

May next, no estate of inheritance or freehold or any declaration or limitation of use, or any estate for above seven years, shall pass or take effect, except the deed or conveyance by which the same shall be intended to pass or take effect, shall be acknowledged in the provincial court, or before one of the justices thereof in the county court, or before two justices of the same county where the lands, tenements or hereditaments, conveyed by such deed or conveyance do lie, and be also enrolled in the records of the same county, or the provincial court, as the case may be, within six months after the date of such deed or conveyance; and, for the taking which acknowledgment there shall be paid to the party or parties taking the same, the sum of one shilling, and no more; and the clerk of the provincial, or county courts, shall, immediately upon the receipt of such deed or conveyance endorse thereon the time of his receiving the same, and shall well and truly, in a fair, full and legible hand-writing, enrol such deed or conveyance in a good sufficient book in folio, to be regularly alphabeted in the names of all and every of the parties to the same, and the name of the land, and quantity of acres, which book shall remain in the custody of the said clerk of the said provincial, or county court; and the clerk aforesaid shall, on the back of every such deed or conveyance, in a full legible hand, make a certificate of such enrolment, and the time of making it, and also of the folio of the book in which the same shall be enrolled, and shall to such certificate set his hand.

By 1797, ch. 103, an acknowledgment that the lands, &c. are the right or estate of the grantee, &c. or an acknowledgment tantamount thereto, or in any words declaratory of the intention of the grantor to convey to the grantee, &c. shall be as available as if the grantor had acknowledged the said instrument to be his act and deed.

By 1796, ch. 43, deeds may be acknowledged before a chief justice of a district in his district, or an associate justice within his county.

By 1785, ch. 9, deeds acknowledged before a judge of the general court may be enrolled in the general court, or in the county where the lands lie, and deeds acknowledged in the county where the lands lie, may be enrolled in the records of the said county, or in the general court.

By November 1779, ch. 10, the six months are to be calendar months.

SEC. 3. *Provided always, and be it enacted,* That when the Proviso. person or persons making any deed or conveyance for conveying or declaring or limiting any use in or for any lands, tenements or hereditaments, shall live remote from the provincial court, or out of the county where the lands, tenements or hereditaments lie, it shall and may be lawful for such person or persons to acknowledge the same in the county court of the said county, or before two justices of the said county wherein he, she or they shall reside; and a certificate of such acknowledgment, under the hand of the county clerk, and under the seal