

THE STATUTES AT LARGE OF
PENNSYLVANIA

SESSION OF DECEMBER 1682

The Laws of Pennsylvania & territories thereunto belonging made by the Governor and freemen of the Province in A Generall Assembly Held at Chester (alias Upland) in the Province of Pennsylvania the 6th of the 10th Month December 1682

AN ACT OF UNION AND NATURALIZATION.

AN ACT OF UNION FOR ANNEXING & UNITING OF THE COUNTIES OF NEW-CASTLE JONESES & WHOORKILLS (ALIAS DEAL) TO THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA AND OF NATURALIZATION OF ALL FORREIGNERS IN THE SAID PROVINCE & COUNTIES AFORESAID.

Since by the good Providence of God, it hath graciously pleased King Charles the Second of England for divers good Considerations to grant by his Letters Patents under the great Seal of England, to William Penn Esquire, Son & heir of Sir William Penn deceased, & to his heirs & Assignes for ever this Province of Pensilvania, according to the Bounds therein exprest, with all requisit powers for the good government thereof, by Such Laws as hee & they Shall make, by & with the advice & Consent of the free-men of the said Province or their Deputies, not repugnant to their faith & allegiance to the Legal government of the said Realm. And it having also favorably pleased James Duke of Yorke & Albanie, Earle of Ulster &c: to release his right &

Claim to all & every part thereof, unto the Said William Penn, his heirs & Assigns Where by he the said William Penn is become the undoubted & Rightfull Proprietary & Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania and is hereby freely & fully so Recognized and acknowledged, and as a beneficial & requisit addition to the territorie of the Said Proprietary and Governor, It hath also pleased the Said James Duke of York & Albanie &c: for divers good Considerations to grant unto the Said William Penn & his Heirs & Assigns, all that tract of Land, from twelve Miles North-ward of New-Castle on the river Delaware down to the South-Cape Comonly Called Cape Henlopen, & by the Proprietary & Governor now Called Cape-James, Lying on the West-Side of the said river and bay formerly possess by the Dutch & bought by them of the Natives, & first Surrendred upon Articles of peace to the King's Live-tenant Governor, Colonel Nichols, & a Second time to Sir Edmond Andross, Live-tenant Governor to the Said Duke, & hath been by him quietly possess and enjoyed, as also the Said River of Delaware and Soil thereof, & all Isleands therin, Lately cast into three Countys, Called New-castle, Jones and Whoorkills (alias now Deal) to-gether With all Royaltys, Powers & Jurisdictions therunto belonging, As by two deeds of feoffment bearing the date the 24th of the 6th Month called August 1682 doth more at Large appear.

And Forasmuch as ther must always be a people befor ther can be a government, & that people must be United & free in Order to Settle & encourage them for the prosperity of the government, And Since the Inhabitants of the tract of Land Lately past from the Duke as aforesaid, are not yet therby under the same Capacity, that those are that belong to the Province of Pennsylvania, And Wheras the free-men of the Said Counties have by their Deputies, humbly besought their present Proprietary & Governor to Annex the Said Counties to the Province of Pennsylvania & to grant unto them the same priveleges, & that they may Live under the same Laws and government, that the Inhabitants of the Said Province of Pensilvania now do, or hereafter Shall enjoy. And Since the Union of two distinct people that are under One Governour, is both most desirable in it Selfe, & Beneficial to the Publick, and that it Cannot be So Cordially and Durably maintained

to the mutuall benefit of each other, as by making them equally Sharers in benefits and Priviledges.

Be it Enacted by the Proprietary and Governour aforesaid, by & with the advice & Consent of the Deputys of the free-men of the Province & Counties aforesaid in Assembly met, That the Counties of New-castle, Jones & Whoor-kill (alias now Deal) Shall be Annexed &nd by the Authority aforesaid are hereby Annexed unto the Province of Pennsylvania, as of the Proper Territorie therof, And the people therin Shall be governed by the Same Laws & enjoy the Same priveledges in all respects as inhabitants of Pennsylvania, do or Shall enjoy from time to time therein, Any thing in this Law, or any other Law, act or thing in this Province to the contrarye thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And For asmuch as it is apparent That the just Encouragement of the inhabitants of this Province & Territories thereunto belonging is Likely to be an effectual way for the improvement thereof and Since Some of the people that Live therin, & are Likely to come therunto, are forerigners & So not free-men according to the acceptation of the Law of England, The Consequences of which may prove very detrimental to them in their estates and traffique, & So injurious to the prosperity of this Province & territories thereof.

Be it Enacted by the Proprietary & Governor of the Province & Counties abovesaid, by & with the advice and Consent of the deputies of the free-men thereof in Assembly met, That all persons who are Strangers & forreigners, that now do inhabit this Province & Counties aforesaid, that hold Land in fee in the Same, according to the Law of a free-man, & who Shall Solemnly promise within 3 Months after the publication hereof in their Respective County-Courts wher they Live. Upon Record, Faith & allegiance to the King of England & his heirs & Successors, & fidelity & Law-ful obedience to the said William Penn Proprietary & Governour of the said Province & territories & his heirs & assignes, according to the King's Letters Patents & deeds aforesaid, Shall be held and reputed free-men of the province & Counties aforesaid, in as ample & full a Manner as any person residing therin. And it is hereby further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when at any time any person that is a forrigner Shall Make his Request to the Proprietary & Governour of this Province & territories therof for

the aforesaid free-dome The Said person Shall be admitted on the Conditions herein exprest, paying at his admission 20 shillings Sterling & no more, any thing in this Law or any other Law, act or thing in this Province, to the Contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Given at Chester (alias Upland) the 7th Day of the 10th Month (called December) 1682 Under the hand & broad Seal of William Penn, Proprietarie & Governour of this Province & territory thereunto belonging, Being the 2nd year of his government by the King's authority

P.H.M.C., Archives, in RG 26, Patrick Robinson's Law Book, 1682-1690, pages 1-4. In the act declaring certain laws fundamental (chapter 141, 1683), the Naturalization Act is identified as on page 3, which corresponds to the paging in Patrick Robinson's Law Book. The last two paragraphs are cited in later years as the Act for Naturalization. The counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex removed from the jurisdiction of William Penn in 1701; H.S.P., Laws of Pa. 1682-1688; see Vol. II, St.L. 29, ch.XXX. See P.H.M.C., Archives, RG 21, for a contemporary copy varying in spelling and arrangement. See Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware, for a draft of an Act of Union.