

CHAPTER DCCCIII.

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.

(Section I, P. L.) 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, lay [sic] [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 attempts 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:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it 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 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 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 August 31, 1778. See the Acts of Assembly passed February 11, 1789, Chapter 1387; February 23, 1791, Chapter 1528; March 8, 1792, Chapter 1607; February 12, 1795, Chapter 1795; April 11, 1799, Chapter 2088; February 10, 1807, P. L. 23; March 20, 1811, P. L. 86; January 17, 1812, P. L. 14; December 22, 1812, P. L. (1813) 8; March 28, 1814, P. L. 311; February 4, 1813, P. L. 57; February 25, 1813, P. L. 86; March 29, 1813, P. L. 203; February 21, 1815, P. L. 43; March 15, 1816, P. L. 100; March 24, 1817, P. L. 225; March 24, 1818, P. L. 297; March 18, 1823, P. L. 91; March 21, 1823, P. L. 182; March 30, 1824, P. L. 237; March 31, 1837, P. L. 121; April 16, 1844, P. L. 274; April 3, 1851, P. L. 307; April 6, 1859, P. L. 333; January 9, 1861, P. L. 2; May 1, 1861, P. L. 433; March 23, 1865, P. L. 631; April 26, 1869, P. L. 96; May 8, 1876, P. L. 127; May 22, 1878, P. L. 85; April 8, 1881, P. L. 9; June 2, 1887, P. L. 298; June 6, 1887, P. L. 350; May 29, 1889, P. L. 385; June 9, 1891, P. L. 249; May 10, 1893, P. L. 36; June 24, 1895, P. L. 264; June 15, 1897, P. L. 165.

CHAPTER DCCCIV.

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.

(Section I, P. L.) 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,"¹ 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 con-

¹ Passed January 28, 1777, Chapter 737.