

THE  
COLONIAL RECORDS  
OF THE  
STATE OF GEORGIA

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VOLUME XVIII.

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STATUTES ENACTED BY THE ROYAL LEGISLATURE  
OF GEORGIA FROM ITS FIRST SESSION IN  
1754 TO 1768.

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BY

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 Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.
 

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(From B. P. R. O.—B. of T., Georgia.)

AN ACT

*For the better Ordering and Governing Negroes and other Slaves in this Province.*

Preamble.

Whereas in his Majestys Plantations in America Slavery has been introduced and Allowed and the people common'y called Negroes, Indians, Mulatos, and Mestizos have been deemed Absolute Slaves and the Subjects of property in the hands of Particular persons the Extent of whose power over such Slaves ought to be settled and Limited by positive Laws so that the Slaves may be kept in due Subjection and Obedience and the owners and other persons having the Care and Government of Slaves may be restrained from exercising too great Rigour and Cruelty over them and that the Public peace and order of this province may be preserved We pray your most Sacred Majesty that it may be Enacted.

Enacted.

What persons are deemed Slaves.

And be it Enacted by the Governor Council and Assembly of this your Majestys province of Georgia and by the Authority of the same That all Negroes Indians (free Indians in Amity with this Government and Negroes Mulatos or Mestizos who are now free Excepted) Mulatos or Mestizos who now are or shall hereafter be in this Province and all their Issue and offspring Born or to be Born shall be and they are hereby declared to be and remain for ever hereafter absolute Slaves and shall follow the Condition  
of

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of the Mother and shall be deemed in Law to be Chattels personal in the Hands of their Owners and possessors and their Executors Administrators and Assigns to all intents and purposes whatsoever Provided always that if any Negro Indian Mulato or Mestizo shall claim his or her Freedom it shall and may be Lawfull for such Negro Indian Mulato or Mestizo or any Person or Persons whatsoever on his or her own Behalf to be applyed to the Justices of the General Court by Petition or Motion either during the Sitting the said Court or before any of the Justices of the same Court at any time in the Vacation And the said Court or any of the Justices thereof shall and they are hereby fully Impowered to admit any person so applying to be Guardian for any Negroe Indian Mulato or Mestizo Claiming his her or their freedom and such Guardians shall be enabled intituled and Capable in Law to bring an Action of Tresspass in the Nature of Ravishment of Ward against any person who shall Claim property in or who shall be in possession of any such Negroe Indian Mulato or Mestizo And the Defendant shall and may plead the General Issue on such Action brought and the Special Matter may and shall be given in Evidence and upon a General or Special Virdict found Judgment shall be given according to the very right of the Cause without having any regard to any Defect in the proceedings either in form or Substance and if Judgment shall be given for the plaintiff a Special Entry shall be made declaring that the Ward of the Plaintiff is free and the Jury shall assess Damages which the Plaintiffs

Guardians of Negroes &c. claiming their Freedom may bring an Action of Tresspass—

The Defendant may Plead the General Issue.

Ward

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Ward hath sustained and the Court shall give Judgment and award Execution Against the Defendant for such Damages with full Costs of Suit but in Case Judgment shall be given for the Defendant the said Court is hereby fully impowered to Inflict such Corporal punishment not Extending to Life or Limb on the Ward of the Plaintiff as they in their Discretion shall think fit.

Proviso.

Provided always that in any Action or Suit to be brought in pursuance of the Direction of this Act the Burthen of the proof shall lay upon the plaintiff and it shall be always presumed that every Negro Indian Mulato and Mestizo is a Slave unless the Contrary can be made appear (the Indians in Amity with this Government Excepted) in which Case the burthen of the proof shall lie on the Defendant.

The Defendant to give Security to produce the Ward of the Plaintiff—

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that in every Action or Suit to be brought by any such Guardian as aforesaid appointed pursuant to the direction of this Act the Defendant shall enter into a Recognizance with one or more Sufficient Suretys to the Plaintiff in such Sum as the said General Court shall direct with Condition that he shall produce the Ward of the Plaintiff at all times when required by the Court and that whilst such Action or Suit shall be depending and undetermined the Ward of the Plaintiff shall not be elaigned abused or misused— And for the better keeping Slaves in due order and Subjection Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That no  
 person

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person whatsoever shall permit or Suffer any Slave under his or their Care or Management and who lives or is Employed in Savannah or any other Town in this Province to go out of the Limits of the said Town or any such Slave who lives in the Country to go out of the plantation to which such Slave belongs or in which plantation such Slave is usually Employed without a Letter Superscribed or a Ticket which Ticket shall be Signed by the Master or other person having the care or charge of such Slave or by some other person by his or their Order Direction and Consent—And every Slave who shall be found out of Savannah or any other Town if such Slaves lives or is usually employed there or out of the P[lan]tation to which such Slaves belongs or in which such Slave is usually employed if such Slave lives in the Country without a Letter or Ticket as aforesaid or without a white person in his Company shall be punished with Whipping on the Bare back not Exceeding Twenty Lashes And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any person shall presume to give a Ticket or Licence to any Slave who is the property or under the Care or Charge of another without the Consent of the Owner or other person having the Charge of such Slave he shall forfeit to the Owner the Sum of Three pounds Sterling.

Slaves not to be absent from their place of Abode without a Letter or Ticket.

And if absent without a Ticket &c. to be punished—

Any person giving a Ticket to a Slave without the consent of his Master to forfeit £3.

And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid that if any Slave who shall be out of the House or plantation where such Slave shall live or shall be usually employed or without some White person in Company

Slaves refusing to be examined by any White Person may be corrected and if they resist may be lawfully killed—

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Company such Slave shall refuse to Submit to undergo the Examination of any white person it shall be Lawfull for any such white person to pursue Apprehend and Moderately correct such Slave and if such Slave shall assault and Strike such white person such Slave may be Lawfully killed.

Slaves  
beaten &c.  
without  
Cause every  
Person so  
offending  
shall forfeit  
6s Sterlg. to  
the poor.

Provided always And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any Negro or other Slave who shall be Employed in the Lawfull Bussiness or Service of his Master Owner—Overseer or other person having charge of such Slave shall be beaten Bruised Maimed or Disabled by any person or persons not having sufficient Cause or Lawfull Authority for so doing (of which Cause the Justices of the peace respectively may Judge every person and persons so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Six Shillings Sterling over and besides the Damages herein after mentioned to the use of the poor of the District in which such Offence shall be committed. And of such Slave or Slaves shall be maimed or disabled by such Beating from performing his or her Work such person and Persons so Offending shall also forfeit and pay to the Owner or Owners of such Slaves the Sum of Two Shillings Sterling  $\text{ʒ}$  Diem for every day of his Lost time and also the Charge of the cure of such Slave and Satisfaction shall also be made to the Owner for the Damage done to such Slave and the Damage to be ascertained by two Freeholders of the Neighbourhood one to be Chose for the Owner and the other by the Offender—And if the said Damages

And if such  
Slave shall  
be disabled  
from per-  
forming his  
Work the  
Offender  
shall forfeit  
2s Steg.  $\text{ʒ}$   
Day for each  
day of his  
lost time  
and also pay  
for the Cure  
of Such  
Slave—

in the whole shall not exceed the Sum of Three pounds the same shall upon lawfull proof thereof made be recoverable before any One of his Majestys Justices of the peace—And such Justice before whom the same shall be recovered shall have power to commit the Offender or Offenders to Goal if he she or they shall produce no goods on which the said penalty and Damages may be levied there to remain without Bail until such penalty and Damages shall be paid any Law Statute Usage or Custom to the Contrary notwithstanding.

How to be recovered.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that it shall and may be Lawfull for every Justice assigned to keep the peace in this province within his respective district and Jurisdiction upon his own knowledge or View or upon Information received upon Oath either to go in person or by Warrant or Warrants directed to any Constable or other proper person to command to their Assistance any Number of Persons as they shall see Convenient to dispose any Assembly or meeting of Slaves which may disturb the peace or endanger the safety of his Majestys Subjects and to Search all Suspected places for Arms Ammunition or Stolen Goods and to apprehend and Secure all such Slaves as they shall Suspect to be guilty of any Crimes or Offences whatsoever and to bring them to Speedy Tryal according to the Direction of this Act And in Case any Constable or other person shall refuse to obey or Execute any of the Warrants or precepts of such Justices or any of them within their several Limits

Justices to be impowered to Command any Number of persons as they shall see Convenient to disperse any Assembly or meeting of Slaves &c. and Search for Arms Ammunition or Stolen Goods & to apprehend Suspected Slaves &c.

Persons refusing to Execute the Justices Warrant when commanded shall forfeit 15s. Sterling—

and

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How to be recovered.

and precincts or shall refuse to Assist the said Justices or Constables or any of them when commanded and required such person or persons shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Fifteen Shillings Sterling to be recovered by a Warrant under the hand and Seal of any other Justice of the peace.

Persons maimed or wounded in taking run-away Slaves to be rewarded by the General Assembly—

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any person shall be maimed Wounded or disabled in pursuing apprehending or taking any Slave that is run away or Charged with any Criminal Offence or in doing any other Act matter or Thing in Obedience to or in pursuance of the Direction of this Act he shall receive such Reward from the Public as the General Assembly shall think fitt And if any such person shall be killed his Heirs Executors or Administrators shall receive the like reward.

How Slaves are to be tried for Offences Capital—

And Whereas Natural Justice forbids that any person of what Condition so ever should be Condemned unheard and the Order of Civil Government requires that for the due and Equal Administration of Justice some Convenient Method and form of Tryal should be established. Be it therefore Enacted by the authority Aforesaid that all Crimes and Offences which shall be Committed by Slaves in this province and for which Capital punishment shall or Lawfully may be inflicted shall be heard examined tried adjudged and finally determined by any two Justices assigned to keep the peace and any Number of Freeholders not less than Three or more than five



five in the District where the Offence shall be Committed and Can be most conveniently assembled either of which Justices on Complaint made or Information received of any such Offence committed by any Slave shall commit the Offender to the safe Custody of the Constable of the District where such Offence shall be committed and shall without delay by Warrant under his hand and Seal call to his assistance and request any One of the nearest Justices of the peace to associate with him and shall by the same Warrant Summon such a Number of the Neighbouring Freeholders as aforesaid to assemble and meet together with the said Justice at a Certain Day and place not Exceeding three days after the Apprehending of such Slave or Slaves and the Justices and Freeholders being so assembled shall cause the Slave accused or charged to be brought before them and shall hear the accusation which shall be brought against such Slave and his or her Defence and shall proceed to the Examination of Witnesses and other Evidence and finally hear and determine the matter brought before them in the most Summary and Expeditious manner And in Case the Offender shall be Convicted of any Crime for which by Law the Offender ought to suffer death the said Justices shall give Judgment and award and Cause Execution of their Sentence to be done by Inflicting such manner of Death and at such time as the said Justices by and with the Consent of the Freeholders shall direct and which they shall Judge will be most Effectual to deter others from Offending in like manner.

And

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And for  
Offences  
not Capital.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any Crime or Offence not Capital shall be Committed by any Slave such Slave shall be proceeded Against and tried for such Offence in the manner herein before directed by any one Justice of the peace and any two Freeholders of the District where the offence shall be Committed and can be most conveniently Assembled And the said Justice and Freeholders shall be called together and Shall proceed upon Trial of any Slave who shall commit any Offence not Capital in like manner as herein before directed for trying of Cases Capital And in Case any Slave shall be Convicted before them of any Offence not Capital The said One Justice by and with the Consent of the said Freeholders shall give Judgment for the Inflicting any Corporal Punishment not extending to the taking away life or member as he and they in their discretion shall think fit and shall award and cause Execution to be done accordingly provided Always That if the said One Justice and Two Freeholders upon Examination of any Slave Charged or Accused before them for an Offence not Capital shall find the same to be a greater Offence and may deserve death they shall with all Convenient Speed Summons to their Assistance another Justice and one or more Freeholders not Exceeding Three all which said Justices and Freeholders shall proceed in the Tryal and unto final Judgment and Execution if the Case shall so require in manner as is herein above directed for the Tryal of Capital Offences.

Proviso.

And

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And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that so soon as the Justice or Justices and Freeholders shall be assembled as aforesaid in pursuance of the Direction of this Act the said Justices and Freeholders shall take the following Oath I. A. B. do solemnly Swear in the presence of Almighty God That I will truly and impartially try and ad- judge the prisoner or prisoners who shall be brought before me upon his or their Trial and honestly and duly on my part put in Execution on this Trial an Act entituled An Act for the better ordering and Governing Negroes and other Slaves in this province according to the best of my Skill and Knowledge So help me God.

Oath to be administered on the Tryal of Slaves.

And for the preventing the Concealment of Crimes and Offences committed by Slaves and for the more effectual Discovery and bringing Slaves to Condign punishment Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid That not only the Evidence of any Free Indians without Oath but the Evidence of any Slave without Oath shall be allowed and admitted in all Causes whatsoever for or against another Slave accused of any Crime or Offence whatsoever the Weight of which Evidence being Seriously considered and compared with all other Circumstances attending the Case shall be left to the Conscience of the Justices and Freeholders.

Evidence to be Allowed against Slaves—

And Whereas Slaves may be harboured and encouraged to Commit Offences and Concealed and received by Free Negroes and such Free Negroes may

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may Escape the punishment due to their Crimes for want of sufficient and Legal Evidence against them,

And against  
free  
Negroes.

Be it therefore further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That the Evidence of any Free Indian or Slave without Oath shall in like manner be allowed and admitted in all Cases against any free Negroes Indians (Free Indians in Amity with this Government only Excepted) Mulato or Mestizos and all Crimes and Offences committed by the Negroes Indians (except as before Excepted) Mulatos or Mestizoes shall be proceeded and tryed by the Justices and Freeholders appointed by this Act for the Trial of Slaves in like manner as is hereby directed for the proceedings and Trial of Crimes and Offences committed by Slaves any Law Statute Usage or Custom to the Contrary Notwithstanding.

Crimes  
declared  
Felony.

And whereas some Crimes and Offences of an enormous nature and of the most pernicious consequence may be Committed by Slaves as well as other persons which being peculiar to the Condition and Situation of this province could not fall under the provision of the Laws of England Be it therefore Enacted by the authority aforesaid that the Several Crimes & offences hereinafter particularly enumerated are hereby declared to be Felony without the Benefit of the Clergy, (that is to say) If any Slave free Negro Mulato Indian or Mestizo shall wilfully and Maliciously burn or destroy any Stack of Rice corn or other grain of the product growth or Manufacture of this province or shall wilfully or Maliciously

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iously sett fire to burn or Destroy any Tar kiln Barrels of pitch Tar Turpentine or Rozin or any other Goods or Commodities of the growth produce of Manufacture of this Province or shall feloniously Steal any Slave being the property of Another or shall willfully and Maliciously poison or administer any poison to any person Freeman Woman Servant or Slave every such Slave free Negro Mulato Indian (Except as before Excepted) and Mestizo shall suffer Death as a felon.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that any Slave who shall be guilty of homicide of any Sort upon any white person excepting by misadventure or in defence of his Master or other person under whose Care and government such Slave shall be shall upon Conviction thereof as aforesaid suffer Death and every Slave who shall raise or attempt to raise an Insurrection in this Province or shall endeavor to delude or entice any Slave to run away and leave this province every such Slave and Slaves and his and their Accomplices Aiders and Abettors shall upon Conviction as aforesaid Suffer Death Provided such Slave shall have actually prepared Provisions Arms Ammunition Horse or Horses or any Boat Canow or other Vessel or done any other Overt Act whereby such their Intention shall be Manifested—Provided always that it shall and may be Lawfull to and for the Justices who shall pronounce Sentence against such Slaves by and with the Advise and Consent of the Freeholders as aforesaid if several Slaves shall receive

Slaves who shall Attempt to raise an Insurrection or to entice other Slaves to run away and leave this Province to suffer Death.

Proviso.

The Justices with the Consent of the Freeholders if several Slaves shall receive sentence at one Time, may mitigate the Punishment of any of them, except such as shall be convicted of the Homicide of a White Person—

Sentence

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Sentence at one time to Mitigate and alter the Sentence of any Slave other than such as shall be Convicted of the homicide of a White person who they shall think may deserve mercy and may inflict some Corporal punishment other than Death on any such Slave as they in their discretion shall think fitt any thing herein contained to the Contrary thereof in any ways notwithstanding.

Penalties on persons attempting to Steal any Slave &c.

And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid That no person shall attempt or endeavor to Steal or Carry out of this Province hide Conceal or employ any Slave with intent to Carry such Slave out of this Province (or remote from the abode or plantation of the Owner of such Slave within this Province) on penalty of fifty pounds Sterling But whoever shall actually Steal a Slave or deface his her or their Mark shall be Guilty of Felony and shall be Excluded the Benefit of Clergy.

If any Slave shall be executed for any Crime The Justices and Freeholders shall appraise such Slave at any Sum not exceeding £50 and shall certify the same to the public Treasurer who is required to pay the same—

And to the End that Owners of Slaves may not be tempted to conceal the Crimes of their Slaves to the prejudice of the public Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid that in Case any Slave Shall be put to death in pursuance of the Sentence of the Justices and Freeholders aforesaid The said Justices or one of them with the Advice and Consent of any two of the Freeholders shall before they award and order their Sentence to be Executed Apprize and Value the said Negro so to be put to death at any Sum not Exceeding Fifty pounds and shall certify such appraisment to the public Treasurer of this province

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province who is hereby authorized to pay the same one Moiety thereof at least to the Owner of such Slave or to his Order and the other Moiety or such part thereof as such Justices and Freeholders shall direct to the person Injur'd by such Offence for which such Slave shall Suffer death.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the said Justice or any of them are hereby authorized impowered and required to Summon and Compel all persons whatsoever to appear and give Evidence upon the Trial of any Slave and if any person shall neglect or refuse to appear or appearing shall refuse to give Evidence or if any Master or other person who has the Care and Government of any shall prevent and hinder any Slave under his Charge or Government from appearing and giving Evidence in any matter depending before the Justices and Freeholders aforesaid the said Justices may and they are hereby fully impowered and required to bind every such person Offending as aforesaid by Recognizance with one or more Sufficient Suretys to appear at the next general Court to answer such their Offence and Contempt and for default of finding Suretys to commit such Offender to prison.

Justices impowered to Compel any persons to appear and give Evidence on the Trial of Slaves—

And every person refusing shall be bound over to the Sessions.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that in Case the Master or other person having Charge or Government of any Slave who shall be accused of any Capital Crime shall conceal or convey away any such Slave so that he cannot be brought

A person who shall conceal any Slave accused of a Capital Crime shall forfeit Fifty pounds Sterling—

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but if such Slave shall be accused of a Crime not Capital then such person to pay £20 &c.

brought to Trial and Condign Punishment every Master or other person so offending shall forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds Sterling if such Slave be accused of a Capital Crime as aforesaid but if such Slave be accused of a Crime not Capital then such Master or other person or other person shall only forfeit a Sum not Exceeding Twenty pounds Sterling and if any person be Injured thereby he shall be intitled to a part not Exceeding one Moiety of the said Forfeitures respectfully.

Constables to Cause Execution to be done on all Slaves

And shall be paid (unless in such Cases where the prosecution shall appear to be Malicious which shall be then paid by the prosecutors) for Whipping & other Corporal punishments three Shillings and for punishments Extending to Life Ten Shillings and other Charges.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all and every the Constable and Constables in the several Districts within this province where any Slave shall be Sentenced to Suffer Death or other punishment shall cause Execution to be done of all the Orders Warrants Precepts and Judgments of the Justices hereby appointed to try such Slaves for the Charge and Trouble of which the said Constable or Constables respectively shall be paid unless in such Case as shall appear to the said Justices and Freeholders to be malicious or groundless prosecutions in which Cases the said Charge shall be paid by the prosecutors for whipping or other Corporal punishments not extending to Life the Sum of Three Shillings and for any punishment extending to Life the Sum of Ten Shillings and such other Charges for keeping and Maintaining such Slaves as are by this Act appointed for the levying of which Charges against the prosecutor the Justice or Justices are hereby empowered to Issue their Warrant And that no delay may happen in causing Execution



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Execution to be done upon such Offending Slave or Slaves the Constable who shall be directed to cause Execution to be done shall be and he is hereby im- powered to press one or more Slave or Slaves in or near the place where such Whiping or other Cor- poral punishment shall be inflicted to Whip or inflict such other Corporal punishment upon the Offender or Offenders and such Slave or Slaves so press'd shall be obedient to and observe all the Orders and directions of the Constable in and about the premisses upon pain of being punished by the said Constables by Whiping on the bare Back not Exceeding Twenty Lashes which punishment the said Constable is here- by Authorized and impowered to Inflict and the Con- stable shall if he presses a Negroe pay the said Negroe Nine pence out of his Fee for doing the said Execution.

And may impress any Slave to in- flict the Punishment.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any person in this province shall on the Lords Day commonly called Sunday employ any Slave in any Work or Labour (Works of absolute necessity and the necessary Occasions of the Fam- ily only Excepted) every person in Such Case Of- fending shall forfeit the Sum of Ten Shillings Ster- ling for every Slave they shall so Work or Labour.

Persons who shall put any Slave to Work on Sunday shall forfeit Ten Shillgs. Sterling—

And be it further Enacted by the Authority afore- said that it shall not be Lawfull for any Slave unless in the presence of some white person to Carry and make use of Fire Arms or any Offensive Weapon whatsoever Unless such Slaves Shall have a Ticktett

It shall not be Lawfull for Slaves to use fire Arms with- out a Ticket which is to be renewed every Month.

or

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or licence in writing from his Master Mistres or Overseer to hunt and kill game Cattle or Mischievous Birds or Beasts of Prey and that such Licence be renewed once every Month or unless there be some white person of the Age of Sixteen Years or upwards in the Company of such Slave when he is hunting or Shooting or that such Slave be actually carrying his Masters Arms to and from his Masters plantation by a Special Tickett for that purpose or unless such Slave be found in the Day time actually keeping off Birds within the plantation to which such Slave belongs lodging the same Gun at Night within the dwelling House of his Master Mistress or White Overseer Provided also that no Slave shall have Liberty to carry any Gun Cutlass Pistoll or other Weapon abroad at any time between Saturday Evening after Sun Sett and Monday morning before Sun rise Notwithstanding a Licence or Tickett for so doing and in Case any person shall find any Slave using or carrying Fire Arms or other Offensive Weapons contrary to the true intention of this Act every such person may Lawfully Seize and take away such Offensive Weapon or Fire arms but before the property of such goods shall be vested in the person who shall Seize the same such person shall within forty Eight Hours next after such Seizure go before the next Justice of the peace and shall make Oath of the manner of the taking and if such Justice of the peace after such Oath shall be made or if upon any other Examination he shall be Satisfied that the said Fire Arms or other offensive Weapons shall have been Seized according to the directions

No Slave shall carry any Weapon from home between Saturday Evening and Monday morning. In what Case fire Arms &c. may be taken from Slaves.

and

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and agreeable to the true intent and meaning of this Act, The said Justice shall by Certificate under his hand and Seal declare them forfeited and that the property is Lawfully vested in the person who Seized the Same Provided always that no such Certificate shall be granted by any Justice of the peace, Proviso. untill the Owner or Owners of such Fire Arms or other Offensive Weapon so to be Seized as aforesaid or the Overseer or Overseers who shall or may have the charge of such Slave or Slaves from whom such Fire Arms or other Offensive Weapons shall be taken or Seized shall be duly Summoned to Shew Cause if any such they have why the same should not be Condemned as forfeited or untill forty Eight Hours after the Service of such Summons and Oath made of the Service thereof before the said Justice.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any Slave shall presume to Strike any White person such Slave upon Trial and Conviction before the Justice or Justices and Freeholders aforesaid according to the direction of this Act shall for the first and Second Offence suffer such punishment as the said Justice and Freeholders or such of them as are impowered to try such Offences shall in their discretion think fitt not extending to Life or Limb and for the Third Offence shall suffer Death but in Case any such Slave shall grievously Wound Maim or Bruise any White person tho' it shall be only the first Offence such Slave shall suffer Death—Provided always that such Striking wounding Maiming or Bruising be not done by the Command

Slaves who shall Strike a white person how to be dealt with—

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mand and in the Defence of the person or property of the Owner or other person having the Care or Government of Such Slave in which Case the Slave Shall be wholly excus'd and the Owner or other person having the care or government of such Slave shall be answerable as far as by Law he ought.

Any person  
may apprehend  
a run away Slave  
and Send him  
to his Master if  
known  
Otherways  
to the Constable  
of the Precinct—

The Master  
to pay five  
Shillings for  
taking up  
the Slave—

Constable  
to keep run  
away Slaves  
in safe Custody  
and to advertise  
them—

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that it shall and may be lawfull for every Person in this province to take apprehend and Secure any run away or fugitive Slave and they are hereby directed and required to send such Slave to the Master or other person having the Care and Government of such Slave if the person taking up or Securing such Slave knows or Can without difficulty be informed to whom such Slave belongs but if not known or discovered then such Slave shall be delivered into the Custody of the Constable of the District and the Master or other person who has the Care or Government of such Slave shall pay for taking up such Slave whether by a free person or Slave the Sum of five Shillings Sterling—And the constable upon Receipt of every fugitive or run away Slave is hereby directed and required to keep such Slave in Safe Custody untill such Slave shall be Lawfully discharged and Shall as soon as Conveniently it may be Advertize such Slave at Savannah and other public places with the best description he shall be able to give first carefully viewing and Examining such Slave naked to the Waist for any Mark or brand which he shall also Advertize to the intent the owner or other person who shall have the Care and Charge

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of such Slave may come to the Knowledge that such Slave is in Custody And if such Slave shall make Escape through the negligence of the Constable and cannot be taken up in Three Months the said Constable shall answer to the Owner for the Value of such Slave or the Damages which the owner shall sustain by reason of such Escape as the Case shall happen.

And to answer to the owner of Slaves escaping through his Negligence.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the said Constable shall at the Charge of the owner of such Slave provide Sufficient Food drink Cloathing and covering for every Slave delivered into his Custody or on failure thereof shall forfeit all his Fees and shall forfeit three Shillings for each Day after he shall neglect to Advertize as before directed.

Constables to provide for Slaves at the Owners Expence on Penalty.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that any person who shall take up any run away Slave and shall deliver such Slave either to the Master or other person having the Care or Charge of such Slave or to the Constable of the District shall be intituled to receive from the Owner or Constable of the District Two pence Sterling  $\text{2d}$  mile for every Mile for every Mile such Slave shall have been brought or Sent to be computed from the place where such Slave was apprehended And if such Slave shall be delivered into the Custody of the Constable of the District aforesaid the person delivering such Slave shall give an Account of his name place of Abode and the time and place when and where

Persons taking up run-away Slaves to be paid  $\text{2d}$ .  $\text{3}$  mile

And if delivered to a Constable he is to enter in a Book the Name & Place of Abode of the person delivering such Slaves and to give a receipt for them—

such

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 Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.
 

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Constables  
Fees and  
how to be  
recovered.

such Slave was apprehended which account the said Constable shall enter down in a Book to be kept for that purpose and Shall give a Receipt for any such Slave which shall be delivered as aforesaid in his Custody and the said Constable is hereby fully authorized and impowered to demand and receive from the Owner or other person having the Charge or Care of any such Slave for Negroes committed from the Month of October to March inclusive for finding necessary Cloathing and Covering to be the property of the Masters any Sum not exceeding Eighteen Shillings Sterling and the Several Sums following and no other Sum Fee or reward on any pretence whatsoever That is to Say for Apprehending each Slave paid to the person who delivered such Slave in Custody five Shillings Sterling money for Mileage paid to the same person Two pence like money <sup>per</sup> Mile for a Sufficient Quantity of provisions for each Day for each Slave Six pence Sterling For Advertizing every Slave as directed by this Act Six pence Sterling for receiving such Slave Six pence Sterling and for delivering him Six pence For Poundage or money advanced One Shilling in the pound like money And the said Constable shall and may lawfully detain any Slave in Custody untill the Fees and expences aforesaid be fully paid and Satisfyed And in case the Owner of such Slave or his Overseer Agent Manager Attorney or Trustee shall neglect or refuse to pay or satisfye the said Fees and Expences for the Space of Thirty days after the same shall be demanded by Notice in writing served on the owner of such Slave or (if the Owner is absent

from

Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

from this province) upon his Overseer Agent Manager Attorney or Trustee the said Constable shall and may expose any such Slave to Sale at Public Outcry and after deducting the Fees and Expences Aforesaid and the Charges of such Sale The Overplus money arising from such Sale to be Lodged in the Hands of the Justice of the District where such Sale shall be and upon demand to be by him returned to any person who has a Right to Demand and receive the same.

And forasmuch as for want of knowing or finding the owners of any fugitive Slave to be delivered to him as aforesaid the said Constable may not be obliged to keep such Slave in his Custody and find and provide Provisions for such Slave over and beyond a reasonable Time Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if the Owner or Owners of such fugitive Slaves shall not within the Space of Six Weeks from the time of Advertizement, make his her or their Claim or Claims or it shall not be otherwise be made known to the said Constable within the time aforesaid to whom such committed Slave shall belong the said Constable shall commit the said Slave to the Custody of the provost Marshall Who shall give a Receipt for the same and pay the Constables his Fees and Expences as directed by this Act and the said provost Marshal shall frequently Advertize for the Space of Eighteen months and if not Claimed in that time it shall be Lawfull for the said provost Marchal to Sell such Slave at Public outcry in the Town where such Goal shall be \*he first Advertizeing

Slaves in the Custody of a Constable Six weeks & not Claimed to be delivered over to the provost Marshal who is to give the Constable a Receipt and pay his Fees and Expences.

Slaves in  
the provost  
Marshals  
Custody 18  
Months and  
not claimed  
to be sold at  
public Out-  
cry &c.

vertizeing such Sale together with the Reasons there-  
of and out of the money arising from such Sale to de-  
duct or retain to himself what shall be then due for  
money by him disbursed on receipt of such fugitive  
Slave and for his Fees and Provisions together with  
the reasonable Charges arising by such Sale And  
the Overplus money if any there shall be shall be  
render'd and paid by the said provost Marshal to  
the public Treasurer of the province for the time  
being in Trust nevertheless for the use of the Owner  
or Owners of such Slave provided the same be  
Claimed by him her or them within one year and a  
Day after such sale or in Default of such Claim  
withín the time aforesaid to be appropriated towards  
paying for Negroes publickly Executed.

Free persons  
Free Ne-  
groes or  
Slaves har-  
bouring run-  
aways how  
to be dealt  
with.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority afore-  
said that if any free Person or any Slave shall har-  
bour conceal or entertain any Slave that shall run  
away or shall be Charg'd or accused with any Crimi-  
nal matter every Free Negro Mulato and Mestizo  
and every Slave that shall harbour Conceal or enter-  
tain any such Slave being duly convicted thereof ac-  
cording to the Direction of this Act If a Slave shall  
suffer such Corporal punishment not extending to  
Life or Limb as the Justice or Justices who shall try  
such Slave shall in his or their discretion think fitt  
and if a Free person shall forfeit the Sum of Thirty  
Shillings Sterling for the first Day and Three Shil-  
lings Sterling for every Day after to the use of the  
Owner or Owners of such Slave so to be Harboured  
concealed or entertained as aforesaid to be re-  
covered



Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

covered by Warrant under the hand and Seal of any one of his Majestys Justices of the peace in and for the District where such Slave shall be so harboured concealed or entertained—And that in Case such Forfeitures cannot be Levied on any Free Negro Mulato or Mestizo together with the Charges attending the prosecution such Free Negro Mulato or Mestizo shall be sold for a certain Term as shall pay the same.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that no Slave who shall usually reside or be employed in any District within this province shall presume to buy Sell or Exchange any Goods Wares Provisions Grain Victuals or Commoditys of any Sort or kind whatsoever Except as is hereinafter particularly excepted and provided under such provisoes Conditions Restrictions and Limitations as are herein particularly directed Limited and appointed on pain that all such Goods Wares provisions Grain Victuals or Commoditys which by any Slave shall be so bought Sold or Exchanged shall be Seized and Forfeited and shall be Sued for and recovered before any one Justice Assigned to keep the peace in the District where such Offence was Committed and Shall be applyed and disposed of one half to him or them who shall Seize in one half to him or them who shall Seize in form and Sue for the same and the other half to the Commissioners of the poor of said District and moreover that the said Justice shall order every Slave who shall be Convicted of such Offence to be publickly whipt on the

Slaves not to buy or Sell any Goods provisions (Except as is hereinafter excepted) on Pain of forfeiting all the Goods &c.

And how to be recovered and disposed of—

Bare

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 Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.
 

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Proviso.

Bare Back not exceeding twenty Lashes provided always that it may and Shall be Lawfull for any Slave who Lives or is Usually employed in Savannah after such Licence and Tickett as herein after is directed shall be obtained to Buy or Sell Fruit Fish and Garden Stuff and to be employed as Porters Carters or Fishermen and to purchase any thing for the use of their Master Owners or other persons who shall have the charge and Government of such Slaves in Open Market under such Regulations as are or shall be appointed by Law concerning the Market of Savannah or in any open kept by a white person.

Retailers of  
strong  
Liquors not  
to give or  
Sell any to  
Negroes  
without  
their own-  
ers Consent.

Penalty  
thereon.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any retailer of Strong Liquors shall give or Sell to any Slave any Beer or Spiritous Liquor whatsoever without the Licence or Consent of the Owner or such other person who shall have the Care or Government of such Slave every person so offending shall forfeit the Sum of Twenty Shillings Sterling money for the first Offence and for the Second Offence forty Shillings Sterling and shall be bound in a Recognizance in the Sum of Twenty Pounds Sterling with one or more Sufficient Suretys before any of the Justices of the General Court not to offend in the like kind and to be of good Behaviour for one year and for want of such Sufficient Suretys to be committed to prison without Bail or mainprize for a Term not exceeding three Months.

And Whereas Several Owners of Slaves do suffer

Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

fer their Slaves to go and work where they please upon Condition of paying to their Owners certain Sums of money agreed upon between the Owner and Slave which practice has Occasioned such Slaves to pilfer and Steal to raise money for their Owners as well as to Maintain themselves in Drunkenness and evil Courses For prevention of which practices for the future—

Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that no Owner Master or Mistress of any Slave after the passing of this Act shall permit and Suffer any of his her or their Slaves to go and Work out of thier respective houses or Familys without a Tickett in writing under pain of forfeiting the Sum of One pound Ten Shillings Sterling for every such Offence to be paid the one half to the Justices of the District for the use of the poor of the District in which the Offence is committed and the other half to him or them that will inform and Sue for the same And every person employing any Slave with out a Tickett from the owner of such Slave shall forfeit to the Informer Fifteen Shillings Sterling for each Day he so Implies such Slaves over & above the Wages agreed to be paid such Slave for his Work Provided nevertheless that the said Penalty of Fifteen Shillings Sterling per Diem shall not Extend to any Person whose property in such Slaves is disputable And provided that nothing herein contained shall hinder any Person or persons from hiring out by the year Week or Day or any other time any Negroes or Slaves to be under the Care and direction of

Slaves not to work out of their owners Familys without a Ticket.

Penalty thereon.

Proviso.

No Slave to buy Sell or barber &c. (except as before excepted) nor to keep any Boat &c. or breed any horses &c. for his own use on Pain of forfeiting the same.

Any person may seize and take away any Goods &c. from any Slave and deliver the same to the next Justice who is to take the Oath of such person concerning the Manure of such Seizure.

of his or their owner Master or Employer and that the Master is to receive the whole of the Earnings of such Slave or Slaves and that the Employer have a Certificate or Note in Writing of the time or Terms of such Slaves Employment from the Owner Attorney or Overseer of every such Slave Severally and respectively—And whereas Several owners of Slaves may permit them to keep Canoes and to Breed and raise Horses and Neat Cattle and to traffick and barter in Several parts of this province for the particular and peculiar Benefit of such Slaves by which means they may have not only an Oppertunity of receiving and Concealing Stolen Goods but to plot and confederate together and form Conspiracies dangerous to the peace and Safety of the whole Province Be it therefore Enacted by the authority aforesaid that it shall not be Lawfull for any Slave so to buy Sell Trade traffick deal or Barter for any Goods or Commodities (Except as before Excepted) nor shall any Slave be permitted to keep any Boat Perry-auger or Canoe or to raise and breed for the Use and benefit of such Slave any Horse Mares and Neat Cattle under pain of forfeiting all the Goods and Commodities which shall be so bought sold Traded traffick'd dealt or Barter'd for by any Slave and of all the Boats Perryaugers Canoes or Cattle which any Slave shall keep raise or breed for the peculiar Use Benefit and profit of such Slave and it shall and may be Lawfull for any person or persons whatsoever to Seize and take away from any Slave all such Goods Commodities Boats Perryaugers Canoes Horses Mares or Neat Cattle and to deliver

Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

the same into the hands of any one of his Majestys Justice of the peace nearest to the place where the Seizure shall be made and such Justice shall take the Oath of such person who shall make any such Seizure concerning the Manure of Seizing and taking the same and if the said Justice shall be satisfied that such Seizure hath been made according to the directions of this Act he shall pronounce and declare the Goods so Seized to be Forfeited and shall order the same to be sold at public Outcry and the Moneys arising from such Sale shall be disposed of and applied as is herein after directed Provided always that if any Goods shall be Seized which comes to the possession of any Slave by Theft finding or otherwise without the Knowledge Privity Consent Proviso. or Conivance of the person who have a Right to the property or Lawfull Custody of any such Goods all such Goods shall be restored on such persons making Oath before any Justice as aforesaid who is hereby empowered to administer such Oath to the Effect or in the following Words—

I, A. B. do Sincerely Swear that I have a Just and Lawfull Right or Title to certain Goods Seized and taken by C. D. out of the possession of a Slave named E. and I do Sincerely Swear and declare That I did not directly or indirectly permit or suffer the said Slave or any other Slave whatsoever to use keep and employ the said Goods for the use Benefit or profit of any Slave whatsoever or to Sell barter or give away the same but that the same Goods were in the possession of the said Slave by Theft

Oath to be taken by any person claiming Goods Seized in possession of any Slave.

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 Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.
 

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Persons living without the Limits of Savannah may give a Licence to their Slaves to sell or barter in Savannah expressing the Quantity and Quality of Goods in such Licence.

Theft finding or otherwise or to be kept Bona fide for the use of E. T. a free person and not for the use or Benefit of any Slave whatsoever So help me God which Oath shall be taken Mutatis Mutandis as the Case shall happen Provided also that it shall be Lawfull for any person being the owner or having the Care or Government of any Slave who resides or is usually employed in any part of this province or permission to Sell Exchange or barter in Savannah or else where within this Province the Goods or Commodities of the Owner or other person having the Care or Government of such Slave provided that in such Licence or permission the Quantity and Quality of the Goods and Commodities with which such Slave shall be intrusted be particularly and distinctly sett down and specified and Signed by the Owner or other person having the Charge or Government of such Slave or by some other person by his her or their order and Direction.

And as it is absolutely necessary to the Safety of this Province that all due Care be taken to restrain the Wanderings and Meetings of Negroes and other Slaves at all times and more Especially on Saturday Night Sundays and other Holidays and their using and Carrying Wooden Swords and other Mischievous and dangerous Weapons or using or keeping of Drums Horns or other loud Instruments which may call together or give Sign or Notice to one another of their wicked Designs and purposes and that all Masters Overseers and other

may

Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

may be enjoined diligently and carefully to prevent the same Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That it shall be Lawfull for all Masters Overseers and other persons whomsoever to apprehend and take up any Negro or other Slave that shall be found out of the plantation of his or their Master or Owner at any time especially on Saturday Nights Sundays or other Holidays not being on Lawfull Business and with a Letter or Tickett from their Master or not having a white person with them and the said Negro or other Slave or Slaves Corrected by Moderate whipping as also any Negro or other Slave or Slaves met or found out of the plantation of this or their Master or Mistress though with a Letter or Tickett if he or they be armed with such Offensive weapons aforesaid him or them to disarm take up and whip.

Slaves found out of their Masters Plantations without a Ticket may be taken up and corrected.

As also with a Ticket if armed.

And whatsoever Master Owner or Overseer shall permit or suffer his or their Negroe or other Slave or Slaves at any time hereafter to beat Drums blow Horns or any other Loud Instruments or whatsoever shall suffer or Countenance any Public meeting or Feastings of Strange Negroes or Slaves in their plantations shall forfeit Thirty Shillings Sterling for every such Offence upon Conviction or proof as aforesaid provided an Information or other Suit be Commenced within one month after Forfeiture thereof for the same.

Masters suffering their Slaves to beat Drums blow horns &c. or to have public meetings &c. shall forfeit 30 shillings—

Proviso.

And Whereas Cruelty is not only highly unbecoming those who profess themselves Christians but is

odious

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 Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.
 

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Persons wil-  
fully killing  
any Slave  
how to be  
punished.

odious in the Eyes of all Men who have any Sense of Virtue or Humanity therefore to restrain and prevent Barbarity being exercised towards Slaves Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That if any Person or Persons whatsoever shall wilfully Murder his own Slave or the Slave of any other person every such person shall upon Conviction thereof by the Oath of two Witnesses be adjudged guilty of Felony for the first Offence and have the Benefit of the Clergy making Satisfaction to the Owner of such Slave but the Second offence shall be deemed Murther and the Offender Suffer for the said Crime according to the Laws of England except that he shall forfeit no more of his Lands and Tenements Goods and Chattels than what may be Sufficient to Satisfy the owner of such Slave so killed as aforesaid And in case any shall not be able to make the Satisfaction hereby required every such person shall be sent to any Frontier Garrison of this province or committed to the Goal at Savannah and there to remain at the public Expence for the Space of Seven years and to Serve or to be kept to hard Labour and the pay usually allow'd by the public to the Soldiers of such Garrison or the profits of the Labour of the Offender shall be paid to the owner of the Slave murdered And if any person shall on a Sudden heat or Passion or by undue Correction kill his own Slave or the Slave of any other person he shall forfeit the Sum of Fifty pounds Sterling And in Case any person or persons shall wilfully cut the Tongue put out the Eye Castrate or Cruelly Scald burn or deprive any Slave of

Persons  
killing a  
Slave in a  
sudden Heat  
of passion  
&c. to for-  
feit £50.

And Persons  
Exercising  
any cruelty  
towards  
them to  
forfeit £10.

any



Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

any Limb or Member or shall inflict any other Cruel punishment other than by whipping or beating with a Horse Whip Cow Skin Switch or Small Stick or by putting Irons on or Confining or Imprisoning such Slave every such person shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of Ten pounds Sterling.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that in Case any person in this province who Shall be Owner or who Shall have the Care Government or Charge of any Slave or Slaves shall Deny neglect or refuse to allow such Slave or Slaves under his or her Charge Sufficient Cloathing Covering or Food it shall and may be Lawfull for any person or persons on behalf of such Slave or Slaves to make Complaint to the next neighbouring Justice and the said Justice shall Summons the party against whom such Complaint shall be made and shall enquire of hear and determine the same and if the said Justice shall find the said Complaint to be true and that such person will not exculpate or clear himself from the Charge by his or her own Oath which such person shall be at Liberty to do in all Cases where positive proof is not given of the Offence such Justice shall and may make such Orders upon the same for the relief of such Slave or Slaves as he in his Discretion shall think fit and shall and may set and impose a Fine or Penalty on any Person who shall offend in the premises in any Sum not Exceeding Three pounds Sterling for each Offence to be Levyed by Warrant of Distress and Sale of the Offenders Goods returning the overplus

Owners of Slaves refusing to provide them with sufficient Clothing and Food to forfeit not exceeding £3.

if

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 Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.
 

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if any shall be which penalty shall be paid to the Justice of the District where the offence shall be Committed for the use of the poor of the said District.

And Whereas by Reason of the Extent and Distance of Plantations in this Province the Inhabitants are far removed from each other and many Crueltys may be Committed on Slaves because no White person may be present to give Evidence of the same unless some Method be provided for the better Discovery of Such Offence and as Slaves are under the Government so they ought to be under the protection of Masters and Managers of Plantations.

If any Slave shall be cruelly used contrary to the true intent of this Act when no white person is present the Owner or person having charge of such Slave shall be deemed Guilty of the Offence unless he can prove to the contrary.

Be it therefore further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any Slave shall Suffer in Life Limb or Member or shall be maimed beaten or abused contrary to the Directions and true intent and meaning of this Act when no white person shall be present or being present shall neglect or refuse to give Evidence or be Examined upon Oath concerning the same in every such Case the owner or other person who shall have the Care and Government of such Slave and in whose possession or power such Slave shall be deemed taken reputed and adjudged to be Guilty of such Offence and shall be proceeded against accordingly without further proof unless such Owner or other person as aforesaid can make the Contrary appear by good and Sufficient Evidence or shall by his own Oath clear and exculpate himself which Oath every Court where such Offence shall

Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

shall be tryed is hereby impowered to Administer  
 And to acquit the Offender accordingly if clear proof  
 of the Offence be not made by Two Witnesses at  
 least any Law Usage or Custom to the Contrary  
 notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority afore-  
 said That no Slave or Slaves shall be permitted to  
 Rent or Hire any house Room Store or plantation  
 on his or her own Account or to be used or Occupied  
 by any Slave or Slaves and any Person or persons  
 who shall Lett or hire any House Room or planta-  
 tion to any Slave or Slaves or to any Free person  
 to be occupied by any Slave or Slaves every such  
 person so offending shall forfeit and pay to the  
 Informer the Sum of £3 Sterling.

Slaves not  
 to hire any  
 house &c.

And Whereas it may be attended with ill Conse-  
 quence to permit a great Number of Slaves to travel  
 together on the High Roads without some White  
 person in Company with them Be it therefore En-  
 acted by the Authority aforesaid that no Men Slaves  
 exceeding Seven in Number shall hereafter be per-  
 mitted to Travel together in any high Roads in  
 this Colony without some White person with them  
 and it shall and may be Lawfull for any person or  
 persons who shall see any Men Slaves exceeding  
 Seven in number without some White person with  
 them as aforesaid travelling or assembled together  
 in any High Road to apprehend all and every such  
 Slaves and shall and may whip them not Exceeding  
 Twenty Lashes on the bare Back.

Not more  
 than 7  
 Men  
 Slaves to  
 travel to-  
 gether on  
 the high  
 Roads  
 without a  
 white per-  
 son with  
 them and  
 on Offend-  
 ing how to  
 be punished.

And

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 Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.
 

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Slaves not  
to labour  
more than  
16 Hours in  
24 and per-  
sons offend-  
ing to for-  
feit not ex-  
ceeding £3.

And Whereas many Owners of Slaves and others who have the Care Management and Overseeing of Slaves do confine them so Closely to hard Labour that they have not sufficient time for natural Rest Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any Owner of Slaves or other person who shall have the Care Management or overseeing of any Slaves shall Work or put any Such Slave or Slaves to Labour more than Sixteen Hours in Twenty Four every such person shall forfeit a Sum not Exceeding Three pounds Sterling for every time he she or they shall offend herein at the Discretion of the Justice before whom the Complaint shall be made.

Slaves not  
to be taught  
to write and  
persons of-  
fending to  
forfeit £15.

And Whereas the having of Slaves taught to write or suffering them to be employed in Writing may be attended with great Inconveniencys Be it therefore Enacted by the authority aforesaid that all and every person and persons whatsoever who shall hereafter teach or Cause any Slave or Slaves to be taught to write or shall use or employ any Slave or Slaves as a Scribe in any manner of writing whatsoever hereafter taught to write every such person and persons shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of Fifteen pounds Sterling.

No person  
to keep  
Slaves on a  
plantation  
without  
having a  
white per-  
son thereon.

And Whereas Plantations settled with Slaves without any white person thereon may be Harbours for runaway and fugitive Slaves Be it therefore Enacted by the authority aforesaid that no person or

persons

Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

persons hereafter shall keep any Slaves or any plantation or Settlement without having a White person on Such plantation or Settlement under pain of forfeiting the Sum of Twenty Shillings for every Month which any such person shall so keep any Slaves on any plantation or Settlement without a White person as aforesaid.

And every Owner of Twenty Slaves shall have a White Servant upon his plantation Capable of bearing arms and every Owner of fifty Slaves shall have Two white Servants as above and for every Twenty five Slaves above fifty one White Servant more capable of bearing arms under the pain of forfeiting Twenty Shillings  $\text{¶}$  month for every white Servant wanting upon any plantation or Settlement as above.

And to keep white Servts in proportion to the Number of their Slaves on Penalty.

And Whereas from the Neighbourhood of Augustine and the encouragement there given to Run any Slaves it is much to be feared that many Negroes will be tempted to desert from their Masters and fly there in hopes of being received and Protected which if not prevented may be attended with Consequences fatal to many of the Inhabitants of this Colony Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that from and after the passing of this Act any White person or persons free Indian or Indians or any other free person who shall take and Secure any runaway Slave on the Southside of the Altamaha River provided such Slaves be twenty Miles from the plantation he belongs to and shall

Persons taking any run away Slaves on the Southside of the Altamaha River and bringing them to the nearest Justice of the peace.

from

## Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

how to be  
rewarded.

And for  
Scalps of  
deserted  
Slaves.

Slaves.  
And if taken  
on the  
Southside  
of St. Johns  
how to be  
recovered.

Slaves  
brought a  
live to be at  
the Charge  
of the Own-  
ers but if  
the Owners  
cannot read-  
ily be found  
then they  
are to be  
delivered  
into Cus-  
tody of the  
provost  
Marshall at  
Savannah.

from thence bring such Slave to the nighest Justice of the peace and before him make Oath or otherwise prove that the said Slave was taken as aforesaid the said Justice of the peace give him or them a Certificate of the same by which he or they shall be intituled to a Reward of Five pounds Sterling for every grown Man Slave brought a Live and Three pounds Sterling for every Woman Boy or Girl above the Age of Twelve years brought a Live and for every one under the Age of Twelve years brought a Live the Sum of Two pounds Sterling and for every Scalp with Two Ears of a grown Man Slave the Sum of One pound Sterling—And for every grown Man Slave taken on the South Side of St. Johns River and brought a live as aforesaid the sum of Fifteen pounds Sterling, for a Woman Boy or Girl above the age of Twelve years brought alive the Sum of Ten pounds Sterling and for every Slave under the Age of Twelve Years the Sum of five pounds Sterling and for every Scalp with Two Ears of a grown man Slave the Sum of Thirty Shillings Sterling the Several Sums above mentioned (excepting for the Scalps which shall be paid for by the Public) shall be paid by the Master or Owner of such Run away upon delivery of the Slave but if the Master of such Slave cannot be readily found then the person in whose Custody the Slave is shall deliver him or her into the hands of the provost Marshal at Savannah who is hereby empowered to give such person an Order upon the Public Treasurer for the Reward which it shall appear by the Certificate he is intituled to for taking

such

Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

such Slave And no such Slave or Slaves taken on the South side of Altamaha River and brought and delivered into the Custody of the provost Marshall at Savannah as aforesaid shall be delivered out of his Custody without a Certificate to him first produced from the Public Treasurer of this Colony that the money by him disbursed for the securing and Securing the said Slave or Slaves is fully Satisfyed to the Treasury besides the following Fees which the said Treasurer is hereby required to allow pay and Charge for the Trouble necessary to be taken concerning the place and manner of apprehending the said Slaves viz<sup>t</sup>. To the Justice who shall Examine take and Certify the said Evidence for each Slave brought a Live as aforesaid the Sum of Two Shillings and Six pence Sterling and to the Treasurer for his trouble in Executing this Act for each Slave brought a live the Sum of Two Shillings and Six pence Sterling and to the Goaler the Sum of Six pence  $\text{¶}$  Diem for his Maintaining the same while iin Custody And on the Commitment of any Slave or Slaves to the Custody of the said provost Marshall where the public Treasurer shall by virtue of this Act expend any money for apprehending the same the said provost Marshall is hereby required to Advertize publickly for the Space of Three months the best Description he can form of all and every the said Slaves with the place and manner of their being taken and in Case the owner or Employer of the said Slave or Slaves shall neglect within that time to redeem the said Slave or Slaves by fully satisfying the Public Treasurer the Charges he shall

Fees allowed to be taken on this Occasion.

Provost Marshall to publish for the Space of 3 Months the best description he can of Slaves in his Custody & if not claimed and redeemed by the Owners within that time to be

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 Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.
 

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Sold at public Outcry—

be at in such manner and proportion as by this Act is directed then and in every such case the said public Treasurer shall be at Liberty to dispose of every such Slave or Slaves to the Best bidder at public Auction which Sale shall be deemed good and Effectual to all intents and purposes to such person or persons as shall purchase the same and the produce of every such Slave or Slaves shall first go towards Satisfying the Expence of the said Public Treasurer and Goaler for the taking Securing and keeping the said Slave or Slaves as aforesaid and then the Overplus (if any) shall be paid to the respective Owner or Owners.

Slaves executed for Desertion how to be paid for—

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that from and after the passing of this Act where any Slave or Slaves shall be tried and Condemned to be executed for deserting out of this province every such Slave or Slaves shall before their Execution be valued by the tryers of the Same and in every such Case the owner or Owners of every such Slave or Slaves shall be paid by the public of this province the full Sum and Rates at which Such Executed Slave or Slaves shall be valued as aforesaid without being a Charge to any particular Owner or Owners any Law Usage or Custom to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Penalty on Constables or other persons refusing to comply with the Directions of this Act—

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any Constable or other person directed or required to do or perform any matter or thing required commanded or Enjoyed by this Act who shall know or be credibly Informed of any Offence

which



which Shall be Committed against this Act within his District or Limits and Shall not give Information thereof to some Justice of the peace and endeavour the Conviction of the Offenders according to his duty but such Constable or other person as aforesaid of any person lawfully called in Aid of the Constable or such other person as aforesaid shall wilfully and Wittingly Omit the performance of his Duty in the Execution of this Act and Shall be there- of convicted he Shall forfeit for every Such offence the Sum of Three pounds Sterling And in Case any Justice of the peace or Freeholder shall willingly or wittingly omit the performance of his duty in the Execution of this Act every such Justice of the peace shall forfeit the Sum of Six pounds Sterling and every such Freeholder shall forfeit the Sum of Forty Shillings Sterling which Several penaltys shall be recovered and disposed of as here-after is directed And Moreover the Judges and Justices of the Court of Oyer and Terminer are hereby Commanded and required to give the offences against this Act in Charge in open Court and all Grand Juries Justices of the peace Constables and other Officers are hereby required to make due and true presentiments of such of the said Offences as shall come to their knowl- edge.

Judges to give the Offences of this Act in Charge in Open Court.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any person shall be at any time sued for putting in Execution any of the powers contained in this Act such person shall and may plead the General Issue and give the Special Matter and this Act in Evidence and if the plaintiff be non suited or a

Persons sued for putting this Act in Execution may plead the General Issue.

Verdict

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 Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.
 

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Verdict pass for the Defendant or if the plaintiff discontinue his Action or enter a Noli prosequi or if upon demur Judgment be given for the Defendant every such Defendant shall have his full double Costs.

This Act to  
be constru-  
ed most  
largely—

And be it further Enacted by the Authority afore-  
said that this Act and all Clauses therein Contained  
shall be Construed most largely and beneficial for  
the promoting and Carrying into Execution this  
Act and for the Encouragement and Justification of  
all Persons to be employed in the Execution thereof  
and that no Record Warrant precept or commit-  
ment to be made by virtue of this Act or the proceed-  
ings thereupon shall be reversed avoided or any ways  
impeached by reason of any Default in form.

Fines and  
forfeitures  
inflicted by  
this Act  
how to be  
recovered—

And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that  
all fines Penaltys or forfeitures imposed or inflicted  
by this Act which are not hereby particularly dis-  
posed of or the manner of recovery directed shall, if  
not Exceeding the Value of Three pounds Sterling  
be recovered levied and distrained for by Warrant  
from any one Justice of the peace in the District  
where such Offence shall be committed and in Case  
such fine Penalty or forfeiture shall exceed the Sum  
of Three pounds Sterling the same shall be recovered  
by Action of Debt Bill Plaint or information in the  
General Court of this Province and all the said Fines  
Penaltys and Forfeitures which Shall be recovered  
by this Act and are not before particularly disposed  
of shall be one half to his Majesty his Heirs and  
successors and be paid to the public Treasurer to be  
applied

and applied.

## Governing Negroes and Other Slaves.

applied and disposed of towards the paying for such Slaves as are Executed by this Act and the other half to the Informer.

And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid that his Majestys part of the fines Penaltys and Forfeitures which shall be recovered by Virtue of this Act shall be paid into the hands of the Justices or in the Court where the same shall be recovered who shall make a Memorial or Record of the same to the Publick Treasurer of this province from the said Court of Justices who shall receive his Majestys part of such Fines and Forfeitures which Memorial shall be a Charge on the Judges or Justices respectively to whom the same shall be paid and the Public Treasurer of this province for the time being shall and may and is hereby authorized and empowered to Levy and recover the same by Warrant of Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the said Judges or Justices respectively who shall be charged with the same in Case they or any of them shall neglect or refuse to make such Memorial or Record as aforesaid or Send Such Transcript thereof as is before directed or shall neglect or refuse to pay the same over to the Treasurer within Twenty Days after the Receipt of the same—Provided always that no person shall be prosecuted for any Fine Forfeiture or Penalty imposed by this Act unless such Prosecution shall be Commenced within Six Months after the offence shall be Committed.

His Majesty's part of the fines to be paid to the Justices and by them to the public Treasurer and on Neglect how to be recovered—

Proviso.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that this Act shall be Deemed a public Act and

shall

Drawing and Summoning Jurors.

This Deem-  
ed a public  
Act—

shall be taken Notice of without pleading the same before all Judges Justices Magistrates and Courts within this province.

And to con-  
tinue for  
Three years.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority afore-  
said that this Act shall Continue in force for the  
Space of Three Years and from thence to the end  
of the next Session of the General Assembly and no  
Longer.

DA: DOUGLASS Speaker

In the Council Chamber

March the 7<sup>th</sup> 1755.

Assented to

J. REYNOLDS.

Passed

Passed the Assembly		Secretarys Office
the 5 <sup>th</sup> february 1755.		True copy taken from the
Passed the Council		Original certified by
the 14 <sup>th</sup> february 1755.		JAMES HABERSHAM Sec <sup>r</sup> .

(State Archives.)

AN ACT

*INTITULED an Act for declaring and establishing  
the Method of drawing and Summoning Jurors  
in the Province of Georgia. . . . .*

Whereas