

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI,

That the settlers on the Choctaw purchase, within the limits of that State, may be allowed the right of pre-emption.

MARCH 10, 1838.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

A memorial to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

The memorial of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

To your honorable body: that there are now residing in several different counties in this State, and within the purchase of that portion of the Choctaw country, acquired at the treaty of Dancing Rabbit creek, many worthy and valuable citizens, who are residing on lands which were contingently located by the authority of George W. Martin, locating Indian agent, in lieu of unsatisfied claims, or pretended claims, arising under the fourteenth article of the said treaty of Dancing Rabbit creek.

Your memorialists further represent, that said claims, when located on other lands than those on which the Indians, so claiming, actually resided at the date of said treaty, have no good, legal, or equitable claim or title to such lands, but that, on the contrary, the authority of the said locating agent to make such locations, is expressly repudiated by the act of Congress, entitled "An act for the appointment of commissioners to adjust the claims to reservations of land, under the fourteenth article of the treaty of eighteen hundred and thirty with the Choctaw Indians," approved March 3, 1837.

In order, however, to insure to such settlers equal rights, benefits, and privileges, in the event of the passage of a law, granting preference or pre-emption rights to actual settlers on public lands, your memorialists respectfully request, that such citizens and settlers may be expressly named, or otherwise provided for in such law.

Your memorialists further represent, that they believe that the public interest will be promoted by the passage of a law extending pre-emption rights to actual settlers upon public lands, provided, that it is done under such restrictions and regulations as may insure the benefits of its provisions only to such actual settlers.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives be requested, to use their exertions to procure the passage of a law to carry into effect the subject mentioned in the foregoing memorial and that his excellency the Governor be requested to forward a copy of the same to our Representatives in Congress.

JOHN W. KING,
Speaker of the House of Representatives

A. L. BINGAMAN,
President of the Senate.

Approved, February 16, 1838.

A. G. McNUTT.