

to this state, lying to the westward of Fort Cumberland, as he might think fit and capable of being settled and improved in lots of fifty acres each, colonel Francis Deakins was appointed and employed by the governor and council for that purpose, and proceeded some time in the month of August following to survey the said lands.

That it appears to the committee, that Mr. Deakins has finished the said survey, as directed by the legislature, in an accurate and satisfactory manner, and has laid before the committee a general plot of the country westward of Fort Cumberland, on which 4165 lots of 50 acres each are laid off, besides sundry tracts which have been patented to, and are owned by, citizens of this state, distinguishing on the plot those lots which have been settled and improved from those which remain uncultivated; that he has also laid before the committee two books, entitled, A and B, which contain certificates of all the lots before mentioned, to which are prefixed plots of the country, shewing the situation of the roads and waters.

That it appears to the committee, from the best information they can obtain from the auditor's office, that there were about 2475 of the soldiers of the Maryland line entitled each to a lot of the said lands, under the laws of this state; and that there are several recruiting officers who will be entitled to a bounty in said lands, but for want of certain vouchers in the auditor's office, the number cannot be ascertained. In the opinion of the auditor, 200 lots will be amply sufficient to satisfy the claims of the recruiting officers.

That it appears to the committee, that there are 323 families settled on 636 of the aforesaid lots, which they have improved and cultivated.

That a preference ought to be given to the said settlers to purchase the said 636 lots by them respectively seated, not exceeding the quantities registered and noted by the surveyor, 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; and that the price of provisions furnished, and services rendered, in assistance to colonel Deakins in surveying the said lands, be discounted out of the first payment to be made by the said settlers; that in default of any payment 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 by any citizen of the state.

That for the ease of the people, who are generally poor, a proper person or persons be appointed by the governor and council, who shall go into the neighbourhood, with power to decide all disputes concerning pre-emption, and value the said lands, having regard to the prices aforesaid.

That as to the lands patented within the manors and reserves to the westward of Wills's creek, the general assembly cannot, with propriety, give orders for any disposition thereof, but that the cases of each ought to be stated, and the attorney-general's opinion taken, so that the claim of the state may be prosecuted or relinquished, as law and justice may require, and that no grants ought to issue for any lands to the westward of Wills's creek, unless the chancellor, on special information that the land lies there, shall specially so order.

That the line to which colonel Deakins has laid out the lots, is far within that which this state may rightfully claim as its western boundary, and that at a time of more leisure, the consideration of the legislature ought to be drawn to the western boundaries of this state, as objects of very great importance.

The committee conceiving, that many of the soldiers entitled, under the laws of the state, to bounties of the said lands, have died without leaving a legal representative, and without having made any disposition thereof, are of opinion, that it is unnecessary to appropriate the full number of lots to the use of the said soldiers, according to the estimate laid before the committee.

That 2520 lots, in the opinion of the committee, will be sufficient to discharge the claims of the soldiers and recruiting officers entitled as aforesaid, and that the said lots lying in the most fertile part of the country, and contained within the following limits, to wit, beginning at the mouth of Savage river, and running with the north branch of Patowmack to the head thereof, then north with the present supposed boundary line of Maryland until the intersection of an east line drawn from the said boundary line, with a north course from the mouth of Savage river aforesaid, will include the number of lots aforesaid, be distributed by lot among the said soldiers and recruiting officers, and their heirs or assigns, by the commissioner or commissioners hereafter to be appointed by the governor and council as aforesaid.

That the lot on which William Howell lives be secured to the legal representative of ~~the~~ 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 legal representative, entitled by law to the said lot, the same be secured to the aforesaid William Howell, his heirs and assigns, for ever.

That it appears to the committee, that ten assistant surveyors have been employed by the said Francis Deakins in the execution of the work 775 days, to wit, Henry Kemp one hundred and twenty days, Daniel Cresap fifty-eight days, Laurence Bringle ninety-eight days, Benjamin Price eighty-eight days, John Tomlinson fifty-eight days, Jonas Hogmire eighty-four days, Thomas Orm seventy days, John Hooker ninety-two days, John Lynn fifty days, William Hoyer ninety-two days.

That each of the said assistant surveyors be entitled to the pre-emption of one uncultivated lot, and be allowed for his services at the rate of ——— shillings current money per day.

That part of the remaining lots be distributed by lottery among such of the officers, and the representatives of the officers, of the Maryland line, who served to the end of the war, who were deranged