

An ACT for establishing a Registry of Negro and other Slaves on the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies.

WHEREAS the restoration of general peace may render the evasion of the laws now in force for the abolition of the slave trade, less difficult to evil-disposed persons, and on this account, as well as for the satisfaction of the mother country, it is expedient that, in addition to the laws now in force in these Islands for ascertaining the annual state of the population, and of the increase and decrease of the slaves therein, that a separate and distinct registry, on a more minute and extended scale, should be established under the rules and regulations hereinafter contained; May it therefore please Your Most excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it and it is hereby enacted by his Excellency the Governor and Commander in chief in and over the Island of Grenada and its dependencies, the members of His Majesty's Council, and the representatives of the people in General Assembly convened, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That from and after the publication of this Act, there shall be established in this Island a public registry for the registration and enrolment, in manner hereinafter directed, of the names and descriptions of all negroes, mulattoes, or others, who now are or at any time hereafter shall be in a lawful state of slavery within the said Island and its dependencies, and who shall be respectively registered or returned for registration as hereinafter directed, on or before the thirty-first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being of the said Island and its dependencies, from time to time to appoint any proper person to be registrar during pleasure, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned; and that such registrar, so to be appointed, shall act personally, and not by deputy; and before he shall be competent to act in that capacity, he shall take, before the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, (who is hereby authorized to administer the same,) the oath following; that is to say,

“ I, *A. B.* [*meaning himself,*] do solemnly Swear, That I will, according to the best of my judgment and ability, faithfully and impartially execute the office of registrar, pursuant to the directions of the Act under which I have been appointed to that office.”

“ So help me GOD.”

And shall also enter into a recognizance before the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being in council, himself in the sum of three thousand pounds currency, and two sureties, to be approved of by the Council and Assembly, in the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds like currency, each conditioned for the faithful, impartial, and personal discharge of his duty as registrar; which sureties shall severally

Preamble.

Clause 1st.
Enacts that a public registry be established for the registration of all negro and other slaves, to be registered and returned for registration on or before the 31st day of July 1817.

Clause 2d:
Registrar to be appointed by governor, or commander in chief.

Oath to be taken by registrar,

and security given by him.

GRENADA.

rally make oath that they are worth the sums contained in their recognizances, after payment of their just and lawful debts.

Clause 3d.

Books to be provided by him at the public expense, for the purpose of the registries.

And be it further enacted, That the registrar under this Act to be appointed, shall provide, at the public expense, the necessary books, strongly and durably bound, for the purpose of the registries and enrolments hereinafter directed; in which books shall be entered and registered, as hereinafter directed, the names and descriptions of all the slaves in this Island and its dependencies.

Clause 4th.

Between the first day of May and 31st day of July, all persons in possession of slaves to return lists or schedules thereof to the registrar, with the names and descriptions and other particulars, agreeably to form annexed.

And be it further enacted, That between the first day of May and thirty-first day of July one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, all and every person and persons who shall then be resident in this Island, or any of its dependencies, and who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the same, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator, receiver, lessee, attorney, agent, executor, administrator, guardian or committee, or in any other right or character, whatever his her or their title, trust or interest in any such slave or slaves may be, shall respectively make and deliver, or cause to be made and delivered, unto the said registrar, to be recorded by him, such schedules, lists, and particulars, agreeably to the form hereunto annexed, marked (A.) subscribed by him her or them, to be called his her or their return of slaves, as are hereinafter mentioned; (that is to say,) a list or schedule as aforesaid, together with a duplicate thereof, containing in the first place, his her or their name or names and descriptions, and the name or description of such other person or persons, being the owner or owners, claimant or claimants of such slave or slaves in whose behalf the return is made, according to the best of the knowledge and belief of the person or persons respectively making such returns, and the right or character in which the party making such returns holds possession of or claims title to such slave or slaves, namely, whether as proprietor, lessee, mortgagee, sequestrator, guardian, committee, trustee, receiver, executor, administrator, attorney, agent, or otherwise, and shall proceed to name, describe and enumerate distinctly therein the several negro, mulatto, or other slaves which shall belong to or be held in possession by him her or them, on the thirtieth day of April next ensuing; and the names of the estates (if any) upon which such slaves respectively are usually worked, by lists, to be entitled in manner following; (that is to say,) "A List of Slaves belonging to or in the lawful possession of *A. B.*" And such lists shall be divided into separate columns or compartments, the one to be entitled, "A general List of Male Slaves belonging to or in the possession of *A. B.*" The schedule or paper containing each of the said columns to be subdivided into perpendicular columns of convenient breadths, respectively entitled at the heads thereof, "Names, Age, Colour, Country, Conspicuous Marks,"—according to the said schedule hereunto annexed, marked (A.); and one of the said returns shall be kept by the registrar, and be deposited in his office, and the other, signed and certified by the registrar, as corresponding with the one kept by him, shall be delivered back to the person making the same; and upon receiving each return, the registrar shall number both parts thereof with the same number, according to the order in which such return is received, and shall give a receipt specifying the number of such return, and the day of receiving the same; the intent of such numbers being, that the registrar may and he is hereby required and directed to examine and register the returns in the exact order in which they are respectively received by him; and in the first of the said columns shall be inserted the name of such slaves; and the name by which each slave shall first be returned and registered shall continue for ever after to be the name of such slave, and shall not afterwards be changed; in the second of the said columns the supposed age of the said slave; in the third of the said columns shall be inserted, negro, mulatto or mustee, as the case may be, and such other designation of shades of colour (if any) as is in use within the Colony; and in the fourth of the said columns shall be inserted whether the slave is an African or Creole; and in the fifth of the said columns shall be inserted the conspicuous mark of such slave; and at the end of each of the said returns shall be summed up, and set down in words at length, the whole number of slaves contained therein; and for the better ascertaining of the proper form of such returns of slaves as are hereby required to be made, a form or example of such returns is contained in the Schedule to this Act annexed, to which all persons are required to conform, and the registrar is hereby required to provide, at the public expense, printed blank copies of the said forms of returns, and deliver them gratis to all persons applying for the same.

Schedule to contain and describe names, age, colour, country, and conspicuous marks.

Registrar to provide at public expense, printed blank copies of forms and deliver them gratis.

And

And whereas it will tend greatly to the convenience of the said registrar, and of the several persons required by this Act to make the returns hereinbefore directed, that stated periods should be appointed for the inhabitants of the town of St. George, and the different parishes of the said Island, and of the Grenadines annexed to the government thereof, for giving in such returns to the said registrar; Be it, and it is hereby further enacted, That all and every the returns required by this Act to be given in for the town of St. George, shall be made and delivered to the said registrar from the first to the fifteenth day of May next inclusive. The returns for the parish of St. George shall, in like manner, be made and delivered from the sixteenth to the thirtieth day of the said month of May inclusive. The returns for the parishes of St. John and St. Mark, from the first to the fifteenth day of June next inclusive. The returns for the parish of St. Patrick shall in like manner be made and delivered to the said registrar from the sixteenth to the thirty-first day of June next inclusive. The returns for the parish of St. Andrew shall in like manner be made and delivered to the said registrar from the first to the fifteenth days of July next inclusive; and the returns for the parish of St. David shall in like manner be made and delivered to the said registrar from the sixteenth to the thirty-first day of July next ensuing; and the returns for the island of Carriacou, and the other islands dependent on the said island of Grenada, shall and may in like manner be made and delivered to the said registrar at any time between the said first day of May and thirty-first day of July next ensuing.

Clause 5th.
Separate periods appointed for taking the returns of the different parishes of the Island.

And be it further enacted, That any and every person making and subscribing any and every such schedule or return, and before the same shall be received by the registrar for registration, such person or persons so making and subscribing any and every such schedule or return, shall make oath before the registrar or (in case of sickness) before any of His Majesty's justices of the peace (such cases of sickness to be proved before such justice by the oath of a medical practitioner) to the purport and effect following; which oath the said registrar, or in case of sickness as aforesaid, any of His Majesty's justices of the peace is hereby authorized and required to administer without fee or reward; such oath to be annexed to the said return.

Clause 6th.
Every person making such returns to make oath before the registrar, or in case of sickness, before a magistrate, to the purport and effect following.

" I, *A. B.* do solemnly Swear, That the Schedule or Return hereunto annexed contains, as I verily believe, a just, true, and full return, account and description of all the slaves in the possession of or belonging to or worked upon the Plantation therein named [*or, belonging to or in the possession of the owner, or the parties therein named, as the case may be, and being within this Colony*] save and except as to such slaves as may have absented and secreted themselves, or absconded, whose names are therein set forth [*when the same is the case*]; and I do further Swear, That the said Return or Schedule is made by me, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, truly and without fraud, deceit or evasion.
" So help me GOD."

Form of oath.

And be it further enacted, That as soon as any such returns as aforesaid shall have been duly made and received by the registrar, he shall proceed to register and copy the same, with all convenient speed, in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in a proper book or set of books to be kept by him, precisely conformably with the said returns.

Clause 7th.
Returns to be registered within a limited time, in books to be kept by registrar, conformable to returns.

And be it further enacted, That on the thirty-first day of December next ensuing, the registrar shall finally close and authenticate the primary or original registration of all the slaves in this Island and its dependencies, which shall thenceforth be called, "The Original Registry of Slaves of the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies," in manner following; to wit, in each of the said books, or in the last of any set of such books, the said registrar shall write with his own hand, in large legible characters, immediately after the last entry of the said returns or lists of slaves, either on the same, folio or double page, or on the back of the last leaf containing the same "Registry of Slaves of the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies, up to the thirtieth day of April one thousand eight hundred and seventeen:" And the said registrar shall thereto subscribe his name and affix his seal; and below the said signature shall be written in like characters, by the said registrar, the following affidavit:

Clause 8th.
On 31st December next, primary or original registration to be closed and authenticated.

" Grenada. " Before *A. B.* [*inserting the name and title of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief for the time being*] personally appeared

Form of affidavit to be annexed to original returns.

“ the better protection, and for promoting the natural increase and population of
 “ Slaves within the Island of Grenada, and such of the Grenadines as are annexed
 “ to the government thereof, for compelling an adequate provision for and care of
 “ them, as well in sickness and old age as in health; and for constituting and appoint-
 “ ing Guardians to effectuate and carry into execution the Regulations and purposes of
 “ this Act :” And also an account of all deductions from, or additions to the former
 stock of slaves belonging to or in the possession of such person or persons within the
 same period, by other means than deaths or births, whether the same shall have hap-
 pened by desertion, sale, or other transfer of property, or enfranchisement, or by the
 return of fugitive or absent slaves, or by any other ways or means whatsoever ; which
 particular cause or mode of deduction or addition, shall in all cases be distinctly spe-
 cified in such last-mentioned returns ; and in case of purchase, or other acquisition,
 or sale, or other transfer or manumission of slaves formerly registered, the registered
 name, and description of every such newly purchased or acquired, or transferred, or
 manumitted slaves, and of his or her former owner or owners, claimant or claimants,
 shall also be set forth at large in such annual returns ; and every such return shall also
 contain all such further particulars in respect of every newly acquired slave named
 therein, as are hereinbefore directed to be contained in the said original returns ;
 and when by the death of the owner, or any other cause, there shall have been, within
 the period to which the return relates, any change of property in and possession of
 any slave from the owner or owners under whose name or names the same were re-
 gistered, such change of property and possession shall also be mentioned in the said
 annual returns ; and such returns shall also state the aggregate number of slaves
 respectively comprised in the immediately preceding returns, as well as the aggre-
 gate number of slaves belonging to or possessed by the person or persons at the
 time of making such returns respectively ; but when there has been no alteration
 since the last return in the number or description of the slaves belonging to or pos-
 sessed by the person or persons by or for whom the return is made, or the property
 thereof, it shall be sufficient to state the whole number of slaves, and to add, “ No
 “ alteration required by law to be specified, has taken place since the last return :”
 and one of the said annual returns shall be kept by the registrar and deposited in his
 office, and the other shall be immediately compared therewith, and if found to corre-
 spond, shall be then certified and delivered back by the said registrar to the person
 making the same.

And be it further enacted, That every person making and subscribing any such
 annual return shall take the following oath before the registrar, such oath to be
 annexed to the said annual return. Clause 12th.
Annual returns to
be made on oath.

“ I, *A. B.* do solemnly Swear, That the contents of the annexed Schedule or
 “ Return are true, and that the same contains, to the best of my knowledge
 “ and belief, a full, fair and correct account of all the births and deaths
 “ which have happened among the slaves belonging to or possessed by
 “ the owner or owners, possessor or possessors therein named, and being
 “ within this Island or any of its dependencies, since the original registra-
 “ tion thereof, or during the preceding year, and of all other additions or
 “ deductions from the said slaves within the same period, and of the whole
 “ number of slaves now actually belonging to [*or*, in the lawful possession
 “ of] the said Form of oath.

“ So help me GOD.”

And it is hereby further enacted, That as soon as any such annual returns as
 aforesaid, shall have been duly made and received by the registrar, he shall pro-
 ceed to register and copy the same in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in a
 proper book or set of books to be kept by him for that purpose, precisely conform-
 able with such annual returns, and shall make out an index thereof in the same
 manner as is hereinbefore directed with respect to the said books of original re-
 gistration ; and the said registrar shall also make out duplicates of all and every
 such books containing the annual returns, and of the indexes thereto, and shall
 subscribe both the original and duplicate thereof, with his name, and shall subjoin
 to each of the same an affidavit in the following form, to be made before the
 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in chief for the time being, who is
 hereby authorized to take the same. Clause 13th.
Annual returns to
be registered.

Indexes to be made.

Duplicates to be
made and sworn to
before governor.

“ Personally appeared *C. D.* [*meaning himself,*] who being duly sworn on Form of oath.
 “ the Holy Evangelists, makes oath and says, That the preceding entries are
 “ true

GRENADA.

“ true copies of the Returns for the year ending one thousand eight hundred and he having carefully compared the same with the
“ said Returns remaining in his office.”

To be certified by governor and transmitted to secretary of state.

Which affidavit being subscribed by the said registrar, shall be sworn before the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in chief, who shall certify the same to have been sworn in manner hereinbefore directed, in respect of the said original books of registry, and the said last-mentioned duplicate shall be thereupon delivered to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in chief, who shall carefully transmit the same by the first safe conveyance under his official seal to His Majesty’s principal secretary of state for the colonial department in England.

Clause 14th.

When original returns are entered, registrar to give notice to governor, to be by him notified to inhabitants, that registry is ready to be verified, and that same will continue open for inspection of all persons concerned, for two months, in order that any person having omitted to make his return, or having made an error therein, may apply to the governor for an order to registrar to make his return, or to rectify same ;

And be it further enacted, That when and so soon as the original returns delivered to the registrar agreeably to the provisions of this Act, shall have been respectively entered and enrolled as aforesaid, the registrar shall forthwith give notice thereof to the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, who shall thereupon publicly notify to the inhabitants, in such manner as he shall deem most fit and effectual, that the registry of slaves is ready to be verified before him ; and that the same is and will continue open at the proper office for the space of two months, for the inspection of all persons who may be interested therein ; and if at any time within the term prescribed by the said notification any owner or possessor of slaves shall make it appear to the satisfaction of the said Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, that the non-delivery of his or her return to the registrar within the allotted period, or any error or omission therein has arisen from accident, unsurmountable impediment, or any other sufficient cause, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in chief for the time being, to make an order in writing by him subscribed and directed to the registrar, commanding him to receive and enrol any such return or rectified return, as if the same had been made and delivered to him in proper time, which order the registrar is hereby enjoined to obey.

which order registrar is bound to obey.

Clause 15th.

No erasure to be made in any of the books of registry.

And be it further enacted, That no erasure shall on any pretence, or for any cause whatsoever, be at any time permitted to be in any of the said books of registry ; but if any clerical error shall occur in the insertion of any name, description, or other particular therein, so that the same shall differ from the name, description, or particulars contained in the return from which the same was made, or if any other mistake shall occur in the making and keeping the said books of registry, a line of red ink shall be drawn through any word or words improperly inserted, so as to leave the original word or words legible ; and the correction thereof, by the insertion of any word or words which may have been erroneously omitted, shall be either interlined or written in the margin, and always when practicable, by the same hand as the rest of the same list or entry, and the registrar shall either under such word or words written in the margin, or under a mark of reference there made to any such interlineation, subscribe his name at length ; but after the registry of original returns of slaves shall have been completed and certified upon oath as hereinbefore directed, no interlineation, insertion or other correction of the registry of any such original return, shall on any account be made or permitted, except as is hereinafter expressly provided.

After registry of original returns, no alteration or correction whatever to be made, except as after expressly provided.

Clause 16th.

Persons wilfully neglecting or omitting to return slaves in their possession, to forfeit for every slave £.200 currency ; one moiety to be paid into public treasury, and the other to the informer ;

And be it further enacted, That if any person shall wilfully neglect or omit to make and deliver a schedule or return of the slaves in his or her possession, pursuant to the directions and requisitions of this Act, within the period allotted for enrolment in the original, or any annual registry, every such person so offending, shall forfeit for every slave so wilfully neglected or omitted to be returned, the sum of two hundred pounds of current gold and silver money of the said Island, to be recovered as hereinafter mentioned, the one moiety of such penalty to be paid into the public treasury for the use of the Colony, and the other moiety to the person who shall sue for the same ; and in case the party so offending shall have possession of any such slave or slaves so wilfully neglected or omitted to be returned for registration as aforesaid, in the capacity or character of mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, lessee, attorney executor or guardian, or other representative of any person or persons, he or she shall not only forfeit for every slave so wilfully neglected or omitted to be returned, the said sum of two hundred pounds of money aforesaid, to be recovered and accrue in

in

in manner above stated ; but shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every person or persons, who shall or may sustain any damage or injury by any such wilful neglect or omission, and who shall, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, be entitled to recover against the party so offending in treble costs of suit : Provided always, that no person shall be liable to any penalty as aforesaid, for or in respect of any slave or slaves, who may have absconded or have been out of his or her control at the time of making such original or subsequent return as aforesaid, so that such person do and shall specify the name or names of such slave or slaves in the affidavit hereinbefore required to be annexed to the respective schedules or returns.

GRENADA.

and shall be liable to civil suits of persons who may sustain injury, and be liable to pay treble costs of suit.

And it is hereby further enacted, That the collectors of the customs of the ports of St. George and Grenville respectively, shall once in six months, after the passing of this Act, return to the registrar a list of all slaves who in the course of the preceding six months shall have been exported from these ports respectively, with the name or names of the person or persons licensed to export such slave or slaves ; and in case, at the period of any such annual return as aforesaid, it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the registrar, that there is no person within this Colony, either by reason of chance of residence or otherwise, liable to make such annual return of the slave or slaves so exported, then and in every such case the registrar is hereby authorized and directed to enter in his registry the name or names of the last-mentioned slave or slaves, corresponding with the returns made to him by the collectors or chief officers of the respective ports aforesaid ; and every such registration as last aforesaid, signed by the registrar, and certified by him to be correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, shall be deemed and taken as a sufficient registration within the intent and meaning of this Act, and be as valid as if made by the owners or possessors of such slave or slaves.

Clause 17th. Collectors of the customs for the ports of St. George and Grenville, to make, every six months, returns to the registrar of all slaves licensed to be exported.

If no person in the Island liable to returns of such exported slaves, registrar to register same from collectors' returns.

Such registration to be deemed sufficient.

And be it further enacted, That any person or persons whosoever who shall knowingly and wilfully make, or aid, abet and assist in making, any false or fraudulent entry in any of the said books of registry, or the duplicates thereof respectively, hereby directed to be made, or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate, or alter, or aid, abet and assist in fraudulently erasing, obliterating or altering any entry which shall have been duly made in any of the said books of registry, shall upon conviction of any such offence suffer death, as in cases of felony without benefit of clergy.

Clause 18th. Any person wilfully making any false or fraudulent entry, or erasing or obliterating any entry, to suffer death without benefit of clergy.

And be it further enacted, That if the registrar shall in the exercise of his said office, wilfully neglect or refuse to receive for registration any return, and to give a receipt for the same, or to make any entry which he ought to make, according to the directions hereinbefore contained, and the true intent and meaning of this Act, the registrar so offending shall, upon conviction of any such offence in the supreme court of judicature, be punished by fine not exceeding five hundred pounds, nor less than two hundred pounds current money of Grenada, to be paid into the public treasury of this Island, and for the public uses thereof ; and every registrar so offending, shall be removed from his office or appointment, and shall be, and he is hereby declared to be incapable of enjoying the same office and appointment again, and shall moreover, with his securities, be liable to the civil suits or actions of all persons who shall sustain any damage or injury by any such offence, who, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall recover against such offenders double costs of suit.

Clause 19th. Registrar wilfully neglecting or refusing to receive any return for registration, to be punished by fine, not exceeding £. 500, nor less than £. 200 currency ; be removed from his office, and be subject to the civil suits of persons injured.

And be it further enacted, That a copy or extract, certified by the registrar, of the registered list or schedule of slaves belonging to any plantation, or to any particular owner or owners, or of any such annual return as is hereinbefore directed to be made, shall at any time after the registry thereof, at the request of any person or persons whomsoever, at the expense of the person or persons requiring the same, be made and delivered to him her or them by the registrar ; and all persons shall have free liberty to inspect the said books at all times, in the presence of the registrar, or of any one or more of his clerks, from nine o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon of each day, (Sunday excepted,) paying such fee as hereinafter is mentioned.

Clause 20th. Certified copies, or extracts of registered lists, to be delivered by register to owners, at their request and expense ; and all persons at liberty to inspect books.

And be it further enacted, That there shall be paid to the registrar, out of the public treasury of these Islands, a salary at the rate of eight hundred pounds currency, for the first year, and a salary at the rate of two hundred pounds, like currency, for each of the following years, during his residence within this government, and performing the duties of his office, such salary to be paid quarterly, the first

Clause 21st. Registrar's salary.