

CHAPTER MMCIIL.

AN ACT FOR ERECTING PARTS OF THE COUNTIES OF MIFFLIN, NORTH-UMBERLAND, LYCOMING AND HUNTINGDON, INTO A SEPARATE COUNTY.

Whereas it hath been represented to the legislature of this state, by the inhabitants of those parts of the counties of Mifflin, Northumberland, Lycoming and Huntingdon, included within the lines hereafter mentioned, that they labor under great hardships, by reason of their great distance from the present seats of justice, and the public offices for the said counties. 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 all and singular the lands lying within the bounds and limits hereinafter described, shall be, and are hereby, erected into a separate county, by name of Centre County, namely, beginning opposite the mouth of Quinn's run or the west branch of Susquehanna; thence a straight line to the mouth of Fishing creek, where it empties into the Bald Eagle creek; thence to the northeast corner of Miles' (late Haines') township, including Nittany valley; thence by the north-eastern boundaries of the said township to the summit of Tussey's mountain; thence by the summit of said mountain, by the lines of Haines' township in Northumberland county, Potter township in Mifflin county, and Franklin township in Huntingdon county, to a point three miles southwest of the present line between Mifflin and Huntingdon counties; thence by a direct line to the head of the south-west branch of Bald Eagle creek; thence a direct line to the head waters of Moshannon; thence down the same to Susquehanna, and down the Susquehanna to the place of beginning.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the inhabitants of the said Centre county shall, at all times hereafter, enjoy all and singu-

lar the jurisdictions, powers, rights, liberties and privileges whatsoever within the same, which the inhabitants of other counties of this state do, may or ought to enjoy within their respective counties, by the constitution and laws of this commonwealth.

[Section III.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the judges of the supreme court, and the president of the fourth district, of which district the said Centre county is hereby declared to be a part, as well as the associate judges who shall be commissioned in and for the said Centre county, shall have like powers, jurisdictions and authorities within the same, as are warranted to, and exercised by, the said judges in other counties of this commonwealth; and that the courts of general quarter sessions of the peace, and of the common pleas, in and for the said Centre county, shall be opened and holden on the Mondays next succeeding the general county courts held in the county of Mifflin, in each year, at the house now occupied by James Dunlop, in the town of Bellefonte, in the said Centre county, until a court house shall be erected, as hereinafter directed, and shall then be held at the said court house.

[Section IV.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the courts of common pleas and general quarter sessions of the peace for the county of Huntingdon, shall be held on the Mondays next succeeding such courts to be held in the said Centre county, and the said courts for the county of Bedford shall be held on the Mondays next succeeding the said courts in the county of Huntingdon.

[Section V.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no action or suit now commenced or that shall be commenced in the county courts of Mifflin, Northumberland, Lycoming or Huntingdon, before the first day of November next, against any person living or residing within the bounds of Centre county, shall be stayed, discontinued or affected by this act, or any thing herein contained, but that the same may be prosecuted to the final issue, in the same manner as if this act had not been passed.

[Section VI.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the inhabitants of the said Centre county shall under the same rules, laws and regulations as the other counties of this commonwealth elect such officers as they by law and the constitution are entitled to.

[Section VII.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the sheriffs, treasurers, and all such officers as have heretofore usually given bail for the faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices, who may hereafter be elected or appointed in Centre county, before they, or either of them, shall enter upon the execution of their respective offices, shall give sufficient security, in the like sums, in the like manner and form, and for the like uses, trusts and purposes, as such officers are obliged by law, for the time being, to do in the county of Mifflin.

[Section VIII.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all arrearages of taxes now due, and which have been assessed within the counties of Mifflin, Northumberland, Lycoming and Huntingdon, prior to the passing of this act, shall be collected by the proper officers of the said counties, and shall be by them paid to [the] treasurers of the said counties respectively, in the same manner as if this act had not passed.

[Section IX.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Andrew Gregg, William Swanzy and Robert Boggs of Bald Eagle be, and they are hereby, appointed trustees for the county aforesaid, with full authority for them, or the survivors or survivor of them, to purchase or take and receive, by grant, bargain, or otherwise, as well all such assurances for the payment of money and grants of land, as hath been stipulated for by James Dunlop and James Harris, by their bond to the governor of this commonwealth, as also any moneys, bonds or other property that may hereafter be offered to them, in trust to sell and convey, or otherwise dispose of the same, to the best advantage; and to vest one moiety of the net proceeds thereof in some productive fund, for the support of an academy or public school, in the said county, and with the other moiety

of the net proceeds of the land or lots aforesaid, and with other moneys duly assessed, levied and collected within the said Centre county for that purpose, which it is hereby declared it shall be lawful for the commissioners thereof to do, or cause to be done, to build and erect a court house, prison and other buildings for the safe keeping of the public records of said county, on such part of the public square, laid out in the said town of Bellefonte, as to them shall appear most suitable; and the said trustees shall, from time to time, render due and faithful accounts of the expenditures of the same, to the commissioners and to the auditors of the county, who are hereby authorized to adjust and settle the same.

[Section X.] (Section X, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the inhabitants of the county of Centre, until the next enumeration of the taxable inhabitants is made agreeably to the fourth section of the first article of the constitution, shall hold their elections for members of federal and state legislatures with the counties and districts to which they have been heretofore annexed, in the same manner as if this law had not been enacted, anything hereincontained to the contrary notwithstanding, save only that the inhabitants of so much of lower Bald Eable as is included in the said Centre county, shall hold their general election at the house now occupied by Archibald Stewart, in said township, and so much of Franklin township as is included in the said Centre county, shall hold their general elections with the inhabitants of the townships of Potter and Patton, at the house now occupied by William King, in Potter's township.

Passed February 13, 1800. Recorded L. B. No. 7, p. 90, etc.