

jected for harbouring, concealing, or carrying off any Soldier who shall desert from the Continental Army; to be recovered in the same Way and Manner as such Penalties, by the aforesaid Act, are recoverable.

March 12, 1783.

1782.—Chapter 55.

[January Session, ch. 22.]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF COSTS IN CRIMINAL SUITS. Chap. 55

Whereas Witnesses and others necessarily concerned in the Prosecution of criminal Offenders, are equitably entitled to a reasonable Consideration for their Time and Expences upon such Occasions, as well when the Party or Parties charged shall be acquitted, as convicted; and no Provision being made by Law in such Cases: Preamble.

Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That in all criminal Prosecutions in the Supreme Judicial Court, and in the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, when the Party or Parties prosecuted, shall be ordered to go without Day, or when being convict shall not have sufficient Goods or Estate to pay Costs of Prosecution; in every such Case, it shall be in the Power of the Court before whom such Acquittal or Conviction shall be, to tax such Costs for Court Charges, as the Case shall appear to require, not exceeding the Fees that are, or by Law may be stated; and such Costs so taxed by the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, shall be paid out of the respective County Treasuries. And such Costs, so taxed by the Supreme Judicial Court, shall be paid by the Sheriffs of the respective Counties, out of such Fines and Forfeitures as may have arisen and been incurred by Force of any Judgment or Sentence of such Court; and allowance shall be made by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth to the several Sheriffs for any Sums paid as aforesaid: And when and so often as it shall happen that any Sheriff shall not have in his Hands any Monies received for Fines and Forfeitures as aforesaid, such Costs shall be paid out of the Public Treasury, by Warrant from the Governor, with Advice of Council, to the Sheriff, or such other Person as the same Court shall direct.

When Parties prosecuted shall be ordered to go without Day or when convict.

In such Cases.

And be it further enacted, That in all criminal Prosecutions in the Supreme Judicial Court, and in the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, since the Twenty-seventh Day of *June* last, when the Party or Parties prosecuted, shall have been ordered to go without Day, or when having been convicted, shall not have had sufficient Goods or Estate to pay Cost of Prosecution, it shall be in the Power of the Court before whom such Acquittal or Conviction shall have been, to tax such Costs for Court Charges, as the Case shall appear to require, not exceeding the Fees or Cost by Law established; and the Costs thus taxed, shall be paid in Manner as before in this Act is provided.

March 12, 1783.

Court to tax
Costs for Court
Charges.

1782. — Chapter 56.

[January Session, ch. 24.]

Chap. 56 AN ACT FOR CONFIRMING THE RECORDS OF THE PROPRIETORS OF A PLANTATION CALLED BRIDGETON.

Preamble.

Whereas the Book of Records of the Proprietors of a Plantation called Bridgeton, wherein were recorded the Bounds of the several Lots laid out therein, the Names of the Persons by whom they were respectively drawn, and all public Votes and Transactions of said Proprietors in carrying forward the Settlement of said Plantation, on the Night of the second Day of October, one Thousand seven Hundred and Eighty, was consumed by Fire, by Means whereof great Loss and Damage may ensue to Individuals unless prevented by the Legislature:

Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Copy of the said Records, containing a List or Schedule of the particular Bounds of the several Lots laid out in said Plantation, and the Names of the original Owners thereof, with the Numbers of the Rights and Lots drawn for them respectively, as well as for Harvard College and other public Uses; which Copy was accepted by the said Proprietors, at a legal Meeting notified for that Purpose, and held by Adjournment, on the Thirteenth Day of June, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-one: And that the Copy of the Proceedings of John Farnum, Moody Bridges, and Benjamin Stevens, junior, a Committee of the said Pro-

Copy of the
Records.

Copy of the
Proceedings of
John Farnum
& others.