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Mary Ann Bruner

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H.R. Rep. No. 153, 28th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1845)

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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

