was one of the founders of the Lyceum, as was William Hill.

Without further ado, see the Maryland law below.

Printed Mar. 1835. LAWS OF MARYLAND.

Preamble **WHEREAS, it is represented to this General Assembly, that a number of the inhabitants of Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, have formed themselves into a society, whose object is the promotion of literature and the encouragement of the arts and sciences by**

providing a Library, Reading Rooms and Lecture Rooms, and all necessary apparatus for the use of the same:—Therefore. CHAP. 143.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That John L. Moore, Enoch G. Day, John R. Jarboe, Levin R. Mills, Robert C. Page, William J. Beall, Thomas Newton, William Mills, Joseph P. Ellicott, Jacob Dycas, Timothy Jeffers, Jacob Wintling, Joseph Pettit, James Murray, Septimus Hopkins, Doctor Joel Hopkins, Enos Harman, Daniel Murray, David Stewart, Asher Earp, William Dorsey, William H. Torry, Joshua Trimble, Charles G. Hanson, Francis Murray, and all others, who are or may be hereafter, admitted into the association, agreeably to such rules and regulations as now are or may from time to time be established for the government and management of the same, and their successors and assigns, be and they are hereby created a corporation and body politic, by the name and style of the Elk Ridge Landing Lyceum, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and shall be able and capable in law, to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, in any court of law or equity, and to make and use a common seal, and the same to change and alter at pleasure, and to ordain and establish such by-laws and regulations, not contrary to law, as shall be necessary or convenient for conducting the affairs of this corporation. Corporation created
Powers vested

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That the corporation and their successors by the aforesaid name shall be and are hereby made able and capable in law to have, purchase, receive and possess, enjoy and retain to them and their successors, lands, tenements, rents, annuities, pensions and other hereditaments, in fee simple, or for a term of years, life or lives, or otherwise, and also goods, chattels and effects of what nature, kind or quality, soever, and the same to grant, demise, alien or dispose of, and by the name aforesaid to do and execute all other things touching the same; *Provided,* that the total value of the property, of said corporation, real, personal, and mixed, shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars. Legal capacity—
hold and alien
property
Limitation of es-
tate

CHAP. 144.
Officers

Annual election

Existing regula-
tions and officers

Individual liabilities

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That from and after the passage of this act, the officers of the Elk Ridge Landing Lyceum, shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and five Managers, who shall be elected by ballot, on the first Tuesday in January next, and annually thereafter, a majority of members present at the meeting being necessary to constitute a choice; the association shall also have power to appoint such other officers as they may deem necessary and expedient, in such manner as they may think proper.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That until there shall be under this act, an election of officers necessary to the uses of this institution, those now acting or who may be hereafter appointed to act under any existing regulations of the association, shall continue so to do according to the provisions of the association heretofore made, and such regulations shall till lawfully altered be deemed as valid and obligatory as if made since the passage of this act.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted,* That no member of this institution shall in his individual capacity be answerable for any losses, deficiencies or failures of the joint fund or debt, of the said society, nor for any more or larger sum or sums of money whatever, then the current amount by him payable into the common fund of the society.