

At a General Assembly of his Majesties Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation of New England, held by adjournment at Newport, within, and for the colony aforesaid, on the fourth Tuesday in August, being the twenty second day of said month, in the twelfth year of his Majesties reign, George the second, King of Great Britian, etc. and so forth, in 1738, an act for dividing and incorporating the town of Westerly into two towns and the same to be known and distinguished by the names of Westerly and Charlestown.

Whereas, the present town of Westerly is very large and its inhabitants are numerous, many of whom live at a very remote distance from the place of meeting appointed for the transacting the public and prudential affairs of the town; and the rivers therein, especially in the middle part thereof, being very large, so that the way to said meeting is rendered difficult as well as dangerous, and many of the inhabitants are thereby often impeded and hindered in attending thereon, which proves a great injury and hurt to them.

And whereas, the said town is well situated, and lies commodious for a division into two towns, which being divided, will lend to the general interest and advantage of all its inhabitants; be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the line for dividing of the said town be as follows:

Beginning northerly, where Wood River enters the line between the said town of Westerly and North Kingstown, and so running by the natural course thereof, so far, until said river emptieth itself into a river called Pawcatuck; and there to run or extend as said Pawcatuck River runs by the banks thereof, westward, three miles; and from thence, a south or southerly course to the sea; and that for the future, the town of Westerly extend no further eastward than the aforesaid line.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the rest of said lands heretofore westerly situate, lying and being to the eastward of the aforesaid line, be, and they are hereby incorporated and erected a town, and called and distinguished by the name of Charlestown; and that the inhabitants thereof, have all the liberties, privileges and immunities in the same manner as the other towns in the government enjoy by charter.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that Jeremiah Gould, John Rice and William Greene, esquires, be appointed a committee

to run the line between the aforesaid towns, and erect and make thereon proper monuments and bounds for distinguishing the same, and to perform the same forthwith.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the justice of the peace in the town of Charlestown, as soon as conveniently may be, issue forth a warrant, to summon in the freemen to elect and make choice of their town officers, for the management of the prudential affairs of said town; and also, for the choice of two deputies for said town, to represent the same at the General Assembly in the October session next; and so on from time to time, as by charter is appointed; and that the town of Westerly send two deputies, to be chosen in manner as usual.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each of the said towns bare their proportion of the interest of the bank money appropriated for the towns in this colony, in the same proportion, and according to the sums that the lands lying in each town are mortgaged for.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the town of Westerly send three grand jurors to attend on the general sessions of the peace, for the county of Kings county; and two petit jurors to attend at the inferior court, for said county; and that the town of Charlestown send two grand jurors to attend on said court of general session of the peace, and two petit jurors to attend on said inferior court.

And it is likewise further enacted, that the towns of Westerly and Charlestown shall each send to the superior court, one grand juror, and one petit juror, to attend on the same; and that this act be forthwith proclaimed under the colony seal.

True copy of the act for dividing of Westerly into two towns.

James Martin, Secretary