

course and distance, or to the next boundary, if any, shall be liable to be affected as vacancy; and before any grant shall issue on any certificate expressing more than one boundary for the beginning, the owner shall make oath or affirmation (as the case may be) that he knows or believes that the distances mentioned in the certificate were actually run, and that no more land is contained by the lines and boundaries than returned by the surveyor; and every surveyor, before he enters on the execution of his office, shall swear (or affirm) that he will not mention any boundary in his certificate of any survey unless he shall actually run and measure the distance to such boundary, and that the boundary or boundaries by him returned shall be at the end of the line as expressed, and that the certificate does not contain more land than certified by him to the best of his knowledge and belief."

The 15th section directs certain annual returns to be made from the land office to the commissioners of the tax, respecting which, alterations have been since made, which will be noticed in speaking of the duties of the registers.—The 16th relates to confiscated property, and the 17th and last section of the act under consideration, repeals the powers of the commissioners of that property to grant warrants for, and contract for the sale of, escheat land.

The act of April session, 1782, ch. 38, many of the provisions of which have been already noticed, contains some further ones applicable to this head of enquiry. It prescribes, as has been before incidentally mentioned, the now established rule that certificates shall lie in the office six months after they are compounded on, before they can be admitted to patent. The 3d section directs that chain carriers shall be sworn, and prescribes their oath, to be noticed more particularly hereafter. The 5th directs that where certificates include land lying within any of the reserves made by the late proprietaries, no grants shall issue thereon before they are corrected so as to exclude such reserve land: the 6th and 7th, pursuing the same subject, and reciting that persons, by mistake or misapprehension of the act opening the land office, may conceive that they have a right to take up the lands reserved for the use of the late proprietary as common vacancy, direct that instructions shall be given by the governor and council to the surveyors not to run the lines of any common warrant, special warrant, or warrant of resurvey, issued or to issue out of the land office for common vacancy, into the manors or lands theretofore reserved for the use of the proprietary, or which may have been set apart for the use of the Nanticoke indians, the said reserves being appropriated to such uses and purposes as the general assembly shall thereafter direct and appoint,