

Wills to be proved by one or more subscribing witnesses or by the probate thereof.

Registers, courts, and justices, to administer oaths, take acknowledgments and enter the same on the deeds, &c.

No deeds, &c. to be entered or registered before proved or acknowledged.

Copies of entries and enrollments where the originals are destroyed to be allowed good and sufficient evidence.

Wills registered within the times limited as in this section valid against subsequent purchasers

Proviso where wills being contested or by other inevitable difficulty not registered within the limited times.

Majesty's justices of the peace, acknowledge his or their signing, sealing and delivering such deeds and conveyances; and in case of wills the same shall be proved by the attestation of one or more of the subscribing witnesses, upon oath, or being a Quaker, upon solemn affirmation, in manner aforesaid, or by due and legal probate of the same: and the said registers respectively, and the several courts and justices aforesaid, are hereby empowered to administer such oaths and affirmations aforesaid, and to take the said acknowledgements as aforesaid, and shall enter a memorandum of the administering and taking the same oaths, affirmations, and acknowledgements respectively, signed with their hands respectively, upon the said deeds, conveyances and wills, with the time when the same was so taken or administered. And no deed, or conveyance, or will, shall be entered or registered, or certificate thereof made as aforesaid, by any register, before such oath, affirmation, or acknowledgment, or probate as aforesaid, thereof duly administered and taken as aforesaid, and a memorandum thereof so entered on the same respectively as aforesaid. And all copies of such entries and enrollments of such deeds, conveyances and wills, so registered at full length, and which copies shall be signed by such register or registers respectively, shall be allowed in all courts of record to be good and sufficient evidence of such deeds, conveyances and wills so registered, in case the same shall be destroyed by fire or other accident.

*VII. And be it further enacted,* That all wills that shall be registered in manner as aforesaid, within the space of six months after the death of every respective devisor or testatrix, dying within this province, or within the space of three years after the death of every respective devisor or testatrix, dying upon or in parts beyond the seas, or within the space of one year after the death of every respective devisor or testatrix in any other parts out of the limits of this province, shall be as valid and effectual against subsequent purchasers, as if the same had been registered immediately after the death of such respective devisor or testatrix; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

*VIII. Provided always,* That in case the devisee, or person or persons interested in the lands, tenements or hereditaments, devised by any such will as aforesaid, by reason of the contesting of such will or other inevitable difficulty, without his, her, or their wilful neglect or default, shall be disabled to exhibit the same, or a probate thereof, for registry, within the respective times herein before limited, and that a memorial shall be entered in the said register office or offices, of such contest or impediment, within the space of six months after the decease of such devisor or testatrix, who shall die within this province, or within the space of three years next after the decease of such person who shall die upon or beyond the seas, or within the space of one year after the death of every respective devisor or testatrix, in any other parts out of the