

# ACTS

OF THE

## General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

Passed at a Session which commenced August 4th, 1778,  
and ended September 10th, 1778.

---

---

GEORGE BRYAN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,  
JOHN BAYARD, SPEAKER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

---

---

1778.

### CHAPTER DCCXCII.

*An ACT for making valid the title of lands held under persons born out of the allegiance of the crown of Great-Britain, and who have died, not having been naturalized.*

WHEREAS the many advantages to be derived from the settling of a new and fertile country, under a government more free than some of those of the European states, induced many persons, not born in allegiance to the crown of Great-Britain, to settle in Pennsylvania, while it remained subject to that crown, and confiding in the justice and equity of the then government, and assurances given by the late William Penn, Esquire, laid out their money in lands, and improved the same with great industry, and have thereby acquired a just and equitable title thereto, and many of them died, not having been naturalized, whereby their titles in the law were defective, and the attempt of the Legislature under the said government to remedy the inconveniences and hardships arising thereby to the heirs, devisees and assigns of such persons, have, through the rigid policy of Great-Britain, been rendered ineffectual and abortive: For remedy whereof,

II. *Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted,* That the heirs, devisees and assigns of persons, born out of the allegiance of the crown of Great-Britain, and who have removed to this or any of the adjoining states, for the purpose of settling, and who have died, not having been naturalized, shall hold their estates respectively, as if such persons, so having died, and not having been naturalized, had been born in allegiance to the said crown of Great-Britain, or

Estates held under alien, not naturalized, made valid.

1778. had been naturalized by law in due form made and enacted for that purpose, any law, usage or custom, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Passed 31st August, 1778.—Recorded in Law Book vol. I. page 202.

## CHAPTER DCCXCIII.

[See the act for the acknowledging and recording of Deeds, and the notes thereto, ante. pa. 94, chap. 208.]

*An ACT to declare valid the acknowledgments of deeds, and the proofs of witnesses to the execution thereof, made and taken by and before any of the members of the former Council of Safety, or the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Convention of this state, or members of the Supreme Executive Council; and to declare valid the probate and registering of wills and granting letters of administration of the late Register General of the province of Pennsylvania, and his deputies in the several counties thereof, during a certain period of time.*

WHEREAS, by the laws made under the former government of the province of Pennsylvania, and since continued and extended to the government of this commonwealth by an act of its Legislature, entitled *An Act to revive and put in force such and so much of the late laws of the province of Pennsylvania, as is judged necessary to be in force in this commonwealth, and to revive and establish the courts of justice, and for other purposes therein mentioned*,\* enacted the twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, it was provided that all deeds and conveyances to be made in the said province, for transferring lands, tenements and hereditaments, within the same, should be acknowledged by one of the grantors, or proved by one or more of the subscribing witnesses, to such deed; and that the private examinations of femes covert, being parties to such deeds, should be taken by and before one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the said province, or before one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas of the county where the lands conveyed lie.

II. And whereas, upon the declaration of independence, on the fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the Courts of Common Pleas of the several counties within this state, became dissolved, and all Judges, Justices, and officers thereof, as deriving jointly with the said courts their authority from the King of Great-Britain, stood severally disqualified from doing any act in their former office.

Justices of the Peace appointed by the Convention.

III. And whereas the Convention for the state of Pennsylvania, by an ordinance passed the third day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, did nominate and appoint all the then members of a newly established Council of Safety, to wit, David Rittenhouse, Jonathan B. Smith, Owen Biddle, James Cannon, Timothy Matlack, Samuel Morris, the elder, Samuel Howell, Frederick Kuhl, Samuel Morris, the younger, Thomas Wharton, the younger, Henry Keppele, the younger, Joseph Blewer, Samuel Mifflin, George Gray, John Bull, Henry