

# Three Organizations Remaining from the Volunteer Era

Exempt Firemen's Association  
Multnomah Engine Company #2 Benevolent Association  
Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association

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Three local fraternal firemen's organizations existed at the conclusion of the volunteer era when the Portland Volunteer Fire Department became the Portland Paid Fire Department on January 1, 1883.

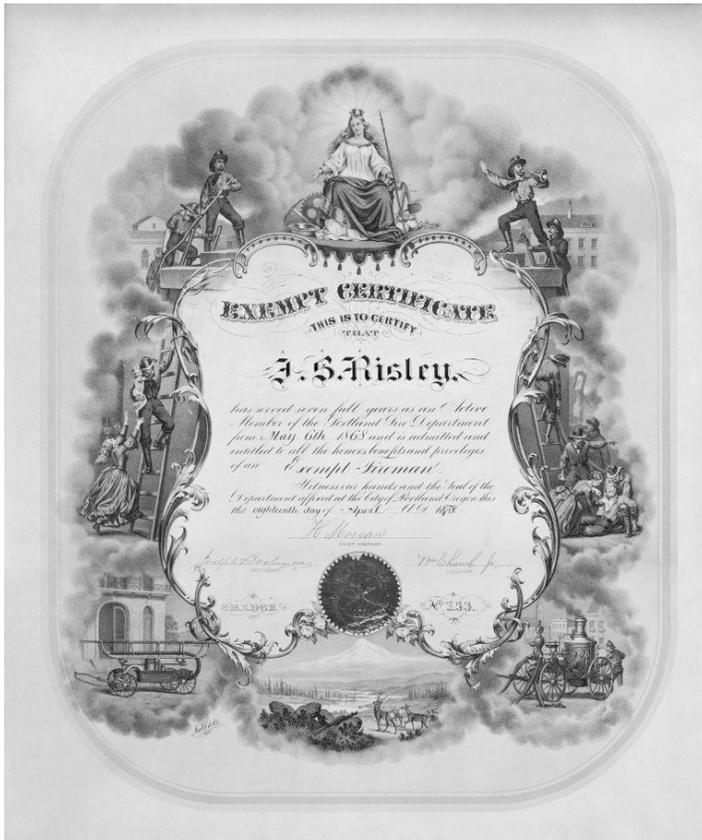
The first of these is the **Exempt Firemen's Association**, which was organized November 15, 1874, as a benevolent association. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held April 8, 1875, and at a later meeting, held on the 22nd day of April, the articles of incorporation of the Association were adopted and signed by the following six charter members:

- A.B. Hallock, President
- Benjamin F. Goodwin, Secretary
- C.H. Lewis
- Peter Taylor
- T.A. Davis
- A. Zieber

The present officers (1895) are Peter Taylor, President; and John O'Connor, Secretary.

The requirements of membership in this association are that the candidate shall have seen seven years of service in the volunteer fire department, except those who joined the department four years prior to the time it was disbanded (1879), and who performed continuous service up to January 1, 1883, when

the Portland Volunteer Fire Department was disbanded. Benefits included exclusion from jury duty.



After the great fire of August 2, 1873, a large sum of money was raised for the relief of the sufferers. Of this fund, there remained the sum of \$1,781.74, which had not been used. The authorities in charge of this money decided to turn it over to the board of trustees of the fire department as an irreducible fund, the income from this fund to be used only for the relief of members of the Portland Fire Department who may be injured while in the active discharge of their duties. There was a further provision made in the transfer of this fund, which allows the trustees, in case any serious calamity of fire occurs which might render necessary the raising of any considerable fund for the relief of the immediate wants of the sufferers thereby, to use the whole or any part of the principal and

interest of the said fund for that purpose. On the organization of the Exempt Fireman's Association, this fund was placed in charge of a Board of Trustees composed of seven members of that organization. These members were:

- A.B. Hallock
- C.H. Lewis
- H. Failing
- T.A. Davis
- Peter Taylor
- A. Zieber
- B.F. Goodwin

The association now (1895) has a fund about \$8,600.00 which can be used for the care of injured firemen or for the assistance of sick or indigent members. The Exempt Fireman's Association also cares for the volunteer firemen's plot (Firefighter's Section) at Lone Fir Cemetery, one of the best kept and most beautifully located spots in the cemetery.

The following are names of some of the older members of the association:

- A.B. Hallock
- Henry Failing
- W.S. Ladd
- W.O. Bruen
- C.H. Lewis
- Phillip C. Schuyler
- L. Baum
- A. Zieber
- Ed F. Albright
- Peter Taylor
- T.B. Trevett
- John Thompson
- Richard M. Field
- Shubrick Norris
- L.C. Millard
- W.H.D. Joyce
- H. Sinsheimer
- Blaise Labbe
- John H. Wolf
- William Young
- Benjamin F. Goodwin
- T.A. Davis
- J.H. Lappeus
- C.C. Phillips
- S.G. Skidmore
- A.J. Walling
- Henry Weinhard
- C.A. Burchardt
- C.A. Alisky
- Jacob Mayer
- E.J. DeHart
- Thomas A. Jordan
- Henry Morgan

After the old volunteer fire department went out of existence, the surviving members of Multnomah Engine Company No. 2, and the sons of the members, formed the **Multnomah Engine Company No. 2 Benevolent Association**. The Association now has a fund of \$12,090, the income from which is devoted to aiding sick and needy members, and upon the death of any member, the funeral expenses are paid out of this fund. The officers of the association are:

- T.B. Trevett, President
- Benjamin L. Norden, Secretary
- Joseph Buchtel, Vice President
- Charles H. Dodd, Treasurer

The other local firemen's association is known as the **Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association**. This is not strictly a benevolent society. It is made up of ex-volunteer firemen from all parts of the United States in addition to its many members made up from those who were connected with the old volunteer organization in Portland.

The Portland Volunteer Fire Department did great work in the early history of the city, and even after Portland had attained distinction as a metropolitan center of population the department was able to insure the same protection against fire as was guaranteed at the time in any large city in the West by the best organized paid fire department. The members of the volunteer department included many representative men of the city, and while there was considerable rivalry between different companies, there was none of that ill-feeling between different factions in the department which threatened the disruption of that good fellowship which always existed among the members.

The fact that the City Council failed to tender the old volunteer firemen a vote of thanks on the disbanding of the volunteer fire department on that last day of December, 1882, called for considerable comment from the community which had received such signal benefit from the efficient work done by the department, and while the failure of the council to officially recognize this valuable service by tendering a vote of thanks was an oversight, it was felt by the people that this lapse should not have been made and that it was a reflection on spirit of gratitude which Portland had always shown in attesting the city's appreciation of good work done by corporate public bodies.



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