

From The Archives:
February 3, 1890

Founding of the DVOC

DVOC January 2012

We need to travel back
131 years.

1881

- Only 18 years after the battle of Gettysburg
- Only 6 years after the first demonstration of a working telephone
- Only 5 years after the Battle of the Greasy Grass
- Only 2 years after Thomas Edison demonstrated his incandescent lamp

- Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur - Presidents during 1881 (19, 20, 21 out of 44)
- 38 states in the union (North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii yet to be added)
- About 52 million people in the US (currently about 311 million)
- William H. Bonney is shot and killed in New Mexico
- Gunfight at the OK Corral occurs in Arizona

1881

- 2 years before the Philadelphia Phillies were founded.
- 3 years before the fountain pen was patented.
- 3 years before the first really practical automobiles with internal combustion engines were introduced.
- 10 years before basketball was invented
- 22 years before the first flights occurred at Kitty Hawk (Wilbur Wright – 10 years old, Orville Wright – 13 years old)
- 22 years before the Ford Motor Company was founded (Henry Ford – 18 years old)

1881

A bird club was organized at Haverford College.

It consisted of six members, including a sophomore - William Lloyd Baily

It kept lists of the common birds, and these were regularly tabulated.

The club, however, was short-lived and soon disintegrated.



1884

A club was formed in Philadelphia without formal organization and without a name. It met at several houses about once a month for the comparison of notes and compiling monthly sheets.

The club hardly lived the year out.

William L. Baily

H. Baily

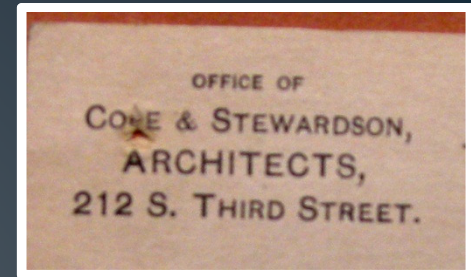
Alban Cope

H. Stokes

A. Garrett

Will Haines

December 1889



William L. Baily worked as an architectural draughtsman in Philadelphia. A chance remark about birds caught the ear of another draughtsman (J. Harris Reed),

Baily brought in the lists which he had been keeping and spoke of his collection of skins. The more they talked, the more excited Reed became. Reed purchased a notebook and began to record the birds of Tinicum.

January 22, 1890

First meeting of enthusiasts was held at 1624 Arch Street

- **William L. Baily**
- J. Harris Reed
- Spencer Trotter
- Samuel N. Rhoads
- George S. Morris



January 29, 1890 – ground work laid

- They met again at Baily's family house on Arch Street and, after a “most harmonious meeting”, agreed to form an ornithological society. Rhoads was appointed temporary secretary and Baily chairman.

- **William L. Baily - Chairman**
- J. Harris Reed
- Spencer Trotter
- Samuel N. Rhoads – temporary secretary
- George S. Morris

February 3, 1890

- The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club came into being at the 1624 Arch Street residence of William L. Baily's family
 - **William L. Baily**
 - George S. Morris
 - J. Harris Reed
 - Samuel N. Rhoads
 - Spencer Trotter
 - Witmer Stone (invited by Trotter)
 - Charles Voelker (invited by Reed)
- All between the ages of 23 and 30



*Constitution of
The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.*

Whereas, experience having shown us that knowledge can be more readily acquired by combination of effort than singly, we whose names are herewith to annexed have agreed to form an organization to be known as the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and for its better government do hereby establish the following Constitution:

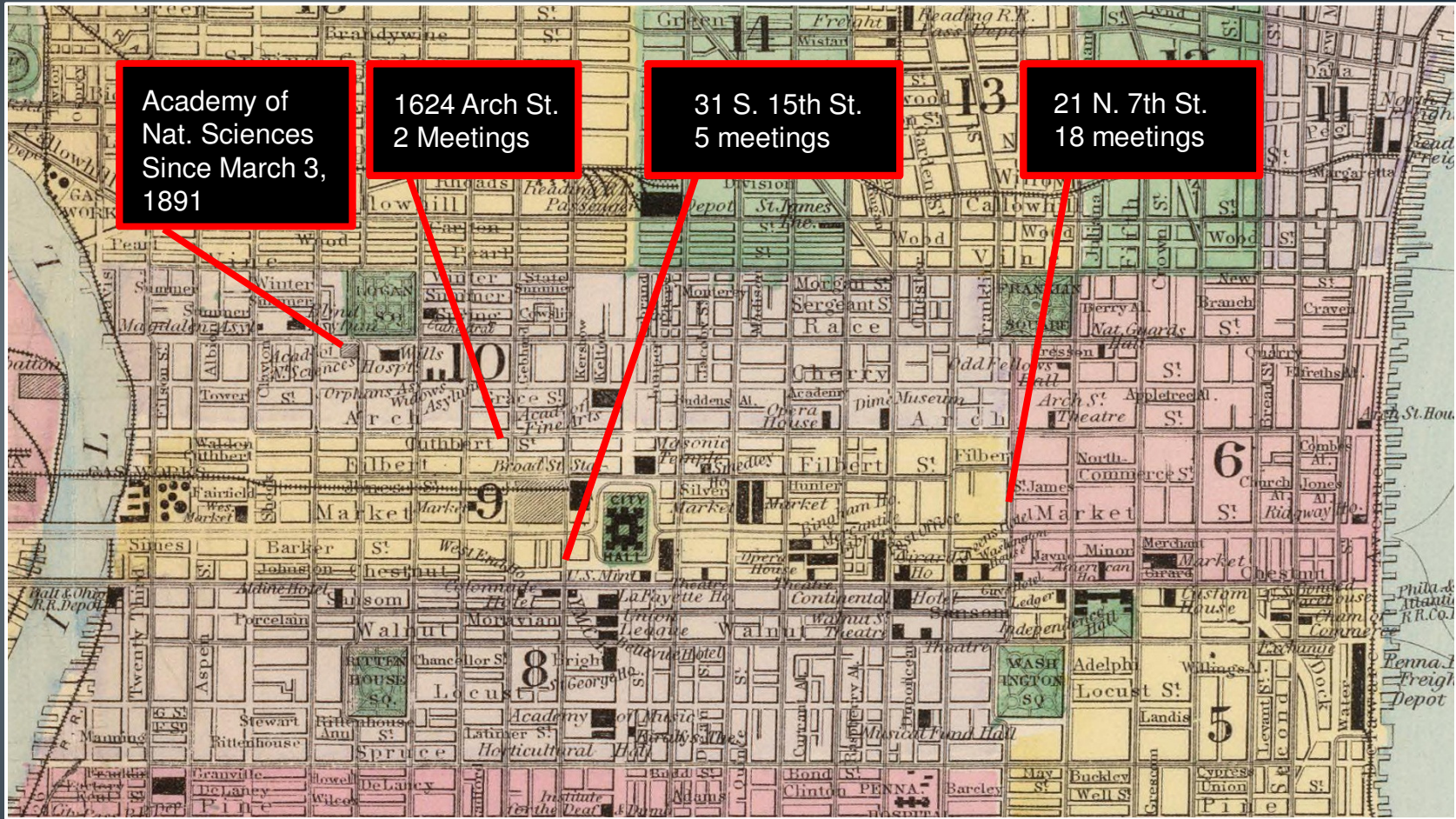
following Constitution :-

List of Members. (Active.)

Wm. L. Bailey
J. Harris Reed
Saml. W. Rhoads
Chas. T. Voetker
Geo. Spencer Morris
Witmer Stone
Mr. Prother

138. S. 4th. St.
~~212 S. 3rd. St.~~
716 Parker St. Chester
Haddonfield, N. Jersey.
Dollingdale Ld. Co. Pa.
Olney, Phila. Pa.
Fisher's Lane, Germantown Pa.
1536 Penn. Ave.
Baltimore, Pa.

Early Meeting Places



The Founders

- William L. Baily
- George S. Morris
- J. Harris Reed
- Samuel N. Rhoads
- Spencer Trotter
- Witmer Stone
- Charles Voelker

Start of a Tradition – January 1898

While efforts had always been made to have an exceptionally good attendance on the Annual Meetings no particular bait had been used. 1898 however saw an innovation – the suggestion originating with Baily – in the shape of Refreshments

While efforts had always been made to have an exceptionally good attendance on the Annual Meetings no particular bait had been used. 1898 however saw an innovation – the suggestion originating with Baily – in the shape of Refreshments.

The attendance broke all records 32 members being in attendance. They looked thin and half starved as the lined up for the first photo but after “lunch” they looked improved vastly in appearance as seen in the lower photo.

From notes by Spencer Trotter



FROM BIRDLÖRE 1902

The D. V. O. C. at the age of Eight Years

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. FOWLER | 6. MEYERS | 11. COPE | 16. FREEMAN | 21. SEISS | 26. VOELKER | 31. BALLY |
| 2. HUTCHINSON | 7. EMLIN | 12. J. W. EVANS | 17. PENNOCK | 22. FELLOWS | 27. TROTTER | 32. REED |
| 3. W. WHITAKER | 8. SERRILL | 13. CLARK | 18. FOX | 23. S. RHOADS | 28. DEHAVEN | 33. SHRYOCK |
| 4. GITHENS | 9. SHEPPARD | 14. TATUM | 19. WRIGHT | 24. MORRIS | 29. SONE | 34. McCADDEN |
| 5. C. RHOADS | 10. A. WHITAKER | 15. S. BROWN | 20. KESSEL | | | |