

na made his last will and testament, and devised the said lands or real estate to his two sons, William and Thomas, charged with the payment of certain legacies to the other children and grandchildren of the said Susanna and Solomon, that it has been discovered since the death of said Susanna and Solomon that an error was committed by the Justices of the Peace who took the acknowledgment of the said Susanna, to the first deed herein before mentioned, by omitting to certify the private examinations of the said Susanna separate and apart from her husband as required by law; *and whereas*, it is further represented that great inconvenience and injustice would result, if the said deed is not confirmed and made valid, so as to carry fully into effect the intention of all said parties; *and whereas*, it is right and just that omissions of mere matter of form by the State officers, in the discharge of their official duties, should not be used to the prejudice of the rights of those confiding in the accuracy of said officers:—Therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the said deed of bargain and sale from Solomon Shepherd and Susanna Shepherd his wife, to the said William Shepherd, executed and acknowledged on the twenty ninth day of March, in the year eighteen hundred and thirteen, and recorded in Liber W. R. Number forty-four, folios fifty, fifty-one, and fifty-two, one of the land records of Frederick county, be and the same is hereby declared to be as valid and operative as if the said deed had been duly acknowledged by the said Susanna Shepherd, separate and apart from and out of the hearing of her said husband, and as if the justices of the peace before whom the same was acknowledged, had certified that the said deed was acknowledged before them by the said Susanna Shepherd, separate and apart from and out of the hearing of her said husband, and that she had declared that she had made such acknowledgment freely and voluntarily.