

August 16, 1776.
AS a commission hath issued out of
Arundel county court, upon the peti-
tion of Hyde of the said county, empower-
ing evidences in relation to the bounds
of land called Swan-Neck, and one other
called Mill-Dam, lying on the north
of the river, and also the bounds of any
other which the same may depend: Notice
thereby given, that we will meet on the
land on Tuesday the first day of Octo-
ber, in order to execute the said com-
mission, all persons interested are then and there
to attend.

ROBERT COUDEN,
JOSEPH MERRIKEN,
STEPHEN BOONE.

August 26, 1776.
by the subscriber, at the late dwelling
of Henry Camden, deceased, in Cal-
dwell, near Lyon's-Creek, for current cash,
the part of the deceased's estate, con-
sisting of some household furniture, live
stock, and other things that may be ac-
counted for by the subscriber, which
he bought cheap by applying to the
And if the above things should not be
sold by the fifth day of October next,
they shall be exposed to public sale.

JOSEPH CAMDEN, executor,
who are indebted to the above estate,
are requested to discharge their
debts as soon as possible, as he intends moving
in the fall, and cannot make it well
without the compliance of those gentle-
men to settle up the above estate on
time.

July 23, 1776.
at Shaw and Chisholm's, in Church-
near the Dock, Annapolis, a quantity
of a brown sugar, likewise loaf sugar by

from the subscriber, living in the city
Annapolis, on the 24th of this instant July,
a servant man named GEORGE BRAC-
carpenter by trade, born in Ireland, a
about five feet seven inches high, very
with the small-pox: had on when he
a country linen shirt and trousers; an old
pair of country made shoes much worn;
prehends the said servant so that he may
shall receive twenty shillings reward
the law allows, and reasonable charges
at home, by

ROBERT KEY.

POUNDS REWARD.

Fort Frederick Furnace, July 1, 1776.
by last night, two servant men, viz.
EPHEN RICHARDS, a convict, born
in the country, a miner, born in
a little fellow not exceeding 5 feet 5
high, hard featured and pitted with
his bow-legged and wears his hair tied
took with him a country linen shirt and
a jacket died brown, a country linen
trousers, broad brass buckles, and a
hat; he is about 28 years of age.

ONES, an indented servant, has been
about 15 months, born in Wales,
about 6 or 7 inches high, has been brought
on works and is acquainted with the dif-
ferences of the business, dark complexion
with the small-pox, short curled black
four look, small eyes, speaks broken
and on and took with him one of a
cotton trousers, blue upper jacket, one
made of Welch cotton with sleeves, an
hat, and half worn shoes and buckles.

takes up said servants and brings them
secures them so that the subscriber gets
shall receive if 20 miles from home
miles 30s. if 40 miles 40s. for each,
the above reward including what the law

DENTON JACQUES.

Annapolis, June 19, 1776.

WANTED TO HIRE IMMEDIATELY.
GLE MAN, who understands waiting at
table, and can write a good hand. Such a
good character, may hear of a place
of encouragement will be given by the
printer hereof.

THREE PENCE per pound
given for fine white LINEN
and one penny per pound for
by the Printer hereof.

MAS HARWOOD, jun. treasurer of the
Western-shore, will give constant attendance
in West-street, Annapolis, to give in
with the year, and says on each act, question, vote or
resolution, where any two members require it, except
when the vote is taken by ballot.

GREEN.

(XXXII. YEAR.) THE MARYLAND GAZETTE. (No 1620) 147

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1776.

The proposed PLAN or FRAME of GOVERNMENT for the
commonwealth or state of Pennsylvania.

[Printed for consideration.]

THE commonwealth or state of Pennsylv-
ania shall be governed hereafter by an
assembly of the representatives of the
freemen of the same; and a president
and council, in manner and form fol-
lowing.

1. The supreme legislative power shall be vested in a
house of representatives of the freemen of the common-
wealth or state of Pennsylvania.

2. The supreme executive power shall be vested in a
president and council.

3. Courts of justice shall be established in the city of
Philadelphia, and in every county of this state.

4. The freemen of this commonwealth or state shall
be trained and armed for its defence. And the militia
shall have such frequent elections of their officers (gen-
eral officers excepted) as shall be regulated from time to
time by militia laws; the officers to be commissioned
by the president in council.

5. Every freeman, of the full age of twenty-one
years, having resided in this state or commonwealth for
the space of one whole year next before the day of elec-
tion, and paid public taxes during that time, shall
enjoy the rights of an elector, on taking an oath
of affirmation of fidelity to the commonwealth, if re-
quired.

6. The house of representatives of the freemen of this
commonwealth shall consist of members,
persons most noted for wisdom and virtue, to be chosen
by the freemen of the city of Philadelphia, and the
counties of this commonwealth respectively. And no
person shall be elected unless he has resided in the place
for which he shall be chosen two years immediately be-
fore said election; nor shall any member, while he con-
tinues such, hold any other office, except in the militia.

7. No person shall be capable of being elected a mem-
ber to serve in the house of representatives of the free-
men of this commonwealth more than four years in se-
ven years. Nor shall any one person serve more than
four years successively.

8. The members of the house of representatives shall
be chosen annually by ballot, by the freemen of the
commonwealth, on the first Monday in October for ever
(except this present year) and shall meet on the third
Monday of the same month; and shall be styled "the
general assembly of the representatives of the freemen of
Pennsylvania," and shall have power to choose their
speaker, the treasurer of the state, and their other of-
ficers; sit on their own adjournments; prepare bills,
and enact the same into laws; judge of the elections and
qualifications of their own members. They may expel,
but not a second time in the same session, if the member
expelled is re-elected by the same constituents; they
may administer oaths or affirmations on examination of
witnesses; redress grievances, impeach criminals, and
shall have all other powers necessary for the legislature
of a free state or commonwealth; but they shall have
no power to add to, alter, abolish, or infringe any part
of this constitution.

9. A quorum of the house of representatives shall
consist of two thirds of the whole number of members
elected; and, having met and chosen their speakers,
shall each of them, before they proceed to business, take
and subscribe, as well the oath or affirmation of fidelity
and allegiance herein after directed, as the following
oath or affirmation, viz. "I do swear (or af-
firm) that, as a member of this assembly, I will not
propose, or assent to, any bill, vote or resolution,
which shall appear to be injurious to the people, nor
do or consent to any act or thing whatever that shall
have a tendency to lessen or abridge their rights and
privileges as declared in the constitution of this state,
but will, in all things, conduct myself as a faithful,
honest representative and guardian of the people; and
according to the best of my judgment and abilities."
And each member, before he takes his seat, shall make
and subscribe the following declaration, viz. "I do be-
lieve in one God, the creator and governor of the
universe."

10. Delegates, to represent this state in congress,
shall be chosen by ballot by the future house of repre-
sentatives at their first meeting, and annually for ever
after. Any delegate may be superseded at any time, by
the general assembly appointing another in his stead.
No man shall sit in congress longer than two years suc-
cessively, nor be capable of re-election for three years
afterwards.

11. If any county or counties shall neglect or refuse
to elect and send representatives to the general assembly,
the representatives of the other counties, provided they
be two thirds of the members from the counties that do
send, shall have all the powers of the house of repre-
sentatives as fully and amply, as if the whole were present.

12. The doors of the house, in which the representa-
tives of the freemen of this state shall sit in general as-
sembly, shall be and remain open for the admission of all
persons who behave decently, except only when the
welfare of the state may require the doors to be shut.

13. The votes and proceedings of the house of repre-
sentatives shall be printed weekly, during their sitting,
with the yeas and nays on each act, question, vote or
resolution, where any two members require it, except
when the vote is taken by ballot.

14. All bills of a public nature shall be read three
times on three different days, in the house of represent-
atives; and after the third reading, shall be printed
and published for public consideration, at least seven
days before they are read a fourth time; and shall then
be debated and amended, before they

are enacted into laws; and, except on occasion of sud-
den necessity, shall not be enacted till the then next sit-
ting of the house.

15. The style of the laws of this commonwealth shall
be, "Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted, by the repre-
sentatives of the freemen of the commonwealth of Penn-
sylvania, in general assembly met, and by the authority of
the same." And the general assembly shall affix their
seal to every bill, as soon as it is enacted into a law;
which seal shall be kept by the assembly, and shall be
called, *The seal of the laws of Pennsylvania*, and shall
not be used for any other purpose.

16. [Not drawn up in form; but after considerable
debate, it was on motion Resolved, That the free-
men of the counties may vote in districts; and also,
that at those district elections, they shall vote
for all the members for the assembly in one general
ticket, out of the county at large.]

17. The supreme executive council shall consist of
nine members, to be chosen in the following manner,
viz. Nine counsellors shall be chosen by the house of re-
presentatives, within one week after a quorum is met
and qualified, which said counsellors are all to serve for
the first year, one third of them to serve for that year
only, one third for two years, and one third for three
years; whose places respectively shall be supplied by
new elections, to be made in the house of representatives,
of one third annually for ever. No member of the
house of representatives shall be chosen a member of the
council; vacancies by death, or otherwise, shall be filled
by the house of representatives, at their next sitting.
The president and vice-president shall be chosen annu-
ally by the joint ballot of the house of representatives
and council, out of the members of the council. No
person shall be president for a longer space of time than
three years together; and any person, having served in
that station for three successive years, shall be incapable
of that office for the space of four years afterwards.

18. The president, and in his absence the vice-presi-
dent, and members shall be a quorum, and
have power to appoint and commission judges, naval
officers, judge of the admiralty, attorney general, and
all other officers civil and military, other than such as
are to be chosen by the house of representatives, or the
people, agreeable to this frame of government, and the
laws that may be made hereafter; and shall supply all
vacancies occasioned by death, resignation, removal or
disqualification, until the office can be filled in the time
and manner directed by law or this constitution.
They are to correspond with other states, and transact
business with the officers of government civil and mili-
tary; and to prepare such business as may be necessary
to lay before the general assembly. They shall sit as
judges to hear and determine on impeachments, and
shall have power to grant pardons and remit fines in all
cases whatsoever, except in cases of impeachment, trea-
son, and murder; and in cases of treason and murder,
shall have power to grant reprieves until the end of the
next session of assembly, and no longer; but there shall
be no remission or mitigation of punishment on impeach-
ments, or for high treason or murder, except by act of
the legislature. They are also to take care that the laws
be faithfully executed; they are to expedite the execu-
tion of such measures as may be resolved upon by the
house of representatives, and they may draw upon the
treasury for such sums as shall be appropriated by the
house. They may also lay embargoes, or prohibit the
exportation of any commodity, for any time not ex-
ceeding thirty days, in the recess of the house only;
and shall have power to call together the house of repre-
sentatives, when necessary, before the day to which
they shall stand adjourned. The president shall be com-
mander in chief of the forces of the state, but shall not
command in person, except advised thereto by the coun-
cil, and then only so long as they shall approve thereof.
The president and council shall have a secretary, and
keep fair books of their proceedings, wherein any coun-
sellor may enter his dissent, with his reason in support
of it.

19. All commissions shall be in the name, and by the
authority of the freemen of the commonwealth of Penn-
sylvania, sealed with the state seal; and attested by the
secretary. The said seal to be kept by the council.

20. Every officer of state, whether judicial or execu-
tive, shall be liable to be impeached by the house of re-
presentatives, either when in office or after his removal,
for mal-administration. All impeachments shall be be-
fore the president or vice-president and council, who
shall hear and determine the same.

21. No member of the council shall be capable of
holding a seat in the house of representatives, during
the time of his being a counsellor; but he shall, by his
office, be a justice of the peace for the whole state.

22. The judges of the supreme court of judicature
shall have fixed salaries, be commissioned for seven years
only, though capable of re-appointment at the end of
that term, but removable at any time by the house of
representatives; they shall not be allowed to sit in the
continental congress, executive council, or house of re-
presentatives, nor to take or receive fees or perquisites of any
kind.

23. The supreme court shall have the powers of a
court of chancery, so far as relates to the compelling the
performance of trusts and agreements, discovery of
frauds, perpetuating testimony, obtaining evidence from
places not within this state, and the care of the estates
and persons of those who are non compos mentis, as
they shall be hereafter regulated by law.

24. Trials shall be by jury as heretofore; and it is
recommended to the legislature of this state, to provide
by law against every corruption, or partiality in the
choice, return, or appointment of juries.

25. Courts of sessions and common pleas shall be held
quarterly in the city, and in each county; and the leg-
islature shall have power to establish all such other
courts, as they may judge for the good of the inhabi-
tants of the state. All courts shall be open; and justice
shall be impartially administered without corruption and
unnecessary delay. All their officers shall be paid an
adequate but moderate compensation for their services.
And if any officer shall take greater fees than the laws
allow him, either directly or indirectly, it shall ever
after disqualify him from holding any office in this state.

26. All prosecutions shall commence in the name,
and by the authority, of the freemen of the common-
wealth of Pennsylvania; and all indictments shall con-
clude with these words, *against the peace and dignity of
the same*. The style of all process hereafter in this state
shall be, *The commonwealth of Pennsylvania*.

27. The person of a debtor, where there is not a
strong presumption of intended fraud, shall not be con-
tinued in prison after delivering up his estate, real and
personal, for the use of his creditors; in such manner
as shall hereafter be regulated by law, and all prisoners
shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital
offences, when the proof is evident, or presumption
great.

28. Excessive bail shall not be exacted for ballable of-
fences. And all fines shall be moderate, and saving
mens tenements, apparel, bedding, and the necessary
tools of their trade or calling.

29. Justices of the peace shall be elected by the free-
men of the city and counties respectively, that is to say,
Two persons shall be chosen for each ward, township,
or district, as the laws shall hereafter direct, and their
names shall be returned to the president and council,
who shall commission one of them for seven years, re-
movable for misconduct by the house of representatives,
and re-eligible at the end of that time. No justice of
the peace shall sit in the house of representatives, unless
he first resign his commission; nor shall he be allowed
to take any fees nor any salary or allowances, except such
as a future legislature may grant, in consideration of
expences necessarily incurred by their journeying to,
and attending on, public courts.

30. Sheriffs and coroners shall be elected annually,
in each county, by the freemen; that is to say, Two
persons for each office, one of whom is to be commis-
sioned by the president in council. No person shall
continue in the office of sheriff more than three succes-
sive years, or be capable of being again elected during
four years afterwards.

31. All elections, whether by the people or in gen-
eral assembly, shall be by ballot, free and voluntary.
And any elector, who shall receive any gift or reward
for his vote, in meat, drink, monies, or otherwise,
shall forfeit his right to elect for that time, and suffer
such other penalty as future laws shall direct. And any
person who shall, directly or indirectly, give, promise,
or bestow, any such rewards to be elected, shall be
thereby rendered incapable to serve for the ensuing
year.

32. Every elector, before he votes at the first general
election for representatives in assembly, and, if required,
at any general election hereafter, shall take the follow-
ing oath or affirmation, unless he shall produce a certi-
ficate from some justice of the peace, that he had, be-
fore that time, taken the same, viz. "I do
swear (or affirm) that I will bear true allegiance to
the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and will ac-
cording to my abilities, preserve the freedom thereof;
And that I will also, to the best of my judgment,
vote only for such persons as I do esteem of fidelity
and knowledge, worthy and capable of executing the
trust reposed in them."

33. All fees and perquisites, fines and penalties, and
every other emolument whatever, heretofore granted or
paid to the proprietary and governor, or to the justices,
for the support of government, shall hereafter be paid
into the public treasury, unless altered or abolished by
the future legislature.

34. A register's office for the probate of wills and
granting letters of administration, and an office for the
recording of deeds, shall be kept in each county; the
officers to be appointed by the house of representatives,
removable at their pleasure, and to be commissioned by
the president in council.

35. The printing presses shall be free to every person
who undertakes to examine the proceedings of the leg-
islature, or any part of the government; and the house
of representatives shall not pass any act to restrain it.
Nor shall any printer be restrained from printing any
remarks, strictures or observations on the proceedings
of the general assembly, or any branch of government,
or any public proceeding whatever; or on the conduct
of any public officer, so far as relates to the execution
of his office; provided it does not extend to the in-
forming an enemy in actual war, concerning our strength,
weakness, disposition, or any other thing which may
serve the enemy or injure the state.

36. As every freeman, to preserve his own independ-
ence (if without a sufficient estate) ought to have some
profession, calling, trade or farm, whereby he may hon-
estly subsist, there can be no necessity for, nor use in
establishing offices of profit, the usual effects of which
are dependence and servility unbefitting freemen, in
the possessors and expectants, faction, contention, cor-
ruption and disorder among the people. But if any
man is called into public service, to the prejudice of
his private affairs, he has a right to expect a reasonable
compensation for his services; and whenever an
office, through increase of fees, or otherwise, becomes
so profitable, as to occasion many to apply for it, the
profits ought to be, and shall be lessened by the legisla-
ture.