

University of Oklahoma College of Law

## University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

---

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

---

2-5-1884

**John M. Dorsey and William F. Shepard**

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 219, 48th Cong., 1st Sess. (1884)

This House Report is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu](mailto:Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu).

JOHN M. DORSEY AND WILLIAM F. SHEPARD.

FEBRUARY 5, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LORE, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 948.]

*The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 948) entitled "A bill for the relief of John M. Dorsey and William F. Shepard," have considered the same, and submit the following report:*

This bill has been five times favorably reported in the Senate, and passed the Senate three times. It has also been three times favorably reported in the House of Representatives. No adverse report has ever been made upon it.

The bill directs the payment to John M. Dorsey of \$9,021.33, and to William F. Shepard, \$3,746.66, in full settlement for beef and supplies furnished the troops by Wallace, Dorsey, and Shepard in quelling the Indian disturbances in the Territory of Utah, now the State of Nevada, in the year 1860.

In the spring of 1860 the Pi-Ute Indians murdered several citizens in Carson Valley, and had assembled a large hostile force, threatening the various towns in that vicinity. An irregular force of the best citizens of Virginia and Carson cities was organized and proceeded against the Indians, but they were ambushed and defeated, and about sixty of their number, including Major Dunsby, their commander, and many other prominent citizens, were killed, and the others dispersed. Great alarm followed among the citizens of these and neighboring towns from attack by the hostile Indians, who had assembled in large force. The citizens were without arms or supplies. There were no troops, arms, or Government stores or supplies nearer than Salt Lake, five or six hundred miles distant. Under the circumstances the governor of California and the United States officer in command of the Department of the Pacific sent forward to Virginia City arms and ammunition in charge of proper officers, together with one company of infantry. Several hundred volunteers were organized, armed, and equipped, and placed under the command of Col. John C. Hayes, who, in conjunction with the company of United States troops, marched against the Indians, and after some severe fighting, defeated them and conquered a peace.

Upon the organization of these forces, they were without stores or supplies, and were unable to move without them. Colonel Hayes and the commissary of his command made contracts with Jordan & McPike to furnish beef, and with Dorsey and Shepard and S. B. Wallace to furnish and transport for the command flour, sugar, coffee, and other stores. Three vouchers were issued by the commissary of the expedi-

tion: one to S. B. Wallace for \$1,528; one to Dorsey, Wallace, and Shepard for \$5,050; and the third to the same parties for \$6,190. Wallace assigned all his interests to Dorsey in 1861 and died in 1862; and there is due said Dorsey the sum of \$9,021.33, and to said Shepard \$3,746.66. It is claimed that the prices charged were the lowest cash prices at the time and places, and the goods were furnished in good faith. The United States received the benefit of these supplies, and the Government was probably saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by the prompt and patriotic action of these claimants.

The facts are all clearly proven by the evidence of Colonel Hayes and others.

On June 17, 1874, an act was approved directing the Secretary of the Treasury to pay John M. McPike the sum of \$19,473.50 for the beef and supplies furnished the troops by Jordan & McPike, and this bill is for the payment of Dorsey and Shepard for the flour, coffee, bacon, and other supplies furnished by them to the same troops and at the same times as those furnished by Jordan & McPike. The claims of Dorsey and Shepard appear to be just and proper, and ought, in justice, to have been paid years ago.

The committee recommend the passage of the bill.

