

To the Legislative Assembly, and council of the Territory of Oregon :----

Your Petitioners would respectfully represent, that whereas on the 27th day of Sept. 1850, an act was passed by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, setting apart what is known as the "Oregon City Claim," excepting the Abernethy Island, to be at the disposal of the Legislative Assembly. The proceeds thereof to be applied by said Legislative Assembly to the establishment and endowment of a university, and confirming to the purchasers donee or their assigns all lots or parts of lots in said claim that were sold or granted by Doct. John M'Laughlin previous to the 4th day of March, 1849.

Whereas, Doct. John M'Laughlin previous to the date of the treaty of 1846 with Great Britain, did make large and valuable improvements upon said "Oregon City Claim," erecting mills, dwelling houses and stores, in all, costing about \$46,000.

Whereas, said John M'Laughlin has resided upon and cultivated said Oregon City land claim continuously from November 1845 to the present time, as we believe.

Whereas, John M'Laughlin did on the 30th day of May 1849, file his declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, and on the 5th day of September 1851, became a naturalized citizen of the United States, and received his certificate thereof, as will appear by the records of the United States District Court, in and for Clackamas Co., in the Territory of Oregon.

Whereas, John M'Laughlin has sold and granted a large number of lots in said "Oregon City Claim" to citizens of Oregon, and to aid schools and institutions of learning; upon said lots extensive improvements have been made by the donees and purchasers, and the Honorable Legislative Assembly have granted to the owners of many of said lots that were sold and granted by John M'Laughlin since the 4th of March 1849 all the interest of the Territory of Oregon.

Whereas, John M'Laughlin has also given to the county of Clackamas to aid in the erection of public buildings for said county near one hundred acres of said "Oregon City claim" upon which said county have erected a large and expensive Court House, and sold to many individuals portions of said 100 acres granted to said county.

And whereas, said John M'Laughlin by reason of said reservation and donation of his the Oregon City claim has been compelled to secure his just rights, and those who purchased of him to notify the Surveyor General of Oregon, on the 29th day of September 1852, that he claimed, under the treaty of 1846, with Great Britain, a tract of land containing 640 acres, which includes the Oregon City claim, protesting against any act that will disturb his possession to said tract of land, except such portions thereof as has been sold or granted by him within the limits of the "Oregon City claim."

And whereas, serious doubts have arisen as to the rights protected and guaranteed by said treaty with Great Britain, and which we fear will involve the Territory in much expense, and litigation before the rights under said treaty, are defined and settled.

We your petitioners, residents and settlers in Oregon Territory would respectfully ask and pray that the Honorable Legislative Assembly take such action as seems in their wisdom just and proper to secure to the university fund, the property donated or its equivalent, and secure the lots and lands within the boundaries of the Oregon City claim, that have been granted or sold by Doctor John M'Laughlin since the 4th day of March 1849 to the owners thereof.

Your petitioners would respectfully suggest the propriety of asking Congress to give one Township of land or its equivalent, to be located by legal sub-divisions, or upon any fractions left between old settlers claims, in lieu of the Oregon City claim, to aid in establishing and endowment of a university, and to confirm to Doctor John M'Laughlin, his donees and assigns, that portion of the Oregon City claim, that was set apart to aid in the endowment and establishing a university, thereby settling a vexed question, and securing without loss or litigation a certain and valuable donation to a university, and the Oregon City claim, to the claimants and purchasers thereof.

Joseph H. Watt
Nelson Hunt
Wm. M. Boase
R. A. Summers
Sanford Watson
John A. Summers.

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