

southern boundary of Kansas.

1856, ch. 59.
Ante, p. 27.

of the United States to execute the act entitled "An act to authorize the President of the United States to cause the southern boundary line of Kansas Territory to be surveyed and marked," the sum of thirty-five thousand four hundred dollars is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury.

APPROVED, August 18, 1856.

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CHAP. CLXXII.—An Act to continue the Land Offices at Vincennes, Indiana, and to ascertain and adjust the Titles to certain Lands in the States of Indiana and Illinois, formerly included within the Vincennes Land District.

Commissioners on certain land claims in Indiana and Illinois.

1791, ch. 27.
Vol. i. p. 221.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the register and receiver of the land-offices at Vincennes, to be appointed, together with a fit and proper person learned in the law, and a citizen of Indiana, to be appointed by the President of the United States, are hereby constituted commissioners to ascertain and adjust the title of any claimant to any tract of land, or any part or subdivision thereof, granted by the resolution of Congress of the twenty-ninth of August, seventeen hundred and ninety-one, entitled "An act for granting lands to the inhabitants and settlers at Vincennes, and the Illinois country, in the territory northwest of the Ohio, and for confirming them in their possessions," and the several acts in aid of and supplementary thereto.

Claims to be filed in three months.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That every such claimant to any tract of land so granted, or any part or subdivision thereof, shall, within three months after the publication of the notice herein provided for, file his claim in writing with the said register, in which he shall specifically set forth such facts as shall be required in the instructions of the Commissioner of the General Land-Office: *Provided*, That in any case in which good cause may be shown why the claim was not filed within the period stipulated, such claim may be presented and acted upon at any time before the expiration of the commission.

Proviso.

Notice to file claim.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That such register, upon the receipt of such instructions, shall give notice in the several newspapers of general circulation within said district and in the vicinity of said lands, by publication, of his readiness to receive applications of claimants, to which notice shall be appended the instructions of the Commissioner and a copy of this act.

Meeting of commissioners.

Their powers.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That said commissioners shall meet immediately after the time allowed for filing such claims, and shall hold their sessions at the town of Vincennes. They shall have power to issue subpoenas, and compel the attendance of witnesses, administer all necessary oaths, and to hear and decide, in a summary manner, all matters respecting such claims. Minutes of the proceedings, decisions, meetings, and adjournments of the board, shall be regularly entered in a book kept for that purpose.

What claims shall be confirmed.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That every claimant to any tract of land so granted, or any subdivision thereof, who can produce to such commissioner a regular chain of title from the original confirmee or donee to himself, or who can show to their satisfaction a continuous and connected possession in himself, and those under whom he claims, for a period of twenty years or more next preceding the filing of his claim, or can show such a claim or title as would, in the courts of Indiana, bar an action of ejectment, such claimant shall be confirmed in his title.

Transcript of decisions.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That said commissioners shall, in one year from the date of organizing said commission under this act, or sooner, if the cases on their docket are all disposed of, transmit to the Commissioner of the General Land-Office a transcript of their decisions in favor of claimants, which shall contain a fair statement of the evidence

on which each respective claim is founded ; and also a transcript of their decisions against claimants, with a like statement of the evidence, and the reason of such rejection.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the Commissioner of the General Land-Office, upon the receipt of such transcript of their decisions, shall issue a patent to such claimant so confirmed in his title by the said commissioners ; and where any such claims have been rejected, the said Commissioner, upon application of the proper person, shall have power to revise such decision of the said board, and may, if in his opinion the evidence warrants it, reverse such decision, and issue a patent therefor to such claimant : *Provided,* That this right to revise shall not extend to those claims rejected, where the same lands have been confirmed by the said board to some other claimant : *And provided further,* That the patents so issued shall only be a relinquishment of the title of the United States, and shall not be considered or construed into an abridgment of the rights of third persons.

Patent to issue when the claim is confirmed.

Revisal of rejections.

Provisoes.

Patents to be only a relinquishment of title.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That immediately after the passage of this act, the Commissioner of the General Land-Office shall give directions to the register and receiver of the land-offices at Indianapolis forthwith to transfer to the land-offices at Vincennes the books, documents, maps, plats, surveys, and all other papers and writings deposited in the land-offices at Indianapolis by the register and receiver of the land-offices at Vincennes, and which originally were deposited in the land-offices at Vincennes, and were transferred from said offices to the land-offices at Indianapolis, under the provisions of the act "for abolishing land-offices under certain circumstances, and for other purposes," approved June the twelfth, eighteen hundred and forty ; and the said land offices at Vincennes are hereby reestablished and reorganized, as fully and effectually for the transaction of business and the sales of the public lands within said Vincennes land district, as if said land-offices had not been abolished by the provisions of the act last aforesaid.

Certain books, &c. to be transmitted to commissioners.

1840, ch. 86. Vol. v. p. 384. Land-offices at Vincennes re-established.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioner, appointed under this act by the President, shall receive as a full compensation for his services, a salary at the rate of three thousand dollars per annum, payable quarterly out of the treasury ; and the register and receiver shall receive such compensation for their services under this act as may be just and proper, in the discretion of the Commissioner of the General Land-Office.

Pay of commissioner.

Pay of register and receiver.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of the General Land-Office, to prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to give full effect to the provisions of this act.

Rules and regulations to be established.

APPROVED, August 18, 1856.