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Bennet M. Dell. (To accompany bill H.R. no. 322).

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BENNET M. DELL.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 322.]

MARCH 27, 1846.

Mr. B. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Bennet M. Dell, report :

That it appears, by the testimony of Colonel Sanchez and Lieutenant Colonel Rawls, that the county of Alachua, Florida, contracted with the claimant to erect a jail, for which he was to receive seven hundred and fifty dollars ; that he finished said jail, but before it was delivered to the county, it was, by order of Colonel Sanchez, at the commencement of the Indian war, taken possession of by him for a block-house, and occupied as such, for the defence of the post ; that it was rendered unserviceable for its original use as a jail, by its having been cut down and the roof taken off and lowered ; that from its position it was important to use it, and to build the picketing and other defences around it, and that it was afterwards used as a magazine. From 1835 to 1841 it was used either as a block house or magazine. When, in 1841, the militia was mustered out of service, the building was abandoned, and being in a decayed state, and not fit for use, it was pulled down.

At the time of the seizure of the building by order of Colonel Sanchez, he was in the service of the United States, in command of a regiment, and it was then valued at seven hundred and fifty dollars, which sum Adjutant Gilliland, by the order of Colonel Sanchez, agreed to allow to the memorialist ; and Colonel Sanchez and Lieutenant Colonel Rawls further testify that they have good reasons for believing that the memorialist has never received any compensation for the same. Believing that the claim of the memorialist is a just one, the committee report the accompanying bill for his relief.

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