

*UNITED STATES v. BENJAMIN CHAIRES and others.

Florida land-claims.

A grant of land by the governor of East Florida, in consideration of services to the Spanish government, made before the cession of the territory of Florida to the United States, confirmed.

APPEAL from the Superior Court of East Florida.

This case was submitted to the court, by *Butler*, Attorney-General, for the United States; and by *White*, for the appellees.

BALDWIN, Justice, delivered the opinion of the court.—This is an appeal from a decree of the judge of the superior court for the eastern district of Florida, confirming the claim of the appellee to 20,000 acres of land, pursuant to the acts of congress for the adjustment of land-claims in Florida. In the court below, the petition was in the form prescribed by law, presenting a proper case for the jurisdiction of the court. The claim of the petitioner was founded on an application to the governor of East Florida, made by Don Jose de la Maza Arredondo, for a grant of 20,000 acres of land, in consideration of his services to the Spanish government; which was granted on the 20th of March 1817, at the place solicited, with a promise of a title in absolute property; and surveyed in one tract, on the 14th of September 1819. The petitioners also allege that they claim the whole land, by purchase from Arredondo. On an inspection of the record, we are of opinion, that the title of Arredondo was valid to all the land contained in the survey; and (without deciding on the claim of the petitioner as derived from him) that the claim of the petitioner to the same ought to be confirmed. The decree of the court below is, therefore, affirmed.

THIS cause came on to be heard, on the transcript of the record from the superior court for the district of East Florida, and was argued by counsel: On consideration whereof, it is ordered, adjudged and decreed by this court, that the decree of the said superior court for the district of East Florida in this cause be and the same is hereby affirmed.

*309] *UNITED STATES, Appellants, v. CHARLES SETON, Appellee.

Florida land-claims.

Under a grant of the governor of Florida, prior to the cession of the same to the United States, of 16,000 acres of land, for the purpose of erecting a water-mill, a survey of 520 acres was made, and at another place, a survey of 15,630 acres was also made. The court held, that the first survey of 520 acres was valid, and that the survey of 15,480 was invalid; but that the grantee had a title to 15,480 acres of vacant land; which he had a right to have surveyed, adjoining the survey of 520 acres.

APPEAL from the Superior Court of East Florida. This was a claim to land in East Florida, under a concession made by Don Jose Coppinger, governor of the province of East Florida, then under the dominion of the king of Spain, on the 6th day of May 1816, to Charles Seton, the claimant.

The claimant, on the 26th day of April 1816, applied by petition to Governor Coppinger, for leave to build a water saw-mill on Nassau river, in