

Ordinances of the Lieutenant Governor and Council of His Majesty's Province of Cape Breton passed in the year 1816. National Archives of the United Kingdom CO 219/2.

56 George III – Chapter 1

An Ordinance to render and make valid Certain marriages in this Island heretofore solemnized before Magistrates.

Whereas in some parts of this Island owing to the remote situation of the Inhabitants from any clergyman divers marriages have been heretofore irregularly solemnized before magistrates otherwise than as by Law required.

First, be it enacted ordained and ordered by His Honor the President and Council and by Authority of the same it is hereby enacted ordained and ordered that all Marriages heretofore solemnized before Magistrates in the presence of one or more credible witness or witnesses and where the Parties so married have inhabited 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.

Secondly 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.

Thirdly And be it further enacted Ordained and ordered by the Authority aforesaid That all Magistrates who before the publication of this Act shall have solemnized any of the Marriages which are newly enacted and ordained to be valid shall be and they are hereby indemnified against the Penalties to which they are by Law subject.

Ordained and ordered accordingly
This Sixth Day of February one
Thousand eight hundred and sixteen
J. Fitzherbert
President of Council

Passed in Council 3rd February 1816
(Signature) Clerk of Council