

For several years before the Revolution the population of the South Precinct increased with rapidity, especially the eastern portion, and on the 34th of March, 1772, the following was passed:

"An Act for dividing the South Precinct of the County of Dutchess into three Precincts.

" Whereas the South Precinct in the County of Dutchess is so extensive that many of the inhabitants cannot attend the annual meeting for Election of officers, without great inconvenience, and is become so populous that the Elections can no longer be held with due Order and Regularity.

"I. Be it enacted by his Excellency the Governor the Council and the General Assembly, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the Same. That the said South Precinct shall after the first day of April next be divided into three Precincts in the Manner following:

"II. And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Justices and Overseers of the Poor shall as soon as possible after the Division of the said Precincts, call together all the Poor of the said Precincts and make an equal Distribution of them as is possible in the said Precincts, to be for the future maintained by, and reside in the Precinct they shall be allotted to: and that all such sum or sums of money that shall or may be due by the said Precinct at the Division thereof, for the Maintainance of the Poor shall be levied proportionally on each of the respective Precincts at the next meeting of the Supervisors and Assessors.

"III. And be it enacted, "That the Inhabitants of Fredericksburg Precinct shall annually meet on the first Tuesday of April, for the election of officers for said Precinct, at the house of Thomas Smith in Fredericksburg; and that the Inhabitants of Philipse Precinct shall meet on the same day, for the like purpose at the house of John Compton in Philipse Precinct; and that the Inhabitants of the South East precinct shall meet on the same day for the like purpose at the dwelling of John Ryder, in the said Precinct.