

instrument of writing destroyed by said fire or lost, may be proven by parol or otherwise, in accordance with the rules of evidence, and when so proven shall have the same force and effect as the original would have had.

1886, ch. 116.

108. The judges of the circuit court for Calvert county, or a majority of said judges, upon petition or otherwise, are authorized and empowered to hear and determine all matters relating to or concerning the contents of the lost records and dockets of said county, and to order the restoration and reinstatement of any and all judgments, decrees and other matters at law or in equity, obtained in the courts of said county prior to the destruction of the records thereof by fire, the evidence of which, whether primary or secondary, written or parol, is in their judgment sufficient to justify them in ordering the restoration and reinstatement upon the records, books or dockets of said courts, of said judgments, decrees and other matters; and all such judgments, decrees and other matters shall have the same effect and operation in law or equity as they had when rendered by the judges of said courts, and shall secure to the parties interested the same rights, interest and privileges as they were possessed of before the fire occurred.

Ibid.

109. When it is made to appear to the satisfaction of the judges of said circuit court, or a majority thereof, that the amounts of said judgments, decrees or other matters, or any one of them so sought to be re-established and re-enacted, does not include the incidental expenses, such as clerk's costs, fees and other expenses usually incurred in obtaining said judgment, decree or other matter, it shall be no ground or reason for refusing to hear said petition or ascertaining, if possible, the probable amount of said judgment, decree or other matter; and if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the judges, or a majority thereof, that a judgment, decree or other matter was rendered in a certain year, but the term of court remains uncertain or impossible to prove, they shall order that the said judgment, decree or other matter, shall be reinstated for the amount of indebtedness proved, and to take effect from the latest term in said year, saving the right of appeal in all cases.