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Heirs of Black Beaver

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HEIRS OF BLACK BEAVER.

APRIL 1, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ROWELL, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 269.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 269) for the relief of the heirs of Black Beaver, submit the following report:

The facts out of which this claim for relief arises will be found stated in House Report No. 18, third session, Forty-second Congress, from the Committee on Military Affairs, a copy of which is hereto appended.

Your committee adopt the said report as their own, and report back the bill and recommend its passage.

[House Report No. 18, Forty-second Congress, third session.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom were referred the petition and papers relating to the claim of Black Beaver, having had the same under consideration, respectfully submit the following report:

Claimant, a Delaware Indian, was a captain in the United States Army in the Mexican war; since which time, until the rebellion, he resided in the Indian Territory, near Fort Arbuckle, and has frequently been employed by the different commanding officers at Forts Cobb and Arbuckle, to act as guide and interpreter. In 1861 his means were invested in a farm, well stocked, where he then resided.

General Emory, then in command of the United States troops in that section of country, learning that the rebels were marching directly upon him, urged claimant to act as guide, to enable him, with the combined commands of Forts Smith, Cobb, and Arbuckle, to elude the enemy, and, by seeking the open prairies, to reach Leavenworth, Kans. He (Emory) states that, "of all the Indians upon whom the Government had lavished its bounty, Black Beaver was the only one that would consent to guide the column." To do so he abandoned his property, which appears to have been seized and destroyed by the enemy.

The command reached Leavenworth in safety, and several officers certify to the great value of his services and his unflinching patriotism. He states that he is now over sixty years of age, too feeble to earn a livelihood, and what is justly due him from the Government is all he has to depend on in his old days.

He furnishes the following statement of property, and value of same, lost because of such service, in which sum he now desires to be reimbursed.

The United States, to Black Beaver, Dr.

For property lost on the False Washita River, near Forts Arbuckle and Cobb, in the Indian Territory, west of Arkansas, by being abandoned in the spring of 1861, for the purpose of guiding the troops under the command of Major Emory and Captain Sackett, United States Army, from their camps on the False Washita River,

Indian Territory, to Fort Leavenworth, Kans., under a promise made by Major Emory, in the presence of Captain Sackett and Lieutenant Stanley, that the property would be paid for by the Government of the United States, to wit:

250 head cows and calves, at \$12.....	\$3,000
200 head steers and heifers, from one to three years old, at \$10.....	2,000
150 head steers, from four to nine years old, at \$20	3,000
3 mares, at \$60.....	180
1 stallion	150
1 mule.....	100
300 head hogs, from one to seven years old, at \$3	900
1 ambulance	100
1 two-horse wagon.....	150
1 set ambulance harness.....	35
1 large steel prairie plow.....	50
4 one-horse plows, at \$12.....	48
4 sets plow-gears, at \$5.....	20
1 clock	15
2 pairs bedsteads, at \$10.....	20
1 leather trunk.....	15
1 fine broadcloth coat	20
2 pairs fine broadcloth leggings, fancy trimmed, at \$15	30
2 fine bead shot-bags, at \$25.....	50
1 cooking-stove, with vessels complete.....	35
1 large wash-kettle.....	15
1 sack coffee, 165 pounds, at 20 cents.....	33
1 barrel sugar, 260 pounds, at 15 cents.....	39
1 chest carpenter tools.....	60
1 whip-saw	12
1 walnut round table	5
12 chairs, at 50 cents.....	6
1 house, hewed logs, four rooms, entry between; porch length of the whole.....	500
Rails, and improvement of ninety acres of land.....	400
4,500 bushels corn, at \$2.50 per bushel (†)	11,250
	22,268

Several items of this account, and especially the last item, condemns the schedule in the opinion of the committee, as a basis of claim. But from the statement of officers and the estimate of claimant's losses at \$5,000 by General Emory, together with his subsequent statement that such sum would be far within the limits of what is due him, the committee submit the accompanying bill and recommend its passage.