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## Documents Online

**Title:** Charter of Dickinson College

**Date:** September 9, 1783

**Location:** RG 1/1 - 3.1.1

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Charter of Dickinson College.

An Act for the Establishment of a College  
at the Borough of Carlisle, in the County of  
Cumberland, in the State of Pennsylvania.

Sect. 1 Whereas the happiness and prosperity  
of every Community (under the direction and  
government of divine providence) depends  
much on the right education of the Youth  
who must succeed the Aged in the important  
offices of Society and the most exalted Nations  
have acquired their pre-eminence by the

to virtuous principles and liberal knowledge  
instilled into the minds of the rising generation.

Sect. 2. And whereas, after a long and bloody contest  
with a great and powerful Kingdom, it has pleas-  
-ed Almighty God to restore ~~to us~~ to the United  
States of America the blessings of a general peace,  
whereby the good people of this State, relieved  
from the burthens of war, are placed in a  
condition to attend to useful arts, Sciences, and  
Literature, and it is the evident duty and  
intrest of all ranks of people to promote and  
encourage, as much as in them lies, every  
attempt to disseminate and promote the growth  
of useful knowledge:

Sect. 3. And whereas, by the petition of a large  
number of persons of established reputation  
for patriotism, integrity, ability and humani-  
-tity

presented to this house, it appears that the <sup>5</sup>  
institution of a College at the borough of  
Carlisle, in the County of Cumberland,  
for the instruction of youth in the learned  
languages, and other branches of literature,  
is likely to promote the real welfare of this  
State, and especially of the western parts  
thereof:—

Sect. 4— And whereas this house is informed,  
as well by the said petition as by other  
authentic documents, that a large sum  
of money, sufficient to begin and carry  
on the design for some considerable time  
is already subscribed by the generous lib-  
erality of divers persons, who are desirous  
to promote so useful an institution, and  
there is no doubt but that further dona-  
tions will be voluntarily made, so as to  
carry it into perfect execution: and this

to  
house cheerfully concurring in so laud-  
-able a work,

Sect. 5- Be it therefore enacted, and it is  
hereby enacted by the representatives of  
the freemen of the Commonwealth of  
Pennsylvania in general Assembly met,  
and by the authority of the same, that there  
be erected, and hereby is erected and establ-  
-ished in the Borough of Carlisle, in the  
County of Cumberland, in this State a  
College for the education of youth in the  
learned and foreign languages, the useful  
Arts, Sciences and Literature, the stile Name  
and title of which said College, and the cons-  
-titution thereof, shall be and we hereby  
declare to be as is herein after mentioned  
and defined; that is to say,

1 in memory of the great and important services rendered to his Country by his Excellency John Dickinson, esquire, President of the Supreme executive Council, and in commemoration of his very liberal donation to the institution, the said College shall be for ever hereafter called and known by the name of "Dickinson College."

2 - That the said College shall be under the management, direction and government of a number of trustees, not exceeding forty or a Quorum or board thereof, as hereinafter mentioned.

3 That the first trustees of the said College shall consist of the following persons, viz.  
His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President of the Supreme executive Council, Henry Hill, James Wilson, and

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William Bingham, Esquires and Doctor  
Benjamin Rush, of the City and County of  
Philadelphia.

The reverend James Boyd, of the County of Bucks,  
Doctor John M. Dowell, of County of Chester.

The Reverend Messieurs Henry Muhlenberg,  
A. M. and William Handell, and James  
Zacks, esquire of the County of Lancaster.

The Reverend Messieurs John Black, Alexander  
Sobieski, John M. Knight, The Honorable James  
Living esquire, vice president of the Supreme  
executive Council, and Robert M. Thomson,  
Henry Schlegel, Mr. Hartly, and Michael  
Ruhm, esquires of the County of York.

The Reverend Messieurs John King, Robert  
Cooper, James Lang, Samuel Waugh, William  
Linn, & John Linn, and John Armstrong

John Montgomery, Stephen Duncan, Thomas<sup>7</sup>  
Smith, and Robert Maguire, esquires, and Doctor  
Samuel A. McKee, of the County of Cumberland  
and

The Reverend Christopher Emanuel Schube,  
and Peter Snyker, esquire of the County of Berks.  
John Andt, esquire of the County of Northampton.

William Montgomery, and William Clay  
esquires of the County of Northumberland  
Bernard Dougherty, and David Espy, esquires  
of the County of Bedford.

The Reverend James Sutton, and Alexander McCane,  
esquires of the County Westmoreland.

and William McCloy esquire of the County  
of Washington.

Which said Trustees, and their Successors, to  
be elected in the manner hereafter mentioned

shall for ever hereafter be, and they are hereby erected, established and declared to be, one body politic and corporate, with perpetual succession in deed and in law, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, by the Name, Style and title of "the Trustees of Dickinson College, in the Borough of Carlisle, in the County of Cumberland;" by which name and title they, the said trustees, and their successors, shall be competent and capable at law and in equity to take to themselves, and their successors, for the use of the said College, any estate in any messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, monies or other effects, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, assurance, will, devise or bequest of any person or persons

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whatsoever, provided the same do not exceed  
in the whole the yearly value of ten thou-  
-sund pounds, valuing one half Johannes,  
weighing nine penny weight, at three  
pounds; and the same messuages, lands,  
tenements, hereditaments, and estate real  
and personal, to grant, bargain, sell, convey,  
assign, demise, and to farm-let, and place out  
on interest, or otherwise dispose of, for the  
use of said College, in such manner as to  
them, or at least seven of them, shall seem  
most beneficial to the institution, and to  
receive the rents, issues, profits, income  
and interest of the same, and to apply the  
same to the proper use and support of  
the said College; and by the same name

to sue, comence, prosecute and defend, implead and be impleaded, in any courts of law or equity, and in all manner of suits or actions whatsoever, and generally, by and in the same name to do and transact all and every the business touching or concerning the premises, which shall be incidentally necessary thereto, as fully and effectually as any natural person or body politic or corporate within this Commonwealth have power to manage their own concerns, and to hold, enjoy and exercise all such powers, authorities and jurisdictions, as are customary in other Colleges in Europe or America.

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4- The said trustees shall cause to be made for their use one common seal, with such devices and inscriptions thereon as they shall proper, under and by which all Deeds, Diplomas, Certificates, and acts of the said corporation shall pass and be authenticated, and the same seal at their pleasure to break, and devise a new one.

5- That the said trustees of the said College, or nine of them at least, shall meet at the city of Philadelphia, on third Monday in September instant, for the purpose of concerting and agreeing to such business, as in consequence of this act shall be proper to be laid before them at the commencement of the work they

have undertaken, and shall have power to adjourn from time to time, as they shall see cause, to any other times and places, for the purposes of perfecting the same.

- 6 - That there shall be a meeting of the said trustees held once in every year at least, at the borough of Carlisle, at such time as the said trustees or a Quorum thereof shall appoint, of which notice shall be given after the first meeting, either by public Advertisements in two of the public news-papers of Philadelphia six weeks before the time, or by notice in writing, signed by the clerk, or other officer of the trustees for that purpose to be

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appointed, and sent to each trustee, at least twenty days before the time of such intended meeting; and if at such meeting nine of the said trustees shall not be present, those of them who shall be present shall have power to adjourn the meeting to any other day, as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes, as if the whole number of trustees for the time being were present; but if nine or more of the said trustees shall meet at the said appointed times, or at any other time of adjournment, then such nine of the said trustees shall be a board or quorum, and a majority of the votes of them shall be capable of doing any

transacting all the business and concerns  
of said College; not otherwise provided for  
by this act, and particularly by of making  
and enacting ordinances for the govern-  
ment of said College, of electing trustees in  
the place or stead of those who shall re-  
sign their places, or who shall die; of  
electing and appointing the principals  
and professors of the said College; of agree-  
ing with them for their salaries and stipends  
and removing them for misconduct or breach  
of the laws of the institution; of appointing  
committees of their own body to carry into  
execution all and every the resolutions  
of the board; of appointing a treasurer,  
secretary, Stewards, <sup>13</sup> managers, and other

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necessary and customary officers, for the taking care of the estate and managing the concerns of the corporation; and generally a majority of voices of the board or quorum of the said trustees, consisting of nine persons at the least, at any annual or adjourned meeting, after notice given as aforesaid, shall determine all matters and things (although the same be not herein particularly mentioned) which shall occasionally arise and be incidentally necessary to be determined and transacted by the said trustees: provided always, that no ordinance shall be of force, which shall be repugnant to the laws of this State.

The head or chief master of the said College shall be called and styled "the Principal

of the College," and the masters thereof shall be called and stiled "Professors," but neither principal nor professors while they remain such, shall ever be capable of the office of trustee.

Q- The principal and professors, or a majority of them shall be stiled and called "the faculty of the College," which faculty shall have the power of enforcing the rules and regulations adopted by the trustees for the government of the pupils, by rewarding or censuring them, and finally by suspending such of them, as after repeated admonitions shall continue disobedient and refractory untill the determination of a quorum of trustees can be had; and of granting

and conforming, by and with the appro-  
 -obation and consent of a board of the trustees,  
 signifyed by their mandamms, such  
 degrees in the liberal arts and sciences to  
 such pupils of Colledge, or others, who, by  
 their proficiency in learning or other  
 meritorious distinction, they shall  
 think entitled to them, as were usually  
 granted in other Colleges, in Europe  
 or America, and to grant to such Graduate  
 Diplomas or certificates, under their  
 common seal and signed by the Faculty,  
 to authenticate and perpetuate the  
 memory of such Graduation.

9 - Persons of every religious denomination  
 among Christians shall be capable of being  
 elected trustees; nor shall any person, either

as principal, professor or pupil, be refused admittance for his conscientious persuasion in matters of religion; provided he shall demean himself in a sober, orderly manner, and conform to the rules and regulations of the College.

10 - As it has been found by experience that those persons separated from the busy scenes of life, that they may with more attention study the grounds of the Christian religion, and minister it to the people, are in general zealous promoters of the education of youth, and cheerfully give up their time and attention to objects of this kind; therefore whenever a vacancy shall happen by the want of

qualification, resignation or Decease of any  
Clergy man hereby appointed a trustee, such  
vacancy shall be filled by the choice of ano-  
ther Clergy man of any Christian <sup>denom-</sup>  
-ination, and so toties quoties such vacancies  
shall happen, whereby the number of  
Clergy men hereby appointed trustees shall  
never be le lessened.

11- No misnomer of the said corporation shall  
defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise, or  
bequest to or from the said corporation,  
provided the intent of the parties shall  
sufficiently appear upon the face of the  
gift, grant, will or other writing where-  
-by any estate or interest was intended to  
pass to or from the said corporation, nor  
shall any <sup>5</sup>visuser or nonuser of the

rights, liberties, privileges, jurisdictions and authorities, hereby granted to the said Corporation, or any of them, create or cause a forfeiture thereof.

Sect. 6- And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the constitution of the said College, herein and hereby declared and established, shall be and remain the inviolable constitution of the said College for ever, and the same shall not be altered or alterable by any ordinance or law of the said trustees, nor in any other manner than by an act of legislature of this State.

Sect. 7- And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said trustees herein before appointed, and their

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successors, and the principal and professors,  
and every of them hereafter to be appointed  
in such manner and form as herein  
is directed and required, before he or they  
enter upon the duties of their trust or  
office, shall, before two Justices of the  
Peace of the City of Philadelphia, or  
of some County of this State, take and  
subscribe the oath or affirmation pres-  
cribed by the fortieth section of the  
constitution of this Commonwealth, to  
be taken by the officers of this State, and  
also the oath or affirmation of allegiance  
directed to be taken by the same officers,  
in and by the seventh and eighth sections  
of an act of Assembly, made and passed the  
fifth day of December, in the year of our  
Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy eight.

2<sup>d</sup> entitled "a further supplement to the act,  
entitled," an act for the "further security  
of the government," and shall also take  
an oath or affirmation for the faithful  
discharge of trust or office aforesaid.

Signed by order of the house,

Frederic A. Muhlenberg, Speaker.

Enacted into a law, at Philadelphia, on  
Thursday, the ninth day of September, in  
the Year of our Lord one thousand seven  
hundred eighty-three.

Peter T. Lloyd, clerk of the general assembly.

## Charter of Dickinson College

An Act for the Establishment of a College at the Borough of Carlisle, in the County of Cumberland, in the State of Pennsylvania.

Sect. 1 Whereas the happiness and prosperity of every Community (under the direction and government of divine providence) depends much on the right education of the Youth who must succeed the Aged in the important offices of Society, and the most exalted Nations have acquired their pre-eminence by the virtuous principles and liberal knowledge instilled into the minds of the rising generation:

Sect. 2 And whereas, after a long and bloody contest with a great and powerful Kingdom, it has pleased Almighty God to restore ~~to restore~~ to the United States of America the blessings of a general peace, whereby the good people of this State, relieved from the burthens of war, are placed in a condition to attend to useful arts, Sciences, and Literature, and it is the evident duty and intrest of all ranks of people to promote and encourage, as much as in them lies, every attempt to disseminate and promote the growth of useful knowledge:

Sect. 3 And whereas, by the petition of a large number of persons of established reputation for patriotism, integrity, ability and humanity presented to this house, it appears that the institution of a College at the borough of Carlisle, in the County of Cumberland, for the instruction of Youth in the learned languages, and other branches of literature, is likely to promote the real welfare of this State, and especially of the western parts thereof:

Sect. 4 And whereas this house is informed, as well by the said petition as by other authentic documents, that a large sum of money, sufficient to begin and carry on the design for some considerable time is already subscribed by the generous liberality of divers persons, who are desirous to promote so useful an institution, and there is no doubt but that further donations will be voluntarily made, so as to carry it into perfect execution: and this house chearfully concurring in so laudable a work,

Sect. 5 Be it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the representatives of the freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general Assembly met,

and by the Authority of the same, that there be erected, and hereby is erected and established in the borough of Carlisle, in the County of Cumberland, in this State a College for the education of Youth in the learned and foreign languages, the useful Arts, Sciences and Literature, the Stile Name and Title of which said College, and the constitution thereof, shall be and are hereby declared to be as is herein after mentioned and defined; that is to say,

1 in memory of the great and important services rendered to his Country by his Excellency John Dickinson, esquire, President of the Supreme executive Council, and in commemoration of his very liberal donation to the institution, the said College shall be for ever hereafter called and known by the name of "Dickinson College."

2 That the said College shall be under the management, direction and government of a number of trustees, not exceeding forty or a Quorum or board thereof, as hereinafter mentioned.

3 That the first trustees of the said College shall consist of the following persons, viz.,

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, president of the Supreme executive Council, Henry Hill, James Wilson, and William Bingham, Esquires and Doctor Benjamin Rush, of the City and County of Philadelphia.

The reverend James Boyd, of the County of Bucks, Doctor John McDowell, of County of Chester.

The Reverend Messieurs Henry Muhlenberg, A: M: and William Handell, and James Jacks, esquire of the County of Lancaster.

The Reverend Messieurs John Black, Alexander Dobins, John McKnight, the Honorable James Ewing esquire, vice president of the Supreme executive Council, and Robert McPherson, Henry Schlegle, Thos. Hartly, and Michael Hahn, esquires of the County of York.

The Reverend Messieurs John King, Robert Cooper, James Lang, Samuel Waugh, William Linn, & John Linn, and John Armstrong, John Montgomery,

Stephen Duncan, Thomas Smith, and Robert Magaw, esquires, and Doctor Samuel A. McCoskrey, of the County of Cumberland.

The Reverend Christopher Emanuel Schulze, and Peter Spyker, esquire of the County of Berks.

John Arndt, esquire of the County of Northampton.

William Montgomery, and William Clay, esquires of the County of Northumberland.

Bernard Dougherty, and David Espy, esquires, of the County of Bedford.

The Reverend James Sutton, and Alexander McClane, esquires of the County Westmoreland.

And William McClary, esquire of the County of Washington.

Which said trustees, and their successors, to be elected in the maner hereafter mentioned shall for ever hereafter be, and they are hereby erected, established and declared to be, one body politic and corporate, with perpetual succession in deed and in law, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, by the name, Stile and title of "the Trustees of Dickinson College, in the borough of Carlisle, in the County of Cumberland;" by which name and title they, the said trustees, and their successors, shall be competent and capable at law and in equity to take to themselves, and their successors, for the use of the said College, any estate in any messuages, lands, tenements, heriditaments, goods, chattels, monies or other effects, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, assurance, will, devise or bequest of any person or persons whatsoever, provided the same do not exceed in the whole the yearly value of ten thousand pounds, valuing one half Johannes, weighing nine penny weight, at three pounds; and the same messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, and estate real and personal, to grant, bargain, sell, convey, assure, demise, and to farm-let, and place out on intrest, or otherwise dispose of, for the use of said College, in such maner as to them, or at least seven of them, shall seem most beneficial to the institution, and to receive the rents, issues, profits, income and intrest of the same, and to apply the same to the proper use and support of the said College; and by the same name to sue, comence, prosecute and defend, implead and be impleaded, in any courts of law

or equity, and in all maner of suits or actions whatsoever, and generally, by and in the same name to do and transact all and every the business touching or concerning the premises, which shall be incidentally necessary thereto, as fully and effectually as any natural person or body politic or corporate within this Comonwealth have power to manage their own concerns, and to hold, enjoy and exercise all such powers, authorities and Jurisdictions, as are customary in other Colleges in Europe or America.

4 The said trustees shall cause to be made for their use one common seal, with such devices and inscriptions thereon as they shall proper, under and by which all Deeds, Diplomas, Certificates, and acts of the said corporation shall pass and be authenticated, and the same seal at their pleasu[re] to break, and devise a new one.

5 That the said trustees of the said College, or nine of them at least, shall meet at the city of Philadelphia, on third monday in September instant, for the purpose of concerting and agreeing to such business, as in consequence of this act shall be proper to be laid before them at the commencement of the work they have undertaken, and shall have power to adjourn from time to time, as they shall see cause, to any other times and places, for the purpose of perfecting the same.

6 That there shall be a meeting of the said trustees held once in every year at least, at the borough of Carlisle, at such time as the said trustees or a Quorum thereof shall appoint, of which notice shall be given after the first meeting, either be public Advertisments in two of the public news-papers of Philadelphia six weeks before the time, or by notice in writing, signed by the clerk, or other officer of the trustees for that purpose to be appointed, and sent to each trustee, at least twenty days before the time of such intended meetings; and if at such meetings nine of the said trustees shall not be present, those of them who shall be presant shall have power to adjourn the meeting to any other day, as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes, as if the whole number of trustees for the time being were presant; but if nine or more of the said trustees shall meet at the said appointed times, or at any other time of adjournment, then such nine of the said trustees shall be a board or Quorum, and a majority of the votes of them shall be capable of doing and transacting all the business and concerns of said College; not otherwise provid for by this act, and particularly of making and enacting ordinances for the government of said College, of electing trustees in the place or

stead of those who shall resign their places, or who shall die; of electing and appointing the principal and professors of the said College; of agreeing with them for their salaries and stipends and removing them for misconduct or breach of the laws of the institution; of appointing committees of their own body to carry into execution all and every the resolutions of the board; of appointing a treasurer, Secretary, Stewards, managers, and other necessary and customary officers, for the taking care of the estate and managing the concerns of the corporation; and generally a majority of voices of the board or Quorum of the said trustees, consisting of nine persons at the least, at any annual or adjourned meeting, after notice given as aforesaid, shall determine all matters and things (although the same be not herein particularly mentioned) which shall occasionally arise and be incidentally necessary to be determined and transacted by the said trustees: provided always, that no ordinance shall be of force, which shall be repugnant to the laws of this State.

7 The head or chief master of the said College shall be called and stiled "the principal of the College," and the masters thereof shall be called and stiled "Professors," but neither principal nor professors while they remain such, shall ever be capable of the office of trustee.

8 The principal and professors, or a majority of them shall be stiled and called "the faculty of the College," which faculty shall have the power of enforcing the rules and regulations adopted by the trustees for the government of the pupils, by rewarding or censuring them, and finally by suspending such of them, as after repeated admonitions shall continue disobedient and refractory untill the determination of a Quorum of trustees can be had; and of granting and confirming, by and with the approbation and consent of a board of the trustees, signified by their mandamus, such degrees in the liberal arts and sciences to such pupils of College, or others, who, by their proficiency in learning or other meritorious distinction, they shall think entitled to them, as are usually granted in other Colleges, in Europe or America, and to grant to such Graduates Diplomas or Certificates, under their common seal and signed by the faculty to authenticate and perpetuate the memory of such Graduation.

9 Persons of every religious denomination among Christians shall be capable of being elected trustees; nor shall any person, either as principal, professor or pupil, be refused admittance for his conscientious persuasion in matters of

religion; provided he shall demean himself in a sober, orderly maner, and conform to the rules and regulations of the College.

10 As it has been found by experience that those persons seperated from the busy scenes of life, that they may with more attention study the grounds of the Christian religion, and minister it to the people, are in general zealous promoters of the education of Youth, and chearfully give up their time and attention to objects of this kind; therefore whenever a vacancy shall happen by the want of qualification, resignation or decease of any Clergy man hereby appointed a trustee, such vacancy shall be filled by the choice of another Clergy man of any Christian dnomination, and so toties quoties such vacancy shall happen, whereby the number of Clergy men hereby appointed trustees shall never be lessened.

11 No misnomer of the said corporation shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise or bequest to or from the said corporation, provided the intent of the parties shall sufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, grant, will or other writing, whereby any estate or intrest was intended to pass to or from the said corporation, nor shall any disuser or nonuser of the rights, liberties, priviliges, jurisdictions and authorities, hereby granted to the said Corporation, or any of them, create or cause a forfeiture thereof.

Sect. 6 And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the constitution of the said College, herein and hereby declared and established, shall be and remain the inviolable Constitution of the said College for ever, and the same shall not be altered or alterable by any ordinance or law of the said trustees, nor in any other manner than by an act of legislature of this State.

Sect. 7 And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said trustees herein before appointed, and their successors, and the principal and proffessors, and every of them hereafter to be appointed in such maner and form as herein is directed and required, before he or they enter upon the duties of their trust or office, shall, before two Justices of the Peace of the City of Philadelphia, or of some County of this State, take and subscribe the oath or affirmation prescribed by the fortieth section of the constitution of this Commonwealth, to be taken by the officers of this State, and also the oath or affirmation of allegiance directed to be taken by the same officers, in and by the seventh and eighth sections of an act of Assembly, made and passed the fifth day of December,

in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy eight, entitled "A farther supplement to the act, entuled "An act for the "further security of the government, "and shall also take an oath or affirmation for the faithful discharge of trust of office afforesaid.

Signed by order of the house,  
Frederic A. Muhlenberg, Speaker.

Enacted into a law, at Philadelphia, on thursday, the ninth day of September, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred eighty-three.

Peter Z. Lloyd, clerk of the general Assembly.