

of June, in every year, under the penalty of ten pounds for every such offence, to be recovered as aforesaid. 1781.

VI. *And be it further enacted,* That so much of the above recited supplementary act, as relates to the appointment of Commissioners, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed, made null, and void. Part of supplementary act repealed.

Passed 24th March, 1781.—Recorded in Law Book vol. I. page 417.

CHAPTER DCCCXX.

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

**WHEREAS** the inhabitants of that part of Westmoreland county, which lies west of the Monongahela river, have represented to the Assembly of this state the great hardships they lie under, from being so remote from the present seat of judicature and the public offices : For remedy whereof,

II. *Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted,* That all that part of the state of Pennsylvania, west of the Monongahela river, and south of the Ohio, beginning at the junction of the said rivers ; thence up the Monongahela river aforesaid, to the line run by Mason and Dixon ; thence by the said line due west, to the end thereof ; and from thence the same course, to the end of five degrees of west longitude, to be computed from the river Delaware ; thence by a meridian line extended north, until the same shall intersect the Ohio river, and thence by the same to the place of beginning (the said lines, from the end of Mason and Dixon's line to the Ohio river, to be understood as to be hereafter ascertained by Commissioners now appointed, or to be appointed for that purpose) shall be, and the same is hereby declared to be, erected into a county, henceforth to be called Washington. Boundaries of the county.

III. *And be it further enacted,* That the inhabitants of the said county of Washington 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 this state, do, may or ought to enjoy, by any charter of privileges, or the laws of this state, or by any other ways and means whatsoever. Rights, privileges, &c. of the inhabitants.

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

IX. *And be it further enacted,* [That when the persons elected for Justices of the Peace as aforesaid, or that shall be appointed by the President and Council,] have taken the oaths or affirmations required by the laws of this commonwealth, and received their commissions as directed in the constitution of this state, the said Justices, or any Justices to hold Courts of General Quarter Sessions, &c. [Altered by the constitution.]

1781. 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 Justices of the Courts of General Quarter Sessions, and Justices of the county courts for holding of pleas in the other counties in this state, may, can, or ought to have in their respective counties; which said courts shall sit and be held, for the said county of Washington, on the Tuesdays next preceding Westmoreland county courts, in every of the months of January, April, July and October, at the house of David Hoge aforesaid, in the said county of Washington, 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.

Their power.

Time and place of holding courts.

Commissioners to purchase a lot to build a court-house and prison upon.

X. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful to and for James Edgar, Hugh Scott, Van Swearingham, Daniel Lite and John Armstrong, or any three of them, to take up or purchase, and take assurance to them, and their heirs, of a piece of land, situated in some convenient place in the said county, to be approved of by the President and Supreme Executive Council, in trust and for the use of the inhabitants of the said county, and thereupon to erect and build a court-house and prison, sufficient to accommodate the public service of the said county.

Passed 28th March, 1781.—Recorded in Law Book vol. I. page 413. (i)

(i) The sections omitted in this act, are repealed or obsolete. Sect. 4 and 5, authorized the trustees named in the act to divide the county into townships or districts, for the purposes of the ensuing election, and the number of representatives to be chosen and a member of the Executive Council, and the place of holding the election, were prescribed. They are of course supplied by the existing constitution, and subsequent laws founded thereon.

Sect. 7 and 8, provided for the election and appointment of Justices of the peace. Sect. 11 and 12 provided for the expenses of the public buildings. Sect. 13 for the continuance of suits commenced in the original county. Sect. 14, 15 and 16 provided for the appointment of a collector of excise, &c. Sect. 17, Sheriff and Coroner of Westmoreland county to officiate until a Sheriff, &c. should be chosen in the new county. Sect. 18, directed the amount of the security to be given by the Sheriff and Treasurer, and is supplied by subsequent general acts.

Certain parts of Westmoreland and Washington counties erected into the county of Allegheny, September 24th, 1788, (post. chap. 1348.)

An additional part of Washington, annexed to Allegheny county, September 17th, 1789, (post. chap. 1424.) Another part of Washington county erected

into the county of Greene, February 9th, 1796, (post. chap. 1859.)

Part of Allegheny and Washington counties erected into the county of Beaver, March 12th, 1800, (post. chap. 2119, sect. 1.)

The line between Washington and Greene counties altered, January 22d, 1802, (post. chap. 2213.)

By the last enumeration, the county of Washington contains five thousand seven hundred and sixteen taxables; and connected with the county of Greene, seven thousand six hundred and twenty seven taxables; and by the act of March 21st, 1808, apportioning the representation in pursuance thereof, this county sends four members to the House of Representatives, and, with the county of Greene, two members to the Senate.

Washington county was divided into six election districts by act of September 20th, 1787, (post. chap. 1299.) Boundary between the 5th and 3d districts altered, and the place of holding elections in the 5th district changed, by act of September 26th, 1788, (post. chap. 1349.) And the place of holding the elections in the second district changed, by act of March 8th, 1790, (post. chap. 1480.)

An additional district established by act of April 6th, 1791, (post. chap. 1536.)

The fifth and sixth election districts united, to be called the fifth district, and the place of holding the elections therein, fixed, by act of March 8th, 1792, (post. chap. 1621.)

A new district, to be called the sixth district, established, by act of April 8th, 1794, (post chap. 1723.)

A new district erected, April 10th, 1799, (post. chap. 2064.)

Brunswick and Stevenson's districts established, and an addition made to the sixth district, by act of Dec'r 1st, 1800, (post. chap. 2143.)

The bounds of the ninth, or Stevenson's district enlarged, Jan'y 8th, 1805, (post. chap. 2515.)

A district, called the 10th district, established March 31st, 1806, (post. chap. 2715, sect. 8.)

Mountpleasant township erected into a district, March 28th, 1808, (post. chap. 2972, sect. 6,) and Buffaloe township erected into a district, (same act, sect. 26.)

Places of holding elections in the fifth and tenth districts altered by act of April 4th, 1809, sect. 32, 33; and the place of holding the elections in Hill's districts altered by act of March 20th, 1810, sect. 3.

By the judiciary act of Feb'y 24th, 1806, the counties of Beaver, Allegheny, Washington, Fayette and Greene, compose the fifth district. The courts are held as follows; the term continuing one week; Beaver, 1st Monday in January, August and November, and last Monday in March; in Allegheny, the Mondays following; in Fayette the Mondays succeeding the courts in Allegheny; in Greene, the Mondays succeeding the courts in Fayette; and in Washington, the Mondays succeeding the courts in Greene.

See *Washington County*, in the General Index to this edition.

## CHAPTER DCCCCXXIV.

*An ACT directing the mode of adjusting and settling the payment of debts and contracts entered into and made between the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, and the first day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, and for other purposes therein mentioned.*

**WHEREAS** the good people of this state labour under many inconveniences, for want of some rule, whereby to settle and adjust the payment of debts and contracts entered into and made, between the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, and the first day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, many of which are yet due and unsatisfied; and it seems just and reasonable that some rule should be by law established for liquidating and adjusting the same, so as to do justice as well to the debtors as creditors:

**II.** *Be it therefore enacted and it is hereby enacted,* That from and after the passing of this act, all debts and contracts, of what nature or kind soever, entered into or made within the period aforesaid, now remaining due and unfulfilled, for the payment of money, shall be liquidated, settled and adjusted, agreeable to a scale of depreciation herein after mentioned and contained, that is to say; by reducing the amount of all such debts and contracts to the true value in specie, at the days or times the same were incurred or entered into; and upon payment of the said value so found in specie, or other money equivalent, the debtors or contractors shall be for ever discharged of and from the said debts or contracts, any law, custom or usage, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

**III.** *And be it further enacted,* That the proviso clause in the suspension act of the thirty-first day of May, one thousand seven

Certain debts and contracts to be settled according to a scale of depreciation.

The modic. &c.

Part of certain acts repealed.