

in the north parish of Sheffield, aforesaid; and until such register shall be appointed by the said justices, and sworn, all deeds and conveyances of lands lying within any part of said county of Berkshire, being recorded in the register's office in the county of Hampshire aforesaid, shall be held good and valid, to all intents and purposes, so far as relates to the record of them.

And be it further enacted,

Rules for proceedings as in other cases.

[SECT. 9.] That the method and proceedings directed to by law for chusing a register of deeds and conveyances, and the county treasurer (which last-mentioned officer shall be chosen and appointed, in manner as the law direct[s], at the next March meeting of the freeholders aforesaid), also for the bringing forward and trying any actions, causes, pleas or suits, both civil and criminal, in the several counties of this province, and courts of judicature within the same, and for chusing jurors to serve at the several courts of justice, shall be observed and put in practice, within the said county of Berkshire, and by the courts of justice within the same.

Provided, always,—

Proviso.

[SECT. 10.] That the inhabitants of the several towns and places hereinbefore enumerated and set off a distinct county, shall pay their proportion to any county rates or taxes already made and granted, in the same manner as they would have done had not this act been made. [Passed and published April 21, 1761.]

CHAPTER 34.

AN ACT FOR ERECTING THE NEW PLANTATION CALLED PONTOOSUCK, IN THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, INTO A TOWN BY THE NAME OF PITTSFIELD.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to this court that the erecting the plantation called Pontoosuck, into a township, will greatly contribute to the growth thereof, and remedy many inconveniencies to which the inhabitants and proprietors may be otherwise subjected,—

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives,

Bounds of the town.

[SECT. 1.] That the plantation aforesaid, bounded as follows; viz^t, north, on New Framingham, so called; east, partly on Ashuelot equivalent, and partly on unappropriated lands; south and west, on unappropriated lands;—be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Pittsfield; and that the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are invested with all the powers, priviledges and immunities which the inhabitants of the towns within this province do enjoy.

Saving,—

[SECT. 2.] That the said town shall not have liberty to send a representative to the general court, until the general election in May, 1763.

And be it further enacted,

Town meeting to be warned.

[SECT. 3.] That William Williams, Esq^t, be and hereby is impowered to issue his warrant, directed to some principal inhabitant in said town, to notify and warn the inhabitants in said town, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet, at such time and place as shall be therein set forth, to chuse all such officers as are or shall be required, by law, to manage the affairs of said town.

Provided, nevertheless,—

Proviso.

[SECT. 4.] That no inhabitant of said town, or proprietor in the same, excepting the original sixty settling proprietors, or those who

hold under them, shall be obliged to pay any part or proportion of the charge towards building a meeting-house, settling the first minister, and the other charges within said town, which the said original proprietors were obliged to perform, either according to the tenor of their grant, or to any agreements already made by or among themselves.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 5.] That all assessments of rates and taxes agreed upon by said original proprietors shall be in full force, and may be levied and collected, in like manner as if this act had not been made. [Passed April 21; published April 22, 1761.]

Assessments to be in full force.

CHAPTER 35.

AN ACT FOR PREVENTING THE STEALING AND CLANDESTINELY CONVEYING SHEEP AWAY FROM THE ISLAND OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD IN DUKES COUNTY.

Be it enacted by the Governo[r], Council and House of Representatives,

[SECT. 1.] That in every town on the island of Martha's Vineyard, in Dukes County, there shall be some meet person, some time in May next, chosen to inspect all such sheep as shall be there purchased to be transported off from said island, which person shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of said office; and no person or persons, whatsoever, who shall, after the tenth day of June next, purchase any sheep on the said island of Martha's Vineyard in order to transport them from thence to any other place, shall presume to carry them off in any vessel or boat, whatsoever, before he or they shall have presented them to, and caused them to be viewed by, the inspector for the town from whence they are to be transported, and shall have shewn to such inspector a certificate, under the hand of each and every person of whom they shall have purchased said sheep, declaring the number and particular mark or marks of all sheep by them sold to such person or persons transporting them as aforesaid.

Inspectors of sheep to be chosen in Martha's Vineyard.

[SECT. 2.] And such inspector is hereby authorized to make a fair entry, in a book to be kept for that purpose, of the said number and marks of such sheep, with the Christian and surname, occupation and dwelling-place, as well of the person or persons of whom the same were last bought, as of the present owners or shippers, and also of the master of the vessel or boat in which they are designed to be transported; and shall deliver a certificate, under his hand, of such entry by him made, unto the shipper, directed to the master of such vessel or boat, by name: for which entry and certificate the said inspector shall demand and receive of the purchaser the sum of one shilling for every score of sheep therein mentioned, and so in proportion for a greater or less number.

Inspector's duty.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 3.] That if any person or persons shall, after the publication of this act, presume to ship or transport, from the aforesaid island, any sheep which have not been first viewed and ent[er]red as aforesaid, or if the master or commander of any vessel or boat shall receive, take, or suffer to be received or taken, any sheep, on board the vessel or boat under his command, in order to transport them from off said island, without such certificate as aforesaid, or any other sheep than what agree with the description therein given, every shipper or master so

Penalty for taking off sheep without inspection.