

6-24-1850

Report : Memorial of S. Coody.

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Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 158, 31st Cong., 1st Sess. (1850)

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 24, 1850.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEBASTIAN made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Susan Coody and others, praying indemnity for losses incurred by them in consequence of depredations committed by United States troops, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:

That Susan Coody and Richard Field were living near to Fort Gibson, on the military reserve, and on the 12th of March, 1845, their houses were respectively burnt and destroyed by an armed band of soldiers, who, for this crime, were afterwards tried and convicted before the United States district court for Arkansas. The destruction of the houses was attended also by the loss by the fire of the contents, consisting of furniture, (household and kitchen,) clothing, &c., of which an enumeration, or inventory, accompanies the papers on file, with the value annexed, which are considered by the committee reasonable and fair, and sustained by the proof. This was all taken before the agent of the United States for the Cherokees in an investigation had immediately after the occurrence, and was full upon the main fact of the loss by act of the soldiers, and the extent of it. The proof does not implicate either one of the persons asking remuneration in any of the causes which led to the disturbance; on the contrary, it very clearly exempts Mrs. Susan Coody from any such connexion. The agent fully endorses the justice of the different claims and recommends their payment, except that of Richard Fields, in whose house happened the "Nicholson affair," which led the soldiers to such brutal revenge upon defenceless and inoffensive women; these were beaten and some of them badly wounded, besides the injury received from the destruction of property. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, upon the presentation of the claim and proof accompanying, only declined the payment for want of an appropriation. The claims of those who made their claim and supported the same by proof at the time before the agent, the payment of which he recommended, may be thus stated:

For value of houses, furniture, lumber, and clothing of Susan Coody and servants Sally and Martin	-	-	-	\$1,348	50
Damages resulting from total abandonment of property on account of insecurity	-	-	-	500	00
Mary Woodward	-	-	-	13	25
Polly Spaniard	-	-	-	230	00

Polly Woods	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$31 00
Abraham (man of color)	-	-	-	-	-	-	48 37
Molly (Creek girl)	-	-	-	-	-	-	96 50
Polly Smith	-	-	-	-	-	-	54 50
Nancy Spaniard	-	-	-	-	-	-	170 50

2,492 62

Less the amount of damages alleged to have been sustained by the total abandonment of property - - - 500 60

1,992 62

For which the committee recommend an appropriation.

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Mrs. Susan Cooch and Richard Field, praying indemnity for loss incurred by the destruction of their property, submitted by United States troops, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:

The Susan Cooch and Richard Field were living near Fort Gibson, on the military reserve, and on the 12th of March, 1845, their house was completely burnt and destroyed by an angry band of soldiers. At the same time, were afterwards used and converted into the United States district court for Arkansas. The destruction of the house was caused by the loss by the fire of the contents, consisting of land, household and kitchen, clothing, &c., of which an enumeration is not made by the committee. The papers on file, with the value assigned, are contained by the committee respectively and list, and standing by the fact. This was all taken before the grant of the United States land in an investigation had immediately after the house was burnt upon the report of the loss by one of the soldiers, and the report of it. The report does not indicate either one of the parties being mentioned in any of the papers which led to the destruction of the country. A very clearly explains Mrs. Susan Cooch's name and connection. The agent this address the justice of the Indian Affairs and recommends their payment, except that of Richard Field, in whose house happened the "Nicholson affair," which led to the address of the Indian Affairs upon the destruction and destruction of the house and ruin of their badly wounded, besides the injury to the destruction of property. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, upon the presentation of the claim and proof accompanying, only advised the payment for want of an appropriation. The claim of the house was made and supported the same by word in the line below, to which the payment of which he recommended, may be thus stated:

Value of house, furniture, clothes, and clothing of Susan Cooch and Richard Field	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,992 62
Amount remaining from total abandonment of property on account of necessity	-	-	-	-	-	-	500 60
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,492 02