1873, March 3 - 17 Stat. 605 - Amend Homestead Act to Allow Less than 160 Acres
BY AUTHORITY OF CONGRESS.

THE

Statutes at Large

AND

PROCLAMATIONS

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

FROM MARCH 1871 TO MARCH 1873,

AND

TREATIES AND POSTAL CONVENTIONS

Arranged in Chronological Order and carefully collated with
the Originals at Washington,

WITH

REFERENCES TO THE MATTER OF EACH ACT AND TO THE SUBSEQUENT
ACTS ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

EDITED BY

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1873.

1873, March 3 - 17 Stat. 607 - Act for Sale of Public Lands Containing Coal
or cribs in front of their mill property on the banks of said river, for the protection of their mills and rafts against damage by floods and ice: Provided however, That the piers or cribs so constructed shall not interfere with or obstruct the navigation of said river: Provided further, That in case by reason of the shifting of the channel of the said river, or from any other cause, the piers or cribs, the construction of which are authorized by this act shall be found to obstruct the navigation of said river at any time, the government expressly reserves the right to remove, or direct the removal of any such piers or cribs at the cost and expense of the owners thereof.

APPROVED, March 8, 1878.

CHAP. CCLXXIX. — An Act to provide for the Sale of the Lands of the United States containing Coal.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person above the age of twenty-one years, who is a citizen of the United States, or who has declared his intention to become such, or any association of persons severally qualified as above, shall, upon application to the register of the proper land-office, have the right to enter, by legal subdivisions, any quantity of vacant coal lands of the United States not otherwise appropriated or reserved by competent authority, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres to such individual person, or three hundred and twenty acres to such association, upon payment to the receiver of not less than ten dollars per acre for such lands, where the same shall be situated more than fifteen miles from any completed railroad, and not less than twenty dollars per acre for such lands as shall be within fifteen miles of such road.

Section 2. That any person or association of persons severally qualified as above, who have opened and improved, or shall hereafter open and improve, any coal mine or mines upon the public lands, and shall be in actual possession of the same, shall be entitled to a preference right of entry, under the foregoing provisions, of the mines so opened and improved: Provided, That when any association of not less than four persons, severally qualified as in section one of this act, shall have expended not less than five thousand dollars in working and improving any such mine or mines, such association may enter not exceeding six hundred and forty acres, including such mining improvements.

Section 3. That all claims under section two of this act must be presented to the register of the proper land-district within sixty days after the date of actual possession and the commencement of improvements on the land, by the filing of a declaratory statement therefor: Provided, That when the township plat is not on file at the district office; And provided further, That where the improvements shall have been made prior to the expiration of three months from the passage of this act, sixty days from the expiration of said three months shall be allowed for the filing of a declaratory statement, and no sale under the provisions of this act shall be allowed until the expiration of six months from the date hereof.

Section 4. That this act shall be held to authorize only one entry by the same person or association of persons under its provisions, and no association of persons, any member of which shall have taken the benefit of this act either as an individual or as a member of any other association shall enter or hold any other lands under the provisions of this act; and no member of any association which shall have taken the benefit of this act shall enter or hold any other lands under its provisions; and all persons claiming under section two hereof, shall be required to prove their respective rights and pay for the lands filed upon within one year from the time

Right to remove cribs.
prescribed for filing their respective claims; and upon failure to file the
proper notice, or to pay for the land within the required period, the same
shall be subject to entry by any other qualified applicant.

SECTION 5. That in case of conflicting claims upon lands where the im-
provements shall be hereafter commenced, priority of possession and improve-
ment, followed by proper filing and continued good faith, shall determine
the preference right to purchase. And also where improvements have
already been made at the date of the passage of this act, division of the
land claimed may be made by legal subdivisions, to include, as near as may
be, the valuable improvements of the respective parties; and the commis-
sioner of the general land-office shall be, and is hereby, authorized to issue
all needful rules and regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of
this act.

Existing rights not impaired.

SECTION 6. That nothing in this act shall be construed to destroy or impair
any rights which may have attached prior to its passage, or to authorize
the sale of lands valuable for mines of gold, silver, or copper.

Approved, March 8, 1878.

March 8, 1878.

CHAP. CCLXXI. — An Act for the Relief of Howard F. Moffat.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United
States be, and he is hereby, authorized to nominate, and by and with the
advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint, upon the retired list of the
navy, with the rank of master, Howard F. Moffat, now a volunteer officer
on the active list of the navy.

Approved, March 8, 1878.

March 8, 1878.

CHAP. CCLXXII. — An Act to extend the Time for filing Claims for additional Bounty under
the Act of July twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the time for filing claims
for additional bounty, under the act of July twenty-eighth, eighteen hun-
dred, and sixty-six, and which expired by limitation January thirtieth,
eighteen hundred and seventy-three, be, and the same is hereby, revived
and extended until the thirtieth day of January, eighteen hundred and
seventy-four; and that all claims for such bounties filed in the proper
department after the thirtieth day of January, eighteen hundred and
seventy-three, and before the passage of this act, shall be deemed to have
been filed in due time, and shall be considered and decided without
filing.

Approved, March 8, 1878.

March 8, 1878.

CHAP. CCLXXXIII. — An Act to authorize and direct the Secretary of War to distribute
Arms and military Equipment under the Act of April twenty-third, eighteen hundred and
eight, and the Acts amendatory thereof.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be,
and he is hereby, authorized and directed to distribute to such States as
did not, from the year eighteen hundred and sixty-two to the year eighteen
hundred and sixty-nine, receive the same, their proper quota of arms and
military equipments for each year, from eighteen hundred and sixty-two to
eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, under the act of Congress approved
April twenty-third, eighteen hundred and eight, and the several acts
amendatory thereof: Provided, That in the organization and equipment of
military companies and organizations with said arms, no discrimination
shall be made between said companies and organizations on account of
race, color, or former condition of servitude.

Approved, March 8, 1878.