

authority to elect officers, to establish by-laws for their government, ^{Powers.} and to hold real estate, the yearly value of which shall not exceed three thousand dollars: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall ^{Proviso.} be so construed as to authorize said Pennsylvania association and reading room to do any other act or acts in their corporate capacity than are herein expressed.

SECTION 8. That John Harper, Jacob Weidle, and Joseph Reinhard, are hereby appointed, having first been duly sworn or affirmed to discharge the duties of this appointment with fidelity, to investigate the losses sustained by Frederick Kreiser, in and about the construction of the county bridge across the Swatara creek, at Mount Union, in Lebanon county, and report to the county commissioners of Lebanon county what amount they believe to be due, in equity and justice, to the said Frederick Kreiser, by reason of his losses and services in and about the construction of the bridge aforesaid; and on the said report being approved by the commissioners aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the commissioners aforesaid to draw their warrant on the county treasurer of said county, in favor of said Frederick Kreiser, for the amount thereof.

John Harper, Jacob Weidle, Joseph Reinhard, appointed to investigate losses sustained by Frederick Kreiser by the erection of a certain bridge.

JOHN S. RHEY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN H. WALKER,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The seventeenth day of February, A. D., one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two.

WM. BIGLER.

No. 56.

A N A C T

Authorizing the establishment of a public park and parade ground in the city of Reading.

WHEREAS, When the town of Reading was originally laid out by the proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania, a certain lot of ground, now known as "the commons," situate at the foot of Penn's mount, in the said town, was reserved by the said proprietaries, as a free and public commons for the dwellers in said town, and was so known and used, from the year one thousand seven hundred and forty-nine, notwithstanding which, the heirs of the said proprietaries, after the close of the revolutionary war, claimed the same as their private property, there being no legal evidence on record of said grant having been made by Thomas and Richard Penn:

Preamble.

And whereas, In view of the circumstances aforesaid, on the nineteenth day of November, A. D., one thousand eight hundred, Peter Feather, Jr., Jacob Roads, and Jacob Epler, then commissioners of Berks county, purchased from John Penn and Richard Penn, late pro-

prietaries of Pennsylvania, the aforesaid lot of ground, in the borough, now city of Reading, marked number sixty, in the plan of out-lots attached to said borough, containing as per recital in said deed, fifty-five and a half acres, but in reality about eighty-five acres, with the intention of appropriating said lot of ground to the use of the citizens of Reading as a public commons, for which purpose the said lot of ground has been used from that time to the present, with the exception of about thirty-five acres sold by the commissioners of said county, under the authority of an act of the General Assembly, approved February twenty-eighth, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine :

And whereas, The sale of the thirty-five acres aforesaid, has more than repaid to the said county of Berks, the principal and interest of the original purchase money for said lot of ground :

And whereas, The increase of population in the said city of Reading, has now become so great that some place to be used as a public park and parade ground has become absolutely necessary, as well for the convenience of the citizens as for the public health, which experience has shown is always improved by the establishment of such public parks, squares and gardens in large towns :

And whereas, The proper enclosing, laying out, and embellishment of the aforesaid lot of ground, more properly belongs to the mayor and councils of the city of Reading, than to the commissioners of Berks county, it being more equitable that the former should defray the expense arising from an improvement made more particularly for the benefit of its own citizens ; therefore,

SECTION 1. *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

Commissioners of Berks county, authorized to convey a lot of ground in Reading, known as the "public commons."

it shall be the duty of the commissioners of the county of Berks, and they are hereby authorized and required to convey in fee, to the mayor, aldermen, and citizens of Reading, in trust for the use of said citizens, for the sole purpose of establishing a public park and parade ground forever, and for no other purpose, object, or design, whatsoever; all their right, title, and interest, of, in and to a certain lot of ground situate in the city of Reading, known as the "public commons," bounded on the north by Walnut street, on the west by Eleventh street, on the south by the Reading and Perkiomen turnpike, the extension of Bingaman street and land of M. S. Richards, and on the east by land now or late of John Miller, containing forty-nine acres one hundred and thirty-four perches, strict measure, it being part of a larger lot of ground marked in the general plot of said city, with number sixty, which was conveyed by Edmund Physick, attorney in fact for John Penn and Richard Penn, to the commissioners of Berks county, by deed dated November nineteenth, A. D., one thousand eight hundred, recorded in the office for recording deeds, et cetera, in and for Berks county, in deed book A., vol. seventeen, page three hundred and three: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained, shall be construed to require the conveyance of any land within the above described tract, now occupied by the county prison and its appendages, the prison grave yard, or the public reservoirs, the title to which shall remain as heretofore : *And provided further*, That the county of Berks, shall at any future time have the right to occupy so much of said ground as may be necessary for the extension of the present or the erection of any new county buildings.

Proviso.

Said lot to be enclosed for certain purposes.

SECTION 2. That immediately upon the conveyance aforesaid being made, it shall be the duty of the mayor, aldermen, and citizens of Reading, to cause the whole of the aforesaid lot of ground to be enclosed for

the purpose of a public park and parade ground, to fill up the water gullies, and otherwise level the surface of the ground, so far as may be necessary, to cause walks to be laid out, trees planted, and such other steps to be taken, as will best carry out the true intent and meaning of this act, always, however, reserving a sufficiently large space of clear ground to enable any portion or the whole of the volunteers of Berks county, to use the same as a parade ground, which may also be used for the celebrations of the agricultural society, for public meetings and other similar purposes.

SECTION 3. That the select and common councils of said city shall have power to make all necessary rules and regulations for the better *Rules and reg-* government and preservation of the said public park and parade ground, *ulations.* and to impose a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, for any injury done to the fences, trees, shrubs, or other ornaments of said park, which fine, after the amount thereof is fixed, by a city ordinance, shall be imposed by any alderman of said city, and said alderman shall have summary jurisdiction of all such offences.

JOHN S. RHEY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN H. WALKER,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The seventeenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two.

WM. BIGLER.

No. 57.

AN ACT

Vacating a portion of Ferry lane and Back lane, in Allegheny county, and relative to certain election districts, and to vacate a portion of Meredith street, in Philadelphia county.

SECTION 1. *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 so much of Ferry lane, in the township of Reserve and county of Allegheny, as extends from the intersection of Strawberry lane to the southernly line of out-lot number two hundred and seven, in the reserved tract opposite Pittsburg, and also, so much of said Ferry lane as lies between out-lots, numbers seven and two hundred and eleven, be and the same is hereby vacated, and that the title to the soil over which the same passes be, and the same is hereby vested in fee simple, in the several owners of the ground adjoining and fronting on the same respectively, the owner of each lot, fronting and adjoining on the portion of said lane hereby vacated, to have and enjoy the same from the line of his respective lot or lots to the centre of said vacated lane, so far as his respective lot or lots adjoins and fronts on said vacated lane.

Portion of Ferry lane in Allegheny county, vacated.