

C H A P.
LXXXVII.
A pannel to be
returned, &c.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the sheriffs of the several counties of this state shall return to their respective county courts a pannel of forty-eight jurors, qualified as aforesaid, out of which the said respective courts shall direct the clerk to draw, by ballot, twenty-three persons, who shall be impannelled and sworn to serve as grand jurors during the term to which they shall be summoned; and the persons remaining upon the said original pannel shall attend the court, and serve as petit jurors.

Twenty per-
sons to be
drawn, &c.

IX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in all civil cases called for trial in the general and county courts, in which a jury shall be necessary, according to the laws and constitution of this state, twenty (a) persons from the pannel of petit jurors shall be drawn, by ballot, by the clerks, under the direction of the said respective courts, and the names of the twenty persons shall be written upon two lists, and one of the said lists shall be forthwith delivered to the respective parties, or their counsel in the cause, and it shall and may be lawful for each of the said parties, or their counsel, to strike out four persons from the said lists, and the remaining twelve persons shall thereupon be immediately impannelled, and sworn as the petit jury in such cause; and if the said parties, or their counsel, or either of them, shall neglect or refuse to strike out from the said lists the number of persons hereby directed, it shall and may be lawful for the respective courts aforesaid to direct their clerks to strike out from the list of the party or parties so neglecting or refusing the number of persons herein before mentioned, and the remaining twelve persons shall be impannelled, and sworn as aforesaid; provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or construed to take away the right of any person or persons to challenge the array or polls of any pannel returned, in the manner always allowed by the laws of this state, or in any manner to affect or change any of the provisions contained in the act, * entitled, A supplement to an act concerning petitions for freedom, passed at November session, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three.

* Chapter 55.

The act of 1793, ch. 55, was repealed by 1796, ch. 67, which contains a clause respecting jurors in the case of petitions, the same verbatim with that in the act of 1793.

(a) By 1798, ch. 94, talisman may be summoned where there would not be twenty, and (by agreement,) the drawing of a pannel of twenty jurors may be dispensed with.

C H A P. LXXXVIII.

Passed 20th of
Jan. 1798.

An ACT relating to the records in the register of wills and clerk's offices in Queen-Anne's county. Lib. JG. No. 2. fol. 716.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it appears, by the report of Richard Tilghman and Robert Walters, two of the commissioners appointed by a resolution passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-five, to examine and report to the general assembly the state of the records and papers in the clerk's and register of wills offices in Queen-Anne's county, that the said records and papers are in a ruinous situation, and that many original papers in the said offices have not been recorded, and are now in danger of being destroyed or lost;

Chief justice to
inspect the re-
cords, &c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall and may be lawful for the chief justice of the district in which Queen-Anne's county is situate, and he is hereby authorized and requested, to inspect the records and papers deposited and filed in the clerk's office of said county, and to cause to be transcribed and recorded, by the clerk of the said county, in good leather bound books, to which fair and regular alphabets shall be prefixed, all such records and papers belonging to the said office as in his judgment require to be transcribed or recorded.

Papers to be
recorded, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall and may be lawful for the justices of the orphans court of Queen-Anne's county, and they are hereby empowered and required, to cause to be recorded, by the register of wills of said county, in good leather bound books, to which fair and regular alphabets shall be prefixed, all such papers filed in the office of the register of wills of said county, and which have not been recorded, as they, or a majority of them, in their judgment, may deem necessary and proper to be recorded.

Fees allowed.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said clerk and register shall respectively be entitled to the same fees for transcribing any record, or recording any original paper, in pursuance of the direction of the said chief justice, or the said justices of the orphans court, or a majority of them, as are now allowed by law for the performance of like services.

Clerk, &c. to
make out a fair
account, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said clerk and register shall, between the first and fifteenth days of April, in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-nine, and between the same days annually until