

1752. the said court-house, at the same time, and in the same manner, as by the charter of privileges, and laws of the province aforesaid, is directed to be done in the other counties within this province. And it shall and may be lawful for the freemen of the said county, for the first year, to choose three Commissioners for raising county rates and levies for the said county.

Passed 11th March, 1752.—Recorded A. vol. III. page 279. (u)

(u) The sections omitted in this act are occasional and obsolete. The taxes already laid, to be paid to the treasurers of Philadelphia, Chester and Lancaster. Trustees appointed for building a court-house and prison. The taxes therefor, how to be assessed and collected. Suits commenced in the original counties to be prosecuted to judgment, &c. Collector of excise appointed—Sheriff and coroner of Philadelphia to officiate in Berks until the first election in Berks. The boundary line to be run within six months by persons appointed for that purpose.

By a supplement passed February 18th, 1769, (chap. 593,) commissioners were appointed to run the lines between the counties of Lancaster, Cumberland and Berks, and between the counties of Northampton and Berks.

Part of Berks taken into the county of Northumberland, March 21st, 1772, (chap. 644.)

April 17th, 1795, commissioners appointed to run the lines between Northumberland and Berks, (chap. 1837.)

By the last enumeration, the county of Berks contained seven thousand five hundred and eighty taxables; and by act of assembly of March 21st, 1808, (chap. 2931,) apportioning the representation, sends five members to the house of representatives, and two members to the senate.

By an act passed September 21st,

1789, (chap. 926,) the county of Berks was divided into five election districts.

September 30th, 1791, (chap. 1579,) Union, Caernarvon, and Robeson townships, erected into a district.

March 19th, 1794, (chap. 1710,) the townships of Colebrookdale, Earl district, and Hereford, are erected into the 7th district.

Two additional districts established by an act passed April 1st, 1797, (chap. 1937.)

Another district established by act of February, 27th, 1798, (chap. 1953.)

Greenwich and Albany townships erected into a district, April 8th, 1799, (chap. 2050.)

Mahontongo township erected into a district, February 5th, 1802, (chap. 2225.)

Bethel township erected into a district, March 16th, 1803, (chap. 2337.)

Tulpehocken township erected into a district, April 4th, 1809.

By the judiciary act of February 24th, 1806, the counties of Berks, Northampton and Wayne compose the third district. The courts are held on the first Mondays of January, April, August and November. The term continues two weeks.

Berks county is part of the Lancaster district of the Supreme Court, by act of March 11th, 1809.

Reading erected into a borough, September 12th, 1783, (chap. 1020.)

CHAPTER CCCXCIII.

An ACT for erecting the northwest part of Bucks into a separate county.

WHEREAS a great number of the inhabitants of the upper parts of the county of Bucks, by their petition, have humbly represented to the governor and assembly of this province the great hardships they lay under, by being so remote from the present seat of judicature, and the public offices, that the necessary means to be used for obtaining justice is attended with so much difficulty and expense, that many forego their right, rather than attempt the recovery of it under such circumstances, while others, sensible of these difficulties, commit great villainies with impunity. For remedying

whereof, and for relief of the inhabitants, *Be it enacted*, That all and singular the lands, lying within the province of Pennsylvania aforesaid, be erected into a county, and the same is hereby erected into a county, named, and henceforth to be called, Northampton; to be divided from the county of Bucks by the upper or northwestward line of Durham tract, to the upper corner thereof; then by a straight line to be run southwestwardly to the line dividing the townships of upper and lower Milford; then along the said line to the line dividing Philadelphia and Bucks counties; and then by that line to the extremity of the said province.

1752.

Boundaries
of the county
of Northamp-
ton.

II. *And be it further enacted*, That the inhabitants of the said county 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 the said province do, may, or ought to enjoy, by any charter of privileges, or the laws of this province, or by any other ways or means whatsoever, excepting only in the number of representatives to serve in general assembly of this province; in which case it is *provided, and further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That until it shall be otherwise ordered by the governor and assembly of this province, the freemen and inhabitants of the said county, qualified by the laws of this province, to elect, shall annually meet at or near the place where the courthouse is intended to be built for the said county, at the same time the inhabitants of the other counties of this province shall meet for like purposes, and there proceed to choose inspectors, and to elect one representative, or delegate, to serve them in assembly, in the same manner as by the charter and laws of this province is directed in respect to other counties; which said representative, when so chosen, shall be a member of the general assembly of the province of Pennsylvania, and sit and act as such as fully and freely as any of the representatives for the other counties within this province do, may, can, or ought to do.

The inhabi-
tants there-
of to elect
one repre-
sentative in
assembly.
This provis-
ion repealed
by an act passed
December
14th, 1774,
(chap. 699.)
now also ob-
solete.)

IV. *And be it further enacted*, That the justices of the supreme court of this province shall have like powers, jurisdictions and authorities, within the said county of Northampton, as by law they are vested with, and entitled unto, in the other counties within the province aforesaid; and are hereby authorized and empowered, from time to time, to deliver the gaols of the said county of capital or other offenders, in like manner as they are authorized to do in other the counties aforesaid.

Jurisdiction
of the Su-
preme Court
and

V. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be a competent number of justices nominated and authorized by the governor for the time being, by commissions under the broad seal of the province; which said justices, or any 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 the Justices of Courts of General Quarter Sessions, and Justices of the County Courts for holding of Pleas, in the other counties aforesaid, may, can, or ought to have in their respective counties; which said courts shall, from and after the publication of this act, sit and be held for the said county of

County
Court esta-
blished.

1752. Northampton, on the third day of the week, commonly called Tuesday, next ensuing Bucks county court, in every of the months called March, June, September and December, in every year, at Easton, on Lehietan, in the forks of the river Delaware, 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. And the election of a representative to serve in general assembly, assessors, and all other officers of the said county, who are or shall be appointed to be annually elected, shall be made and elected at or near the said court-house, at the same time, and in the same manner, as by the charter of privileges, and laws of the province aforesaid, is directed to be done in other counties within this province. And it shall be lawful for the freemen of the said county, for the first year, to choose three commissioners, for raising county rates and levies for the said county.

Passed 11th March, 1752.—Recorded A. vol. III. page 269. (x)

(x) The sections omitted contained the usual temporary provisions, as in the preceding and other acts for the erection of new counties, and are all now obsolete.

Certain islands in the Delaware annexed to the jurisdiction of Northampton county. September 25th, 1786, (chap. 1234.)

Commissioners appointed to run the lines between Northampton, Berks, and Northumberland. April 17th, 1795. (chap. 1837.)

All that part of Northampton, northward of a line beginning at the west end of *George Michdel's* farm, on the river Delaware, in Middle Smithfield township, and from thence a straight line to the mouth of Grout Creek on the Lehigh, adjoining Luzerne county, erected into the county of Wayne. March 21st, 1798, (chap. 1975.)

By the last enumeration, the counties of Northampton and Wayne contained seven thousand one hundred and thirty taxables, and by act of March 21st, 1808, (chap. 2931,) together send five members to the House of Representatives, and two members to the Senate.

Northampton was divided into four election districts, by the act of September, 1785, (chap. 1164.)

The fourth district divided, and the fifth district established, March 5th, 1794, (chap. 1519.)

The sixth and seventh districts es-

tablished, February 5th, 1794, (chap. 1698.)

Another district established March 31st, 1797, (chap. 1931.)

A new election district, called the eighth district, established April 10th, 1799, (chap. 2064.)

Penn district, erected January 15th, 1802, (chap. 2207.)

The place of holding the fourth election district altered, March 1st, 1802, (chap. 2237.)

Lower Saucon district, established April 2d, 1802, (chap. 2266.)

Wisenberg and Lynn townships, erected into a separate district, March 12th, 1804, (chap. 2445.)

Mensli's district established, and the place of holding elections in the second district changed, March 31st, 1806, (chap. 2715.)

Place of holding elections for part of Allen township fixed, April 11th, 1807, (chap. 2856.)

Moore township erected into a separate district, March 20th, 1810.

By the Judiciary act of February 24th, 1806, Northampton, Berks, and Wayne compose the third district. The courts are held on the third Mondays of January, April, August, and November. The term continues two weeks.

Northampton is part of the eastern district of the Supreme Court.

Easton erected into a Borough, September 23d, 1789, (chap. 1427.)