
A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland

Be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That the Commissioners of the several County-courts of this Province, are hereby impowered and directed to make an Allowance of Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco in the Levy to be laid for each respective County, next after this present Session of Assembly; and that the said Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco so to be allowed and assessed as aforesaid, shall be collected by the Sheriff of each respective County, and paid by him, free from all Charges of Collection, to the said William Parks, or his Order for the Printing and Stitching, and Delivering a Copy of the Publick Laws, Speeches, and answers made at this present Session of Assembly, to every Member of Assembly, and Commissioner of the Peace for the Time being, and a Copy of such Laws (bound in Leather) to the Publick, and each House of Assembly, and to each County-court of this Province.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the commissioners of each County-court in this Province, during the Continuance of this Act, be and are hereby impowered and directed, at every Time of laying the Levy, in each respective County, after the End of this present Session of Assembly, to allow the Quantity of Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco, Annually to the said William Parks, or his Order, for the Purposes aforesaid, which the said Justices are hereby impowered to levy upon the Inhabitants of the several Counties, with the Sheriffs Salary for Collection thereof.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners of each Court of the respective Counties, who have not already paid and allowed to the said William Parks, the said Quantity of Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco, for Printing the Laws made at the Sessions of Assembly held in the Months of March and July as aforesaid, shall be and are hereby impowered and directed to allow the said Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco to the said William Parks, in the Levy to be laid next after this present Session of Assembly, over and above the Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco to be allowed him as aforesaid, for this present Session of Assembly.

This Act to continue in Force until the Twenty First Day of March which shall be in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Two.

This act expired five years later, and was continued by Chap. 1, March-April 1732/33, Bacon's *Laws of Maryland*, for seven years, and a supplementary act was passed, Chap. 13, April-May, 1737, Bacon's *Laws of Maryland*, by which as related in the foregoing narrative, Parks was taken to task for certain duties neglected, and provision made to protect the Province against loss by such neglect in the future. These acts are printed at large in the printed acts of the sessions named (see bibliographical appendix). At the time of passage of the "Supplementary Act" of 1737, the Upper House had proposed a more severe penalization of Parks for his tardiness in printing the acts than was later adopted, but the Lower House, because the existing act prescribed no date of completion, interposed with milder suggestions which were concurred in by the upper chamber and embodied in an act wherein dates of delivery were named and penalties prescribed for failure to observe them.