12-30-1836

Claims between the Rio Hondo and Sabine Rivers (to accompany bill H. R. no. 797).

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset

Part of the Indian and Aboriginal Law Commons

Recommended Citation
Mr. Huntsman, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following
REPORT:

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which were referred the
documents pertaining to various land claims, for lands lying between
the Rio Hondo and Sabine rivers, respectfully report:

That the register and receiver of the southwestern land district was di­
rected by the act of Congress of the 3d of March, 1823, and a supplemental
act thereto, passed on the 25th of May, 1824, as commissioners to examine
into the claims, take testimony, &c., and recommend for confirmation or
rejection, to Congress, such claims as should be submitted them in a given
time, as will more fully appear by a reference to said acts. The register
and receiver, in pursuance of said authority, proceeded in the performance
of the duty assigned them, took testimony, and adjudicated many claims,
confirming some and rejecting others. Among those which were recom­
mended for confirmation, were a certain number which were suspended by
Congress in the passage of an act of the 24th of May, 1828, (which con­
firmed the balance,) as the act recites that they should be suspended “until
it is ascertained whether they are situated in the country claimed by the
Caddo Indians.”

There has been no information obtained upon this point; but it is be­
lieved there has been sufficient information obtained to supersede the ne­
cessity of that inquiry. It is believed by the committee, from the best infor­
mation within their reach, that the Caddo Indians had no right of any
sort there, except a permissive right, and that the citizens who claimed by
habituation, cultivation, or otherwise, were not trespassers or intruders upon
the Indian lands. A thorough inquiry has been made of the Secretary of
War, for such information as was in possession of his department in rela­
tion to the country from whence the Caddoes came; what time they
settled in the country in question; and what right they hold and claim in
these lands.

The Secretary has communicated all the information at his command,
which, taken with his correspondence with one of your committee, is too
voluminous to incorporate in this report. And although there is no direct
evidence which is absolutely conclusive, yet there is much circumstantial
testimony which is extremely persuasive, to establish these facts:

That, anciently, these Indians inhabited a country much farther south­
west than the one which is now the subject of inquiry; that about thirty
Blair & Rives, printers.
years ago they were driven by their enemies (the Osages) from the country they then inhabited upon the white settlements, where they were permitted to remain until the late treaty with them, in the making of which it appears that the Secretary of War did not consider that they had any title to the country, but was induced to give them the sum, perhaps, $80,000, to relinquish their possessions and go off peacefully, as will more fully appear by the correspondence upon that subject.

The committee are therefore of opinion that those cases which were suspended by the 1st section of the act of 1828, are as meritorious as those which were confirmed, and have reported a bill for the confirmation of those claims which were suspended.