

twenty pounds for every such offense, one moiety or half part thereof for and towards the support of this government, and the other half to the said Benjamin Chambers or his assigns, to be recovered in any court of record in this province by bill, plaint or information, wherein no essoin, protection or wager of law shall be allowed.

Passed June 7, 1712. Confirmed by the Queen in Council, February 20, 1713-14. See Appendix III, Section II.

CHAPTER CXCL.

AN ACT FOR ESTABLISHING AND REGULATING OF FERRIES OVER DELAWARE RIVER AND NESHAMINY CREEK.

Whereas it is of absolute necessity that ferries be erected and established over the river Delaware and Neshaminy Creek, for the better accommodation of passengers traveling in this province:

[Section I.] Be it therefore enacted by Charles Gookin, Esquire, by the Queen's royal approbation Lieutenant-Governor under William Penn, Esquire, absolute Proprietary and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That there shall be erected and kept the several ferries following: (That is to say) at the town of New Bristol one, and near the Falls of Delaware one, and at the landing of William Williams one; also at John Baldwin's, upon Neshaminy Creek one; all which ferries shall be kept at the respective places aforesaid by such persons as are hereinafter named and appointed, their executors, administrators and assigns, respectively, who shall and are hereby required at all convenient times to maintain and keep the said ferries with good and sufficient boats and men, as shall from time to time be needful for the carriage of all persons, cattle, horses and goods which are to be carried

over the said river Delaware or Neshaminy Creek, at the several and respective ferries aforesaid. And also, that each and every the said persons hereafter named and appointed, and their successors, shall at all times hereafter (during the time limited by this act) by him or themselves or servants give constant and due attendance on his or their said ferries respectively; and each of the said persons shall have and receive for ferriage over, at each of the several places aforesaid, of all persons (the proprietary and his lieutenant-governor and their attendants excepted) the rates and prices following: (That is to say) at the ferry of New Bristol, for every single passenger on foot, four pence; but if three be carried at once, three pence for each; and if any greater number, two pence halfpenny each; for every single horse and rider, one shilling; and when any greater number together, nine pence for each; for every single ox, cow or heifer, one shilling and three pence; and when any greater number together, one shilling for each; for every single sheep three pence; and when any greater number together, two pence for each; for every single hog, six pence; and when a greater number together three pence halfpenny each, and no more: at the ferries at the Falls and William Williams', for every single horse and rider, nine pence; and when any greater number shall be carried together, seven pence halfpenny for each; for every single passenger on foot, four pence; and when a greater number together, three pence for each; for every single ox, cow or heifer, one shilling, and when a greater number is carried together, ten pence for each; for every single sheep, three pence, but when a greater number, one penny halfpenny for each; for every single hog, five pence, and when a greater number, three pence per head, and no more: at the ferry over Neshaminy, for every single horse and rider, ox, cow or heifer, four pence, but if more are carried at one time, three pence each; for every foot passenger, two pence; for every sheep, one penny, and for every hog, two pence and no more; and if any of the said persons hereby appointed shall not maintain and keep such sufficient boat or boats, as aforesaid, with sufficient and able hands, or shall not give constant and due attendance on the service of the said ferries, respectively, or shall

exact or demand any greater or other fees for the carriage of any passengers, cattle, horses, hogs or sheep, than is herein before limited and appointed, then and in every such case he shall forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds lawful money of this province for every such offense, one moiety thereof to the governor for the support of the government of this province, and the other moiety thereof to the party grieved, who shall sue for the same, by bill, plaint or information in any court of record in this province, wherein no essoin, protection or wager of law shall be allowed.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That John Sotcher of Pennsbury in the said county of Bucks, yeoman, is hereby appointed and shall be the person who shall keep the ferry at Bristol. And that John Clark of the said county, yeoman, is hereby appointed and shall be the person who shall keep the ferry at or near the Falls. And that William Williams of the same county, yeoman, is hereby appointed and shall be the person who shall keep the ferry at his own landing, as aforesaid. And that John Baldwin of New Bristol, in the county of Bucks, is hereby appointed and shall be the person who shall keep the ferry at Neshaminy Creek. And each and every of them, and their executors and assigns, respectively, shall or may hold and enjoy the same for and during the term of seven years from the publication of this act, if they shall respectively so long well behave themselves therein. And that no other person or persons shall hereafter, for and during the said term of seven years, presume to carry any passengers, horses, cattle, sheep or hogs for any wages, hire or reward whatsoever, over the said river Delaware, from this province to New Jersey, or over Neshaminy Creek, as aforesaid, within the space of two miles either above or below either of the aforesaid ferries, under the penalty of five pounds forfeiture for every offense, one moiety thereof to the governor, for the support of the government of this province, and the other moiety thereof to such person who shall from time to time be appointed as aforesaid, to keep such of the said ferry or ferries as shall be within the distance above limited, who shall sue

for the same by bill, plaint or information, wherein no essoin, protection or wager of law shall be allowed.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any of the persons above named and appointed for keeping the aforesaid ferries respectively, shall refuse to provide boats and keep the said ferries as by this act directed and allowed, then it shall and may be lawful for the proprietor, William Penn, Esquire, his heirs or assigns, or his or their commissioners of property, for the time being, to appoint any other persons for that purpose, under the same restrictions and limitations hereinbefore expressed; and such person or persons, so appointed, shall or may be accommodated at any the aforesaid places with a suitable house or so much land convenient to erect one on (not exceeding half an acre) at such rates as the county court and grand jury shall adjudge reasonable, to be paid by the undertaker to the owner thereof, which land so assigned as aforesaid, with the improvements shall be deemed and held as the estate of the improver and occupier thereof, his heirs and assigns; and shall be liable only to be alienated by the county court and grand jury on such reasonable allowances as they shall think fit as aforesaid, to any other person, for the same uses as is above expressed, any law, usage or custom to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Provided always, That this act shall continue in force for and during the term of seven years from the publication thereof, and no longer.

Passed June 7, 1712. Confirmed by the Queen in Council, February 20, 1713-14. See Appendix III, Section II, and the Acts of Assembly passed May 31, 1718, Chapters 233 and 234; May 9, 1724, Chapter 277; May 10, 1729, Chapter 305, and September 6, 1785, Chapter 1172.