

lands, set off a distant* precinct or parish, — at a legal meeting of said west precinct, on the second day of October last, the said parish voted their desire, unanimately, that the persons aforementioned, with their estates within the bounds following, should be set off from them and erected into a separate and distinct parish, and to join with said petitioners in petitioning the great and general court to ratify and confirm what said west precinct had done, by making it a distinct parish; viz., to begin at Sawmill-Brook Bridge, so called, and run up said brook until it comes even with the south-east corner of Mr. John Child's pasture; then, to run directly to said corner; then, to take the stone wall for said line, running westerly, until it comes to Mr. John Harris's pasture; then, to keep said course until it comes to Brookline line; then, to take the lane leading by Mr. Daniel Harris's, from the upper road to the lower road, to be the line; then, the highest distance from the end of said lane to Stoney River, so called, to be the said line; then, to run up said river until it comes to Dorchester line, in a small swamp or meadow near Captain Atherton's pasture, above the bridge leading over said river to Mr. Stephen Chamberlain's house, — which will complete the bounds and limits between said new proposed precinct or parish, and the other remaining part of the precinct, —

Bounds of the middle parish in Roxbury.

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

[SECT. 1.] That the persons aforementioned, inhabitants of the west precinct in Roxbury, with their estates, and all the lands within the bounds aforesaid, be and hereby are incorporated into a precinct; and that they shall and hereby have all the rights, privileges and immunities which, by law, precincts have heretofore been vested with.

Inhabitants of the west parish, set off to the middle parish.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 2.] That Samuel Dexter, Esq., be and hereby is empowered to issue his warrant, to some principal inhabitant of the said precinct, requiring him, in his majesty's name, to warn and notify the said inhabitants to meet together, at such time, and place in said precinct, as by said warrant shall be appointed, to chuse such officers as may be necessary to manage the affairs of said precinct; and the qualified inhabitants so met, shall be and hereby are empowered to chuse precinct officers, accordingly. [*Passed April 25, 1772.*]

Samuel Dexter, Esq., empowered to issue warrants for calling the first meeting.

CHAPTER 20.

AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON.

WHEREAS many charitably disposed persons have given and bequeathed considerable sums of money, and other interest and estate, to the poor of the town of Boston, and their use, and many other persons are well inclined to make charitable donations to the same good purpose, but the overseers of the poor of the same town not being incorporated, the good intentions of those who have made, and those who incline to make, such charitable donations, have been either wholly frustrated or not carried into full effect, —

Preamble. 22 Pick., 122.

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

[SECT. 1.] That the said overseers, for the time being, of the poor of the town of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and province of the

Overseers of the town, incorporated.

* Sic: distinct?

Massachusetts Bay, be created, made, erected and incorporated, into a body politic, by the name of the Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Boston in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England; and that they and their successors in said office have a perpetual succession by said name.

Be it further enacted,

—their power.

[SECT. 2.] That all and singular sum and sums of money, interest and estate, real or personal, of what name or nature soever, heretofore given, or at any time hereafter to be given, granted, bequeathed or divided, by any way or means whatsoever, to the poor of the same town, or to their use, not exceeding the sums and value in this act after mentioned, be and the same hereby is and shall be, to all intents and purposes, vested in the same overseers and their said successors, in their said corporate capacity; and they are hereby enabled in the same capacity to receive, manage, lease, let and dispose the same, according to their best discretion, to and for the use and benefit of the poor of the said town.

Provided, always, —

And be it hereby enacted,

Proviso.

[SECT. 3.] That the said overseers shall not be able to receive, or be capable of having or holding, any monies or personal estate of any kind or nature whatsoever, at any time, above and beyond the sum and amount of sixty thousand pounds lawful money of this province; accounting and reckoning the whole monies and value of all the personal estate, personal securities and choses in action, which they shall own or be vested withal in their corporate capacity, together: and that all gifts and bequests of money, or personal estate of any kind, made to the said corporation, or which by the tenor of this act they might take or be vested with, shall be utterly void at all times hereafter when their whole stock in monies, personal securities or choses in action, and personal estate which the said corporation shall have, own and be vested with the property of, shall, taken and reckoned together, amount to the said sum of sixty thousand pounds.

Be it further enacted,

To have perpetual succession.

[SECT. 4.] That the said overseers and their successors in said office, by the name aforesaid, have a perpetual succession; by that name to sue or be impleaded; by its said corporate name to purchase lands, and hold them, not exceeding the sum of five hundred pounds, lawful money, by the year; and to manage, lease, bargain and sell, or otherwise dispose of, all or any part thereof, and do all other acts as natural persons may, as, from time to time, the said corporation shall judge best for the benefit, advantage and use of the said poor.

Be it further enacted,

To have a seal and make by-laws.

[SECT. 5.] That the said corporation shall have a common seal; and power (and the said corporation is hereby authorized) to make by-laws and private statutes and ordinances, not repugnant to the laws of the land, for the better government of the said corporation and its finances; to chuse a treasurer, clerk and other subordinate officers, as, from time to time, shall be found necessary, and all or any of them again, at pleasure, to displace.

Be it further enacted,

Acts done by a major part, to be valid.

[SECT. 6.] That all instruments which said corporation shall lawfully make, by the name aforesaid and sealed with their common seal, and all acts done, or matters passed upon, by the consent of a major part of the said overseers, for the time being, shall bind said corporation and be valid in law. [Passed April 25, 1772.]