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### Estate of Ramsay Crooks.

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H.R. Rep. No. 1702, 51st Cong., 1st Sess. (1890)

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## ESTATE OF RAMSAY CROOKS.

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APRIL 25, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. HALL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 1599.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1599) for the relief of the estate of Ramsay Crooks, submit the following report:

The American Fur Company, the predecessor of the original claimant in this case, was from the year 1817 a duly licensed and authorized trading corporation, doing business with the Chippewa and other Indian tribes of the Northwest, furnishing them with a large amount of necessary supplies.

In the year 1842 the company assigned to Mr. Ramsay Crooks, its president, and from 1842 to 1848 the trade was continued by him for his own benefit, but in the name of the American Fur Company, all over the Chippewa country, the same as for the previous twenty-five years, he furnishing personally all the capital used in said trade.

Under the treaty of October 4, 1842, concluded at La Pointe by Robert Stuart, esq., all the claims which had accumulated against the Lake Superior and Mississippi bands of these Indians from 1817 to 1841, inclusive, were satisfied and paid. The "Leech Lake Indians," usually called the "Pillagers," were also indebted, but their claims were not paid, because they were not included in that or any other treaty.

In the year 1848, when Mr. Crooks discontinued the trade, the Chippewas were indebted to him as follows, for supplies furnished from 1842 to 1848, viz:

The Lake Superior and Mississippi bands, \$9,926.46, which sum was divided between the two sections of the nation in conformity to their proportionate interests in their general concerns, that is, the Lake Superior band should pay two-thirds of the whole amount, or \$6,617.64, and the Mississippi band one-third of the whole amount, or \$3,308.82.

In addition to the above amounts due there also remained due from the "Pillagers" the sum of \$6,410.80, which, as previously stated, was not paid for the reason that they did not come within the provisions of the treaty of 1842.

The then claims as above stated, amounting to the total sum of \$16,337.26, were in the year 1855 presented to the Indian Department under the treaty of 1854, approved January 29, 1855, whereupon the sum of \$6,617.64, the amount due by the Lake Superior bands was paid, viz, August 18, 1856; but the claim against the Mississippi band could not be settled for the reason they received no fund through the treaty

out of which the same could be liquidated, having bartered their share of the money for a relinquishment by the Lake Superior band of their interest in the lands owned in common, lying west of the boundary line, cited in article 1 of the treaty.

After the presentation of the claim as above Mr. Crooks was prevented by ill-health from giving attention to business, went to the West Indies, and finally died in the year 1859.

Your committee find that Mr. Crooks was diligent in presenting his claim to the Indian Department. In the year 1855 he submitted the following sworn statement of account, viz:

*The Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi to Ramsay Crooks, Dr.*

For the balance due and remaining unpaid for the merchandise furnished them in the course of the trade carried on with them by my agents at the different trading posts throughout their country during the six years from 1842 to 1848 when I discontinued the trade, which then passed into the hands of Charles W. Borup and Charles H. Oakes, say \$551.47 per annum, and for six years, amounting in all, to \$3,308.82.

This charge is not based upon the actual loss sustained in the trade, which may be fairly estimated at fully 10 per cent. per annum on the capital employed in the trade, but upon that allowed by Robert Stuart, esq., United States Commissioner under the treaty concluded at La Pointe on October 4, 1842, by which the sum appropriated was only equal to about 5½ per cent. of the traders' claims against that portion of the Chippewas who were parties to the said treaty.

The Chippewas of the Mississippi are estimated at one-third of the whole number of Indians embraced in the said La Pointe treaty, and as the allowance made by Mr. Stuart for the traders' claims was equal to \$1,654.41 per annum, consequently one-third of that sum is equal to \$551.47 annually.

Mr. Stuart had all the traders in his presence, and examined himself all the credit books and evidences of their claims, and made the pro rata allowance upon the amounts he recognized as being just and true.

The trade during the six years from 1842 to 1848 was continued all over the Chippewa country the same as for the previous twenty-five years, upon which Mr. Stuart predicated the allowance he made, and as Charles W. Borup was my agent and had the sole management and control of the trade, I must refer to him and the traders he employed for proof of the justness of my claim for the losses I sustained during the said six years.

New York, 21st July, 1855.

RAM'Y CROOKS.

STATE OF NEW YORK,

*City and County of New York:*

Personally appeared before me, Daniel Servas, a commissioner resident in the city of New York, duly commissioned and qualified by the Governor of Minnesota, Ramsey Crooks, known to me, who being by me duly sworn saith that the foregoing account is true and correct account of \$3,308.82 due him from the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi.

RAM'Y CROOKS.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 21st day of July, 1855.

Witness my hand and seal.

[SEAL.]

DAN'L SERVAS,  
Commissioner for Minnesota in New York.

*The Chippewa Indians of the Pillager and Lake Winnibigoshish Bands to Ramsay Crooks, Dr.*

For the balance due and remaining unpaid for the merchandise furnished them in the course of the trade carried on with them by the agents of the American Fur Company, from the year 1817 to 1841 inclusive, when myself and associates assumed the business, and carried it on with these Indians to the same extent as for the preceding twenty-five years. Say \$206.80 per annum, for twenty-five years, amounting in all to \$5,170, and from the year 1842 to 1848, when the trade passed from mine to the hands of Charles W. Borup and Charles H. Oakes, six years at \$206.80, \$1,240.80, making together \$6,410.80,

All the other Chippewa Indians but those from whom I claim the present amount were represented in the treaty of La Pointe of 4th October, 1842, and consequently, as they did not participate in that treaty, the claim against them remained unsatisfied, and the recent treaty made at Washington is the first they have concluded with the United States.

The claim I now make is based upon the division Mr. Stuart made of the amount set apart in the La Pointe treaty for the payment of the traders' claims, which is only about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the amount of the goods employed in the trade, whereas the actual annual losses may be fairly estimated at 10 per cent., and I have called the above bands equal to one-eighth of the whole number of Chippewas embraced in the said La Pointe treaty.

The whole allowance Mr. Stuart made under the La Pointe treaty for the claims against the Mississippi and Lake Superior Chippewas was equal to \$1,654.41 per annum, consequently one-eighth of that sum is equal to \$206.80 annually.

For proof of these losses I call upon Charles W. Borup and Charles H. Oakes, and the other traders, who were engaged in the business.

New York, 21st July, 1855.

RAM'Y CROOKS.

STATE OF NEW YORK,  
*City and County of New York:*

Personally appeared before me, Dan Servas, a commissioner resident in the city of New York, duly commissioned and qualified by the governor of Minnesota, Ramsey Crooks, known to me, who, being by me duly sworn, saith that the foregoing account of \$6,410.80 is a just and correct indebtedness due him from the Chippewa Indians of the Pillager and Lake Winnibigoshish bands.

RAM'Y CROOKS.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 21st day of July, 1855.

Witness my hand and seal,

[SEAL.]

DAN'L SERVAS,  
*Commissioner for Minnesota in New York.*

The representatives of the estate of Mr. Crooks still diligently pursuing their demand come to Congress for relief.

An act was passed during the Fiftieth Congress for the relief and civilization of the Chippewa Indians in the State of Minnesota, which has been assented to by the Indians, in which the Indians named in this bill participate.

We see no reason why they should not pay their just debts, especially as they will have ample funds. Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill with the amendment, however, that the Secretary of the Treasury (instead of the Secretary of the Interior) be directed to pay the amount stated in the bill out of any money he now has, or may hereafter have, to the credit of said Indians named in the bill.