

on the plot, those lots which have been settled and improved from those which remain uncultivated; and the said Francis Deakins has also returned two books, entitled A and B, in which are entered certificates of all the lots before mentioned: And whereas it appears to this general assembly, that there are three hundred and twenty-three families settled on six hundred and thirty-six of the aforesaid lots, which they have improved and cultivated;

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II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That a preference be given to the said settlers to purchase the said six hundred and thirty-six lots by them respectively settled, not exceeding the quantities registered and noted by the surveyor in the books aforesaid, at not less than five nor more than twenty shillings per acre, one third part thereof to be paid on the first day of September next, one other third on the first day of September, seventeen hundred and ninety, and the remaining third in twelve months thereafter, in current money; and that the price of provisions furnished and services rendered in assistance to the said Francis Deakins in surveying the said lands, be discounted out of the first or any other payment to be made by the said settlers.

Preference to be given, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in default of any payment to be made by any of the said settlers on the day on which the same ought to be made as aforesaid, the land unpaid for shall be liable to proclamation in the usual manner by any citizen of this state:

On default, land liable to proclamation.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That for the ease and convenience of the people, a proper person or persons, not to exceed the number three, be appointed commissioner or commissioners by the governor and council, who shall go into the neighbourhood, and have power to decide all disputes which may arise concerning pre-emption, and shall value the said lands, those of the best quality at not more than twenty shillings, and those of the worst at not less than five shillings per acre, and all those of an intermediate quality according to their quality, having regard to the prices aforesaid.

Commissioners to be appointed, &c.

V. AND, whereas according to the most accurate account that can now be rendered by the auditor-general, it appears, that there has been about the number of two thousand four hundred and seventy-five soldiers entitled under the several acts of the legislature to the said bounty of lands, and that there ought to be about one hundred lots set apart to fulfil the engagements of lands to recruiting officers, BE IT ENACTED, That two thousand five hundred and seventy-five of the aforesaid lots, lying in the most fertile part of the county, and contained in the following limits, to wit: beginning at the mouth of Savage river, and running with the north branch of Patowmack river to the head thereof, then north with the present supposed boundary line of Maryland until the intersection of an east line to be drawn from the said boundary line, with a north course from the mouth of Savage river, will include the number of lots aforesaid, to be distributed by lot among the said soldiers and recruiting officers, and their legal representatives, by the commissioner or commissioners hereafter to be appointed by the governor and council as aforesaid.

Lots to be distributed among the soldiers, &c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That part of the remaining lots be distributed by lottery among the officers, and the representatives of the officers, of the Maryland line, who served to the end of the war, who were deranged by any of the reforms of the army, who were killed or died of their wounds received in battle, those who were disabled from further service by wounds received, and in consequence thereof retired, and those who died a natural death while in the service with the army; each officer, or his representative, to have four lots.

And officers, &c.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the lots so granted to the officers aforesaid shall be adjacent to those herein before directed to be distributed among the soldiers, and shall be contained within the following limits, to wit: by extending the aforesaid north course from the mouth of Savage river until its intersection with an east line to be drawn from the aforesaid supposed boundary line of Maryland, will include the necessary number, allowing to each officer, or his representative, four lots as aforesaid.

To be adjacent, &c.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said lots shall be distributed by lot among the said officers and their representatives, by the commissioner or commissioners to be appointed by the governor and council as aforesaid, each ticket to contain four lots contiguous to each other, or as nearly so as may be.

And distributed by lot, &c.

IX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the lot on which William Howell lives be secured to the legal representative of ——— Howell, son of the said William, which said son was a soldier in the Maryland line, and died in the service of his country; and that in case the said son shall not have left a

Lot secured, &c.

legal