

and very often the Loss of their Inheritance : Wherefore for the more easy Examination of Evidences in perpetual Memory, relating to Boundaries,

On Petition
to the County-
Courts

The Justices
may commis-
sionate Four
Freeholders,

To Summons
and examine
Evidences,

To prove
and perpetuate
the Bounds of
Lands, the
Boundaries
whereof have
been decayed.

And to re-
cord the same.

Such Exa-
minations to
stand good.

Provided,

Such Com-
missioners
give timely
and publick
Notice of
their Meeting.

And return
a Certificate
of the same.

Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly and the Authority of the same, That from and after the End of this present Sessions of Assembly, upon the Petition of any Person seized or possessed of Lands, in his own or any other Right, to any of the several County-Courts within this Province where the Land lies, for a Commission to examine Evidences, to prove or perpetuate the Memory of any the Bounds of such Lands, or of any other Lands whereon the Lands he shall be so seized or possess'd of shall depend, or whereto they relate, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of such County-Court, as often as any such Petition shall be to them prefer'd, to grant a Commission to Four substantial and capable Free-holders within the said County, (not being any way related to any of the Parties, nor interested in the Lands,) empowering them or any Three or Two of them, (they having first taken an Oath before the said County-Court, or some Magistrate, duly and impartially to examine and certify such Evidences,) to issue Summons for all such Evidences as shall be to them nominated by the Petitioner or other Person concerned, to appear before them at a certain Day by them to be appointed; upon the Lands the Boundaries whereof are to be proved or perpetuated; and to examine all such Evidences upon their corporal Oaths, to be administered by such Commissioners, of their Knowledge concerning the several Bounds of such Lands; and carefully to reduce what the Evidences shall declare, into Writing, in the Presence of all the Parties concerned that shall be there present, and return the same to the County-Court where the Land lies, to be recorded in perpetual Memory.

And be it Enacted, That all Examinations of Witnesses that shall be taken, by Virtue of, and in Pursuance of this Act, shall be as good and available as if taken according to the Rules and Practice of the Court of Chancery, any Defect or Want of Form, or of filing or exhibiting a Bill, or any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Provided always, That the Commissioners to be appointed by Virtue of this Act, shall (before their Meeting on such Land where all Parties concerned live in the County, or where they are not known) affix publick Notes at the Parish Church where the Land lies, Three Sundays at the least, before their Meeting, intimating their Intentions and the Time they shall appoint; and shall cause the like Notes to be put up in the most publick Places in the County Twenty Days before such Meeting; and that where all Persons interested are known, and any one of them lives out of the County, that Notice shall be given by affixing a Note at the Church Door of the Parish in which the Party resides, Forty Days at the least before such Meeting of the Commissioners; and that the Commissioners shall return a Certificate of having given Notice, directed by this Act, with the Examination of the Witnesses. And whereas many Persons in the remoter Counties of this Province, having equitable Rights against the Recoveries of Law that happen against them in such Counties, but before the Inconveniency of their purchasing Injunctions, as the Practice stands at present, are obliged to submit to the Injuries they receive, or to procure Sureties to go with them to Anna-

polis,