

No. 356.

A N A C T

To provide for the establishment of true meridian lines, and of standard measures for surveyors' chains; and to regulate the practice of surveying in this commonwealth.

WHEREAS, It is known that on account of the variation of the magnetic needle from the true pole of the earth, much difficulty and inconvenience exist in ascertaining and tracing the lines of old surveys: Preamble.

And whereas, It is also known that surveyors' chains, by being worn, are lengthened beyond the true measure, so that but few surveyors of a county have chains of equal length, nor have they equal or standard measures to make their chains of equal length, and thus rendering uncertain the true boundaries of many tracts of land where the former land marks have been obliterated or removed; and inasmuch as it is believed that by establishing true meridian lines, and having standard measures for two or four-pole chains in every county of this commonwealth, and having a proper regard to them in making future surveys, much of such difficulty may be avoided; therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the county commissioners of the several counties of this commonwealth are hereby authorized and directed, within two years from and after the passage of this act, to cause to be marked and established, on some inalienable property belonging to the county, or on such property as the commissioners of the county may hereafter acquire for that purpose, at or near the seat of justice of the several counties, a true meridian line, and a fixed standard measure of a two or four-pole chain, agreeing with and made after the measure of the standard yard now in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth; and the cost whereof to be paid out of the respective county treasuries. County commissioners of the several counties of the state, authorized to establish true meridian lines.

SECTION 2. When the said true meridian lines, and the measures of the said standard two or four-pole chain, shall have been so marked and established as aforesaid, the said county commissioners shall give public notice thereof, in one or more newspapers of their respective counties, or otherwise, for at least three successive weeks; and it shall be the duty of every land surveyor in this commonwealth, after such notice has been given as aforesaid, in the month of April in each year, to adjust and verify his compass by one of the said meridian lines, and to ascertain the variation of its needle from the true meridian, and his chain by one of the said measures of the said standard two or four-pole chain; and the said surveyors shall thereafter, in all their returns of surveys, or writings concerning surveys of land and lines run by the compass, note the bearings or courses of such surveys and lines, so as to show the true, and not the magnetic bearing, together with the date of such survey or tracing of lines. Notice to be given when lines are established.

SECTION 3. Any surveyor, after notice given as required by the provisions of this act, who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the requirements of this act, by making any survey with an unadjusted compass or chain, he shall, for every such neglect or refusal, pay the sum Penalty for refusing to comply with this act.

of ten dollars, on complaint made by any person interested in such survey, before the justice of the peace nearest to the tract or lot of land so surveyed, to be recovered as debts of a like amount are by law recoverable; the one-half thereof to the person making the complaint, and the other half to the treasurer of the school district in which such survey is made, for the use of said district.

County commissioners, further duties of.

SECTION 4. It shall be the duty of the commissioners of the several counties aforesaid to procure a book to be kept in their office; and every surveyor, on having adjusted his chain and compass as aforesaid, shall enter therein the variation of his compass from the true meridian, whether east or west, and the day on which he adjusted his chain and compass, and shall subscribe his name thereto, for future reference.

J. S. M'CALMONT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

V. BEST,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The twenty-sixth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

WM. F. JOHNSTON.

No. 357.

A N A C T

Incorporating the German Reformed congregation of Shippensburg, in the county of Cumberland; relative to the common schools of the borough of Carlisle; and authorizing H. G. Wilcox to locate a certain land warrant.

Style.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the members of the German Reformed congregation of the borough of Shippensburg and vicinity, in the county of Cumberland, are hereby erected into a body politic and corporate, in deed and in law, by the name and style of "The German Reformed congregation of the borough of Shippensburg, in the county of Cumberland."

Privileges.

SECTION 2. That the said corporation by the name and style shall have perpetual succession, and be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all the courts of law and elsewhere, and shall be able and capable in law and equity to take, purchase, hold and receive to them and their successors for the use of said congregation, lands, tenements, goods and chattels of whatsoever kind, nature or quality, real, personal or mixed, which now are or shall hereafter become the property of said corporation, or be held for their use by gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, devise, bequest or otherwise, from any person whomsoever capable of making the same; and the same to grant, bar-