

C H A P.  
XXII.

the person or persons making such oath, or affirmation, any thing to the contrary in any law notwithstanding.

Duration.

V. This act to continue until the twentieth day of October, one thousand eight hundred.

Passed 20th of  
Jan. 1798.

C H A P. XXIII.

An ACT to incorporate the Somerset library company. Lib. JG.  
No. 2. fol. 599.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the cultivation of useful knowledge, and the advancement of the liberal arts and sciences, in any country, have a beneficial influence in promoting the interest and happiness of mankind: And whereas many liberal minded persons of Somerset county have contributed large sums of money for the purchase of valuable books, and have formed themselves into a society, by the name of the Somerset Library Company, and prayed that a law may pass creating them a body politic and corporate for ever; therefore,

Members incorporated, &amp;c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the members of the said society, heretofore voluntarily associated for promoting useful knowledge, and all others who shall hereafter become members of the said society, according to the rules and regulations of said society, and who shall in all respects conform themselves to such laws, regulations and ordinances, as shall hereafter be duly made and enacted by the said society, according to the tenor hereof, be, and for ever hereafter shall be, a body corporate and politic in deed, by the name and style of The Somerset Library Company, and by the same name they are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, to have perpetual succession, and by the same name they, and their successors, are hereby declared and made able and capable in law to have, hold, receive and enjoy, lands, tenements, rents, franchises, hereditaments, gifts and bequests, of what nature soever, in fee-simple, or for term of life, lives, years or otherwise, and also to give, grant, let, sell, alien or assign, the same lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels and premises, according to the nature of the respective gifts, grants and bequests, made to them, the said company, and of their estate therein; provided that the amount of the clear yearly value of such real estate does not exceed the value of two thousand dollars in any one year.

Society may  
sue, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said society be, and shall be for ever hereafter, able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all or any of the courts or other places, and before any judges, justices and other persons, in all manner of actions, suits, complaints, pleas, causes and matters, of what nature or kind soever, within this state; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said company, for ever hereafter, to have and use one common seal in their affairs, and the same, at their will and pleasure, to break, change, alter and renew.

To have certain  
officers,  
&c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That for the well governing the said Somerset library company, and ordering their affairs, they shall have the following officers; that is to say, one president, one secretary, and one treasurer, together with seven directors; and that on the first Tuesday of May next, between the hours of ten o'clock *ante meridiem*, and five o'clock *post meridiem*, as many of the members of the said Somerset library company as shall have paid in their subscriptions to the said company, or some person authorized by them to receive the same, and who shall attend at some place in the town of Princess-Anne, of which place at least ten days notice shall be given by public advertisement, shall choose, by ballot, one president, one secretary, and one treasurer, together with seven directors, and all such other ministers and officers as the said company shall from time to time find necessary for the purpose of carrying the intention of their institution into effect, which said president, secretary, treasurer and directors, shall hold their respective offices for one year from the time of their several elections; and on the first Tuesday of May, yearly and every year thereafter, between the hours aforesaid, and at such place as shall be appointed by the said company, to choose their officers aforesaid, or such others as shall be deemed necessary by the said company, to hold their respective offices for the time limited as aforesaid; provided also, that nothing herein contained shall be considered or intended to exclude any of the said officers whose times shall be expired from being re-elected, according to the pleasure of the said company; and of the day, hours and place, of all such elections, due notice shall be given as aforesaid.

Who shall exercise  
power,  
&c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the president and officers of said company shall be capable of exercising such power for the well governing and ordering the affairs of the society, and of holding such