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Gad Humphreys

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H.R. Rep. No. 203, 29th Cong., 1st Sess. (1846)

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GAD HUMPHREYS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 198.]

FEBRUARY 10, 1846.

Mr. YELL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Gad Humphreys, report :

The petitioner claims to be indemnified for the loss of property burned and destroyed during the Seminole war, in Florida, in the year 1836, consisting of houses and personal property, and fully set forth in exhibits Nos. 1 and 2, which will hereafter be more fully explained, amounting to the sum of three thousand two hundred and ninety-four dollars, (\$3,294.) The petitioner states that he was the owner and possessed the property, as stated in his exhibits, at the station called Micanopy, afterwards called Fort Defiance ; that this village was in the month of June, 1836, taken and occupied by the United States troops, by order of Colonel Pierce. He alleges, in consequence of this occupation, the hostile Indians were invited there, which resulted in the destruction of his property. He alleges that on the 24th of August, 1836, his houses and household furniture, as set forth in exhibit No. 1, were destroyed by fire, and by order of Colonel Pierce, amounting to the sum of \$2,219, which exhibit marked No. 1 is made a part of this report. He also states that other property, consisting of a dwelling-house and out-houses, within the pickets of Fort Defiance, was destroyed by burning at the same time and place before mentioned, amounting in value to the sum of \$1,075, as will be more fully seen by exhibit No. 2, which is made a part of this report. He states that the houses set forth in this exhibit were destroyed immediately after the abandonment of Colonel Pierce, which was all destroyed by his order, as will hereafter more fully appear.

The committee are satisfied, from the proof filed, and from the respectability of the witnesses, that all the material allegations set forth by the petitioner have been substantiated.

The location and the value of the buildings destroyed, as set forth in exhibits Nos. 1 and 2, amounting in all (as set forth and proven) to the sum of \$3,294, are proven by John G. Tiner, S. Beckham, Benj. Harn, and Theo. Flotard, who certify as to the value of the property in exhibit No. 1, amounting to \$2,219 ; and their credibility is vouched for by the judge of the county court of St. John's county, East Florida ; and the testimony has been taken in due form and properly certified, as will be seen by reference to the exhibit No. 1. The value of the property in exhibit No. 2, is proven by John G. Tiner, S. Beckham, and B. Harn, whose credibility has been

Ritchie & Heiss, print.

2 feather beds	-	-	-	-	-	\$80
2 large mattresses	-	-	-	-	-	50
5 small mattresses	-	-	-	-	-	50
Pillows, blankets, sheets, and other bedding	-	-	-	-	-	150
2 high post bedsteads	-	-	-	-	-	50
1 small bedstead	-	-	-	-	-	20
1 mahogany table	-	-	-	-	-	25
12 chairs	-	-	-	-	-	14
1 arm chair	-	-	-	-	-	5
Lot kitchen furniture	-	-	-	-	-	75
Table furniture	-	-	-	-	-	50
Library	-	-	-	-	-	350
Lot of farming utensils, consisting of ploughs, hoes, axes, chains, ox yokes, &c., &c., &c.	-	-	-	-	-	250
Lot of carpenter's tools	-	-	-	-	-	125
						\$2,219

ST. AUGUSTINE, December 15, 1836.

We certify that the above account is, according to the best of our knowledge and belief, just and true.

JOHN G. TINER.
S. BECKHAM.
BENJAMIN HARN.
THEO. FLOTARD.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, county of St. John, Territory of Florida :

Personally came before me, George L. Phillips, a justice of the peace in and for said county, the persons who have subscribed and certified to the above account, and who, being duly sworn, make oath and say, that they were well acquainted with the various articles of property specified and set forth in the said account, to which they have affixed their names, and that the same are estimated and charged for at a reasonable and fair value.

Sworn to, before me, this 15th of December, 1836.

GEO. L. PHILLIPS,
Justice of the Peace.

TERRITORY OF FLORIDA, St. John's county :

I, Bernardo Seguí, clerk of the county court for the county aforesaid, do hereby certify that George L. Phillips, esq., is one of the justices of the peace for the county of St. John aforesaid, duly sworn and commissioned, and to his acts, as such, due faith and credit is to be given.

Witness my hand and seal of office at the city of St. Augustine, county [L. s.] and Territory aforesaid, this sixteenth day of December, A.D. 1836.

BERNARDO SEGUI,
Clerk C. C.

I certify that Bernardo Segui, esq., whose name and seal are affixed above, is, and was at the date on which the same were so affixed, clerk of the county of St. John, East Florida, duly commissioned, and that entire confidence and credit are due to his acts, as such.

I further certify that Theodore Flotard, one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing affidavit, is personally known to me as a gentleman of respectability and integrity, to whose statements full confidence and credit are due, and that Major S. Beckham, Mr. J. G. Tiner, and Mr. Benjamin Harn, though not personally known to me, have the reputation of being respectable and credible men.

Given under my hand at St. Augustine, county of St. John, December 24th, 1836.

E. B. GOULD,
Judge county court St. John's county.

No. 2.

The UNITED STATES,

To G. Humphreys, DR.

For the following property belonging to him, which was burnt at Fort Defiance, Florida, the 24th day of August, 1836, by order of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel B. K. Pierce, the officer commanding the United States troops at that post, viz :

1 dwelling-house	-	-	-	-	-	500 00
Kitchen	-	-	-	-	-	100 00
Corn-house	-	-	-	-	-	150 00
Store-house	-	-	-	-	-	150 00
Smoke-house	-	-	-	-	-	75 00
Stable	-	-	-	-	-	75 00
Bookcase	-	-	-	-	-	25 00
						\$1,075 00

This property occupied by the United States troops, and situated about three hundred yards east from the fort.

ST. AUGUSTINE, December 15, 1836.

The above account is, according to the best of our knowledge and belief, just and true.

JOHN G. TINER,
S. BECKHAM,
BENJAMIN HARN.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, }
County of St. John, Territory of Florida. }

Personally came before me, George L. Phillips, a justice of the peace in and for said county, the persons who have subscribed and certified to the above account, and who being sworn make oath and say that they were well acquainted with the various articles of property specified and set forth in the said account, to which they have affixed their names, and that the same are estimated and charged for at a reasonable and fair value.

Sworn to, before me, this 15th December, A. D. 1836.

GEO. L. PHILLIPS,
Justice of the Peace.

TERRITORY OF FLORIDA, *St. John's county* :

I, Bernardo Segui, clerk of the county court for the county aforesaid, do hereby certify that George L. Phillips, esq., is now one of the justices of the peace for the county of St. John aforesaid, duly sworn and commissioned, to whose acts as such due faith and credit is to be given.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the city of St. Augustine, territory and county aforesaid, this sixteenth day of December, A. D. 1836.

[L. s.]

BERNARDO SEGUI,

Clerk county court.

I certify that Bernardo Segui, esq., whose name and seal are affixed above, is, and was at the date on which the same were so affixed, clerk of the county of St. John, East Florida, duly commissioned, and that entire confidence and credit are due to his acts, as such. I further certify that the three subscribing witnesses to the foregoing affidavit, J. G. Tiner, Major S. Beckham, and Mr. Benjamin Harn, have the reputation of being respectable and creditable men.

Given under my hand, at St. Augustine, St. John's county, 24th December, 1836.

E. B. GOULD,

Judge county court St. John's county.

E.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, *January 6, 1837.*

I certify, that on or about the 24th of August, 1836, the post of Micanopy, East Florida, was abandoned, and, in pursuance of instructions, I caused the troops to be removed to Fort Heileman, at Garey's ferry, on Black creek. Horses, wagons, and all other means were employed to transport the sick and the public property from Micanopy to Fort Heileman. The transportation was, however, insufficient to transport the whole of the *public* property, and no means existed to enable me to remove the *private* property of individuals, who had been driven from the country. All the articles, both private and public, which I was compelled to leave for want of transportation, I ordered destroyed, to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. Among articles said to belong to citizens, I recollect eight or ten hogsheads of sugar. Some of the buildings were burnt, being on fire when we marched ; others, at a little distance, were subsequently all burnt by the Indians after our departure.

B. K. PIERCE,

Brevet Lieut. Colonel U. S. Army.