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George B. Russell. (To accompany bill H.R. no. 415)

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GEORGE B. RUSSELL.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 415.]

MAY 4, 1846.

Mr. Foot, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of George B. Russell, make the following report :

The petitioner, George B. Russell, represents that, on the 25th day of August, A. D. 1835, Benjamin F. Curry, then superintendent of Cherokee removals, by letter of that date, appointed and authorized the said George B. Russell to enrol Cherokees residing in Cass county, in the State of Georgia, and to credit them for meat, bread, and clothing, to the amount of ten dollars per head for grown persons, and two dollars per head for their children, upon the enrolment of their names to accept Ridge's treaty. The following is a copy of the letter of authority above referred to :

“ AUGUST 25, 1835.

“ George B. Russell, esq., is hereby authorized to enrol Cherokees residing in Cass county, and may credit them for meat, bread, and clothing, to the amount of ten dollars per head for grown persons, and two dollars per head for their children, upon the enrolment of their names to accept Ridge's treaty.

“ In all other matters the treaty itself will govern, except where the party enrolling is anxious to go off before the treaty is ratified. In such cases the government of the United States will provide transportation and subsistence for the emigrants, and will secure to them all the advantages that are finally given to those who do remain until the treaty is ratified. Payment will be made for improvements shortly after removals take place ; one-half the valuation of which will be set apart to pay debts. The debts of those who go off and have no improvements will be paid shortly after the ratification of the treaty. Mr. Russell will please to guard himself against impositions from those who would twice enrol.

“ BENJAMIN F. CURRY,
“ *Superintendent of Cherokee removals.*”

A similar appointment and authority was given to other individuals for the same purpose, the aggregate amount of whose claims against the government is about six thousand dollars, as appears from the following letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs :

WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,
January 9, 1846.

SIR: Your letter of the 23d ultimo, requesting to be informed of the amount of such claims as have been presented for allowance, that are similar in character to the claim of George B. Russell, has been received.

I have the honor to state, that a careful examination has been made of the books and files of the office; the result of which is, that the following named persons are found to be claimants of that character, viz: George M. Lavender, George E. Mountcarth, George B. Russell, John M. Bruce, R. J. Loyless, John Dawson, and S. C. Newman. They appear to be all that have been presented to the department; but the amount of their claims I am unable to furnish, as their accounts have been withdrawn, and the entry of them on the records is not in detail.

Governor Lumpkin, one of the commissioners appointed to settle Cherokee claims, calling the attention of the department to this class of claims, in a letter of October 4, 1837, stated that the whole amount in the aggregate would not exceed \$6,000.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. MEDILL.

Hon. Solomon Foot, House of Reps. U. S.

The committee believe that whatever supplies of bread, meat, and clothing were furnished by the persons above named, under the direction and authority aforesaid, constitute an equitable and just claim against the government, and therefore report the accompanying bill.

The following is a copy of the letter of authority above referred to:
"August 27, 1835.
George B. Russell, esp. is hereby authorized to enrol Cherokee residing in Cass county and pay more than 50 cents for bread, and clothing to the amount of two dollars for each grown person, and two dollars per head for their children, upon the enrolment of their names to accept Higdon's treaty.
"In all other matters the treaty itself will govern, except where the party enrolling is anxious to go off before the treaty is ratified. In such cases the government of the United States will provide transportation and subsistence for the emigrants, and will secure to them all the advantages that usually given to those who do remain until the treaty is ratified. Payment will be made for improvements shortly after removal take place; one-half the valuation of which will be set apart to pay debts. The debts of those who go off and have no improvements will be paid shortly after the ratification of the treaty. Mr. Russell will please to guard himself against impostures from those who would twice enrol.
"BENJAMIN F. CURRY,
Superintendent of Cherokee removals."

A similar appointment and authority was given to other individuals for the same purpose, the aggregate amount of whose claims against the government is about six thousand dollars, as appears from the following letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs:
"March 2, 1846.