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William Mathis

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WILLIAM MATHIS.

FEBRUARY 17, 1846.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom were referred the papers of William Mathis, in relation to his accounts for blacksmith's work for the Cherokee Indians, report:

That the widow of said Mathis presents a claim against the United States for work done by her husband in his lifetime for the Cherokee Indians, for six years ending in 1831.

Several depositions are produced to sustain this claim, and a permit of the national treasurer of the Cherokee nation, in pursuance of a law of that nation, to Bear's Paw and others, to employ William Mathis for one year, bearing date June 16, 1830; but it is not shown, nor are the committee advised, how the United States are responsible for the payment of this claim under, and by virtue of, such permit. If the work alleged to have been done by Mathis was done in pursuance of any treaty between the United States and the Cherokees, it is quite probable that compensation has already been made in the usual way; and if not, the United States certainly are not justly chargeable.

The proofs are imperfect, vague, and informal, and confusedly made up from recollection, (the original accounts of Mathis having been lost,) after the lapse of ten or fifteen years. They are quite inadequate to sustain a stale claim. The committee ask to be discharged.

Ritche & Heiss, print.