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OF THE  
STATE OF GEORGIA

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VOLUME XVIII.

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STATUTES ENACTED BY THE ROYAL LEGISLATURE  
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1754 TO 1768.

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BY

ALLEN D. CANDLER, A. M., LL. D.

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1910.

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 For Regulating the Watch in the Town of Savannah.
 

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(From B. P. R. O., B. of T., Georgia.)

## A N A C T

*For regulating the Watch in the town of Savannah.*

Whereas the Act for establishing a Watch in the town of Savannah is in many respects deficient and ineffectual for the purposes thereby intended for remedy whereof We humbly pray your most Sacred Majesty that it may be enacted and Be it Enacted by his Excellency Henry Ellis Esquire Captain general and governor in chief of the province of Georgia, by and with the advice and Consent of the Honourable Council, & Commons House of Assembly of the said province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That from & after the twenty ninth day of March next a nightly Watch shall be kept at the Watch House in the town of Savannah consisting of four able bodied Watchmen and one Constable who shall constantly do duty in the said town every night throughout the year at such hours as shall be appointed by the superintendants herein after named, which said Watchmen shall be hired by the Church Wardens and Vestry of the parish of Christ Church annually for the space of one whole year at the rate of one Shilling sterling for each man for one night And be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid that the Justices who are residents of the town of Savannah together with the Church Wardens & Vestry of the parish of Christ Church are hereby declared to be Superintendants of the said Watch. And the said Superintendants

Preamble.

Enacted.

Justices  
Residents of  
ye Towns of  
Savannah  
together  
with Church  
Wardens &  
Vestry of  
Christ  
Church parish  
shall be  
superintend-  
ants of the  
Watch & are  
hereby im-  
powered to  
raise a Sum  
not exceed-  
ing One  
Hundred &  
three  
Pounds, by  
an Assess-  
ment on all  
& every the  
Householders  
Inmates  
&ca.

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ants or any Seven of them are hereby impowered and authorized to issue Such Orders & directions to the Constables from time to time as they shall find necessary for regulating and Settling the said Watch, and in Order to defray the charges of the said Watch the said Superintendants are hereby impowered to raise a Sum not exceeding one hundred & three pounds by a proportionable Assessment on all & every the Householders and Inmates & Male Inhabitants of the town of Savannah of the Age of Sixteen years & upwards. And the Church Wardens of the parish of Christ Church shall give public notice by Advertisement of the time of meeting of the said superintendants, for making such Assessment and every superintendant that shall not attend at the time of making the said Assessment without a reasonable excuse, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of forty shillings sterling to be recovered by Warrant under the hands and Seals of any seven of the said superintendants, that are met for that purpose, and Be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all public Buildings within the said town shall be liable to the said Assessment & the Sums so assessed on them respectievly shall be paid by the public Treasurer out of the general Tax into the Hands of the said superintendants, and the Constables and Watchmen shall be liable to the said Assessment and the said Superintendants in making such assessment shall rate or assess none more than twenty shillings sterling per annum (public Buildings only excepted) which said Assessments shall be paid into the hands of the said Superintendants once in every three Months according to the rates

Church  
Wardens of  
Christ  
Church  
Parish to  
give Notice  
by Adver-  
tisement of  
the time of  
meeting the  
said Superin-  
tendants to  
make an  
Assessment  
who neglect-  
ing to attend  
shall forfeit  
40s/ sterg.

Public  
Buildings  
Liable to be  
assessed &  
the Sums  
assessed  
respectively  
shall be paid  
by the Pub-  
lick Treasu-  
rer out of  
the General  
Tax to the  
said Superin-  
tendants  
who shall  
rate or  
assess none  
more than  
twenty  
shillings &  
Annum (pub-  
lick Build-  
ings only  
excepted.)

above



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persons assessed refusing or neglecting to pay to the said Superintendants the Sums assessed within ten days after Notice given, the same to be recovered by Warrant of Distress &c.

Watchmen in what manner to be accoutered.

Watchmen duely to observe the orders given by the Constable of the night.

above mentioned and the said Superintendants shall give Notice by advertisement when the same shall be paid. And if any person or persons so assessed shall refuse or neglect to pay into the hands of the said superintendants the Sums so assessed on them respectively within the space of ten days after notice is given them thereof as aforesaid the same shall be recovered by Warrant of distress and Sale under the hand & Seal of one or more of the Justices of the said town of Savannah directed to any lawful Constable of the parish of Christ Church, and Be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Watchmen respectively shall provide themselves each with a good gun, a Catridge Box with Six Catridges at least filled with good Gun powder and a Ball in each, and also with a Hanger and Bayonett which said Arms and Accoutrements shall every night be carefully inspected by the Constable of the night, before the setting of the Watch, and every of the said Watchmen shall follow and obey all such Orders & directions as he shall receive from the Constable of the night, & shall also assist each other in suppressing and detecting every disorder or robbery that shall be committed within the said town during the Watch hours, and shall Safely convey the Offender or Offenders to the Watch house and deliver him her or them into the Custody of the Constable for the night and the said Constable is hereby directed to detain every such Offender or Offenders untill the next morning and shall then convey him, her or them before any Justice of the peace for further Examination And the said Watchmen shall Seize & apprehend every negroe and

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and other Slave that shall be found in any of the streets or passages within the said town not having a Tickett or token from their respective Owners or a white person in Company with him her or them and if such Slave so taken up can not give a satisfactory account of the Business that he or she was then employed in for his or her Owners Service, such Watchman shall immediately inform himself from the Owner or person to whom the said Slave was Sent if living in the town, and if it appears that the said Slave was not employed by the owner he or she by the direction of the Constable shall be whipped on the bare back by one of the Watchmen with a Cow Skin Switch or horse Whip not exceeding twenty lashes and then discharged. And if any Country Slave or Slaves shall be taken up as aforesaid by the Watch the Constable of the night shall cause the said Slave or Slaves to be immediately whipped as aforesaid and then discharged unless the said Constable shall have reason to believe such Slave or Slaves to be run away in which case he she or they shall be detained in the Watch house till the Morning, and shall then be carried before any Justice of the peace for further Examination. And the said Watchmen shall have full power and they are hereby authorized and impowered to Enter into any disorderly tipling house either of white persons free negroes or others suspected of harbouring trafficking or dealing with negroes & shall apprehend & correct every disorderly Slave there found by whipping as aforesaid. And in case any accident shall happen by fire during the Watch hours, the said Watchmen respectively shall immediately

Watchmen to apprehend Negroes &c. found within any of the Streets &c. without a Ticket or Token &c.

Slaves caught in any of the Streets &c. to be whipped not exceeding Twenty Lashes. Country Slaves taken up as above by the Watch Constable to cause sd. Slave to be whipld. & then discharged unless he has reason to believe said Slave to be run-away in which Case to be detained.

Watchmen to enter into any Disorderly House suspected of Harbouring &c. Negroes.

In Case of fire breakg. out in Watch Hours the Watchmen immediately to Alarm the nearest Inhabitants.



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Watchmen in  
Liquor upon  
proof thereof  
to forfeit  
five Shillings.

The Six  
Constables  
to be paid  
twenty  
shillings to  
provide fire  
& candles &  
also the Sum  
of four  
Pounds each  
for their at-  
tendance &  
one Shilling  
½ night to  
each  
Watchman.

persons fire-  
ing any  
Great Guns  
or small  
Arms in yee.  
Town of  
Savannah  
&ca. after  
Sun Set  
without  
leave from  
the Govr.  
&ca. such  
person sub-  
ject to a fine  
of Twenty  
Shillings for  
every Great  
Gun & five  
Shills. for  
every small  
arm upon  
due proof  
&ca.

diately alarm the nearest Inhabitants in danger, & shall also be assisting in extinguishing the same And if any of the said Watchmen shall be intoxicated with liquor during the Watch hours or shall not to his utmost do and perform every duty required of him by this Act, he shall upon due proof thereof on the Oath of one or more creditable Witnesses before any Justice of the peace forfeit and pay the sum of five Shillings Sterling for every such Offence to be recovered in manner as herein before directed for other fines and to be apply'd towards the repair of the watch house. And be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Six Constables for the time being shall be paid the Sum of twenty Shillings Sterling each to provide fire and candles for the use of the watch house during their turn of duty, and the Sum of four pounds each for their attendance upon the said Watch, and one Shilling sterling shall be paid to each Watchman for every night they may have served, which said payments the superintendants are hereby required to make at four quarterly payments. And Be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid that if any person or persons shall fire or cause to be fired any great gun or shall arm in the town or harbour of Savannah after Sun Set without leave or permission from the Governor or Commander in Chief for that purpose first had & obtained such person or persons so offending shall be subject and liable to a fine of twenty Shillings for every great gun and the Sum of five Shillings sterling for every small arm so fired to be levied and recovered by Warrant of distress by any Justice of the peace of the town of Savannah upon due proof

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proof on the Oath of any creditable Witness, and in case no distress can be made on the goods & Effects of such Offender or Offenders he or they may be committed to the common Goal there to remain in close Confinement for a space not exceeding ten days, unless good Security is given for his or their better Behaviour, and the said fine shall be one half to the informer, & the other half for the relief of the poor of the parish of Christ Church and the said constable & Watchmen during the Watch hours shall upon the firing of any gun or guns as aforesaid make due enquiry where and by whom such Offence is committed, and endeavour to detect and apprehend the Offender or Offenders and detain him or them in the Watch house until the next morning and make regular Information before a Magistrate as aforesaid. And Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid that this Act shall continue and be in force for and during the space of five years from the passing the same, and from thence to the End of the next Session of the general Assembly and no longer.

Offenders havg. no Goods &ca. whereon to Levy to be Committed to Goal for the space of Ten days unless Security be given.

Constables &ca. upon ye firg. of any Gun to make Enquiry by whom ye same was fired & to detect and detain ym. in the Watch House till the next morning &ca.

Continuance of this Act.

DAVD. MONTAIGUT Speaker.

By order of the Upper House

PAT: HOUSTOUN President.

Assented to y<sup>o</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 1759.

HENRY ELLIS.

From