

tioned, and the said commissioner before he proceeds to take testimony in the case, shall give twenty days notice, by advertisement, to be set up at the court-house door of the county aforesaid, of the time and place, of his intention to take the testimony on the application aforesaid, and shall also give notice to any person or persons that may appear to be interested in the issue of the subject matter before him, and the said commissioner shall make return of his proceedings to the clerk of Saint Mary's county, who shall record the same, as directed by the said act of assembly, in the record book aforesaid, at the expense and cost of the party requiring the same, and the same, when so recorded, shall be binding and have the same effect in law, to all intents and purposes, as if the original paper or record thereof had not been burnt.

Notice required.

Return proceedings. Record thereof.

Made valid.

SEC. 7. *And be it enacted*, That in all cases where slaves have been imported or brought into this state, by virtue of an act, entitled, an act relating to negroes, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned, passed at December session, seventeen hundred and ninety-six, and the supplements thereto, and the list of such slaves required to be delivered to the clerk of the county, and the record of the same, have been destroyed, it shall and may be lawful for any such person or persons interested in perpetuating the same, to make application, in writing, to any one of the commissioners aforesaid, who shall proceed to take such testimony as the nature of the case will admit of, to establish the existence and record of such list, so as aforesaid recorded and destroyed; and the said commissioner shall make return of his proceedings to the clerk of Saint Mary's county court, who shall record the same as aforesaid, at the expense and costs of the party requiring the same; and the same, when so recorded, shall be binding and have the same effect in law to all intents and purposes, as if the original list or entry and record thereof had not been destroyed.

Testimony as to slaves removed.

Record thereof.

Made valid.

SEC. 8. *And be it enacted*, That in all cases when the judgments or equity records, and the original papers thereto belonging, shall have been destroyed, the docket entries, and short copies of judgments and decrees taken from the dockets of the county court aforesaid, under the seal of Saint Mary's county court, with a certificate that the record and papers in the case have been destroyed, shall be received and admitted in evidence in any court of law or equity in this state.

Judgments and equity records.

Short copies and docket entries made valid.

SEC. 9. *And be it enacted*, That the clerk of the court of appeals for the western shore, cause to be made to all the extracts of deeds sent from Saint Mary's county court to his office, an alphabet or alphabets, in the name of all the parties, and in the name of the lands; and that the governor and council be, and they are hereby authorized to allow him such com-

A record of extracts of deeds, &c. in court of appeals office to be made out. Authority to compen-