

*Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada*, passed in the year 1854. Quebec: Stewart Derbyshire and George Desbarts, 1854.

18 Victoria – Chapter 245

**All Act to confirm certain marriages solemnized by the late Revd. Alexander McWattie, and to provide for the proof thereof, and of other acts performed by him as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church. Assented to 19th May, 1855.**

Whereas the late Reverend Alexander McWattie did for many years officiate as a Presbyterian Minister of the Church of Scotland at South Georgetown, in the Seigniorship of Beauharnois, in the District of Montreal, and did, while so officiating, solemnize marriage, administer baptism and bury the dead, and keep Registers of the marriages, baptisms and burials by him performed, which were many; And whereas since the decease of the said Reverend Alexander McWattie doubts have been raised as to his having been regularly ordained a Minister of the Church of Scotland or entitled to keep such Registers as aforesaid; And whereas the Registers so kept by the said Alexander McWattie are informal and irregular in many respects, and a large number of the inhabitants of the said Seigniorship and others who have been married or baptised by him, or whose relatives were buried by him, and who are deeply interested in the validity of the Registers so kept by him, have prayed that his official acts as such Minister, and the Registers thereof so kept by him, may be confirmed, and it is just and right that their prayer be granted: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and if is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:

I. That all marriages between persons capable of contracting marriage together by law, solemnized by the said Reverend Alexander McWattie, shall be and shall be held to have been at the time of the solemnization thereof, legal and valid; and all the provisions of the Act of the Legislative of Lower Canada, passed in the thirty-fifth year of the Reign of King George the Third, and intituled, *An Act to establish the forms of Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, to confirm and make valid in law the Register of the Protestant Congregation of Christ Church, Montreal, and others which have been informally kept, and to afford the means of remedying omissions in former Registers*, for remedying informalities or omissions in Registers kept before the passing of that Act, shall be and are hereby extended to the Registers of baptisms, marriages and burials kept by the said Reverend Alexander McWattie, as aforesaid, the period of live years limited in the thirteenth section of the said Act, being reckoned from the passing of this Act, for the purposes thereof: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall affect or destroy any rights that may have been claimed by any legal proceeding taken or commenced before the passing of this Act.

II. This Act shall be deemed a Public Act.