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Jesse Manley.

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 402, 23rd Cong., 1st Sess. (1834)

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JESSE MANLEY.

APRIL 9, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to which was presented the petition of Jesse Manley, report:

That the petitioner, before and at the commencement of the late war, resided in Humphreys county, State of Tennessee, and in April, 1812, contemplated to remove his family to a place of safety, but, owing to the delicate condition of his wife, he was unable to do so; and the petitioner and his neighbor, Captain Crawley, in May, 1812, descended the Tennessee river to obtain some corn, and on their return home, on the 12th of May, he found his wife shot by the Indians through the knee, which was broke to pieces, a ball had passed through one of her ears, and one of her eyes burnt out with the powder, her head was scalped, and she was otherwise indecently and cruelly mutilated, and three of his children were killed. The Indians had destroyed all his property in his house, which was valued by his neighbors at three hundred and three dollars. He was about to raise a party to take satisfaction for the injury he had sustained, but on taking advice he deferred it, and joined the troops that afterwards went into the Indian country, and was at the Tallahassee, Talladega, Horse Shoe, and finally closed his military career at New Orleans. He did not intend to petition for remuneration, but his health is poor, and he has become old, and he is unable to support himself; and thinking the Government is bound to defend the citizen, he draws the conclusion that, if he is not protected, the Government becomes responsible for the losses the citizen may have sustained.

John Read states Mr. Manley is a citizen of that county; that his history is well known, and he accords with the statement made in the petition. He saw Mrs. Manley upon her death bed, shortly after the shocking occurrence. He says Mr. Manley is a respectable citizen, and of unimpeachable character.

The petition is not accompanied by any testimony except the statement made by Mr. Read, which is not under oath.

The United States have not recognised the principle that they are holden to remunerate their citizens for all the losses they may sustain in time of war, but their liability is confined to the instances of lost property, when said property was in the military or naval service of the United States, and

