

No. 154.

AN ACT

Relative to the probate of a certain will.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, it is represented that Richard Sterling, junior, died seized of about sixty acres of land, situate in the county of Greene: *And whereas*, it is represented that the said Richard, on his death bed, in the usual form of a noncupative will, devised the said land to his father, during his natural lifetime, and after his death, to his half brother, George Ratliff, a black man: *And whereas*, it is further represented that the said George was a slave, at the date of the said devise, by reason of which the estate could not vest: Therefore,

Duty of register of wills in Greenc co. relative to the will of R. Sterling.

SECT. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same*, That the register of wills, in and for the county of Greene, be, and he is hereby authorised, to receive proof of the noncupative will of the said Richard Sterling, junior, in the same manner, and with like effect, as if the said George Ratliff had been a freeman at the time of the making of said will, and as if the same had been done within the time prescribed by law.

Disability of G. Ratliff to inherit, removed.

SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the disability of the said George Ratliff, to inherit said estate, as next of kin to the said Richard Sterling, junior, deceased, be, and the same is hereby removed; and the said George Ratliff is hereby invested with the same rights and privileges, in relation to said estate, as if he had been free at the death of the said Richard Sterling, junior: *Provided*, That this act shall not be taken to affect the title of any person holding, by title, adverse to the title of said Richard Sterling, junior: *And provided also*, That nothing in this act, shall interfere with the rights of the master to the service of the said George; and further, that the aforesaid estate may be sold, or otherwise disposed of, by the said George, or pass to his heirs, under the intestate laws of this commonwealth.

Proviso. Not to affect adverse titles. 2d proviso.

FREDK. SMITH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WM. G. HAWKINS,

Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The first day of April, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one.

GEO. WOLF.