

effect in law, to all intents and purposes, as if the original paper or record thereof had not been burned.

SEC. 4. *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 by virtue of the same and subsequent acts of the General Assembly, passed previous to its December session, eighteen hundred and thirty-four, and the lists 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 two justices of the peace, in and for the county aforesaid, who shall proceed to take such testimony as the nature of the case will admit of, to establish the existence and record of such list, so as aforesaid recorded and destroyed, and the said justices shall make return of their proceedings to the clerk of Worcester county court, who shall record the same as aforesaid, at the expense and cost 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.

List of slaves

Testimony to be taken

To be recorded

SEC. 5. *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 courts aforesaid, under the seal of Worcester county court, with a certificate that the record and papers in the cases that have been destroyed, shall be received and admitted in evidence in any court of law or equity in this State.

Short copies of judgments &c. to be evidence