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Mary Ann Bruner

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MARY ANN BRUNER.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 464.]

FEBRUARY 15, 1845.

Mr. J. A. WRIGHT, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT:

The facts in the case of Mary Ann Bruner, a widow, are these: In the year 1837, in the month of November, she went to the land office at Crawfordsville, Indiana, to purchase the following tract of land, to wit: the east half of the southwest quarter of section 7, township 14 north, of range 5 west. There was at that time no receiver of public moneys at Crawfordsville; and she found a man by the name of Charles Tyler, the register of the land office, who had been placed there by the government. She being a lone woman, and supposing all things were right, left her money with this officer, amounting to the sum of \$77 57; which money she had raised, by small dribs at a time, by selling a little marketing, and was the savings of her toil, with which she had hoped to secure a home to shelter her aged head in the decline of life. This individual (called Tyler) informed her that there was something wrong about the land, and that she could not obtain it until he went to Washington city. This was all a falsehood—he pocketed the money. Soon after a receiver was there to receive money, and another person got the land. This scoundrel, called Tyler, never showed his head when the widow appeared; he is hopelessly insolvent, and a notorious rascal; her money is gone, and her land is in the possession of another.

In addition to this, she is now 77 years of age; was taken a prisoner by the Indians more than 50 years ago, and was tomahawked, and left for dead. She survived; was taken by the Indians, and lived with them nearly 20 years, and raised a family with them; one of which was a son, who was a gallant American soldier through the last war, and was wounded on two battle-fields.

She was subsequently restored to her people, and is now the mother of a number of children, to whom she has to look for support. Her excellent character, which she has ever sustained, notwithstanding she was brought up among the savages, must make her an object of interest and respect. She is now a member of a respectable church; and presents in her character and life more of the *Roman matron* than any woman within my knowledge; and I do not think that another such a case will ever come up again, that a white woman, after returning from captivity among the Indians, was defrauded by a United States officer out of the money which she had saved to buy her a little home. If this case were put to the voters

of the United States, on the yeas and nays, the bill would pass by a decided majority. Under all these circumstances, the undersigned reports a bill for her relief.

JOSEPH A. WRIGHT.

MARY ANN BRUNER
[The following bill is for her relief]

February 12, 1842.

Mr. J. A. Wright, from the Committee on Public Lands, reports

REPORT:

The first in the case of Mary Ann Bruner, a widow, was filed in the month of November, she went to the land office of the Treasury Department to purchase the following tract of land, to wit: the one-half of the southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 12 north of Range 1 west. There was at that time no register of public lands at Cleveland, and she found a man by the name of Charles Tyler, the register of the land office who had been placed there by the government. She being a non-resident, and supposing all things were right, she gave him a note, amounting to the sum of \$17 50; which money she had saved up some time at a store by selling a little merchandise, and was the savings of her lot which she had spent to purchase a home to spend her old days in the decline of life. This individual (called Tyler) intended to keep the money for himself, and that she should not be able to get it back. She was told that she was to go to Washington city. This was all a falsehood—she was told that a receipt was there to receive money, and another person for the land. This individual, called Tyler, never showed her the receipt, and she is positively convinced, and a great many others, that money is gone, and her land is in the possession of the Government.

In addition to this she is now 77 years of age; was taken a prisoner by the Indians more than 50 years ago and was mistreated, and lost her health; she was taken by the Indians and lived with them nearly 30 years and raised a family with them; one of which was a son who was a gallant American soldier through the last war, and was wounded in two places. She was subsequently married to her people, and he now the holder of a number of children to whom she has to look for support. Her condition of health which she has ever sustained, notwithstanding she was brought up among the savages, that make her an object of interest and respect. She is now a member of a respectable church; and presents in her conversation the words of the Memorial service than any woman within my knowledge; and I do not think that another soul a case will ever be so long as a white woman, that suffering from captivity among the Indians was detained by a wicked man's officer out of the treasury. It has been proved to my satisfaction. It has been proved to the value