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George W. Farmer

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Report No. 9.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

GEORGE W. FARMER.

DECEMBER 28, 1848.

Laid upon the table.

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of George W. Farmer, report:

That they have carefully examined the claim of the petitioner, and find that it is not sustained by that proof which justifies the payment of money to individuals from the treasury of the United States. The committee therefore recommend the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

No. 1.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

Your petitioner, a citizen of Benton county, (formerly a part of Humphreys county,) in the State of Tennessee,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That, in the year 1816, your petitioner was employed by Thomas Johnson and Michael Dickson, commissioners appointed by the Congress of the United States, to view and mark out a road from Reynoldsburgh, in Humphreys county, Tennessee, to the Natchez road, near the Chickasaw Old-town.

Your petitioner would represent to your honorable body that he

faithfully performed his undertaking to the said commissioners; that he was in their service, and performed hard labor as an axeman, in opening a bridle-way and marking said road, for the space of twenty-one days, through a savage wilderness; as a compensation for which services, the said commissioners promised to pay your petitioner what the general government would allow for that purpose; and to that effect gave your petitioner a certificate of his services, which I herewith transmit. Shortly after the time your petitioner performed these services, Michael Dickson, one of the commissioners, who then resided in Reynoldsburgh, removed to the State of Alabama, and Thomas Johnson, the other commissioner, who then resided in Robertson county, Tennessee, departed this life; and your petitioner supposes there was never any application made to your honorable body to compensate him for his services.

Your petitioner would now humbly ask your honorable body to take his claim into consideration. Although it is small, and many years have elapsed since he performed the services for the government, yet your petitioner, knowing the honesty and justness of his claim, and the faithfulness of the general government to remunerate her citizens for services by them performed for her, causes him, although in humble life, to ask your honorable body for what your honors, in your wisdom, may in equity and justice think he is at your hands entitled to receive. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

GEORGE W. FARMER.

DECEMBER 3, 1838.

We certify that George W. Farmer served twenty-one days as an axeman in marking and opening a bridle-way, (or the new road,) leading from Reynoldsburgh, Tennessee, to the Natchez road, near the Chickasaw Old-town, distance 129 miles. Given under our hands, this 15th day of May, 1816.

THOS. JOHNSON,
MICHAEL DICKSON,
Commissioners.

JANUARY 26, 1839.

No. 2.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 31, 1839.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the reports of the Third Auditor, dated the 26th instant; and of the Second Auditor, of the 30th instant, in answer to your letter of the 21st instant, relative to the claim of George W. Farmer, for marking out a road, &c.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

HON. RICHARD CHEATHAM,
House of Representatives

No. 3.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Third Auditor's Office, January 26, 1839.

SIR: The letter of the Hon. R. Cheatham, with the petition of George W. Farmer, who claims payment for services rendered under Thomas Johnson and Michael Dickson, commissioners appointed, as he states, to mark out a road from Reynoldsburgh to the road near the Chickasaw Old-town, in 1816, referred by you to this office for a report, I have the honor to return, and to state that the records of this office are not found to furnish evidence of payment to the petitioner. The services are stated to have been performed in the year 1816; payment, therefore, may have been made through the office of the late accountant of the War Department or Second Auditor. For the opening of the road referred to, an appropriation of \$4,000 was made in March, 1817; and that sum was paid to D. P. Hudson, contractor, for completing the work.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
 PETER HAGNER, *Auditor.*

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

No. 4.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Auditor's Office, January 30, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to state, in reply to the letter of the Hon. Richard Cheatham, of the 21st instant, which you referred to me, that George W. Farmer, whose petition accompanied the letter, does not appear to have received, through this office or that of the late accountant of the War Department, any compensation for services which he rendered in 1816. Payments for personal services alone were made, by authority of the Secretary of War, to Thomas Johnson and Michael Dickson, the commissioners under whom Farmer served; but there is no evidence on record here of the claim ever having before been presented.

I return the several papers; and am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

W. B. LEWIS.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

November 15, 1839.

DEAR SIR: At your request, I (below) give a full statement of what I now recollect about your services and payment therefor, of viewing, surveying, and marking a road from Reynoldsburgh, Tennessee, to or near the Chickasaw old town, under General Thomas Johnson and Michael Dickson, esquire, commissioners, appointed by the Congress of the United States, in the year 1816.

Some time in the year 1817, I took the contract for opening the road, above mentioned, for the sum of \$4,000, in which contract, J. B. Reynolds, esquire, then member of Congress, acted as agent on part of the United States. I was bound to open the road in a certain manner in said contract specified, and therefor was to receive said sum of \$4,000. After it was understood that I had taken the contract for opening the road, I was frequently asked if I was to pay certain persons (of whom you are one) who were employed by the commissioners to measure and mark, &c., to which I always answered I was not. Squire Dickson, then a resident of Reynoldsburgh, very frequently spoke to me about your services, with that of the surveyor and chain carriers, and General Johnson once or twice. They were of opinion that the \$4,000 was intended to defray the expenses of surveying, measuring, and marking the road; but, as I was not bound in the contract to pay any of these expenses, I did not feel it my duty to do so. I can assert that I never did pay you any consideration for your services in marking out said road; nor I do not believe you ever received any compensation for those services, unless the general government paid you. I expect my bond and contract for opening said road is filed in some of the departments of the general government at Washington, which will show I was not bound to pay you or any other person for the services previous to opening the road. I have seen the certificate in your possession over the signatures of Thomas Johnson and Michael Dickson, commissioners, and believe it to be their genuine signatures.

I am, with much respect, yours, &c.,

D. P. HUDSON.

GEORGE W. FARMER, Esq.