

A List of Acts passed at a session of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, held at the city of Raleigh, November 21, 1796.

An act to improve the navigation of Cape Fear river, and of Deep and Haw rivers.
 An act to authorize the Governor of the State to call a court of oyer and terminer at Wilmington.
 An act to secure to Mary Barco, of Camden county, wife of John Barco, such estate as she may hereafter require.
 An act to appoint Commissioners of navigation of Old Topsham Inlet in the county of Carteret.
 An act to repeal the first and second sections of an act passed in the year 1794, entitled "An act for the better regulation of the town of Fayetteville."
 An act to confirm the name of Darby Swinney.
 An act to repeal part of an act, passed in 1792, entitled "An act to grant two separate elections and general musters in Currituck county. To grant separate elections and general musters in Orange."
 An act for improving the navigation of Tar river, from Parborough upwards as far as the same can be effected.
 An act to grant a separate election and general muster to the inhabitants of Wayne county.
 An act to prevent people from impeding the free passage of fish up the rivers and creeks of this State.
 An act to repeal an act, passed in 1795, entitled "An act to authorize the county courts of Gates and Person to lay a tax for the public buildings."
 An act for altering the names of certain persons therein mentioned.
 An act making compensation to the county court jurors of New-Hanover, Surry, Stokes, Randolph, Chatham and Buncombe.
 An act granting the inhabitants of Bertie county separate general musters and elections.
 An act to amend an act, passed in 1794, empowering the county court of New-Hanover to lay a tax for the purpose of destroying vermin. An act to repeal an act, entitled, "An act to establish a company for the opening the navigation of the Catawba river." Passed at Fayetteville in 1738.
 An act to make Hates navigable &c. An act granting separate elections in Buncombe county.
 To appoint commissioners to prepare houses for the poor in Duplin and Camden counties.
 To repeal 7th section of an act establishing separate elections in Montgomery & Richmond counties.
 To empower the county courts to bind out the children of those who desert their families.
 To secure the impartiality of trial by jury, and to direct the judges in giving charges to the jury.
 To authorize the commissioners of Edenton to grant Doctor Samuel Dickenson a certain water lot in said town.
 To appoint commissioners for the town of Hertford. To facilitate the navigation of Meherrin.
 To empower the county court of Moore to appoint a person to transcribe the register's books.
 To establish a toll road through the great swamp in Camden and Currituck counties.
 To empower the county courts therein mentioned to lay a tax for destroying vermin.
 To authorize the securities of the sheriff of Nash to collect arrears for the year 1795.
 To annex part of Richmond to Robinson county.
 To alter the name of W. Lea, to that of William Donoho.
 To empower Robinson county to lay a tax for the year 1797. To establish a town, &c. in Caldwell county.
 To appoint commissioners to extend the boundary line of this State and South Carolina.
 To amend and repeal an act, granting separate elections and general musters in Cumberland county.
 To establish a free ferry in Montgomery county.
 To grant a separate election in Sampson county.
 To carry into effect an act erecting part of the counties of Tyrrel and Halifax into one county.
 For clearing out the Yadkin river, from Forest's Mill-race, as far up the same as may be deemed practicable. To establish a town in the county of Randolph, on the lands of Jesse Henly, at the court house in said county.
 For altering the time of holding county courts of pleas & quarter sessions for the county of Edgecomb.
 To authorize the members of the Episcopal church in the town of Newbern to appoint trustees, &c.
 For laying off and establishing a town and an inspection, at or about the confluence of Deep and Haw rivers.
 An act to authorize the wardens of the county of Edgecomb to lay a further tax, for the purpose of building a house or houses for the reception and maintenance of the poor of said county.
 An act making compensation to the owners of outlawed and executed slaves, for the counties of Bladen, Halifax, Granville, Cumberland, Perquimans, Beaufort, and Pitt. An act to direct the mode of conducting disputed elections in this State, and to direct the mode of presenting petitions to the General Assembly in certain cases.
 An act to amend the sixteenth section of an act, passed in October, 1784, entitled, "An act to empower the roads, and establish and settle ferries, and to clear inland rivers and creeks."
 An act to authorize Daniel Camp, formerly sheriff of Rutherford county, to collect all arrears of taxes due him. An act to appoint commissioners to lay off and establish a town, at the place fixed

upon in Moore county, for establishing a court house, prison and houses of said county, and for directing the courts of pleas and quarter sessions, to be held there as soon as such court house is completed.

An act to remove the obstructing the passage of ship Wicason and Chincepen creeks in Hertford county.

An act to facilitate the navigation of the Yadkin and Pedee rivers, from the mouth of Uhary, &c.

An act to establish a general muster and election in the county of Craven, and to repeal part of an act establishing separate general musters and elections in the counties of Craven and Beaufort.

An act better to regulate the town of Newbern, and to secure the collection of taxes in the town of Salisfax.

An act for the improving of Roanoke.

To pardon and restore to credit William Piles.

An act to enable Richard Whitehouse, late sheriff of Carteret county, to collect the arrears of taxes for 1795. An act to secure property to religious societies or congregations. For improving the navigation of the Yadkin river.

An act to incorporate St. John's Lodge, No. 1 Wilmington.

An act to improve the navigation of Great Contentnea creek. An act to provide for the appointment of clerks and masters in equity, &c. To amend the several acts for the regulation of the town of Hildborough. To authorize J. Melcher to make a slope in his mill dam.

An act to explain the doctrine of pleas since the last continuance in controversies at law.

An act to amend an act, entitled, "An act for ascertaining the damage upon protested bills of exchange."

An act to authorize the executor or administrator of Thomas Barret, deceased, to collect the arrears of taxes, and the securities of Thomas Johnston, deceased, to collect the arrears of taxes.

An act to amend, strengthen, and confirm the several acts of this State, against the emancipation of slaves.

An act for cutting a navigable canal from Roanoke river, near the town of Plymouth to Pungo river.

An act to authorize the secretary to issue grants for military lands in the manner therein described, and to direct the secretary and comptroller to issue warrants in certain cases. Divorcing Thomas Smith and Sarah his wife.

An act to authorize the trustees of Lumberton academy to lay off and sell a part of the town commons, to raise a fund for the purpose of building law academy. An act to add part of the county of Stokes to the county of Surry. To authorize Isaac Jones to collect the assessment for the town of Salisbury. For amending the several laws now in force for the regulation of Salisbury.

An act to amend an act, for ascertaining the method of proving book-debts. An act to amend the several acts respecting the pilotage of Cape Fear bar and river.

An act to empower William May, late sheriff of Anson, to collect arrears of taxes, for the years 1794 and 1795.

An act to prevent any person from hauling two teams at the same place, in the Roanoke and Yadkin rivers and branches thereof.

An act to establish a town in Robeson county, by the name of Princess-Anne. An act to grant a farther time for the proving and registering grants, deeds, &c. An act to appoint commissioners to purchase land for a town in Rockingham county.

To amend the several acts preventing any person from holding any appointment under this State, while he exercises any office under the U. States.

An act to empower Basil Smith to collect taxes in Jones' county, for which Thomas Williams, late sheriff, is liable.

An act appointing commissioners to extend the boundary line between Bladen and Brunswick counties. An act granting a separate election in Brunswick county. An act to amend an act now in force for the regulation of Lincolnton. An act to establish a town by the name of Jefferson, in Chatham county, and inspection thereof.

An act to remedy certain inconveniences arising under the present land laws.

An act to amend and explain an act passed in 1794, entitled, "An act to prevent the further importation, and bringing slaves or indentured servants of colour into this State." An act to enforce the duty of inspectors in this State, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

An act to punish persons for removing debtors out of one county to another, or out of the State.

An act to make further provision for the widows of intellares.

An act to raise a revenue for the payment of the civil list and contingent charges of government, for the year 1797, and to amend the revenue laws in certain cases. An act to amend an act to enforce the attendance of jurors, &c.

An act to appoint commissioners to run the dividing line between this State and the State of Tennessee.

An act to clear out the great swamp in the county of Robeson. An act to amend the militia laws of this State.

QUERIES Submitted to the examination of the CANON.

1. Are there not, in every well constituted State,

two kinds of laws; the one, fundamental, being the basis upon which the social compact rests and which are expressions of the general will of the people themselves—that is, of the sovereign power;—the other, ordinary or temporary, being expressions of the will of persons, delegated or commissioned by the sovereign power, to make such laws?

2. Do not these laws differ essentially in their respective natures; the one being immutable, except by the people themselves in their sovereign capacity—paramount to all other power, and prescribing rules, which the delegated legislature is bound inviolably, to observe;—the other, mutable, and subject to be altered by the delegated power which enacted them?

3. Is not the bill of Rights a part of the fundamental laws of this State, as it is an expression of the general will, indicative of those reservations, and enunciating those primary political truths which the people have determined shall forever remain sacred, inviolable, intangible, by any other power than the sovereignty itself?

4. Will not the political fabric be shaken to its foundation, the very moment that any one of these fundamental laws shall be violated—if not, then, is not that act of the ordinary or delegated legislature, which contravenes a fundamental law, *ipso facto* void?

5. Are not all rights acquired prior to the revolution, secured by the fundamental laws of the State; and doth not this security constitute one of the essential conditions of the social compact?

6. Are not all such rights derived from the legislature, as valid in their nature as those derived from any other mode of acquisition?

7. Can the ordinary legislature, in the small degree invalidate such rights, or, in any manner act upon subjects, with respect to which the people themselves, or the sovereign power, have once decreed?

8. Would not an attempt, in the ordinary legislature, to annul rights, acquired by the act of preceding legislatures, and embraced by the fundamental laws, be justly considered as the licentious usurpation of a power, unbounded in its extent, dreadful in its consequences, terrific to liberty, and directly subversive of the social compact?

9. Doth the repeal of a law, passed by the ordinary legislature, in any way, impair or vitiate titles fairly acquired under such law?

10. Admitting that there be a subject, in which every member of the community is equally interested, and upon which the legislative power may of right, act; ought such action to commence and be exerted conformably to the will of a few of the community; or, ought the voice of the entire community to be previously heard?

11. Ought a general interest to be sacrificed to local popularity?

12. When rights are voluntarily abandoned, is such loss of rights a just cause of complaint; or doth the complaint, in such a case, indicate a spirit of tolerance, or of respect for the essential principles of good government?

13. Is not the privation of a right, oppression? Doth the friend of liberty and the equal rights of man, either inflict, or tamely stoop to, oppression? What is the maxim to which he clings, as to his executive directory?

14. Will not the candid solution of these questions, lead to conclusions demonstratively true, greatly important, and highly worthy of energetic application?

SOCRATICUS.

FOR SALE,

A tract of land in Chatham county, on Haw river, consisting of 450 acres of land, finely timbered and watered, with a good house, and out-house, stable, and a good flat at a valuable ferry, commonly called Clark's Ferry, on the main road from Fayetteville to Hillsborough. It has a natural fine Mill-seat, the race about half done, the dam and floodgate finished, timber for the saw mill is hewed and at the spot, some of the grist mill timber is got, and 30 thousand bricks at the place. The neighbourhood is a plentiful wheat country, where a good mill is absolutely wanting, as the Creek mill in a dry season cannot grind, neither do they grind first quality flour, and no opposition on the river within 16 miles—it is also a good situation for a distillery—much more could be said with regard to its favourable situation for a mill—A credit will be given—for particulars apply to

H. LEWIS LUTTERLOH

October 20th, 1796.

FOR SALE,

A Very valuable tract of river land, in Bladen county, containing 640 acres, opposite Lallerted's plantation—the soil is inferior to none in the State—from 50 to 40 acres cleared land, with an apple orchard.—There is an excellent swamp on the back part of this tract, which abounds with white oak and cypress timber.—An extensive credit will be given, and payments made easy to the purchaser.

JOAB WILLIAMS.

Robeson county, Nov. 16th.