

shall be an election district, to be called the fifth district, and the electors thereof shall hold their general elections at the house now occupied by Catherine Schnider, in New Hanover township, aforesaid.

Passed March 31, 1797. Recorded L. B. No. 6, p. 186.

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## CHAPTER MCMXLVI.

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### AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATES OF DECEASED OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA LINE DURING THE LATE WAR.

Whereas great inconveniences have arisen, and much injury has been done, to the rights of this commonwealth, in cases where letters of administration have been taken out upon the estates of officers and soldiers who served in the Pennsylvania line during the late war, and who died intestate, and without heirs, inasmuch as, in many instances, no settlement of accounts has been made by the persons so taking out letters of administration with the officer of the proper county, and paying into his hands their respective balances:

And whereas, for the want of legal provisions, in this respect, a door has been opened for much unjust speculation. For remedy whereof:

[Section I.] (Section I, P. L.) 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 several registers for the probate of wills and granting letters of administration, within this commonwealth, shall be, and they are hereby, required to cause to be published, in their respective counties, on or before the first day of August next, either in a public newspaper, or in a convenient number of public hand bills to be pasted up in at least twenty of most frequented places in their respective counties, the names of all such administrators, as well as the names of their sureties, as have received letters of administration (and

have not settled their accounts), upon the estates of officers and soldiers who served in the Pennsylvania line during the late war, and who have died intestate, and without heirs, severally requiring them, at the same time, and in like manner, to settle their accounts with the register of the proper county, and pay him their respective balances, with interest on the same, to be computed from the end of thirty days after the said publication.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said registers, respectively, shall, at the same time, and in like manner, require all other such administrators, of whom they have not knowledge, to come in, within sixty days from the date of such publication, and file, in the office of the register of the proper county, the name of their intestate, and the date of their letters of administration, and the administrators last mentioned shall, within thirty days from the time of such coming in, settle their accounts with the register of the proper county, and pay him their respective balances, in the same manner as is prescribed in the preceding section.

[Section III.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any administrators, so as aforesaid known or coming in on notice, as aforesaid given, shall neglect or refuse to produce his letters of administration, and make settlement and pay the balance with interest to the proper officer as is before directed, then it shall and may be lawful, and the register is hereby required, within thirty days after such neglect or refusal, to make out and transmit true copies of the administration bond to the attorney general of this commonwealth, who is hereby empowered and directed to commence suit upon the same.

[Section IV.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the administrators aforesaid, after having come forward, do not produce an inventory of the goods and chattels of the deceased at the time of his death, with fair and satisfactory accounts of the receipts and expenditures of moneys coming into and passing through their hands in consequence of such letters of administration, then the penalty of

the administration bond shall be forfeited, and, if the suit is prosecuted with effect, shall be paid with interest as aforesaid into the hands of the treasurer of the proper county, who shall transmit the same to the treasurer of this commonwealth for the use of the commonwealth.

[Section V.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any register for the probate of wills and granting letters of administration shall, after the publication of this act, neglect or refuse to do all and singular the duties and services herein required, he shall, for the first offense, forfeit and pay to the commonwealth the sum of five hundred dollars, for the second, or any subsequent offense the sum of one thousand dollars to be recovered by bill, plaint or indictment as fines, penalties and forfeitures are by the several laws of this commonwealth.

[Section VI.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the secretary of this commonwealth, and he is hereby required, as soon as conveniently may be, to transmit a copy of this act to the respective registers of the several counties within this commonwealth.

[Section VII.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the registers, respectively, to charge and receive such fees, for the above mentioned extraordinary services, as the commissioners of the respective counties shall think just and reasonable, which fees shall be deducted out of the moneys or effects of each particular estate, but, in case he shall not receive a sum sufficient for that purpose from any such estate, then, and in that case, the fees as aforesaid shall be paid out of the county treasury, on warrants drawn by the commissioners.

Passed April 1, 1797. Recorded L. B. No. 6, p.