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### George Center

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H.R. Rep. No. 204, 29th Cong., 1st Sess. (1846)

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GEORGE CENTER.

[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 George Center, report :*

The petitioner, George Center, sets forth in his petition (and offers in evidence the statements of several witnesses, whose credibility is vouched for by the Hon. Mr. Levy, the certificates being in due form) that he resided at Micanopy, afterwards called Fort Defiance, and was the owner of sundry property, consisting of houses, cotton-gin, and goods, in all amounting in value to the sum of \$5,569 80, as will be more fully shown by reference to his account, marked A, and which is made a part of this report. The loss of the goods and their value have been proven by Benjamin Harn, James Lanier, Isaac Lanier, and F. L. Dancy, and whose credibility is sustained by Mr. Levy in a letter (marked B) dated December 18, 1845. They prove clearly that the property was situated at Fort Defiance, and that it was destroyed on the 24th August, 1836, on the evacuation of the fort by order of Colonel B. K. Pierce, who directed the fort to be fired, so as to destroy the provisions and munitions of war that could not be removed, to prevent them from falling into the hands of the hostile Indians.

From the foregoing facts and proof, the committee see no difference in the principle of this case and that of Gad Humphreys, whose claim has been favorably considered, and a bill reported for his relief. Congress, a few years since, granted the petitions of Colonel McIntosh and William Walden, by the payment of property lost under like circumstances, having been destroyed by order of an officer of the United States army.

The committee therefore report a bill for his relief, to be settled and adjudicated upon the same principle of that of Gad Humphreys.

A.

*The United States,*

*To George Center,*

DR.

To the value of the following property, burned and destroyed on the evacuation of the military post at Micanopy by the United States troops, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel B. K. Pierce, in the month of August, 1836, viz :

Ritchie & Heiss, print.

One cotton-house, with cotton-gin and gearing complete, said building being forty feet square and two stories high	-	-	\$1,850 00
1 store-house, with counters, shelves, and other necessary fixtures	-	-	300 00
1 ware and skin-house	-	-	150 00
1 servants' hall and kitchen	-	-	150 00
A quantity of dry goods, groceries, hardware and cutlery, consisting of white and colored homespuns, calicoes, blankets, woolens, silks, hats, boots and shoes, sugar, coffee, tea, tobacco, flour, &c. &c., hoes, axes, augers, hand and cross-cut saws, iron pots and kettles, knives and forks, pocket-knives, razors, scissors, &c. &c.	-	-	1,700 00
260 dressed deer skins, at 50 cts. each	-	-	130 00
7 otter skins, at \$4 each	-	-	28 00
35 cow hides, at \$2 each	-	-	70 00
1 store and counting-house desk	-	-	15 00
1 portable desk	-	-	10 00
1 shot-gun	-	-	18 00
1 do.	-	-	24 00
1 rifle gun	-	-	40 00
A library, consisting of Nicholson's Encyclopedia, Rollin's and Hume's Histories, and about one hundred volumes of miscellaneous works	-	-	150 00
1 high-post turned bedstead	-	-	25 00
1 feather bed	-	-	30 00
A quantity of bedding, pillows, coverlids, &c.	-	-	150 00
1 lot of household furniture, consisting of one mahogany table	-	-	25 00
5 other tables, at \$10 each	-	-	50 00
1 mahogany bureau	-	-	25 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ dozen Windsor chairs	-	-	9 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ do. cane-bottom do.	-	-	15 00
1 double mattress, hair	-	-	27 00
5 single moss do.	-	-	30 00
1 wash-stand	-	-	5 00
1 lot of table furniture, consisting of crockery, glassware, knives and forks, spoons, table-cloths, and napkins	-	-	175 00
1 lot of kitchen furniture, consisting of pots, kettles, corn and coffee-mill, &c. &c.	-	-	50 00
1 grind-stone, weighing 200 lbs. at 4 cents	-	-	8 00
1 lot carpenter's and farming tools	-	-	45 00
1 lot wearing apparel, consisting of coats, pants, vests, &c.	-	-	50 00
1 trunk, containing above	-	-	7 00
			<hr/> 5,361 00
1,100 Indian grass ropes, at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents	-	-	137 50
320 lbs. of bees-wax, at 23 cts. per lb.	-	-	71 30
			<hr/> <u>\$5,569 80</u>

I certify that the foregoing account is just and true.

GEO. CENTER.

MICANOPY, February 1, 1844.

## B.

Micanopy was a village occupied by some ten or twelve families at the commencement of the Indian hostilities. It was made the rendezvous of the surrounding inhabitants for retreat and security from the Indians, and defended at first by a volunteer company in the United States service under command of Captain Center. Upon the discharge of that company, it was garrisoned by United States troops. The Indians attacked the place once or twice, and battles were fought there. It being found that it would be impossible to maintain possession of that part of the frontier, the troops were ordered to be withdrawn from all the posts in that vicinity, viz: Fort Drane, Oakland, and Micanopy. Before retiring from Micanopy, Colonel Pierce, finding it impossible to remove the property, ordered the buildings to be fired and destroyed with their contents, to prevent their use to the enemy. The buildings and property of Mr. George Center were at that time destroyed with the rest. I had resided for several years in the same neighborhood, (viz: about two miles from Micanopy,) and having been at Mr. Center's house, both before and after the commencement of the Indian hostilities, am enabled to say that there can be no doubt of the full reliability of the statements accompanying his claim. I also know the witnesses who testify, viz: Benjamin Harn, James Lanier, Isaac Lanier, and Colonel F. L. Dancy, and consider their testimony to be entitled to full and complete confidence. Mr. Center's possessions were within the lines of the garrison.

D. LEVY.

WASHINGTON, *December 18, 1845.*