

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on the Twentieth day of March, 1793, in the Thirty-Third Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Third, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. being the First Session of the Seventh General Assembly convened in the said Province. From Richard John Uniacke, The Statutes at Large passed in the General Assembly held in His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia: A complete index and abridgement of the whole. John Howe and Son, 1805.

33 George III – Chapter 5

An Act to render and make valid, certain Marriages, heretofore solemnized before Magistrates, and other Lay Persons.

Whereas in some parts of this Province, owing to the remote situation of the inhabitants from any clergyman, in the early settlement of the same, divers marriages have been heretofore irregularly solemnized, before magistrates, and other lay persons, otherwise than as by law required:

- I. Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, and it is hereby enacted, that all marriages heretofore solemnized before magistrates, and other lay persons, in the presence of one or more credible witness or witnesses, and where the parties so married, have co-habited together, shall be deemed, and taken, lawful, and of as much force and validity, as if the same had been solemnized before a minister of the Church of England, with all the forms required by law.
- II. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the issue of such marriages, hereby made valid, shall be, and the same are hereby made, legitimate, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.
- III. And be it further enacted, that all magistrates, and other lay persons, who before the publication of this act, shall have solemnized any of the marriages, which are hereby enacted to be valid, shall be, and they are, hereby indemnified against the penalties, to which they are otherwise by law subject.