

1771. originally laid out, until it shall intersect the said road hereby confirmed.

Passed 9th March, 1771.—Recorded A. vol. V. page 429.

CHAPTER DCXXIX.

An ACT for erecting a part of the county of Cumberland into a separate county.

WHEREAS a great number of the inhabitants of the western parts of the county of Cumberland have represented to the Assembly of this province the great hardships they lie under, from being so remote from the present seat of judicature, and the public offices: For remedying whereof, *Be it enacted*, That all and singular the lands lying and being within the boundaries following, that is to say; beginning where the province line crosses the Tuscarora mountain, and running along the summit of that mountain to the Gap near the head of the Path Valley; thence with a north line to the Juniata; thence with the Juniata to the mouth of Shaver's-creek; thence north-east to the line of Berks county; thence along the Berks county line northwestward to the western bounds of the province; thence southward, according to the several courses of the western boundary of the province, to the southwest corner of the province; and from thence eastward with the southern line of the province to the place of beginning; shall be, and the same is hereby, erected into the county, henceforth to be called Bedford.

Boundaries
of the
county.

Its name.

Privileges
granted to
it.

Freeholders
to meet
and choose
Inspectors.

One Re-
presentative
to be
elected.

II. *And be it further enacted*, That the inhabitants of the said county of Bedford shall, at all times hereafter, have and enjoy all and singular the jurisdictions, powers, rights, liberties and privileges whatsoever, which the inhabitants of any other county, within the said province, do, may or ought to enjoy, by any charter of privileges, or the laws of this province, or by any other ways or means whatsoever, excepting only in the number of Representatives to serve in General Assembly of this province; in which case it is *provided, and further enacted*, That the freeholders and inhabitants of each township, within the said county, qualified by the laws of this province to elect, shall meet at some convenient place within their respective townships, at the same time the freeholders and inhabitants of the several townships of the other counties shall meet for like purpose, and proceed to choose inspectors; and that the freemen and inhabitants of the said county, qualified as aforesaid, shall meet at or near the place where the court-house is intended to be built, at the same time the inhabitants of the other counties shall meet for the like purpose, and proceed to elect one Representative or Delegate, to serve them in Assembly, in the same manner, and under the same rules, regulations and penalties, as by the charter and laws of this province are directed in respect to other counties; which said Representative, when so chosen, shall be a member of the General Assembly of the province of Pennsylvania, and shall sit and act as such, as fully and freely as any of the Representatives for

the other counties, within this province, do, may, can or ought to do. 1771.

IV. *And be it further enacted,* That the Justices of the Supreme Court of this province shall have like powers, jurisdictions and authorities, within the said county of Bedford, as by law they are vested with, and entitled to, in the other counties within the province aforesaid; and are hereby authorized and empowered, from time to time, to deliver the gaols of the said county of capital or other offenders, in like manner as they are authorized to do in other the counties aforesaid.

Justices of the Supreme Court to have like powers, &c.

V. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be a competent number of Justices nominated and authorized by the Governor for the time being, by commissions under the broad seal of the province; which said Justices, or any three of them, shall and may hold Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace and Gaol Delivery, and County Courts for holding of Pleas; and shall have all and singular the powers, rights, jurisdictions and authorities, to all intents and purposes, as other the Justices of Courts of General Quarter Sessions, and Justices of the County Courts for holding of Pleas, in the other counties aforesaid, may, can or ought to have in their respective counties; which said Courts shall, from and after the publication of this act, sit and be held, for the said county of Bedford, on the Tuesday next preceding Cumberland County Courts, in every of the months of January, April, July and October, in every year, at the town of Bedford, until a court-house shall be built; and when the same is built and erected in the county aforesaid, the said several Courts shall then be holden and kept at the said court-house, on the days before mentioned. And the election of a Representative to serve in General Assembly, Assessors, and all other officers of the said county, who are or shall be appointed to be annually elected, shall be made and elected at or near the said court-house, at the same time, and in the same manner, as by the charter of privileges, and the laws of the province aforesaid, are directed to be done in the other counties within this province. And it shall be lawful for the freemen of the said county for the first year, to choose three Commissioners for raising county rates and levies, for the said county.

Courts of Quarter Sessions, &c. to be held.

Time and place of elections.

Passed 9th March, 1771.—Recorded A. vol. V. page 416. (q)

(q) The sections omitted in this act, are occasional, and all obsolete. The taxes previously laid, to be paid to the treasurer of Cumberland. Trustees appointed for building a Court-house and prison; money to be raised for that purpose. Previous suits to be continued in Cumberland: collector of excise to be appointed, and, the boundary lines to be run within a limited time, &c.

Part of Bedford was taken into Northumberland county, by act of March 21st, 1772, (chap. 644.) The county of Westmoreland erected out of Bedford county, February 26th, 1773, (chap. 678.)

Huntingdon county erected out of Bedford, September, 20th, 1787, (chap. 1300,) and Commissioners appointed to run the lines between Bedford, and Huntingdon, March, 2d, 1789, (chap. 1381.)

Somerset taken out of Bedford county, April 17th, 1795, (chap. 1840;) by which the top of the Alleghany mountain from the Maryland line to the Huntingdon line, is made the western boundary of Bedford county: and an additional part, near the Maryland line, is added to Somerset, by act of March 1st, 1800, (chap. 2100.)

The boundaries of Bedford county were ascertained and explained by an

1771.

act of March 21st, 1772, (chap. 658.) And between the counties of Cumberland, Bedford and Northumberland by act of September 30th, 1779, (chap. 837.) But the lines ascertained by this last act, relate, now only to the counties of *Mifflin*, *Huntingdon* and *Centre*.

By the Judiciary act, passed February 24th, 1806, (chap. 2634,) *Mifflin*, *Centre*, *Huntingdon* and *Bedford* counties, form the fourth judicial district. The Courts in Bedford are held on the first Mondays in January, April, August and November. The term continues one week.

The county of Bedford is attached to the southern district of the Supreme Court by the act of March 11th, 1809.

By the last enumeration, the county of Bedford contained two thousand eight hundred and fifty one taxables; and with the counties of Somerset and Cambria, five thousand two hundred and six taxables; and by the act apportioning the representation in pursuance thereof, March 21st, 1808, (chap. 2931,) sends two members to the house of representatives, and with the counties of Somerset and Cambria, one member to the Senate.

By the act of September 1785, (chap. 1164,) The county of Bedford was divided into five election districts. This number was of course diminished by the erection of the county of *Huntingdon*. And by act of September 29th, 1789, (chap. 1445,) the township of *Londonderry* is erected into a separate district, and called the *fourth* district; and the townships of *Air* and *Dublin*, into a separate district, and called the *5th* district.

By act of April 3d, 1792, (chap. 1610,) the fourth district is divided into two districts.

The place of holding the election in the second district, altered April 10th,

1792, (chap. 630,) and in the 5th district, January 24th, 1793, (chap. 640.)

The *seventh* and *eighth* districts erected April 11th, 1793, (chap. 1675.)

The ninth district erected February 5th, 1794, (chap. 1702.)

The tenth district erected, March 13th, 1795, (chap. 1797.)

By act of March 21st, 1797, part of Belfast township is annexed to the fifth district, and the place of holding the elections in said district, fixed, (chap. 1922.)

The place of holding the election in Londonderry township changed Feb'y 23d, 1801, (chap. 2184,) and in the 5th district, Feb'y 13th, 1802, (chap. 2227.)

By reason of the division of Bedford county, and several districts falling into Somerset a new district, erected April 2d, 1802, (chap. 2266,) is called the *eighth* district.

The place of holding elections in Cumberland Valley township, changed April 3d, 1804, (chap. 2507, sect. 2.)

Greenfield township erected into a separate district, April 4th, 1805, (chap. 2599, sect. 11.)

Southampton township erected into a separate district, March 31st, 1806, (chap. 2715, sect. 10.)

Providence township, Dublin township, and Bethel township, erected into three separate districts, April 11th, 1807, (chap. 2356, sect. 8, 9, 10.)

Belfast township made a separate district, and part of Dublin re-annexed to M'Connell's town district, and St. Clair township made a separate district, March 28th, 1808, (chap. 2972, sect. 1, 4, 14.)

The place of holding the elections in Hopewell township changed, April 4th, 1809.

For other matters relating to Bedford county, see title, *Bedford County*, in the General Index.

CHAPTER DCXXXV.

An ACT for the relief of the poor.

WHEREAS the laws hitherto made for the relief of the poor have not answered all the good purposes that were expected from them: *Be it therefore enacted*, That the Mayor or Recorder of the city of Philadelphia, with the Aldermen of said city, or any two of them, and the Justices of the Peace of the respective counties of this province, or any three of them, shall, on the twenty-fifth day of March, yearly and every year, unless the same shall happen on a Sunday, and in such case on the day following, meet at some convenient place within the said city, and in the several

Mayor or Recorder, &c. of Philadelphia, and Justices of the respective counties to meet yearly on the 25th of March, and