

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.

CHAP. 175.

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 existance 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 judgment 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 authorised to allow him such compensation as he is entitled to, for the like services, to be paid out of any unappropriated money in the treasury.

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

Authority to compensate the clerk therefor.

Sec. 10. *And be it enacted*, That the clerk of Saint Mary's county court be, and he is hereby required to have all the dockets now remaining in his office, bound in good substantial leather covers, in such manner as he may think proper, for the better preservation of the only evidence now in Saint Mary's county court, of the judicial proceedings of said court; and that the levy court of the county aforesaid,

Dockets to be bound and preserved.

Levy therefor.