

the said message, plantation or tract of land or to any part or parcel thereof with the appurtenances, in law or equity, by devise, conveyance, agreement to convey or otherwise shall hold the same accordingly as they are respectively interested therein in as full and ample a manner in law and equity to all intents and purposes as if the said title deeds had not been lost. And that the title of the said persons or any of them so claiming the said premises with the appurtenances or any part or parcel thereof shall not be impeached in any court of law or equity for or by reason of not producing the said deeds, and that this act shall in all courts of justice in this state be taken and deemed a sufficient proof that the said Nathaniel Taylor was seized of the premises in his demesne as of fee, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed March 27, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 100, etc.

CHAPTER MCCXXI.

AN ACT TO EMPOWER THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT TO SUPPLY DEFECTS IN THE TITLES TO LANDS OCCASIONED BY THE LOSS OF DEEDS OR WRITINGS RESPECTING THE SAME OR WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN DEFACED OR RENDERED ILLEGIBLE BY TIME OR ACCIDENT.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas many persons have lost their deeds, conveyances and writings relating to their lands, tenements, hereditaments and possessions within this state, particularly during the late war between the United States of America and Great Britain, some of whom at the time of the invasion of this state by the British army buried them under ground with an intention of providing for their safety whereby and from other causes they have been defaced and in many material places rendered illegible:

For remedying of such imperfections, defects and losses:

[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

authority of the same, That where any person or persons have lost their deed or deeds, conveyances or writings concerning their lands, tenements, hereditaments or possessions or where the same are defaced or rendered illegible in whole or in part and if such person or persons shall be desirous to have the said defects and imperfections in their titles supplied he, she or they may apply to the justices of the supreme court or any two of them by bill or petition, therein setting forth the case and circumstances thereof, which said court, affidavit being made of the material facts, may and they are hereby authorized and empowered to issue a subpoena for any person or persons who may appear to be interested in the matters contained in the said bill or petition if residing within this state and if without the same the said court may direct and order an advertisement [to] be published for three weeks or more in some of the public newspapers of the city of Philadelphia giving notice of the said application and requiring all persons whom it may concern to appear in court in term time or before the justices thereof or any two of them in the vacation at a certain place and time to make their answer upon oath or affirmation to the said bill or petition. And when the answer is filed or in case the parties subpoenaed or any others do not attend or answer that in either case the said court in term time or the justices thereof or any two of them in the vacation may and shall examine any witness or witnesses who may be produced or cause their depositions to be taken before some person or persons by them authorized and appointed to take the same by commission or order respecting the facts alleged in the said bill and petition and have such other proceedings in a summary way to ascertain and establish the said facts and make such order and decree in the premises as to justice and equity shall appertain.

[Section II.] (Section III. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the record and proceedings made and had in manner aforesaid or a copy thereof authenticated under the hand of the prothonotary and seal of the said court may and shall at all times be read upon any trial or controversy respecting the lands, tenements, hereditaments or

possessions described or mentioned in such bill or petition and shall be taken and allowed as good and sufficient evidence of the facts so decreed and established, by law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and singular the proceedings so to be had in the said supreme court shall be at the expense of the party of parties exhibiting the bill or petition and that the costs in such cases shall be taxed by the said court or one of the justices thereof as nearly agreeable to the fees allowed for like services in other action or amicable or adversary as circumstances will admit.

[Section IV.] (Section V. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall continue in force for the space and term of five years from the first day of January next and no longer.

Passed 28th of March 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 101, etc.
See the Act of Assembly passed January 19, 1793, Chapter 1650.

CHAPTER MCCXXII.

A SUPPLEMENT TO AN ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO REGULATE THE FISHERIES IN THE RIVERS DELAWARE AND LEHIGH AND FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FISH IN THE SAID RIVERS."¹

(Section I. P.L.) Whereas expereince has shown so much of the said act as enacts that no more than one seine or net shall be cast in any one pool or fishing place in the said rivers within any one term of twenty-four hours as far as relates to that part of the river Delaware which is below the head of the falls of Trenton, and so much of the said act as enacts forfeitures for making use of any seine or net for catching shad in any part of the said river Delaware prescribed as aforesaid after the tenth day of May or between the said falls of Trenton and the mouth of the river Lehigh after the fifteenth day of the said

¹ Passed March 30, 1784. Chap. 1092.