

mode of entering the marriage relation, and having conscientious scruples against obtaining said license.

SEC. 2. This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the State Register and National Platform, weekly newspapers published at the city of Des Moines.

Approved April 8, 1868.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the *Weekly Iowa State Register* April 29, 1868, and in *The National Platform* May 1, 1868.

ED WRIGHT, *Secretary of State.*

CHAPTER 192.

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT IN VAN BUREN COUNTY.

AN ACT to Authorize the Board of Supervisors of Van Buren County to appropriate a Sum of Money for the Erection of a Monument in Memory of Citizens of that County, who lost their Lives in the Military Service of their Country. APRIL 8.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That the board of supervisors of Van Buren county be and the same are hereby authorized in their discretion to appropriate and pay the sum of five hundred dollars toward the erection of [a] monument to the memory of the soldiers, citizens of that county, who died in the service of their country.

Approved April 8, 1868.

CHAPTER 193.

ALLOWING ALIENS TO CONTROL PROPERTY.

AN ACT Abolishing Distinctions between Foreigners and Citizens as to the Acquisition, Enjoyment, and Transfer of Property. APRIL 8.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That all aliens, whether they reside in the United States or in any foreign country, may in this State acquire, hold, and enjoy property, personal or real, or any interest therein, by purchase, gift, devise, or descent, and may convey, mortgage, or devise the same in a like manner, and with the same effect, as if such aliens were native-born citizens of the United States. And all property, real or personal,

- situated in this State, and belonging to a foreigner, shall if not disposed of by will, after the death of the owner, descend to the heirs of such foreigner, whether the same reside in the United States or in any foreign country. Such heirs shall be the same as the heirs-at-law of native-born citizens.
- Descent.**
- Alien heirs.**
- Distinctions between citizens & aliens abolished.**
- Dower.**
- Previous conveyances not to be questioned on account of alienage.**
- Retractive.**
- Rights of persons or corporations not to be violated.**
- Relinquishments by State not affected.**
- General relinquishment, except where escheat is now school-land.**
- Laws abolished.**
- Taking effect.**
- SEC. 2.** All the distinctions heretofore made by laws between citizens and resident and non-resident foreigners, in reference to the acquisition, possession, enjoyment, and transfer of property, real and personal, by conveyance, gift, devise, descent, or otherwise, are hereby abolished. A non-resident alien shall be entitled to dower in lands situated in this State, the same as resident citizens, except as against a purchaser from the decedent or against a purchaser under execution against the decedent, but as against such purchaser an alien not residing in the State of Iowa shall not be entitled to dower.
- SEC. 3.** The title to any land heretofore conveyed by purchase or gift, or transferred by devise or descent, shall not be questioned, nor in any manner affected by reason of the alienage of any person from or through whom such title may have been derived.
- SEC. 4.** This law shall be retroactive: *Provided, however,* That thereby no vested rights of private persons, or any municipal or other corporation, either public or for pecuniary profit, shall be violated, neither shall the title of any person or persons to whom this General Assembly has made any relinquishment of an escheat be hereby impaired or affected. The State relinquishes generally her claims to such escheated property as is transferred to foreigners by purchase, gift, devise, or descent, or otherwise; except in cases where legal proceedings have been had as required by law, whereby said escheated property has become part of the permanent school-land of the State of Iowa.
- SEC. 5.** All laws conflicting with these provisions are hereby abolished.
- SEC. 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the State Register and Iowa Homestead, newspapers published in the city of Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved April 8, 1868.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the *Daily State Register* May 1, 1868, and in the *The Iowa Homestead* May 6, 1868.

ED WRIGHT, *Secretary of State.*