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Governor Blount's claim.

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H.R. Rep. No. 362, 21st Cong., 1st Sess. (1830)

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GOVERNOR BLOUNT'S CLAIM.

APRIL 14, 1830.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, from the select committee to which was referred the case of Willie Blount, made the following

REPORT:

The select committee to which was referred the memorial of Willie Blount, late Governor of the State of Tennessee, praying for compensation to be allowed for services rendered by him to the United States, in obtaining funds for the use of the armies of the United States during the late war, and disbursing them under the directions of the War Department, and for liabilities incurred in the performance of these services, have had the same, and the accompanying documents, under consideration, and respectfully report:

That the memorialist claims the following sums of money:		
Two per cent. commission on the amount of bills drawn by him on the War Department, and otherwise raising money for the use of the army, and paying the same over, amounting in all to the sum of \$372,320 71	- -	\$7,446 41½
Two per cent. commission on the same sum for liability incurred in raising said money without the direction of the War Department, except \$10,000	- -	7,446 41½
One and one half per cent. commission for his trouble in endorsing the amount of Treasury notes forwarded to him from the War Department, for his receiving and safe keeping the same, for his being held responsible for one portion thereof, and for disbursing the same, being the sum of \$250,000	- - - -	3,773 13
		<u>\$18,665 95</u>

From the best examination the committee have been enabled to give the documents submitted to their consideration, it appears that the accompanying document (marked A) exhibits a true account of moneys which were raised and disbursed by the memorialist for the use of the United States, and with which he stands charged by the United States, amounting in all to the sum of \$509,707 14; and, also, a statement of the credits to which he is entitled, amounting to the sum of \$504,630 36, leaving a balance due the United States of \$2,675 78. Soon after the commencement of the late war with Great Britain, the attention of the Government was directed to the defence of the lower country, Louisiana and West Florida, and that a requi-

sition was made of the memorialist, as Governor of the State of Tennessee, by the Secretary of War, for fifteen hundred of the militia of Tennessee, by letter, bearing date the 21st of October, 1812, by which he was requested "to call out, organize, and equip," that number of men for that purpose; and, "for the necessary expenditures," he was authorized "to draw bills on this [the War] Department;" and, on the 31st of October, 1812, a blank commission for Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General was forwarded to Governor Blount, with a request for him to fill it with the name of some person properly qualified to discharge the duties of that appointment, and he was authorized to draw on the War Department for the sum of ten thousand dollars for the use of the Assistant Deputy Quartermaster's Department, it being "impracticable" to transmit funds to the State of Tennessee. For the fulfilment of this requisition a call was made by Governor Blount for volunteers from the militia of Tennessee; and, at the time and place designated for rendezvous, about two thousand volunteers appeared, and were received by Governor Blount into the service of the United States, and the War Department immediately notified of the excess. The conduct of the Governor was entirely approved of by the War Department in receiving that number of men, and the whole of them recognized as troops of the United States, and afterwards paid as such; and, in addition to the above duties requested of Governor Blount, to wit: that of calling out, arming, and equipping the troops, and raising funds for that purpose, as well as supplying them, the Secretary of War, in his letter of October 21, 1812, says to him: "In consequence of the very great and extensive calls for tents and other camp equipage, and the time required for transportation, the Government rely on the exertions of your Excellency, and the patriotism of the citizens of the State of Tennessee, for a great part of these supplies. One thousand stand of arms will be ordered from Harper's Ferry, and down the Ohio, with ammunition and such other stores as can be seasonably procured, which, together with a thousand stand of arms ordered to be delivered to your Excellency from the stores at Newport, in May last, will, it is presumed, enable you to arm and equip the detachment for immediate service. Should volunteers offer under the acts of February 6th and July 6th, 1812, your Excellency is authorized to organize and equip for the whole or such part of the service as you may deem expedient. Seventy blank commissions are transmitted, to be filled up by your Excellency as the officers are selected."

In the succeeding year, the Government had other difficulties to encounter with the Creek Indians; and the Secretary of War, by letter, bearing date the 13th of July, 1813, made a second requisition on the memorialist, as the Governor of the State of Tennessee, for fifteen hundred of the militia of Tennessee, to act in concert with the militia of Georgia, against the Creek Indians, without any means being placed in his hands for their supply and equipment, by the Government of the United States. The Legislature of the State of Tennessee, apprehending that the number of men under the requisition of the General Government, was not sufficient to ensure the safety of the settlers in Northern Alabama, and the citizens on the Southern border of Tennessee, by an act bearing date the 14th of September, 1813, directed an equipment of three thousand five hundred men, in addition to the fifteen hundred before ordered by the General Government; and authorized the memorialist to supply said troops with provision, "at the expense of the State, until the General Government makes provision for said troops;" and

also undertook the payment of the troops, "in the event the General Government refuse to pay;" and also authorized the memorialist to borrow three hundred thousand dollars, and to pledge the State of Tennessee for the payment thereof, upon the condition specified in said act. Orders were immediately issued by the memorialist, for the equipment of five thousand men, and notice given to the War Department of the proceedings of the Legislature of Tennessee, which were sanctioned by the War Department, and the whole number of men received into the service of the United States, on the — day of October, 1813, and before the actual organization and march of the troops, under the orders of the Governor of Tennessee. For the supply of these two expeditions, the memorialist raised the sum of \$357,306 14, without any other authority, it is believed, than the letter of the Secretary of War, in October, 1812. It appears from the certificate of W. G. Blount, the Secretary of the State of Tennessee, that none of this sum was raised by virtue of the aforesaid act of the State of Tennessee, which accompanies this report, marked B. The committee have no means of ascertaining the precise sum that was raised by the memorialist, for either of the expeditions disconnected with the other.

The aforesaid sum of \$357,306 14, was raised by the memorialist drawing bills on the War Department, and disposing of them to the best advantage, and in some instances, executing his notes, payable in the banks of Tennessee, and procuring responsible endorsers on both drafts and notes; and it is believed that in every instance, they were disposed of by him at par; and though the Committee are satisfied that the purchasers of the bills and notes received them, relying more upon the prospect of the General Government paying them, than upon the ability of Governor Blount or his endorsers to pay them, they still think that the memorialist and his endorsers run great risk in procuring funds to such an amount, upon no other authority, than abovementioned; and still greater hazard, in the proper application of the money to the uses of the General Government; and that the memorialist had much trouble and difficulty in procuring funds to that amount, as well as the procurement of responsible endorsers. The committee refer the House to the accompanying statement of W. G. Blount, the Secretary of State at that time, in Tennessee; and also, of Major W. B. Lewis, the Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General at Nashville.

In the discharge of these varied duties, at the request of the Secretary of War, and which were not a part of the duties of his official station as the Governor of the State of Tennessee, the committee are of opinion that the memorialist had much difficulty and labor to encounter, as well as responsibility and hazard; and that a liberal compensation should be made to him for the application of so much of his time and talents, and attention to the affairs of the General Government, and which contributed so eminently to the common cause in that section of the country. The committee are therefore of opinion that the memorialist be allowed two and one half per centum on the aforesaid sum of money.

On the 29th of September, 1814, \$100,000, in Treasury notes, were remitted by the Secretary of War to Gov. Blount, for defraying the expenses of the army then organizing for the campaign in the State of Louisiana. By a letter from Gov. Blount to the Secretary of War, bearing date the 18th of October following, he declined receiving them, and to be accountable for them, probably in consequence of the difficulties he had encountered in consequence of the delay of payment of some of the bills drawn by him, and the actual protest of others, and he deposited the sum in Bank at Nash-

ville. They were then ordered to be delivered over to the Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General at Nashville, and having been made payable to Gov. Blount, they were endorsed by him and delivered over according to the order. Notwithstanding the refusal of Gov. Blount to be further concerned in the financial operations of the War Department, on the 30th of January, 1815, another remittance, in Treasury notes, was made to him for \$150,000, and the same charged to him on the books of the Department, and which were likewise endorsed by him, and paid over to Gen. Jackson, according to the directions of the War Department; and for these services Gov. Blount charges one and one-half per cent.; and the committee are of opinion that, in addition to the above allowance, one-half per cent. on the said sum of \$250,000, will be a reasonable compensation.

The committee beg leave to remark, that it is abundantly proven by the documents before them, that the conduct of Gov. Blount throughout the difficult and embarrassing period of our history, was marked with an ardent zeal for the public welfare, regardless of personal responsibility, and with a promptitude, energy, and unwearied industry and punctuality, that secured to him the approbation of the President of the United States, and the commanding General, and for which he is entitled to the gratitude of the country. With this view of the case, the committee beg leave to annex hereto a statement of the account of the memorialist, and to report a bill for his relief. All of which is respectfully submitted.

BLOUNT'S ACCOUNT.

Whole amount of money raised and paid over, excluding the Treasury notes, amounting to \$357,306 14 at 2½ per cent.	\$8,932 65
Amount of Treasury notes received and disposed of, as stated in report, \$250,000, at ½ per cent.	1,250 00
	<hr/> 10,182 65
Deduct amount not paid over, - - - - -	- 2,675 78
	<hr/> <hr/> 87,506 87

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Third Auditor's Office, April 7th, 1830.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing a printed document, and requesting that I would "inform the select committee, to which was referred the claim of Governor Blount, whether the printed document is a copy of Governor Blount's account with the War Department." In reply, I have the honor to state, that the debits and credits contained in said document, leaving a balance due to the United States of \$2,675 78, is a copy of Governor Blount's account, as it now stands on the books of this office. The paper is returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER HAGNER, *Auditor.*

Hon. C. JOHNSON, *House of Representatives.*

A.
STATEMENT of the account of Willie Blount with the United States.

DR.

1812								
December	19	To	warrant No. 1557, issued by the Secretary of War, in payment of his bill, in favor of G. W. Campbell, 30th Nov. 1812	-	-	-	-	\$ 7,500 00
1813								
January	21	To	do No. 104, for his bill to Jno. McKim, jun. dated 1st January, 1813	-	-	-	-	3,000 00
February	4	To	do No. 211, for his bill to James Hanner, of 4th January, 1813	-	-	-	-	1,000 00
	4	To	do No. 212, for his bill to William Jack, dated 28th December, 1812	-	-	-	-	200 00
	4	To	do No. 213; for bill to same, dated 1st January, 1813	-	-	-	-	187 80
	10	To	do No. 261, for his bill to McClure and Elder, dated 16th December, 1812	-	-	-	-	2,500 00
	17	To	do No. 300, bill to A. Hynes and J. Potter & Co. 14th January, 1813	-	-	-	-	2,000 00
	25	To	do No. 342, bill to the same, 18th January, 1813	-	-	-	-	1,000 00
March	2	To	do No. 366, bill to Thomas Kirkman, dated 21st January, 1813	-	-	-	-	1,000 00
	6	To	do No. 382, bill to John Baird, 11th February, 1813	-	-	-	-	2,000 00
	6	To	do No. 388, bill to Charles Chancey, 9th do do	-	-	-	-	597 97
	22	To	do No. 490, bill to Joel Childress, 13th do do	-	-	-	-	3,000 00
April	1	To	do No. 537, bill to A. Hynes & Co. 26th do do	-	-	-	-	600 00
	8	To	do No. 590, bill to Ja's Hanner & Co. 26th do do	-	-	-	-	1,000 00
	12	To	do No. 609, bill to Samuel Perkins, 26th March, do	-	-	-	-	275 00
	22	To	do No. 680, bill to C. Corvin, 26th do do	-	-	-	-	3,000 00
June	4	To	do No. 843, bill to N. Owens, dated 10th April, do	-	-	-	-	1,700 00
	4	To	do do bill to D. McGavock, 29th April, do	-	-	-	-	2,313 33
July	3	To	do No. 1001, bill to A. Hynes & Co. 22d June, do	-	-	-	-	1,340 00
November	1	To	do No. 1574, bill to Pritchett & Shall, 4th October, do	-	-	-	-	1,500 00
	1	To	do No. 1571, bill to Joel Childress, 6th do do	-	-	-	-	1,500 00
	5	To	do No. 1608, bill to John Baird, 30th September, do	-	-	-	-	1,500 00
	6	To	do No. 1621, bill to John Nicholl, dated 1st Oct. do	-	-	-	-	1,200 00

[Rep. No. 362.]

STATEMENT—Continued.

1813,						
November	25	To	warrant No. 1700, bill to Thomas Kirkman, 23d October, 1813	-	-	1,000 00
December	13	To	do No. 1780, bill to Stephen Cantrill, 5th Nov. do	-	-	750 00
	15	To	do No. 1803, bill to N. Owens, 19th do do	-	-	866 00
	16	To	do No. 1817, for his two bills to Jno. R. Bedford, one dated 13th Nov. for \$1050, the other dated 15th Nov. 1813, for \$600	-	-	1,650 00
	18	To	do No. 1819, bill to N. Carroll, dated 8th November, 1813	-	-	3,000 00
1814						
January	6	To	do No. 51, bill to James Jackson, 29th December, 1813	-	-	295 00
	14	To	do No. 107, two bills, one to F. Smith, dated 22d Nov. 1813, for \$800, and one to J. Wood, 13th December, for \$1333 20	-	-	2,133 20
	20	To	do No. 121, three bills, one to D. C. Snow, 23d October, 1813, for \$500, one to J. Ellison, 16th December, 1813, for \$861 25, and one to T. Kirkman, 27th December, for \$500	-	-	1,861 25
February	4	To	do No. 192, bill to Jno. Speed, dated 3d December, 1813	-	-	1,000 00
	9	To	do No. 227, bill to A. Hynes & Co. dated 27th December, 1813	-	-	549 00
	17	To	do No. 260, two bills, one in favor of Jno. Speed, dated 1st Dec. 1813, for \$3000, the other, 2d Dec. for \$2000	-	-	5,000 00
	19	To	do No. 269, two bills, one in favor of W. Blevins, 6th January, 1814, for \$1000, one in favor of T. Hickman, 12th January, for 530 dollars	-	-	1,530 00
	25	To	do No. 353, bill to James Hanna, 25th January, 1814	-	-	621 00
	25	To	do No. 363, bill to Thomas Kirkman, 11th do do	-	-	1,000 00
March	1	To	do No. 385, bill to Read & Washington, 4th Feb. 1813	-	-	3,500 00
	2	To	do No. 397, bill to James Hanna, 12th January, 1813	-	-	4,000 00
	2	To	do No. 402, bill to George Morgan, 25th January, 1813	-	-	1,033 40
	2	To	do No. 403, three bills, to George Morgan & Co. 6th November, 1813, for \$1000, to George Morgan, 25th Jan. 1814, for \$1244 20, and one to do. 29th Jan. 1814, \$998 71	-	-	3,242 91
	5	To	do No. 418, bill to Jno. R. Bedford, 28th January, 1814	-	-	600 00

	9	To do	No. 448, bill to C. & A. McAlister, 8th February, 1814	-	-	-	1,108 11
	9	To do	No. 449, bill to Wm. Blevins, 6th January, 1814	-	-	-	500 00
	14	To do	No. 471, bill to Read & Washington, 29th Jan. 1814	-	-	-	1,323 00
	18	To do	No. 494, bill to James Tilford, 31st Jan. 1814	-	-	-	1,500 00
	19	To do	No. 502, bill to John Childress, 21st February, 1814	-	-	-	4,000 00
	25	To do	No. 569, bill to Crabb & Thomas, 22d January, 1814	-	-	-	841 70
	26	To do	No. 584, bill to Rob & Dixon, 3d January, 1814	-	-	-	2,000 00
		To do	No. 585, bill to David McGavock, 16th February, 1814	-	-	-	1,052 00
		To do	No. 590, bill to John Brahan, 31st Dec. 1813	-	-	-	500 00
	29	To do	No. 605, for three bills, two to William Blevins, dated 6th January, 1814, for \$1000 and 751 33, the other to William B. Lewis, 14th February, 1814, for \$3000	-	-	-	4,751 33
	29	To do	No. 609, for two bills, one to Leroy Pope, 9th February, 1814, \$2,000, and one to Thomas Kirkman, 25th February, \$3000	-	-	-	5,000 00
April	6	To do	No. 669, for four bills, three to N. Carroll, 12th Jan. 1814, \$535, 26th February, \$2000, one same date, 3000, and one to Joel Childress, for 1200	-	-	-	6,735 00
	8	To do	No. 679, bill to A. Hynes & Co. 11th March, 1814	-	-	-	2,000 00
	13	To do	No. 715, bill to Pritchett & Shall, 28th February, 1814	-	-	-	600 00
	14	To do	No. 719, bill to D. Store, 25th March, 1814	-	-	-	500 00
	20	To do	No. 749, for five bills, one to Wm. Blevins, 14th March, 1814, \$1522 30, one to Wm. B. Lewis, 14th March, 1814, \$5000, one to T. Kirkman, 21st March, 1814, 1500, one to A. Scott & Co. 22d March, 1814, 500, and one to A. Hynes & Co. 22d March, 1814, 500	-	-	-	9,022 30
	21	To do	No. 763, to two bills, one to Will. B. Lewis, 14th March, 1814, 5000 dollars, and one to A. Scott & Co. 21st March, 1814, 500 dollars	-	-	-	5,500 00
	25	To do	No. 775, bill to Pritchett & Shall, 18th March, 1814	-	-	-	800 00
	28	To do	No. 786, bill to Beatty & Ewing, 22d January, do	-	-	-	757 90
	29	To do	No. 792, bill to J. C. Cook, 17th December, do	-	-	-	1,000 00
May	4	To do	No. 811, bill to Doctor D. Moore, 7th Jan do	-	-	-	1,709 75
	4	To do	No. 812, bill to Morgan & Smith, 29th March, do	-	-	-	7,600 00
	6	To do	No. 822, bill to William Reading, 24th do do	-	-	-	3,500 00

STATEMENT—Continued.

8

1814, May	6	To warrant	No. 827, bill to A. Morehead, 28th March, 1814	-	-	-	3,000 00
	7	To do	No. 829, two bills, one to S. Cantrell, 1st April, 1814, 1000 dollars, one to J. R. Bedford, 4th do. 800 dollars	-	-	-	1,800 00
	7	To do	No. 838, bill to William Hall, 8th February, 1814	-	-	-	1,580 00
	7	To do	No. 839, bill to A. Hynes, 7th April, 1814	-	-	-	1,200 00
June	2	To do	No. 892, bill to A. Morehead, 3d May, 1814	-	-	-	2,000 00
	2	To do	No. 896, bill to Samuel Carswell, 18th April, 1814	-	-	-	3,100 00
	3	To do	No. 902, bill to Adams Caldwell, 26th do do	-	-	-	900 00
	3	To do	No. 905, four bills, one to J. Woods & Co. 24th March, 1814; \$6,529 74, one to do. 7th April, 1814, 500 dollars, two to T. Kirkman, March and April, 1814, 2500 and 1500	-	-	-	11,029 74
	6	To do	No. 919, for three bills, one to William B. Lewis, 3000 dollars, one to Bird & Co. 514 dollars, and one to H. Toland & Son, 550 dollars, all dated 28th April, 1814	-	-	-	4,064 00
	6	To do	No. 925, for three bills, one to John Brahan, 27th Dec. 1813, 500 dollars, one to Lambert & Jones, 25th April, 1814, 700 dollars, one to John Lisle, same date, \$1441 62	-	-	-	2,641 62
	9	To do	No. 940, bill to A. Morehead, 3d May, 1814	-	-	-	1,000 00
	13	To do	No. 950, bill to Read & Mitchell, 3d May, 1814	-	-	-	1,815 00
	27	To do	No. 984, two bills, one to Beatty & Ewing, 4th May, 1814, \$850 89, one to Johnson & Shelby, 10th May, 1814, 662 dollars	-	-	-	1,512 89
July	8	To do	No. 1019, two bills, one to C. and T. Bullet, 28th and 1st May, 1814	-	-	-	2,000 00
	8	To do	No. 1025, three bills, one to W. Porter, 30th May, 1814, 2000 dollars, one to Read and Washington, 2000, and one to W. B. Lewis, 2d June, 1814; 20,000 dollars	-	-	-	24,000 00
	15	To do	No. 1121, for two bills to John Brahan, 23d Dec. 1813, 1000 dollars, 9th Feb. 1814, 1342 dollars	-	-	-	2,342 00
	18	To do	No. 1152, bill to do. 25th Dec. 1813	-	-	-	500 00

[Rep. No. 362.]

	19	To do	No. 1164, three bills, one to Wm. B. Lewis, dated 18th June, 1814, for \$15,000, one to A. Hynes & Co. 21st June, 3000 dollars, and one do. 21st June, for 4000 dollars	22,000 00
	26	To do	No. 1197, bill to W. B. Lewis, 20th April, 1814	500 00
	26	To do	No. 1205, bill to Jno. R. Bedford, 18th June, do	1,000 00
	26	To do	No. 1210, bill to A. Hynes & Co. 18th do do	3,000 00
	28	To do	No. 1239, bill to James C. Brun, 16th May, do	1,490 00
	28	To do	No. 1241, bill to J. and S. Gray, 17th June, do	7,672 00
August	4	To do	No. 1271, bill to W. B. Lewis, 5th July, do	15,000 00
	8	To do	No. 1292, bill to J. Brahan, 31st Dec. 1813	570 20
	9	To do	No. 1297, bill to Leroy Pope, 20th April, 1814	1,627 80
	16	To do	No. 1631, two bills, to W. B. Lewis, 19th April, 1814, for 1000 dollars, and Beatty & Ewing, 3d May, for 1815 dollars	2,815 00
Sept.	13	To do	No. 1381, for two bills, one to Hynes, Porter, and Fletcher, 1st August, 1814, 10,000 dollars, one to W. B. Lewis, 2d August, 15,000 dollars	25,000 00
	14	To do	No. 1398, bill to Jno. Brahan, 20th April, 1814	4,000 00
	22	To do	No. 1449, bill to Pritchett & Shall, 1st August, 1814	12,000 00
	22	To do	No. 1453, bill to W. B. Lewis, 5th do do	3,000 00
	22	To do	No. 1456, bill to Read & Washington, 4th August, 1814	2,000 00
	28	To do	No. 1480, bill to William B. Lewis, 4th do do	12,000 00
October	12	To do	No. 1532, bill to Jno. Brahan, 24th December, 1813	1,000 00
	13	To do	No. 1540, bill to Beatty and Ewing, 5th July, 1814	2,500 00
	13	To do	No. 1546, bill to Leroy Pope, 9th February, 1814	1,729 00
November	2	To do	No. 1611, bill to Jno. Brahan, 22d Dec. 1813	1,000 00
	5	To do	No. 1622, bill to Tilford & Clopper, 23d Sept. 1814, \$2500, and one to Fletcher and Hynes, 12th Oct. 1814, for \$2000	4,500 00
	24	To do	No. 1700, bill to G. Anderson, 19th Sept. 1814	21,200 00
December	6	To do	No. 1727, bill to James Hanna, 22d Sept. do	2,000 00
1815				
January	2	To do	No. 1848, bill to K. Green, dated 10th October, 1814	1,000 00
	30	To do	No. 2040, transmitted to him in Treasury Notes	150,000 00

STATEMENT—Continued.

10

May	30	To warrant No. 1393, bill to A. Allison, 17th Sept. 1814	-	-	-	2,500	00
June	7	To do No. 2412, bill to Jno. M. Armstrong, 11th Oct. 1814	-	-	-	614	60
October	23	To do No. 3166, two bills, one to Wm. Porter, 17th September, 1814, \$1300, one to S. Connell, 7th Oct. \$3955 34	-	-	-	5,255	34

Amount, \$507,306 14

1814

CREDIT.

November	1	By William B. Lewis, for this sum, being the amount which the said Lewis credited in his account as having received from Governor Blount, between 30th November, 1812, and 5th July, 1814	-	-	-	\$307,907	09
December	22	By Gen. Andrew Jackson, for the amount of Treasury notes charged to the Governor, the same amount having been turned over to Gen. Jackson	-	-	-	150,000	00
April	10	By William B. Lewis, for this amount advanced him, between September, 1812, and October, 1814, in addition to the sum credited 1st Nov. 1814, for which the receipts of the said Lewis are produced	-	-	-	37,069	94
April	10	By appropriation for camp equipage—for the amount of M. M'Gavock's account for wood, now produced, being the amount of his bill to said M'Gavock, 29th April, 1813	-	-	-	2,313	33
August	6	By William B. Lewis, for this sum advanced to him as per receipt of said Lewis, now produced, dated 25th May, 1815	-	-	-	6,000	00
		By general account of arrearages for the amount of A. Hynes & Co's account for blankets, now produced, being the amount of his bill to them, dated 22d June, 1813	-	-	-	1,340	00

504,630 36

Leaving a balance due to the United States, of

\$2,675 78

[Rep. No. 362.]

B.

Statement of W. G. Blount.

I certify, that, during the late war, I was Secretary of State for the State of Tennessee, and that I knew the manner in which funds for the Quartermaster's Department here were raised, to promote and carry on the service, and how the service was otherwise promoted, through the great exertions and responsibilities of the then Governor, Willie Blount, to wit: by bills drawn by him, *without authority from the General Government*, (excepting the sum of ten thousand dollars, for which sum he was authorized to draw,) but upon his own and that of his endorsers' personal responsibility, and by his notes, discounted at banks, to raise money for those objects; the amount of which bills and notes were invariably paid, either to the Assistant Deputy Quartermaster of the United States' service, in Nashville, or to the contractor for supplying the United States' troops in service, from Tennessee; and I have every reason to believe, that in that way the service was carried on in this quarter during the war; and in that way *only* was the public service promoted, to the amount of between three and four hundred thousand dollars; and that, in every case of a bill so drawn and paid by the War Department, that amount was received by the holders of the bills, and not in any instance by Governor Blount. I further certify, that Governor Blount invariably gave endorsers on his notes discounted by the banks, and was frequently compelled to give endorsers on bills drawn by him on the War Department, in order to enable him to raise money wherewith to promote the good of the service; and that great difficulties and constant prospects of great pecuniary embarrassment were experienced by Governor Blount, throughout the war; his bills being at times protested, to large amounts, and his notes in bank, for very considerable sums, being, also, at times, in danger of being protested. I further certify, that, by Governor Blount's arrangements with the Bank of the State of Tennessee, the Treasury notes remitted to him by order of the Secretary of War, for the use of General Jackson's army, near the conclusion of the war, the credit of those Treasury notes was much aided, their circulation thereby caused to be made at par, and that a profitable interest, exceeding fifteen hundred dollars, accrued to the Government, and was paid over for the benefit of the Government. I further certify, that the act of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, passed in the year 1813, authorizing the Governor to borrow money, on the credit of the State, for the equipment and supply of three thousand five hundred troops, to act against the hostile Creeks, &c. was wholly unavailing as to funds, as neither the banks nor individuals were found willing to lend money on the terms prescribed by said act; and, consequently, the Governor could not, nor did not, raise a dollar, under the authority of that act; but that he raised the necessary funds, not only to supply and equip those three thousand five hundred men, but also raised funds to large amounts on his own responsibility, by bills and otherwise, both before and after the passage and expiration of said act, without his having received a dollar from the Government for such or any other public service, as I believe, excepting the sum of ten thousand dollars, for which he was authorized by the Government to draw, about the time the Tennessee troops were first ordered into the service of the United States, after the declaration of war, and marched, under the command of General Jackson, to Natchez,

for the defence of the lower country: thus, from time to time, during the continuance of the war, the Governor raised funds and equipped for service, under great difficulties, the troops called from this State, and afforded supplies, to large amounts, upon his own responsibility and that of his endorsers, to the regular troops under the command of General Jackson, greatly to the benefit of the public service.

W. G. BLOUNT.

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, *January 2d, 1825.*

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Statement of W. B. Lewis.

I certify, that, during the late war between the United States and Great Britain, and between the former and the Creek Indians, I acted as Assistant Deputy Quartermaster in the service of the United States, at Nashville; and that, during those periods, I was furnished with funds for the use of the Quartermaster's Department, through Governor Blount, from the sale of bills drawn by him on the Secretary of War, which he drew, as he informed me, *without any authority so to do, except for the limited sum of ten thousand dollars.* I further certify, that, with these funds, thus raised, and other moneys in Treasury notes paid over to me by Governor Blount, I was enabled to procure and furnish the army, under the command of General Jackson, with such articles, in my department, as were indispensable to its operations, and without which the service must have been greatly injured, if not entirely ruined, in this quarter. The sum raised by the sale of Governor Blount's bills was, as well as my recollection serves me, some where between three and four hundred thousand dollars; for all, or the greater part of which, I have reason to believe he was held responsible, in case the Government had refused to pay his bills, or had not been able to do so; which, at that time, in this section of country, was thought by very many to be doubtful: and I am confirmed in this opinion, from the fact that some of his bills were actually protested, and he formally notified thereof; and from the circumstance, also, of a number of individuals, as well as the banks of this place, to whom I sold those bills, having required my own individual endorsement on them, as additional security, to the amount of about one hundred thousand dollars, as will appear by reference to the bills themselves.

W. B. LEWIS.

June 26th, 1823.