

2-13-1873

On Relief of E. Joslyn

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Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 436, 42nd Cong., 3rd Sess. (1873)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 13, 1873.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BUCKINGHAM submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1499.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1499) for the relief of Erastus S. Joslyn, of Washington Territory, submit the following report:

From the evidence presented to the committee, it appears that, in pursuance of an act of Congress approved September 27, 1850, entitled "An act to create the office of surveyor-general of public lands in Oregon, and to provide for the survey and make donations to settlers of the public lands," one Erastus S. Joslyn took up a tract of land, containing three hundred and twenty acres, near the mouth of the White Salmon River, and occupied the same from the spring of 1853 to the spring of 1856, when it was taken possession of by the Government, by order of Governor I. J. Stevens, superintendent of Indian affairs in Washington Territory; that the place was occupied as an Indian reservation until 1859; that during those three years Mr. Joslyn was not permitted to occupy the place, and derived no benefit from it. Several affidavits show that the place was thus occupied, and by the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the years 1857, 1858, and 1859, it appears that the land, or a part of that claimed by Joslyn, was occupied for Indian purposes.

There are also affidavits which support the statement of Joslyn in relation to the damage to fences and the fruit orchard, as well as the value of the rent, none of which estimate the damage at less than one thousand dollars nor the rent as being worth less than three thousand dollars.

Your committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the bill without amendments.