

one of them, may commence a suit by bill for partition in the court of chancery, in the same manner as if all the owners of such real estate were known, making parties thereto as well such owner so presumed to be dead, by his right name, as his heirs-at-law and devisees, by the right name of such of them (if any there be) as shall be known to be his or her heirs-at-law if such owner were actually dead, and by the name of the unknown heirs-at-law and devisees of such owner, by the service of a subpoena to answer, as in other suits in the said court, or by a publication according to the law and practice of said court in case of absent defendants, and by such further publication as is provided for and required in the first section of the act to which this is a supplement, and thereupon such proceedings shall be had as are directed by the act to which this is a supplement; and the chancellor shall have the power to make such decree against the said owner so presumed to be dead, and against his heirs-at-law, known or unknown, and his unknown devisees, as if they were known to the court and their respective interests in such real estate determined; and shall also have all such power and authority in respect to the cases provided for by this act, as is granted to him by the act to which this is a supplement in respect to the cases therein provided for; and any deed or deeds for such real estate, made pursuant to the decree and order of the chancellor in any such cases, shall convey all the right, title and estate of all the owners of such real estate, ascertained and unascertained, as completely and effectually as if all the owners were by name made parties to said bill, and as such brought before the court.

### Public Officers, Oaths of.

**A supplement to an act entitled "An act prescribing certain oaths," approved April seventeenth, anno domini eighteen hundred and forty-six.**

P. L. 1876, p. 230.

Approved April 20, 1876.

Judges of court of common pleas authorized to administer oaths in case of absence or disability of clerks.

1. That in case of the absence, removal, death, or any other disability of the clerk of the court of common pleas, in and for any county of this state, it shall and may be lawful for any judge of said court to administer the oaths of office and allegiance to commissioners of deeds, notaries public, as well as to any person or persons now, or hereafter to be, required to take the same by any law of this state, before any such clerk of the court of common pleas; and any officials' oaths so administered and taken shall be as effectual in law as if taken in the manner now prescribed by law.

### Railroads.

**A supplement to an act entitled "An act to authorize the formation of railroad corporations, and regulate the same," approved April second, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.**

P. L. 1873, p. 136.

Approved April 4, 1873.

Railroad corporations may establish and operate ferries.

1. That railroad corporations, formed under the provisions of the act to which this is a supplement, may establish and operate ferries where the terminus or termini of the railroads of said corporations may be on the shores of any rivers or navigable waters of this state, for the transportation of persons and property on or across the same, subject to the rates of fare for passengers and tolls for freight, as provided in said act on railroads, and may buy or build all vessels and boats, and do all things necessary or convenient to carry on such ferry or ferries, or the said corporations may make contracts or engagements with other ferry companies for the transportation of the passengers and freight of such corporation.