

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That from and after the passage of this act the county courts for Washington county shall be held on the first Monday in April and December in every year.

C H A P.
LXXXI.
When courts
are to be held.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That so much of the act passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-six, * entitled, An act for the better administration of justice in the several counties in this state, as relates to the time of holding the courts in Washington county, is hereby repealed.

Part of an act
repealed.
* Chapter 43.

C H A P. LXXXII.

An ACT appointing commissioners to contract for and purchase the lands, commonly called the Choptank Indian Lands, in Dorchester county, and for appropriating the same to the use of this state, and to repeal the act of assembly therein mentioned. Lib. JG. No. 3. fol. 159.

Passed 18th of
Jan 1799.

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Henry Waggaman, William B. Martin, James Steele, Moses Lecompte and William Marbury, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to promote the purposes herein after mentioned; and the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall have full power and authority to execute and perform the several trusts and duties vested in and required of them by virtue of this act; and if any of the said commissioners shall refuse to act, resign, die, or remove out of the state, it shall be lawful for the remaining commissioners, or a majority of them, to appoint another skilful person or persons to supply such vacancies, and every person so appointed shall have the same power and authority as any of the commissioners appointed by this act.

Commissioners
appointed, &c.

II. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners, or the major part of them, shall be and are hereby authorized and empowered, with all convenient speed after the passage of this act, to repair to the Indian settlement near Secretary's creek, in Dorchester county, and to contract, covenant and agree, in behalf of this state, with the Choptank Indians inhabiting the said settlement, for the purchase of the right, title and interest, of the said Indians, to all and singular the lands and tenements aforesaid, and to enter into such covenant and agreement on the part of this state, for enabling the said commissioners to obtain the right and title of the said Indians to the said lands, tenements and appertenances, as in their discretion and judgment shall be deemed adviseable; provided nevertheless, that in making such contract and agreements it shall be covenanted and agreed by the said Indians, that the right, title and interest, of and in the said lands, tenements and appertenances, shall be granted by the said Indians, and for ever thereafter vested and confirmed in this state, and that, in consideration thereof, it shall be covenanted and agreed by the said commissioners, on the part of this state, that there shall be reserved to the said Indians, for their own cultivation and improvement, a quantity of the said land, not exceeding one hundred acres, to be so laid off by the said commissioners as to include their present settlements, and a suitable proportion of the woodland, and that the quantity of land so reserved, shall be held, used and occupied, by the said Indians, so long as they, or any of them, or their descendants, shall continue to inhabit the said settlement; the said commissioners, or a majority of them, may agree to pay each individual of the said Indians who now claims title to, and receives rents from, said land, such annuity as may be agreed upon between said commissioners and said Indians, provided that the aggregate amount of such annuities shall not exceed the sum of six hundred dollars; and such annuities shall be payable for their use quarterly, out of the treasury of the western shore, to the orders of such persons, or friends, as the said Indians may respectively from time to time appoint to draw the same, and that the said annuity shall commence on the first day of January next ensuing the date of such agreement; and the annuity allowed to any Indian as aforesaid shall, upon the death of said Indian, descend and be paid to such person or persons as under the laws of this state would be entitled to have the personal estate of said Indian, in case said Indian died intestate, leaving personal estate, and be transmitted in same manner; provided, that no annuity shall be transmitted to any but the immediate descendants of the Indian to whom granted, and that upon the death of any of the said Indians, or their descendants, without any representative as aforesaid, the annuity in such case granted shall cease.

Who shall re-
pair to the In-
dian lands, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That on the completion of such contract and agreement, the terms thereof shall be fully and distinctly written on parchment or paper, and the same shall be subscribed

Terms to be
written, &c.

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and