

Note by Doug Loudeneck, November 11, 2010: The original source document for the remainder of the content hereof is the extremely large PDF file maintained by the [University Library](#), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the address for the particular file being:

http://www.constitution.org/uslaw/sal/025_statutes_at_large.pdf

The only portions converted to text by me and set out in this PDF file relate to legislation associated with the opening of the Unassigned Lands, Indian Territory, adopted on March 1 and 2, 1889.

See http://www.dougloudneback.com/misc/presidential_proclamation.pdf
for the resulting Presidential Proclamation

THE
STATUTES AT LARGE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
FROM
DECEMBER, 1887, TO MARCH, 1889,
AND
RECENT TREATIES, POSTAL CONVENTIONS, AND EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATIONS.

EDITED, PRINTED, AND PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF
CONGRESS, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

VOL. XXV.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1889.

CHAP. 317. — An act to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians in the Indian Territory, and for other purposes.

Whereas it is provided by section eight of the act of March third, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, entitled "An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, and for other purposes," "that the President is hereby authorized to open negotiations with the Creeks, Seminoles, and Cherokees for the purpose of opening to settlement under the homestead laws the unassigned lands in said Indian Territory ceded by them respectively, to the United States by the several treaties of August eleventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, March twenty-first, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and July nineteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six; and for that purpose the sum of five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; his action hereunder to be reported to Congress; and

Whereas William F. Vilas, Secretary of the Interior, by and under the direction of the President of the United States, on the part of the United States, and the Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians, represented by Pleasant Porter, David M . Hodge, and Esparhecher, delegates and representatives thereto duly authorized and empowered by the principal chief and national council of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, did, on the nineteenth day of January, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, enter into and conclude articles of cession and agreement, which said cession and agreement is in words as follows:

Articles of cession and agreement made and concluded at the city of Washington on the nineteenth day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, by and between the United States of America, represented by William F . Vilas, Secretary of the Interior, by and under direction of the President of the United States, and the Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians, represented by Pleasant Porter, David M . Hodge, and Esparhecher, delegates and representatives thereunto duly authorized and empowered by the principal chief and national council of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation;

Whereas by a treaty of cession made and concluded by and between the said parties on the fourteenth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, in compliance with the desire of the United States to locate other Indians and freedmen thereon, ceded and conveyed to the United States, to be sold to and used as homes for such other civilized Indians as the United States might choose to settle thereon, the west half of their entire domain, to be divided by a line running north and south, which should be surveyed as provided in the eighth article of the said treaty; the eastern half of the lands of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation to be retained by them as a home;

And whereas but a portion of said lands so ceded for such use has been sold to Indians or assigned to their use, and the United States now desire that all of said ceded lands may be entirely freed from any limitation in respect to the use and enjoyment thereof and all claims of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation to such lands may be 'surrendered and extinguished as well as all other claims of whatsoever nature to any territory except the aforesaid eastern half of their domain;

Now, therefore, these articles of cession and agreement by and between the said contracting parties, witness :

I . That said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, in consideration of the sum of money hereinafter mentioned, hereby absolutely cedes and grants to the United States, without reservation or condition, full and complete title to the entire western half of the domain of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation lying west of the division line surveyed and established under the said treaty of eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and also grants and releases to the United States all and every claim, estate, right, or interest of any and every description in or to any and all land and territory whatever, except so much of the said former domain of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation as lies east of the said line of division, surveyed and established as aforesaid, and is now held and occupied as the home of said nation.

II. In consideration whereof, and of the covenant herein otherwise contained, the United States agree to pay to the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation the sum of two million two hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and ten cents, whereof two hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and ten cents shall be paid to the national treasurer of said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, or to such other person as shall be duly authorized to receive the same, at such times and in such sums after the due ratification of this agreement (as hereinafter provided) as shall be directed and required by the national council of said nation, and the remaining sum of two million dollars shall be set apart and remain in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the said nation, and shall bear interest at the rate of five per centum per annum from and after the first day of July, 1889, to be paid to the treasurer of said nation and to be judiciously applied under the direction of the legislative council thereof, to the support of their government, the maintenance of schools and educational establishments, and such other objects as may be designed to promote the welfare and happiness of the people of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, subject to the discretionary direction of the Congress of the United States: *Provided*, That the Congress of the United States may at any time pay over to the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation the whole, or, from time to time, any part of said principal sum, or of any principal sum belonging to said nation held in the Treasury of the United States, and thereupon terminate the obligation of the United States in respect thereto and in respect to any further interest upon so much of said principal as shall be so paid and discharged.

III. It is stipulated and agreed that henceforth especial effort shall be made by the Creek Nation to promote the education of the youth thereof and extend their useful knowledge and skill in the arts of civilization; and the said nation agrees that it will devote not less than fifty thousand dollars, annually, of its income, derived hereunder, to the establishment and maintenance of schools and other means calculated to advance the end; and of this annual sum at least ten thousand dollars shall be applied to the education of orphan children of said nation.

IV. These articles of cession and agreement shall be of no force or obligation upon either party until they shall be ratified and confirmed, first, by act of the national council of said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, and secondly, by the Congress of the United States, nor unless such ratification shall be on both sides made and completed before the first day of July, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine.

V. No treaty or agreement heretofore made and now subsisting is hereby affected, except so far as the provisions hereof, supersede and control the, same.

In testimony whereof, we, the said William F. Vilas, Secretary of the Interior, on the part of the United States, and the said Pleasant Porter, David M. Hodge, and Esparhecher, delegates of the Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, have hereunto set our hands and seals, at the place and on the day first above written, in duplicate,

[SEAL.]	WILLIAM F. VILAS, Secretary of the Interior.
[SEAL.]	PLEASANT PORTER,
[SEAL.]	DAVID M. HODGE,
[SEAL.]	ESPARHECHER, his x mark.

In presence of :

JOHN P. HUME,
ROBERT, V. BELT.

Whereas the Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians has accepted, ratified, and confirmed said articles of cession and agreement by act of its national council, approved by the principal chief of said nation on the thirty-first day of January, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, wherein it is provided that the grant and cession of land and territory therein made shall take effect when the same shall be ratified and confirmed by the Congress of the United States of America, Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That said articles of cession and agreement are hereby accepted, ratified, and confirmed.

SEC. 2. That the lands acquired by the United States under said Lands acquired to agreement shall be a part of the public domain, but they shall only be disposed of in accordance with the laws regulating homestead entries, and to the persons qualified to make such homestead entries, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres to one qualified claimant. And the provisions of section twenty-three hundred and one of the Revised Statutes of the United States shall not apply to any lands acquired under said agreement. Any person who may enter upon any part of said lands in said agreement mentioned prior to the time that the same are opened to settlement by act of Congress shall not be permitted to occupy or to make entry of such lands or lay any claim thereto.

SEC. 3. That for the purpose of carrying out the terms of said articles of cession and agreement the sum of two million two hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and ten cents is hereby appropriated.

SEC. 4 . That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to pay, out of the appropriation hereby made, the sum of two hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and ten cents, to the national treasurer of said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, or to such person as shall be duly authorized to receive the same, at such time and in such sums as shall be directed and required by the national council of said nation, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby further authorized and directed to place the remaining sum of two million dollars in the Treasury of Balance to credit of the United States to the credit of said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians, to be held for, and as provided in said articles of cession and agreement, and to bear interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, from and after the first day of July, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine; said interest to be paid to the treasurer of said nation annually.

Approved, March 1, 1889 .

SEMINOLE LANDS.

SEC. 12. That the sum of one million nine hundred and twelve thousand nine hundred and forty-two dollars and two cents be, and the same hereby is, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to pay in full the Seminole Nation of Indians for all the right, title, interest, and claim which said nation of Indians may have in and to certain lands ceded by article three of the treaty between the United States and said nation of Indians, which was concluded June fourteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and proclaimed August sixteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and which land was then estimated to contain two million one hundred and sixty-nine thousand and eighty acres, but which is now, after survey, ascertained to contain two million thirty-seven thousand four hundred and fourteen and sixty-two hundredths acres, said sum of money to be paid as follows: One million five hundred thousand dollars to remain in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of said nation of Indians and to bear interest at the rate of five per centum per annum from July first, eighteen hundred and eighty nine, said interest to be paid semi-annually to the treasurer of said nation, and the sum of four hundred and twelve thousand nine hundred and forty-two dollars and twenty cents, to be paid to such person or persons as shall be duly authorized by the laws of said nation to receive the same, at such times and in such sums as shall be directed and required by the legislative authority of said nation, to be immediately available; this appropriation to become operative upon the execution by the duly appointed delegates of said nation, specially empowered so to do, of a release and conveyance to the United States of all the right, title, interest, and claim of said nation of Indians in and to said lands, in manner and form satisfactory to the President of the United States, and said release and conveyance, when fully executed and delivered, shall operate to

extinguish all claims of every kind and character of said Seminole Nation of Indians in and to the tract of country to which said release and conveyance shall apply, but such release conveyance, and extinguishment shall not inure to the benefit of or cause to vest in any railroad company any right, title, or interest whatever in or to any of said lands, and all laws and parts of laws so far as they conflict with the foregoing, are hereby repealed, and all grants or pretended grants of said lands or any interest or right therein now existing in or on behalf of any railroad company, except rights of way and depot grounds, are hereby declared to be forever forfeited for breach of condition.

SEC. 13 . That the lands acquired by the United States under said agreement shall be a part of the public domain, to be disposed of only as herein provided, and sections sixteen and thirty-six of each township, whether surveyed or unsurveyed, are hereby reserved for the use and benefit of the public schools, to be established within the limits of said lands under such conditions and regulations as may be hereafter enacted by Congress.

That the lands acquired by conveyance from the Seminole Indians hereunder, except the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections shall be disposed of to actual settlers under the homestead laws only, except as herein otherwise provided (except that section two thousand three hundred and one of the Revised Statutes shall not apply): *And provided further*, That any person who having attempted to, but for any cause, failed to secure a title in fee to a homestead under existing law, or who made entry under what is known as the commuted provision of the homestead law, shall be qualified to make a homestead entry upon said lands: *And provided further*, That the rights of honorably discharged Union soldiers and sailors in the late civil war as defined and described in sections twenty-three hundred and four and twenty-three hundred and five of the Revised Statutes shall not be abridged: *And provided further*, That each entry shall be in square form as nearly as practicable and no person be permitted to enter more than one-quarter section thereof, but until said lands are opened for settlement by proclamation of the President, no person shall be permitted to enter upon and occupy the same, and no person violating this provision shall ever be permitted to enter any of said lands or acquire any right thereto.

The Secretary of the Interior may, after said proclamation and not before, permit entry of said lands for town-sites, under sections twenty-three hundred and eighty-seven and twenty-three hundred and eighty-eight of the Revised Statutes, but no such entry shall embrace more than one-half section of land.

That all the foregoing provisions with reference to lands to be acquired from the Seminole Indians including the provisions pertaining to forfeiture shall apply to and regulate the disposal of the lands acquired from the Muscogee or Creek Indians by articles of cession and agreement made and concluded at the city of Washington on the nineteenth day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eighty-nine.

SEC. 14. The President is hereby authorized to appoint three commissioners, not more than two of whom shall be members of the same political party, to negotiate with the Cherokee Indians and with all other Indians owning or claiming lands lying west of the ninety-sixth degree of longitude in the Indian Territory for the cession to the United States of all their title, claim, or interest of every kind or character in and to said lands, and any and all agreements resulting from such negotiations shall be reported to the President and Congress at its next session and to the council or councils of the nation or nations, tribe or tribes, agreeing to the same for ratification, and for this purpose the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, to be immediately available: *Provided*, That said Commission is further authorized to submit to the Cherokee nation the proposition that said nation shall cede to the United States in the manner and with the effect aforesaid, all the rights of said nation in said lands upon the same terms as to payment as is provided in the agreement made with the Creek Indians of date January nineteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, and ratified by the present Congress; and if said Cherokee nation shall accept, and by act of its legislative authority duly passed, ratify the same, the said lands shall thereupon become a part of the public domain for the purpose of such disposition as is herein provided, and the President is authorized as soon thereafter as he may deem advisable, by proclamation open said lands to settlement in the same manner and to the same effect, as in this act provided concerning the lands acquired from said Creek Indians, but until said lands are opened for settlement by proclamation of

the President, no person shall be permitted to enter upon and occupy the same, and no person violating this provision shall be permitted to enter any of said lands or acquire any right-thereto .

SEC. 15. That the President may whenever he deems it necessary create not to exceed two-land districts embracing the lands which he may open to settlement by proclamation as hereinbefore provided, and he is empowered to locate land offices for the same appointing thereto in conformity to existing law registers and receivers and for the purpose of carrying out this provision five thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby appropriated .

Approved March 2, 1889.