

other Towns within this Commonwealth are required by law to choose in the Months of March or April annually; And the Officers so chosen shall be qualified as other Town Officers are.

Approved March 8, 1805.

1804. — Chapter 81.

[January Session, ch. 35.]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROOF OF FIRE ARMS MANUFACTURED WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

Whereas no provision hath been made by law for the proof of Fire Arms manufactured in this Commonwealth by which it is apprehended that many may be introduced into use which are unsafe and thereby the lives of the Citizens be exposed, to prevent which

Preamble.

SECT. 1ST. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*

That the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Council be and he hereby is empowered to appoint in any part of this Commonwealth where the Manufacture of fire Arms is carried on, suitable persons to be provers of fire arms not exceeding two in any County who shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their trust, whose duty it shall be to prove all Musket Barrels and Pistol barrels which being sufficiently ground bored and breeched shall be offered to him to be proved — who shall prove the Musket barrels twice in manner following vizt. first with a charge consisting of one eighteenth part of a pound of Powder, one ounce of which in a five & an half inch Howitz at an elevation of forty five degrees will carry a twenty four pound shot, eighty Yards — with a ball suited to the bore of the barrel — the second proof to be with a charge consisting of one twenty second part of the same powder with a ball suited to the bore of the barrel, and shall prove the pistol barrels once with a charge consisting of one twenty second part of a pound of Powder, one ounce of which in a five and half inch Howitz at an elevation of forty five degrees, will carry a twenty four pound shot seventy Yards, with a ball suited to the bore of the barrel — which said powder and ball it shall be the duty of the prover to provide — And if the said musket and pistol barrels shall stand the proof aforesaid and shall in no respect fail, then it shall be the duty of the said prover to

Provers of fire-arms to be appointed.

Method of proving.

Proof marks

stamp the same on the upper side and within one and an half inches of the breech of said barrels with a stamp consisting of the initial letters of the provers name & over those letters the letter P. also in the line of the said initial letters and further up said barrel the figures designating the Year of our Lord in which the proof is made and over the said figures the letter M. which said letters and figures shall be so deeply impressed on said barrel as that the same cannot be erased or disfigured and shall

be in the form following $\overset{P}{A}B\overset{M}{1805}$ and when any barrels shall burst or shall in any manner fail in the proving as aforesaid so that in the opinion of the prover they are unfit for use they shall not be stamped but the said prover shall suffer the owner to take them away — & any prover so proving musket or pistol barrels as aforesaid shall be entitled to receive from the owner for each musket barrel thirty three Cents, and for each pistol barrel twenty five Cents, whether the same stand proof and are Stamped or not.

Fees.

Penalty for not having arms proved.

SEC. 2D. *And be it further enacted*, that if any person after the first day of June next shall manufacture within this Commonwealth any musket or pistol without having the barrels proved and stamped as aforesaid, except such as are or may be Manufactured in the Armory of the United States, or in fulfilment of some contract made and entered into or that may hereafter be made and entered into for the Manufacturing of fire arms for the United States, shall forfeit and pay for every such Musket or pistol the sum of ten dollars to be recovered in an action of Debt before any Court proper to try the same by any person who shall sue for and recover the same to his own use.

Penalty for selling or buying arms not proved.

SEC. 3D. *And be it further enacted* that if any person after the said first day of June next, shall sell and deliver or shall knowingly purchase any Musket or Pistol which shall have been manufactured within this Commonwealth after the said first day of June next, which shall not have the marks of proof above required the person so selling and the person so purchasing, shall each forfeit the sum of Ten Dollars, to be recovered by action of debt before any Court proper to try the same to the use of any person who shall sue for and recover the same.

Penalty for forging stamp.

SEC. 4TH. *And be it further enacted*, that if any person, shall falsely forge or alter the stamp of any prover

of Fire arms, so appointed as aforesaid impressed on any musket or Pistol Barrel pursuant to this Act, and be convicted thereof before the Supreme Judicial Court he shall be punished by fine not exceeding Fifty Dollars nor less than twenty dollars, according to the nature and aggravation of the offence.

Approved March 8, 1805.

1804. — Chapter 82.

[January Session, ch. 26.]

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE A NUMBER OF THE INHABITANTS IN THE TOWN OF LIMINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF YORK, INTO A SEPERATE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY, BY THE NAME OF THE FIRST BAPTIST SOCIETY IN LIMINGTON.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That Ebenezer Clarke, James Marrs, Solomon Stone, William Chick, Barzillai Small, Nathaniel Clark, Paul Gray, James Sawyer, John Gray, Ebenezer Sawyer, Jeremiah Small, Lemuel Sawyer, Peter Chick, James Small, Daniel Rounds, Amos Chase, Robert Hooper, David Nason, Jonathan Nason, Daniel Small, Frethe Spencer, John Lord, John Sutton, Stephen Webber, George Stone, James Lord, John Andrews, John Finnix, Enoch Nason, Nathaniel Adams, Benjamin Norton, Edward Norton, John Greenlaw, Amos Thompson, Joseph Sawyer, William Sawyer, Ebenezer Walker, William Wentworth, Hurd Hubbard, James Heard, Joshua Durgon, Levi Cole, William Manning, George Finnix, Isaac Small, Ezekiel Small, Jacob Small, Josiah Chase, Thomas Spencer, Abraham Parker, Amos Chase Junior, Nathan Chick, and Jonathan Nason Junior, members of said Religious Society, with their polls and estates, be, and they are hereby incorporated by the name of the First Baptist Society in Limington, with all the privileges and immunities which parishes or Religious Societies in this Commonwealth are by Law intituled to, *provided however,* that all such persons, shall be holden to pay their proportion of all Monies assessed in said town of Limington for Parochial purposes, previous to the passing of this Act.

Persons incorporated.

Corporate name.

SEC. 2D. *And be it further enacted,* that any person in said town of Limington who may at any time within one year from the passing of this Act, actually become a Member of, and unite in religious worship with the said

Method of joining the society.