
APPENDIX III

LAWS AGREED UPON IN ENGLAND

I. That the Charter of Liberties, Declared, Granted and Confirmed the Five and Twentieth day of the Second Moneth called April, 1682, before divers Witnesses by William Penn, Governour and Chief Proprietor of Pennsylvania, to all the Free-men and Planters of the said Province, is hereby declared and approved, and shall be forever held for a Fundamental in the Government thereof, according to the Limitations mentioned in the said Charter.

II. That every Inhabitant in the said Province that is or shall be a Purchaser of One Hundred Acres of Land or upwards, his Heirs and Assigns; and every Person who shall have paid his Passage, and taken up One Hundred Acres of Land at One Penny an Acre, and have cultivated Ten Acres thereof; and every Person that hath been a Servant or Bonds-man, and is Free by his Service, that shall have taken up his Fifty Acres of Land, and cultivated Twenty thereof; and every Inhabitant, Artificer or other resident in the said Province, that payes Scot and Lot to the Government, shall be deemed and accounted a Free-man of the said Province; and every such Person shall and may be capable of Electing or being elected Representatives of the People in Provincial Council or General Assembly in the said Province.

III. That all Elections of Members or Representatives of the People and Free-men of the Province of Pennsylvania, to serve in Provincial Council or General Assembly, to be held with the said Province, shall be Free and Voluntary: And that the Elector, that shall receive any Reward or Gift in Meat, Drink, Moneys, or otherwise, shall forfeit his Right to Elect: And such Person as shall directly or indirectly give, promise or bestow any such Reward as aforesaid, to be Elected, shall forfeit his Election, and be thereby incapable to serve, as aforesaid. And the Provincial Council and General Assembly shall be the sole

Judges of the Regularity or Irregularity of the Elections of their own respective Members.

IV. That no Money or Goods shall be raised upon, or paid by any of the People of this Province, by way of a Publick Tax, Custom, or Contribution, but by a Law for that purpose made: And whosoever shall Leavy, Collect or Pay any Money or Goods contrary thereunto, shall be held a publick Enemy to the Province, and a Betrayer of the Liberty of the People thereof.

V. That all Courts shall be open, and Justice shall neither be sold, denied or delayed.

VI. That in Courts all Persons of all Perswasions may freely appeal in their own Way, and according to their own Manner, and there Personally Plead their own Cause themselves, or if unable, by their Friends: And the first Process shall be the Exhibition of the Complaint in Court, Fourteen Dayes before the Tryal. And that the Party complained against may be fitted for the same, he or she shall be summon'd no less than Ten Dayes before, and a Copy of the Complaint delivered him or her, at his or her Dwelling-house. But before the Complaint of any Person be received, he shall solemnly declare in Court, That he believes in his Conscience, his Cause is Just.

VII. That all Pleadings, Processes and Records in Courts shall be short, and in English, and in an ordinary and plain Character, that they may be understood, and Justice speedily administered.

VIII. That all Tryals shall be by Twelve Men, and as near as may be, Peers or Equals, and of the Neighbourhood, and men without just Exception. In cases of Life there shall be first Twenty-Four returned by the Sheriff for a Grant Inquest, of whom Twelve at least shall find the Complaint to be true, and then the Twelve Men, or Peers, to be likewise returned by the Sheriff, shall have the final Judgment: But reasonable Challenges shall be always admitted against the said Twelve Men, or any of them.

IX. That all Fees in all Cases shall be Moderate, and settled by the Provincial Council and General Assembly, and be hung up in a Table in every respective Court: And whosoever shall be convicted of taking more, shall pay Twofold, and be dismissed his Employment, one Moyety of which shall go to the party wronged.

X. That all Prisons shall be Work-houses for Felons, Vagrants and Loose and Idle Persons, whereof one shall be in every County.

XI. That all Prisoners shall be baylable by sufficient Sureties, unless for Capital Offences, where the Proof is evident, or the Presumption great.

XII. That all Persons Wrongfully Imprisoned, or prosecuted at Law, shall have Double Damages against the Informer or Prosecutor.

XIII. That all Prisons shall be Free, as to Fees, Food and Lodging.

XIV. That all Lands and Goods shall be liable to pay Debts, except where there be Legal Issue, and then all the Goods, and One Third of the Land only.

XV. That all wills in Writing attested by two Witnesses, shall be of the same Force, as to Lands, as other Conveyances, being legally proved within Forty Dayes, either within or without the said Province.

XVI. That Seven Years quiet Possession shall give an Unquestionable Right, except in Cases of Infants, Lunaticks, Married Women, or Persons beyond the Seas.

XVII. That all Briberies and Extortions whatsoever shall be severely punished.

XVIII. That all Fines shall be moderate, and saving mens Contentements, Merchandize or Wainage.

XIX. That all Marriages (not forbiddeen by the Law of God, as to nearness of Blood and Affinity by Marriage) shall be encouraged; but the Parents or Guardians shall be first consulted, and the Marriage shall be published before it be solemnized, & it shall be solemnized by taking one another as Husband and Wife before Credible Witnesses: And a Certificate of the whole, under the hands of Parties and Witnesses shall be brought to the proper Register of that County, and shall be registred in his Office.

XX. And to prevent Frauds and vexatious Suits within the said Province, that all Charters, Gifts, Grants and Conveyances of Land (except Leases for a Year, or under) and all Bills, Bonds and Specialties above Five Pounds, and not under three Moneths, made in the said Province, shall be Enrolled or Registred in the publick Enrollment-Office of the said Province, within the space of two Moneths next after the making thereof, else to be void in Law. And all Deeds, Grants and

Conveyances of Land (except as aforesaid) within the said Province, and made out of the said Province, shall be Enrolled or Registered, as aforesaid, within six Moneths next after the making thereof, and settling and constituting an Enrollment-Office or Registry within the said Province, else to be void in Law against all Persons whatsoever.

XXI. That all Defacers or Corruptors of Charters, Gifts, Grants, Bonds, Bills, Wills, Contracts and Conveyances, or that shall deface or falsifie any Enrollment, Registry or Record within this Province, shall make Double Satisfaction for the same; half whereof shall go to the Party wronged, and they shall be dismissed of all Places of Trust, and be publickly disgraced, as False Men.

XXII. That there shall be a Register for Births, Marriages, Burials, Wills and Letters of Administration, distinct from the other Registry.

XXIII. That there shall be a Register for all Servants, where their Names, Time, Wages, and Dayes of Payment shall be Registered.

XXIV. That all Lands and Goods of Fellons shall be liable to make satisfaction to the Party wronged Twice the Value; and for want of Lands or Goods, the Fellow shall be Bonds-man, to work in the Common-Prison or Work-house, or otherwise, till the Party injured be satisfied.

XXV. That the Estates of Capital Offenders, as Traitors and Murderers, shall go one-third to the next of Kin to the Sufferer, and the remainder to the next of Kin to the Criminal.

XXVI. That all Witnesses coming or called to testifie their Knowledge in or to any Matter or Thing in any Court, or before any lawful Authority within the said Province, shall there give or deliver in their Evidence or Testimony by solemnly Promising To Speak the Truth, the Whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth to the Matter or Thing in question. And in case any Person so called to Evidence, shall afterwards be convicted of Wilfull Falsehood, such Person shall suffer and undergo such Damage or Penalty as the Person or Persons, against whom he or she bore false Witness, did or should undergo, and also make Satisfaction to the Party wronged, and be publickly exposed as a False Witness, never to be credited to any Court or before any Magistrate in the said Province.

XXVII. And to the end that all Officers chosen to serve within this Province, may with more care and diligence answer the Trust reposed in them, It is agreed, that no such Person shall enjoy more than one publick Office at one time nor shall he be capable of any publick office of Trust in the province that hath an Office or part in any other government. A . . . accepting any such Foreign Office or (and?) part of government he shall immediately cease to be an officer in this province.

XXVIII. That all Children within this Province of the Age of Twelve Years shall be taught some useful Trade or Skill, to the end none may be Idle, but the Poor may Work to live, and the Rich, if they become Poor, may not want.

XXIX. That servants be not kept longer than their time, and such as are Careful be both justly and kindly used in their Service, and put in fitting Equipage at the expiration thereof, according to Custom.

XXX. That all Scandalous and Malicious Reporters, Backbiters, defamers, and Spreaders of false News, whether against Magistrates or private Persons, shall be accordingly severely punished, as Enemies to the Peace and Concord of this Province.

XXXI. That for the Encouragement of the Planters and Traders in this Province, who are incorporated into a Society, the Patent granted to them by William Penn, Governour of the said Province, is hereby ratified and confirmed.

XXXII. That all persons who are Chosen and appointed to serve in any Office in this Province shall be such as are only of this Province and that Reside personally therein.

XXXIII. That all Factors or Correspondents in the said Province wronging their Employers, shall make Satisfaction, and one third over to their said Employers; and in case of the Death of any such Factor or Correspondent, the Committee of Trade shall take care to secure so much of the deceased Party's Estate as belongs to his said respective Employers.

XXXIV. That all Treasurers, Judges, Masters of the Rolls, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and other Officers or Persons whatsoever, relating to Courts or Tryals of Cause, or any other Service in the Government, and all Members elected to serve in Provincial Council and General Assembly, and all that have Right to elect such Members,

shall be such as profess Faith in Jesus Christ, and that are not convicted of Ill Fame, or unsober and dishonest Conversation, and that are on One and Twenty Years of Age at least; and that all such so qualified shall be capable of the said several Employments and Priviledges as aforesaid.

XXXV. That all Persons living in this Province, who confess and acknowledge the One Almighty and Eternal God, to be the Creator, Upholder and Ruler of the World, and that hold themselves obliged in Conscience to live peaceably and justly in Civil Society, shall in no wayes be molested or prejudiced for their Religious Perswasion or Practice in matters of Faith and Worship, nor shall they be compelled at any time to frequent or maintain any Religious Worship, Place or Ministry, whatever.

XXXVI. That according to the good Example of the Primitive Christians, and for the ease of the Creation, every First Day of the Week, called the Lords Day, People shall abstain from their common daily Labour, that they may the better dispose themselves to Worship God according to their Understandings.

XXXVII. That as a Careless and Corrupt Administration of Justice draws the Wrath of God upon Magistrates, so the Wildness and Loose-ness of the People provoke the Indignation of God against a Country; Therefore, that all such Offences against God, as Swearing, Cursing, Lying, Prophane Talking, Drunkenness, Drinking of Healths, Obscene words, Incest, Sodomy, Rapes, Whoredom, Fornication and other uncleanness (not to be repeated:) All Treasons, Misprisons, Murders, Duels, Fellonies, Sedition, Mayhems, Forcible Entries and other Violencies to the Persons and Estates of the Inhabitants within this Province: All Prizes, Stage-Plays, Cards, Dice, May-games, Gamesters, Masques, Revels, Bull-baiting, Cock-fightings, Bear-baitings and the like, which excite the People to Rudeness, Cruelty, Looseness, and Irreligion, shall be respectively discouraged and severely punished, according to the appointment of the Governour and Free-men in Provincial Council and General Assembly, as also all Proceedings contrary to these Laws, that are not here made expressly penal.

XXXVIII. That a Copy of these Laws shall be hung up in the Provincial Council and in publick Courts of Justice, and that they shall be read Yearly at the opening of every Provincial Council and General Assembly and Court of Justice, and their Assent shall be testified by their standing up after the reading thereof.

XXXIX. That there shall be at no time any Alteration of any of these Laws without the Consent of the Governour, his Heirs or Assigns, and Six parts of Seven of the Free-men met in Provincial Council and General Assembly.

XL. That All other Matters and Things not herein provided for, which shall and may concern the publick Justice, Peace or Safety of the said Province, and the raising and imposing Taxes, Customs, Duties, or other Charges whatsoever, shall be and are hereby referred to the Order, Prudence and Determination of the Governour and Free-men in Provincial Council and General Assembly, to be held from time to time in the said Province.

Signed and Sealed by the Governour and Free-men aforesaid, this Fifth Day of the Third Moneth, called May, One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty and Two.

Wm Penn
Philip Ford
N. More
Charles Lloyd
Richard Davies
John Longhurst
Daniel Quare
John Gray (Grey?)
John Wilson
Richard Thatcher
John Stevens
James Claypool
William Howell

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